

## **NOAA'S NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL TEAM WORKS TO ENHANCE VISUALIZATION OF COASTAL INUNDATION ALONG THE NEW ENGLAND COAST**

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Coastal New England is one of the most densely populated coastal areas in the nation that is frequently threatened by harsh, extra-tropical storms or "Northeasters". Notable Nor'easters include the devastating blizzard of 1978, the Perfect Storm of 1991, and the more recent Patriots Day storm in 2007.

Currently, the effectiveness of warning procedures for storm surge in New England is limited and is communicated through broad-brush coastal flood warnings. These warnings are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) and often cover hundreds of miles of coastline. Previous NOAA assessments indicated a need to better visualize coastal inundation impacts in graphical, geographic information system-(GIS) based formats. NOAA's North Atlantic regional team is working with two pilot communities in Maine and Massachusetts to develop these enhanced coastal inundation visualizations. The project includes the local NWS weather forecast offices, community stakeholders, and coastal zone management groups. The final product will include "map libraries" of still-water inundation layers, inundation depth grids, historical storm water level data, and FEMA special flood hazard area layers. The high-resolution map libraries are being incorporated into experimental mapping applications utilizing the Google Maps API and will be embedded in the local NWS weather forecast office websites. The experimental mapping applications will allow NWS customers to quickly ascertain whether or not they are in a threatened area and to clearly depict both the most probable outcome and the potential worst case scenarios.

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