

National NEMO Network

Summer/Fall 2006 Newsletter
Volume 8, Issue 2



Time for Cinco de NEMO

The signs of fall are upon on us. The leaves have started their annual artistic expression of color. The mercury is having trouble getting up most mornings. Folks are heading off to their local fairs for the latest in food frying technology. And the sombreros, maracas and piñatas have arrived at the NEMO Hub. So, it is finally time for **Cinco de NEMO**.

For our fifth conference we have added a few ingredients to spice it up a bit. But do not fear, **networking** with your NEMO colleagues and partners will once again be the overriding objective. With over 90 registrants from 21 NEMO programs, 4 programs “in development,” and key partners at NOAA, U.S. EPA, USDA and the Center for Watershed

Protection, there will be plenty of folks to network with. And there will be plenty of opportunities for networking provided by the regional meetings, presentations, topical discussions and other activities.

One of the spiciest new ingredients we have added to the NEMO U mix is expanded **training opportunities**. A nationally renowned, all-star lineup of



experts will provide training along two tracks, one geospatial and one topical. The techie track will focus on three geospatial tools: ISAT, N-SPECT and CommunityViz®. The more philosophical set will look at the latest in Low Impact Development research and outreach, as well as the latest approaches to land cover as a diagnostic and educational tool.

But don't worry; NEMO U is not turning into your typical conference. We are keeping, and even expanding, the usual opportunities for more **informal networking**. There will be leaf-peeping by land and by sea, a fancy Network Poster Reception Extravaganza and bonding over chips and salsa at the first-ever NEMO Family Dinner.

As the big day approaches, we are busy preparing for your visit. Chet is perfecting his guacamole recipe. Kara is cranking out publications, posters and piñatas at a dizzying rate. Sandy is practicing his Flamenco dancing steps for the reception. Jim is busy cursing the Yankees. Dave is furiously writing sticky-note reminders to himself. And John can't stop smiling about being a mere registrant.

Nos Vemos Muy Pronto! ☀

New Directions?

As NEMO continues to evolve both in each state and as a Network, it's only natural that we find ourselves going in new directions. And, although Your Friendly Neighborhood Hub has its share of “Y” chromosomes—which everyone knows makes it impossible to ask for directions of any kind—this has not deterred us from exploring several new ways of enhancing and supporting the Network. Our progress on these fronts will be on display at Cinco de NEMO, where there will be an unimaginatively but aptly named “New Directions” panel. We're excited about the panel, for the simple reason that never before have we been able to put together three such promising pieces of good news. A few words on each:

The first item will be the most familiar, as it involves our old friend the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) (see article page 2). Since U4ia, the Hub and CSC have been discussing strengthening our long-term partnership. In the near future, this will take the form of increased opportunities for geospatial technology training for NEMO Network members. The results of our web survey on your geospatial technology use and needs have helped to guide us to this point. We hope that the inclusion of CSC's new regional staff in our regional discussions at Cinco will help us further refine our plans.

CINCO DE NEMO

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Partner Spotlight NOAA Coastal Services Center

“Linking people, information, and technology”

Editor’s Note: With this issue, we begin the occasional insertion of profiles of our NEMO Network partner organizations, to go along with our profiles of honored and deserving Network members. The NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) seems a good place to start, since we have a longstanding relationship with them going back to the development of the ISAT tool and their hosting of NEMO U2 in their spiffy Charleston, SC facility.

The Network Hub and CSC leadership are working diligently on broadening our partnership. CSC has geospatial training and technical firepower that the Network lacks, and we have a delivery system that can help them get their products and services out to more coastal managers. CSC will be well-represented at Cinco de NEMO and we hope you will seek out at least one or two unsuspecting CSC staff at Cinco and get to know them.

The following article is excerpted from the NOAA CSC website, which in turn was lifted from the NOAA Coastal Services Center’s 1999 Annual Report. It’s a general description of the organization rather than an up-to-date report, but we thought it an appropriate introduction to those of you who are unfamiliar with CSC.



Network members participate in a four day geospatial and remote sensing training class at CSC in April 2006. (See article on page 3.)

For many people, NOAA, the abbreviation for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, means weather. But NOAA offers more than weather forecasting. This federal agency also is a world leader in coast-related science and management.

State and local coastal resource managers are one of NOAA’s primary customers, as their programs play an important role in determining the fate of the nation’s coastal resources. New and improved technology is greatly increasing the amount of valuable information available to the coastal resource manager. Getting access to



The NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston South Carolina.

this technology and using it effectively, however, is not as simple as it sounds. Different levels of expertise and technological capabilities limit many state and local programs. These organizations need assistance determining which tools and services can help them resolve site-specific issues and build the capacity to effectively utilize such information and tools. The NOAA Coastal Services Center was created for this task.

The NOAA Coastal Services Center opened for business in 1994 in a vacated naval facility in Charleston, South Carolina, with four employees and a building in need of extensive renovations. While the beginning was a humble one, the organization’s most important asset, the vision of what the Center was to become, was firmly in place. NOAA wanted a technological catalyst for its entire organization, an organization that looked to the customer to set its agenda. Prior to the opening of the Center, representatives from the coastal management community were consulted to uncover their primary issues. It was here that the Center’s initial priority areas were determined, including the emphasis on bringing new and under-utilized science and technology to the coastal resource management community.

In addition to being client driven, NOAA wanted the Center to focus on real, on-the-ground situations. To do this, the Center solicited project proposals and partnerships from its customers.

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Around the Network

► USDA CSREES Highlights the Network

One of the main funders of the NEMO Network, the USDA's CSREES National Integrated Water Quality Program, has chosen to honor our little Network as one of their "Outstanding Projects." The local actions being catalyzed by NEMO education will be highlighted in a prominent display at the USDA headquarters Building, as well as the CSREES Administrators Office, on the National Mall in Washington DC. We congratulate NEMO coordinators everywhere for this honor and thank our funders for thinking of us.



Cover of the AWARE CO Water Protection Toolkit.

Toolkit for Local Officials to every county and municipality in the state. Certainly a big step forward for the program's effort to reach every corner of Colorado. You can download your very own copy of the toolkit on their website at www.awarecolorado.org.

► NROC On!

The New Hampshire NEMO program (NROC - Natural Resource Outreach Coalition), has just released a new publication, *Setting Goals, Redefining Boundaries*, highlighting what many of the towns they have worked with have accomplished. The publication is an impressive array of changes coastal communities have made, from building the capacity of local land use decision



The cover of NROC's newly released publication, *Setting Goals, Redefining Boundaries*.

makers to changes to plans, policies and regulations. The document is available on the Publications section of the Network website (see Member Publications).

► CT NEMO Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The CT NEMO Team has been awarded the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award by the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) for their *Putting Communities in Charge* publication. The publication is CT NEMO's first official compilation of some of the local actions that have been catalyzed by their efforts. The Report can be ordered online on the Publications section of the NEMO website, nemo.uconn.edu. Congratulations to John, Jim, Chet and the rest of the stateside NEMO Team.

► COors NEMO?

AWARE Colorado has received a grant from the Coors Brewing Company to distribute their fantastic Watershed Protection

Welcome Oregon!

Oregon Joins the Network, Again

It took three workshops in three different communities and 30 hours in a University van, but the Hub is delighted to report that Oregon has rejoined the Network as a Charter member. The new, statewide effort will be lead by Derek Godwin, Frank Burris and Sam Chan of Oregon State University Extension and Sea Grant, and has been named "Growing Oregon." It seems only fitting that the state that has long been the leader in coordinated community planning be part of the Network. We welcome them and their experience to NEMOdom.

Network GIS & Remote Sensing Training

In April, a gaggle of NEMOids traveled to the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) in Charleston, South Carolina for an encounter of the geospatial kind. The training grew out of the training needs survey Network members filled out last fall and was the first step in the Hub's effort to work with partners like the Center to expand training opportunities for the Network.

The four day training provided an introduction to the ArcGIS software program and to the use of remote sensing data. The idea was to provide an opportunity for geospatial novices/beginners in the Network to get a basic knowledge of

geospatial tools and how they can be used to enhance NEMO education. Many, many thanks to the CSC for putting on the training. Several of the participants have already taken what they learned at the training and applied it to their programs.



Network members at the NOAA Coastal Services Center's geospatial and remote sensing training class held in April.

The NEMO Hub will seek to build upon this first step down the path toward a "Network Training Academy" at Cinco de NEMO. (See article on cover.) In addition to more

advanced geospatial training and topical training, the conference will provide an opportunity to solicit ideas for future training opportunities. ☀

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A “national in scope, local in approach” theme became a cornerstone operating principal for the Center’s efforts. Experts in hazards, habitat and data gathering and dissemination—the three important issue areas described by the coastal management community—were recruited. To secure institutional knowledge, employees with diverse backgrounds were sought.

This unique organizational mix includes federal and contract employees who were previously employed by a variety of NOAA offices, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, universities, state coastal management programs, local emergency management agencies, private industry and non-profit organizations.

Connecticut Foliage Report

For those coming to Connecticut for Cinco de NEMO, be prepared for one of New England's greatest assets—fall foliage. According to our state forester, Don Smith, Cinco will hit during peak color. Certain to be a display on par with the DC Cherry Blossoms at U4ia.

“It looks like the foliage season across the state will be impressive. For the most part, it has been a very good year for growing leaves on trees. We had plenty of rain in the spring and we’ve received rainfall throughout the summer. There should be plenty of leaves on the trees to color up and put on the fall show.”

To track current foliage conditions throughout the state, visit dep.state.ct.us/updates/foliage/foliagereport.asp

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The second item is also related to technical tools. CICEET, the *Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology*, is a partnership between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire that supports the development of innovative technologies for understanding, protecting and restoring coastal resources. CICEET has been consulting with the NEMO Hub as part of their recent effort to revise the focus of their annual call for proposals. Suffice it to say that land use and land use decision makers feature prominently in this new focus—potentially great news for NEMO programs.

The last piece of good news is perhaps the newest of new directions. As most know, the Network has benefited from critical support from the USDA/CSREES Water Quality Program, which supports

the Hub as a “National Facilitation” project. Recently their brethren in the CSREES Forestry Program have also become interested in the NEMO Network. Concerned about issues like retaining forest cover and minimizing forest fragmentation, the Forestry Program has come to the conclusion that traditional forestry outreach to landowners needs to be supplemented by education of (drum roll please . . .) local land use officials. Can TreeMO be far behind? Stay tuned!

There will be more details on each of these promising initiatives at Cinco de NEMO, as well as in future newsletters, on the list-serve and on the Network website for those of you who are unable to make the conference. Now, if we could only bring ourselves to ask for directions . . . ☀

“Linking people, information, and technology” has become the slogan of the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Customer input continues to guide the philosophy, areas of primary interest, and operating principles of the Center. All projects are customer focused and include appropriate partners. Evaluations are used to see if the product or service meets client expectations, as well as to improve succeeding efforts. Evaluations are also conducted in program areas to determine effectiveness and guide future efforts. Each product or service is created in response to a specific local issue, but there is also a national component. Lessons learned and the technology harnessed or created for each effort are transferable to a larger audience.

More information on CSC, including the latest Operating Plan, staff directories and funding opportunities, can be had at: www.csc.noaa.gov. ☀

National NEMO Network

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The National NEMO Network Newsletter is published twice a year by the National Network Hub. The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated programs that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program, with funding from USDA and EPA. The National NEMO Network is a program of the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR, based in UConn's Cooperative Extension System). © 2006 University of Connecticut. The University of Connecticut supports all state and federal laws that promote equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination. 9-06

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