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Connecticut Coastal Hazards Data Portal and Visualization Tool

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Damages to Connecticut's coast resulting from hazards such as severe storms and flooding are relatively large due to high levels of development and population in the coastal zone. In the future, the effects of global warming, including stronger storms and sea level rise, will likely increase the frequency and severity of flooding, erosion and resultant damages. However, Connecticut lacks a comprehensive hazards plan specific to the coast. The Connecticut Coastal Hazards Data Portal and Visualization Tool is a living website that provides foundational infrastructure for a comprehensive coastal hazards management plan by centralizing, analyzing, and displaying information about coastal hazards and coastal hazards management for a wide audience, including coastal managers, regional planners, municipal officials, property owners and the general public. In addition to information about coastal hazards, mitigation, preparation, response and recovery, the impacts of population growth, development, and global warming, and links to relevant websites, government documents, and scientific reports, the website contains an interactive map and visualization tool that features user-generated inundation modeling. Two models incorporating high-resolution LIDAR elevation and bathymetry data are used to create different inundation scenarios on the interactive map. One model estimates the extent of inundation across various scenarios of sea level rise. Another model estimates the extent of inundation from storm surges associated with various hurricane scenarios. In addition to the output from the inundation models, the interactive map includes other spatial data such as orthophotography, land-use, historic shorelines, critical infrastructure, and FEMA flood zones.

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