Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center Seminar Series

21st, November, 2008
Chase Ocean Engineering Lab, Room 130
3:00 PM

Presents

Dr. William C. Schwab
Center Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole Science Center

"Coastal Change Hazards Investigations at the US Geological Survey Woods Hole Science Center: Barrier-Islands Are Not 'One-Size-Fits-All' Systems"

The USGS Woods Hole Science Center is one of three teams conducting research within the USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program, a program that conducts scientific research to describe and understand coastal and marine systems within the United States marine, estuarine, and lacustrine waters. The fundamental goal of this research is to develop a scientific understanding of geologic processes that will contribute to rational decisions about the useand stewardship of coastal and marine environments. Coastal erosion is a serious national problem with long-term economic and social consequences. Given the IPCC projections for increased rates of sea level rise and increasing storm activity resulting from global climate change, coastal erosion rates are expected to increase in the coming decades. Critical elements in the design and implementation of a feasible coastal-erosion mitigation strategy is the need to develop an accurate sediment budget, a quantitative accounting of gains and losses of sediment within a defined boundary over a period of time, and develop a thorough understanding of sediment response to oceanographic and geologic processes in the shoreface/inner shelf environment. Examples of research activities being conducted along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas will be presented showing how our Center is attempting to increase our understanding of these complex processes along barrier-island coastal settings.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND