



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

“The Shore’s Future: Living with Storms and Sea-Level Rise”

November 20-21, 2015 • Toms River, NJ

“The Shore’s Future: Living with Storms and Sea-Level Rise,” a conference focused on linking scientifically credible information to the formulation and implementation of sound, effective local policies, is being convened by the [Institute on Science for Global Policy](#) (ISGP) on November 20-21, 2015, in Toms River, New Jersey. The ISGP and local partners have undertaken to organize the conference to engage the community to local climate change priorities, specifically storms and sea level rise.

The distinctive ISGP conference model emphasizes critical debates and caucus discussions among highly credible scientists, policy makers, academics, community leaders, students, and the public. These debates seek to clarify scientific and technical (S&T) issues for individuals concerned with reaching effective local and regional decisions. ISGP conferences also provide opportunities for scientists to experience the challenging tasks routinely faced by local officials responsible for formulating and implementing effective policies that involve S&T issues.

The critical debates and caucuses at “The Shore’s Future” are free and open to the public and press. This conference is designed to provide a forum in which the S&T issues facing societies worldwide can be viewed through the personal lifestyle choices and community-wide decisions facing Toms River and other areas along the New Jersey shore.

Three nationally recognized experts have been invited to debate their respective policy position papers, which express their views of the current realities and the scientific opportunities and challenges, and their recommendations for policy related to extreme weather and sea-level rise:

- **Thomas R. Knutson**, Ph.D., Research Meteorologist, Climate Dynamics and Prediction Group, Geophysical Fluids Dynamics Lab, NOAA, Princeton, NJ (see <http://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/tom-knutson-homepage>);
- **Karen O’Neill**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Human Ecology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (see <http://humanecology.rutgers.edu/faculty.asp?fid=36>); and
- **Harold Wanless**, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Miami, FL (<http://blogs.univmiami.net/experts/expert/harold-r-wanless/>).

The conference has two components, held over two days. Participants must commit to attending both days:

1. On November 20 at the Toms River Municipal Building, the expert presenters will debate their respective policy position papers, which express their views of current realities and scientific opportunities and challenges, and their recommendations for policy related to extreme weather and sea-level rise. The scientists each will defend their positions during 90 minutes of critical questioning by a panel of ~35 debaters composed of scientists, academics, policy makers, community/private-sector leaders, and community members. Audience participants may submit written questions for consideration by the debate moderator.

2. On November 21 in the Gateway Building at Ocean County College, debaters and audience members who attended the debates on November 20 will join moderated small-group caucuses. These morning caucuses, along with an afternoon plenary (large-group) session, will identify Areas of Consensus and Actionable Next Steps to be considered by governmental and societal leaders, and individuals. The points of consensus, along with the scientists’ policy position papers and not-for-attribution summaries of the debates, will be published and made

available free of charge shortly after the conference. Note: Because the caucuses are based on the content of the debates, only those who attended the debates may participate in the caucuses and plenary session.

Due to limited space, registration is required for audience attendance. To register for an invitation to participate as an audience member at “The Shore’s Future: Living with Storms and Sea-Level Rise,” please go to <http://scienceforglobalpolicy.org/conference/future-of-shore-living/>. For more information, call Jennifer Boice at 520-343-8181.