

# Global warming and sea-level rise

Science-based analyses of America's key environmental issues

Center for Science &  
Public Policy  
www.scienceandpolicy.org

## Contact Information

209 Penn. Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Tel: 202-454-5249

Fax: 202-454-5223

Robert Ferguson  
Executive Director  
bferguson@ff.org

**Claim:** *Global warming will cause massive sea level rise.*

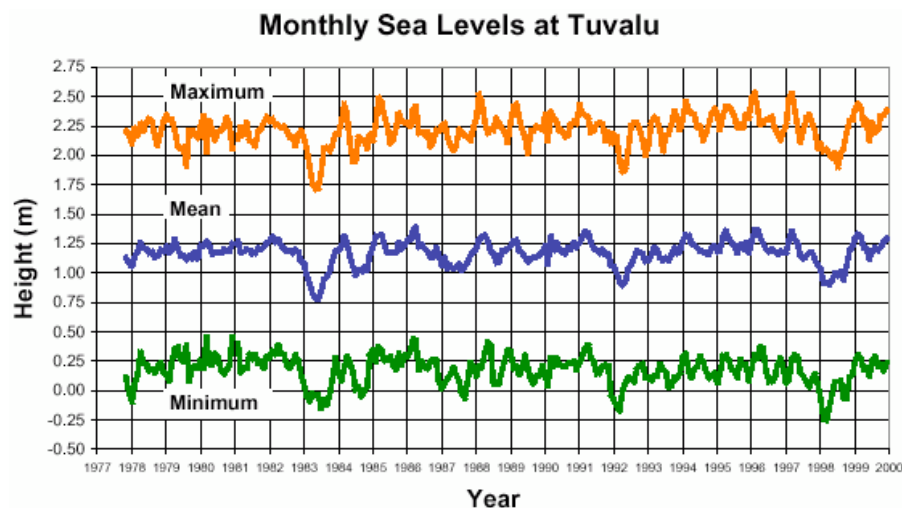
One of the major **untrue horror stories** to follow on the heels of CO<sub>2</sub>-induced global warming is a *predicted* increase in sea level that is said to be so large and rapid that *it's predicted* to devastate human settlements and natural ecosystems scattered throughout the world's low-lying coastal areas. Some claim this devastating rise is already underway.

The poster-child examples of warming alarmism are the island of Tuvalu and the Maldives. The Tuvalu government led the cry about small nations being swamped beneath the waves of rising seas, seeking wanted international compensation and for Australia and New Zealand to guarantee 'residency' to their 12,000 islanders in the event of inundation.

All real measurements show that Tuvalu has suffered, at worst, no sea level rise. Now the National Tidal Facility, based in Adelaide, Australia, has dismissed the Tuvalu claims as unfounded. They have maintained accurate monitoring of sea level at Tuvalu, and report, "The historical record shows no visual evidence of any acceleration in sea level trends."

However, it is likely that beach erosion and building on the island to attract tourism have caused the sea flooding of areas over the last decade. But it is a *local* problem that will not be solved by massive cuts in carbon dioxide emissions.

Nor does there appear any sea level threat to Maldives, a coral atoll group in the centre of the Indian Ocean and inhabited for the last 1,500 years. The President of INQUA, the international commission with expertise in sea level, Nils-Axel Mörner, had this to say recently, "It has been popular to threaten small islands and low-lying coasts with scenarios of disastrous future flooding. The Maldives has been the most utilized target. We have undertaken a careful analysis of actual sea level changes in the Maldives. *No rise* has been recorded either in the present or the past centuries. Instead we have documented a *significant sea level fall* in the last 20-30 years."



**Reference:**

INQUA. 2000. Homepage of the Commission on Sea Level Changes and Coastal Evolution, [www.pog.su.se/sea](http://www.pog.su.se/sea). Sea Level Changes, News and Views, The Maldives Project.

<http://www.john-daly.com/press/#maldives>