



FROM TIDES TO STORMS: PREPARING FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FUTURE COAST

Assessing Risk and Vulnerability of Coastal Communities
to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge

Seabrook - Hampton Falls – Hampton - North Hampton – Rye - New Castle - Portsmouth

Rockingham Planning Commission – with support from the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup – will work closely with coastal communities over the next 2 years to evaluate their risk and vulnerability to flooding from sea level rise and storm surge, and identify practical approaches to protecting municipal and private assets, public safety and natural resources.



Increased flooding has the potential to place coastal populations at risk, threaten infrastructure, intensify coastal hazards and ultimately damage homes, businesses, public infrastructure, recreation areas, public space, coastal wetlands and salt marsh.



PROJECT COMPONENTS

The project will provide the following products to coastal NH communities:

- **Maps and Data**
Detailed maps, risk and impact analyses, mitigation strategies, and recommendations for municipal Hazard Mitigation Plans.
- **Informational Materials**
Informational outreach materials and tools to help plan future actions and inform public and private investments.
- **Coastal Vulnerability Assessment**
A regional-scale vulnerability assessment report and map set for NH coastal communities.
- **Town-specific Vulnerability Assessment Summary**
A report for each community summarizing the impacts of climate change on land, natural resources and infrastructure based on projections of future of sea level rise and storm surge.



This project is funded by New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) through a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



New Hampshire coastal municipalities are confronted by land use and hazard management concerns that include extreme weather events, storm surges, flooding, coastal erosion, and damage to key coastal habitats. These issues are only intensified by recent increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme storm events and increases in sea level.

How will the vulnerability assessment benefit my community?

The project is intended to assist coastal NH communities to take actions to prepare for increase flood risk, including:

- Enhance preparedness and raise community awareness of future flood risks.
- Identify cost-effective measures to protect and adapt to changing conditions.
- Improve resiliency of infrastructure, buildings and investments.
- Protect life, property and local economies
- Protect services that natural systems provide
- Preserve unique community character



Overview of the Project Elements and Proposed Timeline

Through Fall 2015, Rockingham Planning Commission staff will meet with towns to discuss the goals of the project, collect local data, identify local priorities and issues of concerns, and prepare detailed maps, risk and impact analyses, mitigation strategies, and recommendations for their Hazard Mitigation Plans.

November 6, 2013	Kick-off Meeting with coastal communities and regional stakeholders
March-May 2014	Presentations introduce and discuss draft results of the coastal vulnerability assessment to coastal communities and regional stakeholders.
June 2014	Presentation of the final coastal vulnerability assessment report and maps to coastal communities and regional stakeholders .
Fall 2014 – Fall 2015	Meetings to evaluate assessment results and maps with Emergency Management Director, Town Administrator/Manager, Elected Officials, Staff, Planning Board and Conservation Commission in each town. Preparation of climate change chapters for town Hazard Mitigation Plans.
Fall 2015	Final informational meeting to present the results of the Coastal Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Planning project to community and regional stakeholders



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