# Impact of Hurricanes and Storm Surges on the Chesapeake Bay

**Bill Boicourt** 

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory

### Heat Engine

CAPCA Meeting Annapolis 23 September 2049

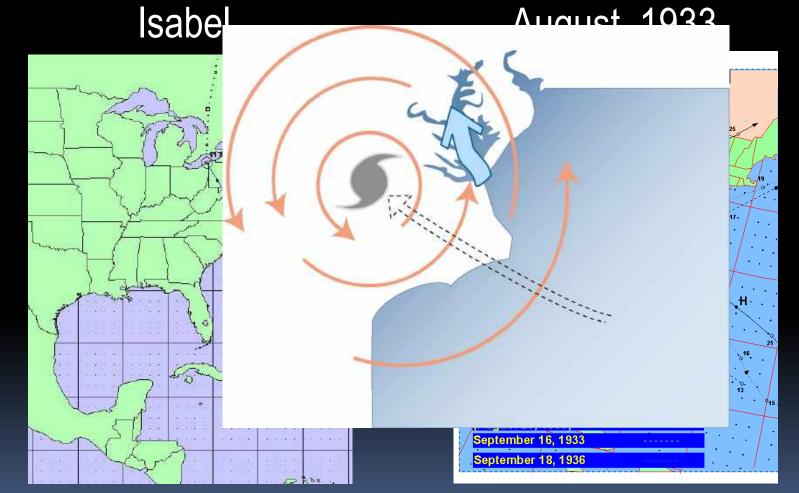
Eye

Inflow

Outflow

© 2007 Thomson Higher Education

### The Bay: Usually Protection, but Occasionally Entrapment



NOAA

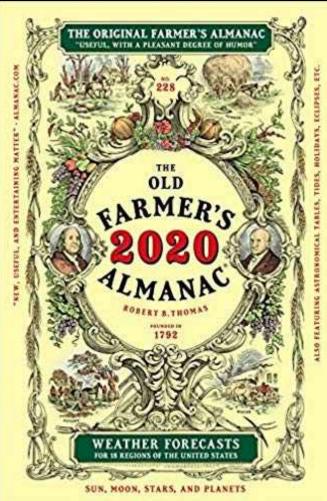
### HURRICANE ISABEL 2003 STORM SURGE

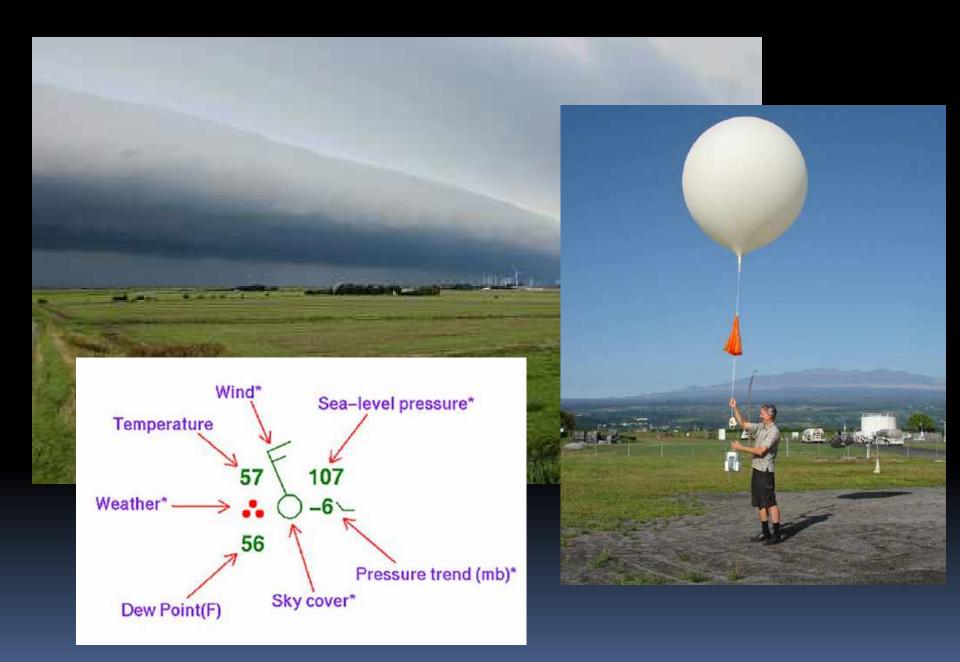


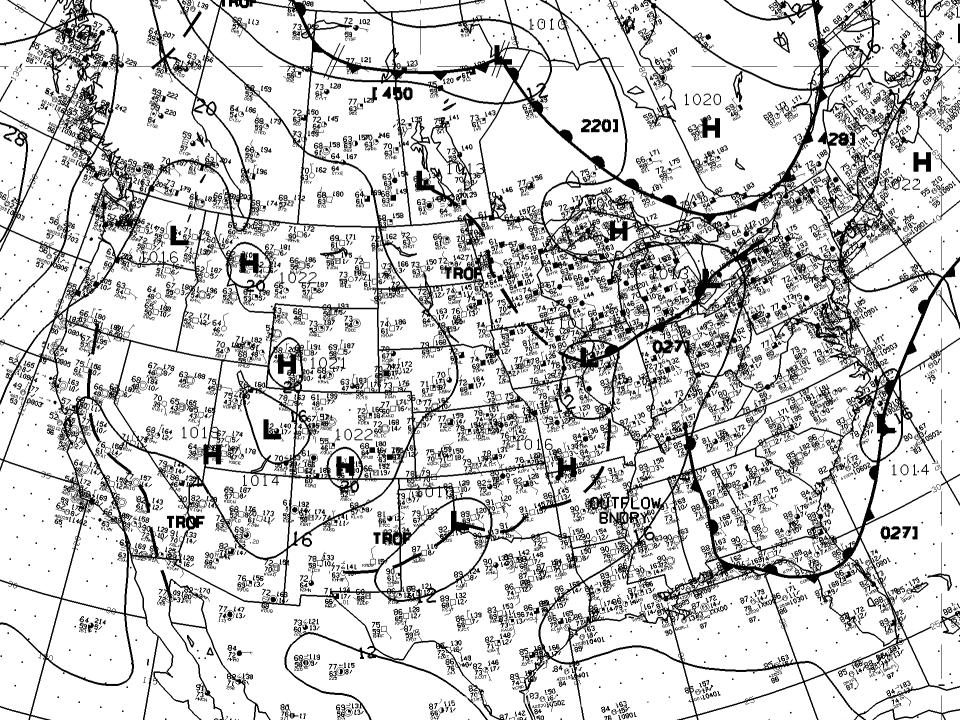




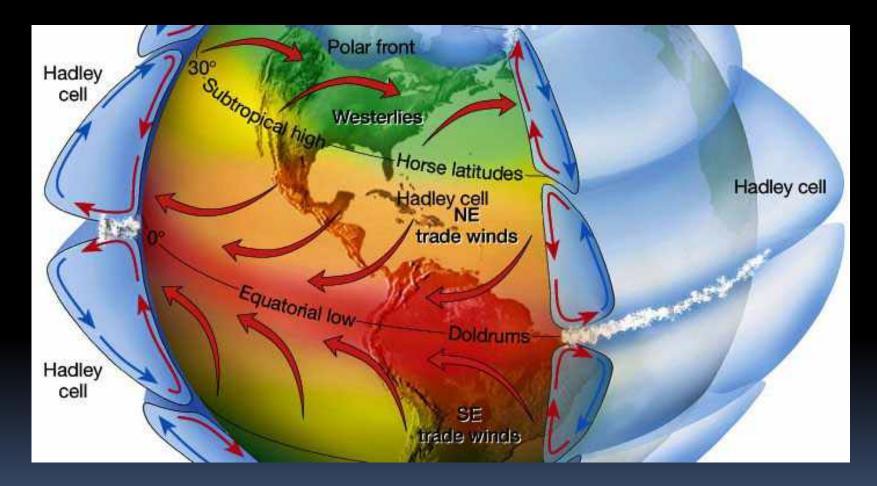


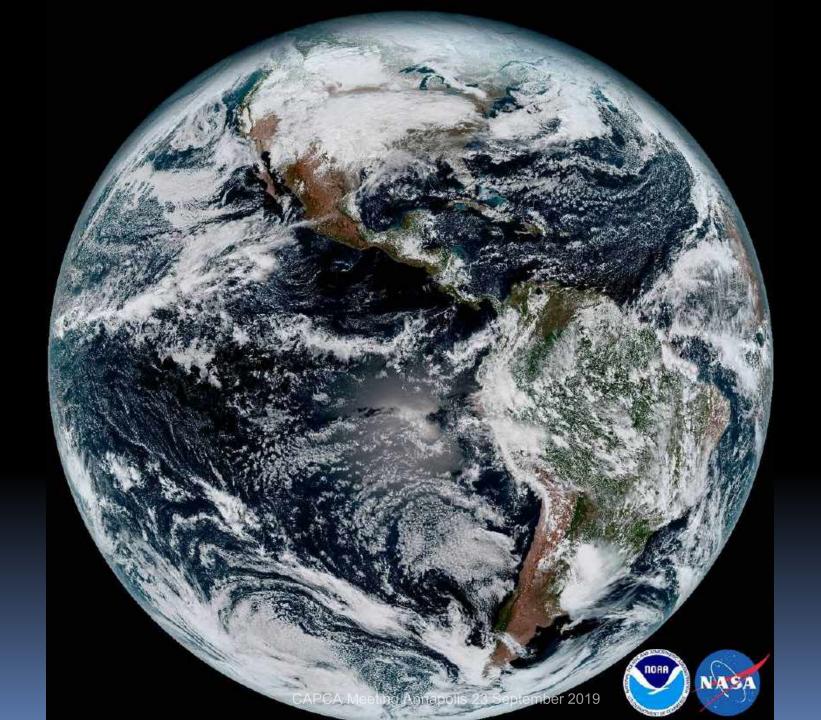






### Hadley Cell

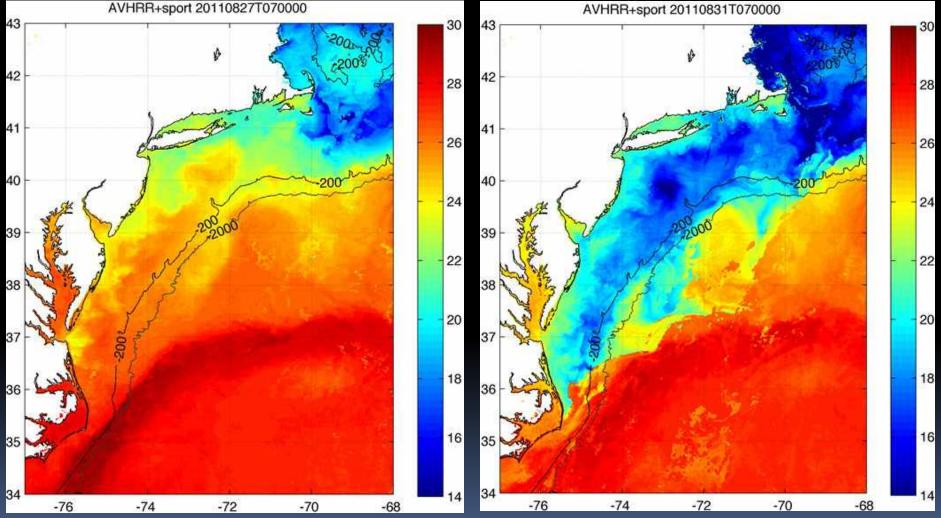






#### FORECASTING: IRENE, 2011 **BEFORE** AFTER

AVHRR+sport 20110827T070000





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SLOCU Electric Gil

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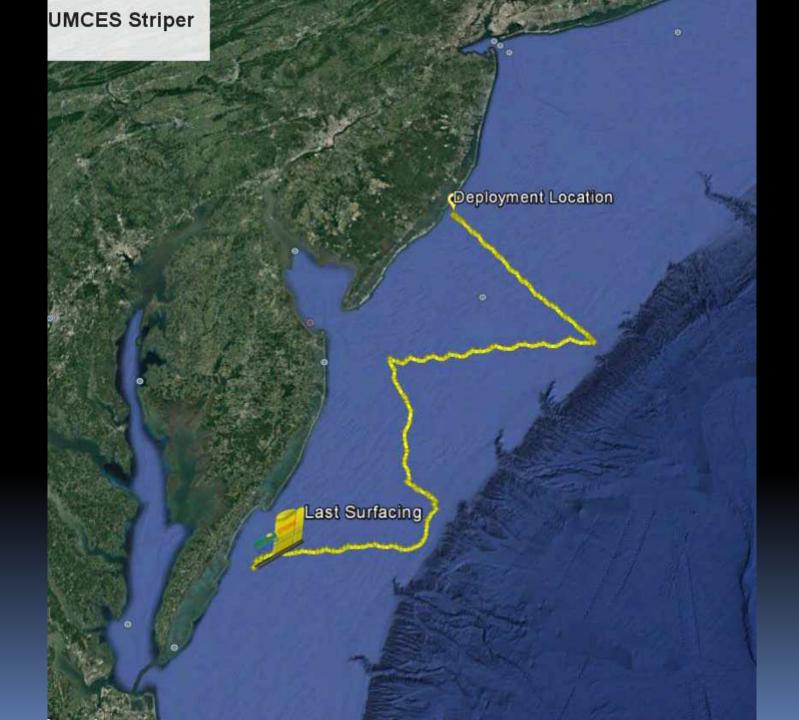


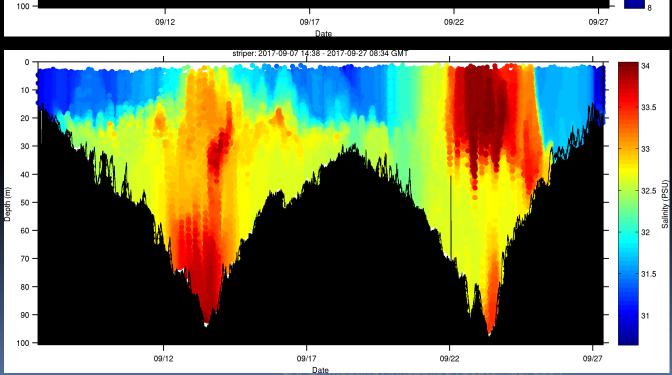
Deployment Location

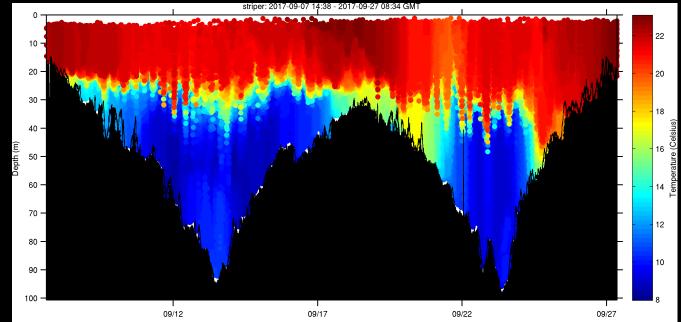
### 2017 Season

Harvey Irma Jose Maria Deployment Location

Last Surfacing





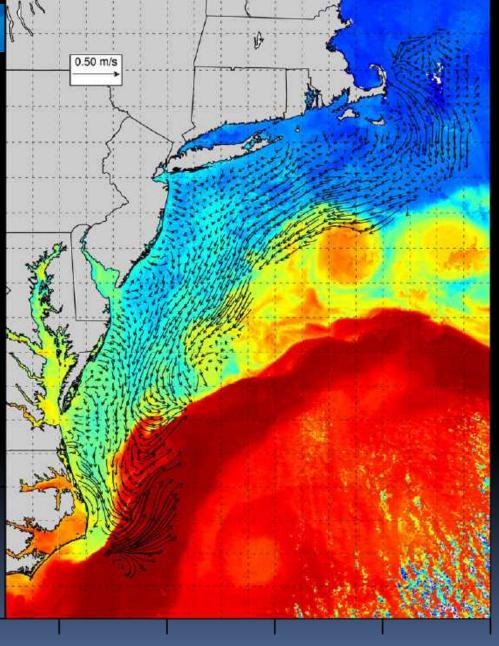




### Satellites and

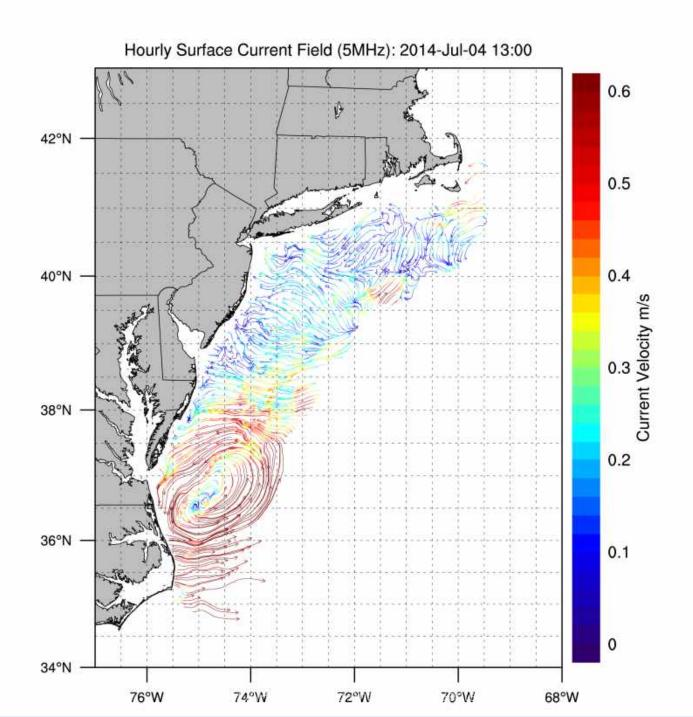
### HF Radar





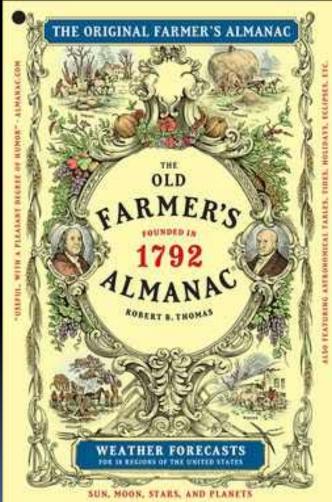
**ZABCAW**eeting Znhapolis 23 September 2019 70°W 68°W

0









### SHORT HISTORY





Bjerknes



Sverdrup

Revelle



Pritchard

FIM



Montgomery

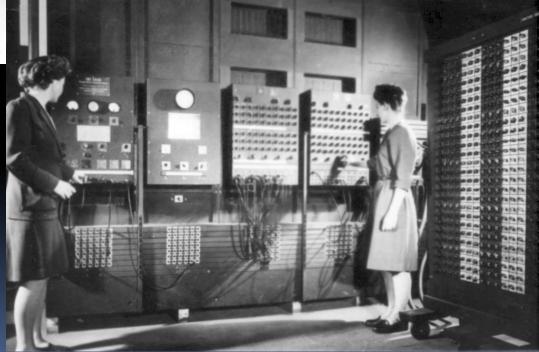


Rossby

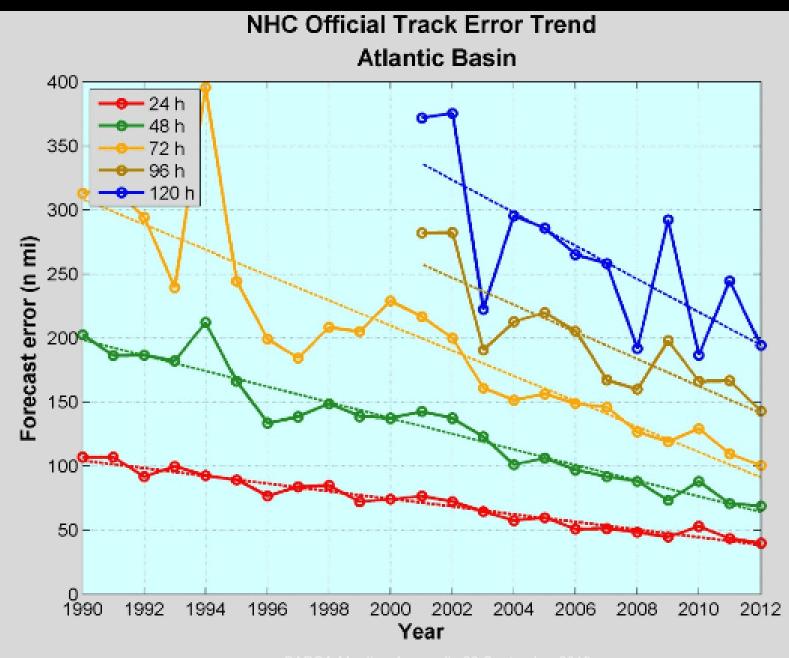




# ENIAC



# HOW ARE WE DOING IN THE FORECASTING GAME?



CAPCA Meeting Annapolis 23 September 2019.

# HOW ARE WE DOING IN THE FORECASTING GAME?

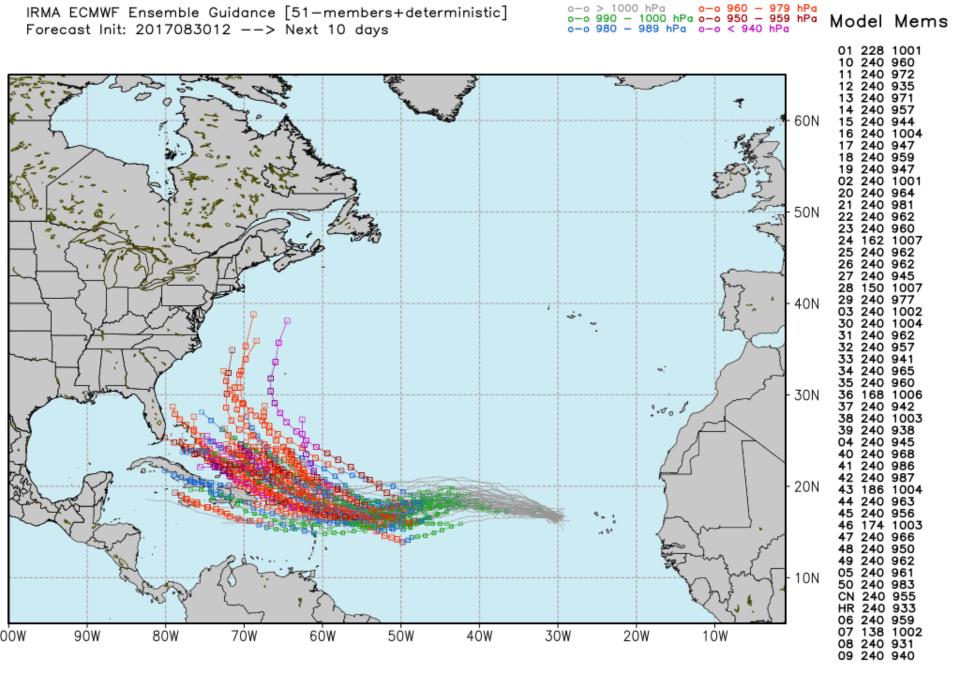
# The Europeans (ECMWF) are Still Winning

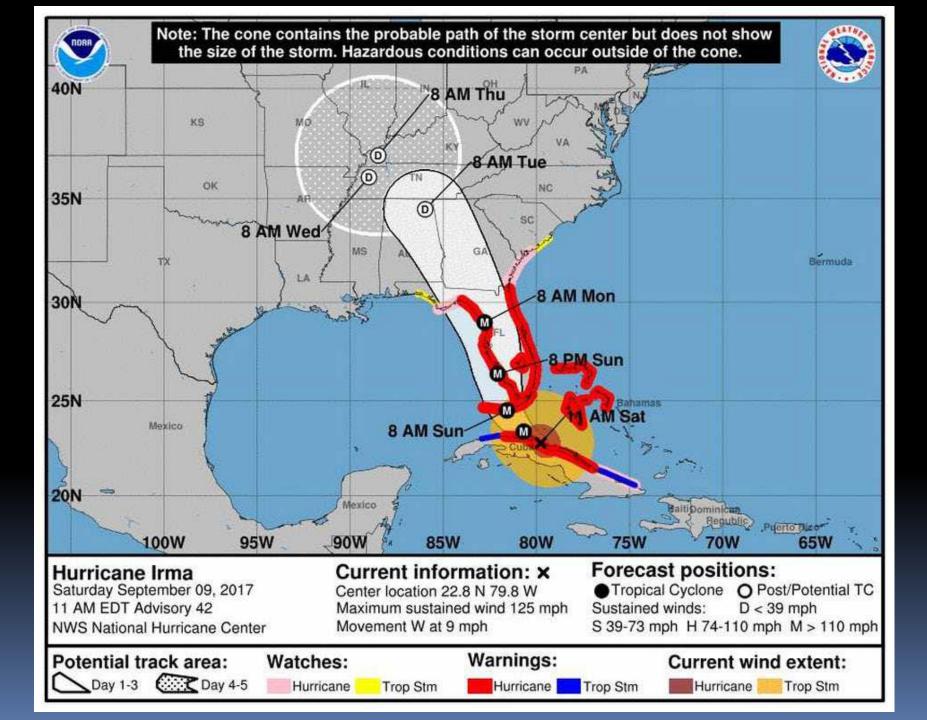
## BUT GFS has made some Significant improvements

### US vs. THEM: Solutions

- Resolution
- More Ensembles
- Data Assimilation
- Initial Conditions
- Manpower
- Research-to-Operations







## SANDY





## SANDY: CHESAPEAKE BAY

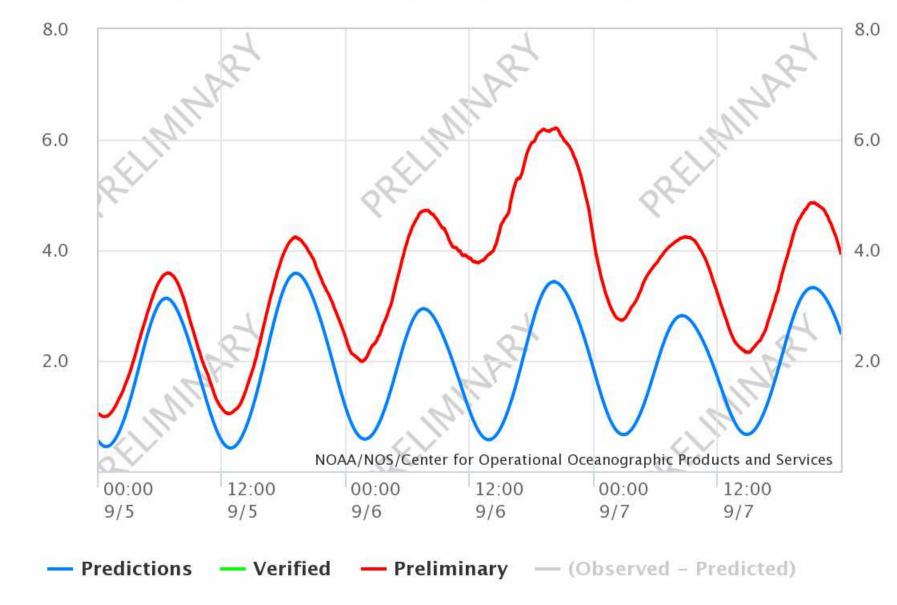
#### Tangier, 10:32am, Monday 29 October 2012



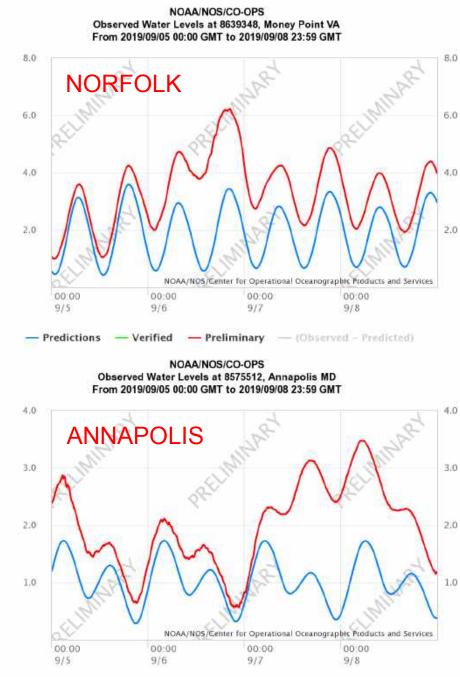
"Tide on Tangier streets, coming up fast, highest in Lonnie's life. Jessie at Bishops Head reports little rise and no problems. Very interesting storm. Thanks again for heads up. Don"



#### NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS Observed Water Levels at 8639348, Money Point VA From 2019/09/05 00:00 GMT to 2019/09/07 23:59 GMT



Height in feet (MLLW)



- Verified - Preliminary - (Observed - Predicted)

### Surge Propagation

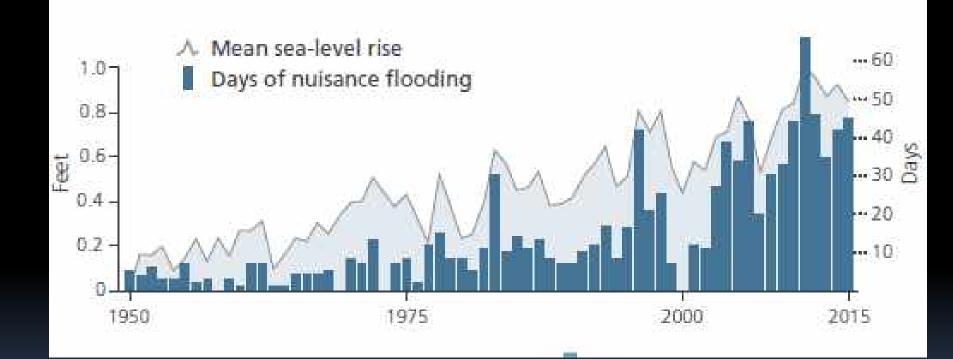
Height in feet (MLLW)

Predictions

Height in feet (MLLW)

23 September 2019

### Nuisance Flooding, Annapolis



### Dorchester County, Maryland



David Harp

Dorchester County is "the rural Ground Zero" of sea-level rise in the Chesapeake, where climate change is leaving a mark — not in 25 or 50 years, but now, says Tom Horton, Bay Journal.



#### Updating Maryland's Sea-level Rise Projections



Scientific and Technical Working Group Maryland Climate Change Commission

June 26, 2013

# 1.4± ft. by 2050

by 2100, it depends on emissions and ice

### 2018 Update

Sea-level Projections for Maryland 2018

# Understanding Sea Level Rise

An in-depth look at three factors contributing to sea level rise along the U.S. East Coast and how scientists are studying the phenomenon

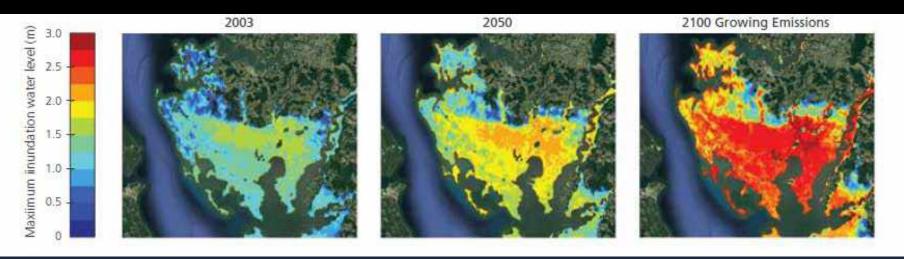


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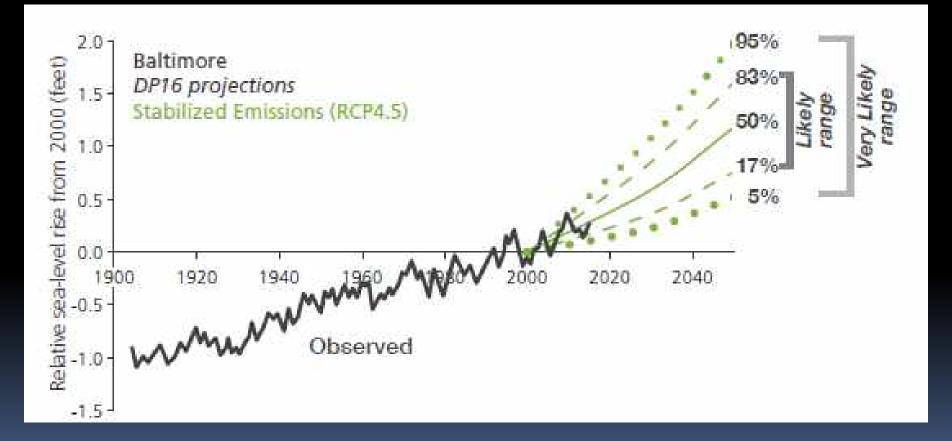
DEAD END NO TURN AROUND

# Mid-Atlantic is a Hot Spot for Sea-Level Rise

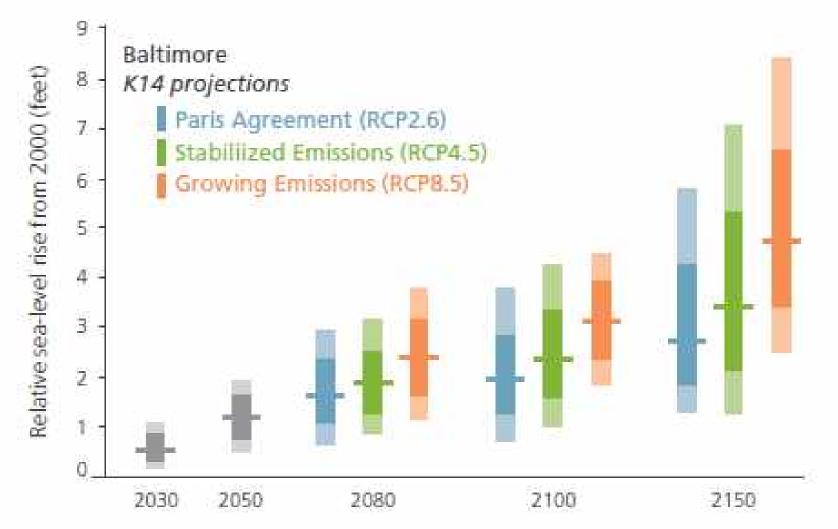
Dorchester County storm surge from an Isabel Storm, past and future



### 2018 PROJECTION UPDATE: 2050



### AND LONGER...



# HURRICANES: IT'S NOT JUST THE WIND

- AGNES 1972
- HARVEY 2017
- IMELDA 2019

# Are Hurricanes becoming more frequent or more intense?



- WIND
- SURGE
- RAIN
- ECOSYSTEMS/FISHERIES

"There are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say, we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know."

Donald Rumsfeld

CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY

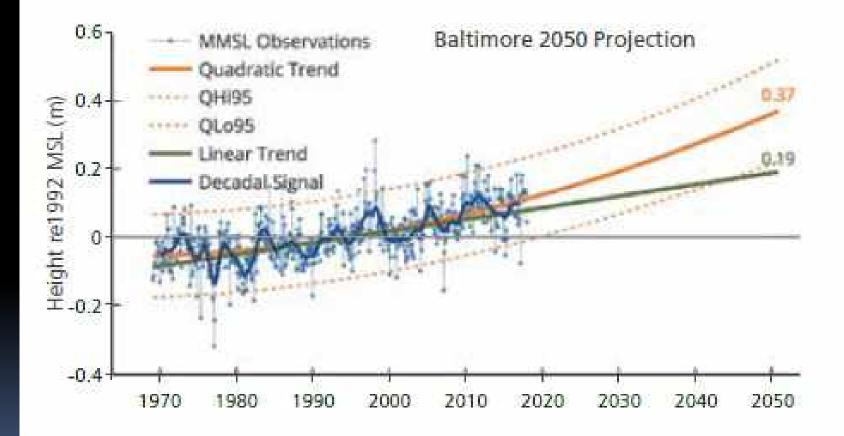
# THWAITES GLACIER



A hurricane is an absolutely, beautifully smoothrunning engine with a very temperamental starter motor—Ed Zipser, University of Utah

Warming will increase the size and intensity of storms, but it will also make them more difficult to form—Kerry Emanuel, MIT

### Acceleration



# Table 1. Individual contributions to global mean sea-level rise in mm/yr.

	1993-2015	2005-2015
Thermal expansion	1.30	1.30
Glaciers	0.65	0.74
Greenland	0.48	0.76
Antarctic	0.25	0.42
Residual	0.37	0.28
Total	3.05	3.50

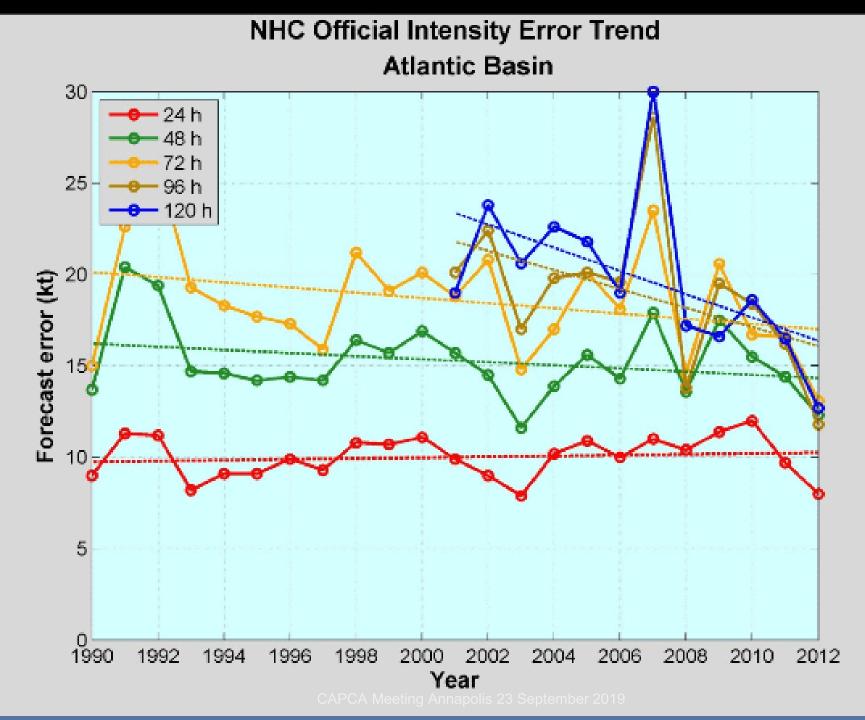
# The Day After Tomorrow

#### CURRENT COMPLEXITIES

Warm water flowing north

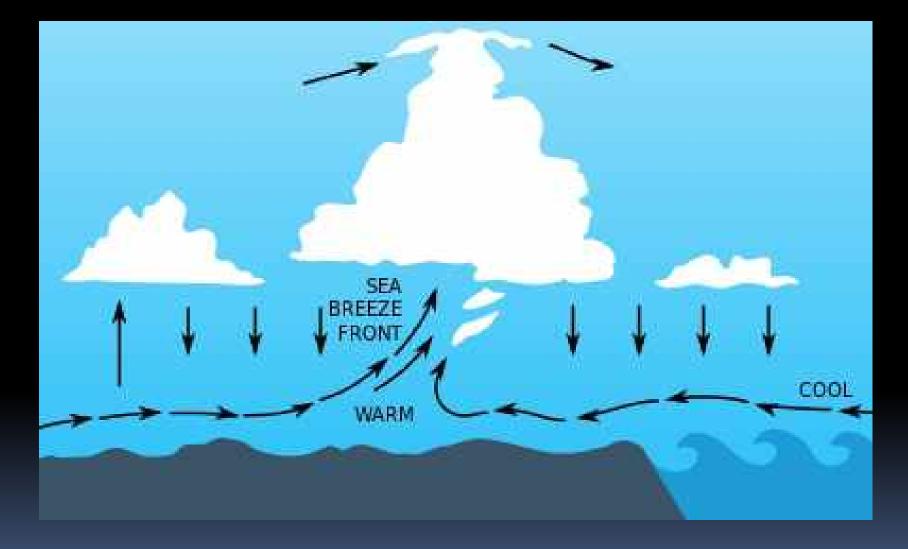
Cold water returning south

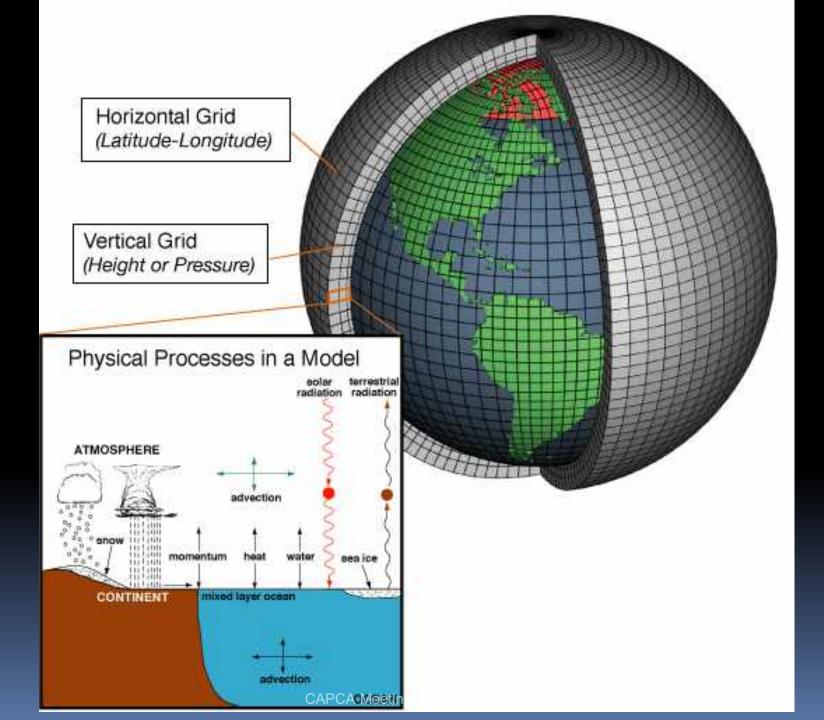




Rise for Bay since 1961: Mid-Atlantic "Hot Spot"

# Global Rise: 1.8mm/yr Subsidence: 1.7mm/yr 3.5mm/yr





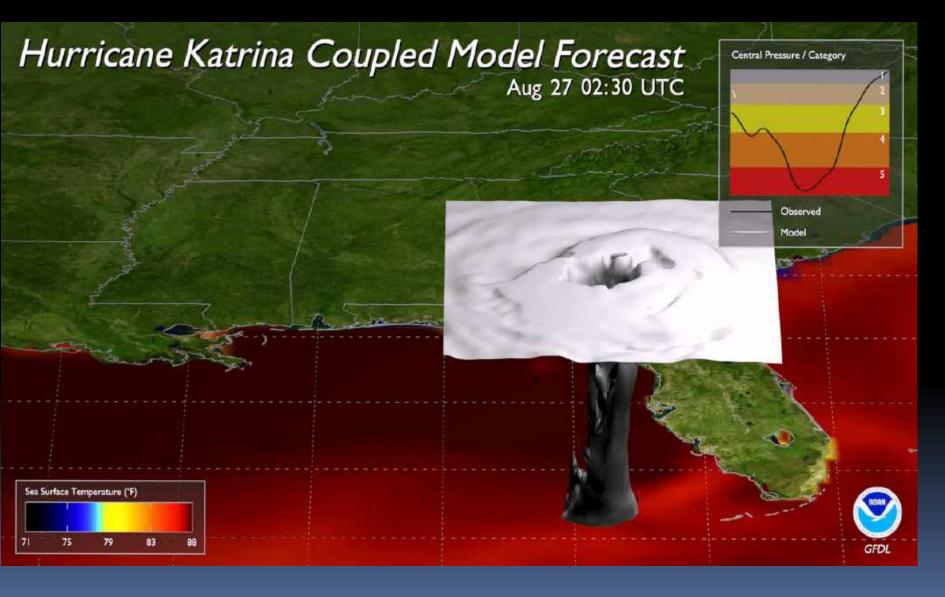
# The Day After Tomorrow

#### CURRENT COMPLEXITIES

Warm water flowing north

Cold water returning south

### Hurricane Katrina 2005





### HURRICANE IRENE 201

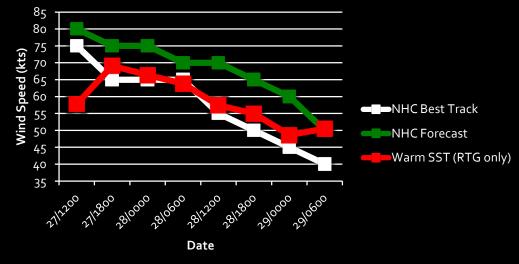
RU-WRF Atmospheric Forecast Model



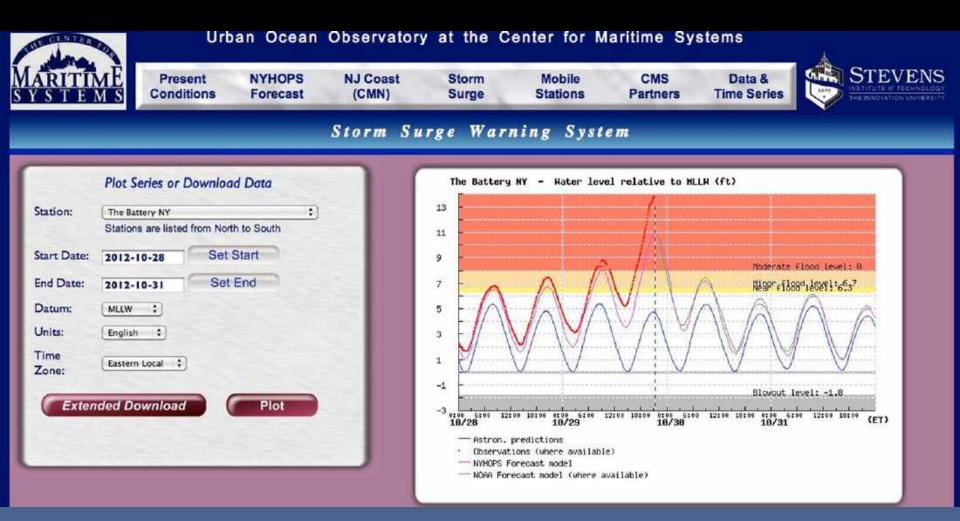
38"07'08.13"

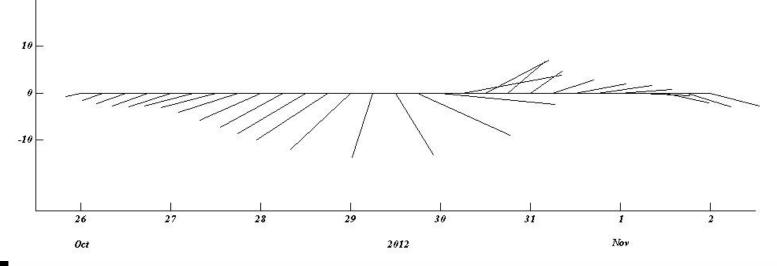


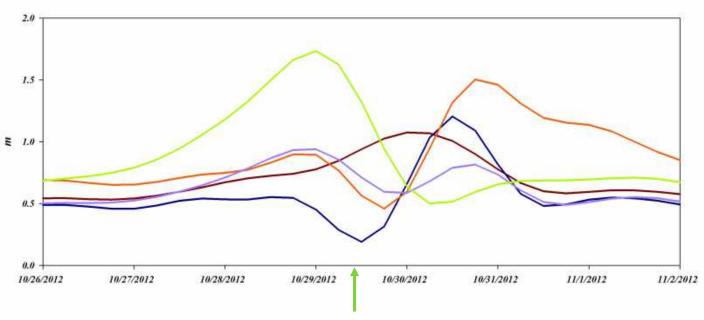
#### Maximum Sustained Wind Speed (10m)











Bishops Head, MD Baltimore, MD Date/time EST vs Washington Date/time EST vs Lewisetta

----- CBBT, VA

### Before the Storm





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SLOCU Electric Gil

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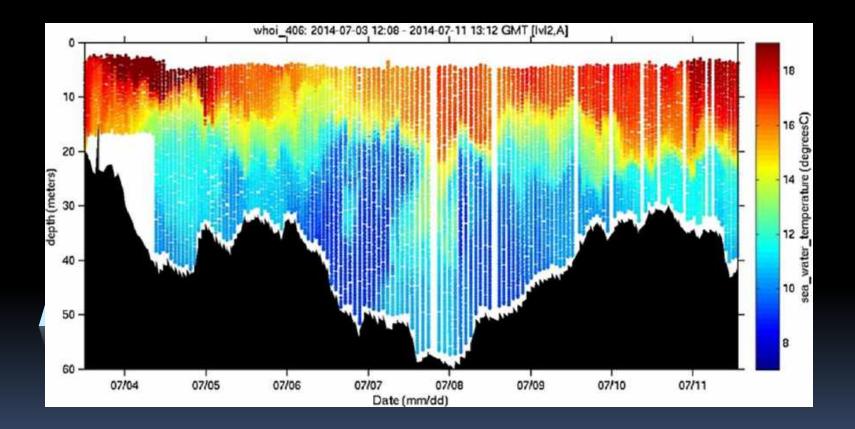
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### Temperature—Hurricane Arthur

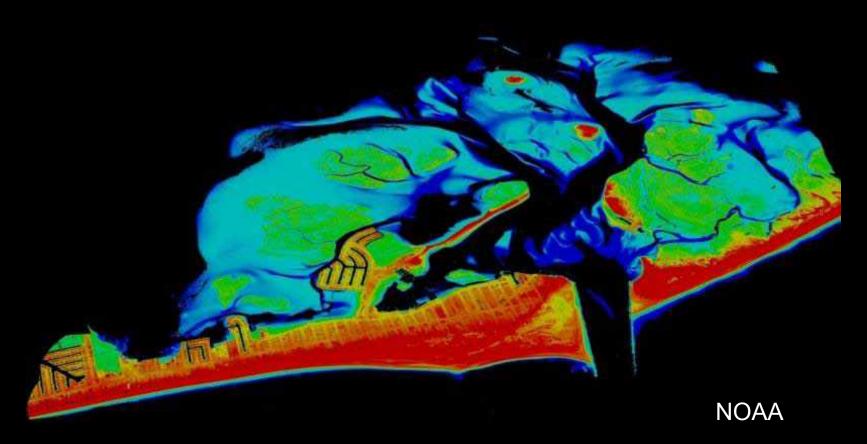


# Triply-nested WRF (12km-4km-1.3km)

### Unstructured FVCOM (50 m to 20 km)





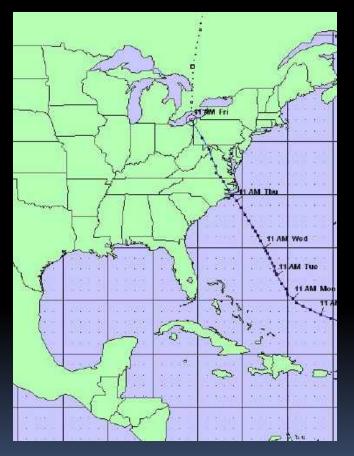


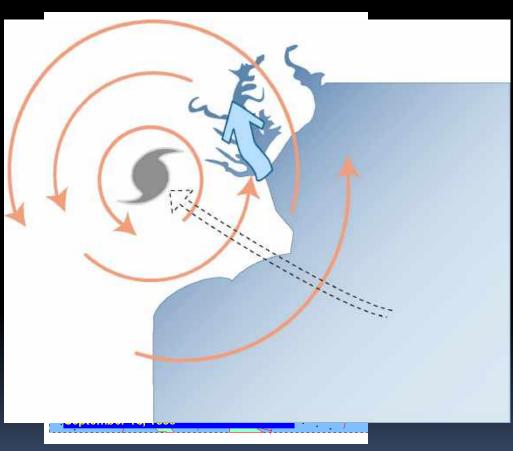
# LIDAR BARNEGAT BAY

#### Graphic Visualizations for Street-Level flooding in Cambridge, MD Using GIS and Google Earth



# **1933,2003: VULNERABILITY** Isabel August, 1933





NOAA

A hurricane is an absolutely, beautifully smoothrunning engine with a very temperamental starter motor—Ed Zipser, University of Utah

Warming will increase the size and intensity of storms, but it will also make them more difficult to form—Kerry Emanuel, MIT





David Harp

### Prospects

- Intensity
- Phasing
- Wetting and Drying
- Transition to Operations
- Partnerships

Last House Standing

Approximate area lost 2006-2014

Photo taken 9/26/2006 © 2006 Gordon Campbell

Gordon Campbell 914-772-6242





# SANDY: CHESAPEAKE BAY

Wakefield, VA 08:57am, Wednesday 31 October 2012 Subject: Tidal Flooding Delmarva From Sandy From: John Billet <john.billet@noaa.gov> Date: 10/31/2012 8:57 AM To: Ming Li <mingli@umces.edu>, William Boicourt <boicourt@hpl.umces.edu>

Hi MIng and Bill,

The flooding on the Maryland part of the Delmarva was very confusing from Sandy. We constantly seemed to be under forecasting and had significant trouble relating our gages at Cambridge and Bishop Head to

what was actually happening. It seemed that when the wind switched to northwest Monday we got much higher flooding then anticipated on northwest facing areas. Using the two models we get for Cambridge neither model showed the magnitude of the flooding at other Dorchester

county locations. The two models were the extra tropical storm surge from NWS and ESTOFS developed by NOAA coastal services. As the event continued models showed the tides coming down but they still remained high or went higher in many areas. These seemed to be topographic related. The coast line is quite complicated up there and I am sure this is causing some of the problems.

I would appreciate any thoughts you might have about this. I would be happy to share any information I have with you. We need to develop methods to improve our forecasts so we can serve our customers better.

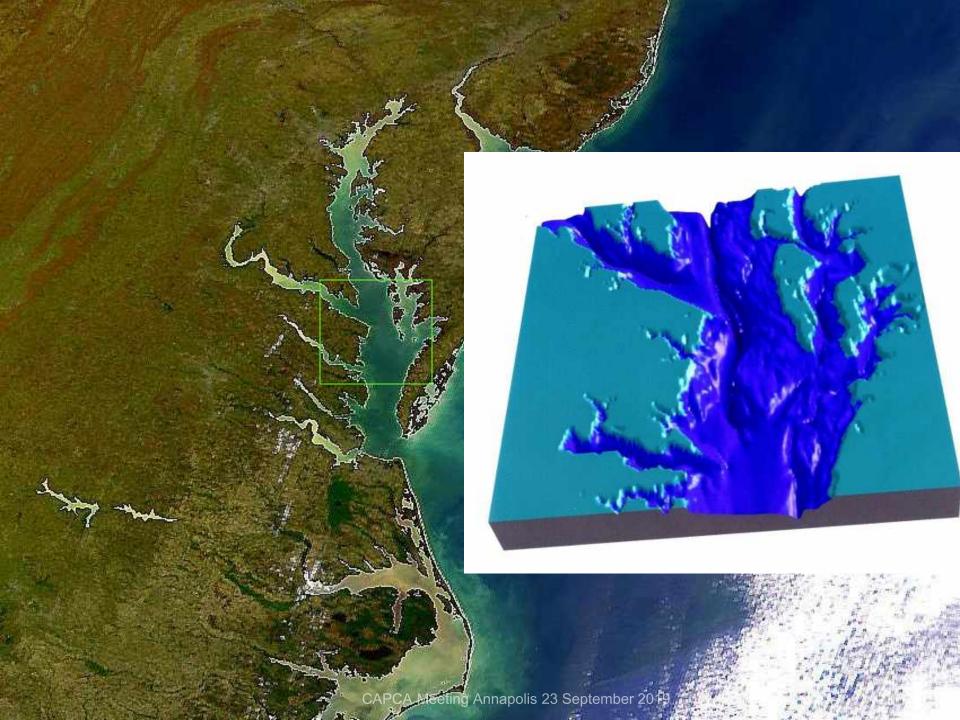
I hope the storm was not to be on you. I know we had reports of 65 mph

winds and many places with 10 inches of rain. Thanks for your input.

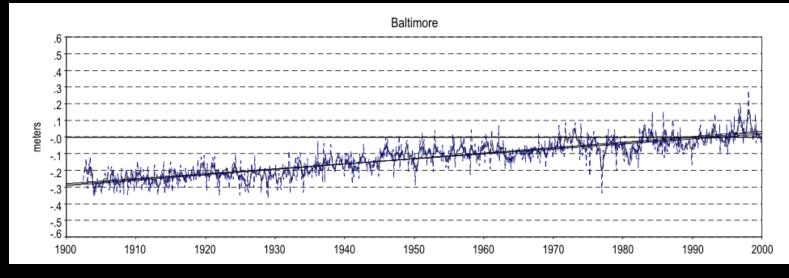
John

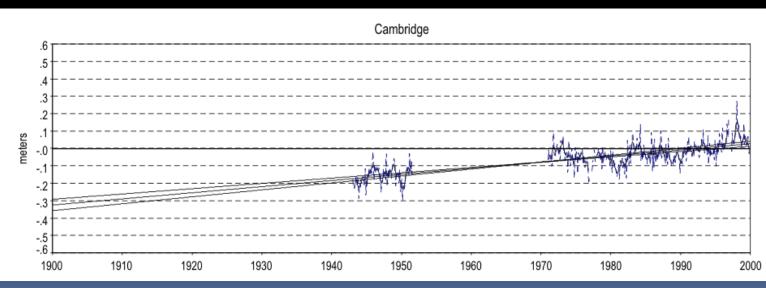
John Billet Science Operations Officer

NWS Wakefield VA 10009 General Mahone Hwy Wakefield, VA 23888 phone 757-899-4200 ext 224

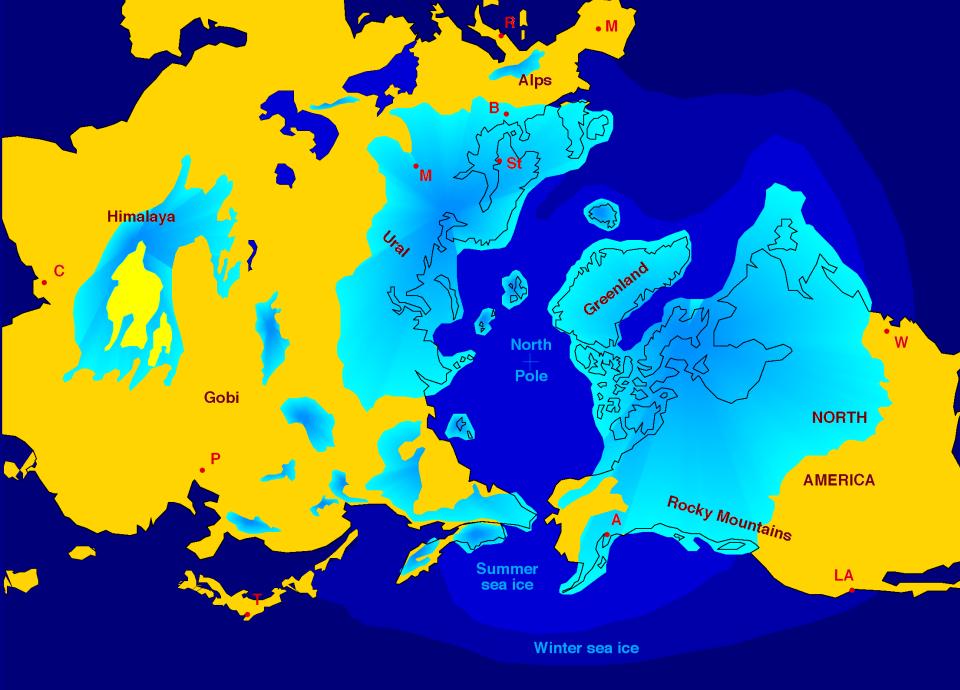


# SEA-LEVEL RISE





CAPCA Meeting Annapolis 23 September 201 NOAA NOS CO-OPS

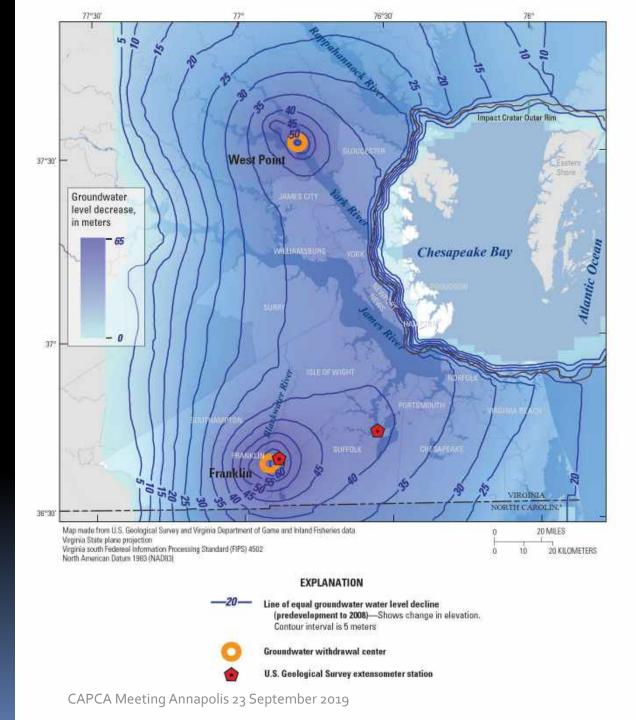


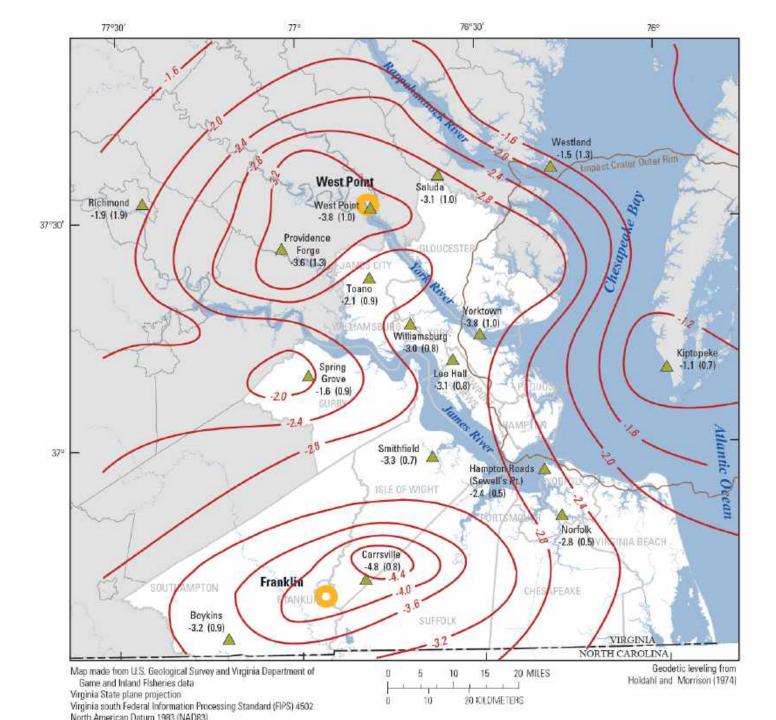
Prepared in cooperation with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Circular 1392

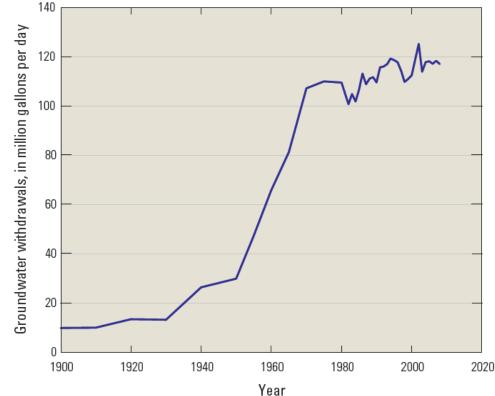
Land Subsidence and Relative Sea-Level Rise in the Southern Chesapeake Bay Region

### Groundwater water-level decreases

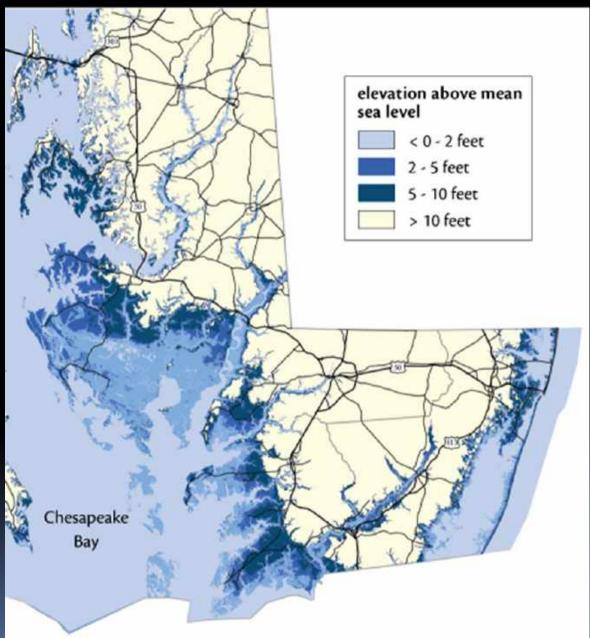




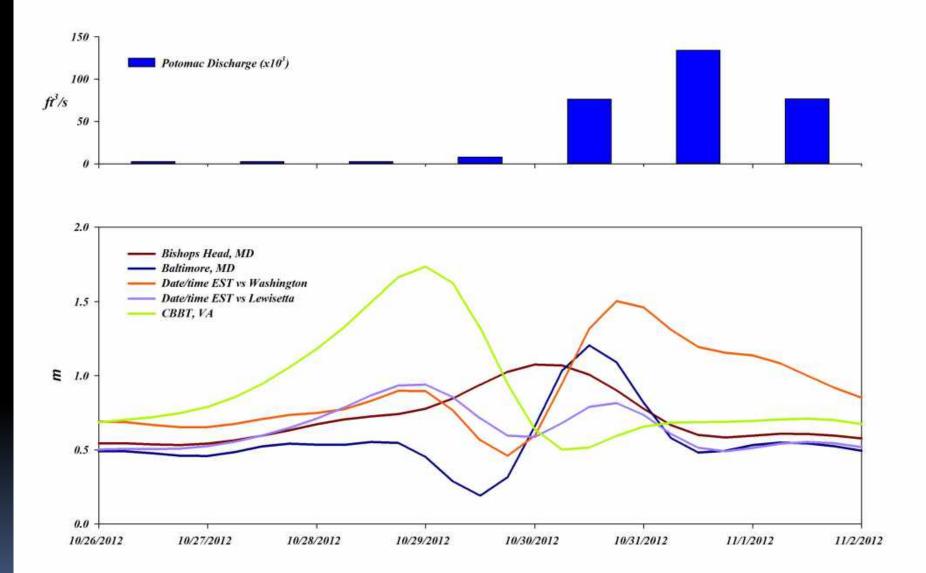
### Groundwater extraction vs. Subsidence



**Figure 15.** Groundwater withdrawal rates from Virginia Coastal Plain aquifers from 1900 to 2008. Modified from Heywood and Pope (2009).







#### SEA LEVEL RISE: TECHNICAL GUIDANCE for DORCHESTER COUNTY



Wanda Diane Cole Maryland Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council

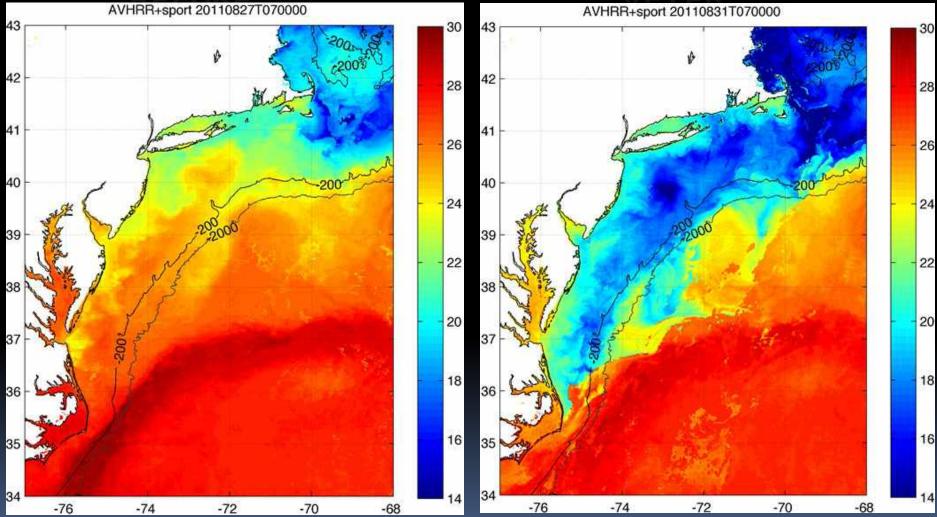
for

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Coastal Zone Management Division March 2008





### AFTER



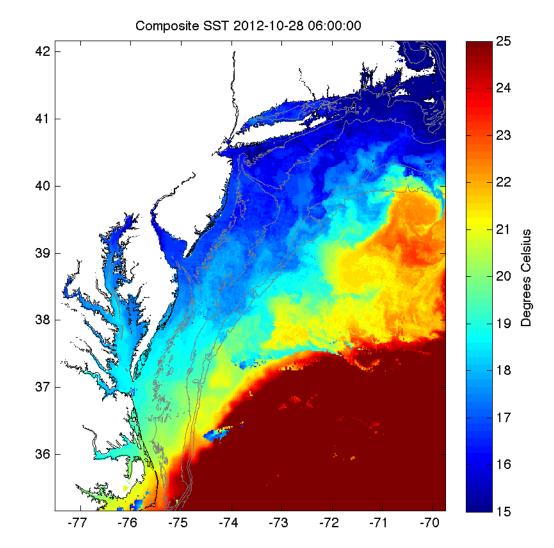
## SANDY: NYC'S PREPARATIONS



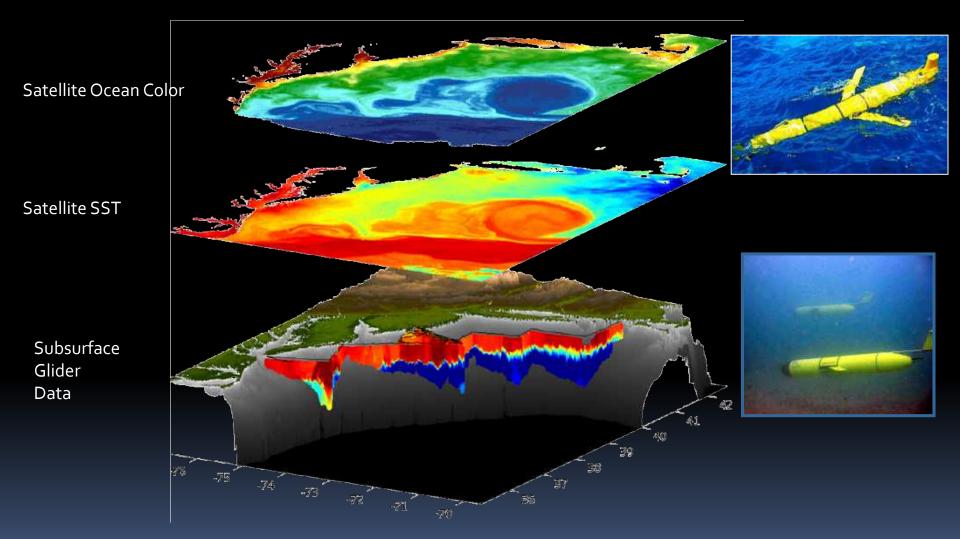
# ... SOME WERE NOT ADEQUATE







## MARACOOS Glider Network











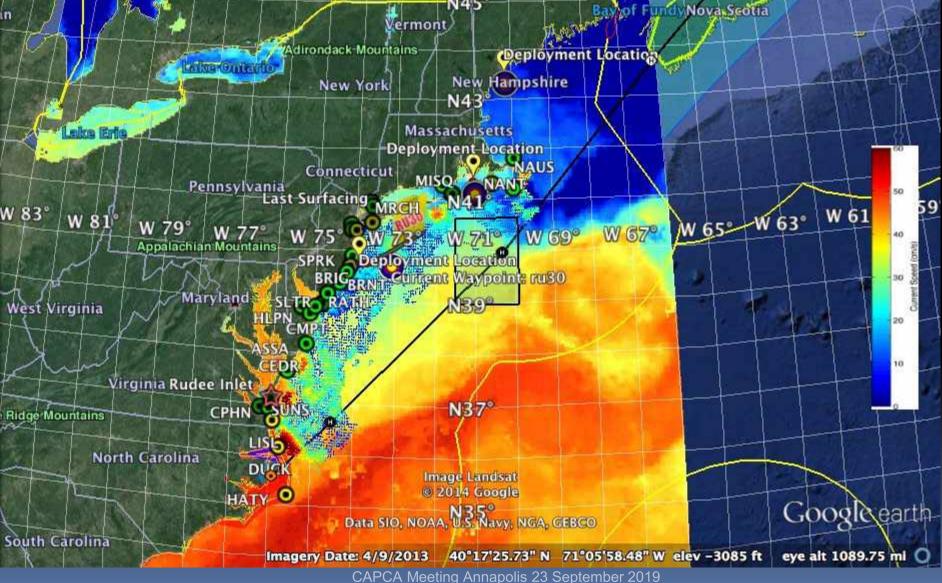


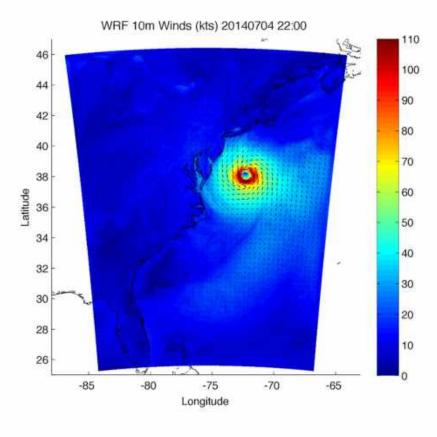
#### Prime Edward Island RUTGERS Hurricane Arthur Georgian Bay

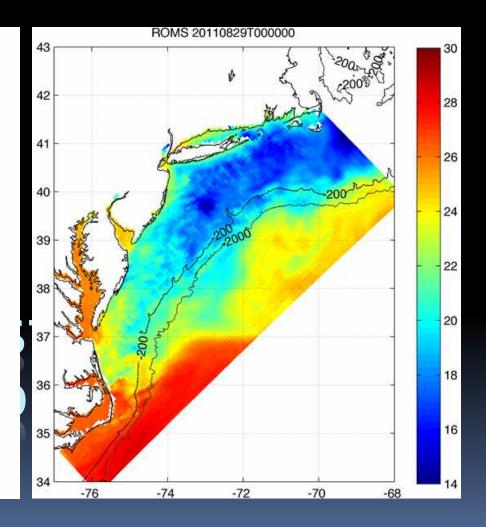
aketHuron

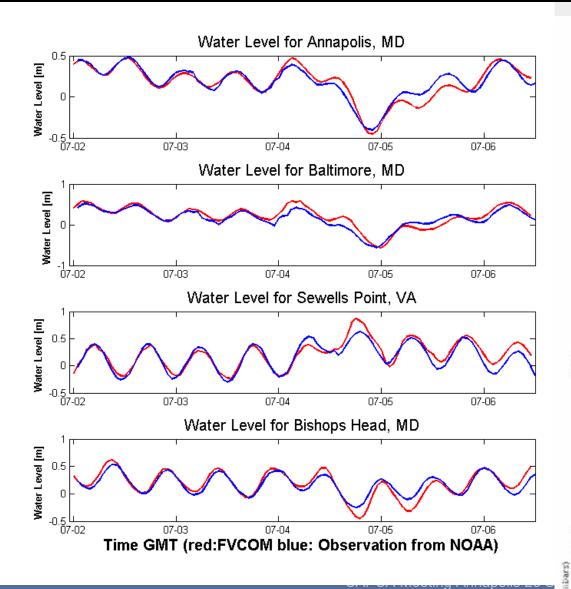
New Brunswic

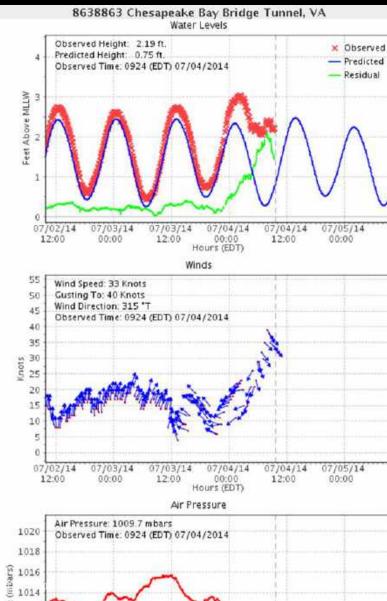
Cape Breton Island











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CAPCA Meeting Annapolity 3 September 2019 00 5 Ocean Information for a Changing World

### ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

# SCIENCE MOVING RAPIDLY

### **CLIMATE CHANGE 2013**

#### The Physical Science Basis

#### **Summary for Policymakers**

WORKING GROUP I CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



CAPCA Meeting Annapolis 23 September 2019

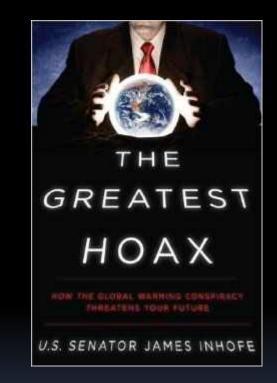
WGI

# IT'S NOT JUST WARMING AND SEA-LEVEL RISE

- Ocean Acidification and Coral Bleaching
- Permafrost melting.
- Global changes in agricultural production.
- Increases in temperature sensitive diseases.
- Disruption of Ecosystems
- Droughts
- Increase in Forest Fires
- Famine
- Mass Extinctions

## A Changing Conversation

- "It's a Hoax..."
- "It's not Happening..."
- "It's just Natural Cycles"
- "I didn't do it..."
- "I'm not a Scientist..."
- "Tax Carbon"



# WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Advocate for the pricing of carbon, through tax, trading, or regulation.
- Support innovation and the deployment of low-carbon technologies.
- Conserve, and help remove barriers to improving energy efficiency
- Educate and advocate: do not leave the decisions solely to scientists, economists, and politicians.
- Support research to eliminate known unknowns and diminish the number of unknown unknowns.
- Watch for new scientific discoveries and evolving understanding of climate future.

# IS THERE ANY GOOD NEWS?

Stern Review:

Tackling climate change is the pro-growth strategy for the longer term, and it can be done in a way that does not cap the aspirations for growth of rich or poor countries. The earlier effective action is taken, the less costly it will be.

#### A SEA LEVEL RISE RESPONSE STRATEGY FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND



Zoë Pfahl Johnson NOAA Coastal Management Fellow

#### for

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Coastal Zone Management Division October, 2000 Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Vulnerability to Climate Change Phase II: Building societal, economic, and ecological resilience









REPORT OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESPONSE AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Selve A PARK IN LOUGH

Scientists Warn of Rising Oceans From Polar Melt By JUSTIN GILLIS and KENNETH CHANG

The depletion of large parts of the ice sheet in West Antarctica is almost certainly unstoppable, with global warming accelerating the disintegration, two groups of scientists reported Monday.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/13/science/earth/collapse-of-parts-ofwest-antarctica-ice-sheet-has-begun-scientists-say.html?emc=eta1

Bipartisan Report Tallies High Toll on Economy From Global Warming By JUSTIN GILLIS

Treasury secretaries dating to the Nixon years backed a new report predicting a heavy loss of coastal properties, a shift of farming northward, and dangerous outdoor conditions because of climate change.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/24/science/report-tallies-toll-oneconomy-from-global-warming.html?emc=eta1

# "I AM NOT A SCIENTIST..."

U.S. | Political Memo Why Republicans Keep Telling Everyone They're Not Scientists

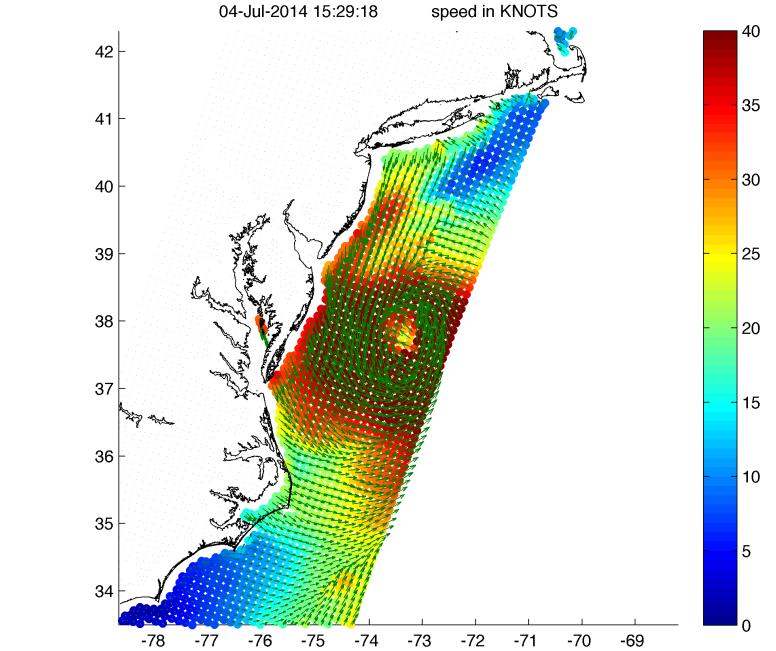
By CORAL DAVENPORT OCT. 30, 2014

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/31/us/why -republicans-keep-telling-everyone-theyrenot-scientists.html?smprod=nytcoreiphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share& r=0

## If You See Something, Say Something By MICHAEL E. MANN

JAN. 17, 2014

should we go full-bore on nuclear power? Invest in and deploy renewable energy — wind, solar and geothermal — on a huge scale? Price carbon emissions through capand-trade legislation or by imposing a carbon tax? Until the public fully understands the danger of our present trajectory, those debates are likely to continue to founder.



METOP ASCAT-Coastal winds ascat\_20140704\_145100\_metopb\_09305\_eps\_o\_coa\_2201\_ovw.l2.nc.gz 04-Jul-2014 15:29:18 speed in KNOTS

### Improving How Scientists Communicate About Climate Change

#### PAGES 106-107

Science meets policy in the most important challenge of our time: global warming. Yet even the most basic facts of this issue (e.g., that the world is warming and that human activity is the dominant cause) are obscure to some decision makers who need to understand them. How can climate scientists be more effective at communicating what they know, how they know it, and how sure they are of it?

The need for scientists to communicate more effectively about climate change is urgent. For people to take climate change seriously and support appropriate responses, they need to feel sure it is happening and is caused primarily by humans. But while the rise in global temperature is a fact (see, e.g., *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)* [2007], which calls the warming "unequivocal"), 56% of Americans believe there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether global warming is even occurring. And while every authoritative scientific body attributes most of time. And know your audience; always use Fahrenheit for Americans.

Clearly state the settled scientific conclusions. Do not overdo "weasel words" and caveats. We know it is warming and we know it is due primarily to human activity. Say so. Saying human activity "contributes" to global warming makes it sound like human activity might be only a minor contributor. It would be more accurate to say "most of the warming...."

Clearly distinguish settled science from the details on which scientists frequently focus their attention. Avoid using the word "debate" in connection with climate change. It reinforces the mistaken notion that there is a debate about basic issues that are settled science. When referring to the whole issue, try something like "the urgent challenge of human-induced climate disruption" rather than "climate debate."

#### Words That Mean Different Things to Scientists and Lay People

Scientists use many words that mean some-

### "CONTINUATION OF HIGH FOSSIL FUEL EMISSIONS, GIVEN CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSEQUENCES, WOULD BE AN ACT OF EXTRAORDINARY WITTING INTERGENERATIONAL INJUSTICE."

#### OPEN CACCESS Freely available online

Review

PLOS ONE

### Assessing "Dangerous Climate Change": Required Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations and Nature

James Hansen<sup>1\*</sup>, Pushker Kharecha<sup>1,2</sup>, Makiko Sato<sup>1</sup>, Valerie Masson-Delmotte<sup>3</sup>, Frank Ackerman<sup>4</sup>, David J. Beerling<sup>5</sup>, Paul J. Hearty<sup>6</sup>, Ove Hoegh-Guldberg<sup>7</sup>, Shi-Ling Hsu<sup>8</sup>, Camille Parmesan<sup>9,10</sup>, Johan Rockstrom<sup>11</sup>, Eelco J. Rohling<sup>12,13</sup>, Jeffrey Sachs<sup>1</sup>, Pete Smith<sup>14</sup>, Konrad Steffen<sup>15</sup>, Lise Van Susteren<sup>16</sup>, Karina von Schuckmann<sup>17</sup>, James C. Zachos<sup>18</sup>

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Abstract: We assess climate impacts of global warming using ongoing observations and paleoclimate data. We use Earth's measured energy imbalance, paleoclimate inertia causes climate to appear to respond slowly to this humanmade forcing, but further long-lasting responses can be locked in.

More than 170 nations have agreed on the need to limit fossil fuel emissions to avoid dametrous human-made climate change as

## SIR WILLIAM CROOKES, 1898

"England, and all civilized countries, stand in deadly peril."

Humans would begin dying of hunger in large numbers somewhere around 1930.

Not enough new farmland, and not enough natural fertilizer: manufacture some.

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# Alchemy

al Jewish Genius, a Daamed Tysown, and the Scientific Discovery That Fed the World hat Easted the Rise of Hitler

# NITROGEN

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THOMAS HAGER

The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change, Royal Society of London October 30, 2006

[Inaction] over the coming few decades could create risks of major disruption to economic and social activity, later in this century and in the next, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century. And it will be difficult or impossible to reverse these changes.... Climate change is the greatest market failure the world has ever seen, and it interacts with other market imperfections.

http://abcnews.go.com/US/north-carolina-bans-latest-science-risingsea-level/story?id=16913782#.VFDrxwREFlw.email

http://wapo.st/100VLQr

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/23/opinion/paul-krugmanconservatives-and-climate-change.html?emc=eta1&\_r=o

The Coming Climate Crash Lessons for Climate Change in the 2008 Recession By HENRY M. PAULSON Jr.JUNE 21, 2014 <u>http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/opinion/sunday/lessons-forclimate-change-in-the-2008-recession.html?emc=eta1</u>



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## **CLIMATE CHANGE 2013**

### The Physical Science Basis

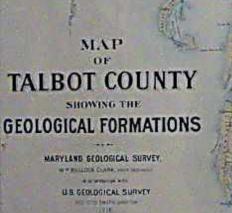
### **Summary for Policymakers**

WORKING GROUP I CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



CAPCA Meeting Annapolis 23 September 2019

WGI



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Scientific Consensus on Climate Change: There's No Debate

ABOUT

## OF CLIMATE SCIENTISTS HAVE CONCLUDED HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING.

Donald Boesch, University of Maryland, is One of Them.

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William Boicourt, University of Maryland

Patricia Delgado at Jog Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Maryland

is One of Them.

is One of Them

Find Out What They are Learning.

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