

# NOAA and the CRC Ecosystem-Based Management Conference

March 22-25, 2009

Baltimore Inner Harbor Marriott

[www.chesapeakemeetings.com/EBM](http://www.chesapeakemeetings.com/EBM)



The Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) Ecosystem-based Management Conference, to be held at the Baltimore Inner Harbor Marriott, March 22-25, provides a unique opportunity to increase communication between decision makers and the scientific community to foster effective science-based ecosystem-based management throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. For more details on the conference—and to register—visit [www.chesapeakemeetings.com/EBM](http://www.chesapeakemeetings.com/EBM).

## NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Participation in the EBM Conference

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) is a key participant in the upcoming CRC Ecosystem-Based Management Conference, because the sessions will present many opportunities to explore how government agencies, decision makers, academic institutions, and other organizations can use science in Bay restoration and protection efforts. NCBO is supporting the event through funding—and through the participation of NCBO experts in sessions to explore aspects of their NOAA work in the context of ecosystem-based management.

- NCBO's **Paula Jasinski** is a coordinator of the **"Climate Change in the Chesapeake Bay"** session (Monday, March 23, 2-5:30 p.m.), which presents an opportunity for an overview of climate change from a research perspective, followed by presentations from federal agencies and states on potential responses that will focus on ongoing activities and identify roles and responsibilities of these groups. Another goal of this session will be to identify and agree on commonalities among the various state, federal, and nonprofit reports.
- **Kevin Schabow** of NCBO's Environmental Literacy program will discuss **"Innovative Approaches to the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience"** during the "Models of Multidisciplinary Education: Laying the Foundation for Ecosystem-Based Management" session (Monday, March 25, 2-5:30 p.m.). The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Program was created to assist organizations in delivering "MWEEs" to K-12 students and related training for teachers within the Bay watershed. Since 2002, NOAA B-WET has supported hundreds of projects that provide MWEE programs focused on marine science, aquatic research, schoolyard habitats, and more.
- NCBO Fishery Biologist **Derek Orner** is a coordinator of the **"Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Implementation in Chesapeake Bay"** session (Monday, March 23, 2-5:30 p.m.), which will focus on key recent progress associated with the development of an Ecosystem Fisheries Management process for the Chesapeake Bay. The session will feature speakers familiar with this ongoing effort, overviews of how critical fisheries are being approached, and how products could be of use to the management and scientific communities.
- NCBO's **Howard Townsend** will present on **"Ecopath, Ecosim, and Ecospace: Tools for Evaluating Habitat and Food Web Dependencies"** during the session on "Habitat Suitability Models" (Tuesday, March 24, 2-5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.). He will describe the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Ecosystem Model and the potential for its use as a management support tool in the Chesapeake Bay. The session will include discussion of methods for using the software to incorporate habitat and food web relationships, using forcing and mediation functions, into a single modeling system.
- **Doug Wilson** of NCBO's Ecosystem Science program will serve as a presenter on the **"Methods and Tools for Engaging Regulators and Natural Resource Managers in Ecosystem-Based Management"** session (2-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 24). The scientific and policy research communities often develop new ideas, new tools, and new methods to improve management of natural resources—for

example, ecosystem-based management. However, there are often disconnects between new ideas and how natural resources are actually managed, and differences in how new ideas are incorporated, and therefore how resources are managed, at different spatial scales (e.g., regional vs. local). The purpose of this session is to discuss options of how to best provide new ideas and new information to regulators and managers at federal, regional, state, and/or local scales.

- NCBO Director **Peyton Robertson** and **Darlene Finch** will lead a facilitated session for invitees on **“Identifying Regional Needs and Collaborative Opportunities for Implementing Ecosystem-Based Management in the Mid-Atlantic”** (Tuesday, March 24, 4-5:30 p.m.), in order to obtain feedback from NOAA’s partners and stakeholders on working collaboratively on ecosystem-based approaches to natural resource management in the mid-Atlantic region. Participants will verify and prioritize the needs NOAA has documented related to ecosystem-based management, and generate ideas on how NOAA can integrate its services and work with our partners to collaborate in this region on any or all of the priorities.

## **Other NOAA Participation in the EBM Conference**

Ecosystem-based management is important to NOAA scientists outside of the Chesapeake Bay area as well. To underscore this importance, Steve Murawski, NOAA National Fisheries Service’s Director of Scientific Programs, will be speaking at the opening plenary session the morning of March 23. Additional NOAA personnel are slated to participate in sessions over the three days of the conference including:

### *Applying Land Use Planning Tools to Support Ecosystem-based Management*

- Best Practices for Overcoming Barriers to the Application of Land Use Planning Tools

### *Habitat Suitability Models—State of the Art, Chesapeake Bay Applications*

- Evolving toward Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management: Developing a Practical Approach toward Evaluating Environmental Pressures on Exploited Chesapeake Bay Fish Populations

### *Climate Change in the Chesapeake*

- Climate Change Implications for the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem: What Does a Quarter Century of Water Quality and Living Resource Monitoring Tell Us?

### *Ecosystem-Based Management of Human Pathogens in the Chesapeake Bay*

- Emerging Pathogenesis of *Vibrio Parahaemolyticus*
- Ecological and Exposure Assessment of Natural Bacterioplankton Communities, Including Populations of *Vibrio Parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio Vlnificus*, and Select Viral Pathogens
- Development of Microbial Source Tracking Tools to Better Manage Pollution Sources Impairing Coastal Ecosystems

### *Methods and Tools for Engaging Regulators and Natural Resource Managers in Ecosystem-Based Management*

- Management
- Integrated Ecosystem Assessments: A Tool for Bridging Science and Ecosystem Management
- Toward the Future of Environmental Modeling at NOAA: Including Marine Ecological Forecasting

### *Potential Effects of Endocrine-Disrupting Compounds on Bivalve Populations in the Chesapeake Bay*

- Endocrine Disruption in Marine Invertebrates: Effects of Agricultural Pesticides and Emerging Contaminants of Concern on Mollusc and Crustaceans

### *Practical Approaches for Ecosystem-Based Management Implementation*

- Expanding Environmental Prediction Capabilities for the Chesapeake Bay: Collaborative Development for Ecological Forecasting Applications

### *Harmful Algal Blooms: Causes, Consequences, Managing the Ephemeral*

- Present and Future Ecosystems-Based Management of Harmful Algal Blooms

### *Envisioning the Future Chesapeake Modeling Suite*

- Development of a Chesapeake Bay Ecological Prediction System