



# For Immediate Release

Deborah Brosnan & Associates

Deborah Brosnan & Associates

The Brosnan Center [www.brosnancenter.com](http://www.brosnancenter.com)

For Immediate Release Feb 11, 2016

## Announcing New Online Mapping Tool for Virginia's Eastern Shore

Introduced by Partnership of Deborah Brosnan & Associates (Brosnan Center), The Nature Conservancy, NASA, and Consortium of Partners

*'Coastal Resilience' tool to help Virginia communities plan for the future on a rapidly changing coastline.*

*First in a series of introductory workshops February 11, 12.*

VIRGINIA – Deborah Brosnan & Associates (The Brosnan Center) working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, NASA and a consortium of partners have released the first iteration of the Coastal Resilience online mapping tool for Virginia's Eastern Shore. The Center along with Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, NASA- Wallops Flight Facility, The Nature Conservancy, are holding three introductory workshops for community members to learn how to use the tool at the Eastern Shore Community College on February 11 and 12, 2016. Additional workshops will be held over the next six months, and announced on [coastalresilience.org/Virginia](http://coastalresilience.org/Virginia).

The Coastal Resilience tool will help coastal communities of the Eastern Shore examine different flooding scenarios from sea level rise and storm surge, analyze the potential impacts on communities, natural resources, socio-economic factors, and critical infrastructure, and inform a range of potential risk reduction and mitigation actions. The tool will also help identify the best places for considering use of nature-based solutions - such as oyster reef or salt marsh restoration - to mitigate risks of flooding and shoreline erosion.

This tool is part of a project funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Fund awarded to the Conservancy in 2014. The first phase of the Coastal Resilience tool was developed with input from the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Working Group and local community leaders to identify the information and scenarios that are most relevant to local planning needs and decision-making for the future. It is now available to the public at [coastalresilience.org/Virginia](http://coastalresilience.org/Virginia).

“This tool represents the state of the science and its application to helping communities understand the changes they are seeing today in their environment, how those changes are likely to impact them into the future, and it provides a framework to solve those challenges” said Deborah Brosnan. “We’re proud to be partners in this effort that is scientifically innovative but deeply practical.” Jill Bieri, Director of Nature Conservancy’s Virginia Coast Reserve Program, comments “Our coastal communities need clear and credible information to plan for increasing risk in the future due to rising sea level and extreme weather events. The Coastal Resilience tool will help determine the most resilient and vulnerable places on the Eastern Shore so communities can prioritize where and when to pro-actively adapt to lessen potential impacts of flooding and storms.”

The next phase of development for the Coastal Resilience tool will introduce an innovative application to help landowners and resource managers identify where coastal habitat restoration could lower the risk of shoreline erosion. Future developments will also provide a more detailed analysis of the Atlantic barrier islands along the coast of Virginia.

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, NASA, The Nature Conservancy, and the Brosnan Center will hold a series of three introductory workshops for community members to learn how to use the tool at the Eastern Shore Community College on February 11 and 12, 2016. Additional workshops will be held over the next six months, and announced on [coastalresilience.org/Virginia](http://coastalresilience.org/Virginia).

---

***Deborah Brosnan & Associates, (The Brosnan Center) develops unique and science-based innovative solutions to environmental problems globally. [www.Brosnancenter.com](http://www.Brosnancenter.com)***

Contact Deborah Brosnan & Associates, 503 869 5769 [brosnan@deborahbrosnan.com](mailto:brosnan@deborahbrosnan.com)  
For The Nature Conservancy Contact [Matthew.kane@tnc.org](mailto:Matthew.kane@tnc.org) (240) 630-7052 (office); 323-898-6510 (cell)