



NFCS Sea Level Rise Projections Webinar Report – 11 March 2026

Event Overview and Speakers

On 11 March 2026, the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) hosted a focused webinar on sea level rise projections, bringing together a wide range of experts and stakeholders to discuss what sea level projection data and research is currently underway or planned for the future.

The webinar was organised in response to issues identified during the development of Ireland's Sectoral Adaptation Plans, where stakeholders experienced difficulties sourcing consistent and usable sea level projection data. This highlighted a broader gap in accessible, sector-specific climate information, prompting the NFCS to convene this targeted session.

The event featured contributions from leading experts in climate science, modelling, and risk assessment, including Niamh Cahill (Maynooth University), Tido Semmler (Met Éireann), Jason Flanagan (ICHEC), James Fitton (KPMG), Alan Berry (Marine Institute), and Gerard McCarthy (Maynooth University).

Speakers provided insights into the latest developments in sea level modelling, including data inputs, population exposure, and coastal risk assessment. A key focus of the session was improving understanding of available and planned projections.

Breakout sessions formed a central component of the webinar, enabling participants to discuss challenges, identify gaps, and propose solutions. The insights from these sessions are summarised below.

Breakout room Insights

Data and Research Foundations

There is strong demand for high-resolution, Ireland-specific datasets supported by transparent methodologies and clear communication of uncertainty. Open access to data is essential.

Data Requirements

Users require projections across multiple time horizons, with high spatial resolution and multiple climate scenarios to support planning and risk assessment.

Integration with Coastal Hazards

Sea level rise data must be integrated with flooding, storm surge and erosion data. Compound events were also highlighted as an area of interest.

Planning and Decision Support

A consistent national baseline for sea level projections is a priority. Data must be trusted, user-friendly, and compatible with planning and engineering tools, supporting infrastructure design and risk mapping.

Data Gaps and Access Issues

Key challenges include limited local data, uncertainty around model selection, lack of integration with other coastal datasets, and difficulty accessing and navigating existing data. Stakeholders highlighted the potential utility of a centralised data portal.

Communication and Usability

Stakeholders require clear guidance on how to access, interpret, and apply data. Simpler, more accessible formats (e.g. visual tools and summaries) are needed for both technical and non-technical users.

Key Recommendations

- Establish a consistent national framework for sea level projections.
- Improve data accessibility through a centralised platform.
- Integrate sea level rise with broader coastal hazard data.
- Develop user-friendly tools and guidance to support decision-making.
- Improve communication regarding datasets and how to access and use them.



Figure 1: Themes, Gaps and Recommendations arising from the breakout sessions during the NFCS SLR projections webinar.

Conclusions

The webinar highlighted clear progress in sea level projection research for Ireland, but also significant gaps in accessibility, consistency, and usability. Addressing these issues will be critical to enabling effective coastal planning and climate resilience.

Insights from the session will inform future NFCS guidance and outputs, including the summary infographic on this webpage aimed at improving stakeholder understanding and guidance regarding sea level projections. Ultimately, enhancing the usability and integration of sea level data will be critical to supporting Ireland's long-term climate resilience and coastal planning efforts.

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