

## INSTITUTE INDEX: NC still fighting the science of sea-level rise



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Number of scientific papers that have been published this month reporting that the collapse of major Antarctic glaciers now "appears unstoppable" due to climate change: [2](#)

Feet that seas would rise were these glaciers to melt entirely: [about 6](#)

Number of years that the process of melting could take: [several hundred](#)

Number of years to which the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission voted last week to limit the state's official forecast of sea-level rise: [30](#)

Portion of the commission's membership that was replaced last year by order of the Republican-controlled state legislature following controversy over its science panel's previous sea-level rise prediction, with marine scientists and conservationists replaced with pro-development advocates: [2/3](#)

Inches of sea-level rise the science panel previously predicted, setting off a firestorm of opposition from coastal real-estate interests including an economic development group called NC-20: [39](#)

Number of NC-20 members who now sit on the reconstituted and shrunken Coastal Resources Commission: [1](#)

Number of NC-20 members who have been nominated to fill one of the four current empty seats of the commission's science panel, which is charged with updating the sea-level rise forecast by next March: [1](#)

Date on which Gov. Pat McCrory (R) appointed as the commission's chair Frank Gorham III, president of Sandstone Properties LLC, an oil and gas investment business: [10/15/2013](#)

Year in which the North Carolina legislature passed a [much-mocked bill](#) that barred state agencies from considering the most up-to-date scientific predictions about future sea level rise: [2012](#)

Year in which a scientific study reported that North Carolina was in a "hotspot" for rising seas: [2012](#)

Factor by which sea level rise in the hotspot is expected to exceed rise elsewhere: [3 to 4](#)

Number of North Carolina coastal counties that for the most part sit only a foot above sea level: [6](#)

*(Click on figure to go to source.)*



A house on North Carolina's Outer Banks, which are in a hotspot for sea-level rise. (Photo [from the U.S. Geological Survey.](#))