



February 2019 Update

Deep Dive on a Shallow Reef: National Park of American Samoa

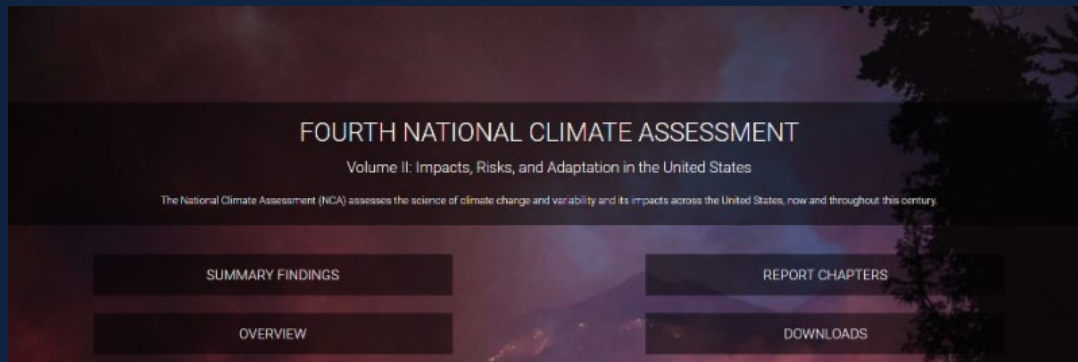


by Larry Perez

Ohio is generally not known for its beaches. So how did Victoria Barker--a native of Cincinnati--find childhood inspiration to work on coral reefs? "There's one thing you need to know about people who live in Cincinnati," she recently told me, "they *all* seem to vacation at Hilton Head." Annual family visits to the South Carolina coast eventually enticed her to study marine communities from the Gulf of Mexico, to the Caribbean, to Australia's Great Barrier reef.

In so doing, Barker has personally experienced a troubling global trend. Corals reefs around the world are feeling the heat from rising ocean temperatures. Exposure to extreme warmth--particularly over prolonged periods--compels corals to eject their photosynthetic alga, leaving polyps bereft of color and in danger of starvation. Massive coral bleaching events have become increasingly commonplace and widespread, often garnering media attention as they ravage popular visitor areas. But Barker's latest assignment provides her some measure of hope for the future....

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What do YOU want to know about NCA4?

In late 2018, the US Global Change Research Program released Volume II of the [Fourth National Climate Assessment \(NCA4\)](#), which analyzes the impacts of climate change across 15 topic areas and 10 regions of the United States.

The NPS Climate Change Response Program will host a year-long series webinars to share region-specific findings of relevance for park operations and management. We hope to make these offerings as relevant for parks and regions as possible. To that end, we invite you to [share what you'd like to learn about the NCA4](#). Your input will help shape both the structure and content of these sessions.

[Share your thoughts!](#)

Responses requested by Friday, February 15.



FREE Instructor-led Training!

Midwest Climate Fundamentals Academy

The Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) has announced an upcoming regional [Midwest Climate Fundamentals Academy](#) workshop series in Chicago. The Climate Fundamentals Academy is a two-part series of in-person training workshops. Through a cohort learning process and interactive exercises, participants discover how to better incorporate climate change strategies into planning and operations.

The two workshops in the series will take place in Chicago on February 25-26 and May 21-22. NPS employees are invited to attend Climate Fundamentals Academy Workshops free of charge, through a standing agreement between the NPS Climate Change Response Program and the ACCO. Full details and registration information are available through the Common Learning Portal using these links:

- [Climate Fundamentals Academy Workshop #1](#)
- [Climate Fundamentals Academy Workshop #2](#)

Supervisory approval is required, and any associated travel will be paid by the benefiting account. This training opportunity is open to all segments of the NPS workforce. Available seats will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, so early registration is highly encouraged.

For more information, please contact: [Larry Perez](#), 970-267-2136.

Interpreting Climate Change Postponed

Our last newsletter mentioned an upcoming Interpreting Climate Change virtual course to be offered March 12-14. After missing a month of work, we know those in parks (both students and instructors!) need all the extra time they can get to ramp up park operations for the approaching busy visitor season. Therefore, this course offering has been postponed, and we will offer it instead this Fall. Dates and registration information will be posted here later this year! For more information, please contact [Matt Holly](#).



The Climate Change Response Program invites interested NPS employees, contractors, and volunteers to enjoy unlimited access to the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) [library of on-demand and live online training](#) FREE for one full year. This opportunity affords participants unparalleled flexibility to customize training according to their needs and work around busy schedules.

Availability is limited and will be awarded strictly on a first-come, first serve basis. For instructions on how to register for this opportunity, please contact Larry Perez at larry_perez@nps.gov.



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