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UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by

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Coastal Ecological Planning and Engineered Landscapes

In the face of risks and uncertainty associated with climate change, coastal communities can scarce afford to continue with business as usual. The challenge for engineers, regulators and planners seeking to shape coastal zones is to define an approach that can strike an effective integration of scientific understanding and applications with economic development and urban design. Coastal adaptation that effectively promotes ecological health requires smart planning, retrofits, and enlightened management. It involves site-specific ecosystem analysis and management incorporating models of sea level rise and storm surge, ecological restoration approaches, and creative strategies with infrastructure and urban retrofits. The presentation describes a novel approach to redesigning our coastal cities that incorporates translational ecology into site planning, with teams of researchers and designers co-investigating and co-designing real world strategies. The translational ecology that we utilize in planning and negotiating, and in implementing adaptation include: (1) to propose contemporary modes of systems thinking, including phasing and designing spatially and temporally building on engineering, site planning, social awareness and education that foster viable, effective, and proactive development solutions supporting long-term benefits; (2) to develop incremental development and adaptive management that emphasizes the multiple actors, ranging from state agencies to regional planners to municipal managers and homeowners; (3) to develop real world project implementation strategies integrating ecological functions with coastal development and infrastructure incorporating economic and public health benefits; and (4) to approach the process of coastal adaptation using designed ecological experiments for testing adaptive interventions, working to address the concerns of a variety of stakeholders from the community, to regulators and practitioners.

Host: James O'Donnell

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, February 1, 2019

Place: Marine Sciences Building, Seminar Room 103

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