

JOSEPH DWYER

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CAREER GOAL STATEMENT

My desired career position will allow me to engage community stakeholders to collectively develop hazard mitigation and resilient actions that address both short-term and long-term natural hazard impacts and are consistent with the community's character.

EDUCATION

University of Rhode Island (URI): Kingston RI

Master of Arts in Marine Affairs (M.A.M.A)

May 2016

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) & Remote Sensing Certificate

May 2016

Bachelor of Science (2)

May 2014

Marine Affairs; Aquaculture and Fisheries Science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of the Virgin Islands (UVI)

Aug 2021 – Present

Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Planner – Contractor

- Contracted to assist UVI's Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Planning (HMRP) team to finalize the FEMA Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Continue to improve coastal and marine hazard science communication skills with local stakeholders and general public by:
 - Focusing on a main message that “resilience” is not just new and improved things (infrastructure or assets). True resilience requires socioeconomic and governmental systems that can withstand external shocks as well
 - Improving stakeholder understanding of the connection between hazards and societal problems by drafting multiple hazard narratives which highlight potential hazards, the history of impacts, and outline resilient actions that can be taken to mitigate these impacts on the community
 - Creating multiple sector profiles that align with FEMA Lifelines (e.g., electrical transmission, transportation) to detail current status of the Territory's infrastructure, potential future risks, and resilient actions to mitigate future risk
 - Compiling and formatting large, original datasets (e.g., 1000+ recent home sales and 2020 Census data) to capture changing socioeconomic dynamics of the Territory that can be used in the hazard narratives and GIS maps
 - Designing multiple GIS maps for stakeholders to illustrate the social vulnerabilities from infrastructure failure on the Islands and the hazards that put that infrastructure at risk (e.g., solid waste sites in flood zones)
 - Engaging with end-users to ensure that all these outputs are easily consumable by an audience of local decision-makers as well as the general public so these items can be hosted on the HMRP website
 - Further learning the difference between “optimal” resilient actions and “practical” resilient actions based on a community's resources, social vulnerabilities, and culture – and finding ways to work with, rather than against that reality
- Assisted preparations for and helped to moderate the annual HMRP Stakeholder Workshop (~75+ attendees, both in-person and virtual)
- Continually track and detail potential funding opportunities that will facilitate turning HMRP recommendations into tangible projects and research opportunities

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)

Sep 2018 – Aug 2021

Risk and Hazards Planner

- Led Rhode Island's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by serving as the point of contact for grant administration; representing RI interests at national meetings; acting as the liaison between local and federal partners
- Supported the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) with various grant Request for Proposals, proposal review, and grant administration for both state and federal grants (e.g. FEMA's HMGP and BRIC)
- Prepared, coordinated and participated in multiple formal tabletop exercises related to disaster preparedness including strong precipitation events, chemical spills, and hurricane evacuations
- Assisted local and statewide risk assessments necessary for grant proposals, NFIP mitigation projects, and Community Rating System (CRS) credit activities
- Served as Chair of the Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA) Board of Directors with duties including implementing RIFMA's Strategic Plan, serving on both the Technical and Education and Outreach Committees to build capacity amongst the public concerning flood issues and current news, and assisting the planning of the RIFMA annual conference
- Served as lead for the Rhode Island CRS Users Group with duties including coordinating quarterly meetings; identifying pathways for communities to increase CRS rank; and representing the group's interests at national meetings
- Served in the Planning Branch during emergency activations; participated in multiple activations for both natural and human-caused events, including many no-notice events. Prepared situational documentation for top government officials, provided targeted briefs to affected stakeholders, and assisted with long-term recovery grant administration (e.g. COVID-19)

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and University of Wisconsin Sea Grant

Aug 2016 – 2018

NOAA Coastal Management Fellow

- Oversaw and wrote grant proposals for funding opportunities, such as NOAA's *Project of Special Merit* (>\$1,000,000)
- Assisted Coastal staff with preparation, organization, and presentation of information for recurring meetings with multiple stakeholder groups and partner agencies, such as annual grant meetings.
- Compiled and managed large datasets to host an interactive and web-based Great Lakes public access viewer for WI coastal counties
- Developed multiple digital outreach tools, such as Story Maps, for partner agencies that embrace the concept of "deep travel"
- Worked with Coastal staff to review, evaluate and assist selection process of competitive federal grants for local communities
- Assisted Coastal staff with NEPA/306A review documentation for grant projects and collaborate with NOAA staff to shepherd projects forward
- Coordinated with NOAA, Wisconsin Historical Society and other partners to develop interactive resources for the proposed Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary.
- Organized and facilitated multiple LiDAR and other geospatial-based conferences/workshops/working groups with the State's Geographic Information Officer (GIO)

PUBLICATIONS

Dwyer, J., Bidwell, D. (2019). Chains of trust: Energy justice, public engagement, and the first offshore wind farm in the United States. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 47, 166-176.

Hoagland, P., Dalton, T. M., Jin, D., & Dwyer, J. B. (2015). An approach for analyzing the spatial welfare and distributional effects of ocean wind power siting: The Rhode Island and Massachusetts area of mutual interest. *Marine Policy*, 58, 51-59.