





Let's talk about sea level rise

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Abstract

Toward a European service supporting adaptation to sea-level rise in Europe?

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Sea level rise is an unavoidable consequence of climate change whose magnitude and rate will depend strongly on greenhouse gas emissions over the coming decade and beyond. Mitigation efforts today are crucial, as they determine the time available for coastal adaptation. Adaptation is necessary too due to ongoing and committed sea-level changes. To minimize sea level rise induced damages, economic and environmental losses, anticipating committed sea-level rise, designing adaptation plans and implementing strategies is necessary. Coastal climate services are now able to provide actionable knowledge to support these adaptation efforts. Powered by the EU DTO, they can inform decision making to adapt coastal zones to respond to climate change, while creating opportunities for human activities, biodiversity and well-being. This is demonstrated here using an interactive tool, based on the platform developed within the H2020 Coastal Climate Core Service (CoCliCo) project. This application provides local information on people and buildings at risk from sea level rise, based on selected integrated scenarios (climate change and exposure scenarios, time horizons and extreme event return periods). This information informs – but does not replace – the decisions made by coastal stakeholders to respond to sea-level rise, which can range from protection to relocation and accommodation. The demonstrator shown here will require institutional and policy support to become part of the portfolio of climate services in Europe.

