

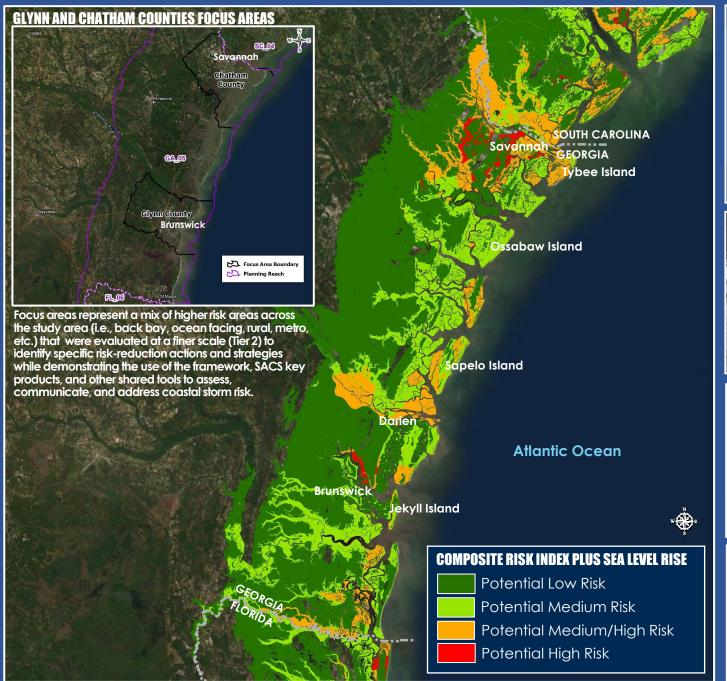
# **SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY (SACS) | GEORGIA OVERVIEW**

Companion Document to South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) | Overview

### **GEORGIA SUMMARY**

Georgia has the fifth highest potential economic risk out of eight reaches in the study area. This is attributed to Georgia's coast being mostly undeveloped except for a few key areas. Approximately 83 percent of risk is concentrated in two of Georgia's six coastal counties. Chatham and Glynn Counties (refer to Focus Area Map). With an additional 3 feet of sea level rise, the risk is anticipated to increase nearly threefold in these developed greas.

### TIER 1 COMPOSITE RISK ASSESSMENT MAP (PLUS SEA LEVEL RISE)





**FORT PULASKI HURRICANE MATTHEW, 2016** 

CHATHAM COUNTY FOCUS AREA **RIVER STREET HURRICANE IRMA, 2017** 





### **GEORGIA SACS SNAPSHOT**

28 Hurricane Strikes (1851-2021) **Deep Draft Harbors** 

**Annual Dredge Volume:** 

8,900,000 Cubic Yards

Miles Of Tidally Influenced Coastline

**More Than** 

**Estimated Population** Within High Socially **Vulnerable Communities** 

216,000 **Estimated Vulnerable** 

**Structures** Footprint: 500-year Floodplain + 3 Feet Sea Level Rise **Priority Environmental Areas (PEAs)** 

Beach **Nourishment Projects Federal and Non-Federal** 

High-Risk Locations uture Condition with 3 Feet Sea Level Rise

186% Increase in **Economic Damages from** the Existing to the Future Condition (with 3 feet Sea Level Rise)



- 87.371 Federal Flood Insurance Policies
- Jobs and Federal, State, and Local Revenues at Risk

Sources (rows, left to right):

1) NOAA HURDAT Database

- 2020 RSM Optimization Report
- NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Guidelines
- 2016 CDC Social Vulnerability Index
- **National Structure Inventory**

- SACS Appendices SACS SAND Report
- SACS Tier 1 & Tier 2 Risk Assessments
- **SACS Tier 2 Economic Risk Assessment**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Coastal Storm Risk Management Framework, SACS key products, and other shared tools were used to assess and communicate risk across the SACS Study Area, and ultimately to address the assessed risk with a series of recommendations. The entire process was implemented with input from stakeholders across federal, state, and local public and private sectors. Recommendations to manage coastal storm risk are grouped into six categories, as illustrated in the icon graphics below, and are further grouped by timeframe: near term (< 5 years), mid-term (5-10 years), and long-term (> 10 years), as well as by responsible party (multi-agency, USACE, and Congress).





















**Study Efforts** 





## SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY (SACS) | ADVANCING GEORGIA RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION CATEGORIES DEFINED

storm risk management as sea level rises.



Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis: This category includes development of tools, data collection, and multi-agency efforts such as those undertaken by Silver Jackets teams, which bring together multiple state, federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to manage risk from flooding and other natural disasters.



Address Barriers Preventing Comprehensive Risk Management: This category advances opportunities to address the multiple barriers preventing comprehensive risk management identified in the SACS report. Design and Construction Efforts: Examples include recommendations that support design and



separately from SACS Recommendations on Previously Authorized USACE Construction Projects: This category includes recommendations that maintain and/or adapt existing USACE CSRM projects to continue providing

construction of tentatively selected or recommended plans from USACE CSRM studies conducted



Regional Sediment Management Practices: This category supports a systems approach for more efficient and effective use of sediments in coastal environments, ranging from agency collaboration on sand source identification to leveraging the beneficial use of dredged material with emerging natural, nature-based features (NNBF).



**Study Efforts** 

Examples include USACE feasibility study recommendations, studies that may be led by other stakeholders, and studies that fall under existing USACE authorities, such as the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) and Planning Assistance to States (PAS).

### **GEORGIA RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations to the right include:



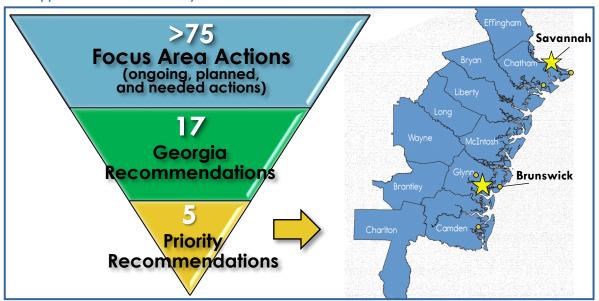
### **REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS APPLICABLE TO GEORGIA**

Regional Priority Recommendations may be applicable to the entire region, such as improving understanding and application of compound flooding effects, or they may be location-specific recommendations to address areas with the most significant risk relative to the entire study area.



### **QUARTE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Georgia Recommendations were selected to support significant and ongoing efforts in the state and to develop initial considerations for future federal and non-federal efforts. A unique attribute of the Georgia coastline is the expansive network of undeveloped coastal wetlands. Continued protection and enhancement of these natural features is a state-wide strategy. State priority recommendations include increasing coastal resilience for disadvantaged communities (e.g., Pin Point Historic District), improving risk communication, initiating/continuing federal participation in coastal storm risk management for vulnerable barrier island communities (e.g., St. Simons Island, Tybee Island), and advancing beneficial use opportunities in our waterways.



GEORGIA RECOMMENDATIONS  Companion Document to South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS)   Overview								
CATEGORY	TIMING*	TYPE**	RECOMMENDATION	ASSIGNED TO	NEXT STEP			
Activities/Areas Warranting Further Analysis	Near-Term		Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) (Silver Jackets): Georgia Coastal Resilience Workshop.	USACE	Stakeholder Collaboration			
	Near-Term		FPMS (Silver Jackets) Camden County Coastal Hazards System (CHS) Study.	USACE	Funding			
	Mid-Term		Expand the Smart Sea level Sensors project.	Multi-agency	Funding			
	Mid-Term		Sustain and increase efforts to buyout/acquire and raise repetitive loss properties.	Multi-agency	Funding			
	Near-Term	SP	Improve risk communication in Glynn County.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration			
	Near-Term		Expand the Community Rating System (CRS) Open Spaces Explorer Application.	Multi-agency	Stakeholder Collaboration			
	Long-Term		Protect and preserve coastal wetlands.	Multi-agency	Guidance/Policy			
Address Barriers	Mid-Term	SP	Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) solutions should be evaluated for storm risk management benefits to cultural resources and socially vulnerable communities in accordance with Section 116 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Ex) Pin Point Historic District	Multi-agency	Identify Nonfederal Sponsor (USACE Study)			
Previously Authorized USACE Construction Projects	Near-Term	SP	Renew federal participation in Tybee Island CSRM.	Congress	Stakeholder Collaboration			
Regional Sediment Management	Mid-Term	RP	Beneficially use dredged maintenance material from the Savannah Harbor on northern shoreline of Tybee Island.	USACE	Funding			
	Near-Term		Beneficially use dredged maintenance material from the Savannah Harbor on McQueen's Trail.	USACE	Funding			
	Near-Term		Beneficially use dredged maintenance material from the Brunswick Harbor on northern shoreline of Jekyll Island.	USACE	Funding			
	Near-Term	RP, SP	Sustain and expand Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) operation and maintenance efforts to characterize beneficial use material.	USACE	Funding			
Study Efforts	Long-Term	RP	Perform a comprehensive drainage improvements study in the City of Savannah.	Multi-agency	Identify Likely Lead Stakeholder(s)			
	Long-Term	SP	Federal participation in St. Simons Island CSRM.	Congress	New Study Authority			
	Long-Term	RP	Perform a comprehensive wastewater infrastructure improvements study in Glynn County.	Multi-agency	Identify Likely Lead Stakeholder(s)			
	Long-Term	RP	Perform a county-wide assessment of road flooding in Glynn County.	Multi-agency	Identify Likely Lead Stakeholder(s)			

### ADDITIONAL REGIONAL PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATES

CATEGORY	TIMING*	TYPE**	RECOMMENDATION	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	NEXT STEP
Activities/Areas Warranting Further Analysis	Mid-Term	RP	Advance ongoing interagency work to improve understanding and application of compound flooding effects on existing and future coastal storm risk.	Multi-Agency	Stakeholder collaboration
	Near-Term	RP	SACS key products should be maintained and updated by USACE and utilized, as applicable, by USACE and stakeholders to support consistent, efficient, and effective analyses. Additionally, other agency-led data and tools should be supported to facilitate use of consistent, up-to-date information for decision making. Examples of such agency-led efforts include the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Minerals Management Information System (MMIS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Change Analysis Program.	Multi-Agency	Funding
	Near-Term	RP	A multi-agency and collaborative approach should be used to develop methods that account for environmental benefits in traditional habitat units and economic quantities (monetized) in order to acknowledge and consider environmental benefits as a factor in deciding on a recommended plan in all future CSRM studies.	Multi-Agency	Guidance/ Policy
	Near-Term	RP	Develop streamlined and vetted methods to quantify and incorporate risk management benefits to Regional Economic Development, Environmental Quality, and Other Social Effects to ensure Federal interest determinations consider benefits other than National Economic Development.	USACE	Guidance/ Policy
Address Barriers	Near-Term	RP	Develop streamlined and vetted methods to quantify and incorporate risk management benefits to Regional Economic Development, Environmental Quality, and Other Social Effects to ensure Federal interest determinations consider benefits other than National Economic Development.		Guidance/ Policy
Previously Authorized USACE Construction Projects	Near-Term	RP	Prioritize funding for renourishment of existing federal CSRM beach nourishment projects (except Puerto Rico and USVI).	Congress	Funding
	Near-Term	RP	Prioritize extension of federal periods of participation in existing CSRM beach nourishment projects, as appropriate, to continue providing coastal storm risk management and important incidental benefits to coastal systems, communities, and environmental and cultural resources. Options could include prioritizing funding and review of studies on existing CSRM projects, streamlining the study process for existing projects, or providing extensions to the existing periods of federal participation through legislation such as was done by WRDA 2018 (P.L. 115-270) (except Puerto Rico and USVI).	Congress	Funding
	Near-Term	RP	Ongoing and future federal and nonfederal studies recommending beach nourishment should explicitly incorporate adaptive capacity to improve project resilience.	Multi-Agency	Guidance/Policy
Regional Sediment Management	Near-Term	RP	Promote partnerships and collaboration on beneficial use of dredged material opportunities.	Multi-Agency	Stakeholder collaboration
	Near-Term	RP	Develop regional prioritization of strategies to address sand needs.	USACE	Funding

<sup>\*</sup> Near-Term: < 5 Years / Mid-term: 5 – 10 Years / Long-term: >10 Years / \*\* RP: Regional Priority /  $^{\circ}$  SP: State Priority