



Name	Coastal Vulnerability Assessment of Assateague Island National Seashore to Sea-Level Rise
Description	<p>Abstract: A coastal vulnerability index (CVI) was used to map relative vulnerability of the coast to future sea-level rise within Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia. The CVI ranks the following in terms of their physical contribution to sea-level rise-related coastal change: geomorphology, regional coastal slope, rate of relative sea-level rise, shoreline change rates, mean tidal range and mean wave height. Rankings for each variable were combined and an index value calculated for 1-minute grid cells covering the park. The CVI highlights those regions where the physical effects of sea-level rise might be the greatest. This approach combines the coastal system's susceptibility to change with its natural ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions, yielding a quantitative, although relative, measure of the park's natural vulnerability to the effects of sea-level rise. The CVI provides an objective technique for evaluation and long-term planning by scientists and park managers. Assateague Island consists of stable and washover dominated portions of barrier beach backed by wetland and marsh. The areas within Assateague that are likely to be most vulnerable to sea-level rise are those with the highest occurrence of overwash and the highest rates of shoreline change.</p>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PRODUCTS: Projections (intra-annual to multi-decadal, including SLR and model down-scaling)</li> <li>- PRODUCTS: Maps (Imagery, geo-referenced data)</li> <li>- PRODUCTS: Plans, Assessments, Studies</li> </ul>
Sector	- Natural Ecosystems
Focus Area	- Coasts and Climate Resilience (including sea-level rise)
Region	- Regional Or State -- Mid-Atlantic
Lead Agencies	U.S. Geological Survey
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