

NOAA's Carbon Dioxide Removal Research Interest



Jessica N. Cross, Ph.D. NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory Seattle WA

CDR Motivation

According to the IPCC, a key pathway to stabilizing climate change at 1.5 °C - 2 °C is removing CO_2 from the atmosphere through Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs).



To make up for "stubborn" emissions, estimates suggest that we will need to extract 10 Gt CO_2 / yr out of the atmosphere by 2050, increasing to 20 Gt CO_2 / yr by 2100.

Types of CDR

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) is a subset of NETs that focuses on manual enhancement of the ocean's role as a sink for anthropogenic carbon. Current research on all of these methods is largely theoretical, but early results are promising.



Monitoring ecosystem CDR impacts

NOAA regularly conducts research, monitoring, modeling and forecasting from an **ecosystem assessment** perspective that is critical for understanding potential impacts of CDR techniques.







Marine Spatial Planning

Coastal Aquaculture Planning Portal (CAPP)

A Toolbox for Sustainable Aquaculture Coastal Planning and Siting



SINCCOS NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

Evidence-based spatial tools help decision makers explore how to best protect environmental resources and public health, preserve valued habitats, and improve the way communities interact with coastal ecosystems.

- Habitat mapping
- Aquaculture Siting and Sustainability
- Risk Assessment
- Restoration

Conclusions

- The IPCC and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act outline 3 key facts:
 - CDR is necessary
 - CDR supports jobs and markets
 - CDR must be deployed at scale
- There are multiple forms of CDR that may be relevant for Alaska
- NOAA supports tracking of the global carbon budget and large-scale ecosystem assessments
- Tracking small local projects will be critical at the beginning of this field.
- NOAA's spatial tools could help identify the right places to deploy coastal CDR projects