

Impacts on Coastal Areas

- Along much of the U.S. coast, sea levels have risen 10-12 inches in the last century
- Sandy beaches would be eroded 100-150 feet with a 1-foot rise in sea level in 2100
- The projected global sea level rise of 20 inches (6-38 inches) by 2100 could:
 - Inundate 5,000 square miles of dryland
 - Drown 15-60 percent of our coastal wetlands
- Some states will experience greater increases in sea level (e.g., over 4 feet in Louisiana)
- Cumulative capital costs of defending against a 20 inch rise in sea level are estimated at \$30-40 billion (1988 \$)