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### **New hyper-local water level data helps South Carolina communities navigate historic flooding event**

For the first time, South Carolina's coastal communities are measuring the water levels surrounding their cities, towns and counties in real time. This comes at a particularly relevant moment as a significant high tide event, presently occurring in the South Carolina Lowcountry, is making national news: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/04/weather/coastal-flood-charleston-forecast/index.html>.

A widespread network of [water level monitoring stations](#) is being installed across the state with an initial emphasis on beachfront communities in the Lowcountry. "Community demand for local water-level data has exceeded expectations," says Nicole Elko, "Managers have elected to install sensors on their marsh shorelines, where chronic and episodic flooding is most severe."

*Nicole Elko, Ph.D., Executive Director, South Carolina Beach Advocates and Science Director, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)*

The South Carolina Beach Advocates are part of ASBPA's 5-year "[Southeast Coastal Communities Water Level Observation System](#)" project. The project is providing real-time water level data, tide predictions, and flooding alerts to coastal communities. The data are being used to plan for and respond to flood emergencies as well as design resilience strategies for sea-level rise and the projected increase in flooding. ASBPA is collaborating with [Hohonu, Inc.](#), a technology startup that provides environmental water level monitoring to help communities adapt to climate change.

"This project is providing benefits to the City of Folly Beach," says Tim Goodwin, "We have been checking our real-time water level data to monitor roadway and critical infrastructure flooding during this event."

*Tim Goodwin, Mayor, City of Folly Beach, and Chair, South Carolina Beach Advocates*

The project is funded by [SECOORA](#) (Southeast Coastal and Ocean Observing Regional Association), which is a member of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System, and part of

NOAA. ASBPA is leading one of four teams selected to create a new regional water level network. The project fills huge gaps between existing federal tide stations. For example, there is a large data gap between Charleston and the Georgia border.

The water level data are available online at [Hohonu's website](#). Sign up for a free account to view the data and community-defined critical elevation thresholds. Ultimately, data will be accessible for download on SECOORA's website.

About the [South Carolina Beach Advocates](#):

A nonprofit organization formed in 2015 to educate the public, governmental authorities, and elected officials as to the environmental, economic, and societal impact of South Carolina's beaches and inlets. We are the only organization that advocates for South Carolina's beaches. Our board of directors is comprised of the mayors and administrators of the state's beach communities.