



**“NOAA’S INTEGRATED OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING APPROACH TO  
HURRICANE SANDY RECOVERY”**

**ASHLEY CHAPPELL**

NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping

**Monday, September 23, 2013**

3:30 PM

***Room 1202, Engineering and Computational Sciences Building***

Abstract

The coasts are our economic engines. But coastal communities and shorelines are facing escalating risks from changes in storm intensity, precipitation, flooding, and sea-level rise that can result in dramatic economic losses to impacted communities and the country. To recover from a storm like Sandy, states need coastal and ocean mapping data for a variety of reasons – marine debris identification and removal, beach replenishment, engineering and repair decisions, habitat change assessments, nautical chart updates, inundation modeling, strengthening for future storms and coastal resilience. The list goes on, but the common thread is the need for ocean and coastal mapping data to support decision-making. I will discuss the interagency approach to Sandy recovery mapping and NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM) initiative to “Map once, use many times.” The ultimate goal of IOCM is to allow easy access to taxpayer-owned mapping data by the greatest range of users.

Biography

Ashley Chappell earned a B.A. in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1991, and a Master’s degree in Geography and Cartographic Sciences from George Mason University in 1997. After an exciting stint at National Geographic, she joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as an aeronautical chart cartographer in 1992. Her childhood summers spent at Virginia Beach and a love of the sea soon necessitated a move to nautical charting for NOAA's Office of Coast Survey in 1995, where she produced charts of Alaska, the Pacific and Great Lakes waters. In 2000 she moved to the dark side – policy, strategic planning, and budget formulation – but at least it was to support the worthy mission of safe and efficient marine transportation. Since then, Ashley has focused in large part on the emerging threats and opportunities from a warming Arctic, and the national need for better marine transportation system infrastructure and foundational geospatial data to support good decision-making in the coastal zone. She currently serves as NOAA's Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordinator. Ashley lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband and three children, where she advocates for elementary STEM education in her spare time.

*Reception before seminar at 3:00 PM*