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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Updated Online Tool Provides Site Specific Sea Level Rise Simulations

Annapolis, Maryland – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that a new version of an online sea level rise simulation tool will be released to the public at NOAA's Coastal GeoTools conference March 21 - 24, 2011. The updated Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM-View 2.0) is a web browser-based application that displays map pairs of the same area, each at different sea levels.

Sea level rise is one of the most pressing issues facing many coastal communities today. The strength of this tool is its ability to visually show sea level rise predictions, allowing people to see the impacts in a more intuitive way. SLAMM is used by researchers and managers to understand the impacts of sea level rise on critical coastal resources and educate the public on the effects of sea level changes.

“One of the most useful things about SLAMM-View 2.0 is that the information is available through a web cloud environment and is readily accessible to fish and wildlife managers as well as the general public” said Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director for the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Fisheries and Habitat Conservation.

The SLAMM also predicts changes in coastal wetlands and shorelines. These simulations are based on the best available science and technology. Users can select different scenarios by combining time, in 25-year intervals, at different severities, e.g., 0.5 meters to 1 meter increase in sea level. For nearly 20 years, the information provided by SLAMM was available only in table or static map form. SLAMM-View 2 provides this in a visually dynamic way.

"Most sea level rise models do not take into account the biological impacts," said Leopoldo Miranda, Supervisor, Chesapeake Bay Field Office. "SLAMM also looks at sediment and organic matter accumulation on the marshes as well as erosion from tides and storms that can overtake coastal barrier beaches."

SLAMM-View 2.0 presents two levels of predictions from studies of sea-level rise on coastal wetlands: regional and site-specific. Up to this point in time, only regional simulations for the Chesapeake, Georgia/South Carolina, and Puget Sound/Northwest Coast were available.

In 2009, site-specific results for the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area were made available through SLAMM-View 2.0. More recently, SLAMM results from the Aransas/Whooping Crane Winter Habitat and Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve projects were made accessible through SLAMM-View 2.0.

The SLAMM-view Portal is maintained by the Chesapeake Bay Field Office and the SLAMM View 2.0 tool can be accessed at [Chesapeake Bay Field Office website](#) and [SLAMM View](#).