

The Coastal Communities and Economies Theme Team will be meeting the 21st through the 23rd in Charleston, S.C. The challenges in front of the attendees are numerous ... tackling the exploding problem of urbanization of our coastal communities and the attendant daunting environmental problems that it poses. This may well be the defining coastal problem that we collectively face over the next decade and beyond.

Those who are meeting need your considered input. What are the major serious problems facing coastal communities from your perspective? How do we reconcile the pressures for economic development of coastal areas with environmental concerns? Where do you see leveraged investment opportunities for addressing development problems? What resources will be required? Who should we be partnering with to accomplish our objectives? How should Sea Grant be organized to deliver the science, and products and services that coastal communities need? What is your ultimate vision for coastal communities in the future?

We would like to hear from you regarding the above or importantly, on questions that you would pose for the attendees at the meeting. You are an important part of this process and so we ask and encourage you to please let us hear from you. The white paper resulting from this meeting will become an important document for guiding the Theme Team and the National Program ... as this process evolves we need to ensure that everyone is heard from.

Thank you for taking your time to respond.