

Broadcast Script

PKG SCRIPT + FONTS

LOCATION: URBANNA, VA

Chesapeake Bay rivers have a strong hold on their people.

The residents sail the waters, bike along the banks, work the sea.

All while surrounded by beautiful views.

But the big picture isn't pretty.

The land is losing its struggle with the sea.

SOT

RUPERT THOMAS, JR

ACHILLES, VA

IT WAS TERRIBLE. I MEAN THE WATER WAS EVERYWHERE. THE ROADS WERE COVERED, HOMES WERE FLOODED.

LOCATION: ACHILLES, VA

Climate change and sea level rise threaten to destroy Rupert Thomas' home in Gloucester County, Virginia. He says floods have become more frequent and more powerful, like the one caused by Hurricane Isabel in 2003.

SOT

RUPERT THOMAS, JR

ACHILLES, VA

IT WAS JUST THE MOST DEVASTATING TIME I'VE SEEN IN THIS AREA IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

Ben Strauss has published a groundbreaking study on flood risks across America. He's a scientist and COO of Climate Central.

SOT

BEN STRAUSS

CLIMATE CENTRAL

MY PURPOSE IS TO HELP THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE LOW-LYING PLACES.

BROLL-MAP

He's created a new, national web tool called "Surging Seas," which is a glimpse into the future. Zooming into Miami for example, you can adjust the flood "water level" and see how the city would fare. On the left, a tally of the number of people and homes that could be affected. But this site goes one step further: it predicts the likelihood of any flood height you give it. In this case: a one in six chance by mid-century.

SOT

BEN STRAUSS

CLIMATE CENTRAL

SOME PEOPLE MAY TOLERATE THAT RISK AND OTHERS MAY NOT. SOME MAY WANT TO MOVE AND OTHERS MAY FEEL THEY CAN LIVE WITH THE RISK OF STORMS.

LOCATION: GLOUCESTER, VA

The risk to Bill Lawrence's family involves the living and the dead.

SOT

BILL LAWRENCE

GLOUCESTER, VA

WE ARE STANDING ON SMITH CEMETERY. // IT'S MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS' AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS' CEMETERY.

COURTESY: BILL LAWRENCE

His great-great grandfather Peter Smith bought an island after the Civil War, where the family now lives.

Several generations thought this would be their resting place for eternity. Sea level rise means they'll have to be moved.

SOT

BILL LAWRENCE

GLOUCESTER, VA

I THINK THEY WOULD BE SHOCKED. I DON'T THINK THAT THEY WOULD ENVISION THAT. AT ALL. THEY THOUGHT THIS WAS HIGH GROUND AND THEY WOULD BE GOOD FOR EONS.

Rupert Thomas found his own peace. With the help of FEMA, he raised his house above the flood plain.

SOT

RUPERT THOMAS, JR

ACHILLES, VA

OH IT GIVES US SO MUCH MORE PEACE OF MIND NOW. // I'M NOT REALLY THAT CONCERNED BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ELEVATED HIGH ENOUGH THAT WE'LL BE PROTECTED.

Strauss's research is available to help all seaside communities prepare for the increased risk of floods as a result of climate change and sea level rise.

SOT

BEN STRAUSS

CLIMATE CENTRAL

IT'S CHANGING. THEY CAN'T RELY ON THE FLOOD MAPS AND THE FLOOD RISKS FROM THE PAST. THOSE WILL NOT BE A GOOD INDICATOR FOR WHAT WE WILL SEE IN THE FUTURE.