

## ***NBC Alarmism: Global Warming 'Could Cause a Whole Lot of Damage Much Sooner'***

By **Kyle Drennen** | March 15, 2012

Seizing on warmer than usual temperatures across the country on Wednesday's NBC Nightly News, anchor Brian Williams ominously warned viewers: "Much warmer weather can have a dark side, of course. And tonight **there is a new projection that rising seas due to climate change could cause a whole lot of damage much sooner than anyone had previously thought.**"

Correspondent Anne Thompson used recent weather events to drive the point home: "The ferocious surge of the Atlantic powered by Hurricane Irene last August moved a lifeguard tower...broke through a sea wall, and sent water rushing into the streets of New York's Long Beach. A scene that will become more commonplace, a new study says, because of rising sea levels caused by global warming."

A sound bite followed of Benjamin Strauss from [Climate Central](#), an global warming advocacy group whose mission statement reads:

The climate crisis isn't just some far-off threat: it's a clear and present danger. Galvanized by this sobering reality, Climate Central has created a unique form of public outreach, informed by our own original research, targeted to local markets, and designed to make Americans feel the power of what's really happening to the climate. Our goal is not just to inform people, but to inspire them to support the actions needed to keep the crises from getting worse.

Thompson simply described the organization as a "non-profit group."

Reading from the Climate Central script, Thompson proclaimed: "Who's at risk? By 2030, the 5 million Americans living on coastal land less than four feet above high tide lines. By 2050, it expands to 6 million people living less than five feet above high tide levels.... Loading the dice, heat-trapping gasses from burning oil, coal and gas, melting polar caps and glaciers and warming the ocean."

Some balance was provided in the otherwise slanted report as Thompson cited "climate change skeptics" who "say you can't blame the rising oceans all on global warming." Cato Institute Senior Fellow Patrick Michaels explained: "The sea level rise caused by climate change is actually less than the sea level rise caused from land sinking, and we can't stop it."

On the [January 31 Nightly News](#), Williams and Thompson similarly used the mild winter to push the global warming agenda, with Thompson even seeming to blame climate change for two deaths.

In contrast, [back on November 1](#), the broadcast saw an early snowstorm as evidence of climate change, with Williams fretting: "Everybody out East said the same thing about this freak snowstorm, 'This kind of thing didn't used to happen. This never happened before.'"

Here is a full transcript of the March 14 report:

7:12PM ET TEASE:

BRIAN WILLIAMS: Still ahead here tonight as Nightly News continues, record highs across this country again today. But is it getting too warm generally? A warning tonight about a growing threat from the changing climate.

7:15PM ET SEGMENT:

WILLIAMS: You're looking at what is a very early start to the cherry blossom season in Washington, D.C. It's early, but it's beautiful. And a lot of people have hotel reservations for later in the year. And with temperatures across a lot of this country with 20 to 40 degrees above normal now, no surprise that the blossoms are out and blooming. National Park Service, by the way, has been forced to move up the date for the start of the official peak cherry blossom season.

This afternoon, the temperature in Chicago, Illinois, was the same as it was way down in Naples, Florida, a balmy 81 degrees. Much warmer weather can have a dark side, of course. And tonight there is a new projection that rising seas due to climate change could cause a whole lot of damage much sooner than anyone had previously thought. The report from our chief environmental affairs correspondent Anne Thompson.

AL ROKER: That is one angry Atlantic.

ANNE THOMPSON: The ferocious surge of the Atlantic powered by Hurricane Irene last August moved a lifeguard tower...

ROKER: Woah, look at that! That house is taking off.

THOMPSON: ...broke through a sea wall, and sent water rushing into the streets of New York's Long Beach. A scene that will become more commonplace, a new study says, because of rising sea levels caused by global warming. Benjamin Strauss of the non-profit group Climate Central, says the odds of a hundred-year flood happening by 2030 doubles for 2/3 of the places studied.

BENJAMIN STRAUSS: We found that once a once-a-100-year flood becomes a once-a-decade flood fastest in southern California, where we expect to see that within a couple of decades.

THOMPSON: Who's at risk? By 2030, the 5 million Americans living on coastal land less than four feet above high tide lines. By 2050, it expands to 6 million people living less than

five feet above high tide levels. In New York City, the danger is not just to the low-lying areas where millions live, but to the very way people get around. The funnel-shaped New York harbor could worsen storm surges that could flood the city's vital subway system. Loading the dice, heat-trapping gasses from burning oil, coal and gas, melting polar caps and glaciers and warming the ocean. Measurements taken in Bermuda show 58 years of increases.

TONY KNAP [BERMUDA INSTITUTE OF OCEAN SCIENCES FORMER DIRECTOR]: The temperature will be in red, there's more heat in the top couple of meters of the ocean than in the atmosphere.

THOMPSON: But climate change skeptics say you can't blame the rising oceans all on global warming.

PATRICK MICHAELS [CATO INSTITUTE SENIOR FELLOW]: The sea level rise caused by climate change is actually less than the sea level rise caused from land sinking, and we can't stop it.

THOMPSON: A future dependent on the ocean and threatened by it. Anne Thompson, NBC News, New York.