

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
July 26, 2019

The Best Part of Publishing a Paper is Not Having to Work on It Anymore

No, no, no. That can't be right. The best part of publishing a paper is getting it out to the public and spurring discussion on a topic that is important. As [you may already know](#), we did just that this week. "[Finding the Means](#)" is a paper we wrote to consider the fate of vulnerable communities and what they can do to extend their lifespan. We started with questions like "what is it that makes a community livable for its residents?" and "what capacity do these communities have to meet the duties placed upon them to adapt to a changing world?" This paper attempted to answer those questions from a legal and policy perspective but also, thanks to a hand from the Human Dimensions folks at The Water Institute of the Gulf, from a socioeconomic perspective. We hope the paper furthers the discussion about what can be done by, to, and for these communities (and spurs only a moderate amount of [Hand Clapping](#)).

The Climate Crisis is Going to Cost Us What? [All These Things](#).

The United States Department of Agriculture, the agency that [isn't releasing a study](#) that comes up with a [climate resilience plan](#), [released a study](#) that analyzed [the increase in crop insurance](#) the federal government will have to pay out in the very near future. Now, is the USDA [hastily trying to move researchers](#) away from DC to KC? Yes. And are the researchers on the crop insurance study already gone or on their way out the door? Yes.

But never fear! Even if the USDA is, uh, distracted, the Federal Reserve is waking up to the threats posed by climate. Despite previous statements by the Fed Chair that climate change was the business of other agencies, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco is [following the lead](#) of other central banks and [hosting a conference](#) to figure out what in tarnation there is to do about it.

And it's not just the Fed thinking about climate's widespread effects on the economy. Moody's, the credit rating agency that was only referred to in [that scene](#) in The Big Short, this week [acquired](#) a company that specializes in climate data and risk analysis. Probably good timing considering that [scientific consensus](#) on global warming has gone from 97% to 99%. That last two percent will surely change the mind of all the holdouts in Congress, right?

Trying to put their arms around the whole thing, the Government Accountability Office [recently found](#) that global warming has caused a drastic uptick in disaster spending across the country and a slew of economic effects that will prove a drag on the national economy.

[Good Times!](#)

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:

[Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting](#)

August 1, 2019; New Orleans, LA

[Impacts of Oil Spills on Underdog Species](#)

August 13, 2019; Lacombe, LA

Water jobs:

[Consortium Administrator](#)

LUMCON; Chauvin, LA

[Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator \(AmeriCorps\)](#)

Woodlands Conservancy; Belle Chasse, LA

[Water Resources Associate or Manager](#)

Metro Planning Council; Chicago, IL

[Vice President, Programs & Strategy](#)

US Water Alliance; Oakland, CA

[Postdoctoral Employee \(Water Resources Policy\)](#)

UC Irvine; Irvine, CA

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Good News for Coral Reef Enthusiasts! Bad News for Beachgoers – and Coral Reef Enthusiasts!

Scientists in Mexico discovered five new coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. These [new reefs](#) help form a 500 kilometer corridor of reefs and all the rich biodiversity they bring with them. Activists are already working to get the reefs protected from the fossil fuel industry. But can they protect them from poop? A [long-term study](#) in the Florida Keys has determined that the warming ocean temperatures usually blamed for global coral reef collapse is less of a stressor on the reefs in the Keys than [nutrient pollution](#). Nitrogen pollution comes in the form of yard and agricultural runoff and untreated sewage – what some might call that [Cha Dooky-Doo](#). That same [Pungee](#) stuff is what led to fecal bacteria being found on half of the United States' beaches last year. It's all enough to make you say "[Oooh-Whee Baby!](#)"

(You can't just [Ride Your Pony](#) in and start writing TUWaterWays thinking you're going to [Tell It Like It Is](#). There's an [Art](#) to this.)