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RISING SEAS DRIVE ISABEL-TOPPING FLOOD THREAT FOR D.C.

Online Tool Details Threats Down to Zip Code

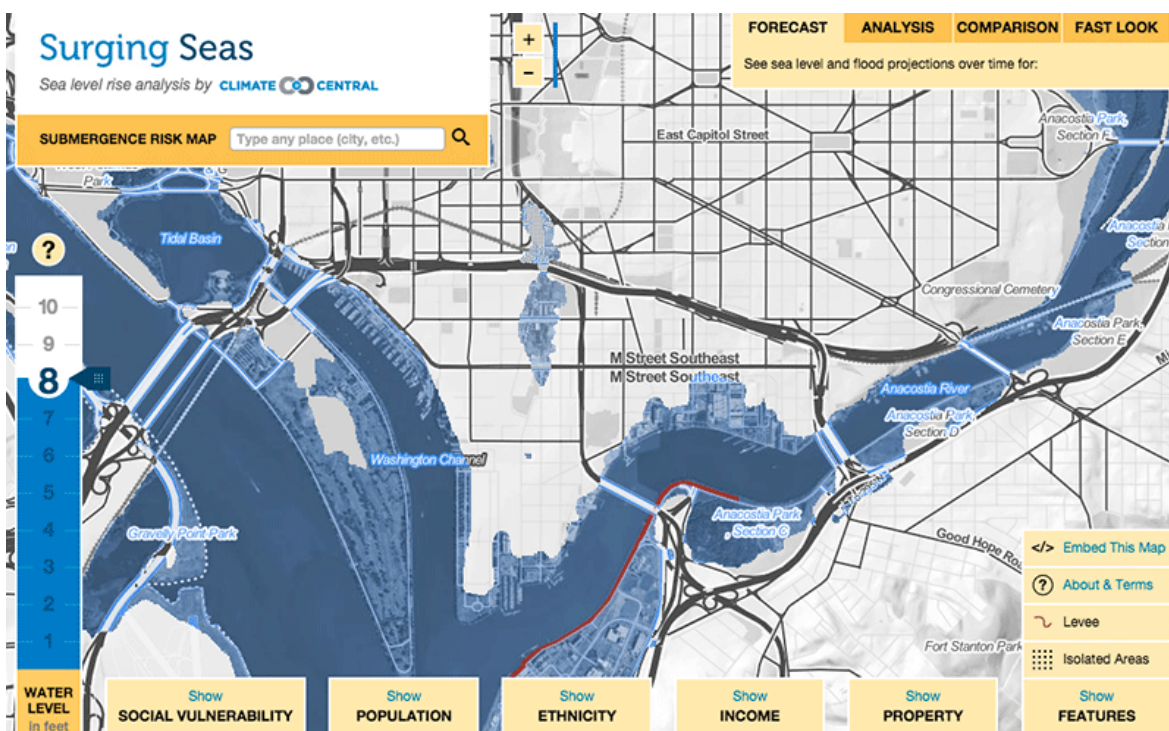
New Embeddable Local Maps and Projections for District

PRINCETON, N.J. — The Washington, D.C. area will likely see a record flood before mid-century. That is the threat of waters topping 8 feet above high tide line in the Tidal Basin – a foot higher than Hurricane Isabel -- under a mid-range sea level rise scenario presented in a [new report released by Climate Central](#). At risk are more than 1,000 homes, 34 miles of road, 20 EPA-listed sites that are sources of potential contamination, and 3 military facilities. Among those: the Washington Navy Yard, the navy's oldest shore facility, and headquarters for the Naval Sea Systems Command.

“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. “A small but nationally, culturally and economically important area is threatened in Washington, D.C.”

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).

Risks are rising with sea levels in the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia area as a whole, threatening some 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, after accounting for potential protection from ridges and levees. 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 [Virginia](#), [Maryland](#) and [Delaware](#), 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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