

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IMMINENT RISK FOR RECORD FLOODS AS SEAS RISE IN VIRGINIA

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

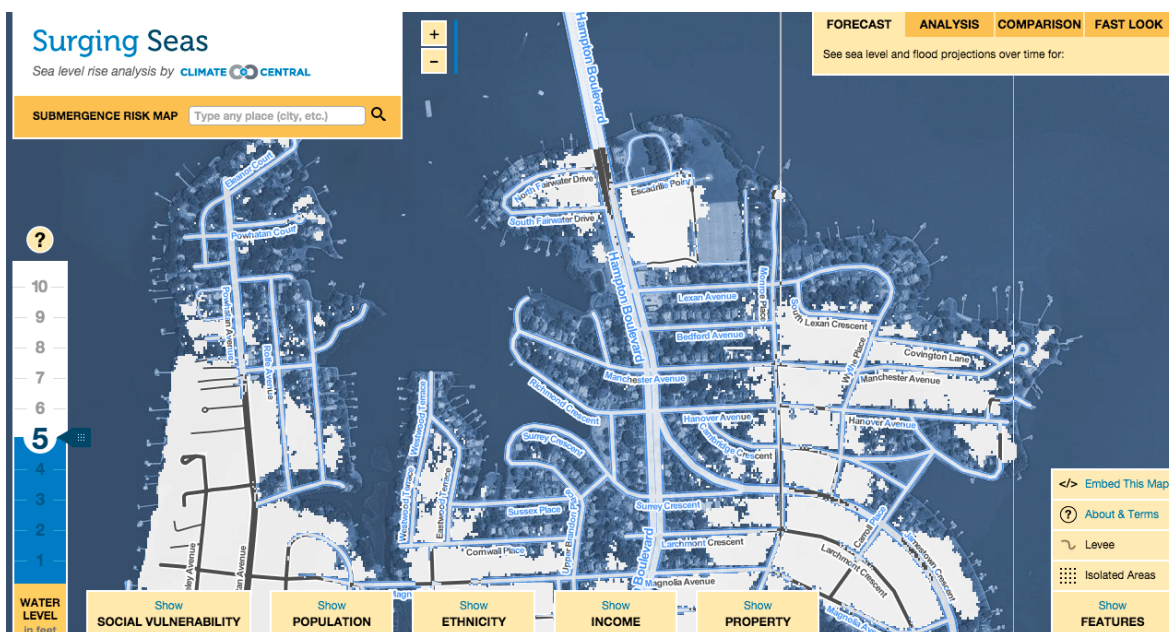
PRINCETON, N.J. — Coastal and tidewater communities throughout Virginia will likely see record-breaking floods within 20 to 30 years. That is the threat under a mid-range sea level rise scenario presented in [a new report released by Climate Central](#). At risk are more than 100,000 residents in 54,000 homes, \$17.4 billion in property, and 1,469 miles of road across nearly 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. “The worst scenarios pose serious problems for Hampton Roads and our nation’s most important naval infrastructure in the next few decades, and pose existential threats this century.”

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).

Three key military facilities in the Hampton Roads area face varying degrees of risk. More than 10 percent of the area of Norfolk Naval Station – the world’s largest – lies less than 5 feet above the high tide line. So do more than 30 percent of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and 40 percent of Joint Base Langley-Eustis. Floods topping 9 feet – a near-certainty this century under the highest sea level scenarios – would cover two-thirds to all of each facility.



[Click here to explore embeddable map](#)

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