

Climate, Weather and Tourism in North Carolina

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“What is missing is an institution devoted to bringing <scientists, coastal managers, boundary-spanning institutions, and political leadership> together on the question of adaptation to climate change. The National Sea Grant College Program with its state chapters may be one such institution to play this role... Nationally, attention to and fiscal support in the Sea Grant Program for outreach on climate change and coastal impacts has varied considerably over the past decade, but attention to climate change impacts is resurging at the federal level at present.”

-Tribbia and Moser, 2008
Environmental Science & Policy

Sea Level Rise

Coastal Erosion

Degraded beaches reduce tourist incentives to visit
Increased need for beach renourishment



Serendipity

Salt Water Intrusion

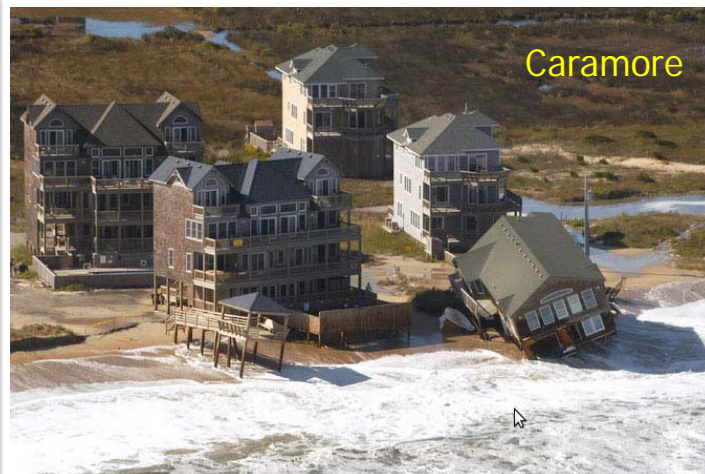
Habitat loss (marshes, etc.) reduces ecotourism

Sea Level Rise & Erosion



Photo by Michael Halminski

This large rental house on Sea Haven Drive in Rodanthe was knocked off its pilings by the ocean surge on Sunday, Oct. 19. This photo was taken Monday morning.



Site of filming "Nights in Rodanthe"

Insurance issues

Temperature, pH Changes

Changing migration/distribution patterns

Plants/animals moving into new areas

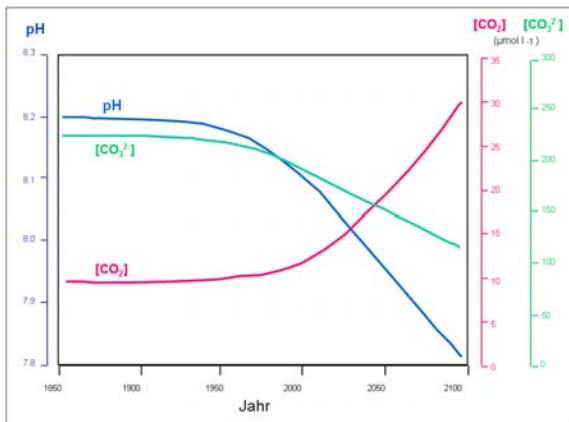
This could be good or bad

Species loss

Invasive species

Recreational & Commercial fishing affected

Ocean acidification



Reduction of the pH in the oceans through an increase in atmospheric CO₂ content (in this case, without any reduction in CO₂ emissions). The result of this is a reduction in the carbonate saturation point (CO₃²⁻), leading to problems for organisms with calcareous skeletons.



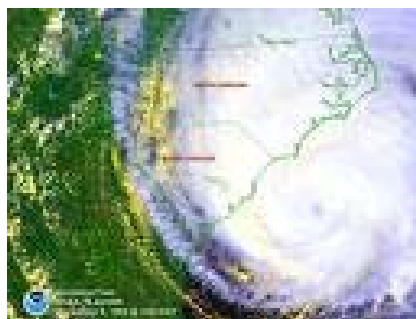
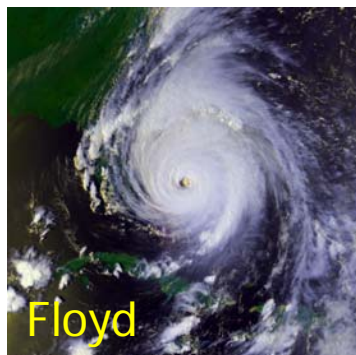
pteropod



Corals

Changing patterns in tropical systems

Different frequency and/or intensity of storms
Some famous NC hurricanes



How it might affect tourism

Tourists choose not to visit the coast

Lost revenue

Evacuating large numbers of tourists

Insurance



Where to buy waterfront property



Opportunity

New and changing opportunities for tourism

Someone else's loss may be your gain

Thank You

www.ncseagrants.org

