**Table # 9**

**Panel 1, Physical Threat**

**Note taker name: Claudia Risner**

**Moderator: Diane Horn**

***Question 1:***What information do decision makers need from sea level rise and extreme event researchers?

***Answer/Notes:***

* Decision makers need information:
  + Consolidated data and predictions of weather events and SLR from an credible source. Too many sources create space for disagreement and denial.
  + Estimates of social and business impacts in the local area, downscaled from global.
  + Timeframe must shift from centuries to within a lifetime rather.
  + Cost-benefit analysis to get financial stakeholders onboard.
* Actual weather events present an opportunity to update observed data, adjust plans, and obtain governmental funding (Ex: post-Sandy funding to local governments along the eastern shore and gulf areas)

***Question 2:*** How familiar were you with the scientific information you heard?, What do you think is the level of public awareness about this information?  (If public awareness is low) How do we improve public awareness about these issues?

***Answer/Notes:***

* All table participants are familiar.
* High level of local public awareness of SLR and vulnerability to extreme weather events.
* Increased awareness ideas:
  + Public forums on SLR.
  + SLR is good branding, use it, rather than the more politicized “climate change”.
* Discussion on the political dynamics in VA:
  + Local politicians are aware of issue and are fully engaged in seeking and implementing solutions. State politicians do not seem engaged.
  + VA tradition is that local governors (mayors) do NOT want state or federal governmental involvement. They balk at “unfunded mandates” and want to avoid the *hooks* that come with higher-level governmental funding.
  + Other states do not have this same political dynamic. Examples are New York and Maryland.

***Question 3:*** What is the biggest challenge to communicating the different levels of sea level rise and increased flooding?

***Answer/Notes:***

* Getting past climate change denial. Lack of consolidated data. Timeframes that are too long lack urgency.
* Army Corps study on Norfolk Naval Station is so important and would be an excellent way to focus attention of locals on the problem.
* ODU communications should be more factual, avoid theory and focus on reality, skip causality, modeling work is very useful.

***General Question:***Given what you've learned during this panel, what types of collaborative research and action might be most useful in affecting adaptive policy?

**Answer/Notes:**

* Be inclusive in delivering the message:
  + academics and practitioners.
  + Both political affiliations (GOP and Dems), don’t let SLR become politicized.

*Consensus Points:*

* Agreement on all issues discussed at the table.

*Takeaways/Action Items:*

* Planning must start now.

*Points of dissent:*

* Unique VA political dynamics

*Miscellaneous/Interesting:*