The map on the following page is from J.G.Titus and C.Richman, 2000, "Maps of Lands Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise: Modeled Elevations Along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Coasts." *Climate Research* (in press).

SUGGESTED CAVEATS

Research Papers : *"This map is based on modeled elevations, not actual surveys or the precise data necessary to estimate elevations at specific locations. The map is a fair graphical representation of the total amount of land below the 1.5- and 3.5-meter contours; but the elevations indicated at particular locations may be wrong. Those interested in the elevations of specific locations should consult a topographic map. Although the map illustrates elevations, it does not necessarily show the location of future shorelines. Coastal protection efforts may prevent some low-lying areas from being flooded as sea level rises; and shoreline erosion and the accretion of sediment may cause the actual shoreline to differ from what one would expect based solely on the inundation of low land. This map illustrates the land within 1.5 and 3.5 meters of the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, a benchmark that was roughly mean sea level in the year 1929 but approximately 20 cm* [or fill in local estimate] *below today's sea level."*

Publications for the General Public: If possible, the aforementioned caveat should be printed; but sometimes space constraints will make that impossible. We recommend that as much of the following be included as possible: *"Elevations based on computer models, not actual surveys. Coastal protection efforts may prevent some low-lying areas from being flooded as sea level rises. The 1.5-meter contour depicted is currently about 1.3-meters* [use local estimate if possible] *above mean sea level, and is typically 90 cm* [use local estimate if possible] *above mean high tide. Parts of the area depicted in red will be above mean sea level for at least 100 years and probably 200 years* [use local estimates if possible]. *The 3.5-meter contour illustrates the area that might be flooded over a period of several centuries."*

Newspapers and Magazines: The amount of space available for a caption is typically even less in a newspaper or wide-circulation magazine. We must simply recognize that those publications are unlikely to explain the difference between elevation and land lost due to sea level rise, let alone the potential errors. Fortunately, however, magazines and newspapers tend to publish such small maps that the scale will probably be an order of magnitude smaller than what we offer here, which substantially reduces the need for a caveat. The January 1, 2000 edition of *The New York Times* published a few of our maps after this article was accepted for publication. We found their caveat to be acceptable. With minor edits, that caveat read: "*Regions shown in black are some of the areas that could be flooded at high tide if global warming causes sea level to rise 2 feet in the next 100 years. The indicated areas account not only for the effects of global warming, but also for other effects such as tidal variations and land subsidence."*

below 1.5 meters
1.5 - 3.5 meters
above 3.5 meters
200 miles