

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RECORD FLOODS IMMINENT AS SEAS RISE IN DELAWARE

'Most Vulnerable' Populations Face Disproportionate Threat
Embeddable Online Tool Details Risks Down to Zip Code

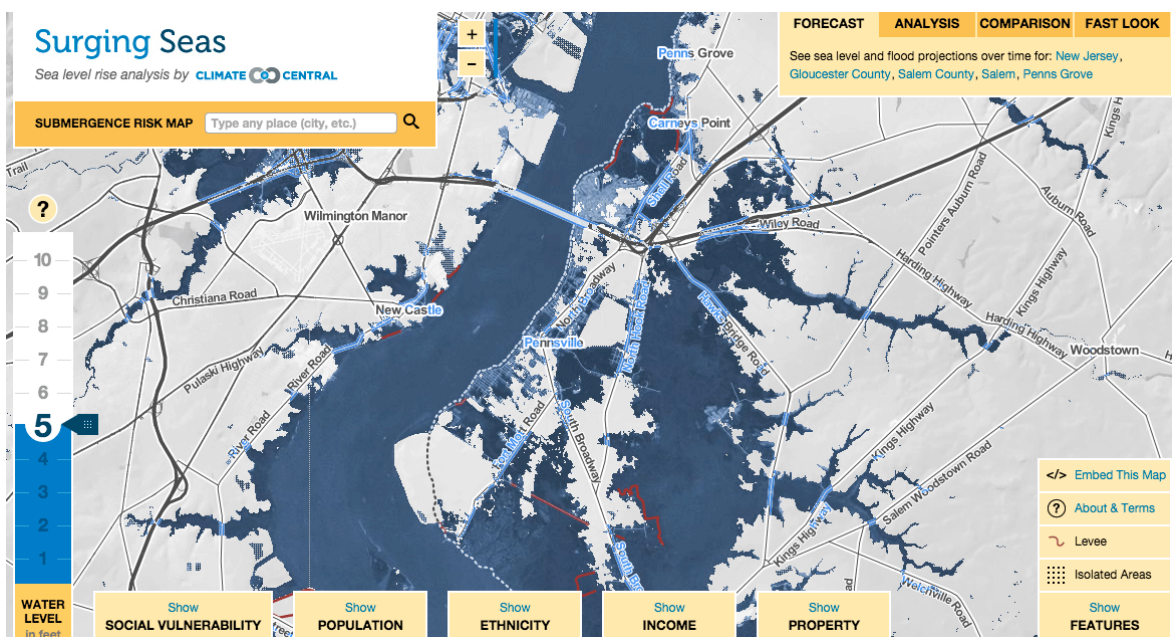
PRINCETON, N.J. — Coastal communities throughout Delaware will likely see record-breaking floods within 20 years. Floods reaching more than 5 feet above the high tide line are likely within half a century. Some 19,000 people are at risk on land below this level, and more than 10,000 of these come from high social vulnerability populations – meaning that those with the least ability to cope with coastal flooding will be disproportionately exposed to it.

Those are the threats under a mid-range sea level rise scenario presented in a [new report released by Climate Central](#). Also at risk below 5 feet: \$1.1 billion in property, 428 miles of roads, and 89 EPA-listed sites, sources of potential contamination such as hazardous waste dumps and sewage plants.

“Sea level rise means more floods, reaching higher – and that’s already happening today,” said Dr. Ben Strauss, study lead and Climate Central’s vice president for climate impacts. “In Delaware, the threat is particularly focused on communities that are also socially and economically most vulnerable.”

Dr. Strauss will be available for interviews from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today (September 16) and is reachable by phone (609-613-0832) or email (bstrauss@climatecentral.org).

Of course, Delaware is not alone in facing rising sea levels and increased flooding risks. Coastal and tidewater communities in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. face the threat of record floods in the next decades. All told in the group, at risk will be more than 183,000 people, 116,000 homes, \$42 billion in property value, and 3,400 miles of roads on land less than 5 feet above local high tide lines. Flood threats vary by location, but across 11 study sites in the region and under a mid-range sea level rise scenario, the average risk for a local flood topping 5 feet by mid-century is 55 percent, according to Climate Central’s analysis.



[Click here to explore embeddable map](#)

Climate Central’s [interactive tool](#) offers new research results in unprecedented detail, mapping threats from neighborhood to state level, by decade, and for more than 100 topics, from schools to

hospitals to heavy infrastructure. The independent research group blended global sea level projections with local trends to get sea level and flood forecasts tailored to each site studied.

The tool includes customized brief reports for every affected county, city and zip code in the region. Drawing on data from more than 10 federal agencies, Climate Central is developing research and tools for every coastal state. This launch adds [Delaware](#), [Maryland](#) and [Virginia](#), as well as [Washington, D.C.](#), bringing the total complete to 18. Previous coverage includes [USA Today](#), [The New York Times](#), and the [Associated Press](#).

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