

Hampton Roads Infrastructure Planning Challenges
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Sea level rise is creating risk for coastal communities throughout the United States. These communities rely on critical infrastructure systems which are managed by federal, state, local and private entities. Meeting the challenge of sea level rise will require that these entities work collaboratively across multiple sectors to understand the risks that lie ahead and make critical decisions regarding adaptation strategies and actions. The Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) of the Intergovernmental Pilot Project evaluated infrastructure systems in Hampton Roads to choose a case study area that would illuminate the challenges of whole of government and community planning by including multiple entities to stress the overlapping nature of such an effort. The Little Creek Amphibious Base area was selected, because the impacts of sea level rise in that area would impact two local municipalities and one federal entity based on the ecological boundaries of the watershed system. To understand the risks in the case study area the IWG and Private Infrastructure Committees (PIC) identified critical infrastructure systems and evaluated the interdependencies between these systems. Sea level rise and storm surge scenarios were selected and used to evaluate infrastructure highlighting risks and vulnerabilities and the need for a collaborative approach to solutions. Through this process, mechanisms for collaborative solutions were implemented that can be leveraged to inform a regional, multi-sectoral response to sea level rise adaptation strategies.