



SEAPOWER CONVERSATION

Discussing trends, technologies, and tactics that shape modern Seapower



Navigating the Tide: Rising Seas as a Threat to Readiness

Panelists



John Englander is an oceanographer and author of two highly acclaimed books about climate change and rising sea level including *Moving to Higher Ground: Rising Sea Level and the Path Forward*. He has led many fact-finding expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica. Englander is President of the Rising Seas Institute, a nonprofit advancing adaptation to rising seas through better understanding of the science, engineering, economics, and risk. John is a Fellow of The Explorers Club and the London-based Institute of Marine Engineering, Science, and Technology.



Tracey Spencer-Gould joined Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in 2020 after a career with the U.S. Geological Survey. As Environmental Director, she combines her lifelong learning and career experience to ensure environmental compliance in support of the “We Make Marines” mission at MCRD Parris Island. She coordinates with local, regional, and national conservation partners to address climate resilience initiatives in the Lowcountry. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Marine Science from Texas A & M University, Galveston and a master’s degree in Environmental Science & Policy from Johns Hopkins University.



Steve Jones is Community Plans and Liaison Officer (CPLO), Naval Station Norfolk. He is the principal civilian consultant and representative for the installation, leads the encroachment working group, provides expertise on land use planning issues, and works with local/regional government agencies and staff to facilitate intergovernmental coordination. Steve began working for the government in May 1993 with Department of Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center as a Project Supervisor/Project & Construction Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Mississippi State University.



Rachael A. Dempsey is the National Ocean Service’s (NOS) Deputy Assistant Administrator for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning (NOP). She maintains full responsibility for strategic direction for the NOP programs and supervising NOS’s information technology, data management and modeling strategies. With nearly 28 years as a Meteorology and Oceanography and Information Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy, she has broad meteorological and oceanographic prediction and operational application expertise. She earned her bachelor’s degree in marine science from Jacksonville University and master’s degrees in meteorology and oceanography from NPS and national security strategy from the Naval War College.



Stuart Gold a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and served over 20 years as an intelligence professional in the civil service where he supported operations and decisionmakers at the tactical to strategic level. He served as the daily intelligence briefer to senior military officials at the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff including the Director Joint Staff and Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy (J5). He is currently an entrepreneur and part of the Rising Seas Institute. He holds a bachelor’s in Justice from American University, a master’s in National Security Studies from Georgetown University, and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



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Resources

John Englander

- Combined Naval Address: [Rising Seas: National & Global Security Challenges](#)
- For more information on Mr. Englander: <https://johnenglander.net/>
- TEDx Talk: [Sea level rise – fact & fiction](#)
- The Royal Institution: [Sea Level Rise Can No Longer Be Stopped, What Next?](#)
- Book: [Moving to Higher Ground](#) (2021)
- Book: [High Tide on Main Street](#) (2012)

NOAA

- [Tool: Sea Level Rise Portal](#)
- [Sea Level Rise – Map Viewer](#)
- [2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#)

Sea Level Rise and Installations

- [Norfolk naval base will be first pilot site for federal climate resilience program](#) (WHRO, 2023)
- [Climate change shapes future of Parris Island](#) (The Island News, 2022)
- [DOD, Navy Confront Climate Change Challenges in Southern Virginia](#) (DoD Release, 2021)
- [The Impacts of Climate Change on South Carolina Military Installations](#) (Center for Climate & Security, 2018)
- [The US Military on the Front Lines of Rising Seas](#) (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2016)

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