

# Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring Workgroup Meeting Summary

## Tuesday, August 15, 2023

### Teams Meeting (Link in Meeting Invite)



#### Attendees

Samarra Scantlebury, NYSDEC (Co-Chair), Kathleen Knight, CTDEEP (Co-Chair), James Ammerman (NEIWPC), Juliana Barrett (CT Seagrant), Jordan Bishop (NEIWPC), Emma Coffey (CT DEEP), Sarah Crosby (Norwalk Maritime Aquarium), Gregory Dietl (Cornell), Melissa Duvall (EPA), Elizabeth Hornstein (NY Seagrant), Gavin Jackson (CT DEEP), Shauna Kamath (NYSDEC), Alison Kocek (USFW), Madeline Kollegger (UCONN), Kristen Laccetti (EPA), Shannon Meseck (NOAA), Jackie Motyka (NERACOOS), Esther Nelson (EPA), James O'Donnell (UCONN), Vicki O'Neill (NYSDEC), Suzzane Paton (USFW), Sara Powell (NY Seagrant), Matthew Pruden (Cornell), Sarah Schechter (CT Seagrant), Cayla Sullivan (EPA), Nicole Tachiki (EPA), Ron Rosza (retired- CTDEEP)

#### **Introduction**

Samarra Scantlebury called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM. Samarra provided an overview of the CCSM purpose and a synopsis of the May 2023 meeting: Climate related LISS FY23 budget items, EPA's ARC-X tool demonstration, update and demonstration of CT SLAMM tool and the update and demonstration of NY's Marsh Viewer Tool. Please see those meeting minutes on our workgroup webpage. If you have any revisions, please send those recommendations to [Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov).

#### **NERACOOS Strategy, Jackie Motyka**

##### Background:

- Partnership of 17 Federal Agencies,
- 11 regional areas
- Non-profit driven by regional needs
- Jackie provided a Network Snapshot (see slide 6 of the attached).
- [ERDDAP is data repository.](#)
- [Dashboard](#) with buoys and forecasted data.
- Jackie Shared that group is soliciting feedback for regional ocean acidification monitoring plan through the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network [NECAN](#). Next opportunity October.

##### Strategic Plan of NERACOOS:

- Guiding Principles: Climate and DEI
- 5 Strategic Priorities with near term goals:
  - Engage to Understand Needs and Communicate Work:
    - Have specific groups that are dedicated to this information exchange as well as social media and event participation.
  - Sustain and Modernize Ocean Monitoring:
    - LISS engaged in Buoys.
    - Support LISS FVCOM
    - Expanded use of gliders and other autonomous observing tools (not currently in LISS)
    - Capitalize on innovative technologies and AI
  - Provide Reliable & Accessible Ocean Data:
    - Have data management guidelines for partners to follow and every 5yr there is data certification process,
    - Data products are created based on need of users with strive to make increased accessibility and discovery.

- Develop New Tools & Networks to Meet the Challenges Near Shore Environments are Facing:
  - Growing portfolio of water network sensors and coordinated the community with shared practices. (water quality and water level)
  - Workshop September 2023
  - Dedicated Coastal Resiliency Position to develop this low-cost sensor network.
- Expand Partnerships and Activities Focused on Marine Life and Habitats:
  - Sustain and expand HAB Monitoring,
  - Integrate Plankton data and build products on this data,
  - Effort to monitor pelagic system currently focused in Maine but actively looking to expand this.
  - Seeking to bring in biological monitoring – ex. Acoustic monitoring.
  - Biological data is now being included in ERDDAP.

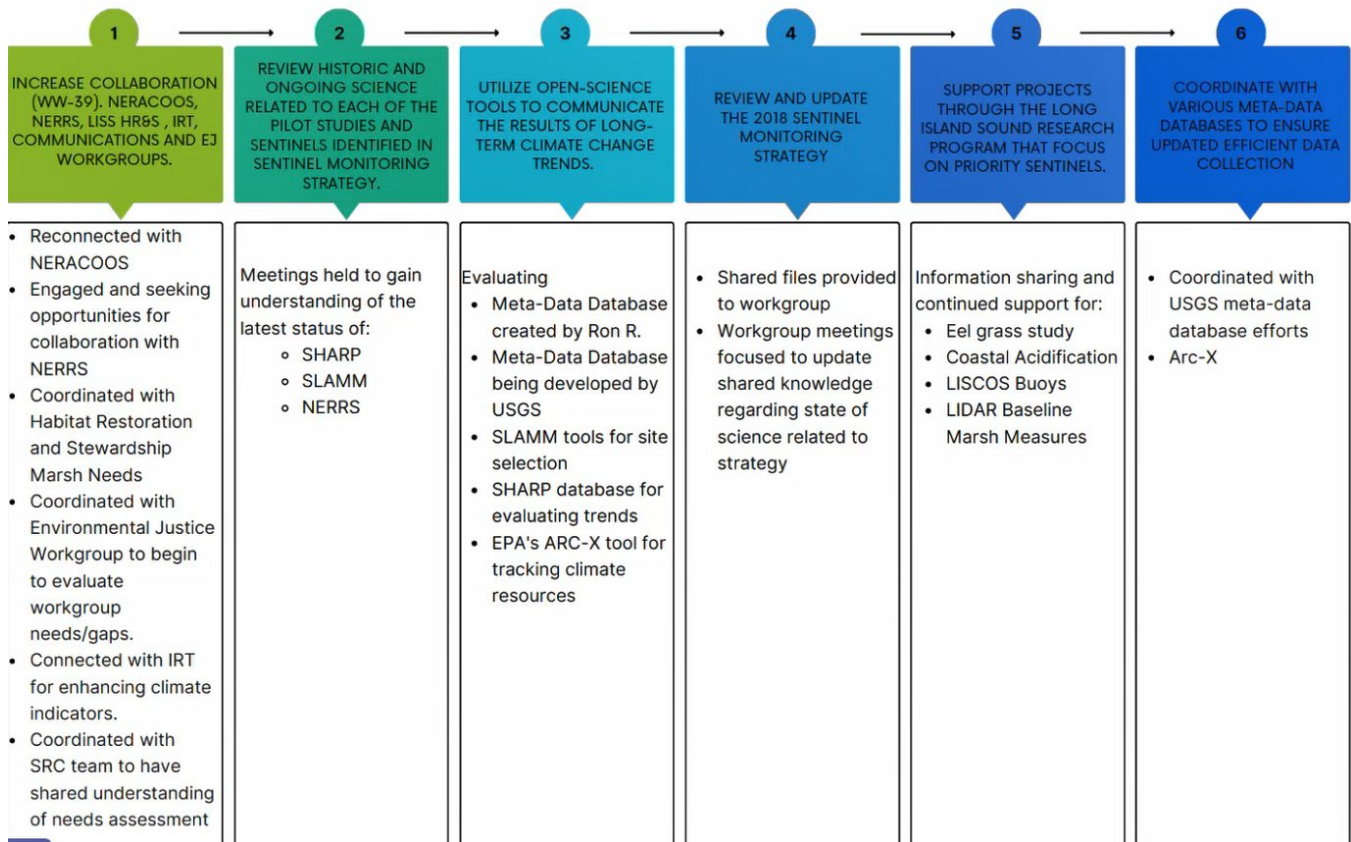
**Reflections on Past Year & 2024 Planning, Kathleen Knight**

Background:

- Provided a reminder of the categories and priority sentinels in our current strategy and currently charged with.

2023 Work done:

## A Year in Review 2023 Workplan Tasks



2024 Next Steps

Kate shared the draft bullet list of feedback we heard throughout the year of potential priorities and tasks for the next fiscal year. These included:

- Marsh Health Collaborative to support program QAPPS, SOPS and recommended metrics to support whole health monitoring and community engagement plans.
- Fish Community. Analysis and review of trends with recommendations of sampling plans.
- Continue topic themed meetings throughout the year to continue to assess and address remaining sentinels.

On-going work that CCSM wishes to continue to support:

- Marsh Baseline Study,
- Eelgrass collaborative's work
- Coastal Acidification
- Water Quality Monitoring Program

Future work that didn't immediately lend itself to FY24:

- Review public perception study for relevant information
- Shellfish health, HABS, Acidification?
- Soil/Marsh Health Sediment?
- Barrier Beaches ?
- Macroalgae
- Plankton
- Climate Scenario modeling

**FY2024 Workplan Discussion, All**

Q: Matthew asked why the decision was made not to include shellfish in the 2024 Workplan tasks, especially relative to the importance.

A: These aren't necessarily decisions and more of talking points, but why they weren't draft here as talking points is because from the workgroup discussion over the year we didn't hear any specific do-outs that could be achieved this year. But that said if you have ideas on what that could/should be we can include it.

Comment: Ron noted that rather than revise the Sentinel Monitoring Strategy we should create an addendum. Ron also noted he did not think the SLAMM model was ideal for selecting sites but rather use historical data such as Barne Island example. Ron noted he is preparing comments for us.

Comment: Sarah Crosby noted support for the fish communities project and mentioned that there are local entities such as harbor watch, whose data can be and would be ideal to be included. Sarah also noted her support of the marsh health study and she had a recent collaboration that is very excited about this work.

Comment: Kate noted those sources and asked if anyone objected to the inclusion of municipalities who monitor at dams/fishways. Kate also noted that the group Sarah mentioned has work underway that aligns really well and we could leverage this work to do this effort efficiently. No disagreement noted.

Comment: Suzanne Paton also noted support for fish communities project. Noting the known limitations of current monitoring for bait fish and the importance of this category re bird dependency (ex given that were especially important: Sand Lance, Amadities) . Suzanne also noted that regarding soil health we are seeing

perched ground water that is impacting peat in marsh and impounded areas and nutrient rich GW is impacting health of marsh, so I would add ground water metrics.

Question: Kate asked -- Do you see that sediment health aspect as beyond 2024 or more immediate.

Answer: Suzanne replied-- This should be in parallel with the Marsh Study and possibly in that Marsh Health study.

Question: Regarding the Community Connection Plan, is a broad plan for all Sentinel Monitoring more appropriate or category specific a better approach?

Answer: Communities may have different concerns so it may be difficult to address in a wholistic way.

Comment: Ron noted that Roseate Tern isn't really justification for sampling. And indicated we needed more specific monitoring questions with known measurements.

Comment: Suzanne clarified these species are very important to the whole system and if temperatures are impacting them it will be the whole system.

Comment: What are the criteria for barrier beaches?

Answer: Undefined at this point and we are seeking your input.

Question: We heard from WEWG that this might be a need sooner than later, what is the teams input here?

Answer: Jackie I would add as part of broader NE region we have a couple and that is expanding over next couple of years, if there was more plankton synthesis this could be good effort to best evaluate regional changes. Funded through 2027 at this point.

Reply Kate: So hearing that it sounds like this year we can collaborate on understanding the results for these pilot studies and then potentially build on that over then next year.

Comment: Melissa Duvall noted that an incoming ORISE fellow may be taking on the analysis of the DEEP and project O collected phytoplankton data and examine potential shifts. But this is not confirmed yet. If they take this on this could be collaboration point.

Question: Kate we heard today that our bullet list is missing shellfish, do we have any other gaps or other supportive projects we should be looking at?

No response at this time.

### **Meeting Close Out\Next Steps**

Provide feedback on workplan by

Next meeting November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Stay tuned for agendas and meeting updates.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:00**