James Shope, PhD, Research Associate, NJ Climate Change Resource Center, Department of Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Dr. James Shope is an applied climatologist and geoscientist. He is passionate about engaging with resiliency challenges facing decision makers in light of climate change and extreme weather.

Dr. Shope presented an overview of recent global and New Jersey specific sea-level rise trends. Sea level in New Jersey has been rising at about twice the average global rate. Higher sea levels can consume coastal property and infrastructure, magnify storm-driven flooding, and affect our coastal aquifers. The presentation covered our scientific understanding of sea-level rise and its effects in New Jersey and potential adaptation strategies. The presentation concluded with a demonstration of the Rutgers Climate Change Resource Center NJADAPT toolset to visualize sea-level rise’s potential influence on future flooding in the Raritan Bay/Navesink/Shrewsbury coastal area of Monmouth County.