Appendix A: Worksheet for Selecting a RSLR Estimate

This worksheet walks you through the steps of selecting a RSLR estimate for your project, as described in Guidance for Using Maryland's 2023 Sea Level Rise Projections. Remember to consider the Guiding Principles (p. 3) when answering the questions included in the worksheet.

If using an adaptation pathway approach for your project, we recommend not using this worksheet, but instead refer to the federal Interagency Application Guide for the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report (section 4.4 pp. 29-31). The Town of Falmouth, MA on pp 33 has been identified as using an Adaptation Pathways Approach and can be used as an example.

Step 1: Define the project type, goal, and area	pp. 8-9
Project type and goal/outcomes: (include all short and long-term outcomes) Think about the project location or area, who does this project impact? Describe who will be impacted by the project and included in the decision-making process. How will you engage with those impacted and during which phases of the project?	

Step 2: Determine the project's timeframe	p. 10
Project timeframe in years: _____	Project end year (round to the nearest decade):_____

Identify incremental action point(s): Provide the approx year of the action point and give a short description of each action point and the intended outcome.

Year or Event	Description of Actions:
Start Year	
End Year	

Step 3: Select a tide gauge		p. 11
Annapolis, MD	Ocean City, MD	Washington, DC
Baltimore, MD	Solomons Island, MD	Cambridge, MD
Tolchester Beach, MD		

Step 4: Determine the project's tolerance for flood risk (2 parts) Parts A & B should repeated for each of the projects sub-area if the characteristics are different	pp. 12-14

Characteristic	**High**	**Medium**	**Low**	**Explanation**
Community Value				
Replacement Cost				
Likelihood to adapt				
Adverse Implications for public function and/or safety				
Sensitivity to frequency and exposure to inundation				
Other: _____				

Part B: Selection of Flood Risk Tolerance based on characteristics: Evaluate the characteristics above, note where the majority of the answers fall and align them with the definitions given for the associated flood risk tolerance.

	High Tolerance	**Medium Tolerance**	**Low Tolerance**	**Explanation**
Determine tolerance for flood risk	Flooding is expected and has minimal impact	Some flooding can be tolerated and impacts can be variable	Flooding had detrimental impacts	

Step 5: Select an RSLR estimate for the project: In step 3 you identified the representative tide gauge for your project. Go to Appendix B to find the SLR estimates for the selected tide gauge	pp. 15-17
The project should plan to, regulate for, or design for _____ feet RSLR by year _____	
Incremental action point(s) (year) (From Step 2)	RSLR (feet)

Great job, you have selected a RSLR estimate for your project and project sub-areas.

You can now determine how that number can be applied to your project. Steps 6 and 7 of the Guidance provide additional information to consider how RSLR interacts with coastal flooding and where to begin when considering possible adaptation options. Both steps will provide guidance as you continue in your project planning. Refer to pages 16-21.