Coastal infrastructure resilience to extreme events: Geoscience in planning, design, and construction

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BUILDING THE MODERN WORLD:
Geoscience that Underlies Our Economic Prosperity
Geoscience and the U.S. Economy Briefing Series

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES
COASTAL INSTITUTE
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JUNE 12, 2017

THINK BIG WE DO

Maritime Transportation Infrastructure
Critical, complex, constrained

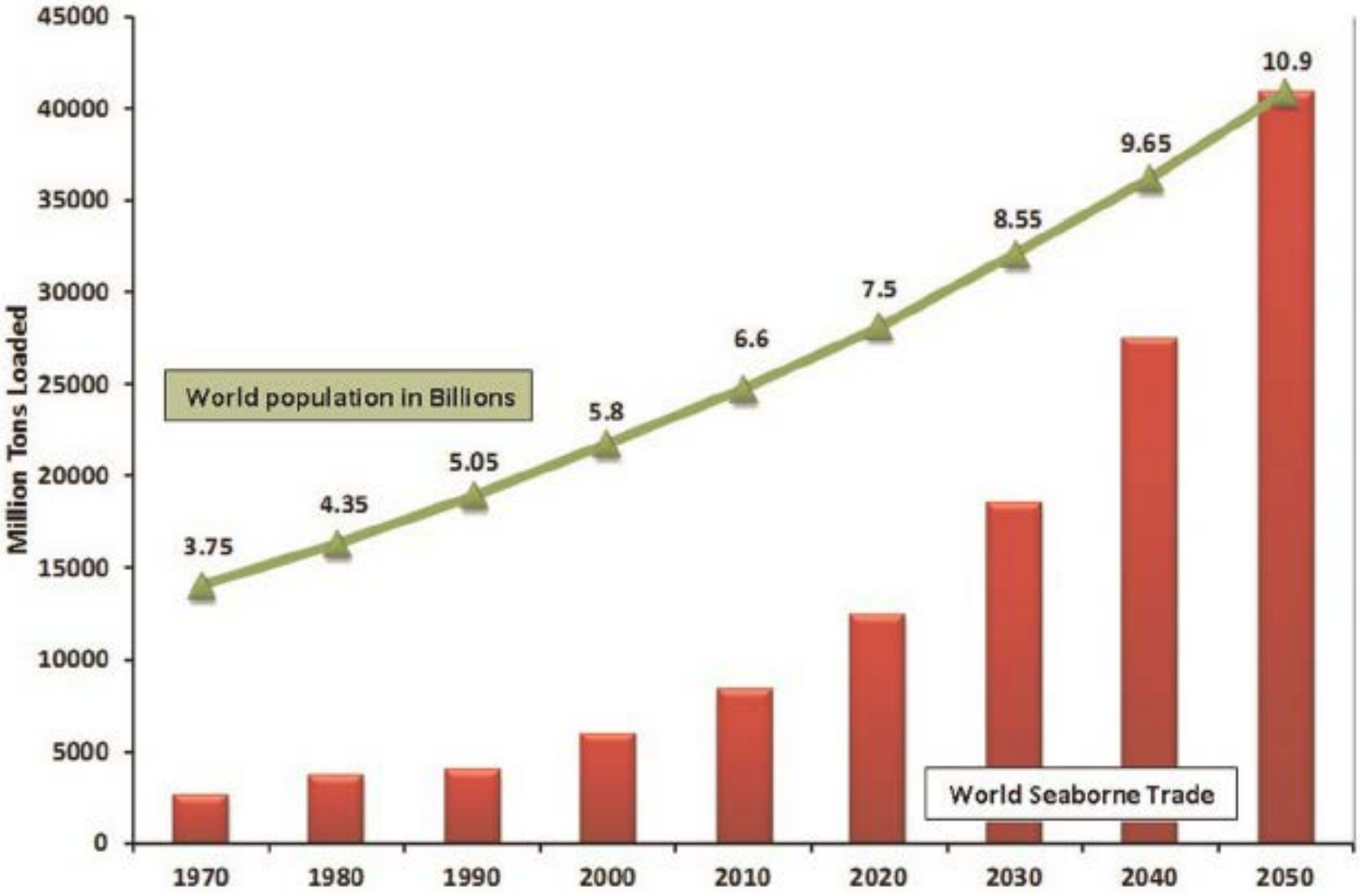
Critical – 23M U.S. jobs; 99% volume of U.S. overseas trade[1]

Complex – Multiple stakeholders across space and time

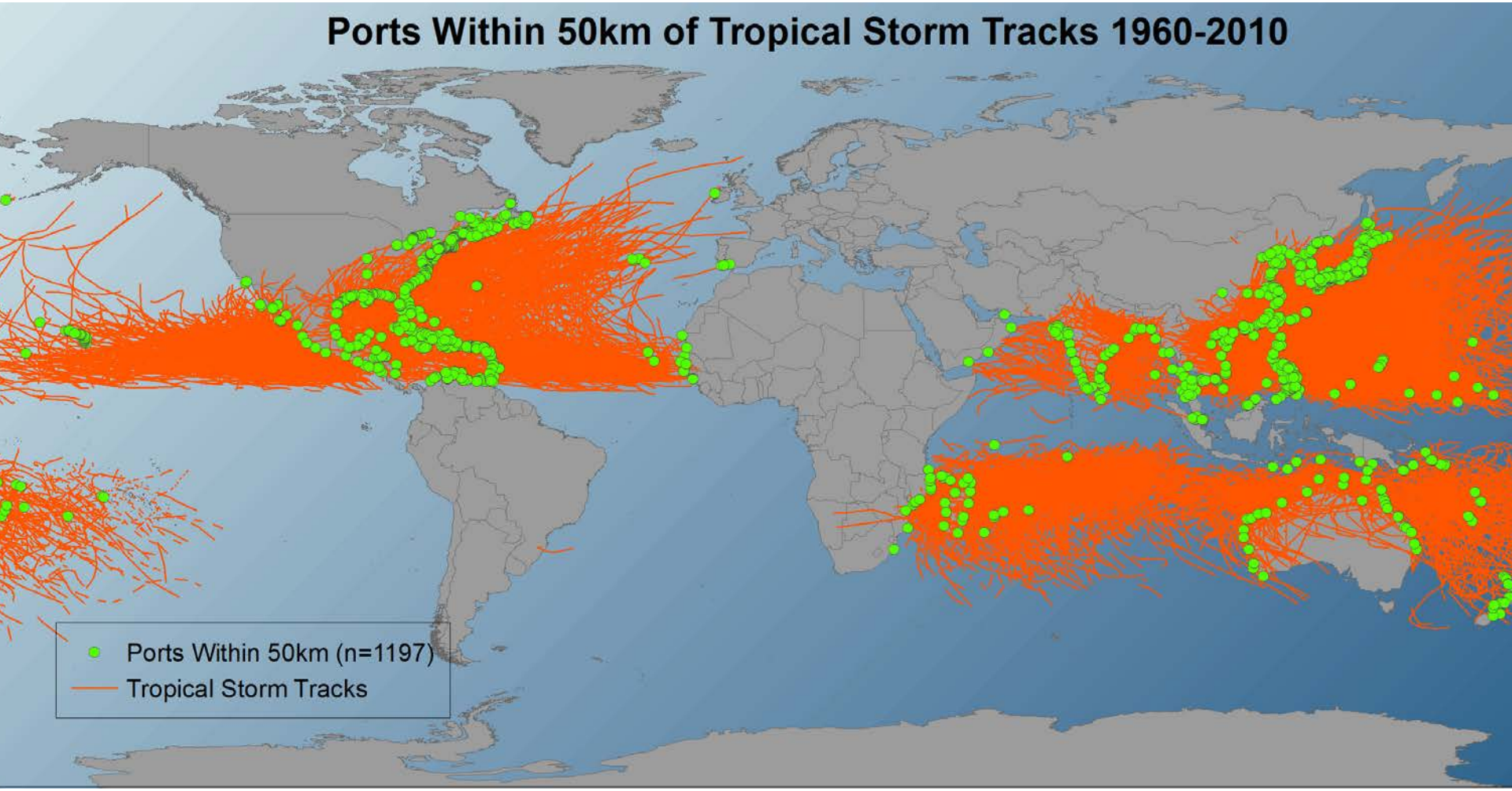
Constrained - Dependent on specific and environmentally-sensitive locations

1. MARAD. 2016. "Marine Transportation System (MTS)." Maritime Administration. https://www.marad.dot.gov/ports/marine-transportation-system-mts/.

Global population & shipping projections

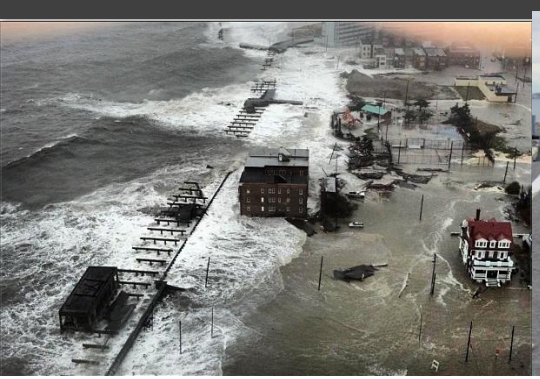


Elgohary, et al. 2014

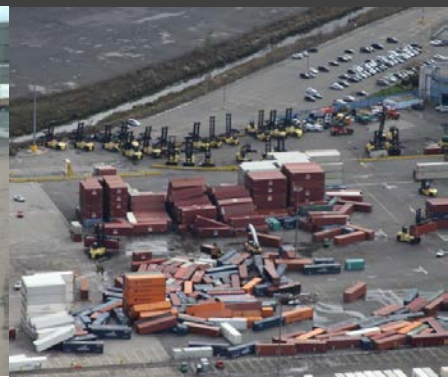


Becker, A., et al. (*2013*)

Long term challenges







Doubling of Cat 4 and 5 tropical storms

1-in-100 year storm event of today

Sea levels to rise 0.7 – 1.9 meters by 2100

1-in-3 year storm event of 2100

Inland flooding

Hurricane Sandy photos courtesy Mary Lee Clanton, Port of NYNJ

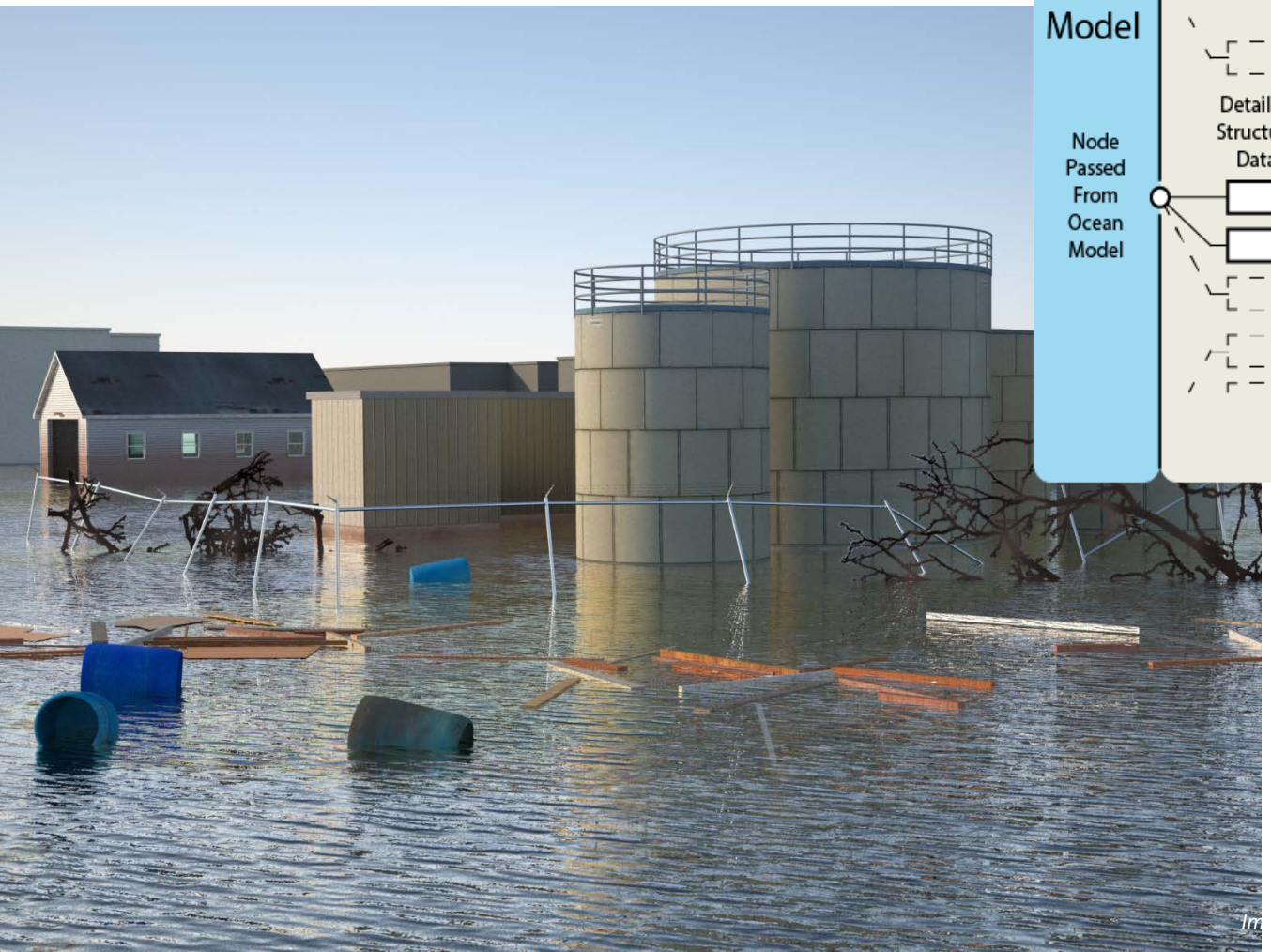
(Bender et al. 2010; Grinsted et al. 2013; Rahmstorf 2010; Emanuel 2013; IPCC 2012; Tebaldi et al. 2012)

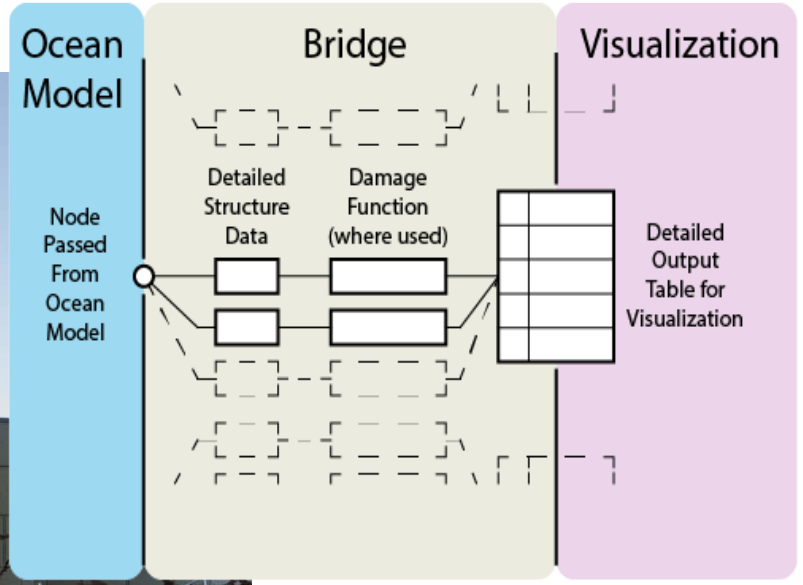
How do Geo and Ocean Science Inform Planning?

How do we understand the risks?

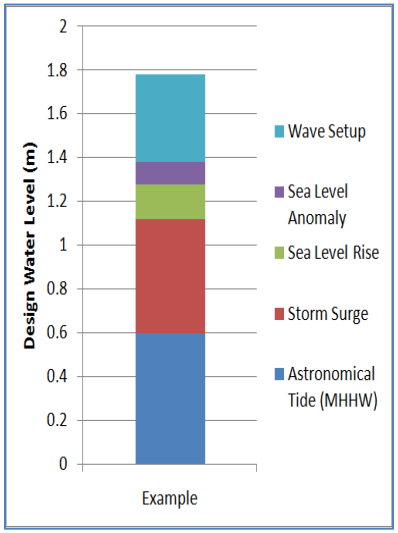
Connecting hydrodynamic, wind, and hydrologic modeling to cities and towns

- Scenario-based planning and real time forecasting of storm damage
- Engaging and recognizable representations of complex phenomena





Construction and design - How high, how strong?



- Mean sea level
- Tide amplitude
- Thermal expansion
- Climate change (GSLR)
- Storm surge (including wave set-up)
- Wave run-up (dynamic component)

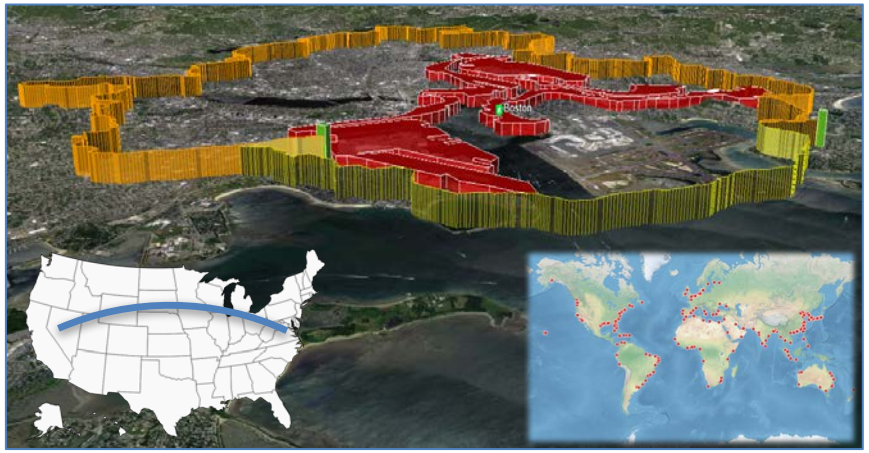
Protect

Elevate

Design for submersion

Photo from Alabama State Port Authority

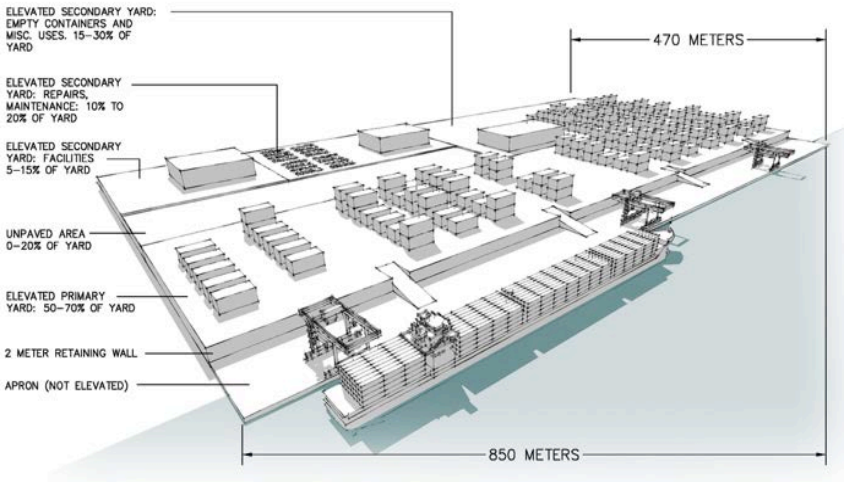
Resource requirements on a local and global scale?



Becker et al, 2016

Materials to protect 221 of world's 3500+ seaports:

- 2,600km of structure *(D.C. to Vegas)*
- 143M cubic meters of concrete *(52 Hoover Dams)*
- 308M cubic meters of sand and stone *(approx. vol. of Great Wall of China)*



Becker et al, In Review

Cost to elevate 100 U.S. coastal ports' infrastructure by 2 meters

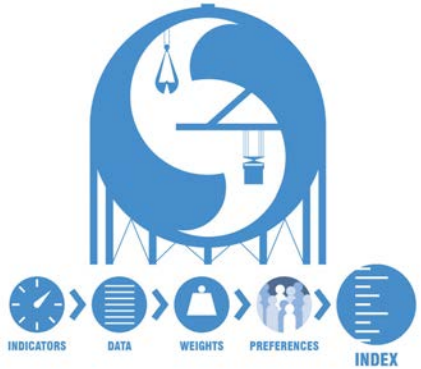
= $64B - $85B

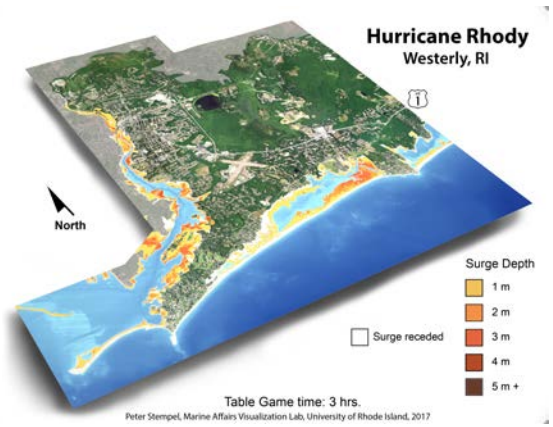
Coastal infrastructure resilience to extreme events: Geoscience in planning, design, and construction

- Understand context & risks (locally, nationally, *and* globally)
- Engage stakeholders
- Find consensus
- Design wisely for future conditions

Protect/enhance quality of life for this and future generations

Questions?





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