Climate Program Office Review

May 24-26, 2022

Pre-Recorded Presentation
Supporting Review Activity Area 4:
Integrated Information Systems,
Risk Areas Initiative, Assessments

Assessments Program
Dan Barrie, Program Manager

Overview

- **Briefing Purpose:** Overview of Assessments
- **Context:** Subactivity for Activity Area 4; the National Climate Assessment is an interagency product for which NOAA plays an outsize role

Assessments 101

The Interagency U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is mandated by the Global Change Research Act (1990), and charged by the Executive Office of the President, with carrying out an Assessment of the state of the climate every four or fewer years.

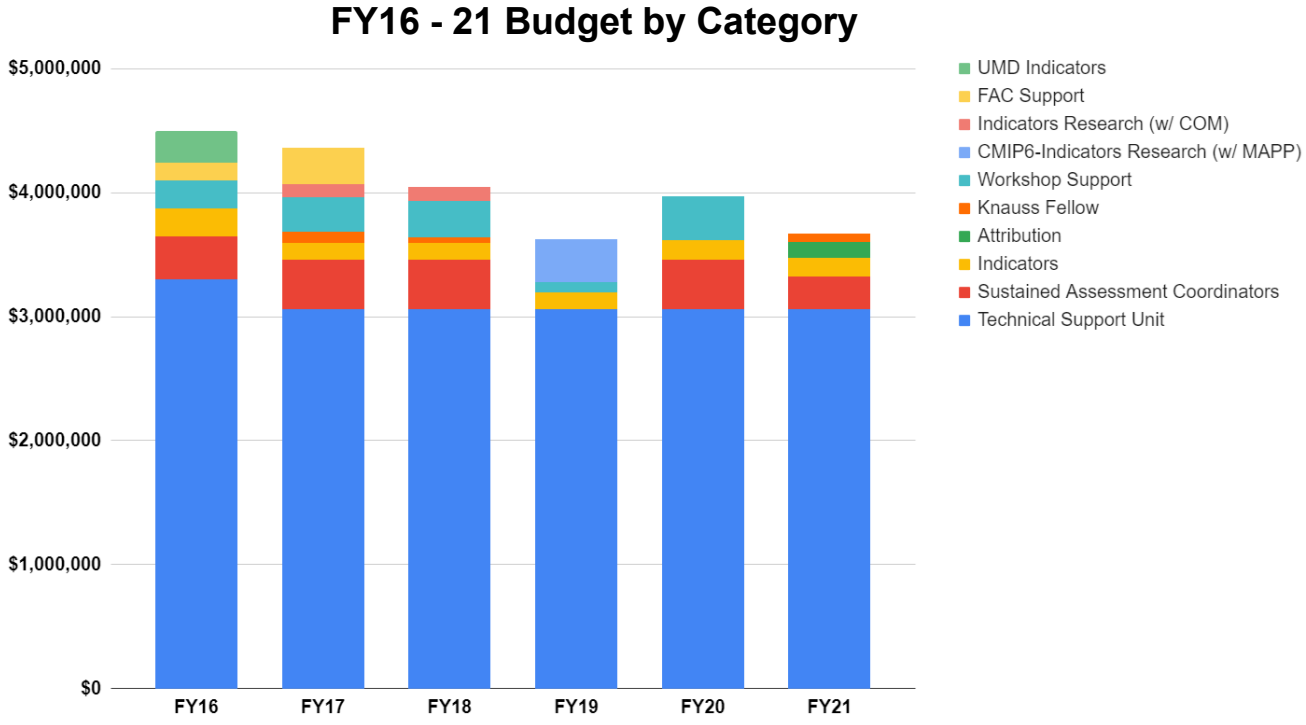
NOAA is one of the principal members of the USGCRP measured by research budget, primary mission relevance, and leadership, and provides foundational support for the Assessment.

Program Manager: Dan Barrie

- ✓ *Supports NCA editorial and production activities.*
- ✓ *Provides continuity and agency leadership for NCA*

Program components:

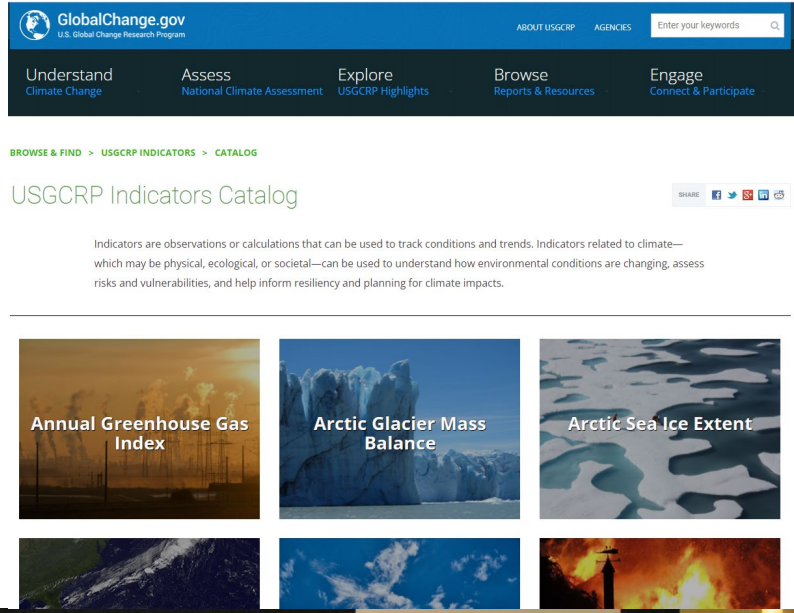
- $3.67M FY21 total budget



Assessments 101, continued

- *75-85% of the Assessments Program budget goes toward the **Technical Support Unit***
  - *Essential support to complete the NCA*
- *Staff support provided for:*
  - *Interagency **Federal Steering Committee***
  - *Interagency **Sustained Assessment Working Group***
  - ***Continuity** of leadership for Assessment process*
  - *Support on behalf of the EoP including **legal guidance**, **Federal Register Notice publication**, etc.*

Sustained Assessment Coordinators (RISA Partnership)



Key Accomplishments (FY17-21)

Quality

- Volume I Cited 500+ Times
- Chapters and derivative papers from Volume II cited 1,300+ times
- Featured extensively in traditional media
- Nearly 1.5 million visits to NCA webpages -- 55% of traffic directly; 45% from social and traditional media
  - Sites still receive 500-1000 visitors/day

- Beyond serving informational needs, the report is foundational for climate services and adaptation efforts
- The NCA is widely used for stakeholder and frontline community engagement, and education

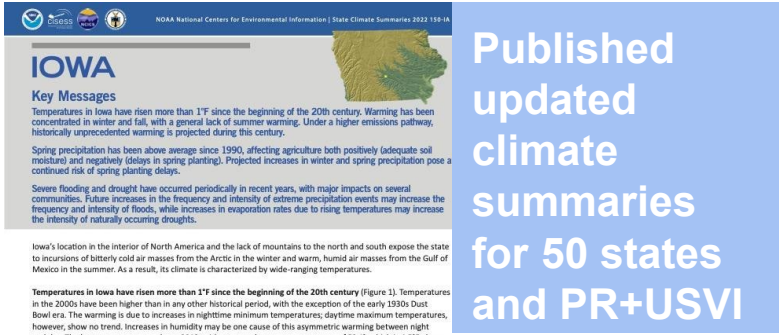
Key Accomplishments (FY17-21)

Quality - TSU

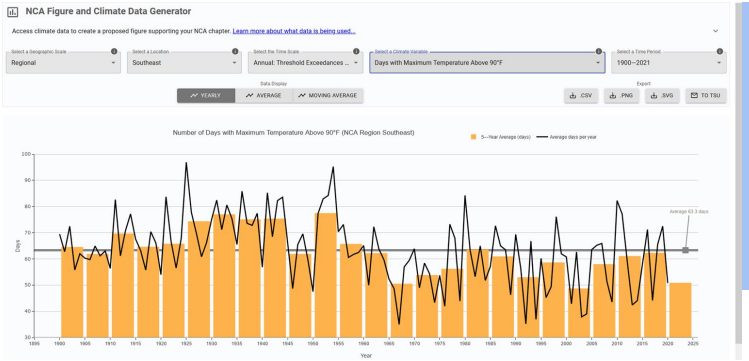
- The Technical Support Unit provides approximately 18 FTE of staff to support a number of essential aspects of NCA development:
  - dataset development and analysis (e.g., obs and downscaling)
  - software, IT, and web development and support
  - author tools and support
  - scientific, technical, and grammatical editorial oversight
  - graphic design and layout
  - metadata development, preservation, and documentation
  - certification of information quality and traceability

Key Accomplishments (FY17-21)

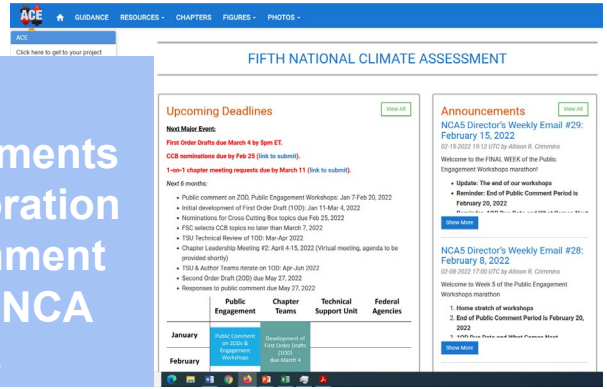
Quality - TSU



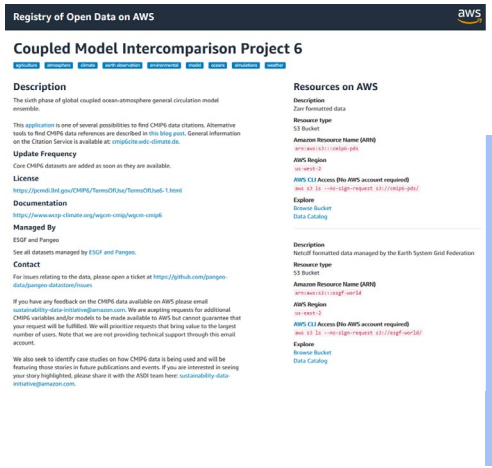
Published updated climate summaries for 50 states and PR+USVI



NCA Author Sandbox for graphs from observed climate data



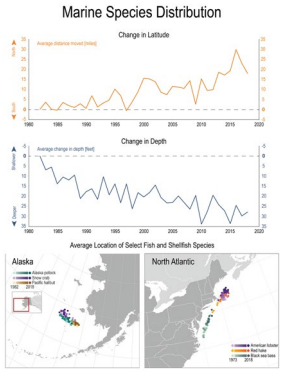
new Assessments Collaboration Environment site for NCA authors

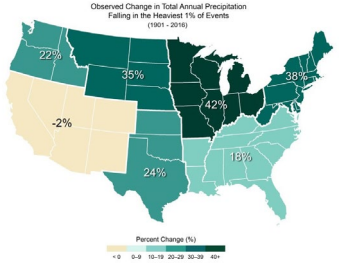


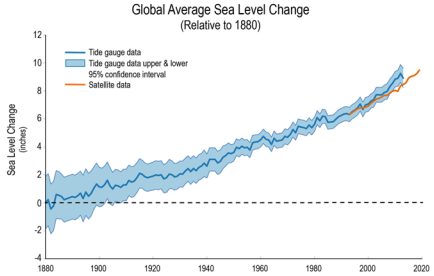
AWS cloud capability for CMIP6 + downscaled data evaluation

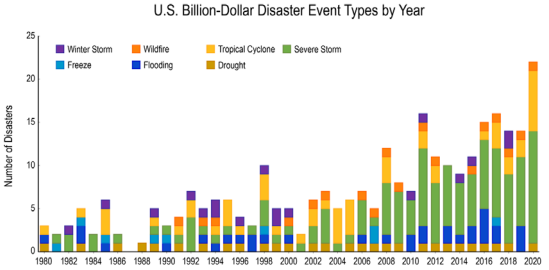
Key Accomplishments (FY17-21)

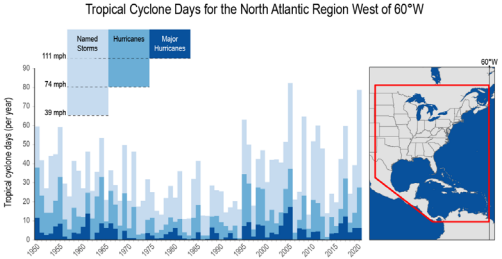
Quality - Indicators

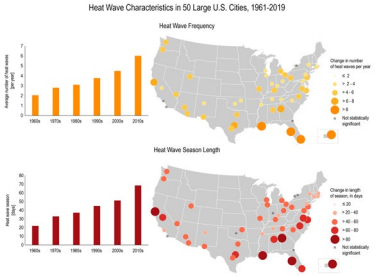












- Maintain diverse set of 18 interagency Assessment-quality **climate indicators**
- Added **6 new indicators** since 2018
- Highlighted various agency indicator efforts

Key Accomplishments (FY17-21)

Quality - Program

Allison Crimmins, NCA5 Director:

“CPO is a crucial partner in developing the National Climate Assessment. CPO staff play an active role on the **Federal Steering Committee**, helping **guide decisions** on the scope of the report and the finer details of the development process. The **institutional knowledge** and expertise from previous assessments has supported the development of author guidance for NCA5.

The CPO office provides **input on technical questions** around the assessment, like choices of scenarios or downscaling methods, and provides thorough reviews of the report drafts. CPO is also critical in the "people" side of the report in their **support of our all-author meetings and translation services**, which ensures more people and more diverse perspectives can be included in the National Climate Assessment. CPO has already played a **key role in the communication** of the assessments and development of education materials derived from the NCAs and we hope that work will continue for NCA5.”

Key Accomplishments (FY17-21)

Relevance

Strategic Partnerships

NOAA

- **NESDIS:** Technical Support Unit, Data/Monitoring
- **NMFS:** Leadership on ecosystems and marine resources
- **NOS:** Leadership on sea level rise and coastal issues
- **OAR Labs**: Modeling, climate science
- **NWS:** Regional climate
- **OAR Programs:** OA, CPO (RISA)

Academia: Authors from dozens of institutions

Federal agencies: All 13 USGCRP agencies and departments

Private sector: Authors from a number of private sector organizations

Actively engaged with various NOAA/CPO priorities: Foundational to the adaptation and mitigation agency goals, and the authorizing legislation for the Climate Program Office and broad federal climate activities

NOAA staff are serving in **leadership roles on almost half of NCA5's 31 chapters** and NOAA has **35 authors serving on 19 of the 31 chapters** (around 20% of total interagency authors).

Lookahead

- **Drivers:**
  - NCA5 slated for release in 2023
  - NCA6 expected window 2024-2028
- **Some Strategic Considerations:**
  - Deepen OAR laboratory involvement and engagement
  - Provide opportunities for early career staff at NOAA
  - Stabilize and grow support for Sustained Assessment Coordinators
  - Enhance budget to support development of next-generation NCA capabilities
  - Evolve NCA structure and delivery while still meeting Congressional mandate