

# CERF 2012

## The Changing Coastal and Estuarine Environment: A Comparative Approach

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Globally coastal ecosystems, communities and populations are changing. Much of this change results from stresses and impacts of human activities that occur at local to large scales. There is a tendency, however, to study, interpret and manage change from a local perspective. Broader context is needed to best understand coastal changes and to manage changes into long-term sustainability. The conference provides a unique formal opportunity for true interaction among scientists from the southern and northern hemispheres to synthesize understanding within this context.

Comparison focuses on temperate, coastal systems within South and North America. The following topics were selected to represent important issues to the two regions:

- Changing baselines
- Land-sea couplings in rapidly changing environments
- Fisheries exploitation
- Impacts of UV on coastal waters
- Acidification of coastal waters
- Warmer climate, increased freshwater use on land and the hydrodynamics of estuaries

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