**Title:** Do Coastal Copyright and DisclaimerThe State of SouthEcosystems Mitigate Storm Surges and Tsunamis

**Statement of Problem:** Governments worldwide have recently e Carolina owns the copyright to the Code ombarked on mf Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as containany expensive restoration projects involving barrier islands, coastal marshes and mangroved herein. Any use of the text, section he forests following catastrophic disturbance A commonly-held perception among the general public, policy-makers, and some scienteadings, or catchlines of the 1976 Code isists is that coastal ecosystems provide significant measurable protection to human habitation during extreme storms an subject to the terms of federal copyrightd tsunamis. Restoration activitie and other applicable laws and such text, s have besection headings, or catchlines may not been particularly intensive after the December 2004 reproduced in whole or in part in any fortsunami in the Indian Ocean and the 2005 hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico. Yet, the scientific em or for inclusion in any material which ividence is equivocal. Field observations and some modeling studies cast doubt on these widely held beliefs. The scientific question can be cast in terms of thes offered for sale or lease without the ex interactions between coastal ecosystems and extremepress written permission of the Chairman o events. Firstly, how are coastal ecosystems impacted by extreme events? And secondly, do coastal ecof the South Carolina Legislative Council osystems mitigate the extreme event, that is, under what conr the Code Commissioner of South Carolina.ditions do they afford some form of protection, and if so, how much?

**Objectives:** First, thoroughlyThis statutory database is current through review the literature concerning the role of coastal ecosystems in mitigating damag the 2001 Regular Session and the 2001 Exte to build a publicly accessible cra Session of the South Carolina General Aomprehensive database of actual observations that can be used for analyses. This literature review will also provide insights into how these perceptions ssembly. Changes to the statutes enacted came about and hby the 2002 General Assembly, which will cow they have been propagated. Second, bring physical and biological scientists in a major workshop to address this topic. Many hydrodynamic models exist concerning tsunami propagation through mangroveonvene in January 2002, will be incorporats. Howeveed as soon as possible. Some changes enacr these models are badly miscalibrated in how they represent the forests. Similar situations exist for other types of coastal ecosystems. Third, disseminate the results and recommendations to the public-policted by the 2002 General Assembly may take y makers and appropriate immediate effect. The State of South Carogovernment entities to ensurelina and the South Carolina Legislative Co the recommendations are included iuncil make no warranty as to the accuracy n the planning process.

**Relevance and Impact:** The cost of restoriof the data, and users rely on the data enng coastal ecosystems and communities is huge. Resttirely at their own risk.The Legislative Coration must be based on sound science and the general public and decision makers must understaouncil by law is charged with compiling annd their options.

**Partnerships:** A number of scientists from all disciplines in USGS had publishing the 1976 Code and it is maintve expertise pertinent to this project. Federal partneained in a database which may be accessed rs include the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, both of which have coastal unitsfor commercial purposes by contacting the along all Legislative Council or the office of Legislative PrinUS coastlines. The US Army Corps of Engineers would be extremely interested in the results.