

Summary of LTER ASM workshop  
Coastal LTER Sites in Observing Systems  
Bob Christian and Merryl Alber  
7 October 2007

Two session periods were devoted to a workshop on how LTER and ILTER sites may contribute to coastal observing systems. The sessions were organized to (1) describe the international UN sponsored program, the Coastal Global Terrestrial Observing System (CGTOS), (2) provide information on NEON, (3) identify ways that LTER sites could contribute to these activities, and (4) explore some simple modeling tools (Squeeze box, Land Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone) that could be used to foster those activities and collaboration. The first period had two presentations to address goals 1 and 2. Christian described CGTOS, and Bruce Hayden described the history and status of NEON. The session ended with a discussion of how coastal sites might fit into both existing and planned observing networks. The second session began with a presentation by Alber on modeling tools and was followed with a discussion as to how the estimation of residence time of water might be used to focus coordinated activities among sites.

Both sessions were well-attended. We had as many as 44 individuals at one time, and 36 individuals signed the attendance sheet (available on request). Nine US LTER sites were represented, as were sites in Mexico, South Africa Malawi and Estonia. It is unfortunate that the ILTER sessions were concomitant with this session as an important audience was under enrolled.

The objectives of the sessions were largely met. Representatives of sites are encouraged to register with the GTOS database, the Terrestrial Ecological Monitoring Sites (TEMS), or update their information. We had considerable interest in follow up activities related to the use of residence time as an explanatory variable for ecological characteristics, and will soon consider if a coastal sites initiative is warranted.