

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy  
December 16, 2016

## Sorry We're Late!

We were busy for most of this week at the 8<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Coastal Society, aka [#RAETCS16](#). Thanks to those of you who had kind words about this very newsletter. Big thanks to all who attended sessions that we helped to organize, and very big thanks to those who came in town to participate in those same panels. The RAE Summit was a nice way to finish 2016, because the rest, well, [you know](#).

## ~~WRDA~~ ~~WRRDA~~ WIIN Passes Congress Over Sen. Boxer's Retiring Body

Once upon a time, the United States Congress passed a Water Resource Development Act every even year. Then they went seven years without one. Then they went another seven years and changed the name by adding an "R" in there (no one cares what it stood for). Now, two years after they passed WRRDA, they've passed another one! But this time, for some reason, it's called [WIIN](#)! It's a big sprawling thing with probably enough for everyone to have something to love and something to hate – see the [wide variety of takes](#). Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA-D) is about to retire, but before she does, she gave a [90-minute filibuster](#) against a provision creating an Endangered Species Act loophole. Nonetheless, the WIIN Act is expected to be signed by President Obama soon. Maybe, like this Institute, he hasn't had a chance to read it ([and yet](#)). While we look forward to forming our own opinions on WIIN and the impacts it could have, we'd love to hear the thoughts of our dear readers who have managed to get through it already.

## Various Things No One Can Possibly Be Happy About

The Great Barrier Reef might not be long for this world. A [study](#) has found that not only is bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef three times more common than it was 30 years ago, but bleaching could affect [98% of the world's coral reefs](#) by 2050. FYI – bleaching is when water gets too hot coral polyps eject the algae that lives within them and on which they rely for food; that algae gives them color, hence bleaching.

Many of the world's largest [lakes have already disappeared](#) thanks to mankind's interference with their tributaries.

Another [study](#) shows that heavy rains can be expected to increase [by 400%](#) by the end of the century. That's [extra-bad news for Louisiana](#), where we have seen this year what

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

## Coming up:

[Tulane Environmental Law & Policy Summit](#)  
New Orleans, LA  
March 10-11, 2017

## Water jobs:

[U of Florida Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program](#)

University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL

[Research Associate](#)

Environmental Law Institute  
Washington, DC

[Senior Analyst/Water Resources](#)

Abt Associates

Caimbridge, MA

[Emmett/Frankel Fellowship in Environmental Law and Policy](#)

UCLA

Los Angeles, CA

[Attorney, Water Enforcement Division](#)

US EPA

Washington, D.C.

[Anthony A. Lapham River Conservation Fellow](#)

American Rivers

Washington, D.C.

[Climate Change Post-Doc Research Fellow](#)

Columbia University

New York, NY

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happens when our hot humid air gets even hotter and more humid (took a lot of restraint not to say “humider”).

NOAA’s 2016 Arctic Report Card tells us that the [Arctic is hotter](#) than it has ever been since they started paying attention to it. Maybe these poor, dogged climatologists will be happy to not have to pay attention to relentlessly bad news should some [scientists’ worst fears](#) of the incoming administration come true (probably not).

Oh, and a couple of the largest avalanches ever in Tibet this summer were [likely caused](#) by too much melt water underneath the glaciers. The change in the glacial systems were caused by, you guessed it, [Frank Stallone](#) climate change.

### **Various Things That Might Perk Some Back Up**

[NASA has a GIPHY](#) page and it’s super fun.

How about a [quiz](#) where you get to ID the city just from the shape of its water resources?

[This map](#) of the United States’ water bodies is pretty neat, too.

Geoengineering might still be terrifying, but, with what are essentially [calcium supplements for the atmosphere](#), a layer of sunscreen for the whole dang planet wouldn’t have to lead to some horrible worldwide acid rain.

If you’ve ever wondered about why the world looks the way it does, this [video](#) about the geological history since the formation of Earth is pretty handy.