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Catalog of State Actions
Current Built Environment and Infrastructure Technical Working Group
Priority Recommendations for Policy Options

DRAFT

A catalog of state-level, Adaptation and Response actions and policy options prepared by the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and others based on actions undertaken or considered by Maryland and other states, including regional, state, local and private actions.

Important Note: The Adaptation Policy Options below are numbered solely for convenience in referencing them. Their numbers do NOT reflect a ranking or prioritization of the policy options.

Notation regarding options:

Flexibility (H,M,L): The degree to which the option could be changed as climate change evolves.

Capital Intensity (H,M,L): The cost of implementing the options.

Adaptive Capacity (H,M,L): The degree to which implementing the option would build adaptive management capacity and reduce climate risks under highest (H) magnitude impacts, medium (M) magnitude impacts and lowest (L) magnitude impacts...within governmental institutions and private entities.

Urgency (H,M,L): The degree to which NOT taking action soon would result in a significant opportunity cost, ie. What is the cost of inaction?

Options marked with an asterisk (*) indicate options that are at least partially “base case” policies, i.e., that have been considered or undertaken at some level in Maryland.

Priority Levels:

H = High

M = Medium

L = Low

X = Consensus Reached

Option No.	Adaptation Policy Option	Flexibility	Capital intensity	Adaptive capacity	Level of consensus	Notes
OVERARCHING ISSUES						
3.6	Enhance public education programs aimed at informing the public about sea level rise and coastal hazards				X	
2.10	Develop and/or strengthen a system for the comprehensive surveillance, monitoring, documentation, and dissemination of rates and locations of sea-level rise in Maryland.				X	
2.2	Conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment for all public and private properties				X	
2.9	Evaluate structural and non-structural options for beach protection (flood walls, dune restoration and creation, and periodic beach nourishment)				X	
2.13	Develop a system for the regular updating of flood inundation mapping from changes due to sea level rise				X	
2.14	Develop an inventory of potentially impacted infrastructure and maintain this database relative to emerging projected sea level rise findings				X	
3.2	Identify public and private systems and facilities at serious risk from sea level rise and initiate a system for siting such facilities away from vulnerable areas				X	
2.1	Evaluate existing shoreline protection structures to determine their effectiveness under varying sea level rise and the need for modification/replacement/abandonment				X	
2.6	Increase erosion and hazard planning focused on all coastlines, especially sheltered coastlines				X	
2.4	Strengthen existing building codes for new infrastructure and incorporate an increase in building inspection effectiveness as part of the strengthened codes				X	
2.11	Develop an early warning system (i.e., enhance hazard preparedness) through incorporation of sea level rise in hurricane and storm-surge evacuation planning.				X	