

Community-Based Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Approach



NOAA Office for Coastal Management
www.coast.noaa.gov

The Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk was developed by NOAA as an approach to help communities assess coastal hazard risks and vulnerabilities. With this approach, communities looked at how hazards were impacting their people, places, and natural resources and identified planning, policies, and actions to help reduce these impacts. This work arose from the NOAA Office for Coastal Management's years of experience working with communities to assess their risks and vulnerabilities, starting in 1998 with the development of the Community Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Tool in partnership with FEMA's Project Impact initiative.

In recent years, with many universities and states developing risk and vulnerability assessments, our agency updated its approach to focus more on community engagement and less on a prescribed way to conduct an assessment. We developed the Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper to help communities kick-start conversations about coastal risks. The mapper enables users to explore maps that show people, places, and natural resources exposed to coastal flood hazards and create a collection of maps to share and communicate about flood exposure. Training is available on this approach.