

August 17, 2026

National Weather Service Investigates Coastal Flooding Due to High Tide in Cataño

During the week of August 8 to 15, 2026, the high tide (unofficially known as a King Tide event) contributed to coastal flooding in Cataño, Puerto Rico. According to reports obtained by the Municipal Emergency Management Office, the worst floods were recorded on Calle Amparo, but reached as far as Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Carmen (PR-875 and Calle Flores).

The National Weather Service conducted field work to determine the depth of the flooding and obtained a high water mark of 17" (taken from the sidewalk, not the road, Figure 1). It is possible that the water mark would have been higher if access had been available to the affected residences. Unlike other high tide events, this time the water managed to enter residences, causing material losses.



Figure 1. High Water Mark collected on Calle Amparo, Cataño. The mark was taken from the sidewalk, not the road.

The high tide sensor ([San Juan, La Puntilla Tide Gauge, SJNP4](#)) recorded values of up to 3.06 feet (datum-Mean Lower Low Level) on August 12, 2026, at 9:54 PM AST. However, this sensor reached the minor flooding level (2.5 feet) 8 times in a period of 10 days (Figure 2).

Based on the reports obtained, a moderate flooding level (2.8 feet) was defined, equivalent to when water manages to affect structures.

It is worth noting that high tide flooding was also recorded in other municipalities, such as Guayanilla and Lajas. These reports contributed to defining the high tide flooding level for the [Magueyes Island, MGIP4 sensor](#).

Other factors that may have affected the magnitude of the flooding include wind direction and speed, as well as non-astronomical and non-meteorological factors. Further research will be required to determine the causes of the event to attempt to predict future high tide flooding. For now, the next King Tide event will be from October 25 to 31, 2026.

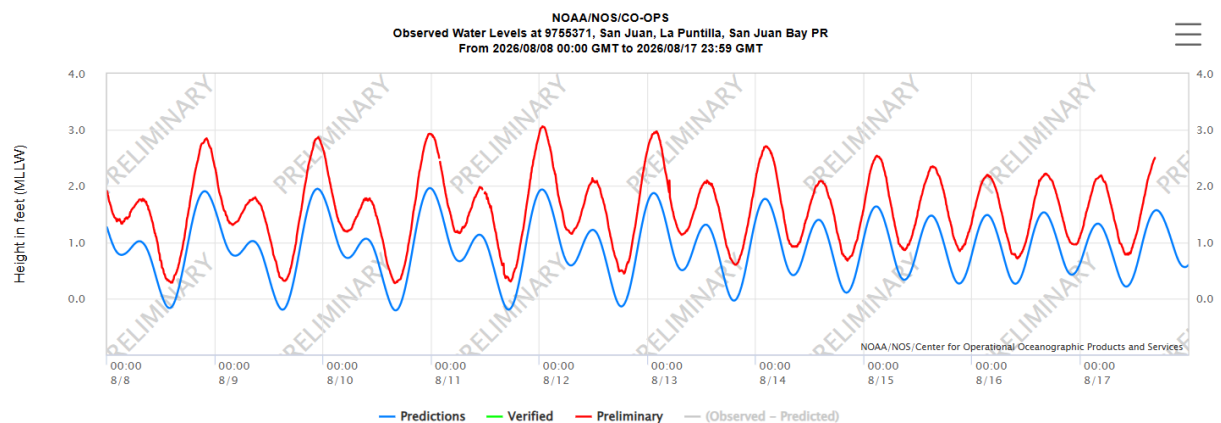


Figure 2. The tide sensor, SJNP4, reached the minor flooding level (2.5 feet in MLLW, 8 times in a 10-day period).

For more information on tide sensor flood levels or watermark collection, please contact the San Juan Weather Forecast Office Hydrologist, Emanuel Rodriguez (emanuel.rodriguez@noaa.gov).

For information on tidal events or the marine program, please contact the Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Ernesto Morales (ernesto.morales@noaa.gov).