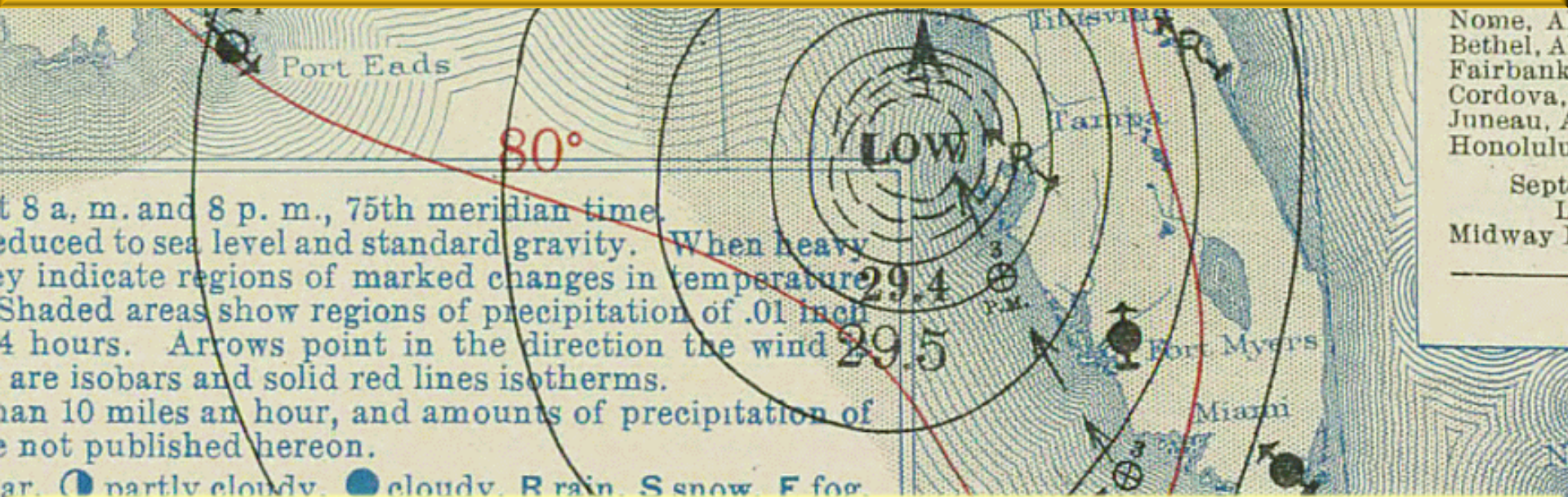


Climate Short

In the days after Superstorm Sandy
this claim: <tropical> “Storms Today are Different”



Bob Endlich

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12 Sep 2017

Weather, Climate and Climate Change—What the Data Say

“Storms Today Are Different”

"Because of sea level rise, the storm surge was much more intense, much higher than it would have been in a non-climate-changed world."

Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Chief

13 December 2012

From a news story on Hurricane, then post-tropical storm, Sandy, in late 2012:

Storms today are different," says Jane Lubchenco, who heads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which includes the National Weather Service.

"Because of sea level rise, the storm surge was much more intense, much higher than it would have been in a non-climate changed world."

...NPR, *Morning Edition*, Thursday, 13 Dec 2012

Let's examine this claim in light of some pertinent data.



Storm Surge Map for Sandy

NOAA: Surge = ~14 Ft near NYC

<CO2 ~ 394 PPM>

Lat: 42.8760 Lon: -61.3916

Legend

Height above NGVD-29 (feet)

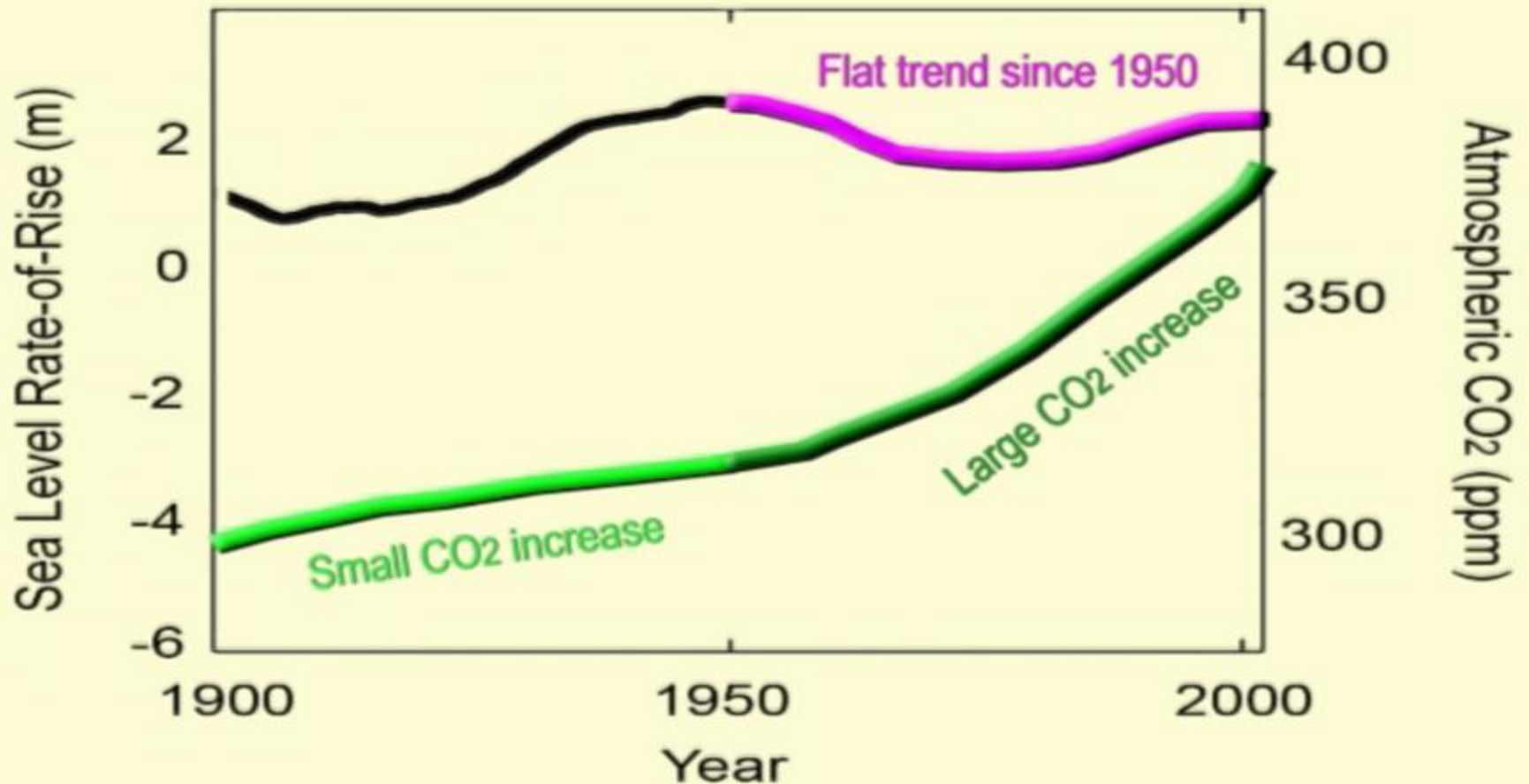


Disclaimer



Historical Data:
NHC this storm
NHC all storms
MDL

Observed Data: No 20th Century Acceleration of Sea Level Rise, despite the large increase in atmospheric <CO₂>



Church, J.A., White, N.J., Coleman, R., Lambert, K. and Mitrovica, J.X. 2004, Estimates of the regional distribution of sea level rise over the 1950-2000 period. *Journal of Climate* 17: 2609-2625.

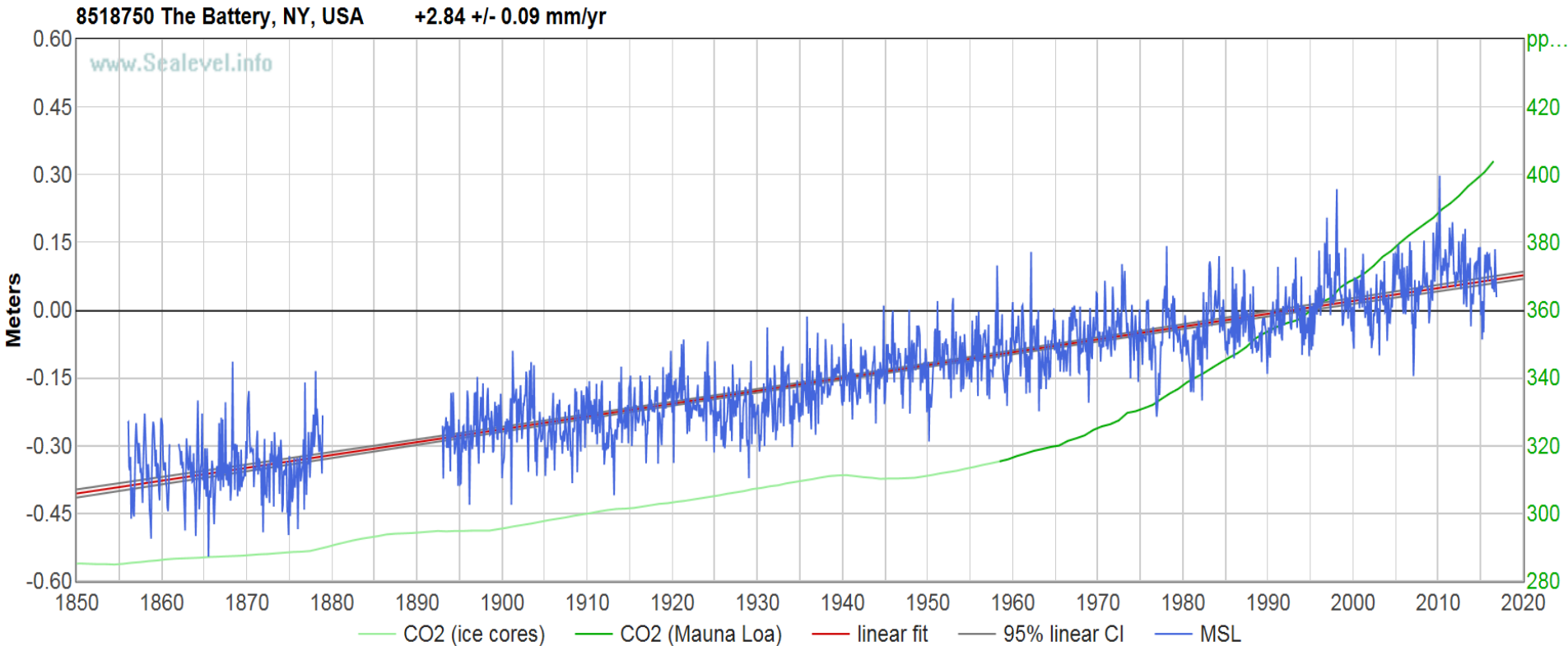
Sea Level Rate of Rise from one of the longest tide gage station records in the USA, The Battery, New York City, close to where Sandy came ashore.

http://www.sealevel.info/MSL_graph.php?id=Battery

The mean rate of Sea Level Rise is 0.93 ft in 100 years.

[Sealevel.info](http://www.sealevel.info) → [Data](#) → 8518750

Mean Sea Level at The Battery, NY, USA (NOAA [8518750](#), 960-121, PSMSL [12](#))



X-Axis: Time, years.

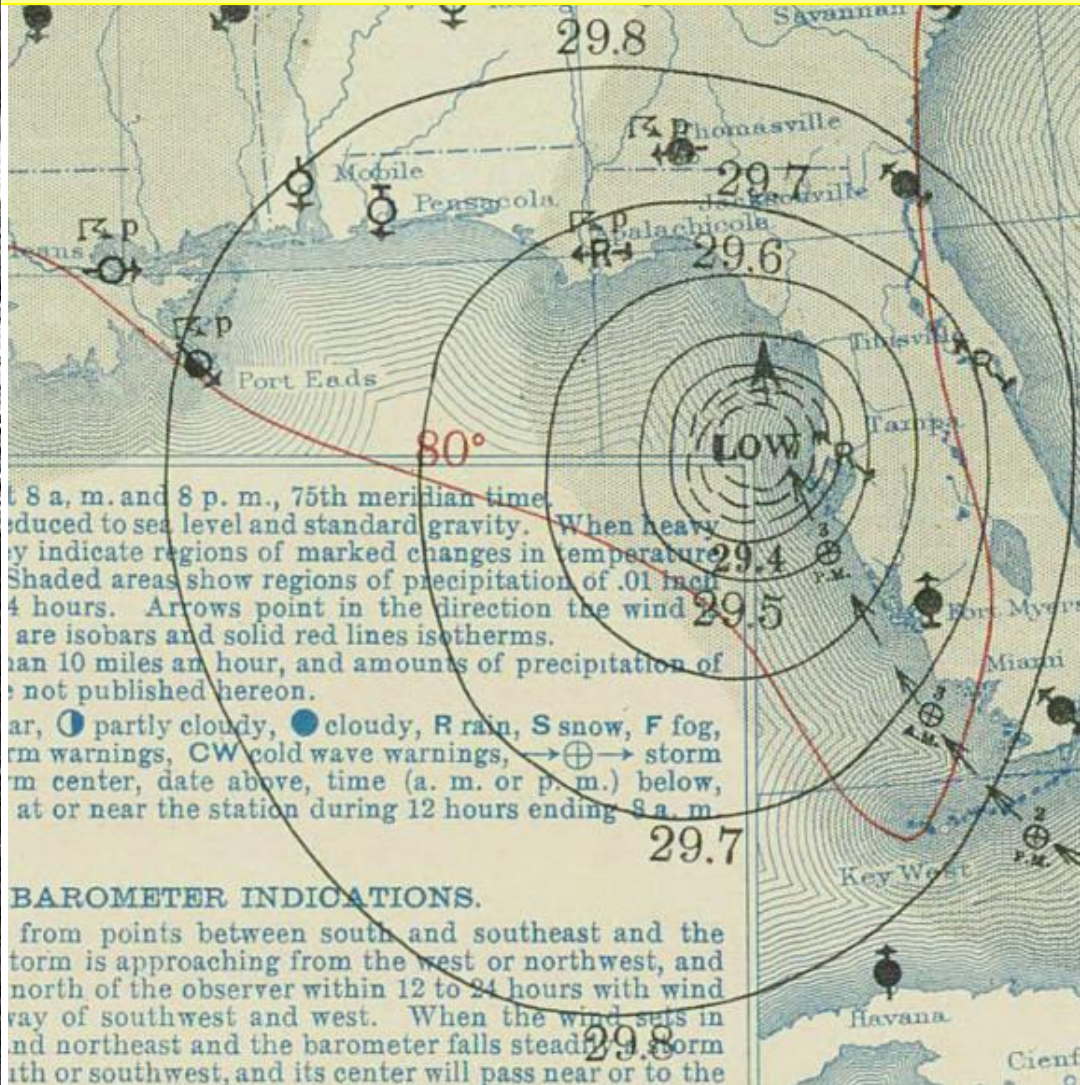
Y-Axis (Left) Sea Level Ht, meters. Y-Axis (Right) Atmospheric <CO2>

1935 Labor Day Hurricane Storm Surge over 18 ft

...the compact and intense hurricane caused extreme damage in the upper Florida Keys, as a storm surge of approximately 18 to 20 feet swept over the low-lying islands...

<CO2~306 PPM>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1935_Labor_Day_hurricane



at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., 75th meridian time, reduced to sea level and standard gravity. When heavy clouds indicate regions of marked changes in temperature. Shaded areas show regions of precipitation of .01 inch or more in 4 hours. Arrows point in the direction the wind is blowing. Solid lines are isobars and solid red lines isotherms. Wind speeds are in miles an hour, and amounts of precipitation are not published hereon.

☉ partly cloudy, ☁ cloudy, R rain, S snow, F fog, CW cold wave warnings, ⊕ storm center, date above, time (a. m. or p. m.) below, at or near the station during 12 hours ending 8 a. m.

BAROMETER INDICATIONS.

from points between south and southeast and the storm is approaching from the west or northwest, and north of the observer within 12 to 24 hours with wind way of southwest and west. When the wind sets in and northeast and the barometer falls steadily north or southwest, and its center will pass near or to the

1938: “Long Island Express” Hurricane’s Storm Surge was 18 to 25 Ft <CO2PPM> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1938_New_England_hurricane

The **1938 New England Hurricane** (also called the **Great New England Hurricane** and **Long Island Express**)... one of the deadliest and most destructive [tropical cyclones](#) to strike [Long Island, New York](#) and [New England](#).

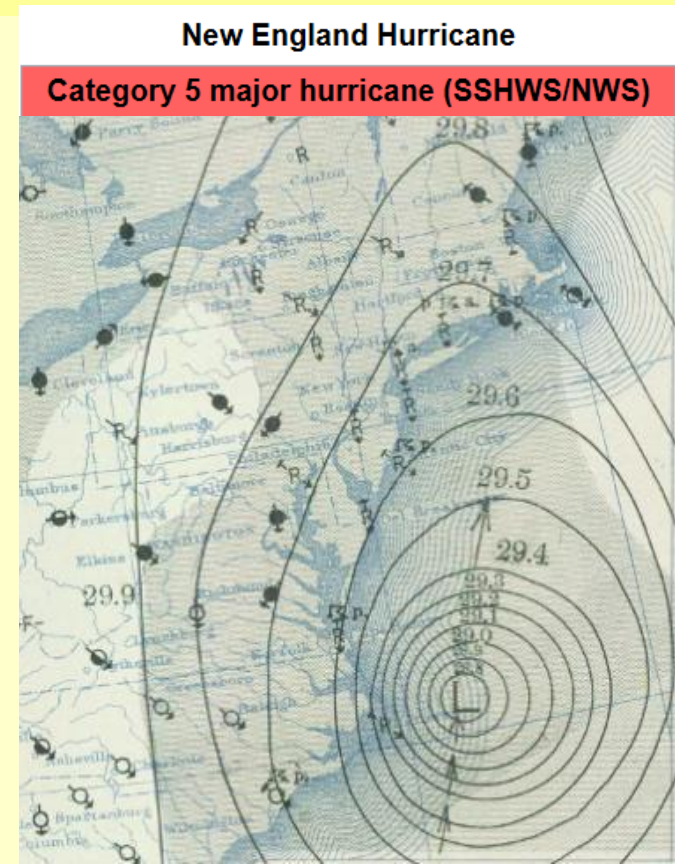
...the hurricane killed 682 people,^[2] damaged or destroyed more than 57,000 homes, and caused property losses estimated at US\$306 million (\$4.7 billion in 2017).^[3]

Damaged trees and buildings were still seen in the affected areas as late as 1951.^[4]

... most powerful and deadliest hurricane in recorded New England history, eclipsed in landfall intensity perhaps only by the [Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635](#).^[5]

The storm surge hit [Westerly, Rhode Island](#) at 3:50 pm EDT, resulting in 100 deaths there alone.^[22]

...tide was even higher than usual because of the [Autumnal Equinox](#) and [full moon](#). ...storm tides of 14 to 18 feet (5 m) across most the Long Island and Connecticut coast, **with 18- to 25-foot (8 m) tides** from [New London](#) east to [Cape Cod](#).



MANY DEAD IN HURRICANE

Bodies Cast On L. I. Shore; Subways Stop; Hotels Dark

EXTRA

Scores of bodies have been washed ashore from the ocean between Center Moriches and Sag Harbor, L. I., following today's storm, Nassau County Police Headquarters here tonight announced they had been advised by police in different Suffolk County communities.

The persons reported to have been drowned are said to have been occupants of cottages along a fifty-mile stretch of shoreland between the Montauk Highway and the Atlantic Ocean and stretching from Center Moriches to Westhampton.

Six bodies, victims of yesterday's devastating hurricane, were washed ashore last night at Westhampton, L. I., bringing the total death toll in all the affected area to 25.

In Westhampton, thirty persons were missing in the ruins of 160 Summer bungalows, which had been swept away by the gale. The bodies recovered were those of four men and two women.

After the Independent Subway System and the Manhattan-Hudson tubes had been tied up by light and power failure and by flooded tracks, hundreds of upper Broadway hotels, stores and apartment houses were plunged in darkness by the flooding of Edison plants, supplying the area with alternating current.

(Earlier details on Page 2. Complete account of hurricane havoc in later editions of today's News.)

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(By Associated Press)

The hurricane came! Here a Nassau County cop employs rubber boat to rescue children from rain-flooded home at Williston Park, Nassau.

2 Full Pages of Hurricane Fotos in Center Fold.



We've examined Jane Lubchenco's claim that, because of climate-changed sea level rise, the surge for superstorm (post-tropical storm) Sandy was greater than for previous storms.

We found that increasing atmospheric <CO2> has NOT increased the rate at which sea level rises.

NOAA's data showed a 14 ft storm surge for Sandy at New York.

We found that the storm surge for the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane was 18 to 20 ft.

We found that the storm surge for the 1838 "Long Island Express" hurricane was 18 to 25 ft in coastal Massachusetts.

We found that Jane Lubchenco's claims are Incorrect or False.

“Storms Today Are Different”

“Because of sea level rise, the storm surge was much more intense, much higher than it would have been in a non-climate changed world.”

Jane Lubchenco, former NOAA Chief

**Was she speaking out of ignorance of the facts,
or for political reasons?**