



Coastal Flood Resilience News

May 26, 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.

Science

1. **Unstoppable Sea Level Rise:** New [research](#) published in *Nature* makes the case that warming to date is driving unmanageable rates of sea level rise and concludes that:

“current climate forcing (+1.2 °C), if sustained, is likely to generate several metres of sea-level rise over the coming centuries, causing extensive loss and damage to coastal populations and challenging the implementation of adaptation measures. To avoid this requires a global mean temperature that is cooler than present and which we hypothesise to be closer to +1 °C above pre-industrial, possibly even lower...”.

This [article](#) in *The Guardian* provides more background.

2. **NOAA Hurricane Predictions:** NOAA has issued its seasonal [hurricane prediction](#) for the coming summer, anticipating “an above normal 2025 Atlantic hurricane season” with a:

“30% chance of a near-normal season, a 60% chance of an above-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season.”

This prediction is generally consistent with predictions from other institutions. This *New York Times* [article](#) provides more background.

3. **AMOC Drives Sea Level Rise on Northeast Coast:** This [new research](#) published in *Science Advances* describes how weakening of the Atlantic Overturning Meridional Circulation (AMOC) has contributed to higher sea levels along the northeast coast:

“Since 2005, the frequency of flood occurrences along the USNEC has been substantially influenced by the weakening of AMOC, accounting for ~20 to 50% of all flooding events across different TG stations. This contribution is substantial when compared to the influence of the global warming trend.”

This [article](#) in *LiveScience* provides more background.

4. **Why Antarctica is Gaining Ice:** This [article](#) explains that new data from the Grace satellite indicates that Antarctica lost ice from 2002 to 2020 but then shifted to a net gain, noting:

“This abrupt change wasn’t brought on by cooling but was instead driven by record-breaking snowfall. A warmer air environment retains more moisture, which results in heavier rain over Antarctica. Although this briefly thickened the ice sheet, scientists point out that it’s a short-lived variation and not a reversal of climate.”

Impacts

5. **First Street Estimates Mortgage Industry Losses Due to Climate Change:** A [new report](#) from the risk assessment firm First Street evaluates climate change impacts on mortgaged property and concludes that:

“the combined effects of direct disaster impacts and indirect economic pressures could result in up to \$1.2 billion in credit losses from severe weather events by 2025, rising sharply to \$5.4 billion by 2035. This growing share of foreclosure losses is largely driven by the escalating insurance crisis and the increasing frequency and severity of flooding anticipated in the coming decade.

The report finds that flooding is the leading climate risk:

“The results showcase that flooding events emerge as the primary driver of post-disaster foreclosures among perils, particularly when they occur outside FEMA’s Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), where flood insurance is not mandatory.”

Here is the [First Street webinar](#) and the [full report](#). Here is an [article](#) from CBS News with more background on the report.

National Policy

6. **House Holds Roundtable on Termination of NOAA Billion Dollar Disaster Report:** On May 14, Democratic Members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology [hosted a roundtable](#) to discuss the Trump administration's cancellation of the NOAA Billion-Dollar Disasters Report, quoting Ranking Member Sykes:

“The cancellation of this report is part and parcel with the chaos and demoralization of the federal scientific workforce, and the consequence is going to be the destruction of American scientific leadership. But more importantly, it leaves us vulnerable without accurate and timely information.

- 7. State Disaster Response Capacity Limited Without FEMA:** This [article](#) provides an overview of FEMA services and concludes that states would have major challenges to respond to disasters without FEMA support with high-risk states, such as Florida and Louisiana, and smaller, rural states most at risk.

“Smaller, more rural and less wealthy states that lack the financial resources and logistical capabilities to respond effectively would be disproportionately affected.”

- 8. Pew Offers Recommendations for State Disaster Response Programs:** This [report](#) from The Pew Charitable Trusts reviews a series of earlier reports to recommend a set of strategies that state budget officials can adopt to improve disaster budgeting including:

- “Measure the total impact of natural disasters on state budgets across all agencies and activities.
 - Manage disaster funding in a manner that ensures availability of funds when needed and that minimizes disruption from the year-to-year volatility of disaster costs.
 - Mitigate future risks by investing in, requiring, and providing incentives for activities that can reduce the harms associated with disasters.
- make recommendations.”

- 9. Philanthropy’s Role in Building Climate Resilience:** This [new report](#) developed for the Packard Foundation evaluates the state of climate resilience efforts and suggests how philanthropies can help strengthen resilience, pointing out that:

“there still is a need for a coordinated national strategy that brings together diverse stakeholders – government, private sector, nonprofits, and communities – to develop a unified approach to resilience.”

- 10. How to Engage the Army Corps Planning Process:** The Environmental Defense Fund offers a [step-by-step guide to](#) the Corps' project planning process to help local officials and citizens participate in the process more effectively.

State and Local

- 11. A Defense of the Mid-Barataria Diversion Project:** This [article](#) in the *New Orleans Lens* opposes plans by the Governor of Louisiana to revise the Mid-Barataria Diversion project on the lower Mississippi River.

“Then along came Gov. Jeff Landry. After billions of non-state dollars were dedicated in contracts; workers hired; materials and real estate acquired and construction *begun*, with \$600 million invested to date, our governor sided with parochial interests to kill the diversion. The governor’s deal was made in secret, against the will of Louisianians: unbiased and objective poll after poll indicate more than 80% public support, with majorities in all of the directly affected parishes, including Plaquemines, where the diversion is located.”

- 12. Environmental Defense Fund Video on Mid-Barataria Diversion:** This brief [You Tube video](#) produced by the Environmental Defense Fund provides insights into the Mid-Barataria Diversion Project in Louisiana.

- 13. Maine Suffers from FEMA Funding Cuts:** This [article](#) in the *Maine Monitor* describe how cuts to FEMA grant programs are delaying or terminating climate resilience projects in Maine, including along the coast:

“The county’s coastline was decimated after the January 2024 flooding, wiping out vast stretches of sand dunes and causing tens of millions of dollars in damages. Cleaves and the York County Emergency Management Agency were banking on \$30 million in potential BRIC funding to restore and strengthen the dunes against future storms, using one of the few federal grants available to support projects of this size.”

- 14. Charleston Seeks Federal Funds for Battery Project:** This [article](#) in the *Charleston Post and Courier* provides an update on the design to strengthen the sea wall along the Battery area of Charleston and the efforts by the city to secure federal funds to help pay for the project, quoting the Mayor:

“We want to be proactive about this. We don't want to wait for a catastrophic event. We want to do this now and do it in a way that is beautiful.”

15. New Hampshire Describes Update to *Coastal Flood Risk Summary*: The State of New Hampshire has [published its plan](#) to update the 2019-2020 *Coastal Flood Risk Summary* for the 2025-2026 period, including use of a survey to gather input on the existing guidance for application of science relating to rising sea levels.

16. New Jersey Publishes New Coastal Wetland Mapping Tool: Faced with rates of sea level rise twice the global average the State of New Jersey has developed a [new tool for mapping coastal wetlands](#) to help the public, stakeholders, and government officials advance work to make coastal wetlands more resilient, noting:

“Data derived from the development of the tool shows that 61 percent of the state’s coastal wetlands may be at risk of being lost because the processes that help create them are not able to keep pace with the accelerating pace of sea-level rise. This situation potentially jeopardizes the ecological diversity that is found in robust wetlands as well as the important storm-surge protection wetlands provide coastal communities.”