

Letter from the Principal Investigator

March 2022

Hello everyone,

I know I'm not alone in looking forward to the day when we can all meet in person again.

Unfortunately, that day has yet to come. But I'm pleased to report that, despite an unavoidable last-minute pivot to a virtual format, we just concluded an informative and fruitful [2022 All Hands Meeting](#). We had some novel elements this year, including the integration of student "flash talks" into the research presentations, and a constructive session with the members of our new Industry Advisory Board. But perhaps the most promising innovation was a session on integrative papers, in which four researchers pitched their paper ideas to the assembled researchers to foster new collaborations. This sort of activity tends to happen informally at in-person meetings, so I'm happy we found a way to accommodate it in Zoom.

The meeting also featured an update on the next EPSCoR proposal, "Glaciers to Gulf." We continue to make progress on G2G, which will address the question of how changing land-ocean connections alter the living ocean resources used in mariculture and harvested by rural communities. The 5-year (2023-28) proposal is coalescing around three research themes, one focused on the terrestrial aspects of the land-ocean connection, one on the marine aspects, and a third on the human dimensions of the topic. We're putting together a rough first draft of the proposal for early March and are in good shape to meet the submission deadline, which we expect to be in late summer. We received a planning grant from NSF EPSCoR to help with the effort, which we're principally using to support travel to meet with community stakeholders.

And even as we make plans for the next phase of our research, we're still steaming ahead with our current one, preparing to launch our fourth and final summer field season. We've been publishing in earnest and another season of data will serve to solidify some of our conclusions and help us reach some new ones as well. For a look at how far our research has come since 2018, check out our new [2022 Update](#) - it's an absorbing look at our progress and accomplishments.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Data Visualization Specialist Cassidy Phillips, who recently stepped down from EPSCoR to be a stay-at-home dad to his two children. We'll all miss Cassidy and his countless contributions to Fire & Ice, but he leaves our visualization efforts in the capable hands of Naomi Hutchquist, as well as a new student intern we're in the process of hiring.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we still have [rolling travel funding](#) available. These awards can be used both for in-person travel or for remote attendance at events, so no matter what COVID throws at us next (hopefully nothing!) we've got you covered.

Sincerely,



Brenda Konar



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