

# RISING WATERS

## RISING WATERS Virtual ACTIVITY 2

### Rising Waters Debate

*What Should People in Flood Prone Areas Do?*

#### Introduction:

As our environment changes around us, and storms become more powerful and frequent, coastal communities are going to have many additional challenges to face with rising water.

#### Objective

This activity challenges students to think about the future of coastal low-lying areas like the Outer Banks, and why some people choose to stay.

#### Activity

The program starts with some video clips from Science on the Sound “Rising” Panel Discussion to provide viewpoints from leaders in the community.

- **Video**  
[This video](#) includes clips from a panel discussion from local residents with strong ties to the area.
- **Assign different “stakeholder” groups:**
  - Real estate agent
  - Small business owner
  - Commercial fisherman
  - Dare County Commissioner
  - NC Governor
  - US President

Think and answer these questions from the perspective of your assigned stakeholder group. Be prepared to defend your choices. After the first few questions we will combine like-minded groups and finish with a debate on when the right time is to consider an exit strategy from the coast.

1. When a big storm hits Hatteras Island what is the best way to recover?
2. What ways/strategies could help keep Hatteras from changing?



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3. What draws people to coastal areas?

- **Debate**

When is it time to consider an exit strategy? Should coastal retreat and/or management policy decisions fall to the state, or individual residents?

**Debate format:**

*Teacher Moderates*

***Total Time Including Timeouts = 41 minutes***

Team A = State decision

Team B= Individual decisions

**Debate Sequence and Time Limits**

18 minutes to prepare opening statements. 2 speakers per side for opening statements.

Team A Speaker 1 -- 2 minute limit

Team B Speaker 1 -- 2 minute limit

*Timeout – 1 minute*

Crossfire (between A1 & B1) 1 minute limit

Team A Speaker 2 -- 3 minute limit

Team B Speaker 2 -- 3 minute limit

*Timeout – 1 minute*

Crossfire (between A2 & B2) 2 minute limit

*Timeout – 1 minute*

A1 summary -- 1 minute limit

B1 summary -- 1 minute limit

Grand Crossfire (all speakers) -- 2 minute limit

*Timeout – 1 minute*

A2 Last Shot -- 1 minute limit

B2 Last Shot -- 1 minute limit



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## Resources:

Property rights

Individual rights

Public trust doctrine

Who bears the cost of infrastructural damage? Beach nourishment? Public health? What about out-of-town property owners? Do their opinions count? How much? Consider the tax base and what property taxes pay for. What happens when that pool gets smaller and smaller, and the cost of mitigation higher and higher?

What essential services are provided by the state? What about the federal gov't?

\*Must use numbers, statistics, and facts to substantiate your argument\*



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## Participant Worksheet

1. What stance did your group take?
2. What were your strongest points?
3. What is some additional information you could have used to make a stronger argument? What do you wish you had facts about?
4. What were some of the good points that the other group made?
5. Do you have a strong personal opinion about this issue? Why or Why not?

