**Table 2**

**Panel 1, Physical Threat**

**Wiebke Lamer**

**Jan-Joel Andersson**

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

***Answer/Notes:* There’s so much information out there, is it a question of more information or new information? Kelly Burks-Cope’s presentation was really great in communicating the modeling in an illustrative kind of way. Is information really information or is it biased/propaganda?**

**How do you go from political viewpoints to neutral information? Climate change topic raises red flags, but sea-level debate is less controversial. Decision-makers have seen he likes of Ghent flooding firsthand, so they can’t really argue with that.**

**Two things: we need to focus more on the storm. Sea-level rise is one thing, 1 meter by itself is not so bad, but if you add the rain and storm to it, you realize that this is going to be a bigger problem. Not the mean of the sea level, but the effects of when the storm hits. The 1933 hurricane would have completely different effects today. Also, saltwater intrusion is a problem. We don’t have good water in this area to start with for drinking water.**

**The information is there, but it matters how it is communicated. Photos/illustrations are more effective than charts and numbers in this case. Tying it back to local consequences is important. Once that happens, policymakers have more leverage to make decisions.**

**Is there an ethical aspect to information scaremongering? The study about the Navy base had a list of priorities that they were studying, so when it comes to the public, such priorities would be good to have as well. We should also be careful not to leave out communities with less power, this ties in to environmental justice. Example of India and cyclone evacuation: they were able to communicate the dangers and evacuation procedures to much poorer people and were able to save many lives.**

**How do you prepare a base for sea-level rise/flooding when the whole town around it would flood? It was interesting to find out that the base is on the same grid as Norfolk. Norfolk depends so much on the base economically, it’s in our best interest to change our own (community) infrastructure.**

***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: The information is available, National Geographic coverage of sea level rise for example, but is the public available to the information? It’s very difficult to get people to understand something that is going to cost them money.***

***The information is widely available, but it’s good to branch out and bring in new disciplines and people into the fold and not just preach to the choir.***

***On the local level, how do you get local politicians interested? They don’t want to talk about the issue. Gubernatorial race: ideological divide, more perspectives are better to bridge this kind of gap.***

***All of the East Coast is affected, to realize that was interesting.***

***How important is public awareness? People don’t talk too much about it, but they know it’s important. The politicians should go where the public goes, so if the public doesn’t pick up this issue, the politicians won’t either.***

***What’s the best level to work on? State level doesn’t seem very effective. It’s important to think about the big picture, however. We are all part of one big system. If something happens in the Chesapeake Bay, this has effects on Northern VA, too.***

***Cooperation between “outsiders” is important to pool resources and protect the whole region, particularly in Hampton Roads area.***

***Interesting point that was made in Nicholls presentation: US deals with floods with an evacuation, not protection plan. If we want to move on to protection, we need to realize that protection can’t stop at the city line.***

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

***Answer/Notes: Is it a packaging issue? Or that it’s a political issue? It’s a combination of things. It’s not necessarily about communication, but about motivation.***

***Are there other examples of other issues like this? Public health maybe? Vaccination campaigns maybe? National security, because it’s about looking at the bigger picture. Transportation is also such an issue that transcends city or state lines. You can’t do everything at the same time, but you can do something step by step. See earthquakes in California.***

***Express risk economically - that might be a way to get people to take action/note.***

***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: Ran out of time**

*Consensus Points:*

*Information is available, but research should be communicated in visual/easy to understand way.*

*Combination of sea-level rise* ***and*** *storm effects is vital.*

*Takeaways/Action Items:*

*Reach out to different disciplines and collaborate across the region.*

*Express the risk of sea-level rise in the Hampton Roads area in economic terms to raise public awareness.*

*Points of dissent:*

*Miscellaneous/Interesting:*