

# From One "Island" to the Next: *Sharing Coastal Challenges and Opportunities from Rhode Island's Communities*

**Thais M. Fournier, Coastal Resilience Extension**  
University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center / RI Sea Grant



# Coastal Resources Center and RI Sea Grant

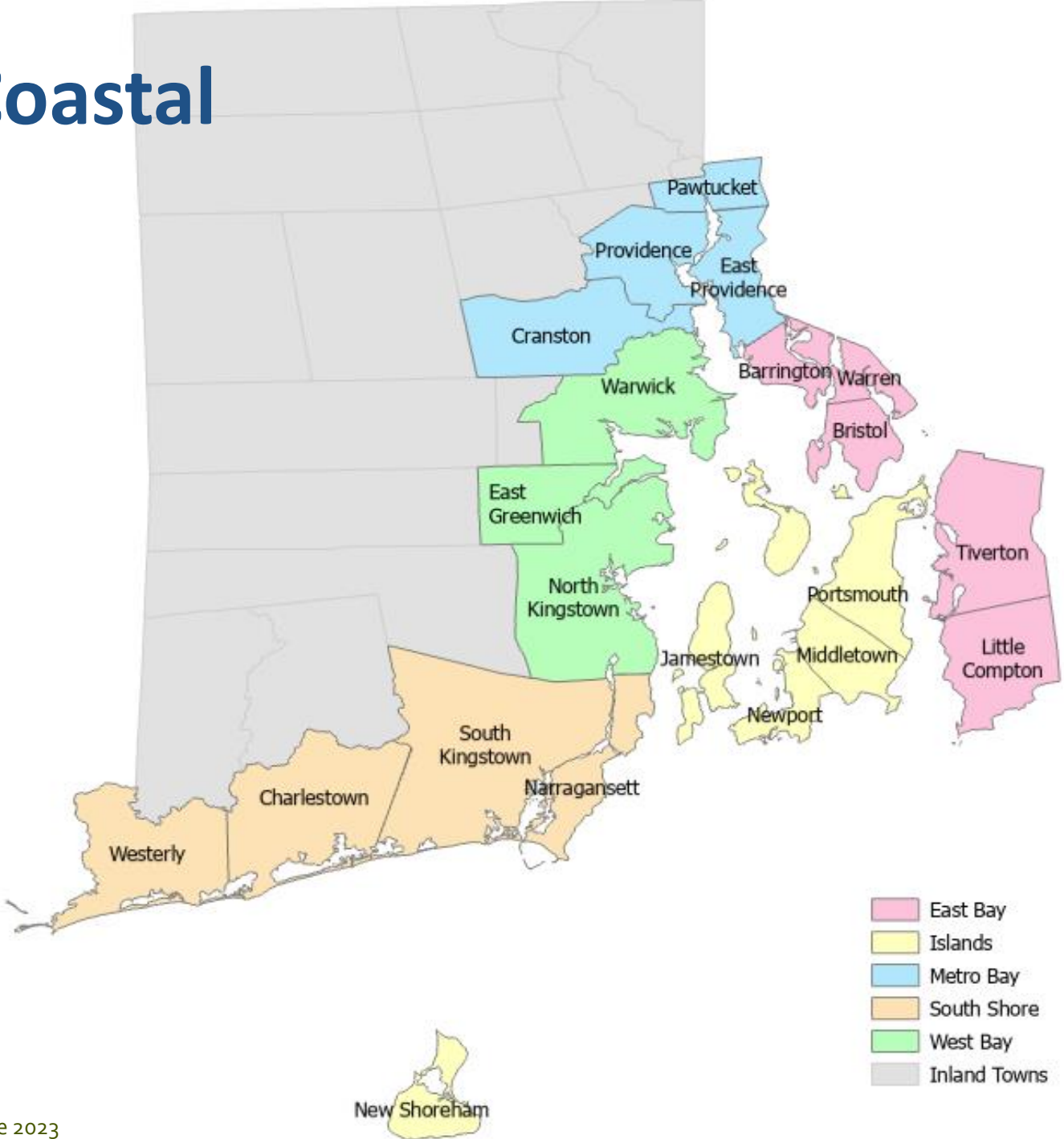
*Making the coast a better place to live, work, and play for this and future generations.*



# Coastal Resilience Program



# Rhode Island's Coastal Communities



# Coastal Risk in Rhode Island



**1938 Hurricane**

**Providence, RI**



**Superstorm Sandy  
(Nor'easter)  
October 2012**

**South Kingstown, RI**



**Extreme High Tide  
September 13, 2022**

**Newport, RI**

# Increased Storminess

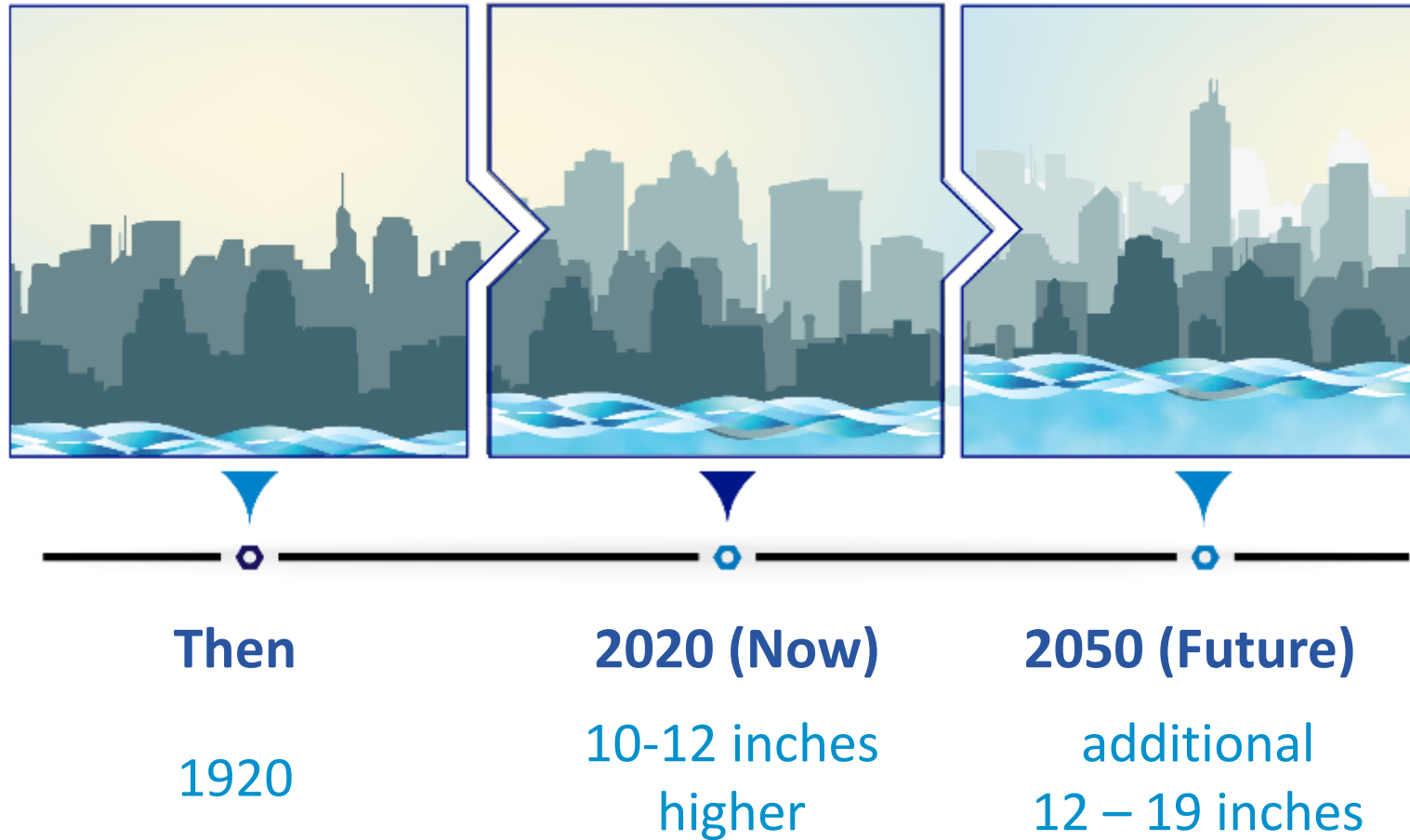
↑ Storm intensity



↑ Rainfall



# Rhode Island Sea Level Rise





**“ STORMS ARE LIKE  
FERRIES. THERE'S  
ALWAYS ANOTHER ONE  
COMING. ”**

- Richard Branson/Thaïs Fournier



# Coastal Resilience

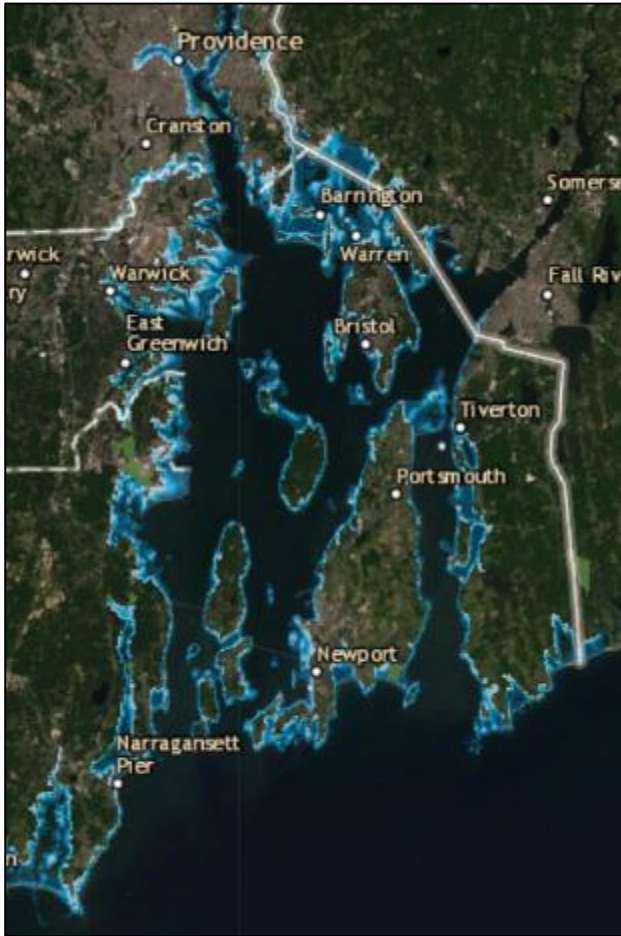
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...the capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses, and natural systems within Rhode Island to **survive, adapt, and grow** no matter what chronic stresses and weather events they experience.

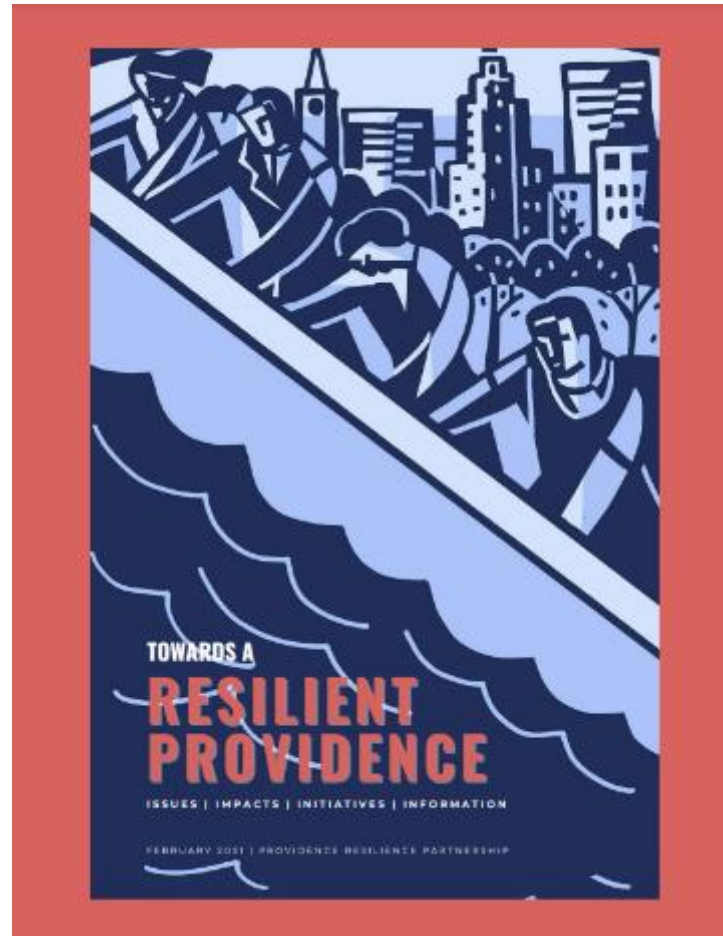
- *Resilient Rhody, 2018*



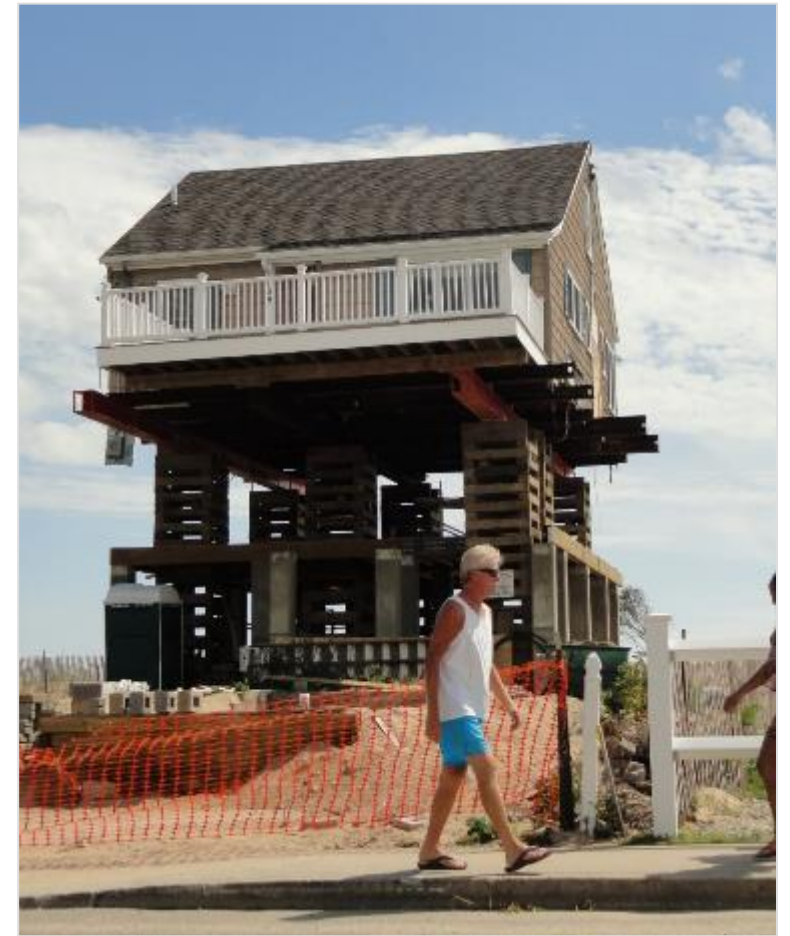
# Know Your Risk



# Make a Plan



# Take Action



# Rhode Island STORMTOOLS

ArcGIS ▾ STORMTOOLS for Beginners

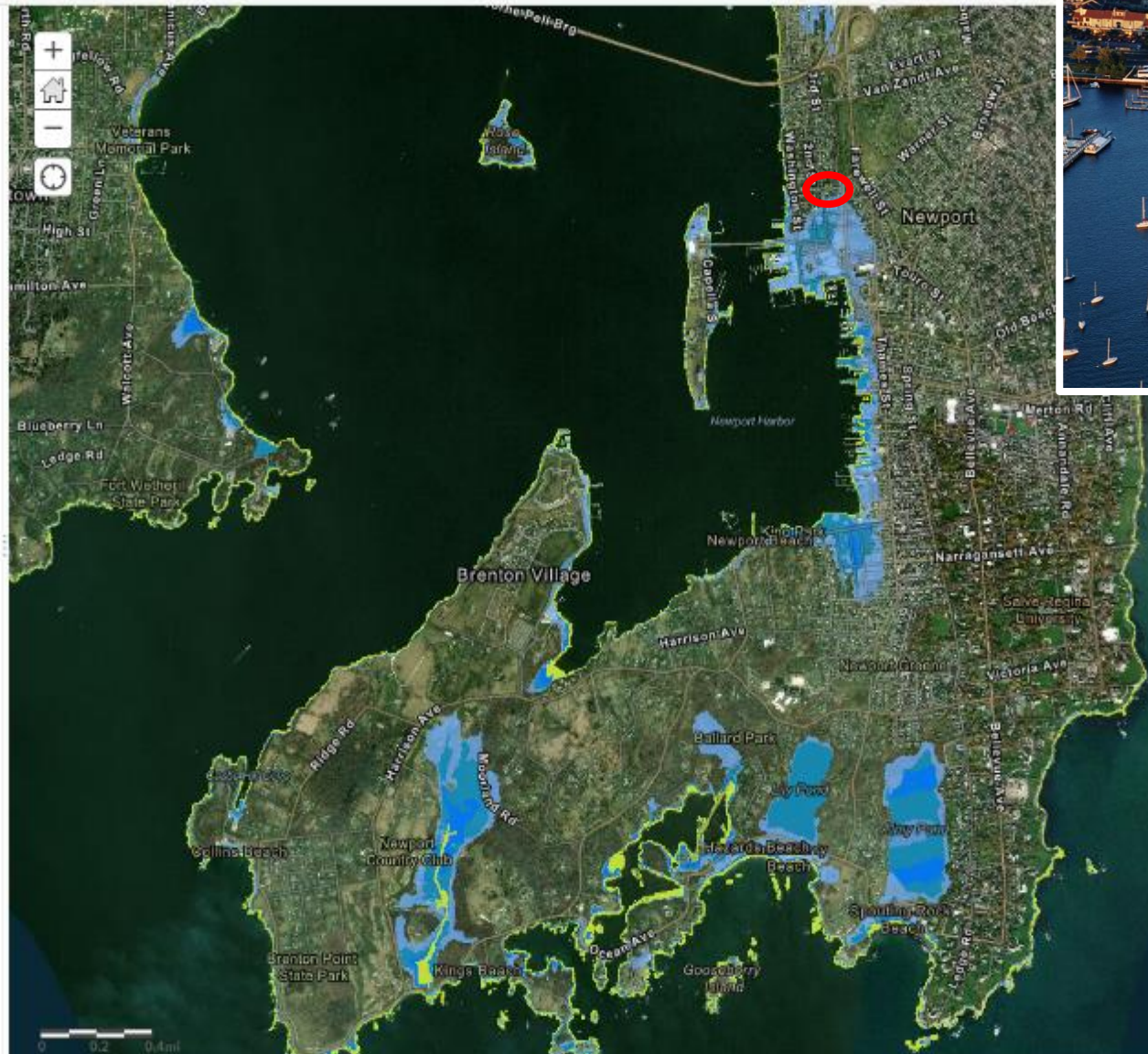
Details | Basemap | Share

About | Content | Legend

Legend

- Will 1-FOOT of SEA LEVEL RISE affect my property? 
- Will 2-FEET of SEA LEVEL RISE affect my property? 
- Will 3-FEET of SEA LEVEL RISE affect my property? 
- Will 5-FEET of SEA LEVEL RISE affect my property? 

How will x feet of SLR affect my Property?

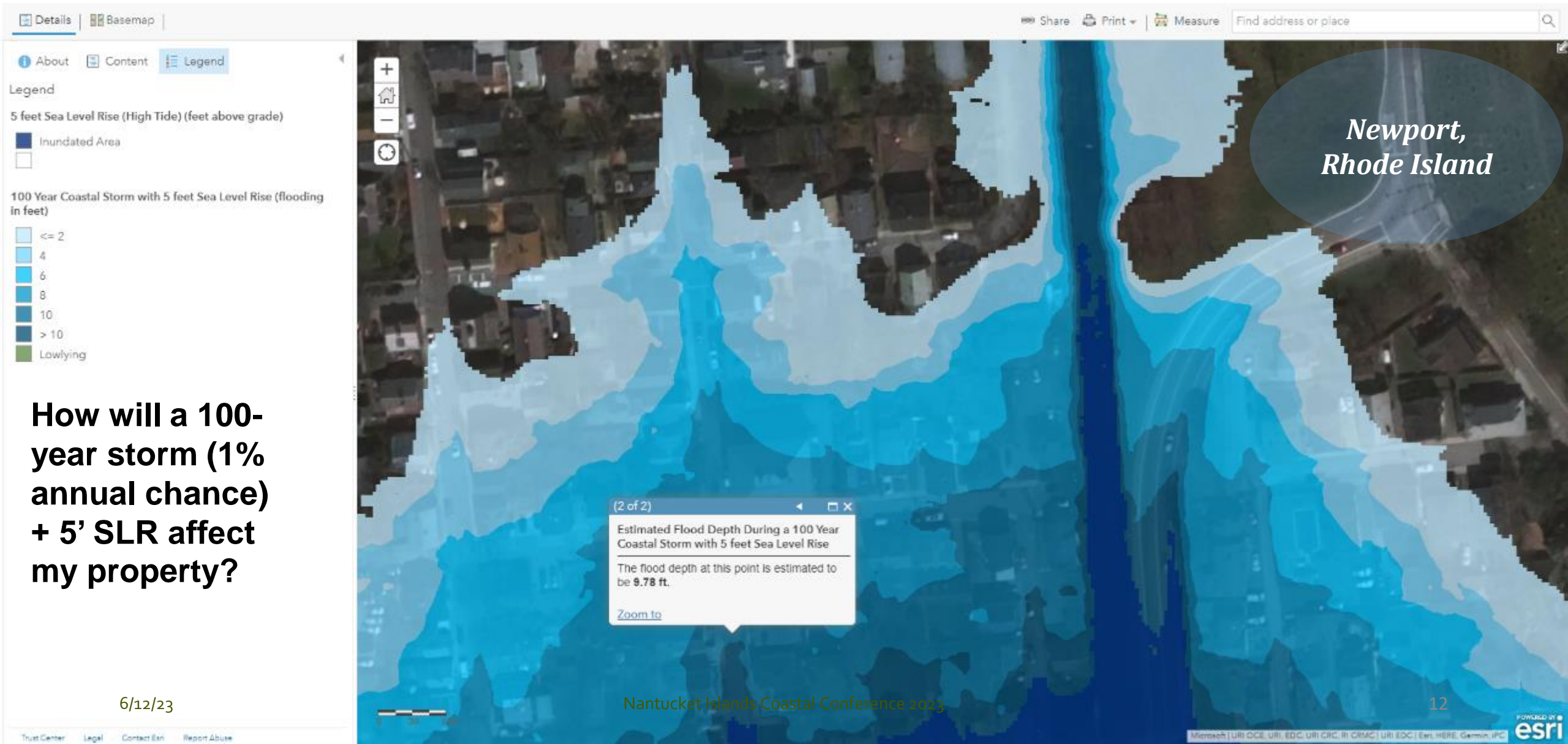


*Newport,  
Rhode Island*

# Rhode Island STORMTOOLS

ArcGIS 5 FEET SLR: Extra/Tropical Storms

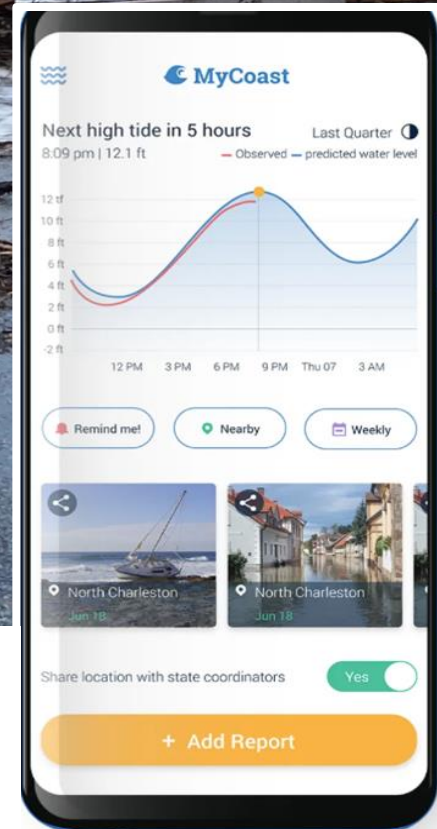
Modify Map Sign In



**How will a 100-year storm (1% annual chance) + 5' SLR affect my property?**

Be a  
community  
scientist!

Download  
MyCoast APP



*What will the future look like at high tide?*



H. Hanka, Watch Hill



J Michaelson, N. Kingstown

*1' above  
MHHW*

*2' above  
MHHW*

# Document King Tide, Storm, Shoreline Change

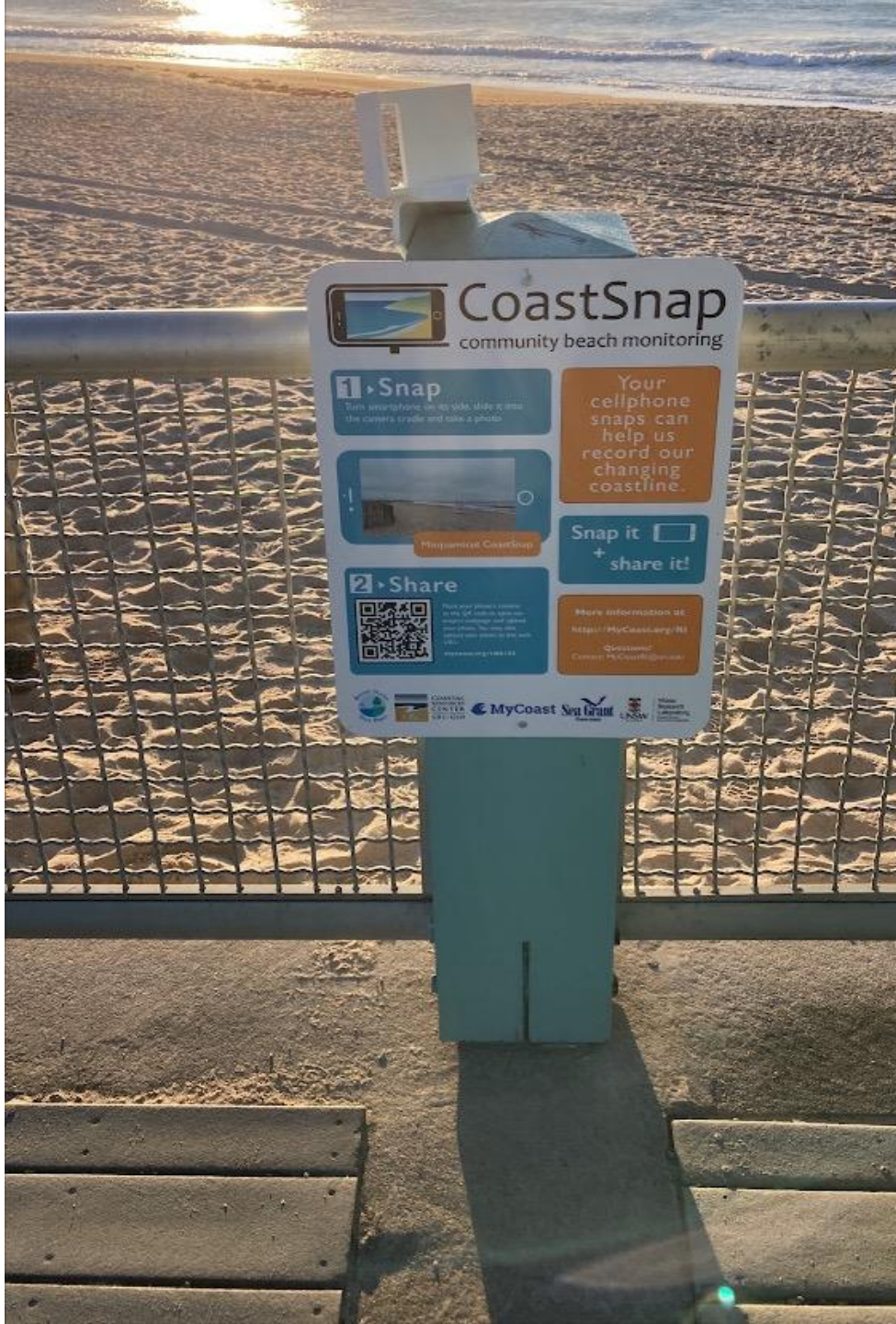
Identify **vulnerable** areas  
**Build** awareness and political will  
Show **impacts** of changing climate  
**Inform** municipal planning & decisions



# CoastSnap

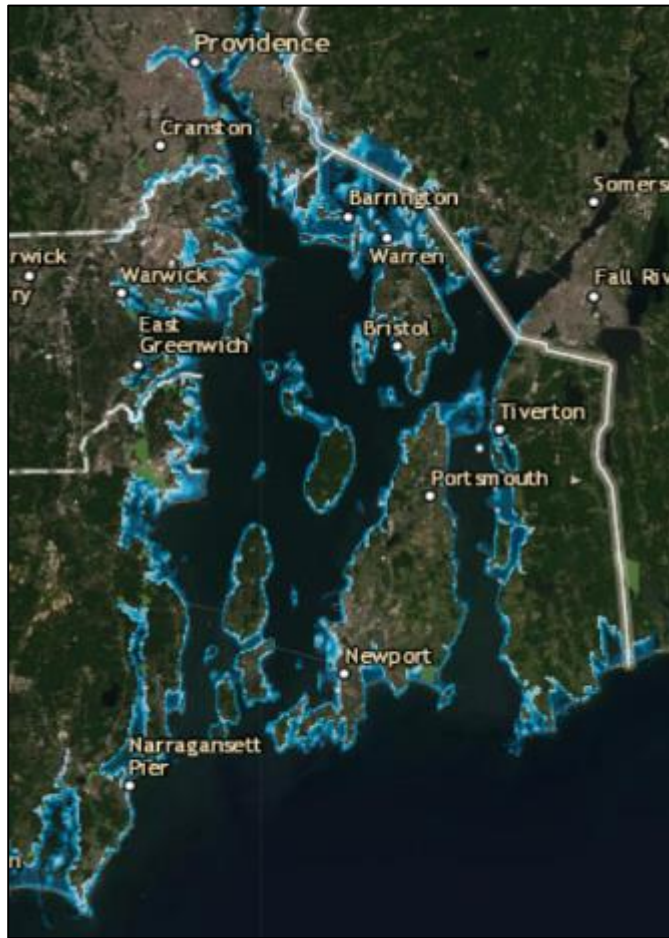
Snap it   
+  
share it!

*Upload with the  
QR Code or the  
MyCoast app.*

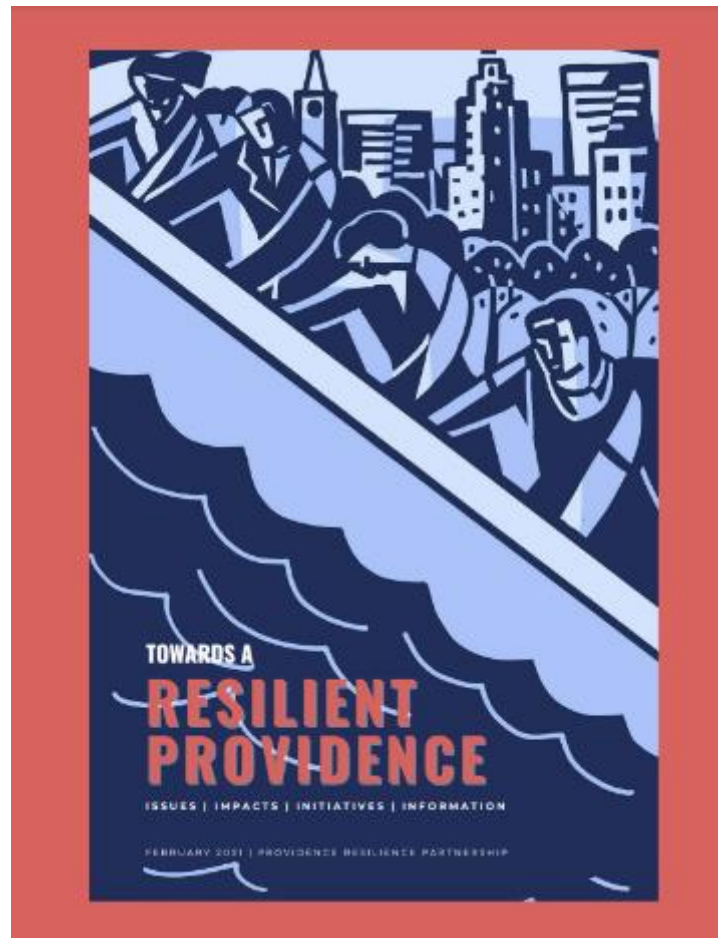




# Know Your Risk



# Make a Plan

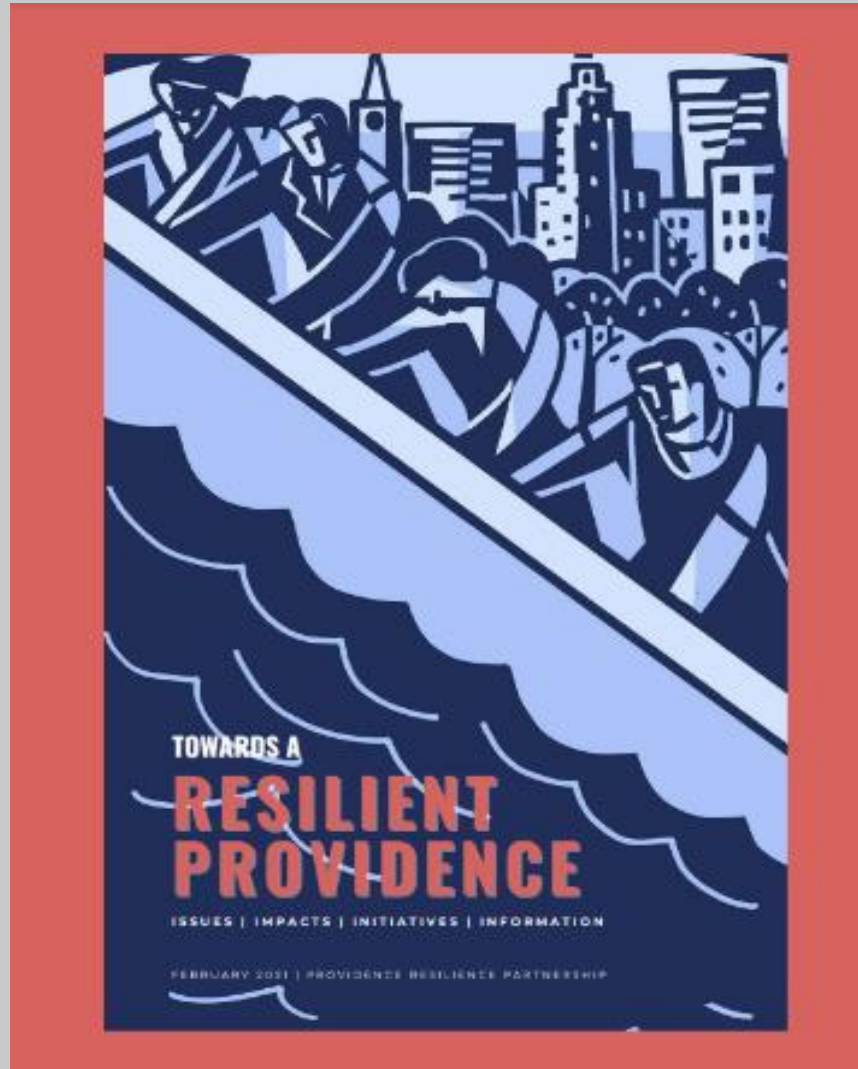


# Take Action

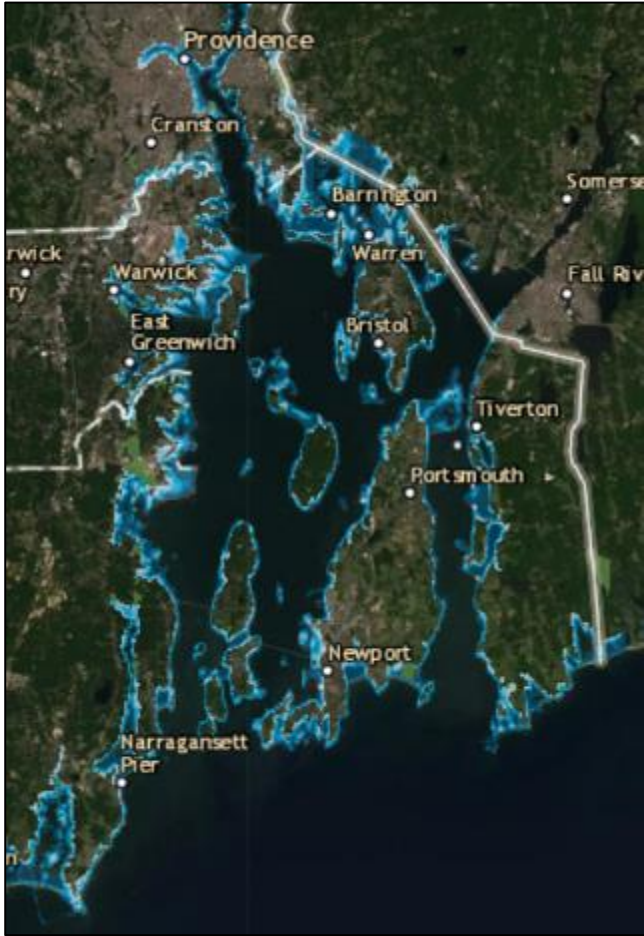


# Make a Plan

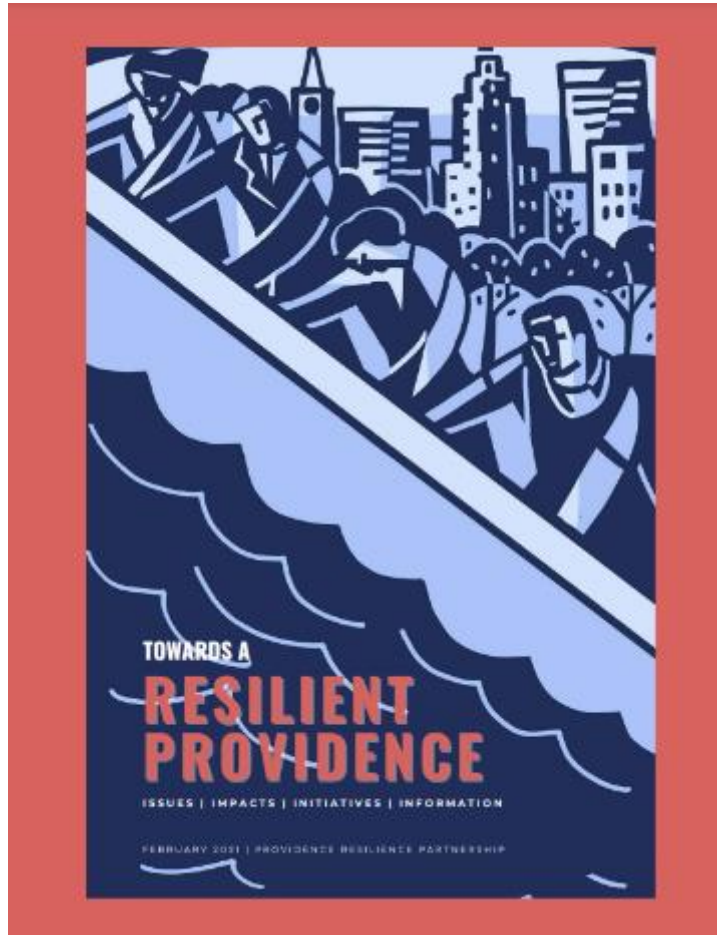
- State
- Municipal
- Sub-municipal
- Business



# Know Your Risk



# Make a Plan



# Take Action





## Take Action

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- Technical Assistance
- Tools Development
- Training
- Mentoring

*Build Capacity for Resilience*

# Know Your Risk

Infrastructure  
Socio-Economic  
Environmental Assets



# Make a Plan

State  
Local  
Neighborhood  
business



# Take Action

↑ Strengths  
↓ Reduce vulnerabilities  
- Infrastructure (green/grey),  
- Environment  
- Community & human capacity



# What Can You Do?

- **Know your Risk:** know the facts, implications, costs/benefits to action *and* in-action
- **Make a Plan:** Make a family plan; encourage community action; support legislation
- **Take Action:** Make personal/community decisions and take actions to mitigate and adapt

# Resources

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<https://mycoast.org/ri/>

<https://www.coastsnap.com/>

<https://stormtools-mainpage-crc-uri.hub.arcgis.com/>

<https://climatechange.ri.gov/resilient-rhody>