

## HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (HVA) TOOL

*Jessica Boynton, South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control - Ocean and Coastal Resource Management*

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (SCDHEC) - Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) Office is presenting a new coastal hazard assessment tool called the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA).

The goal of the HVA is to provide a geospatial tool that can be used by federal, state, and local coastal managers and scientists to improve comprehensive and hazard mitigation planning, post-disaster redevelopment, as well as determine areas best suited for restoration and mitigation.

The HVA is an analysis tool that evaluates coastal hazard vulnerability from four hazards; storm surge, shoreline change rate (erosion or accretion), flooding, and social/economic vulnerability (SoVI®). The final product is a vulnerability index on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the least risk, 5 being the most risk). In addition to this composite product, HVA also produces products for Inundation (surge + flooding), Inundation + SoVI®, and Shoreline Change (rate, plus temporal and spatial variations). Users can examine each hazard component to see what has the most impact in any given area.

The tool is open source and available free to any users. SCDHEC – OCRM, in collaboration with other agency partners, will be running this tool, and rolling out final results for all South Carolina coastal counties in 2016.