

Using the IPCC and NOAA Based Frameworks in Assessing and Adapting to Sea Level Rise

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Abstract

Sea level rise is considered to be one of the most severe climate stressors in recent decades, especially among island communities. Therefore, there is a need to identify the vulnerabilities through a type of framework and develop adaptation measures to protect these systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) considers the vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems, the observed impacts and future risks of climate change, and the potential for and limits to adaptation. In my talk, I will present the IPCC and NOAA frameworks used for assessing vulnerability and showcase how to prioritize, implement, and measure options available for effectively adapting to sea level rise. I also present an example of how this methodology has been successfully implemented in the classroom as a new sustainability elective for senior civil engineering students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.