

Update on the Draft Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission Report and Recommendations

May 13, 2016



Commission Mission

- New Hampshire Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission to “**recommend legislation, rules, and other actions to prepare for projected sea-level rise and other coastal and coastal watershed hazards**”
- 37 members total
 - 17 towns (7 coastal, 10 inland)
 - State agencies and Planning Commissions (11)
 - Legislators (5)
 - Other Stakeholders



Process to Develop Recommendation

- 3 Subcommittees
 - Legislative and State Agencies
 - Coastal Communities
 - Inland communities
- Combine recommendations



Overall Recommendations (SAIL)

- **Science Goals (5):** To research, understand, establish, and use best available science about current and future coastal hazards.
- **Assessment Goals (30):** To identify our assets that are vulnerable to current and future coastal hazards and evaluate existing policies to identify ways to reduce vulnerabilities.
- **Implementation Goals:** To implement strategies to enable the state and coastal communities to protect, adapt, and sustain our assets.
- **Legislation Goals (13):** To recommend legislation that leads to actions to reduce vulnerability and adapt to current and future coastal hazards.

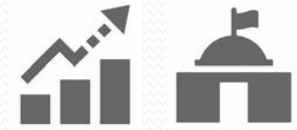


Assessment and Implementation Recommendations

- Our Economy
- Our Build Landscape
- Our Natural Resources
- Our Heritage
- Cross Cutting



Example Scientific Goals




- GOAL: To research, understand, establish, and use the best available science about current and future coastal hazards in New Hampshire relating to storm surge, sea-level rise, and extreme precipitation.
 - **S1. Legislatively authorize a state agency to convene a Science and Technical Advisory Panel to review and evaluate the current state of climate change science in order to periodically update storm surge, sea-level rise, extreme precipitation and other relevant climate projections and provide planning guidance at least once every five years. [Lead: State Legislature].**

ACTIONS:

- a. Establish a collaborative Science and Technical Advisory Panel and a lead state agency to coordinate updated information and recommendations.
- b. The Panel, lead agency, and other participating agencies develop a mechanism that ensures communication of the updated climate science and planning guidance to a wide range of stakeholders.



Example Assessment and Implementation Goals: Natural Resources

- Goal: Identify our natural resources that are vulnerable to storm surge, sea-level rise, and extreme precipitation; understand the scope of that vulnerability; and evaluate existing statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, policies, programs, and plans to determine whether changes should be made to reduce vulnerabilities. 
- Goal :Identify and implement strategies that will enable the State and coastal municipalities to effectively protect, adapt, and sustain our current and future natural resources.
 - **NR1. Identify and map natural resources that are vulnerable to current and future coastal risk and hazards. [Lead: State Agencies]**

ACTIONS:

- a. Identify where habitats and biological populations would naturally shift in response to best available climate science to prioritize areas and species for protection or restoration.
- b. Map natural resources that also protect critical built landscapes.



Understanding What We Need to Do: Guiding Principles for Recommendations and Future Actions

- Act Early
- Respond Incrementally
- Revisit and Revise
- Collaborate and Coordinate
- Incorporate Risk Tolerance in Design (STAP)
- Make “no regrets decisions”



Draft Report Comments We Want Your Input!

- Listening Sessions for Municipalities (Dec 2015)
- Public Meetings: May 26th and June 1st
- Comment Period- March 18-June 30, 2016 (4:00 pm)
- Location of report-: <http://nhcrhc.stormsmart.org/draft-for-comment/>



Questions

**Preparing New Hampshire for
Projected Storm Surge, Sea-Level Rise,
and Extreme Precipitation**

