



HEIDI STILLER, MPP, MEM

Senior Advisor

Heidi Stiller, Senior Advisor for the Community Resilience Center, brings over two decades of experience in coastal resilience, hazard mitigation, and community adaptation to her role. She provides expertise to support research and community action projects, leads flood risk and vulnerability assessment initiatives, and offers guidance on communication, insurance, and community-led migration efforts.

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Senior Advisor

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Hazard mitigation

Community planning
and action

Strategic adaptation

Environmental
Management

Need assessment

Survey Design

Instructional Design
Training

EDUCATION

MPP, Master of Public
Policy, Stanford
Institute of Public
Policy, 1997

MEM, Master of
Environmental
Management, Duke
University, 1997

BA, Arts in History,
University of Rhode
Island, 1995

Before joining The Water Institute, Heidi served as the South Regional Director for NOAA's National Ocean Service Office for Coastal Management, where she acted as a key liaison for coastal partners from North Carolina to Texas. In that role, she helped implement national and regional coastal and ocean programs, connecting on-the-ground partners with NOAA's data, tools, and services.

Her career also includes positions with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Coastal Management Program. A contributing author to the coastal chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, Heidi's work emphasizes planning that integrates hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and natural resource sustainability.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025–Present: Senior Advisor, The Water Institute

2019–2025: South Regional Director, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

2006–2019: Coastal Management Specialist, NOAA Office for Coastal
Management - Gulf Region, Training and Engagement Program

2005-2006: Mission Assignment to Louisiana, Emergency Support Function #14 –
Long-term Community Recovery

2002-2006: Marine Protected Area Specialist, Coastal Management Specialist,
NOAA Coastal Services Center

1998-2001: Local Programs Specialist, Florida Coastal Management Program

1998: Environmental Specialist, Hazard Mitigation Section – State Emergency
Management Office



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – CONTINUED

1997: Research Assistant, University of North Carolina

1996-1997: Research Assistant, Duke University

1996: Conservation Policy Intern, National Parks and Conservation Association

1991-1995: Project Supervisor and Senior Interviewer, Cancer Prevention Research Center

PROJECTS

Sea Level Calculator: NOAA. (2025). South Regional Director. Co-led development of this online tool that allows users to explore how sea levels and coastal flooding have changed in frequency and magnitude for a chosen location, as well as to visualize and apply the latest sea level scenarios to plan for the future. Coordinated across teams working on data development, programming, learning product development, and communication. Led interagency coordination.

Gulf Coast Needs Assessment: NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC). (2006). Coastal Management Specialist. Project informed development of NOAA products and services for the Gulf region. Led needs assessment of coastal decision-makers in the Gulf region to inform the establishment, staffing, and operations of a new regional office. Conducted literature review and led interviews with a variety of decision-makers across levels of government and sectors. Produced the report that synthesized the needs of stakeholders and highlighted the established priorities that aligned with NOAA CSC capabilities.

Marine Protected Areas Training & Technical Assistance Needs Assessment, NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC). (2002). Coastal Management Specialist. Led a comprehensive needs assessment of Marine Protected Area (MPA) managers and staff to inform and prioritize the work of the NOAA MPA Center's Training and Technical Assistance Institute. The project involved literature review, focus groups, and interviews. Findings guided the development of products and services from the MPA Center.

NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer, NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC). (2012). Coastal Management Specialist, Gulf Coast Training and Engagement. A

precursor to the Sea Level Calculator, the Sea Level Rise Calculator was developed in response to numerous coastal decision-makers requesting the ability to visualize and share how varying amounts of sea-level rise would inundate specific locations and communities. The viewer remains a flagship product for NOAA. Contributed to identifying and documenting user needs across the Gulf region, weighed in on alpha and beta products, helped with user testing and feedback, and conducted extensive outreach and training on the use of the tool once released.

What Will Adaptation Cost? An Economic Framework for Coastal Community Infrastructure: NOAA Office for Coastal Management. (2013). Coastal Management Specialist, Gulf Coast Training and Engagement – Project Lead. This project produced a guide to evaluating the economics of adaptation. The framework developed informed coastal decision-makers, helping them understand the economics of coastal flood risks and adaptation measures. Work included contributing expertise in SLR science and applying SLR scenarios to cost-benefit analyses for no-action and action scenarios.

SLR Application Guide: NOAA Office for Coastal Management. (2022). South Regional Director. This application guide was developed to help practitioners understand and apply the latest SLR science from the 2022 Interagency Sea Level Rise Technical Report. Interfaced with NOAA to facilitate the sharing of the guide as a companion product to the Technical Report.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II: Report-in-Brief [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 186 pp. doi:
2. Collini, R.C., J. Carter, L. Auermuller, L. Engeman, K. Hintzen, J. Gambill, R.E. Johnson, I. Miller, C. Schafer, and H. Stiller. 2022. Application Guide for the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management, Mississippi–Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGP-22-028), and Florida Sea Grant (SGEB 88).