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Contacts: Dr. Ben Strauss, 609-613-0832
bstrauss@climatecentral.org
Richard Wiles, 609-986-1997
rwiles@climatecentral.org

WIDELY VARYING RISKS FOR RECORD FLOODS AS SEAS RISE IN MARYLAND

Online Tool Details Threats Down to Zip Code
New Embeddable Local Maps and Projections for State

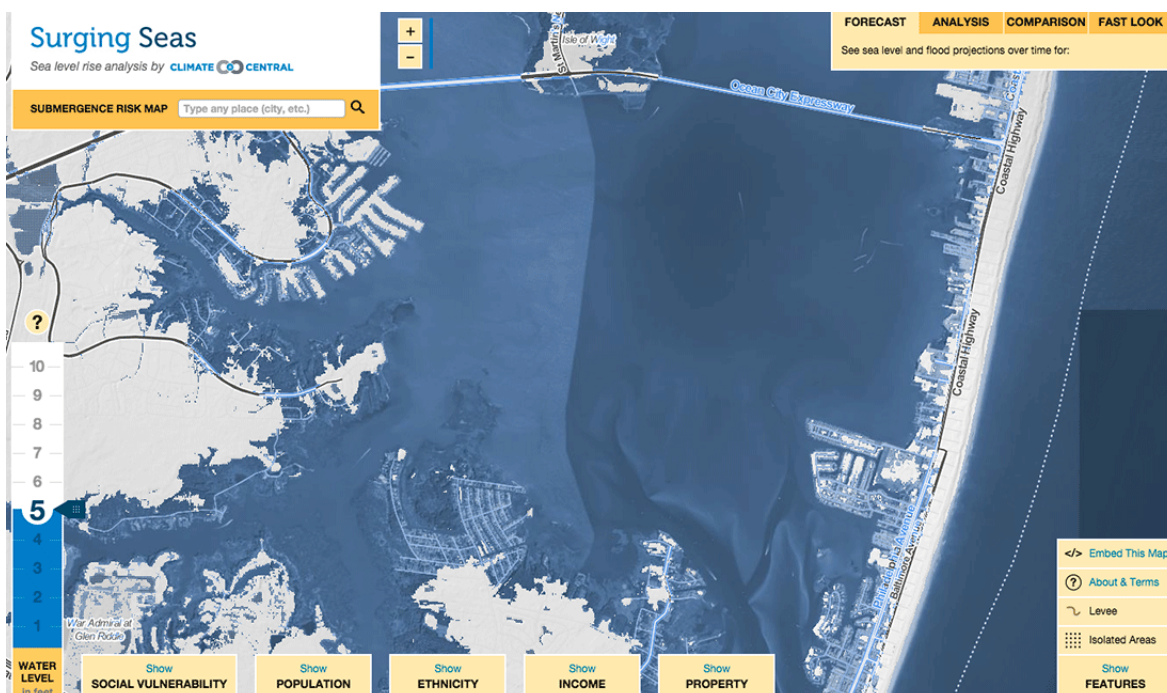
PRINCETON, N.J. — Coastal and tidewater communities throughout Maryland will likely see record-breaking floods within 20 to 60 years, depending on location. That is the threat under a mid-range sea level rise scenario presented in a [new report released by Climate Central](#). At risk are some 55,000 residents in 41,000 homes, \$19.6 billion in property, and 1,488 miles of road across more than 400 square miles.

Those totals are for land that is less than 5 feet above the local high tide line, a height close to the average record flood level at long-term tide gauges in the region. The totals also account for potential protection from ridges and levees.

“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. “Maryland faces a wide range of threats, from the outer coast to the Bay, so local understanding of risk will be critical.”

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).

Flood records are likely to fall toward the early end of the time spectrum near Ocean City, where \$6.6 billion in property lie below 5 feet – half of the city total. Records are likely to fall toward the late end of the spectrum in the Baltimore and Annapolis areas, although “nuisance” flooding is on the rise. Projected differences in risk timing across the state come mostly from local differences in flood regimes, not local differences in projected sea level.



[Click here to explore embeddable map](#)

Of course, Maryland is not alone in facing rising sea levels and increased flooding risks. Tidewater communities in Virginia, Delaware 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.

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 [Maryland](#), [Virginia](#) 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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