

# Coastal Resilience: Possible Next Steps

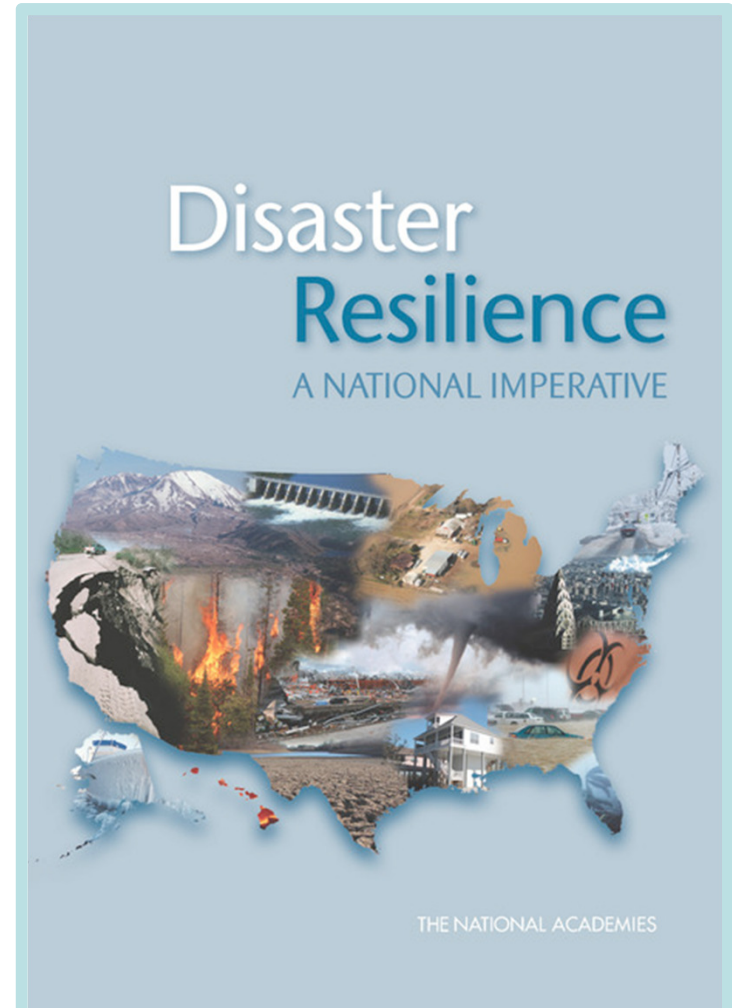
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# Some Features of the Resilience Problem

- Viewed as a primarily local problem where feds, state, others can assist & coordinate w/ local govt. and/or ports
- Long-term recovery the toughest aspect?
  - Much of \$60B in Interagency Sandy Recovery Office remains unspent
- Resilience measurement standards needed but “report card” approach may have unintended consequences
- Some focus on resilience-enhancing system characteristics that but not a full & systematic accounting
  - “Resilience” = resilience + vulnerability + risk
- Good planning tools exist but wider dissemination and use needed?
- Communication w/ public, stakeholders needed



## Definition 1.1

***Resilience: The ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, or more successfully adapt to actual or potential adverse events.<sup>4</sup>***

# Ports

- No “one size fits all” solutions for ports
  - Leased vs. owned terminals & infrastructure
- Private sector and public ports view problem in very different ways
  - Customers not demanding climate adaptation or “resilience” planning as “walking” an option
- Ports vulnerable to many things, not just SLR & coastal storms (e.g., disruptions in hinterlands)
- Port resilience interconnected w/ community resilience

# Features of Solutions

- Building “green infrastructure” a favored (by NOAA) resilience-enhancing strategy
  - Partnerships w/ communities, NGOs, ports desired
  - ACOE embrace of “green” strategies too, but green vs. gray choice tempered by other considerations: Engineered, ecological & community resilience all recognized; related but different
    - Systems approaches through “watershed budgeting”
- Main focus on resilience-building opportunities post-disaster, not stepwise inculcation during normal times (post-Sandy, post-Katrina)
  - Vulnerability & resilience not the same but not systematically differentiated (different political resonances)
  - Risk is part of the equation too
- Best solutions = Politics X engineering X informational tools X community and interagency engagement
- Risk spreading (e.g., via insurance) as important as risk mitigation
- FEMA base maps imp., but questions go beyond whether inside/outside FEMA flood zones
- “Human dimensions” elements recognized, but could be more fully fleshed out (e.g., equity & empowerment, shifting burden of vulnerability)

# Concluding thoughts

- No “ready to go” study topics pointed to, neither the idea nor the necessary funding
- Best projects perhaps NOAA X ACOE, with a possible ports component as well, with other sponsors such as FEMA
  - Follow up needed to sharpen focus
- Seeming shared interest in improving communication and dissemination of information on risk, vulnerability and resilience across agencies
  - Tied to SLR and other “climate”-related effects, but not necessarily exclusively so
- If focus on performance metrics, multi-metric approach that emphasizes relative (dis)advantage across full range of performance
- Next steps? Critical issues flyer: “Coastal Resilience & Coastal Infrastructure” [not “just” coastal infrastructure resilience]