**Table # 1**

**Panel 1, Physical Threat**

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**Moderator: Muge Akpinar-Elci**

***Question 1:***What information do decision makers need from sea level rise and extreme event researchers?

***Answer/Notes:***

Projections of future recurrence intervals of extreme floods. Information about a 100 yr storm becoming 10 yr storm—at the local and regional levels. Studies exist, but they are hard to find and vary in quality.

Critical infrastructure and asset connectivity to make master planning decisions.

A broad range of possible events at difference sea levels. There is a disconnect between non-scientist and the scientific community. More work needs to exist that demonstrates the “worst case” scenario and the “most likely” scenario. That makes it difficult for policy makers to really know what information matters. There needs to be better and more concise information.

How does this really affect humans and their lives? There needs to be a public health perspective.

Are the impacts of events growing and how do we adapt and change?

People do not understand their personal risks—flood insurance, flood plain for building. Projections of future risk may allow people more access to information about risk. More flood plain mapping.

More studies on adaptability of horizontal construction vs vertical construction, so more about utilities, etc. Infrastructure is expected to last much longer and the buildings an locations are dependent on existing infrastructure.

***Question 2:*** How familiar were you with the scientific information you heard?, What do you think is the level of public awareness about this information?  (If public awareness is low) How do we improve public awareness about these issues?

***Answer/Notes:***

Even if people are aware perhaps they are not open to believing what the see. We can’t change individual people, but rather than just talking about basic climate change and risk to people may be better.

Public has to be part of the solution.

People need to know whether they neighborhood or region is part of an adaptability plan or adaptation plan, etc. If they aren’t aware of this, then they won’t be able to adopt the right strategy to cope with sea level rise.

What is the consistency of message? It is inconsistent. Who do people trust? Government officials? Neighbors? It has to be people they trust. Party leaders, perhaps. So the message has to be consistent and has to come from people they trust. This will put people on the same path even when they come from different groups.

***Question 3:*** What is the biggest challenge to communicating the different levels of sea level rise and increased flooding?

***Answer/Notes:***

Pluralization, politically. NC tried to outlaw sea level rise. Criticized for trying to jumpr start the policy without flushing out the science, and without adovcation of the scientific findings. Needs to be some way to show economic benefits and get the private sector on board quickly to show that profits can be made, how jobs can be created.

There needs to be an economic perspective. The debate needs to shift from being about whether climate change exists to what do we do now about climate change.

In NC, the Dot has plans for elevating bridges and rebuilding roads, the problems is that they don’t claim is it because of sea level rise or climate change.

The problem is the topic is so politically charged. Any governmental department, in the current political climate, has to be careful about what they say.

***General Question:***Given what you've learned during this panel, what types of collaborative research and action might be most useful in affecting adaptive policy?

Invest people the community in this decision. If you can invest even the opponents of climate research, people still need to see the value in protecting their communities. People need to change the discussion. Communication is most important. People will believe when their flood insurance policies triple.

Using GIS to collaborate across disciplines. Often GIS is not used well collaboratively, but it can be.

Research collaboration needs to be less limited. Even though studies are funded by the Navy, studies should not just be limited to bases, it should also include the surrounding city. Money needs to be allocated.

Local governments could partner with each other across the US coast lines to share information and strategies to create a communication plan.

**Answer/Notes:**

*Consensus Points:*

*The nature of the debate has to shift from whether or not climate change exists to what should be done now. This is difficult, of course, because of the opponents and because of the political nature of the debate.*

*Scientists need to make studies more accessible to policy makers and to the public.*

*Message about local awareness needs to be consistent and come from a trusted source for people to believe it.*

*Takeaways/Action Items:*

*Often, interdisciplinary projects are not fruitful or productive because the science may contradict the qualitative findings of a study. There needs to be more collaboration, of course, but more specifically, there needs to be more cooperative collaboration.*

*Public awareness efforts need to be linked to economic benefits both for individuals and for the private sector.*

*Points of dissent:*

*N/A*

*Miscellaneous/Interesting:*