

Sea Level Rise and Delaware's Society & Economy

Housing

- Homes within low-lying areas along the Delaware River and Bay and Delaware's Inland Bays could be subject to repetitive flooding as a result of sea level rise
- Approximately three percent of Delaware's 411,000 homes could be inundated by 3.3 feet (1.0 meter) of sea level rise.
- Manufactured home communities in Sussex County are particularly at risk; greater than 30,000 manufactured homes in that county could be affected by 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) of sea level rise.



Delaware suburban neighborhood

Tony Pratt

Businesses

- Commercial and recreational fishing operations and water-based tourism businesses will be particularly affected, as they are by necessity, located in waterfront areas.
- Of the 51,000 commercial business licenses in Delaware, two percent have addresses located within areas that could be inundated by 3.3 feet (1.0 meter) of sea level rise.
- Sea level rise could result in reduced accessibility to customers and added expenses for flood protection and repairs.



Financial Centers along the Christina River

Delaware Coastal Programs

Industry and Manufacturing

- Industrial and manufacturing facilities provide goods and materials to the region, and also provide jobs and tax revenues.
- Twelve of Delaware's industrial and manufacturing facilities are within areas that could be inundated by 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) of sea level rise, but the operations of many other facilities may be affected by the impact of rising water on their associated structures including wastewater treatment lagoons, intake pipes and docks.
- An increase in sea level at these facilities may lead to costly repairs and upgrades, loss of production or eventual abandonment of some sites.



Manufacturing along the banks of the Christina River

Delaware Coastal Programs

Historical and Archeological Resources

- Archeological and historical sites are an important cultural resource and key to understanding Delaware's past.
- Three percent of the over 14,000 historical sites catalogued by the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office are within areas that could be inundated by 3.3 feet (1.0 meter) of sea level rise.
- These sites could be permanently impacted due to inundation, but rising water tables damage archeological sites well before they are lost to permanent flooding.



Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island

Chris Bennett/Delaware State Parks

Recreation

- Outdoor recreational opportunities abound in Delaware, but could be significantly impacted by sea level rise.
- Twenty-two percent of the State's 24,000 acres of parkland is within areas that could be inundated by 3.3 feet (1.0 meter) of sea level rise
- Inundation of parkland could result in fewer outdoor recreational opportunities for citizens, loss of coastal access points and potential loss of tourism revenue.



Sunbathers at Cape Henlopen State Park

Delaware Coastal Programs

Additional Resources Analyzed

Active Recreational Areas
Open Space Areas
Boat Ramps
State Historic Sites
National Register Sites

US Census
Commercial Addresses
Business Licenses
Toxic Release Inventory Sites
Residential Addresses

Facilities permitted under the Coastal Zone Act
Acreage of Actively Farmed Lands
Acreages of Farmsteads and Related Buildings
Future Development Areas
Acreage of Confined Feeding Operations