



Let's talk about sea level rise



11 June 2025 – 10:30 am - 1:30 pm CEST



Inspire Area – European Digital Ocean Pavilion



United Nations Ocean Conference 2025

Abstract

TV documentary extracts: “When oceans threaten cities”: the case of the Netherlands

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Today, twenty-two megacities around the world are home to more than ten million people – and fifteen of them are located by the sea! Hurricanes, storms, tempests and floods - but also quieter but equally devastating threats such as salt or erosion are affecting coastal megacities which are now up against the wall. We have chosen three emblematic cities on three different continents: New York, Rotterdam and Singapore. Cities that each face unique problems and must revisit their relationship with water in order to survive on the long run. In 50 years, all surge barriers in the world will be out of order. The best experts are engaged in a real race against time with the elements. Will it be necessary to close New York's bay? Or the North Sea to protect the Atlantic coast? What solutions will then remain for coastal cities? Would moving on water be the solution?

Several extracts from the TV documentary “When oceans threaten cities” will be played, resulting in 11 min focusing mostly on the case of Rotterdam and the Netherlands. The extracts are framing the issue of megalopolis facing sea level rise, on the 1953 flood in the Netherlands leading the Delta Works, the monitoring of Dutch coastal dikes and the need to raise them and potentially build new ones, testing new solutions such as these based on nature, and asking ourselves how we want to live in a world with rising sea levels.

In English, with French subtitles.

When Oceans Threaten Cities / Quand la mer menace les villes, TV documentary

Producer : Tangerine Productions.

With the participation of France Télévisions.

Film director: Laurence Thiriat. Authors Thomas Marlier & Laurence Thiriat.

Scientific advisor: Angélique Melet

Year of production: 2022

