



EPP and Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making Sponsored Seminar

Jennie Rheuban

Research Associate

Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Presenting on:

“Policy Efforts in the S.E. Massachusetts Area Related to Global Climate Change”

November 10th, 2014

12 noon

(Lunch served at 11:50am)

Baker Hall 129 Conference Room

Department of Engineering and Public Policy

Seminar Abstract:

Global climate change has caused unprecedented changes in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Coastal regions may be influenced more heavily by climate change due to large populations and heavy reliance on coastal resources. The education and engagement of stakeholders about climate-related problems will be critical to the development of adaptation solutions to help coastal populations plan for the future. During this seminar, we will discuss three major climate-related problems faced by coastal populations: warming, sea level rise, and changes in water quality and ocean acidification. Oceanic warming is strongly influencing population dynamics and phenology in fisheries, sea level rise threatens coastal properties and infrastructure, and changes in water quality restrict use of beaches and coastal resources, threaten shellfishing industries, and reduce home value. We will discuss current policy efforts in the southeastern Massachusetts area and a project recently funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to develop ways to engage stakeholders related to these three very different, but interconnected problems.

Speaker Bio:

Jennie Rheuban is a research associate in the Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry department at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her research focuses on the effects of human influence on ocean biogeochemistry including work on nutrient pollution, climate change, and carbon transfer and cycling. Specific topics include climate change impacts on coastal water quality, predicting the influence of ocean acidification and warming on marine capture fisheries through integrated modeling efforts, and quantifying the influence of coastal restoration on carbon cycling. Jennie received a B.A. in both Biology and Mathematics with a Finance concentration and an M.S. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia.