Climate extension: What Sea Grant can do for YOU!

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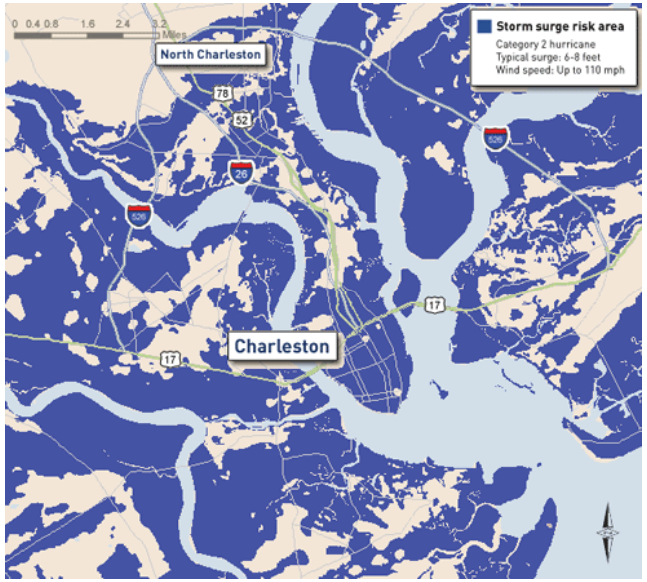
Outline

- Why do we need climate extension?
- What does a climate extension specialist do, exactly?
- What's next for climate extension in the Carolinas?



http://www.edf.org/content_Images/charleston2.gif

Sometimes, scientists think differently…

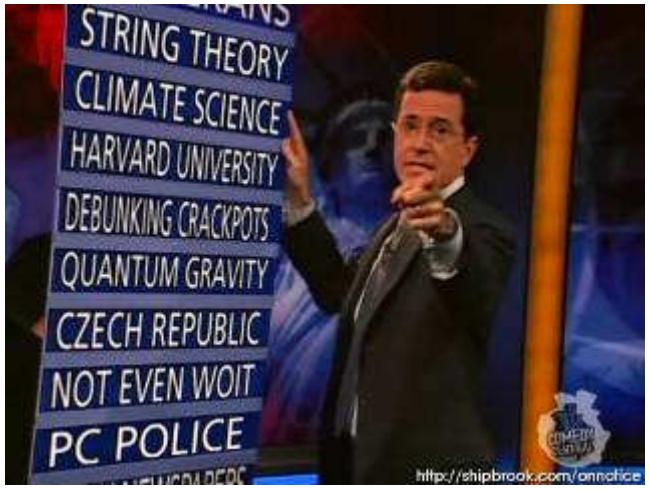
"The scientist does not study nature because it is useful; he studies it because he delights in it, and he delights in it because it is beautiful. If nature were not beautiful, it would not be worth knowing, and if nature were not worth knowing, life would not be worth living."

- Jules Henri Poincaré (1854-1912)
French mathematician

…than the rest of us.

"Now don't get me wrong - I've been a staunch believer in climate change ever since Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* grossed $49 million dollars worldwide. The market has spoken. Global warming is real."

-Stephen Colbert
May 14, 2008



Traditional methods of climate communication

- Assume information provision enough for decision-making
- Use scientific language
- Emphasize mitigating climate change
- Think of risk differently than decision-makers do

Roles of a climate extension specialist

- Catalyze collaboration between scientists and stakeholders
- Interpret different "languages"
- Align differing priorities
- De-politicize scientific issues

(Seward 2007)

The Regional Coastal Climate Change Initiative

- *Carolinas Coastal Climate Outreach Initiative (CCCOI)* proposal submitted to NOAA 2006
  - South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
  - North Carolina Sea Grant
  - Carolinas Integrated Sciences & Assessment (CISA – Univ. of SC)
- Established Regional Climate Extension Specialist position
- Serves both North, South Carolina coasts

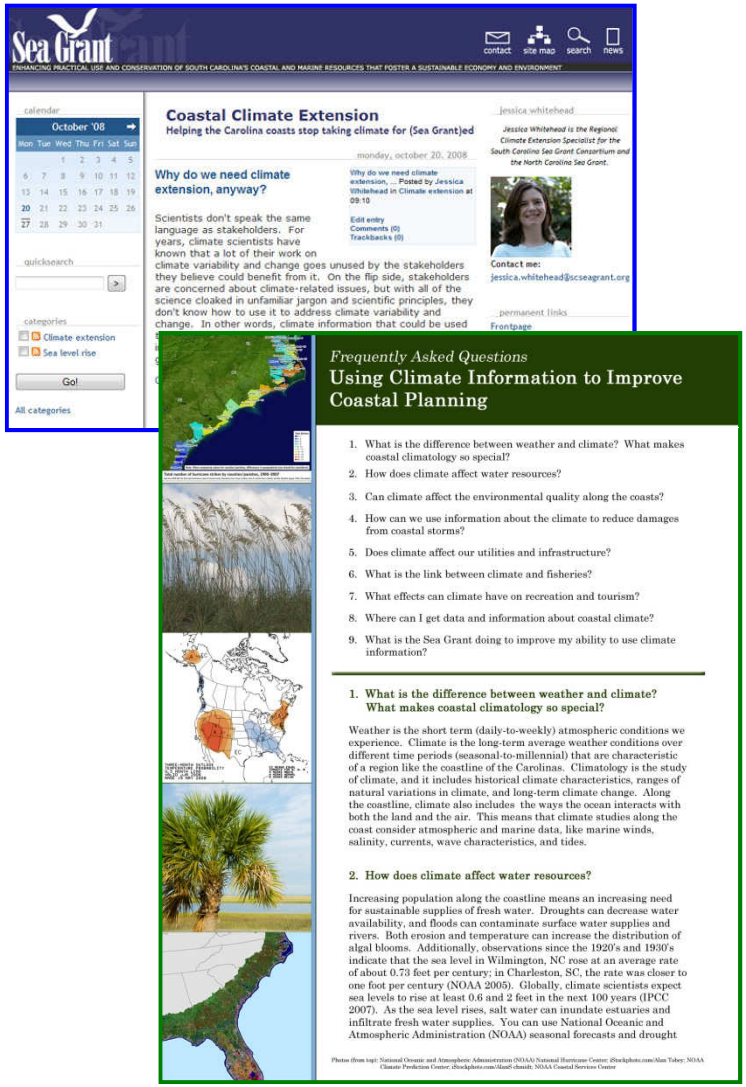
(NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development n.d.)

Developing climate extension capacities

- Inform and educate coastal users about impacts from climatic variability and changes
  - User needs assessment
  - FAQ sheets
  - Climate extension blog
- Provide tailored, decision-relevant climate information
  - Communication between researchers, decision-makers
  - Sea Grant Extension collaborations

Beyond information provision

- Local needs assessment for new programs
  - Workshops?
  - Online resources?
  - Other suggestions?



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