

Georgia's Climate Change Efforts



Georgia Facts



Georgia's coast has:

- 1/2 millions acres of estuaries with 350,000 acres of saltmarsh
- 3,400 miles of tidal shoreline
- 100 miles of sand beach
- 1 National Seashore
- 14 barrier islands
- 6-9 foot tidal range
- 11 coastal counties (6 ocean facing and 5 inland)

Georgia's Coastal Hazard Efforts



- **The Georgia Coastal Land Conservation Initiative** a project of the GA DNR's Wildlife Resource Division (WRD) and Coastal Resources Division (CRD), the Association of County Commission Governments, and the GA Conservancy, is mapping critical coastal habitats and developing a decision-making tool to help local governments in their planning efforts;
- **GIS Inventory of Armored and Eroding Shorelines**, a project between SKIO and Georgia DNR/CRD that provides CRD with a complete inventory and GIS layers of all armored shorelines on the Georgia Coast;
- A three year project, **Planning for Sea-Level Rise in Coastal Georgia with Visualization, Mitigation and Outreach** currently conducted by the University of Georgia River Basin Center and funded through CRD's Coastal Incentive Grant program, will provide local governments with a planning tool for assessing impacts of sea-level rise to their communities and will be available to all six ocean-facing counties;
- **Climate Change Education and Outreach** an ongoing project of the Georgia DNR/CRD and Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, which hosted workshops and training on Preparing for Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise for local governments, and coastal interest groups.

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- **The Coastal Georgia Elevation Project**, a partnership project among the Coastal Regional Commission, GA DNR/CRD, WRD, US Geological Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and coastal local governments. New LiDAR elevation data has been collected for the 11 coastal counties that will serve as a basis for determining and modeling inundation areas by giving accurate elevation data for all counties in the coastal area. The data will help update maps and provide for better planning at all government levels;
- **The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance** including North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia (GA DNR/CRD staff) and Florida, is writing an Action Plan to include a Disaster Resilient Communities component that will share best practices for the next emergency, increase understanding of vulnerabilities to impacts of storms and climate change, and improve prediction, observation and forecasting; and
- **The Coastal Hazards Education and Outreach Portal for Georgia** is SKIO project funded by GA DNR/CRD to develop a web-based, interactive mapping portal that can be used to assess vulnerability to coastal hazards and identify connections between hazards and the State's abundant natural resources.

Proposed Projects



- **NOAA Climate Program Office Grant Proposal:** Georgia CRD submitted a proposal to take NOAA's document "Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers" and use as a guide. This project will use chapters 3,4 and 5 of the guidance document to go through the planning process, conduct a vulnerability assessment and develop a climate change adaptation and implementation strategy.
- **NOAA 309 Assessment and Strategy:** One of CRD's 2011-2016 strategies is to engage coastal local governments in post-disaster redevelopment planning and preparedness by: Developing a template for post-disaster redevelopment plans suited for the 11-county coastal area, conducting a pilot planning project in one coastal (ocean-facing) community and in one inland community, implementing a hazards outreach and education program, develop guidance document for local governments that addresses issues related to coastal storms, sea level rise, and hazards resulting from marine debris