SEA LEVEL RISE & COASTAL FLOODING IN CONNECTICUT
Information from the Governor's Council on Climate Change

1. Sea level is expected to rise by up to 20 inches by 2050, and to continue increasing after that.
2. Small changes in mean sea level have a big impact on the frequency of flooding.
3. Areas that experience flooding every few years now should expect flooding multiple times a year by 2050.

Sea Level Rise Predictions:
Connecticut is expected to experience up to 20” of sea level rise by 2050, leading to greater frequency of flooding from tides and storms. Small changes in mean sea level have a big impact on the frequency and severity of flooding.

With 20” of sea level rise, what we experience today as a 4.5' storm surge will occur up to ten times more often in 2050. Some areas that flood once every 10 years will likely flood every 2 years. Chronic flooding will be a challenge for neighborhoods, roads, and areas affected in the past.

Consequences & Flood Risk:
Coastal residents could expect:
- Higher cost of living
- Greater property damage risk
- More highway and road closures
- Inaccessibility to and higher maintenance costs for critical infrastructure

Individual towns are beginning to plan for coastal and inland impacts of climate change, as well as coordinated regional efforts that are underway. Some current actions include the Governor’s Council on Climate Change; Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning by Regional Councils of Governments; and Resilient Connecticut.

Resilient Connecticut is an initiative charged with creating a regional adaptation plan for Fairfield and New Haven counties by coordinating actions between local and regional stakeholders. The project includes coordination and planning with state agencies, policy recommendations, and strategies that use up-to-date monitoring and science based regional risk assessments to inform pilot projects.

Over the coming years, estimates will be revisited and updated with the most recent data and models.