

ONE FOOT OUT OF THE BATHTUB

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Moving communities from knowledge and awareness to implementation is an important step of mitigating sea level rise. Many coastal communities are looking at their infrastructure and identifying areas at risk to develop Capital Improvement Plans. The approach taken to identify the at-risk areas is using the bathtub model of sea level rise. In this approach, inundation is assumed to occur at a constant elevation. One way to potentially improve the inundation assessment is to evaluate changes to the nearshore wetlands using the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM). The SLAMM model evaluates the process that involve wetland conversions and shoreline modifications as a result of sea level rise. Applying SLAMM as part of the inundation assessment can help to identify at-risk areas. Our objective is to use SLAMM along with current sea level rise projections around example marshes in New England and compare against the bathtub approach of inundation.