

PLENARY SESSION

Questions and Answers

- **Anonymous:** What sort of challenges have you faced in communicating with different state, local, and federal agencies about model results?
 - **Rick Luettich, University of North Carolina:** Great question. There is a learning curve that groups need to go through to understand what we can and cannot provide them. Usually, we try to – in advance of the event – hand them products that they can use themselves. But there is usually a learning curve to try to walk folks through. We have done a lot with the U.S. Coast Guard in that regard, to try to help them understand how much they can and cannot rely on these results and how to interpret them. So, there is definitely an interactive process that we go through with the various groups, and as I said it gets pretty intense prior to some of these events.
 - **Anonymous:** Modeling can be a lengthy process. How much are you able to prepare model inputs ahead of a disaster for ADCIRC and how much do you need to wait for the actual storm event?
 - **Rick Luettich, University of North Carolina:** I would say it is 95% or more done ahead of time. The grids – those triangular networks – all need to be set up ahead of time. The model itself; there are parameters that need to be validated and calibrated (all of that we do with our retrospective studies). The events themselves are very intense, but we are really – at that point – focused on turning around results as quickly as possible. We do some real-time skill assessment, but most of the work to prepare for these, and to prepare for the model results, is all done in advance.
 - **Anonymous:** Can results from ADCIRC models be downloaded and utilized in other mapping programs such as ArcGIS?
 - **Rick Luettich, University of North Carolina:** Yes. We are working more to create, on Amazon web service, a repository of GIS (geotiff) files or other files in GIS formats that we can make available. This is a little bit new for us. Specifically, we are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and trying to create files that they can use in their HAZUS software. But more and more the goal is not for us to provide you with visualization tools but rather to provide you with products that you can import into your own decision-support software; that is an area we are trying to move into. We would love to have feedback on that – truthfully, we can give you what we guess you want, but it is much more effective if we can get direct input. So, I welcome those that might be interested in that to reach out and we can investigate what we can do.
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