

Habitat Issue Statements and Goals
Estuaries

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Issue Statements

Focal habitat or specific asset	Impact	Source of Impact	Non-climate Cause of Impact	Climate-driven Cause of Impact
Estuaries	Loss of heterogeneity within estuarine habitat	Changes in sedimentation and hydrology, flooding and accretion	Legacy and current land use management practices, current land use (roads/infrastructure), water diversion, barriers (coastal armoring)	Increased slr, changes in precipitation and hydrology, increased storm intensity, changes in salinity (e.g. saltwater intrusion)
<p>Issue Statement: Estuaries will experience change and conversion from one habitat type to another, resulting in changes to habitat diversity, changes in composition of habitat types, and loss of heterogeneity.</p>				
<p>Implications for management: Management will need to focus on monitoring impacts of changes in sediment and hydrology to the composition of estuarine communities. Managers need a better understanding of the coastal processes and littoral cell dynamics in the study region that balance sediment and inundation (identifying if sediment coming from the ocean is due to natural dynamics or because of human infrastructure such as jetties). Management will need to limit coastal armoring and development, and reduce upland sources of sediment if deposition is too high.</p>				

Management Goals

- 1) Monitor impacts of changes in sediment and hydrology to the composition of estuarine communities.

- 2) Better understand coastal processes that drive the balance of sedimentation and inundation in the study region.
- 3) Limit coastal armoring and development.
- 4) Manage sediment by reducing upland sources if sedimentation is too high.