

Please enter your survey code: _____

Coastal communities are facing ongoing threats from coastal hazards, such as storms and flooding. These hazards have many effects, including flooded or damaged homes and buildings, erosion, and loss of beaches, dunes, and coastal wetlands. Hurricane Sandy is a recent example. Scientists expect these threats to continue in the future.

There are many ways that coastal communities can respond to the risks of coastal storms and flooding, but all of these involve tradeoffs. This survey asks for your opinions about these tradeoffs. The goal of the survey is to identify the types of policies that would be supported by you and others in your region. Your answers will be compiled with those of other respondents and sent to local officials to help them decide how to best protect your community.

[This research study is being conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\).](#) Your address was randomly selected from all addresses in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire and bordering communities in Massachusetts and Maine. We anticipate approximately 2,000 residents will respond, but our goal is to get as many as possible. ~~This research study is being conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).~~ By completing the survey, you are consenting to participate in this research. Although we hope that you will answer every question, you are free to skip any questions. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You will not be individually identified and your responses will be used for statistical purposes only.

Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have questions about the research, please feel free to contact Andrew Smith at 603-862-2226 or by email at andrew.smith@unh.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Dr. Julie Simpson in UNH Research Integrity Services at 603-862-2003 or Julie.Simpson@unh.edu to discuss them. By clicking "I Agree" you are agreeing to participate in this study.

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

RISKS AND ADAPTATION

The first set of questions will ask about your opinions and experiences related to potential coastal hazards and other local environmental issues.

1. How much of a problem do you think each of the following are in your community ?

[scale: Not at all, Minor, Moderate, Major, Unsure]

- a. Coastal storms
- b. Coastal flooding
- c. Riverine flooding
- d. Shoreline erosion

2. How do you think the following will change in the next 10 years?

[scale: Decrease, Stay about the same, Increase, Unsure]

- a. Coastal storms
- b. Coastal flooding
- c. Riverine flooding
- d. Shoreline erosion

3. Do you own or rent property on or near a body of water, such as a river, stream, wetland, pond, or ocean?

- a. Yes
- b. No

4. Has your home or property suffered damage from the following in the past five years?

[scale: Yes, No, Unsure]

- a. Coastal storms
- b. Coastal flooding
- c. Riverine flooding
- d. Shoreline erosion

5. Have any of the following been done on your home or property in the past five years?

[scale: Yes, No]

- a. [IF REF_Ref20743771 \r \h =TRUE] 3Install shoreline walls or riprap (rocky material placed along a shoreline)
- b. [IF REF_Ref20743771 \r \h =TRUE] 3Plant, restore, or preserve the natural shoreline
- c. Put all or part of your property into a conservation easement
- d. Improve drainage (for example, drainage ditches/pipes)
- e. Raise all or part of your house
- f. Install wet floodproofing (for example, flood vents)
- g. Install sump pumps

6. How likely are you to do any of the following on your home or property in the next 10 years?

[scale: Not at all, Slightly, Moderately, Very, Extremely]

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

- a. [IF REF_Ref20743771 \r \h =TRUE] 3Install shoreline walls or riprap (rocky material placed along a shoreline)
 - b. [IF REF_Ref20743771 \r \h =TRUE] 3Plant, restore, or preserve natural shoreline
 - c. Put all or part of your property into a conservation easement
 - d. Improve drainage (for example, drainage ditches/pipes)
 - e. Raise all or part of your house
 - f. Install wet floodproofing (for example, flood vents)
 - g. Install sump pumps
 - h. Move away because of flooding, storms, and/or erosion
7. [IF 3.=TRUE] To what degree would the following factors make you more likely to **install shoreline walls or riprap** on your home or property?
[scale: No effect, Minor effect, Moderate effect, Major effect]
- a. Effectiveness at reducing coastal flooding damage
 - b. Effectiveness at reducing shoreline erosion damage
 - c. My or my family's attachment to the property
 - d. Municipal or state regulations and ordinances
 - e. If my neighbors have installed shoreline walls or riprap
 - f. The way shoreline walls or riprap look
 - g. Cost of installing shoreline walls or riprap
8. [IF 3.=TRUE] To what degree would the following factors make you more likely to **plant, restore, or preserve the natural shoreline** on your home or property?
[scale: No effect, Minor effect, Moderate effect, Major effect]
- a. Effectiveness at reducing coastal flooding damage
 - b. Effectiveness at reducing shoreline erosion damage
 - c. My or my family's attachment to the property
 - d. Municipal or state regulations and ordinances
 - e. If my neighbors have planted, restored, or preserved the natural shoreline
 - f. The way the natural shoreline looks
 - g. Cost of planting, restoring, or preserving the natural shoreline
9. Buffer lands are naturally vegetated areas surrounding water bodies. The following is a list of potential policies or ordinances that could be implemented to better manage buffer lands in New Hampshire. How supportive would you be of each potential policy or ordinance?
[scale: Strongly opposed, Opposed, Neither, Supportive, Strongly supportive, Unsure]
- a. Limit fertilizer and pesticide use within buffer lands
 - b. Restrict new development within buffer lands (development setback)
 - c. Restrict the cutting or removal of natural vegetation within buffer lands
 - d. Purchase buffer lands for conservation by public or private organizations
 - e. Reduce property taxes on privately owned buffer lands
10. How often do you use the following methods to get information on local environmental issues?
[scale: Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Always]
- a. Newspapers, other print publications
 - b. TV
 - c. Websites/apps for news outlets

OMB No: 0648-0788

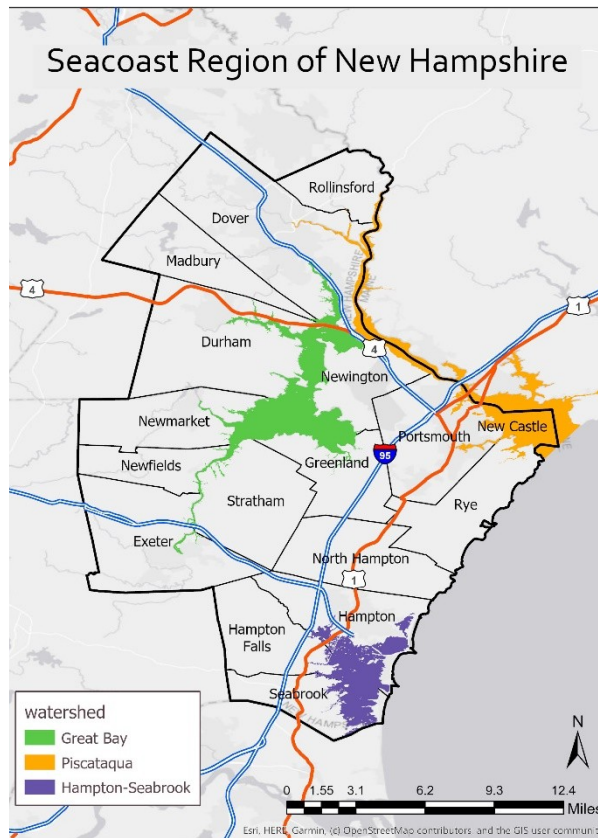
You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

- d. Social media
 - e. Directly from people (for example, friends, family, neighbors)
 - f. Community bulletin board
 - g. An organized educational workshop or meeting
11. How credible do you consider these informational sources on local environmental issues?
[scale: Not at all, Slightly, Moderately, Very, Extremely]
- a. Local government
 - b. State government
 - c. Federal government
 - d. Non-profit organizations
 - e. Academic institutions

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

This and the following section refer to the Seacoast region of New Hampshire, which is defined by the seventeen coastal zone communities shown in the map below. Regardless of how familiar you are with the Seacoast region of New Hampshire, your opinions are important to us.



12. Are you a seasonal or year-round resident of the Seacoast region of New Hampshire?
- a. Seasonal resident (I live in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire only part of the year)
 - b. Year-round resident (I live in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire all year)

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

- c. Neither (I do not live in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire during any part of the year)
13. [IF #12..c. = TRUE] Have you ever visited the Seacoast region of New Hampshire?
- d. Yes
 - e. No
14. [IF 12..a. = TRUE OR 12..b. = TRUE OR 13. = TRUE] Below is a list of statements about the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. Please read each statement and state your level of agreement or disagreement.
[scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, neither, Agree, Strongly agree, Unsure]
Randomized a - n
- a. I feel the Seacoast region of New Hampshire is a part of me.
 - b. I identify strongly with the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - c. The Seacoast region of New Hampshire means a lot to me.
 - d. The Seacoast region of New Hampshire is the best place for the activities I like to do.
 - e. No other place can compare to the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - f. I enjoy activities in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire more than in any other place.
 - g. The Seacoast region of New Hampshire contributes to the character of my community.
 - h. My community's history is strongly tied to the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - i. The Seacoast region of New Hampshire helped put my community on the map.
 - j. I feel a strong sense of community in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - k. I feel connected to the other people who live in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - l. I would feel less attached to the Seacoast region of New Hampshire if the native plants and animals that live here disappeared.
 - m. I learn a lot about myself when spending time in the natural environment in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - n. It is important to protect the natural environment in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.

COMPARING MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

There are many different ways to manage estuarine and coastal shorelines in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. The most common approaches used by coastal communities are (1) hard defenses or armoring and (2) soft or natural defenses.

Hard defenses include seawalls and bulkheads to hold back the sea. Soft defenses include beaches, dunes, and other natural areas that absorb and slow waves. Both approaches can protect homes, facilities, and transportation, but hard defenses often provide the most effective protection. Flooding can still occur under both approaches in severe storms.



OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu



Hard defenses can be costly to build and maintain and can cause natural areas to be lost. As water levels rise, natural areas tend to move landward, but when there are hard defenses in place, there is nowhere for the natural areas to go, and they can be eroded away. Soft defenses can preserve

beaches, wetlands, and other natural areas as habitat and public amenities, but can require restrictions on coastal development.

15. When considering options to manage the Seacoast region of New Hampshire shorelines, how important to you are each of the following?

[scale: Not at all, Slightly, Moderately, Very, Extremely]

- a. Private homes and property are protected
- b. Government respects the right of private landowners to use and develop their land
- c. Recreational areas such as beaches and parks are protected
- d. Natural areas and habitat are protected
- e. The natural character of the waterfront is maintained
- f. Taxes and fees paid by my household do not increase
- g. Facilities such as police stations and schools are protected
- h. Roads and transportation facilities are protected
- i. Loss of human life is avoided
- j. Public services, such as electricity, water, and telephone, are protected
- k. Flood insurance rates paid by homeowners do not increase

This rest of this section will ask you to indicate your level of support or opposition to **six** different management policies. The technical details of each policy (for example, how/where to build a particular seawall or restore wetlands) would be determined by experts. Each management policy will lead to different outcomes, and we are interested in your opinions on those outcomes.

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please review each policy carefully. The results of this survey will be given to policy makers in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire to help determine future actions.

16.

The proposed policy would...	
Increase	the amount of wetlands covered by vegetation
Maintain	the amount of beach covered by sand dunes
Maintain	the amount of shoreline shielded by seawalls and coastal armoring
Decrease	the number of homes protected from flooding during a storm
Increase	the rate of shoreline erosion
The funds to implement this policy would come from ONLY residents of coastal New Hampshire	

How supportive would you be of this proposed policy?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly opposed				Neutral				Strongly supportive

17.

The proposed policy would...	
Decrease	the amount of wetlands covered by vegetation
Increase	the amount of beach covered by sand dunes
Maintain	the amount of shoreline shielded by seawalls and coastal armoring
Increase	the number of homes protected from flooding during a storm
Maintain	the rate of shoreline erosion
The funds to implement this policy would come from ONLY residents of coastal New Hampshire	

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

How supportive would you be of this proposed policy?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly opposed			Neutral			Strongly supportive		

18.

The proposed policy would...

- Maintain** the amount of wetlands covered by vegetation
- Increase** the amount of beach covered by sand dunes
- Decrease** the amount of shoreline shielded by seawalls and coastal armoring
- Maintain** the number of homes protected from flooding during a storm
- Increase** the rate of shoreline erosion

The funds to implement this policy would come from **ONLY residents of coastal New Hampshire**

How supportive would you be of this proposed policy?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly opposed			Neutral			Strongly supportive		

19.

The proposed policy would...

- Maintain** the amount of wetlands covered by vegetation
- Maintain** the amount of beach covered by sand dunes
- Increase** the amount of shoreline shielded by seawalls and coastal armoring
- Increase** the number of homes protected from flooding during a storm
- Decrease** the rate of shoreline erosion

The funds to implement this policy would come from **ONLY residents of coastal New Hampshire**

How supportive would you be of this proposed policy?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly opposed			Neutral			Strongly supportive		

20.

OMB No: 0648-0788
 You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using
 the provided link and entering your access code.
 If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

The proposed policy would...

Increase the amount of wetlands covered by vegetation

Decrease the amount of beach covered by sand dunes

Increase the amount of shoreline shielded by seawalls and coastal armoring

Maintain the number of homes protected from flooding during a storm

Maintain the rate of shoreline erosion

The funds to implement this policy would come from **ONLY residents of coastal New Hampshire**

How supportive would you be of this proposed policy?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly opposed			Neutral			Strongly supportive		

21.

The proposed policy would...

Decrease the amount of wetlands covered by vegetation

Decrease the amount of beach covered by sand dunes

Decrease the amount of shoreline shielded by seawalls and coastal armoring

Decrease the number of homes protected from flooding during a storm

Decrease the rate of shoreline erosion

The funds to implement this policy would come from **ONLY residents of coastal New Hampshire**

How supportive would you be of this proposed policy?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly opposed			Neutral			Strongly supportive		

22. Thinking about the six potential management policies you just rated, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither, Agree, Strongly agree, Unsure]

Randomized a - f

- The survey provided enough information for me to make informed choices.
- I feel confident about my answers.
- It is important to manage estuarine and coastal lands in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire, no matter how high the costs.

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

- d. I am against any more regulations and government spending.
 - e. My household should not have to pay any amount to manage estuarine and coastal lands in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - f. My support levels would be the same if this were a public vote or referendum
23. [IF #16. >=6 or C OR #17. >=6 or C OR #18. >=6 or C OR #19.>=6 OR #20.>=6 OR #21.>=6]
Thinking about the proposed policies you were supportive of, how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements?
[scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither, Agree, Strongly agree, Unsure]
- a. I was supportive of policies that I thought would improve the environment closer to my home.
 - b. I was supportive of policies more for future generations than for myself.
 - c. [IF 12.c. = TRUE & IF Q13 = FALSE] I was supportive of policies because I may visit the Seacoast region of New Hampshire in the next few years.
 - d. I was supportive of policies because I believe it is our responsibility to preserve wildlife and habitat in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.
 - e. I was supportive of policies so others could enjoy the Seacoast region of New Hampshire, rather than for myself.

MAKING SURE EVERYONE IS REPRESENTED

This is the final section of the survey. The following questions ensure that **all** groups are fairly represented. **All answers are confidential.**

24. What is your sex?
- a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other
25. In what year were you born? _____
26. Are you Hispanic or Latino?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
27. What is your race? (select all that apply)
- a. White/Caucasian
 - b. Black/African American
 - c. Asian
 - d. Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander
 - e. American Indian/Alaskan Native
 - f. Other, please specify _____
28. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- a. Less than 9th grade
 - b. 9th to 12th grade, no diploma
 - c. High school graduate (includes equivalency)
 - d. Some college, no degree
 - e. Associate's degree
 - f. Bachelor's degree

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu

- g. Graduate or professional degree
29. Are you currently employed?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
30. What was your annual household income in 2019?
- a. Less than \$10,000
 - b. \$10,000 to \$19,999
 - c. \$20,000 to \$29,999
 - d. \$30,000 to \$39,999
 - e. \$40,000 to \$49,999
 - f. \$50,000 to \$59,999
 - g. \$60,000 to \$74,999
 - h. \$75,000 to \$99,999
 - i. \$100,000 to \$149,999
 - j. \$150,000 to \$199,999
 - k. \$200,000 or more
31. [IF Q12<3] How long have you lived in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire?
years _____
- [IF Q12 = 3] How long have you been a resident of your current town? _____ years
32. Do you own or rent this residence (where this survey was mailed to)?
- a. Own
 - b. Rent
 - c. Other
33. How many people, including yourself, live in your household? _____
34. How many of these people are at least 18 years old? _____
35. Please use the space below for additional comments.

OMB No: 0648-0788

You may exit the survey at any time and return where you left off by using the provided link and entering your access code.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Keirns, Project Director, Tracy.Keirns@unh.edu