

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
August 6, 2021

Let's Get Tangled up in Blue and Protect the Ocean

That's right – it isn't all about green on the environmental front, blue could be the new green. Rather, blue and green should work together towards climate goals. What is this blue we're speaking of? Blue carbon of course! Protecting our oceans has a variety of upsides, one of which is that they're serious carbon sinks and therefore have the ability to regulate and slow climate change. In a new report, the Environmental Justice Foundation highlights the importance of oceans' roles in limiting climate change. The report urges countries to enact legislation and policies for marine ecosystem protection and rehabilitation and to take advantage of this "blue carbon" effort and points to a blueprint that could be used to set achievable policy goals to better utilize oceans for carbon capture. Over half of the world's biological carbon is captured by marine species, but the ocean is being largely ignored in climate policies worldwide. If they were properly protected, up to 200 metric tons per year of carbon could be captured by these blue carbon sinks. And, as we know, ocean warming and degradation not only hinder these opportunities to be used for carbon capture, but also worsen climate change impacts. Protecting marine ecosystems is really a win-win situation, so let's get blue!

Infrastructure Bill is Movin' on Up

Hooray for billions of dollars for new and upgraded water infrastructure! This week, the Senate has begun working on its version of the major bipartisan infrastructure deal that we wrote about a few weeks ago. It's significantly smaller money-wise than the original House version, but still includes \$55 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure projects and improvements. If you don't feel like reading the full 2000+ page bill, the White House also released this fact sheet that's much more palatable. It could be a lengthy process to get a final bill out, however, as there have been over 300 proposed amendments for it in the Senate. The Senate will likely be working into its recess to vote on all of them and has already started by rejecting Utah Senator Mike Lee's proposal to gut the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permitting process, among others. It could look fairly different with all of these amendments, but the core should stay pretty similar. And, it still currently includes the provision to replace all lead pipes throughout

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 legal stewardship of water.

Coming up:

AWWA: Desalination in India; August 17

ELI: Environmental Justice and Corridor Projects: Case Study of a Former Mining Town in Rust Belt Kentucky; August 18

Mississippi River Commission: Public Hearings Aboard the MV Mississippi; August 23: Caruthersville, MO; August 24: Memphis, TN; August 25: Greenville, MS; August 27: Morgan City, LA

18th Annual EPA Drinking Water Workshop: Small System Challenges and Solutions; August 30-September 2

Eighth Biennial University of Florida Water Institute Symposium Abstract Deadline; October 6

The Seminar Group: Coastal Law in Louisiana; October 21-22

Water jobs:

Summer Associate and Associate Attorney; Sher Edling LLP; San Francisco, CA

Policy Analyst/Economist on Water; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Paris, France

TMDL and Water Quality Improvement Lead; State of Washington Water Quality Program; Lacey, WA

Program Operations Associate; The Ocean Foundation; Washington, DC

Associate Attorney; The Wilderness Society; Denver, CO and Washington, D.C., and other locations

Assistant or Associate Scientist in Hydrogeology; The Jones Center at Ichauway; Newton, GA

Senior Attorney, Fossil Fuels Program; Earthjustice; New Orleans or Texas

Water Policy Manager; Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Naples, FL

Water Policy Advisor; Tuvli; Washington, DC

Senior Manager, Environmental Policy (EMEA); Amazon; Brussels, Belgium

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the country, so don't you worry, dear readers - we're still gonna [get the lead out](#).

We'll Be Watching You, HABs

Over the years, we've seen the effects of different types of harmful algal blooms (HABs), from [dead zones](#), (like the Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone, which is [larger than average](#) this year) to [unsafe drinking and recreational waters](#), to red tides (causing some especially [wild](#) and [gross](#) problems this summer for Florida's Gulf coasts). Well, new surveillance technology and networks may mitigate some, but not all, of the problems associated those pesky HABs – specifically to the aquaculture sector. The device, called the [Imaging Flow CytoBot \(IFCB\)](#), is a submersible camera system that produces hundreds of thousands of images per day. It can be utilized by the fishing industry to monitor HABs that contaminate or kill harvested species. The data gained from the IFCB's images is entered into a [hub](#), which breaks down different species and syndromes of HABs and indicates the locations, concentrations, and toxicities of them. And it can be submerged for months with virtually no maintenance, so it's an easy way for shellfish farmers and water resource managers to monitor HABs and know when fishing or other activities are safer. The network currently only covers some Northeastern Atlantic states, but the hope is that this will provide a prototype for coasts along the entire United States in the future. [In the Midwest](#), the EPA has teamed up with Kansas scientists to launch the new CyANWeb application as an expansion on its previous app. The app makes available similar HAB monitoring information, and alerts water resource managers and community members in EPA Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) on water color changes associated with HABs. Those of us on the Gulf coast hope to see these networks expanded soon!

Coastal Law CLE? [Sign Us Up!](#)

Interested in Louisiana coastal issues and the laws and policies that surround them? Looking for some CLE credit this fall? Well, we've got just the conference for you – featuring our very own fearless leader, Mark Davis, discussing nutrient management, Mississippi River resources, as well as surface and groundwater rights. The Seminar Group will be putting on the "Coastal Law in Louisiana" conference in October, with experts discussing other topics, such as flood management and levee issues, oysters and aquaculture, offshore wind energy, environmental justice and coastal planning, and more. So check out the current agenda [here](#) and register if you're interested. We hope to see you there!