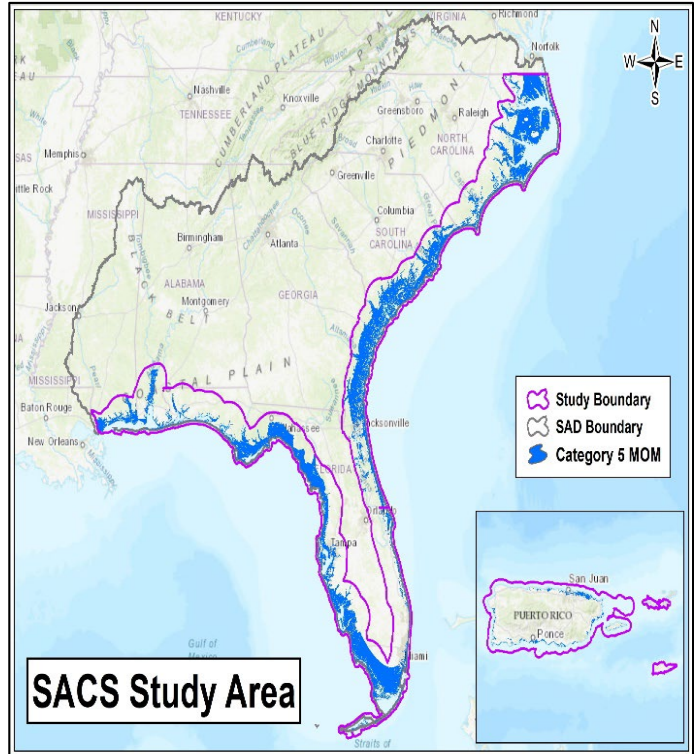




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

South Atlantic Coastal Study

- Study was authorized by Section 1204 of WRDA 2016
- Study will identify coastal risk and vulnerabilities due to sea level rise in tidally influenced areas throughout South Atlantic Division
- Final Report scheduled to be transmitted to USACE HQ on 18 Aug 2022



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1, 3, and 7

DATE: 01 APRIL 2022

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Section 1204 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016.
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** The South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) includes over 65,000 miles of tidally influenced coastal areas (including back bays) within the boundaries of the USACE South Atlantic Division, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The study will identify the

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risks and vulnerabilities of those areas to increased hurricane and storm damage as a result of sea level rise and identify actionable strategies to buy down that risk.

3. **STUDY PURPOSE:** The SACS will be designed to help local communities better prepare, absorb, recover and adapt to changing conditions, becoming more resilient with a better understanding of how future flood risks may evolve in the face of climate change, demographic shifts, and environmental conditions. The study will apply lessons learned from the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), a Congressional response and precedent-setting vulnerability and flood risk-reduction study completed for the north Atlantic coastline in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. In addition to regional analyses of coastal vulnerability, the SACS will identify initial measures/costs that can address vulnerabilities with emphasis on regional sediment management practices to sustainably maintain or enhance current levels of storm protection.

Actionable strategies to buy down existing and future coastal risk will enable individuals, local, state and Federal governments, and non-governmental organizations to make better, risk-informed decisions supporting increased resiliency among coastal communities. These strategies will be founded upon a regional assessment of coastal risk and vulnerability, and contain recommendations to reduce risk that leverage existing authorities, identify innovative new partnering opportunities, and assess potential structural as well as non-structural approaches for streamlined follow-on implementation by the appropriate entity.

The study team includes discipline leads and team members from each USACE District in the study area, as well as subject matter experts from across USACE, academia, partner agencies, stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. This creative collaboration will support the integrated development of effective risk reduction strategies to promote adaptation and resilience. An extensive Outreach program is underway as the study team seeks to engage all interested stakeholders and non-federal partners in the development of study recommendations. The study is a Corps South Atlantic Division regional effort.

4. **STUDY PRODUCTS:** Study products include an updated, fully coordinated regional risk assessment that will provide the foundation for proactively identifying conceptual measures and actionable strategies to better prepare the region before the next major event impacts the coast. These sustainable practices will highlight regional sediment management opportunities to leverage existing project/program actions at all implementation levels, achieving immediate efficiencies in addressing current and future storm risk. Leveraging existing actions will provide a real-time enhancement of the region's capability to withstand, respond to and recover from future events.

The report will also include products that will provide useful information and data that all stakeholders can use to assess and address risk: state/territory appendices, wave and water level data through the Coastal Hazards System, and focus area damage estimation tools and assessments. The state appendix for North Carolina will identify high risk focus areas for

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detailed analysis and tailor implementable strategies to buy down risk in the face of changing future conditions. North Carolina state appendix will serve as a vehicle for leveraging collaboration in three focus areas in the state; 1) Dare County and Ocracoke Island, 2) Carteret and Craven Counties, and 3) Brunswick and New Hanover Counties. This will allow USACE to work with stakeholders in North Carolina to address risk and vulnerabilities specific to the focus areas. The State and local governments in North Carolina will be provided easy access for the first time to consolidated data on sand borrow source locations and available quantities. This will be provided at an online site through the SACS Sand Availability and Needs Determination effort. Additionally, the state appendix will provide opportunities to leverage the USACE CAP, PAS or other programs to be pursued for the benefit of the State.