



Center for the Blue Economy Waves Newsletter
December 2021

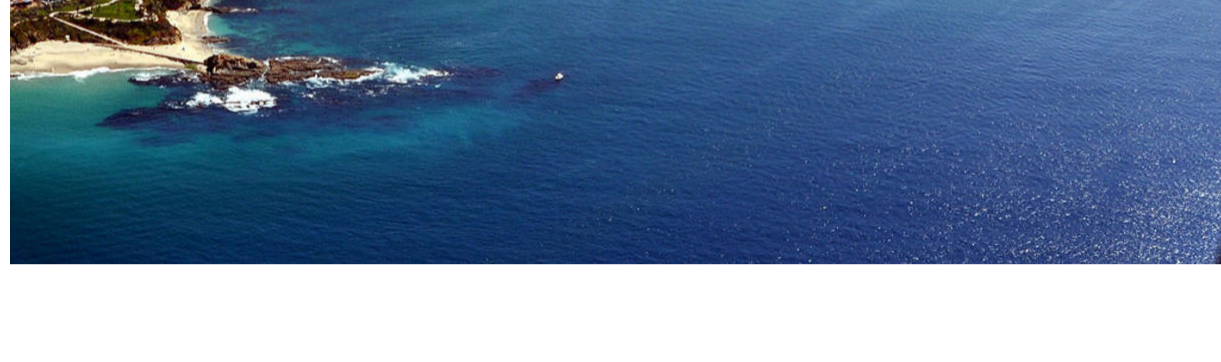


The Economic Value of America's Estuaries

Estuaries have always been an essential feature of the economy. "The Economic Value of America's Estuaries," released in October 2021, written by the Center for the Blue Economy and TBD Economics LLC for the non-profit organization Restore America's Estuaries, details the surprisingly huge contribution of these areas to the U.S. economy, and fills in a critical gap for coastal managers and policy makers: the economic benefit of natural infrastructure and blue carbon sequestration.

LEARN MORE: [The Economic Value of America's Estuaries](#)

(photo: Palmico Sound, North Carolina courtesy of Restore America's Estuaries)



How Little We Know:

Humans and Recreation on the California Coast

The California coast extends across 1,200 miles (3,000 miles depending on what is counted). There have been extensive investments in understanding the physical and biological dimensions of the coast. There are numerous world-class ocean science institutions in California furthering understanding of those dimensions. However, there has been little effort to understand one of the key components of the marine ecosystem: human use.

LEARN MORE: [Coastal Recreation in California: Beyond the Beach](#)

(Photo: North Laguna Beach, California by Don Ramey Logan on Wikimedia Commons)



Checking in On Ocean-Based Solutions

Dr. Jason Scorse, Director of the Center for the Blue Economy contributed to a new report published by The Economist Group's World Ocean Initiative that highlights climate solutions such as clean energy, transport emissions, food systems, and ocean solutions for carbon dioxide removal and storage.

LEARN MORE: [see the report Checking in On Ocean-Based Solutions](#) and see an [Interview with Jason Scorse](#)

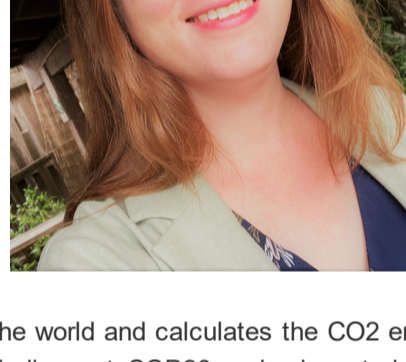
(Photo: Liquid hydrogen tank section of the ship Suiso Frontier at Kobe shipyard, by Hunini on Wikimedia)



Build Back Better and OCAP

With over \$400 billion in climate solution investments the BBB could be a game changer for the planet and the U.S. economy. It includes many of the provisions we fought for in the Ocean Climate Action Plan (OCAP) and Lobby Day including coastal restoration, climate smart ports, and a Civilian Conservation Corps. If you have not already, please contact your Senators to urge them to pass this bill!

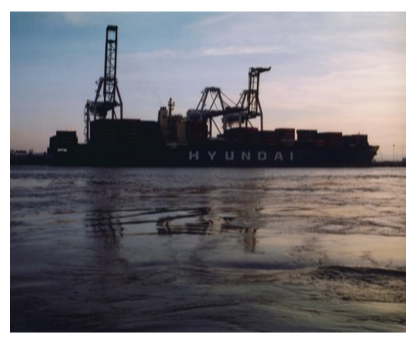
LEARN MORE: [OCEAN CLIMATE ACTION](#)



Student Alice McGown attended COP26 with one focused message: Leave It In The Ground

Alice McGown, master's candidate in the International Environmental Policy program class of '22 attended the COP26 to present her work with the Leave It In The Ground initiative. For the past nine months, McGown has been working on a project that maps fossil fuel deposits below the ground and their overlap with protected areas around the world and calculates the CO2 emissions that these reserves represent. McGown shared the findings at COP26 and advocated for countries to stop drilling in protected areas. We highly recommend watching her interviews below, and we look forward to having Alice give a public talk about her experience in the spring of 2022. Alice you are amazing!

LEARN MORE: [Alice McGown Pre-COP26 Interview](#)



Transatlantic Blue Economy Initiative

Two of our Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) colleagues are interviewed as part of the Wilson Center's Transatlantic Blue Economy Initiative. Mike Conathan, Senior Policy Fellow on Ocean and Climate with Aspen's Energy & Environment Program and CBE Advisory Council Chair discusses Blue Economy Clusters (business, tech, and innovation) and Dr. Jason Scorse, Director of the CBE, discusses aquaculture and cell-based fish. Well worth watching!

LEARN MORE: [Wilson Center Transatlantic Blue Economy Initiative—Study Launch](#)



Student Mary Patenburg contributes to two WWF articles

Mary Patenburg, master's candidate in the International Environmental Policy program class of '22, worked with the World Wildlife Fund as her Center for the Blue Economy Fellowship over the summer, and contributed to two WWF articles: "[What are fishery improvement projects and how do they work?](#)" and "[Fishery Improvement Projects \(FIPs\): Updates from around the globe.](#)" Good job Mary!

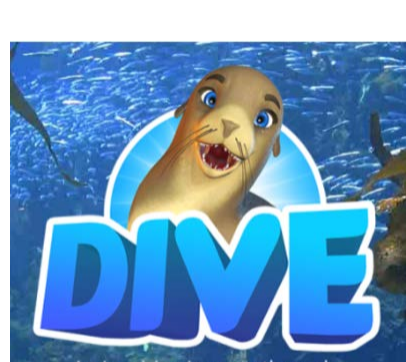
LEARN MORE: [What are fishery improvement projects and how do they work?](#) and [Fishery Improvement Projects \(FIPs\): Updates from around the globe.](#)



Visualizing the Three-Dimensional Footprint of Ocean Uses

Although we are late on the draw to bring this paper to you (initially published in November of 2020), this report represents many years of work by Charles M. Wahle, Ph.D., Senior Scientist (retired), who taught for years in the International Environmental Policy program at the Middlebury Institute, influencing the lives of many of our graduates. In addition, two alumna were also part of bringing this report to fruition, Julia Townsend and Melis Okter. We celebrate their work and hope the ocean community will make great use of the invaluable insights in this report.

LEARN MORE: [Visualizing the Three-Dimensional Footprint of Ocean Uses: A Guide to Building and Applying Space Use Profiles for Ocean Management](#)



DIVE-An Inspiring Journey through California's Marine Protected Areas

We celebrate the latest creation of CBE Senior Fellow Dr. Juliano Calil and his efforts to use virtual reality to bring Marine Protected Areas to life for middle school students. Three partners, Save Our Shores, Dr. Calil's company Virtual Planet Technologies, and Oceans360 teamed up to create this virtual reality experience of our region's Marine Protected Areas. DIVE offers middle school students a glimpse of these magnificent underwater treasures and the chance to learn why they are vital to the health of our oceans and a healthy future of all life on Earth. Class materials and lesson plans are offered free of charge. Juliano, you are amazing!

LEARN MORE: [DIVE-An Inspiring Journey through California's Marine Protected Areas](#)



Celebrating Ten Years at the Center for the Blue Economy

We wish all of our readers a healthy, happy, and restorative to the challenging year 2021. As we look back at the year and mark our first decade as a research center, we are inspired by the **students** who have graduated and moved on to professional positions that truly move the needle on making the world a better place, the **research projects & partners** we have collaborated with in bringing economic data and social science to bear on intractable ocean and climate problems, the **research papers** we have published, and we celebrate the activists and citizens who helped to lobby congress in 2021 to make the **ocean-climate connection**. We instituted the **Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics**, and gave a permanent home to the **National Ocean Economics Program**, which will be getting a makeover in 2022. We look forward to the next decade of leadership, education and research to promote and protect our global blue economy!

LEARN MORE: [Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics](#) and [National Ocean Economics Program](#)

About the Center for the Blue Economy

The "Blue Economy" comprises the economic activities and supporting institutions, relationships, and choices that create healthy oceans and sustainable wealth from the world's oceans and coasts. The Center for the Blue Economy examines ways that ocean and coastal resources can support economic development that provide decent livelihoods and maintains, restores, and enhances the critical coastal and marine ecosystems that provide the foundations for human wellness and prosperity.

Our History: Center for the Blue Economy Director of Research Dr. Charles Colgan and Director Emeritus of the National Ocean Economics Program Dr. Judith Kildow innovated the field of ocean economics in 1999, a methodology now embraced around the world to measure and protect ocean resources. The Center for the Blue Economy was founded in 2011 at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, to build on their foundational and to train the next generation of ocean leaders.

Our Mission: to promote ocean-based sustainability solutions through leadership in economic research, education, and policy analysis.

Give and Help us Meet Our Mission: When you donate to the Center for the Blue Economy you'll be supporting timely research on ocean economics, robust course offerings and opportunities for graduate students, and open access to valuable data. Make an impact, donate today!

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