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Relative Sea Level Change and Coastal Vulnerability

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Message from the Guest Editors

Sea level rise is one of the major consequences of climate change, and it is already affecting coastal communities and ecosystems around the world. However, the current rate of sea-level rise is not the same everywhere. The melting of continental ice sheets and glaciers is a prime driver of sea-level rise over century to millennia time scales. Glacial and hydro-isostatic adjustment (GIA) is a combination of physical processes that regulate the deformation of the solid earth and of the geoid in response to surface ice and water loading variations. Hence, GIA contributes to the strong regional variability of ice-driven mean and relative sea-level (RSL) change. Vertical tectonic movements and mantle dynamic topography also contribute to increase the variability of RSL change in space and time. Furthermore, a strong contributor to regional sea-level variability also on much shorter time scales is thermal expansion in temperate sea, caused by density changes due to temperature increase.

For further reading, please follow the link to the Special Issue Website at:

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Special Issue



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