PROJECTIONS OF SEA LEVEL RISE AND HIGH TIDE FLOODING FOR THE SOUTHEAST AND FOR FLORIDA IN PARTICULAR

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The Fifth National Climate Assessment is underway, NOAA is close to releasing an update to their sea level report, and at the state level a Flood Hub has been established at the University of South Florida to provide guidance on sea level change for the State of Florida. I am involved in all of these activities as well with recent research on High Tide Flooding and will provide a report on all of these activities. The High Tide Flooding research is the only portion of this that is complete. That study demonstrates that the frequency of High Tide Flooding in our coastal areas will increase markedly in the next 10 years due to the interaction of the normal modulations of the tides with sea level rise. The other three activities are just getting underway (the National Climate Assessment and the establishment of the Flood Hub) or is not yet completed (the update to the NOAA sea level report), but by the time of the meeting I expect that I will be able to give substantial updates on all of these activities. In the case of the National Climate Assessment we should be at the level of the First Order Draft and as one of the authors of the Southeast chapter I should be able to give a relatively clear picture of how it is evolving. The NOAA report should have been released by then, and as one of the external reviewers I will be able to give a good summary. Finally, the Flood Hub will be fully established by then and I will be able to give a comprehensive view of what this activity will mean for the State of Florida.

PRESENTER BIO: Dr. Mitchum is a Professor of Physical Oceanography and the Associate Dean in his college. Before coming to USF he served as Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center and has been involved in national and international sea level programs, both in situ and satellite, for 35 years.