



Figure 1: Unified Sea Level Rise Projection. These projections start from zero in year 2000 and are referenced to mean sea level at the Key West tide gauge. Based on the 5 year average of mean sea level, approximately 3.9 inches of sea level rise has occurred from 2000 to 2017 (see historic sea level section of guidance document). The projection includes global curves adapted for regional application: the median of the IPCC AR5 RCP8.5 scenario (Growing Emissions Scenario) as the lowest boundary (solid thin curve), the NOAA Intermediate High curve as the upper boundary for short term use until 2070 (solid thick line), the NOAA High curve as the upper boundary for medium and long term use (dash dot curve). The shaded zone between the IPCC AR5 RCP8.5 median curve and the NOAA Intermediate High is recommended to be generally applied to most projects within a short -term planning horizon. Beyond 2070, the adaptability, interdependencies and costs of the infrastructure should be weighed to select a projection value between the IPCC Median and the NOAA High curves. The NOAA Extreme curve (dash curve) brackets the published upper range of possible sea level rise under an accelerated ice melt scenario. Emissions reductions could reduce the rate of sea level rise significantly.