



Coastal Flood Resilience News

July 30, 2025

This newsletter provides a summary of news and research journal articles related to coastal storms and rising sea levels. It is a product of the [Coastal Flood Resilience Project](#), a network of nonprofit organizations working for stronger programs to prepare for coastal storm flooding and rising sea levels along the coast of the United States. Prior issues of the CFRP News can be found [here](#).

Science

1. **NOAA Expands Flood Mapping:** This [article](#) describes how NOAA is gradually expanding its flood inundation mapping service from 10 percent to 30 percent of the U.S. population. The Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM) program:

“provides near-real-time, high-resolution, street-level visualizations of flood waters and helps forecasters issue more accurate and timely flood watches and warnings.”

NOAA’s press statement does not address how the new inundation mapping will be coordinated with existing FEMA flood maps.

2. **Oceans Heating Up:** This [article](#) in *Science Daily* describes recent research into marine heat waves. Researchers looked at the causes of the exceptional marine heat waves in 2023 and found:

“...diverse regional drivers contributing to the formation and persistence of these events, including increased solar radiation due to reduced cloud cover, weakened winds, and ocean current anomalies.”

National Policy

3. **Climate Driven Insurance Crisis Threaten Home Ownership:** This [article](#) in the *New York Times* describes how climate change risks are raising insurance premiums dramatically and causing insurance companies to limit coverage or stop offering coverage and points to significant economic and social impacts:

“The consequences could be profound. Without insurance, you can’t get a mortgage; without a mortgage, most Americans can’t buy a home. Communities that are deemed too dangerous to insure face the risk of falling property values, which means less tax revenue for schools, police and other basic services. As insurers pull back, they can destabilize the communities left behind, making their decisions a predictor of the disruption to come.

4. **Graves/Larsen FEMA Bill Introduced:** This [article](#) in *The Hill* describes the bipartisan bill to reform FEMA introduced by Reps. Graves and Larsen. The article focuses on the proposal to elevate FEMA to cabinet level. See the CFRP letter on this bill for comments on the bill.

5. **FEMA Disaster Mitigation Funds Cut:** This [article](#) in *The Hill* describes a sharp reduction in funding for disaster mitigation in the early days of the Trump administration, noting:

“The Trump administration appears to be drastically reducing the federal funds it offers to help states head off future natural disasters, a decision that could come under fire as the White House faces scrutiny over its response to Texas’s deadly flooding.”

6. **FEMA Cutbacks Straining State Disaster Managers:** This [article](#) in *Inside Climate News* describes the findings of a [new report](#) from Argonne National Laboratory evaluating the capacity of state and local emergency managers to compensate for reductions in federal funding, finding that state and local capacity to make up for lost funds is limited:

“At all levels of government surveyed, “lack of funding and insufficient staffing” were the two top challenges faced by emergency management directors, with a majority identifying these factors as “significant.”

7. **Urban Ocean Lab Publishes Paper on Local Climate Justice:** Urban Ocean Lab has published a [new paper](#) describing policy recommendations that cities can use in responding to the changing landscape of climate justice, with case examples drawn from interviews with local officials:

- “Create and sustain dedicated climate justice funds;
- Build and maintain local climate justice data infrastructure;
- Integrate climate justice into city governance;
- Invest in community organizations on the frontlines of climate justice work; and
- Create inclusive green workforce development programs.”

8. **Why Are People Still Buying Risky Coastal Property:** In this [substack post](#), Susan Crawford considers the difficult question of why damaged coastal property retains value in the coastal real estate market, concluding that:

“Laws and policies systematically planning for decommissioning of public infrastructure (sewer, water, roads) over several years, together with well-resourced buyout offers accompanied by wraparound relocation services, could change this picture. Until then, the cycle will grind on.”

9. **How Roman Law Guides Beach Management Decisions:** This [article](#) in the *New York Times* describes the legal underpinnings of laws relating to coastal property and losses due to rising seas. It points to the public ownership of land below high tide lines in most states and the issues arising as structural protection projects built above the high tide line pose a risk to public beaches below that line. The article describes legal work by Surfrider Foundation to protect beaches.
10. **DOD to Maintain Storm Satellite Services to NOAA:** This [article](#) in the *Washington Post* explains that, after announcing that some satellite images routinely provided to NOAA for storm forecasting would be terminated this month, DOD has reversed its decision and will maintain support of NOAA.

State and Local

11. **Chesapeake Bay Area Lost Over \$1 Billion In Flood Mitigation Project Funds:** This [article](#) in the *Chesapeake Bay Journal* describes how Trump Administration cuts to FEMA funds for flood mitigation projects are playing out in states around the Chesapeake Bay.

“The reversal has left hundreds of communities nationwide scrambling to find alternative sources for the billions of dollars they had been promised. Among the six states and the District of Columbia in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, BRIC grants had been on track to disburse nearly \$1 billion across about 350 applications, according to a *Bay Journal* analysis of FEMA’s [database](#).”

12. **Delaware Releases Marsh Migration Model:** The Delaware [Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#) has released a [mapping study](#) that models and predicts the most suitable areas for Delaware’s tidal wetlands to migrate as the state experiences sea level rise as an impact of climate change. The model includes:

“...a rating from 12 (highly suitable) down to 0 (unsuitable) as locations where tidal wetlands might move to in the state. Study results highlight areas identified as highly suitable landing spots for marsh migration.”