

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2014

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RECORD OCEAN FLOODS TO THREATEN \$24 BILLION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Online Tool Details Threat Down to Zip Code
New Sea Level Rise Map and Projections for State

PRINCETON, N.J. — Coastal communities throughout [South Carolina](#) will likely see extreme floods topping 4 feet above the high tide line within 20 to 40 years, depending on location, and breaking records in the Hilton Head and Myrtle Beach areas. That is the threat under multiple sea level rise scenarios presented in a [new report](#) released by Climate Central. At risk are some 54,000 homes, \$24 billion of property, and 1,200 miles of road on more than 800 square miles of land.

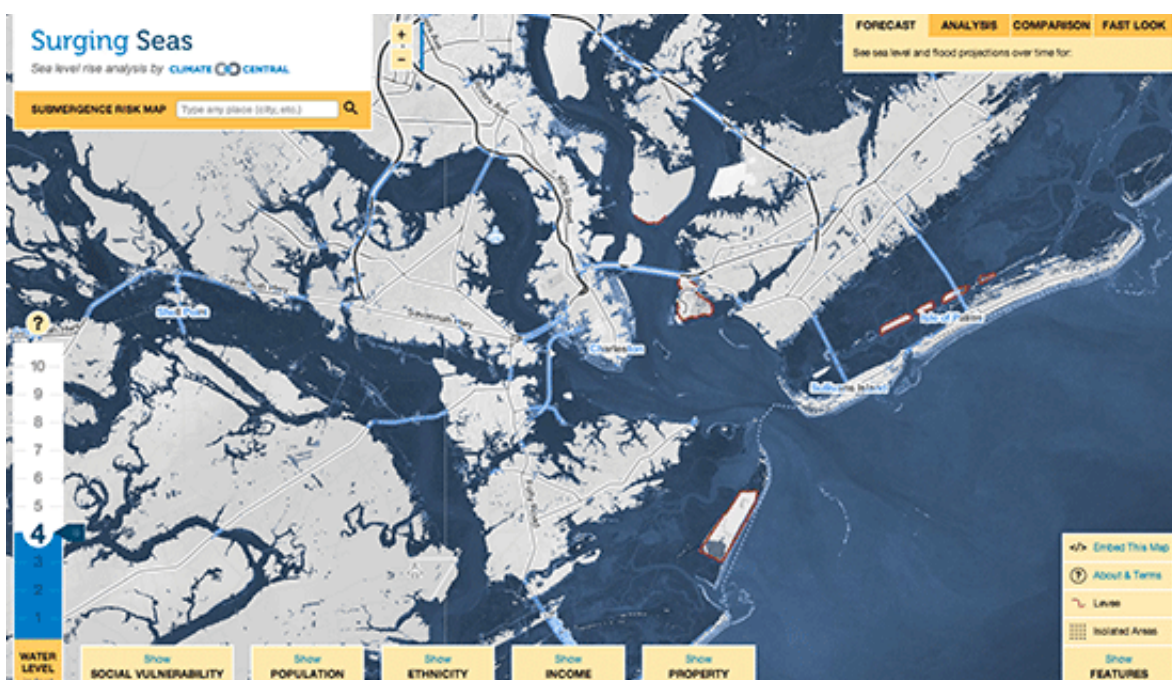
More than 1 in 6 homes are threatened at this level in the city of [Charleston](#), more than 1 in 4 on [Hilton Head Island](#), and more than 1 in 2 in [Edisto Beach](#) and [Folly Beach](#). So is more than 40 percent of [Parris Island](#), the century-old Marine Corps training center for all recruits from east of the Mississippi.

“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 South Carolina, escalating threats to the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot could affect the nation’s military readiness.”

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 South Carolina, one week after releasing results for [North Carolina](#).

Dr. Strauss will give a webinar explaining the research, results and how to use the tool for local insights at 2 p.m. Eastern Time TODAY (July 21).

Email iweinberg@climatecentral.org to register.



[Click here to explore embeddable map](#)

Climate Central’s flood risk analysis is based on an intermediate high sea level rise scenario adapted

from the U.S. National Climate Assessment. A rapid rise scenario would make the same level of flooding an every-year event within 30 to 50 years.

The tool includes customized brief reports for every affected city and county in the state. [Charleston](#) and [Beaufort](#) Counties include more than half of the threatened homes and property value at 4 feet, including more than \$4 billion in [Charleston](#) city and [Hilton Head Island](#) each. More than a quarter of the state's homes on land below 4 feet sit in just three zip codes, for [Hilton Head](#), [Johns Island](#), and [North Myrtle Beach](#). [Mount Pleasant](#) also has significant exposure.

Dr. Strauss will be available for interviews from 3-5:30 p.m. today (July 21) and is reachable by phone (609-613-0832) or email (bstrauss@climatecentral.org).

Over the past 20 years, sea level has been rising at nearly double the 20th century average rate. Research published this May indicates that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet [has begun an unstoppable collapse](#) that will lead to [10-plus feet](#) of rise over centuries, the maximum range of Climate Central's map and analysis. Other research this spring indicates that Antarctic ice loss rate has recently doubled, and that Antarctica contributed more than 6 feet of sea level rise per century during a geologically recent warming episode. None of this has yet been factored into current sea level projections.

Drawing on data from more than 10 federal agencies, Climate Central is developing research and tools for every coastal state. This launch adds South Carolina, [bringing the total complete to 13](#). Previous coverage includes [USA Today](#) and [The New York Times](#).

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Climate Central is a non-profit research and journalism organization providing authoritative, science-based information to help the public and policymakers make sound decisions about climate and energy.



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