



North
American
Carbon
Program



COASTAL SYNTHESIS WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT December 11-12, 2010 - San Francisco, CA

Dear Colleagues:

The contribution of coastal margins to the global carbon budget is not well understood, largely due to limited information about the magnitude, spatial distribution, and interannual variability of carbon sources and sinks in coastal waters. The Ocean Carbon & Biogeochemistry (OCB) Program has been collaborating with the North American Carbon Program (NACP) over the past two years to develop a Coastal Interim Synthesis Activity as part of the NACP Interim Synthesis activities, the goals of which are to bring together relevant observations, data, and modeling efforts in an effort to identify and quantify key sources, sinks, stocks, fluxes, and associated processes in the North American carbon budget.

The objective of the Coastal Interim Synthesis Activity is to stimulate the synthesis of observational and modeling results on carbon cycle fluxes and processes along the North American continental margins. This activity has been divided geographically into five regions: **East Coast**, **West Coast**, **Gulf of Mexico**, **Arctic**, and **Great Lakes**. With support from the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science program and its affiliated agencies, this national activity is expected to yield opportunities for interested PIs to consider coordinated responses to agency funding announcements as research and modeling needs and priorities are identified. To facilitate the level of coordination and collaboration required for such an extensive activity, regional leaders and members of the OCB and NACP offices are convening a community workshop. We are pleased to announce the first **Coastal Interim Synthesis workshop**, which will take place **December 11-12, 2010**, just before the 2010 Fall AGU meeting in **San Francisco, CA**.

The **workshop goals** are to gather active members of the coastal research community to:

- **Identify datasets, publications, and ongoing studies that could contribute to the development of regional coastal carbon budgets (and ultimately be archived in a community database)**
- **Determine the fluxes and processes that should be included in regional carbon budgets and associated models to ensure consistency and inter-comparability**

The workshop will begin at **1 pm on December 11** with plenary talks that address key coastal carbon budget processes, followed by breakout sessions, both by process (e.g., production, respiration, off-shelf transport, etc.) and by region, to devise detailed strategies for developing and refining regional coastal carbon budgets. To maximize productivity, this workshop will be limited to ~50-75 participants. We have funds to cover meals and meeting room space and to help offset participant hotel costs. We recommend that workshop participants who are attending the AGU meeting make their hotel arrangements via the AGU housing reservation system and we will reimburse hotel costs after the meeting. The OCB Project Office will announce a workshop website with more details soon. We gratefully acknowledge the support of NASA to convene this workshop.

The final outcome of the Coastal Interim Synthesis Activity will be a **science plan for coastal ocean carbon and related biogeochemical research** that identifies knowledge gaps and ranks research priorities to guide relevant program (e.g., NACP, OCB, etc.) and agency activities and initiatives. Depending on community interest, we may also pursue a **special issue on regional coastal carbon budgets** and associated processes in a relevant journal. We anticipate a follow-on workshop in Summer 2011.