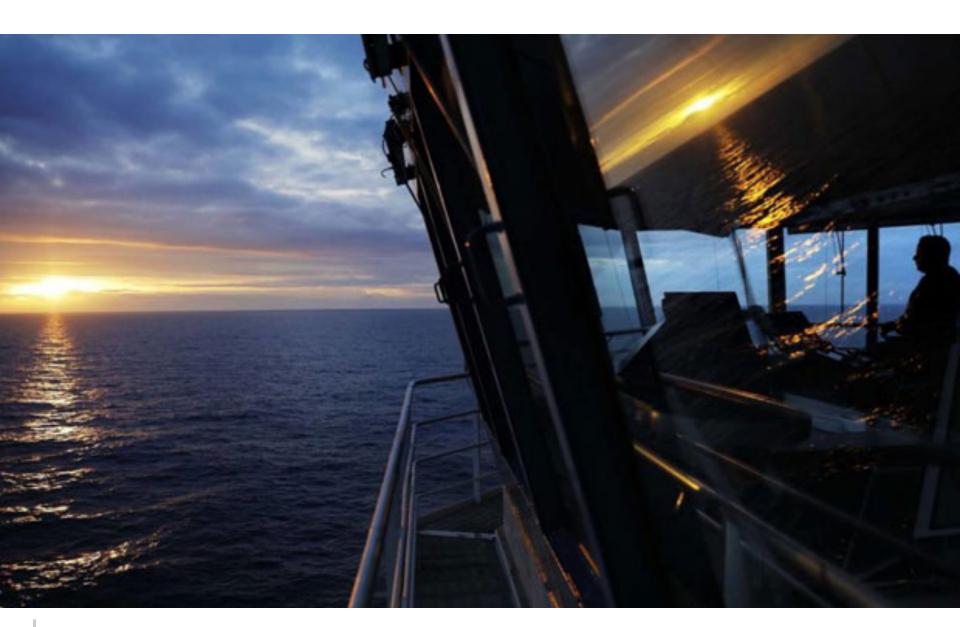


On the Site: Live streaming temporarily unavailable due to service issues »

Report shows detailed projections for Washington rising seas

JULY 30, 2018 AT 12:24 PM



(AP Photo/David Goldman, File)

A new report provides the most detailed projections for how fast sea levels are expected to rise along Washington state shorelines over the next decades.

The projections released Monday show what to expect at 171 sites in Puget Sound and along the state's outer coast sea levels rise due to global warming. The information is more local and specific than previous assessments.

Scientists with Washington Sea Grant and the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group calculated the likelihood that sea levels will reach or exceed a certain level for each location and under different greenhouse gas scenarios.

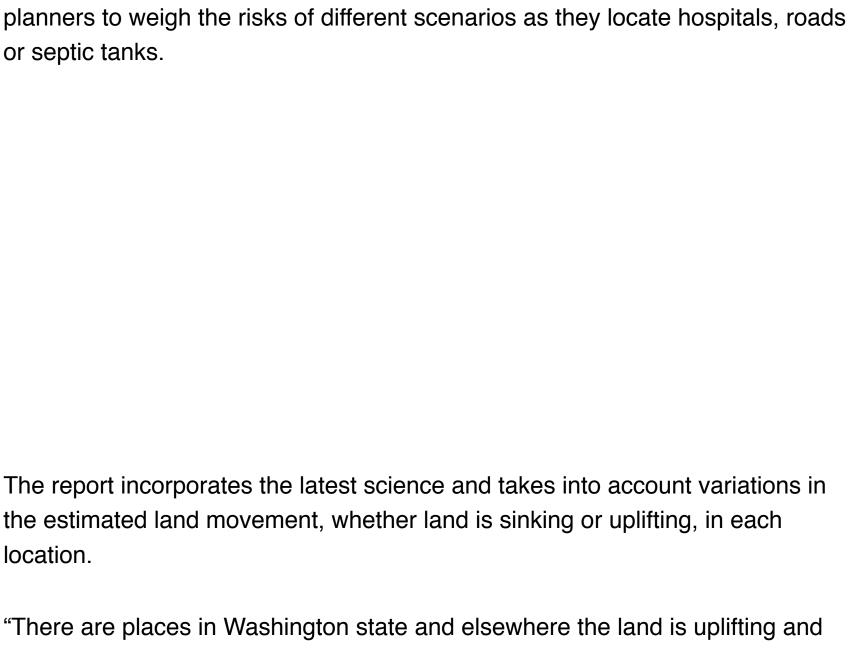
Harriet Morgan, a research consultant at UW Climate Impacts Group and report co-author, said previous projections for the state have been "too zoomed out to be useful." Now, local planners and others can click on a map and download estimates for their locations.

"Because we zoomed in, we captured local variations and land movement along the coast," she said. "This is something that we heard from local decision makers. We need numbers that are specific for our communities and local areas."

Sea level rise is caused by warming of the ocean and melting from glaciers and ice sheets.

Washington has more than 3,000 miles of coastline. Rising sea level is a concern because it can increase the risk of flooding, storm surges, coastal bluff and shoreline erosion and loss of wetlands or other habitat. It can also damage roads and buildings and impact fisheries.

The estimates give a full range of possible future sea level changes, allowing



"There are places in Washington state and elsewhere the land is uplifting and that will counteract absolute sea level change. And there are places that are subsiding," said Ian Miller, a coastal hazards specialist at Washington Sea Grant who co-authored the report.

Areas such as Neah Bay on the northwest Washington coast are estimated to be uplifting, or rising, and have lower projected changes in sea level compared to areas of central Puget Sound, including Seattle, that are sinking.

In general, most communities are expected to see between 2 feet and 3 feet by 2100 under a scenario where greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, Miller said.

By 2100 in Seattle, sea level is projected to rise between 1.7 feet and 3.1 feet under a scenario where greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise over time. Meanwhile, by 2100, sea level is estimated to rise between 1 feet and 2.6 feet in Taholah and 1.3 feet to 2.7 feet in Bellingham.

"This finer level of detail allows us to do better planning," said Jim Parvey, chief sustainability officer for the city of Tacoma, who is working with the authors to incorporate the projections into city planning.

"We're trying to get our minds around the problem and figure out how to build infrastructure that's going to last. We need to do our best to guess what the conditions are going to be like in the future that we have to cope with," he said.

The report is part of the three-year Washington Coastal Resilience Project to help communities prepare for natural events that threaten the coast due to rising sea levels.

149 Comments 🗪 Share 👼

Top Stories

New Seahawks OC gets to work on breaking some of Russell Wilson's habits



Photos: Kent Officer Diego Moreno's funeral service



Moore: If Mariners don't make the playoffs, blame Robinson Canó



Blue Angels aren't just stopping traffic on I-90 bridge



Sponsored Articles



7 ways to soak in summer by the sea



Introducing the WSECU & KIRO Radio Hometown Hero: Angie Barreto



Why can't I lose weight?



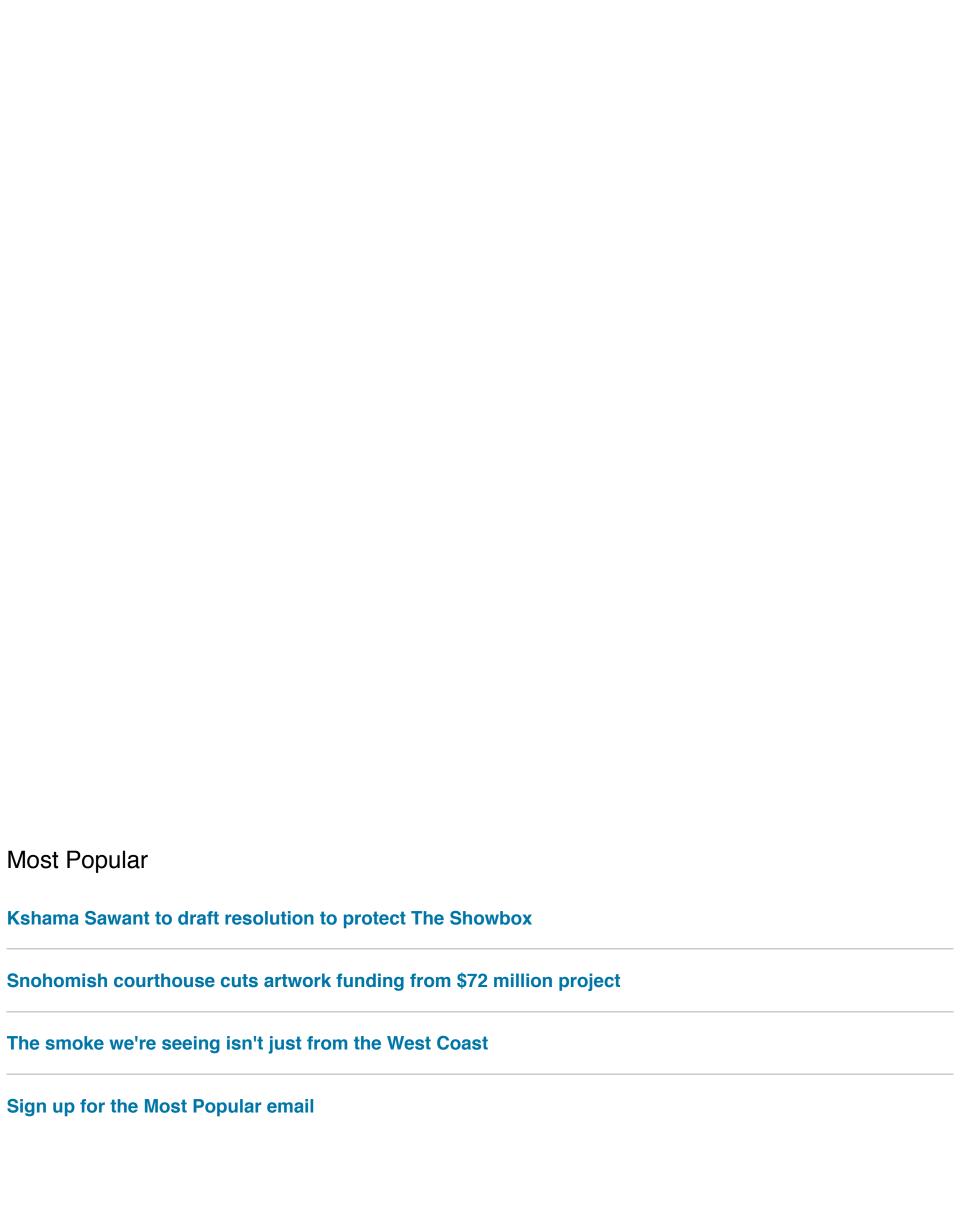
The hidden history of the quintessential summer cocktail



6 questions to ask before you start your own business



Local BBB Accredited businesses recommended by Rob McKenna





TOP STORIES

WESTERN WASHINGTON

LOCAL NEWS
TRAFFIC
WEATHER
NATION/WORLD
NATIONAL NEWS
POLITICS
LIFESTYLE
WORLD NEWS
MONEY
TECHNOLOGY
ODD NEWS

VOICES

COMMENTARY
DAVE ROSS
MYNORTHWEST BLOG
LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT
RACHEL BELLE
TOM TANGNEY
TOM DOUGLAS
KIRO RADIO
TOM AND CURLEY
DORI MONSON
RON AND DON
KIRO NIGHTS
770 KTTH
JASON RANTZ
TODD HERMAN
MICHAEL MEDVED

RADIO

LIVE
LISTEN NOW
WATCH IN-STUDIO VIDEO
STATIONS
KIRO RADIO
710 ESPN SEATTLE
770 KTTH AM
ON-DEMAND
PODCASTS
MOBILE APPS
KIRO RADIO
710 ESPN SEATTLE
KTTH

SPORTS

710 ESPN SEATTLE
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
SEATTLE MARINERS
SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC
MLB SCOREBOARD
NFL SCOREBOARD
DANNY O'NEIL
JIM MOORE
SHANNON DRAYER
PODCASTS

HELP

SEARCH THE SITE
CONTACT US
ADVERTISE WITH US
EMPLOYMENT
TERMS OF USE
CONTEST RULES
PRIVACY STATEMENT
EEO PUBLIC FILE REPORT
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FACEBOOK	
TWITTER	
GOOGLE+	
RSS	

EMAIL ALERTS

CONNECT

PART OF THE MYNORTHWEST.COM NETWORK OF SITES

© 2018 BONNEVILLE INTERNATIONAL. TERMS OF USE AND PRIVACY POLICY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

EEO PUBLIC FILE REPORT. COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

FCC PUBLIC FILE: KIRO-FM | KIRO-AM | KTTH

FCC STATION REPRESENTATIVE: CHELSEA MILLER - CMILLER@BONNEVILLE.COM 206.726.7000