



Understanding sea level change over the last half century and its implications for the future

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Sea level has been rising at close to the upper end of the IPCC Third Assessment Report (and AR4) projections. Despite the importance of sea-level rise, the last two IPCC reports have not been able to satisfactorily close the sea-level budget. Here, we present updated estimates of the observed rate of rise from both satellite altimeter and in situ observations. We will build on recent progress in closing the sea-level budget and compare the observed rise to the sum of updated estimates of the contributions since 1961. We find a good closure of the sea level budget over multiple time scales.