



## Welcome

### Welcome

You are invited to participate in this research survey because of your work related to sea-level rise policy planning and collaboration in the tri-county area (Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester counties). The purpose of this research is to first identify critical sea-level rise stakeholders in the tri-county area (Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester counties) and assess the following themes: perceptions of sea-level rise planning and policies, preferences for mitigation strategies, and the status of organizational collaboration and stakeholder engagement. We expect that this survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time. Completion of the survey constitutes your consent to participate in this research. I will keep your information strictly confidential. At no time will you be able to be identified in any reports or publications which result from this research. The data collected for this research will be stored and used for analysis in a thesis project titled "Assessing the Sea-level Rise Governance Gap in the Charleston Tri-County Area" and has potential for publication in the future. The project analysis may be used in addressing sea-level rise policy discrepancies and collaborative gaps. If you have any questions concerning this research study please contact Emmi Palenbaum at [palenbaumes@cofc.edu](mailto:palenbaumes@cofc.edu) or my faculty advisor, Dr. Matthew Nowlin, at [nowlinm@cofc.edu](mailto:nowlinm@cofc.edu).

This research study has been reviewed by the Human Research Protection Program at the College of Charleston and covers all relevant requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulations. For information about the review process, please contact the Office of Research and Grants Administration, [compliance@cofc.edu](mailto:compliance@cofc.edu) or 843-953-5885.

If you wish to participate, please proceed to the questionnaire by clicking "I agree" and the forward arrow button. If not, click "I do not agree." If you would like to leave the survey at any time, just click "Exit this survey."

I agree

I do not agree

## Your Role in Your Organization

Which of the following statements would best characterize your involvement with sea-level rise issues in the tri-county area (within Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties)?

No involvement

A part of my work, with occasional involvement

A part of my work, with routine involvement

A major aspect of my work for less than a year

A major aspect of my work for 1-5 years

A major aspect of my work for more than 5 years

Is your involvement in sea-level rise-related issues done on behalf of an organization you represent or work for?

No, I am involved on my own

Yes, I am involved on behalf of one organization

Yes, I am involved on behalf of several organizations

Please provide in the appropriate boxes below the formal name that fully identifies the primary organization you work for. If you are involved in more than one organization, please list them in order of your level of involvement.

Primary Organization:

Secondary Organization:

Third Organization:

Other:

Please choose the category or categories that best describe your primary organization (check all that apply):

Federal Government

State Government

Regional Government

Local Government (cities, counties)

Non-profit/Non-governmental Organization

Consulting/Research

Education/Academic Institution

Multi-stakeholder group

Infrastructure

Other

What is your official job title? (Optional)

What tasks do you perform within your organization? (Check all that apply)

Executive Management

Policy Analysis

Planning

Scientific Research

Governmental Affairs

Project Management

Advocacy

Outreach/Communication

Other

Prefer not to say

In the past two years, have you been employed by/affiliated with **any organizations other than your primary organization** working on sea-level rise? If yes, please list them here:

What part of the tri-county does your organization work on?  
(Check all that apply)

All of Berkeley County

All of Charleston County

All of Dorchester County

Town of Moncks Corner (Berkeley County)

City of Goose Creek (Berkeley County)

City of Hanahan (Berkeley County)

Daniel Island (Berkeley County)

Town of Jamestown (Berkeley County)

Bonneau (Berkeley County)

St. Stephen (Berkeley County)

City of Charleston (Charleston County)

Town of Mount Pleasant (Charleston County)

Town of James Island (Charleston County)

City of Folly Beach (Charleston County)

Isle of Palms (Charleston County)

Town of Kiawah Island (Charleston County)

Town of Seabrook Island (Charleston County)

Sullivan's Island (Charleston County)

Town of Ravenel (Charleston County)

Town of Hollywood (Charleston County)

Town of Meggett (Charleston County)

City of North Charleston (Charleston County)

- Ladson (Charleston County)
- Lincolnvile (Charleston County)
- Rockville (Charleston County)
- Town of McClellanville (Charleston County)
- Town of Edisto Beach (Charleston County)
- Town of Awendaw (Charleston County)
- Town of Summerville (Dorchester County)
- Town of Ridgville (Dorchester County)
- Town of Harleyville (Dorchester County)
- Town of Reevesville (Dorchester County)
- Town of St. George (Dorchester County)

Perception of Sea-level Rise in the Tri-County Area

How **informed** do you feel about the short-term and long-term consequences of sea-level rise in the tri-county area?

	Not Informed	Somewhat Informed	Well-Informed	Very Well Informed
Short-term Consequences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Long-term Consequences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How **concerned** do you feel about the short-term and long-term consequences of sea-level rise in the tri-county area?

	Not Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Concerned	Very Concerned
Short-term Consequences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Long-term Consequences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Based on your own experience, how would you rate the level of agreement among stakeholders (including policymakers, private sector, community organizations, etc.) concerning the risks posed by sea-level rise in the tri-county area?

Very High

High

Fairly High

Not Very High

Low

Very Low

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Please select from the list below (in your opinion), the three main factors that facilitate/would facilitate the incorporation of the best



## available science concerning sea-level rise into policy decisions?

Increased stakeholders' familiarity with scientific tools

Communication of scientific results or estimates in plain, accessible language

Scientists' participation into policy meetings/forums

Direct relationship with scientists working on sea-level rise

Increased public availability of scientific knowledge

Creation of a single platform of available scientific information

Update existing reports on sea-level rise for the whole tri-county area

Development of regional reports on sea-level rise

Availability of a source of translation of scientific knowledge into cost estimates

Stakeholder agreement on the interpretation of scientific information

Other

How many different sources of scientific information (e.g. reports, databases, consultancies, research centers) concerning sea-level rise do you rely upon for performing your job tasks?

How soon do you think the impacts of sea-level rise (e.g. frequent flooding and associated disruptions) will be felt in the tri-county area?

Later than 2100

By 2100

In the next few decades

In the next few years

They are starting to be felt right now

They have been felt for a while already

Sea-level rise will affect several types of infrastructure as well as communities. From the list below, **please rank the items or sectors in the order that you are most concerned about.**

Transportation Infrastructure

Water Supply Infrastructure

Waste and Stormwater Infrastructure

Energy Infrastructure

Ecosystems Health

Coastlines

Commercial Developments

Historically Underserved Communities

Economic Growth

Property Values

Availability of Housing

Affordability of Housing

Public Health

Other

Please rank the following *possible* sea-level rise policies in the tri-county area in order of your preference for prioritization.

Create a regional sea-level rise adaptation plan for Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties

Complete vulnerability assessments for the three counties as soon as possible

Pass a tax measure at the local/county/state level to address sea-level rise

Develop faster/more efficient permitting processes that incorporate considerations of sea-level rise

Create a single information platform concerning the status of projects related to sea-level rise in the Charleston area, cost projections and scenarios

Focus attention on the impact of sea-level rise on historically underserved communities in the area

Promote projects aimed at accommodating sea-level rise with "green" infrastructure

Promote projects with different or innovative design solutions

Support local jurisdictions to respond to sea-level rise threats as they see fit

Establish a new regional authority to address sea-level rise in the area

Empower an existing regional authority to address sea-level rise in the area

Create a collaborative partnership of existing regional agencies to address sea-level rise in the area

Build a seawall

Other

## **Your Organization's Participation in Sea-level Rise in the Tri-County Area**

In the past year, which of the following collaborative activities did you/your organization engage in as part of your work on sea-level rise in the tri-county area? (Check all that apply)

Sharing information with other organizations

Engaging in joint planning with other organizations

Implementing projects jointly with other organizations

Training personnel from other organizations

Sharing personnel with other organizations

Carrying out research projects jointly with other organizations

Preparing grant/funding proposals jointly with other organizations

Organizing public meetings jointly with other organizations

Outreach activities regarding sea level rise-related projects jointly with other organizations

Publishing reports or other public available documents jointly with other organizations

Signing a formal agreement with another organization

Joining or supporting litigation or other judicial processes

Carrying out advocacy activities jointly with other organizations

Other

Nothing

In the past year, which of the following have represented barriers to your organization's working collaboratively with other organizations in sea-level rise in the tri-county area? (Check all that apply)

Scarce budgetary/staff resources

Knowledge of staff

Lack of experience collaborating with other organizations in the tri-county area

Distrust among stakeholders

Lack of political leadership of elected officials

Uncertainty of the future extent of sea-level rise

Uncertainty about how quickly sea-level rise will happen

Lack of availability of adequate scientific information

Lack of an overarching plan

Lack of awareness about other organizations' activity

Permitting obstacles

Lack of public support for policies addressing sea-level rise

Lack of relationships with community-based organizations

Other

How would you characterize the amount of resources (i.e. staff and/or funds) your organization has devoted to sea level rise in the tri-county area in the past year?

Far too much

Too Much

About Right

Too Little

Far Too Little



Sea-level rise issues can be addressed in different kinds of policy forums, planning processes, and initiatives (i.e. Dutch Dialogues; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study; City of Charleston Sea-level Strategy Plan etc.) where stakeholders and authorities deliberate and make

decisions about programs, policies, permits, projects, and funding.

**Please indicate up to five initiatives concerning sea level rise in the tri-county area that you participate/have participated in as part of your role at your organization.** You may select the examples below or provide your own.

Dutch Dialogues Report (2019)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019)

Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Other

Other

Other

None

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “major negative impact” and 10 is “major positive impact”, how would you describe the impact of the Dutch Dialogues report on your organization’s goals?

Major Negative Impact

Major Positive Impact

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In regards to the Dutch Dialogues initiative, the goals of all involved organizations are taken into account.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Participating in the Dutch Dialogues report (as an individual or on behalf of an organization) has led to tangible progress in preparing for Sea Level Rise.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “very unfair” and 10 is “very fair”, how fair would you say that the process of reaching decisions in the Dutch Dialogues report was for all stakeholders?

Very Unfair

Very Fair



0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Which of the following statements best characterize the decision-making processes from the Dutch Dialogues report?

For most decisions in this initiative, most groups can benefit as long as they can develop a common policy.

Although most groups can benefit from most decisions, there is conflict over who will benefit the most.

For most decisions, one group's gain involves another group's loss.

Don't know

From the list below, indicate the barriers to cooperation in the Dutch Dialogues report process. (check all that apply)

Participants didn't attend meetings often enough

Participants did not share common views

Participants were not trustworthy

The time demands were too high

The process was controlled by a few dominant stakeholders

The initiative lacks authority to produce binding decisions

The procedures were confusing

There is too much scientific uncertainty

Lack of resources

There were no identifiable barriers

Other

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “major negative impact” and 10 is “major positive impact”, how would you describe the impact of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study on your organization’s goals?



In regards to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study initiative, the goals of all involved organizations are taken into account.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Participating in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (as an individual

or on behalf of an organization) has led to tangible progress in preparing for Sea Level Rise.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “very unfair” and 10 is “very fair”, how fair would you say that the process of reaching decisions in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study is for all stakeholders?

Very Unfair

012345678910

Very Fair

Which of the following statements best characterize the decision-making processes in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study?

For most decisions in this initiative, most groups can benefit as long as they can develop a common policy.

Although most groups can benefit from most decisions, there is conflict over who will benefit the most.

For most decisions, one group’s gain involves another group’s loss.

Don't know

From the list below, indicate the barriers to cooperation in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Charleston Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management Study process. (Check all that apply)

Participants don't attend meetings often enough

Participants do not share common views

Participants are not trustworthy

The time demands are too high

The process is controlled by a few dominant stakeholders

The initiative lacks authority to produce binding decisions

The procedures are confusing

There is too much scientific uncertainty

Lack of resources

There are no identifiable barriers

Other

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “major negative impact” and 10 is “major positive impact”, how would you describe the impact of the City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019) on your organization’s goals?

Major Negative Impact

Major Positive Impact

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

In regards to the City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019), the goals of all involved organizations are taken into account.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Participating in the City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019) (as an individual or on behalf of an organization) has led to tangible progress in preparing for Sea Level Rise.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “very unfair” and 10 is “very fair”, how fair would you say that the process of reaching decisions in the City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019) is for all stakeholders?

Very Unfair

Very Fair

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Which of the following statements best characterize the decision-making processes in the City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019)?

For most decisions in this initiative, most groups can benefit as long as they can develop a common policy.

Although most groups can benefit from most decisions, there is conflict over who will benefit the most.

For most decisions, one group's gain involves another group's loss.

Don't know

From the list below, indicate the barriers to cooperation in the City of Charleston Sea-level Rise Strategy Plan (2015 or 2019). (Check all that apply)

Participants don't attend meetings often enough

Participants do not share common views

Participants are not trustworthy

The time demands are too high

The process is controlled by a few dominant stakeholders

The initiative lacks authority to produce binding decisions

The procedures are confusing

There is too much scientific uncertainty

Lack of resources

There are no identifiable barriers

Other

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “major negative impact” and 10 is “major positive impact”, how would you describe the impact of the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan on your organization’s goals?

Major Negative Impact

Major Positive Impact

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In regards to the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the goals of all involved organizations are taken into account.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Participating in the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (as an individual or on behalf of an organization) has led to tangible progress in preparing for Sea Level Rise.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is “very unfair” and 10 is “very fair”, how fair would you say that the process of reaching decisions in the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was for all stakeholders?

Very Unfair

Very Fair

0

1

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Which of the following statements best characterize the decision-making processes in the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan?

For most decisions in this initiative, most groups can benefit as long as they can develop a common policy.

Although most groups can benefit from most decisions, there is conflict over who will benefit the most.

For most decisions, one group’s gain involves another group’s loss.

Don't know



From the list below, indicate the barriers to cooperation in the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. (Check all that apply)

Participants don't attend meetings often enough

Participants do not share common views

Participants are not trustworthy

The time demands are too high

The process is controlled by a few dominant stakeholders

The initiative lacks authority to produce binding decisions

The procedures are confusing

There is too much scientific uncertainty

Lack of resources

There are no identifiable barriers

Other

## Your Organization's Relations to other Organizations

From the following categories, **please list the organizations, *separated by a comma*, that you have collaborated most closely with in the context of sea-level rise planning during the past year.**

Federal governmental agencies

State governmental agencies

Local/regional governmental agencies

Non-Governmental Stakeholders (including research institutions, citizen groups, private actors, and any other relevant stakeholders)

When choosing organizations to collaborate with, which of the following factors do you consider important? (Check all that apply)

They have information that my organization needs to conduct its work

They provide my organization with financial resources

They help my organization reach a broader network

They do similar work as my organization

Their work complements the work that we do in my organization

They have authority to make policy decisions

They help my organization conduct advocacy

They are reputable organizations

They are involved in projects that affect my organization's interests

Other

Are there any organizations that you would like to collaborate with, but do not at present? If yes, please list them.

Organization 1

Organization 2

Organization 3

Organization 4

Organization 5

Seawall

As you may know, the US Army Corp of Engineers is developing plans for a seawall on the Charleston peninsula

How informed do you feel about the Charleston seawall project?

Not informed

Somewhat informed

Well-informed

Very well-informed

Do you support continued study regarding the Charleston seawall project?

Strongly support

Partially support

Neutral

Partially against

Strongly against

I do not know enough about the project to form an opinion

At this time, do you support building a seawall on the Charleston peninsula?

Strongly support

Partially support

Neutral

Partially against

Strongly against

I do not know enough about the project to form an opinion

You may explain your answer here (optional)

Have you participated in the seawall project in any capacity?  
(Select all that apply)

Yes, in the research stage

Yes, in the planning stage

Not yet, but I plan to

No, and I do not intend to

Please share your views on the Charleston seawall project  
(optional)

## Other participants

If you have suggestions about other groups or individuals we should survey, please provide potential participant names/organizations below.

Group or individual 1

Group or individual 2

Group or individual 3

Group or individual 4

Group or individual 5

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