Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) Maps

Charlestown

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The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and its partners have developed Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM) Maps for the coastal wetlands of all 21 Rhode Island coastal communities. The purpose of these SLAMM maps is to show how coastal wetlands will likely transition and migrate onto adjacent upland areas under projected sea level rise scenarios of 1, 3 and 5 feet in the coming decades. These maps are intended to support state and local community planning efforts and to help decision makers prepare for and adapt to future coastal wetland conditions despite the inherent uncertainties associated with future rates of sea level rise.

The SLAMM maps were developed using a digital wetlands coverage derived from the 2010 National Wetlands Inventory for Rhode Island. The elevation data used in the model was developed from the 2011 USGS LIDAR elevation dataset. These maps were developed using the “protection off” mode for the model simulations, thereby depicting the highest potential for marsh migration despite current limitations such as parking lots, roads or other development. In this way the maps illustrate opportunities for conservation and potential land modification to enhance wetland migration and restoration. The SLAMM data do not consider natural processes such as coastal erosion or the impacts of coastal storms that can have significant influence on shoreline location and sediment dynamics. Despite these limitations the data still provide a valuable tool to identify those places that provide the best opportunity for future saltmarsh habitat and conservation priorities, and provide valuable information to help plan for new development and infrastructure. Additional map parameters, data sources and caveats can also be found at www.crmc.ri.gov

These SLAMM maps are Geographic Information System (GIS)-based map images exported as PDF files to reduce file size and ease of access. In total there are 149 map panels that cover the entire Rhode Island shoreline and each panel has four maps showing the initial (current) wetland condition followed by 1, 3, and 5-feet of sea level rise scenarios.

No warranty is expressed or implied by the CRMC and its SLAMM project partners related to the spatial accuracy of these maps and promote no other use of these maps and data other than as a planning tool. These maps should not be used for, and are not intended for, survey and engineering purposes. The data do not take the place of a legal survey or other primary source documentation. They were created for general reference, informational, planning, and guidance use. They are not a legally authoritative source as to the exact location of natural or manmade features.

These maps can be examined at the Council’s office in Wakefield, at the Secretary of State’s office, and on-line at the Council’s website: www.crmc.ri.gov.
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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis:
Current Condition

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/2/2014
Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis:
One Foot Sea Level Rise Model

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Map 132

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis:
Five Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014
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Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/2/2014
Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: One Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014

NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Three Foot Sea Level Rise Model

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Five Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map 133

1:10,000

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Map produced by Kevin Ruddock, 4/1/2014

NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108
Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Current Condition

Map 134

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Three Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014

NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108

Map 134

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis:
Five Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014

NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108

Potential Marsh Zone
Persistent Marsh Zone
Potential Marsh Loss
Open Water and Tidal Flat
Current Fresh Wetlands
Protected Open Space

Hardened Shores
Buildings
Parcel Boundaries
Developed Land
CRMC Coastal Barriers

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Current Condition

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/2/2014

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: One Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map 137

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Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014
Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Three Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/2/2014

Potential Marsh Zone
Persistant Marsh Zone
Potential Marsh Loss
Open Water and Tidal Flat
Current Fresh Wetlands
Protected Open Space

Hardened Shores
Buildings
Parcel Boundaries
Developed Land
CRMC Coastal Barriers

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Current Condition

Map 138

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NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108
Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: One Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map 138

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis:
Three Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014

NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108

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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: Five Foot Sea Level Rise Model

Map produced by Kevin Ruddock. 4/1/2014

NOAA grant award #: NA120AR4310108

Potential Marsh Zone
Persistent Marsh Zone
Potential Marsh Loss
Open Water and Tidal Flat
Current Fresh Wetlands
Protected Open Space
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Tidal Marsh Vulnerability Analysis: One Foot Sea Level Rise Model

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Potential Marsh Zone
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