SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY (SACS) UPDATE

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North Carolina Beaches, Inlets and Waterways Association
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*The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.*
The SACS is:

- **a collaborative effort** with a diverse group of stakeholders to cooperatively address coastal storm risks
- **a comprehensive regional assessment of coastal flood risk for the Tier 1 study area scale** (additional datasets are incorporated in Tier 2)
- **broadly identifying risk reduction opportunities throughout the study area** (detailed action strategies will be developed for **Focus Areas**, as examples for lowering risks in areas with high population, concentrated economic development, and vulnerable environmental resources)
- **incorporating sea level rise** as the climate change factor **most relevant** to increased coastal storm damage

**Not covered in the SACS:**
- Federal Project recommendations for Congressional action
- NEPA compliance documentation

Includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, as well as Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

*Working Today to Build a Better Tomorrow*
"The SACS vision is to provide a common understanding of risk from coastal storms and sea level rise to support resilient communities and habitats. This collaborative effort will leverage stakeholders’ actions to plan and implement cohesive coastal storm risk management strategies along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast shorelines, including the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands."
**SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY KEY PRODUCTS**

**RISK ASSESSMENT**
- Assessment based on exposure of population and infrastructure, environmental and cultural resources, and social vulnerability to inundation hazards.

**REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT (RSM) OPTIMIZATION**
- Identifies and quantifies total contribution of RSM principles to projects in the SACS study area that support long-term coastal resiliency.

**SAND AVAILABILITY & NEEDS DETERMINATION (SAND)**
- Determines the need and availability of sediment to maintain beaches for the next 50 years.

**COASTAL HAZARDS SYSTEM (CHS)**
- Provides current and projected water elevation data for the study area.

**GEOPORTAL**
- Provides the public access to study datasets, products, and documentation.

**MEASURES & COSTS LIBRARY**
- Detailed list of Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) measures and their costs developed to a screening level for use in USACE and stakeholder planning.

**COASTAL PROGRAM GUIDE**
- Outreach and information package to help communities better leverage needed resources on a disaster-wide, statewide, or community-wide basis.

**STATE & TERRITORY APPENDICES**
- Specific information for each state and territory will be provided in stand-alone appendices to the main report.

**PRIORITY ENVIRONMENTAL AREA IDENTIFICATION**
- Priority environmental areas will be identified using Tier 1 data, the USFWS Planning Aid Report, and stakeholder tools. Resiliency to coastal storms and sea level rise will be evaluated and measures to increase resiliency will be recommended.

**PLANNING AID REPORT (U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS))**
- Report of priority biological resource habitats in the South Atlantic region that are vulnerable to harm from coastal storms and sea level rise with a focus on areas used by federally listed species. Report will also include a description of risk to coastal national wildlife refuges.

**INSTITUTIONAL & OTHER BARRIERS ANALYSIS**
- Document identifies institutional and other barriers to providing comprehensive protection for affected coastal areas. The report will include information on the performance of existing federal CSRM projects and recommendations for improvement.

**FOCUS AREA ACTION STRATEGIES**
- Focus area action strategies (FAAS) will use SACS products in combination with other resources to develop actionable risk reduction strategies with stakeholders. FAAS will serve as examples for how vulnerabilities in other high risk locations can be addressed.

**OUTREACH & INFORMATION PACKAGE**
- For communities to better leverage needed resources on a disaster-wide, statewide, or community-wide basis.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE SACS WEBSITE: [https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/](https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/)**
North Carolina Appendix: 2020 Highlights

• Worked through Tier 2 assessment of refined risk throughout the state

• Completed model runs to better understand damages to infrastructure associate with sea level rise

• Assessed environmentally vulnerable and at-risk resources, along with identification of 14 ‘Priority Environmental Areas’

• Partnered with NC Office of State Archeology & NC State Historic Preservation Office to identify Priority Cultural Resources at risk

• Developed three focus areas for detailed assessment and identified additional high-risk areas

• Held 9 focus area action strategy virtual meetings – 3 more coming up!

• Used stakeholder feedback with team analyses and technical report findings to identify potentially actionable strategies

• In preparation for Military Installations workshop on SACS applications and utility
Overall Findings To-Date

Significant Risk
- Identified 700+ high risk locations
- Back bay storm surge inundation is key driver significantly increased by sea level rise
- Further understanding/application of compound flooding impact is needed
- Existing study authorities may not cover complex risk related to combined inland/coastal flood risk to infrastructure, populations, and environmental resources.

Support Joint Responsibility
- Technical Assistance to states & territories
- Shared tools support actions within expanding at-risk areas
  - More efficient scoping, screening, and analysis
  - Improved understanding of methods and results

"Coastal storm risk management is a shared responsibility, and we believe there should be shared tools used by all decision makers to assess risk and identify solutions."

Commanding Officer (2015)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Atlantic Division
Engagement Opportunities

- Military Installation Workshop prep: December
- Quarterly Webinars: Oct 21-222 attendees/next Dec
- 63 Focus Area Workshops held July-November
- 3 Environmental Working Group webinars
- State Working Group
- Web page/SACS email

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Distribution of Monthly Newsletters

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Email us SACS@usace.army.mil

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Working Today to Build a Better Tomorrow
Coming Up Next…

- Refining draft Focus Area Action Strategies
- Preliminary Draft Appendix Prep
- Final Quarterly Update webinar for 2020 – DEC
- Military installation workshop – DEC
- Complete draft product for review OCT 2021!

https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS
Thank You

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/

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