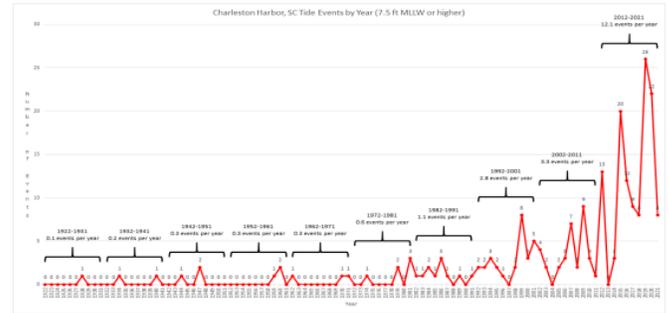


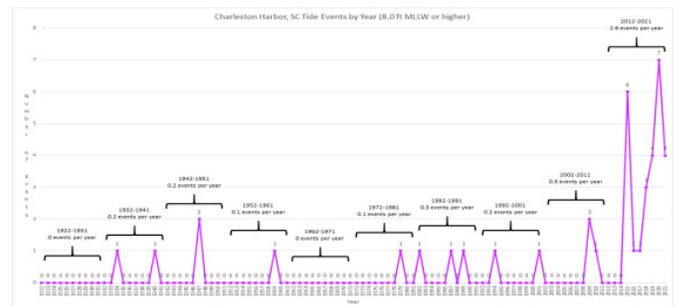
The Army Corps Study of the Charleston Peninsula and Other Water Management News



Moderate tidal flooding



Major tidal flooding



Source: NOAA

THE NEARLY \$4 MILLION US ARMY CORPS OF Engineers study of storm surge risk to the Charleston Peninsula is almost complete. Two drafts were reviewed by the city and the public over the past year, and ideas expressed in hundreds of comments were evaluated by the Army Corps. Some were incorporated in the study's second draft, including a change in the path of the protection wall; others will be considered if the project gains approval and moves to its next phase.

At the same time, a long-needed city-wide Comprehensive Water Management Plan for all of Charleston will be under way shortly, funded for 2022. This key planning tool will include the Corps project and create a citywide blueprint for where and how flooding risk from all sources should be handled in the face of increasing sea level rise, tidal flooding, rain bombs, and subsidence. A wide range of drainage, land-use, and water-management projects throughout the city will be on the table.

Based on its own independent review, the 3 X 3 Advisory

Committee has recommended that City Council approve moving to the Corps' next project phase, known as Pre-construction, Engineering and Design, or PED. In that case, this committee has voted to continue its oversight.

The Corps is reviewing the study now at its district and national levels. While some changes could be made, approval by May is expected, partly because it has the best cost-benefit rating in the country.

After approval from the Corps leadership, and after Congress authorizes and appropriates funding for the next phase of the project, the city and the Corps must negotiate a Design Agreement before the project can proceed. That Agreement will include direction on important issues such as nature-based elements and the preservation of historical assets, vistas, and cultural entities, as well as the path of the wall. If agreement is negotiated by the end of 2022, if Council votes to move ahead, and if Congress approves and allocates funding, PED, a multi-year process, will begin likely next March.