



## Center for the Blue Economy Providing Research, Education, and Data for Valuing Our Oceans and Coasts

The Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) is a research and academic center developing innovative ways to address critical ocean and coastal resource management issues. The center's research demonstrates the tremendous value of ocean and coastal resources and the interdependence of a healthy ocean, well-managed coastline, and strong economy. For example, CBE data shows that in 2012, the coastal economy contributed 83.4 percent of the total U.S. GDP and 81.5 percent of total U.S. employment. Rising sea levels, the impact of increasingly powerful and unpredictable storms, and the degradation of critical natural

resources like coastal wetlands threaten to significantly weaken the economic drivers that the nation has historically relied on. Understanding the economic contributions of the oceans and coasts to human welfare, and working to mitigate climate change, are thus more important endeavors than ever before.

### Research

The center's National Ocean Economics Program provides free, open-access data on economic, socioeconomic, and natural resource trends, empowering businesses and government to make informed decisions as they balance conservation and growth in coastal areas.

### Scholarship

The center publishes the peer-reviewed international Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics, the first journal devoted to research on the theory and practice of economics as applied to a broad range of ocean and coastal resources.

### Academics

The center is closely affiliated with the Institute's Master of Arts in International Environmental Policy (MAIEP) degree program, specifically with its concentration in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). Institute students in this concentration have unique opportunities to participate in the CBE Summer Fellows program, pursuing fully funded internships with prestigious government agencies, businesses, and NGOs around the world. Graduates have a strong track record of receiving Fulbright Awards, Sea Grant Fellowships, and leadership positions in the ocean and coastal resource management field.

### Collaboration

The center partners with many U.S. and international organizations to achieve its objectives, including NOAA's Office of Coastal Management, the Nature Conservancy, the Korean Maritime Institute, and the Chinese National Marine Data and Information Service. In addition, the CBE hosts visiting scholars for residencies of three to 12 months, who contribute greatly to its research. Generous donors allow the CBE to provide free public access databases to thousands of users each year.



Erich Pacheco during his internship with the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program in Papua New Guinea. Erich now works for Conservation International in Washington, D.C.



Laura Henson during her internship with UNESCO in Mozambique. Laura now serves as an Executive Fellow with the NOAA Sea Grant Program.



Alyssum Pohl during her internship with the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C. Alyssum now works for NOAA.



NOEP Director Judith Kildow, Congressman Sam Farr, and CBE Director Jason Scorse at the news conference announcing release of the NOEP National Report.



The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a nexus of marine research and policy studies, attracting professionals in the field from around the world. The unique opportunity to collaborate with world-class academic and research programs makes the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey a top destination for aspiring ocean and coastal resource management leaders.

[go.miis.edu/cbe](http://go.miis.edu/cbe)  
[oceanomics.org](http://oceanomics.org)  
[cbe.miis.edu/joce](http://cbe.miis.edu/joce)  
[go.miis.edu/iep](http://go.miis.edu/iep)

“Our goal is no less than to make the CBE and the Middlebury Institute a global leader in both academic studies and research dedicated to ensuring that the full value of ocean and coastal resources is incorporated into policy decisions.”

— Professor Jason Scorse, Director of the Center for the Blue Economy

### What makes the Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) unique?

“There is nothing quite like the CBE in California, the country, or the world,” says Professor Jason Scorse, director of the CBE and chair of the Institute’s International Environmental Policy program. “Unlike traditional marine policy programs, the CBE’s central focus is on the economics, management, and human dimensions that are key to addressing our most pressing ocean and coastal resource management challenges.” Most marine-related organizations focus on the natural sciences, law, and policy, and lack significant economic or business expertise. There are organizations that focus on the economics of particular marine resources, such as fisheries, but the CBE is concerned with the full range of marine resources and with the economies of coastal regions more broadly.

### What are the center’s current research and leadership initiatives?

#### The Economics of Coastal Climate Change Adaptation

The CBE uses the tools and data of economics from the local to the international level to help communities efficiently and equitably adapt to coastal climate change impacts. With literally trillions of dollars of infrastructure, businesses, real estate, and ecosystems at risk in coastal regions, figuring out the best ways to mitigate threats and adapt

can save large sums of money. In some instances, how communities adapt to climate change will mean the difference between fiscal solvency and bankruptcy.

#### Building International Consensus for the Value of the Oceans

More than 20 nations have created ocean economy accounts, mostly in Europe, Asia, and North America. The CBE, in partnership with the governments of the U.S., China, Korea, and other nations, intends to build an alliance of coastal nations to clearly define the parameters and methodologies for measuring the ocean and coastal economies. To that end, the CBE will host the “Oceans in National Income Accounts Symposium” in October 2015, with the goal of one day estimating a Global Ocean Product that illustrates the value and importance of the oceans to the entire world economy.

#### Analyzing “Hot Spots” in the Arctic

As the Arctic environment undergoes dramatic changes, the CBE’s National Ocean Economics Program is tracking changes in economic activity, and how this may impact the already shifting natural environment. The goal is to link the nature, scope, and value of human activities to the Arctic by presenting useful information on the economics of the natural resources of the Arctic. CBE data will reveal “hot spots” of risk, where economic activities clash with high value marine life and other natural assets.

