

1

00:00:01,200 --> 00:00:15,000

[USFWS video theme music]

2

00:00:18,700 --> 00:00:22,500

[rising sound of crashing waves]

3

00:00:22,600 --> 00:00:25,400

[voice of Kevin] Here on Bull's Island at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge,

4

00:00:25,500 --> 00:00:29,500

we're experiencing sea level rise and climate change right now.

5

00:00:30,300 --> 00:00:33,700

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge was originally established

6

00:00:33,800 --> 00:00:38,100

for the protection of migratory birds, and so we manage these impoundments

7

00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:42,300

for migratory birds. Waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds --

8

00:00:43,500 --> 00:00:49,200

the failure of that levee will lead to a wholesale transition in habitats across

9

00:00:49,300 --> 00:00:52,700

the island into a more saltwater-tolerant area like salt marsh,

10

00:00:52,800 --> 00:00:57,900

which could be good for certain species, but a lot of species that we're managing for

11

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:02,700

and have been managing for for the past 90 years or so, those are going to change,

12

00:01:02,800 --> 00:01:06,800

and it's that change that we must adapt to.

13

00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:08,700

[sound of water]

14

00:01:09,300 --> 00:01:11,700

[Voice of Raye] The good news is that this is a living laboratory

15

00:01:11,800 --> 00:01:15,900

for scientists to come and study these kinds of phenomenon on the coast.

16

00:01:16,600 --> 00:01:18,400

We know that sea level rise is an enormous problem for

17

00:01:18,500 --> 00:01:22,500

the Fish and Wildlife Service and agencies that manage natural habitat.

18

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,700

What we can learn from that is how those changes affect the species

19

00:01:26,800 --> 00:01:33,200

that use the habitat, and how much impact it has on those populations in the flyway, such as

20

00:01:33,300 --> 00:01:39,400

shorebirds, sea birds, waterfowl, wading birds, and certainly the huge population of

21

00:01:39,500 --> 00:01:44,400

alligators that we have in Jack's Pond on Bull's Island.

22

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:49,000

[Voice of Kevin] It's important to realize that there's nothing level about sea level.

23

00:01:50,300 --> 00:01:53,700

The next high tide is always going to be different from today's high tide.

24

00:01:55,100 --> 00:02:00,100

So the way people will see sea level rise isn't just a bath tub rising...

25

00:02:00,200 --> 00:02:07,800

it's going to be seen in extremes. It's going to be seen in the frequency of extreme high tide events.

26

00:02:08,400 --> 00:02:12,900

The frequency that the tide overwashes a sea wall.

27

00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:15,000

Or overwashes a dune area.

28

00:02:15,100 --> 00:02:18,800

That's the way people will experience sea level rise.

29

00:02:18,900 --> 00:02:23,500

It's not a bathtub. It is the frequency of those high tide events.

30

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,900

[sound of waves fades away]