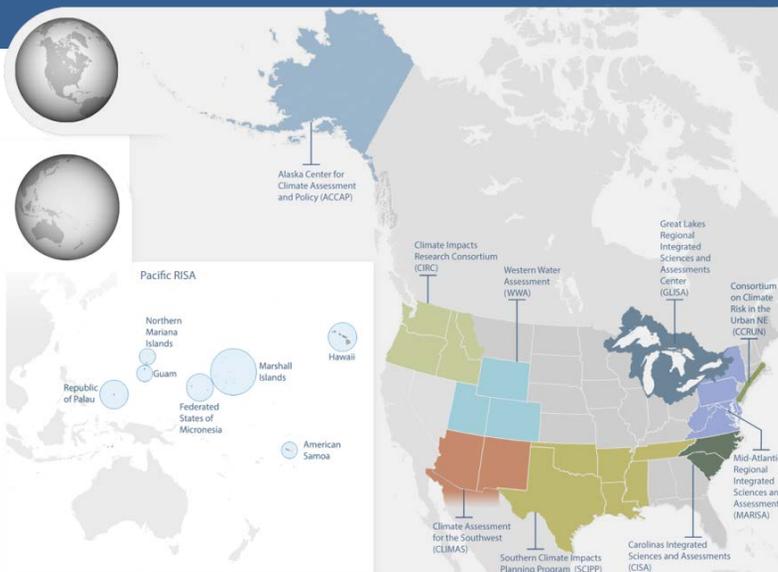


# REGIONAL INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS (RISA)

Helping regions and communities better prepare and plan for hazards and extreme events for more than 20 years.

In 2016 alone, the United States experienced 15 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, which resulted in 138 fatalities and cost \$46 billion.

For more than 20 years, the NOAA **Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA)** Program has been producing actionable climate research, helping to reduce economic damages that Americans face every year due to droughts, floods, forest fires, vector-borne diseases, and a host of other climate and extreme weather impacts. The **network of ten RISA teams across the country** work hand-in-hand with stakeholders and decision makers in regions across the United States to ensure that research and information is responsive to their needs.



The sustained regional presence of RISA enables teams to effectively support responses to extreme events. In 2012, CCRUN's expertise in coastal inundation informed New York City planning efforts after Hurricane Sandy, WWA researchers aided Colorado after 2013's record flooding, and RISA teams in the Western United States have supported the region during its recent intense drought.



Photo Courtesy: WWA

Research produced by the RISA program has educated, informed, and closely interacted with thousands of decision makers across the nation, helping them build the expertise to better plan and prepare for climate variability and extreme weather events. RISA products are making a difference today, helping communities and individuals improve resilience, enhance growth, and reduce costs in a variety of sectors. RISA is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office.



Photo Courtesy: Pacific RISA

Updated: April 2017

Learn more: [CPO.NOAA.gov/RISA](http://CPO.NOAA.gov/RISA)



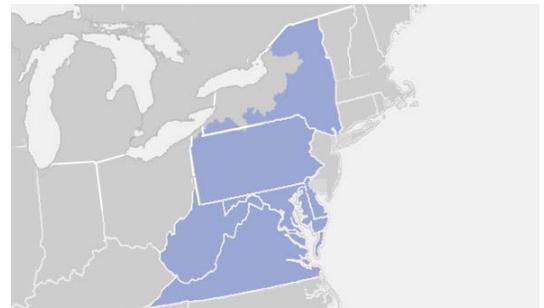
# HOW IS RISA HELPING COMMUNITIES NEAR ME?

The **Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences & Assessments (MARISA)** RISA was formed in Sept. 2016, in response to a gap in regional climate expertise that supports decision-maker needs.

**“Effectively supporting responses to extreme events in the Chesapeake Bay watershed requires expertise from a lot of different sources. The new NOAA-funded MARISA program is bringing together people from diverse disciplines and sectors to enhance learning and decision making to prepare for the impacts of climate variability and change.”**

- *Melissa L. Finucane*  
Senior Social & Behavioral Scientist

## MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS (MARISA)



[www.midatlanticrisa.org](http://www.midatlanticrisa.org)

## BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT CHESAPEAKE BAY REGION

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America. Its 64,000 square mile watershed is home to 18 million people in six states—Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York—and Washington D.C.



MARISA aims to close the knowledge gaps about climate-related risks and responses across the Mid-Atlantic region. The RISA supports integrated, flexible processes for building adaptive capacity to climate variability and change in diverse settings, with an initial focus on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. MARISA will rely on scientific models and information and foster close interactions with stakeholders and decision makers to achieve its objectives:

- Collaborating and integrating research & outreach;
- Assessing risks and vulnerabilities;
- Improving adaption and planning strategies;
- Educating students and communities;
- Supporting regional climate assessments; and
- Evaluating progress

**MARISA's mission:** Building more resilient Chesapeake Bay and Mid-Atlantic communities through improved understanding of and response to climate variability and change.