SEA LEVEL RISE AND INUNDATION WORKSHOP
WHAT? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

Sponsor

- Old Dominion University Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative

Summary

The workshop will:

- Examine the factors and issues associated with forecasting likely sea level rise.
- Identify some tools for determining what area is affected by sea level rise and future storm surge inundation and the impacts of this flooding.
- Discuss and identify how to use the information to develop plans for adapting to sea level rise.

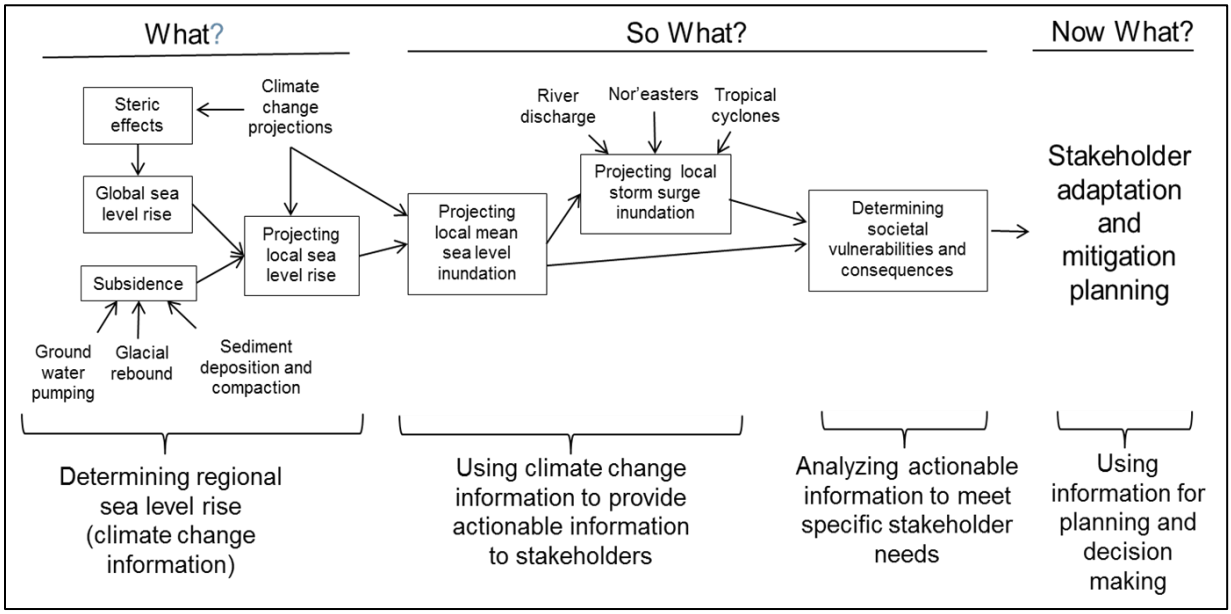
Background

Mean sea level is rising throughout the Middle Atlantic region. For example, at Norfolk, VA sea level has risen about one foot during the past 100 years.

As a result, many jurisdictions and other stakeholders are beginning to think about how to deal with sea level rise and to develop plans for adapting to future conditions with higher sea levels.

Coastal communities must combine scientific and technical information with analysis of societal issues that will be affected in order to adapt to sea level rise and storm surge inundation.

Three questions must be considered to plan for and adapt to sea level rise and future storm surge flooding: **What? So What? Now What?**



SEA LEVEL RISE AND INUNDATION WORKSHOP
WHAT? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

- **What** causes sea level rise and what will the new levels be at a specific location?

- **So What** if sea level rises – what will be inundated and what are the effects on infrastructure, resources, and people of the likely flooding.

- **Now What** do we do to plan for and adapt to the forecast inundation?

Workshop Purpose

- Understand the capabilities to forecast future sea level rise and the inundation from storm surge in the Middle Atlantic region.

- Identify ways to adapt to the effects of the likely flooding.

Workshop Objectives

- Understand the status of the science and factors needed to forecast relative sea level rise in the Middle Atlantic region and identify how to improve the state of knowledge.

- Review the current capabilities to forecast flooding from sea level rise and storm surge using models and other methods and determine how these tools can be utilized effectively to provide actionable information to stakeholders in the Middle Atlantic region.

- Identify what information stakeholders need to plan for sea level rise and future storm surge flooding and determine adaptation methods and techniques.

Workshop Outcomes

- Scientific and technical issues needed to forecast relative sea level rise and storm surge flooding in the Middle Atlantic region.

- Actionable information needed by stakeholders to plan for sea level rise and storm surge flooding.

- Tools, methods, and best practices for determining the impacts of the area affected by sea level rise and future storm surge flooding.

- Framework to provide required information to stakeholders for planning and adaptation.