An Adaptive Approach to Tidegate Management for Estuary Restoration at the Herring **River:** Truro/Wellfleet, **Massachusetts**

- NROC/NALCC
 Science Delivery
 Workshop
- Wednesday April 5, 2017



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Project Overview and Summary Tim Smith, Restoration Ecologist National Park Service Cape Cod National Seashore

 Hydrodynamic and Ecosystem Modeling Kirk Bosma, Senior Coastal Engineer Woods Hole Group, Inc.

 Adaptive Tide Gate Management and Decision-Making Eric Derleth, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New England Field Office





Background / History of Herring River

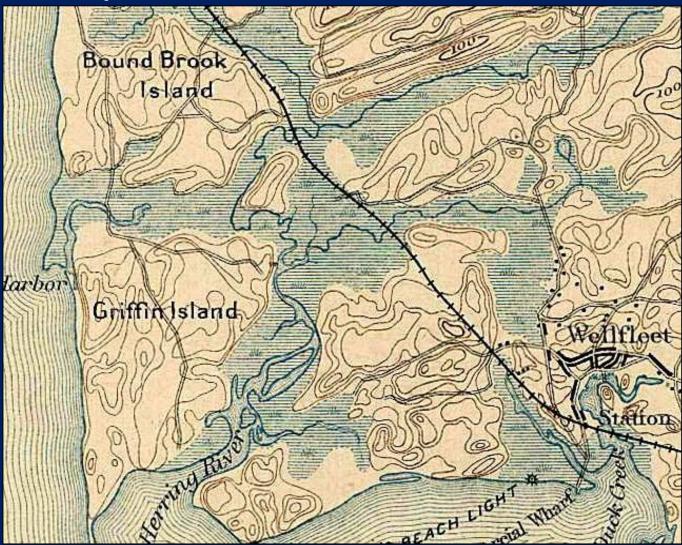
Project Area: Herring River Floodplain and Tributaries







Background / History of Herring River Coastal Survey, c. 1888







Chequessett Neck Road Dike, Constructed in 1909, 1973





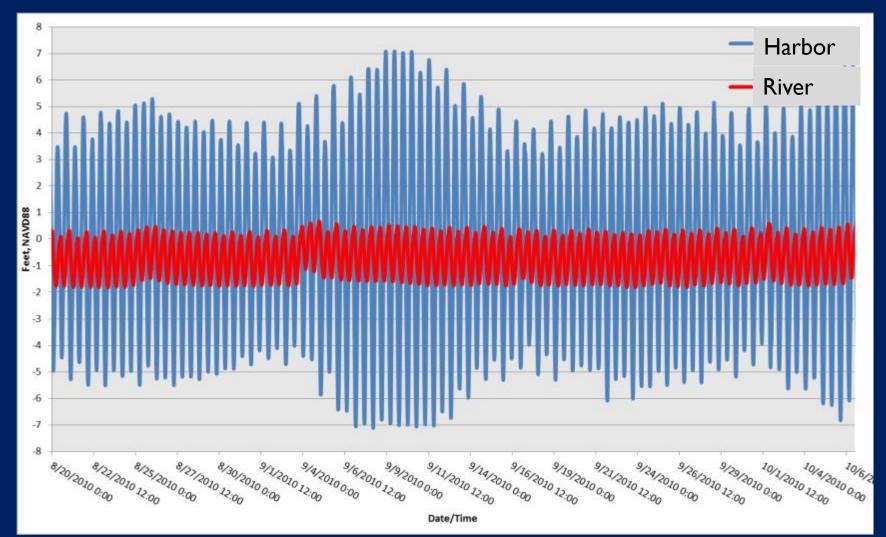
Background / History of Herring River Chequessett Neck Road Dike: Original vs. Current Opening







Current Conditions of Herring River Restricted Tide Range: Lower Basin Tides, Aug-Sept. 2010



Herring River, Current Salinity





National Park Service Cape Cod National Seashore



Herring River: On-Going Effects of Tidal Restriction



Loss of Estuarine Productivity

Fecal Coliform Bacteria Pollution = Closed Shellfish Areas







Poor Water Quality/Low Dissolved Oxygen = Fish Kills





Proposed Project / Preferred Alternative

Tidal restoration for Herring River = The controlled removal of tidal restrictions to allow incremental restoration of tides, salinity, water quality and plant and animal communities.





Cape Cod National Seashore Towns of Wellfleet and Truro Project Benefits and Impacts



RESTORED COASTAL HABITAT

- ✓ 890 Acres of Intertidal Habitats
- ✓ 580 Acres of Salt Marsh
- ✓ II+ River Miles for River Herring
- ✓ Access to 160 Pond Acres for Spawning
- ✓ Improved Water Quality
- ✓ 200+ Acres Clam and Oyster Habitat
- Increase and Sustain Declining Salt Marsh Habitat
- Habitat for Marine Species; Striped Bass,
 Winter Flounder, Diamond-back Terrapin
- Engine of Productivity for Near- and Off-Shore Marine Habitats









Proposed Project / Preferred Alternative

- Final EIS/EIR "Alternative D", Project Component Types:
 - I. Remove or Retrofit Tidally Restrictive Structures

2. Prevent Impacts to Low-Lying Roads and Structures

3. Marsh Habitat Management (As Informed by Monitoring)





Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report "Alternative D", Project Components:

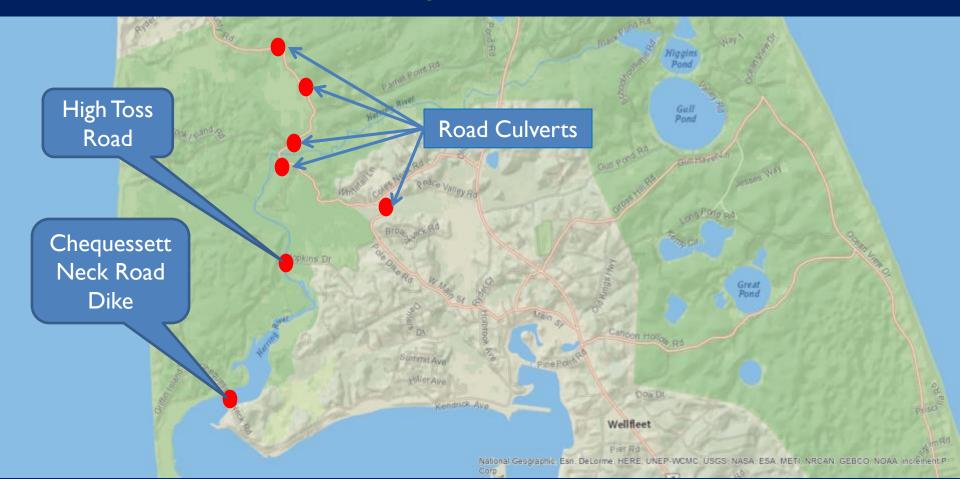
- I. Remove or Retrofit Tidally Restrictive Structures
- Rebuild Chequessett Neck Road Dike
- Restore Natural Channel at High Toss Road (Road Eventually Discontinued)
- Enlarge Pole Dike, Bound Brook, and Old County Road Culverts





Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report "Alternative D", Project Components:

I. Remove or Retrofit Tidally Restrictive Structures







Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report "Alternative D", Project Components: Rebuild Chequessett Neck Road Dike and Tidal Control Structure

18 ft wide culverts with gates







Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report "Alternative D", Project Components: Rebuild Chequessett Neck Road Dike and Tidal Control Structure

Reasons for Incremental Tidal Restoration:

- Avoid Potential Impacts to Low-lying Private Property
- Avoid Sudden Release of Nutrients, Sediment, and Bacteria to Wellfleet Harbor
- Prevent Sudden Vegetation Change
- Ability to Target Changes by Season
- Ability to Manage Water Levels and Sediment Dynamics
 Ability to "Roll Back" While Addressing Unforeseen Affects





National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore Herring River Restoration Project



Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report "Alternative D", Project Components:



Examples of Tide Control Gates

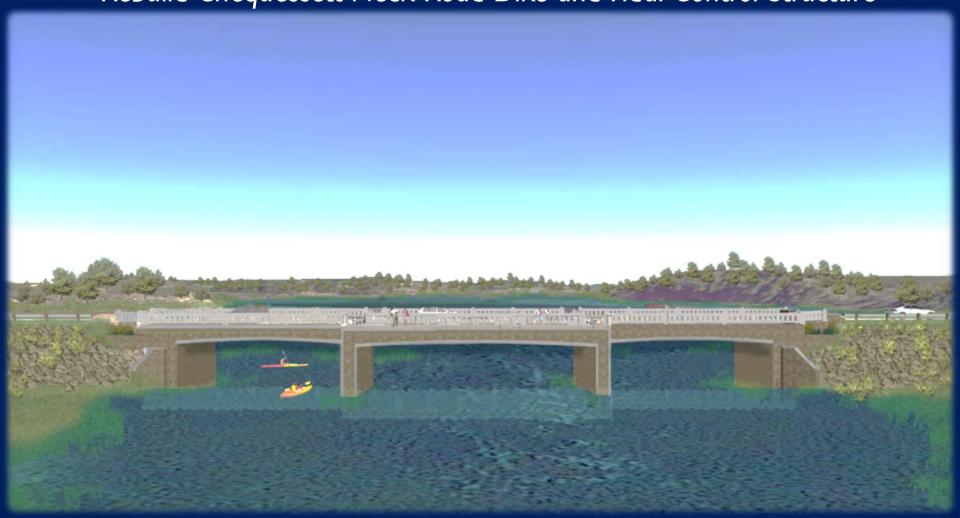








Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report "Alternative D", Project Components: Rebuild Chequessett Neck Road Dike and Tidal Control Structure







Proposed Project / Preferred Alternative Final EIS/EIR "Alternative D", Project Components: I. Remove or Retrofit Tidally Restrictive Structures 2. Prevent Impacts to Low-Lying Roads and Structures 3. Marsh Habitat Management/"Secondary Management" (As Informed by Monitoring)

- Manage Trees, Shrubs, and Non-Native Invasive Vegetation
- Dredge Accumulated Sediment
- Create Small Channels and Ditches to Improve Tidal Circulation
- Restore Natural Channel Sinuosity
- Remove Dredge Spoil Berms and Other Anthropogenic Material to Facilitate Drainage of Ponded Water
- Apply Sediment to Build Up Subsided Marsh Surfaces





Next Steps to Move Forward

- Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report, National Park Service Record of Decision (National Environmental Policy Act)
- ✓ Cape Cod Commission Opens Development of Regional Application
- ✓ Establish Management Structure to Implement and Oversee the Project: MOU-III
- Complete Technical Designs for Chequessett Neck Dike, Other Water Control Structures, and Roadway Flood Prevention: Underway
- Develop Agreements with Affected Property Owners and Complete Technical Designs for Flood Prevention Measures: Underway
- Finalize Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan: Underway
- Prepare and Submit Permit Applications: 2017
- Obtain Funding: Estimated \$40-60 million over 5-10 years
- Initiate Construction, Soonest Foreseeable Start Date: 2020

Herring River **Restoration Project:** Hydrodynamics and Ecological Modeling







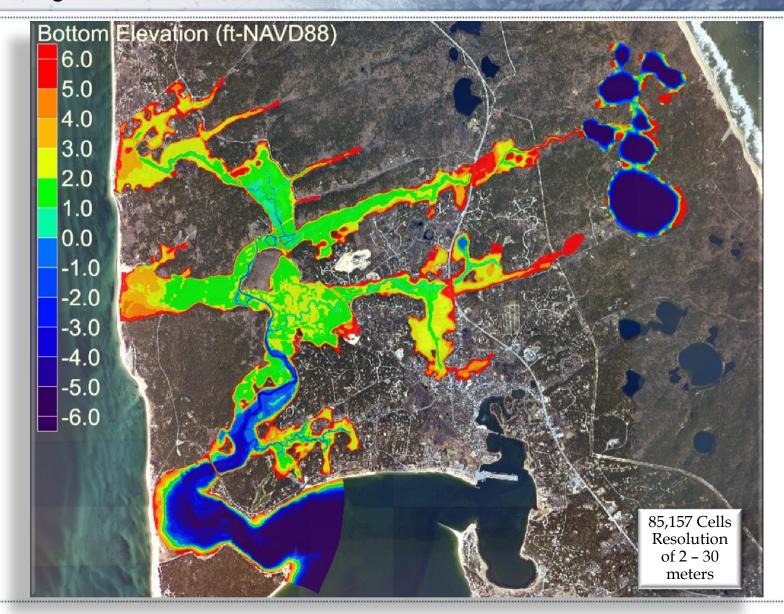
NROC Northeast Regional Ocean Council North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative



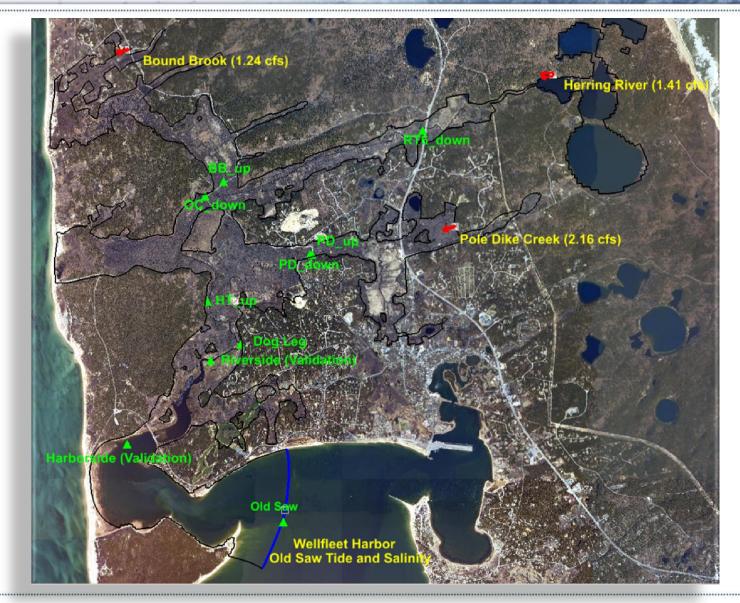
Loss of Salt Marsh



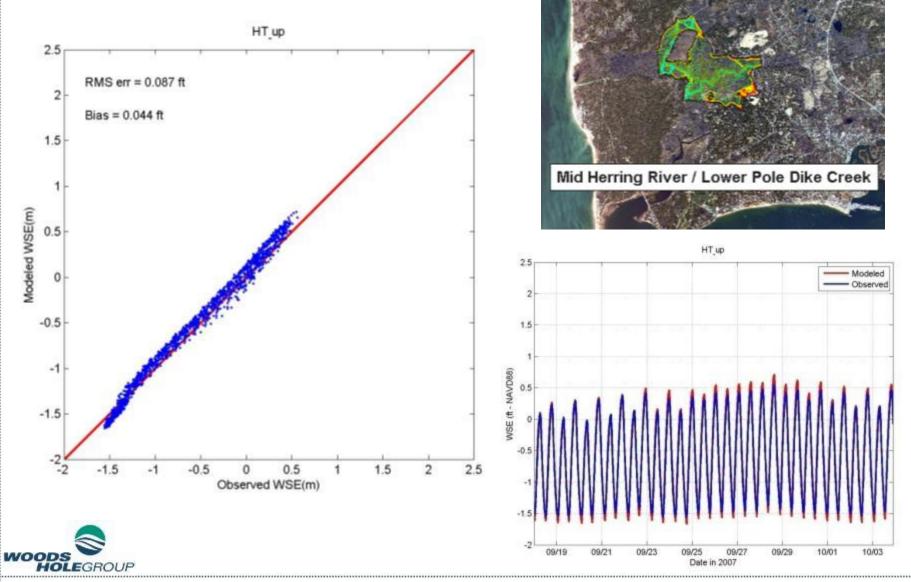
Bathymetric Mesh







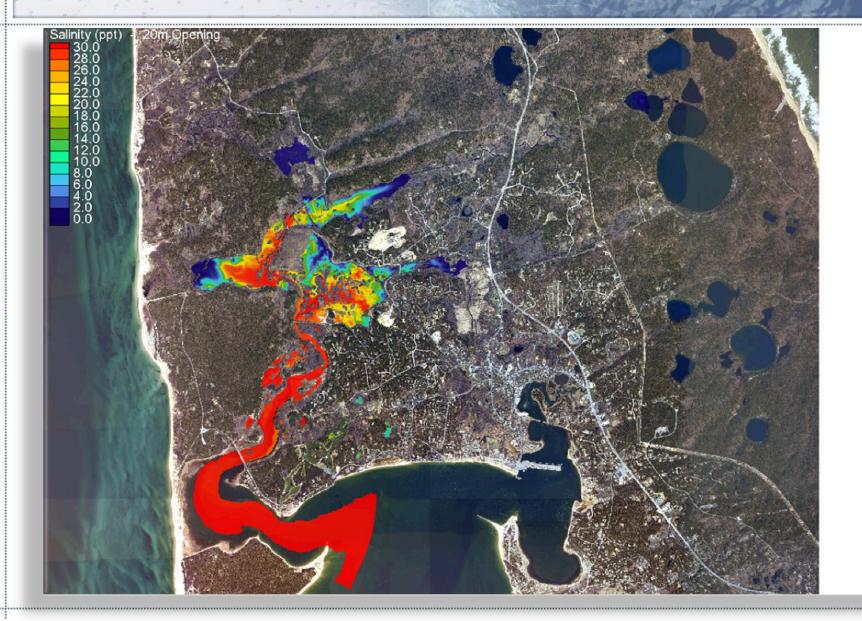
Model Calibration



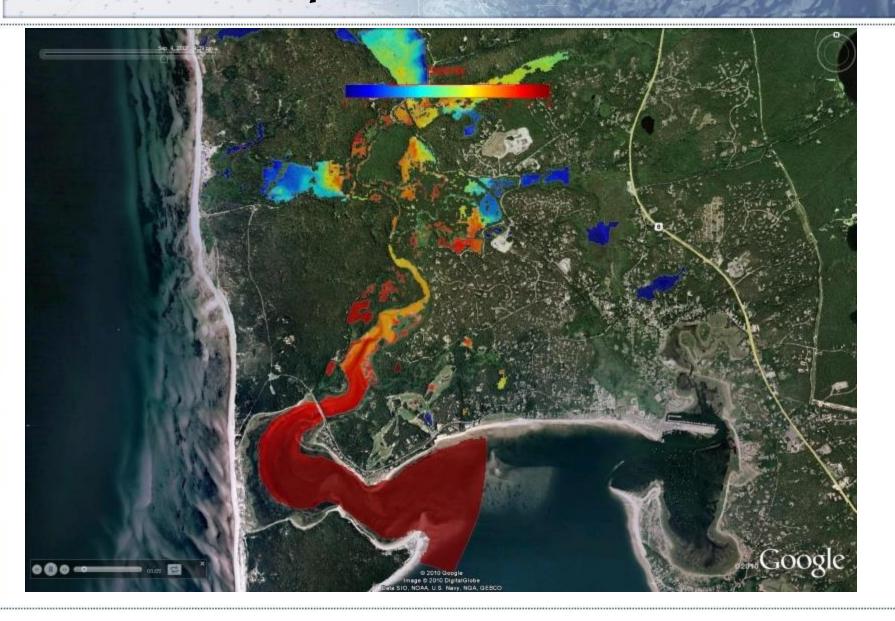
Existing Conditions



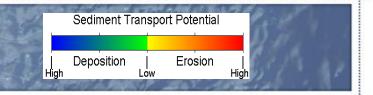
Alternative Simulations



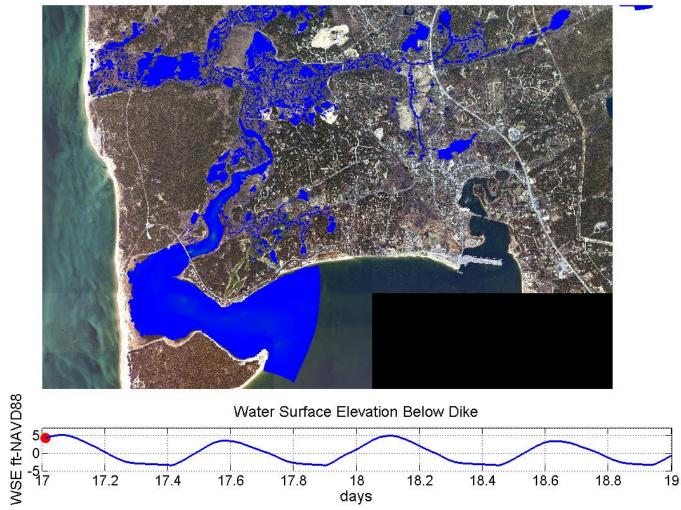
Interactive Exploration



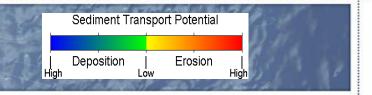
Sediment Transport



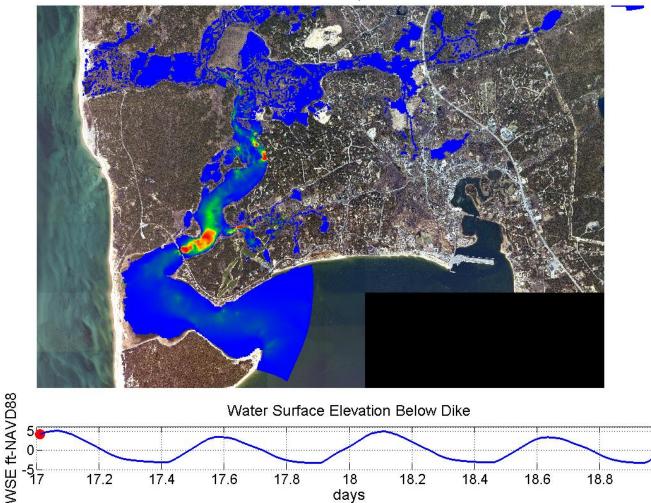
Sediment Transport Potential



Sediment Transport



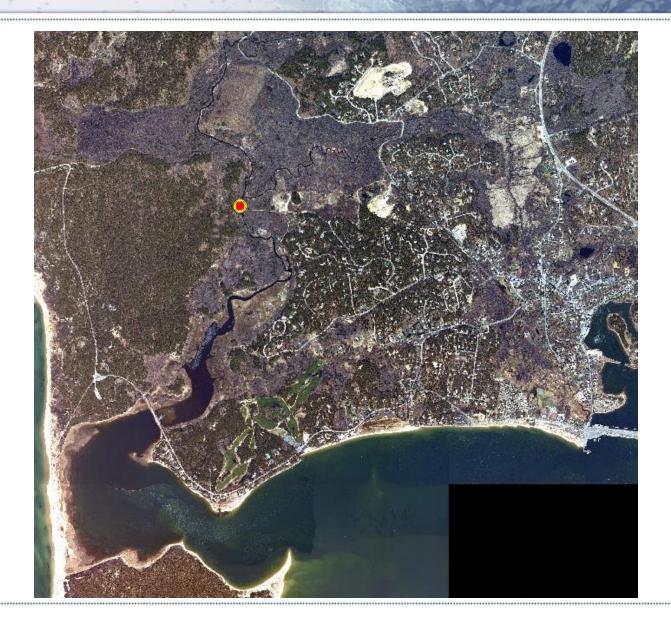
Sediment Transport Potential



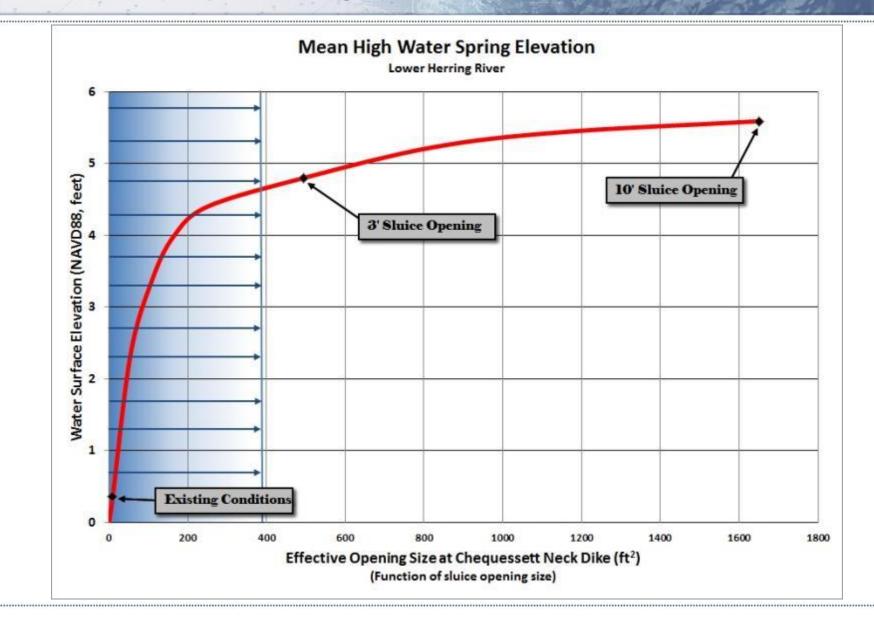
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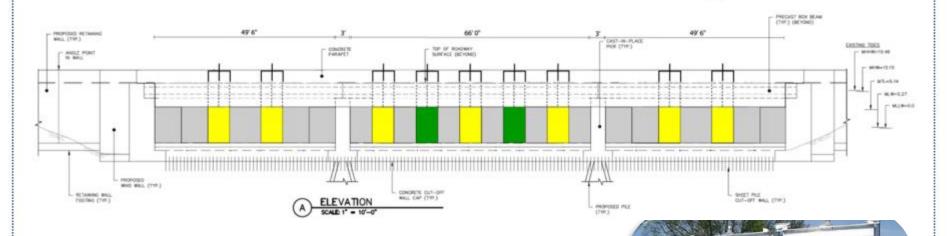
Sediment Transport



Adaptive Management

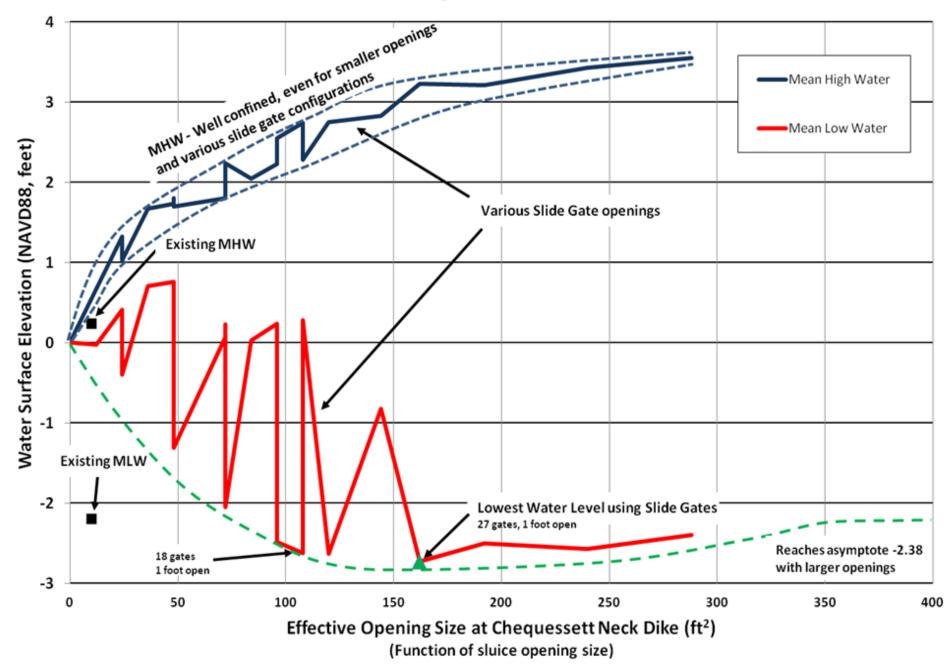


Engineering Design



- 7 slide gates, 2 combination slide/flap gates, 16 pre-cast concrete panels
- Provides full operational control during all phases of the restoration
- In the early stages, the restoration process will rely on slide and combination gates and not full panel removal

Lower Herring River Water Levels



Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM)

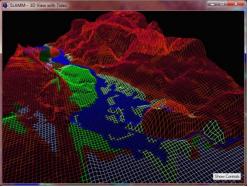
- Input
 - SLR
 - Elevations
 - Tide range
 - Height of salt water
 - Accretion rates
 - Erosion rates

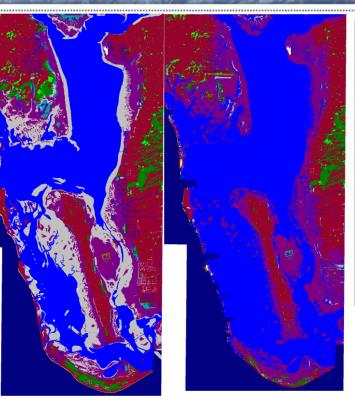
• Strengths

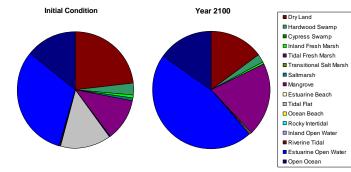
- Open source
- Simple
- Includes most major processes
- Limited computational requirements

Limitations

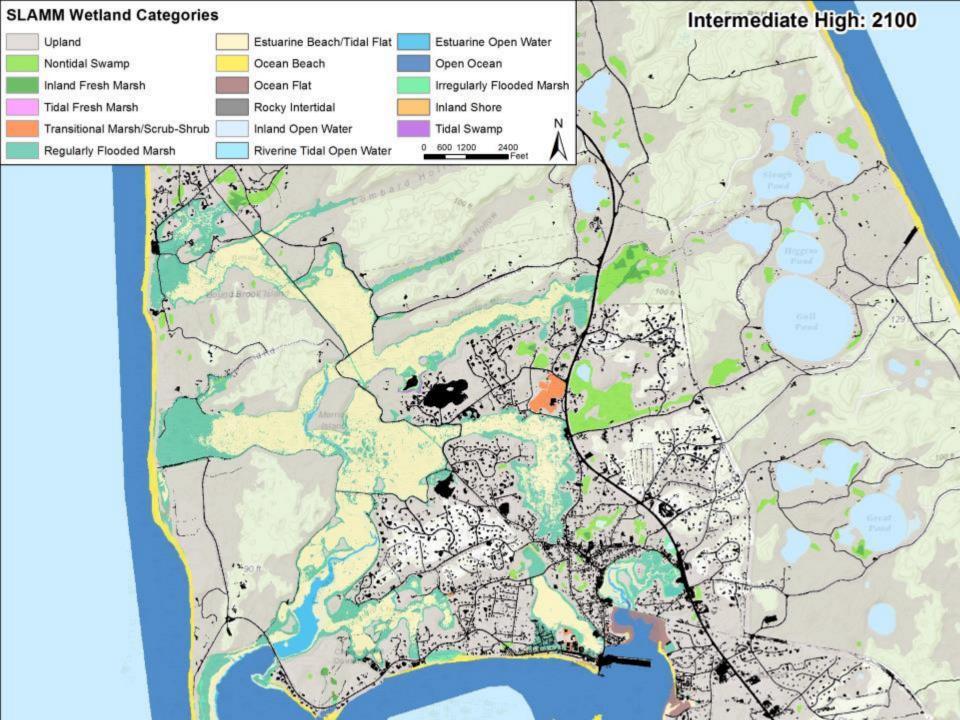
- No hydrodynamics
- Simple erosion model
- Empirical accretion rates
- No mass balance of solids
- Overwash component

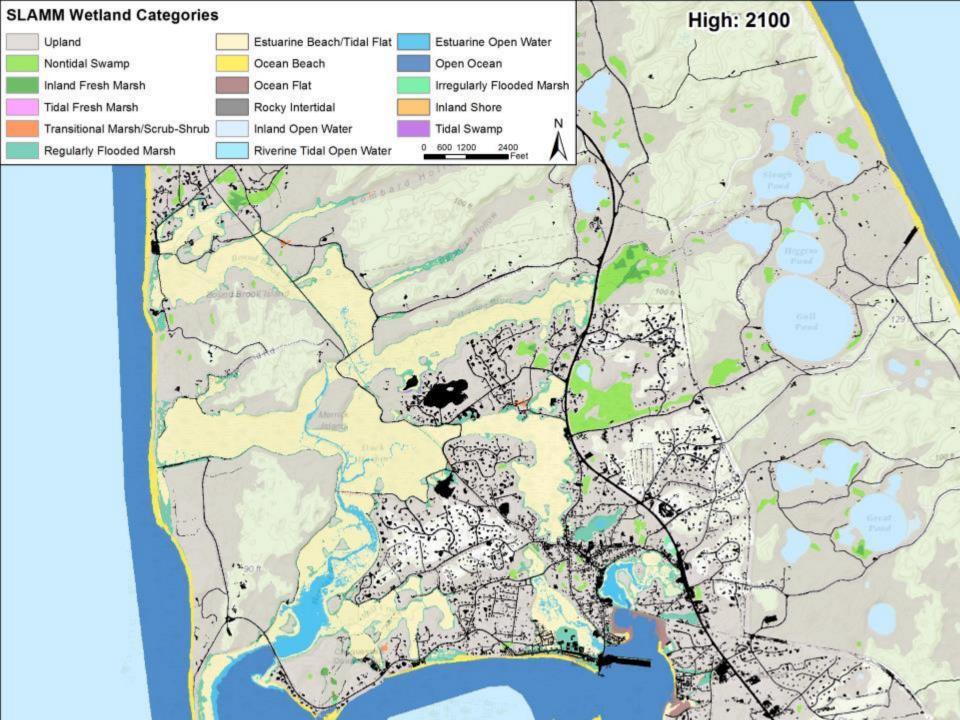






Output





Herring River Tidal Restoration Project

La La La Contra

Herring Higgins Pond Pond

Gull Pond

Bound Brook Basin 227 Ac

Upper Herring River Basin 170 Ac

Griffin Island

Duck Harbor Basin 131 Ac

Old Coup

Mid-Herring River/ Lower Pole Dike Creek Basin

Sound Brook Ist

184 Ac

Basin 177 Ac

Upper Pole Dike Creek

Lower Herring River Basin 164 Ac

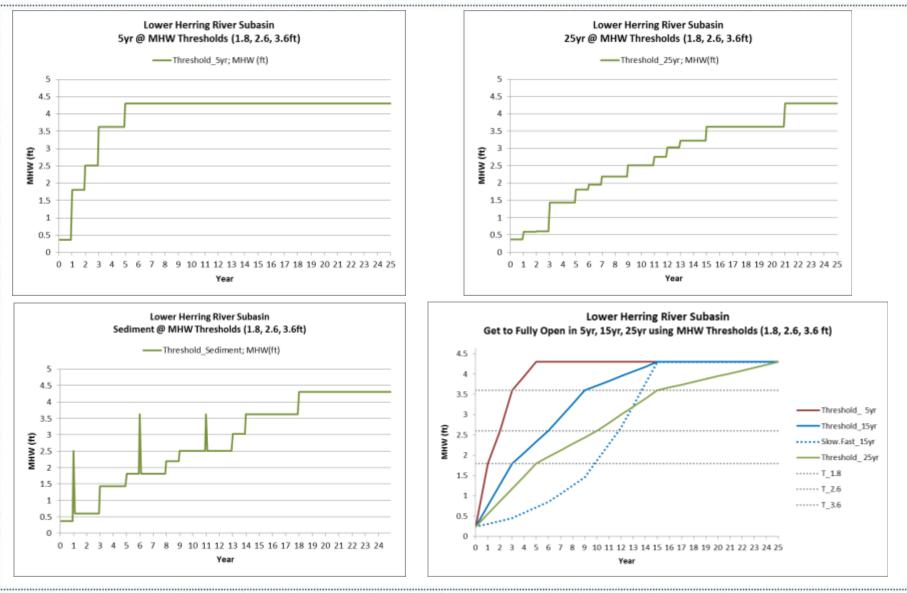
> Mill Creek Basin 78 Ac

Pond

Image courtesy of the Herring River Restoration Committee

WELLFLEET HARBOR

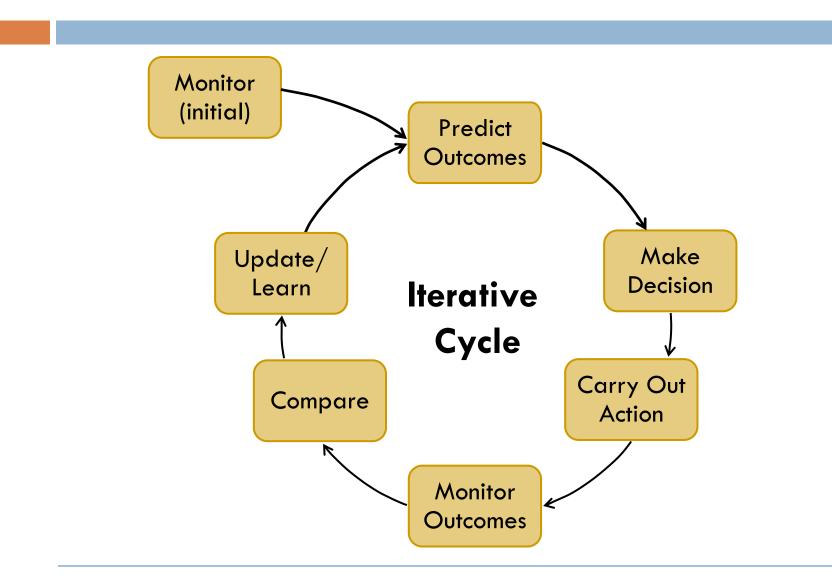
Ecological Modeling - Adaptive Management



HERRING RIVER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: INTRODUCTION TO THE DECISION FRAMEWORK

Northeast Regional Ocean Council April 5, 2017

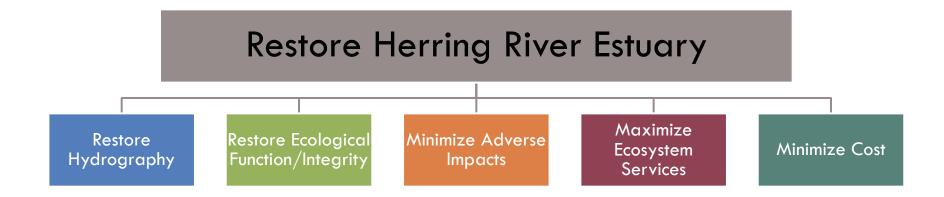
Iterative Cycle: Managing & Learning



Why an AM Approach is Appropriate for Restoration of the Herring River Estuary

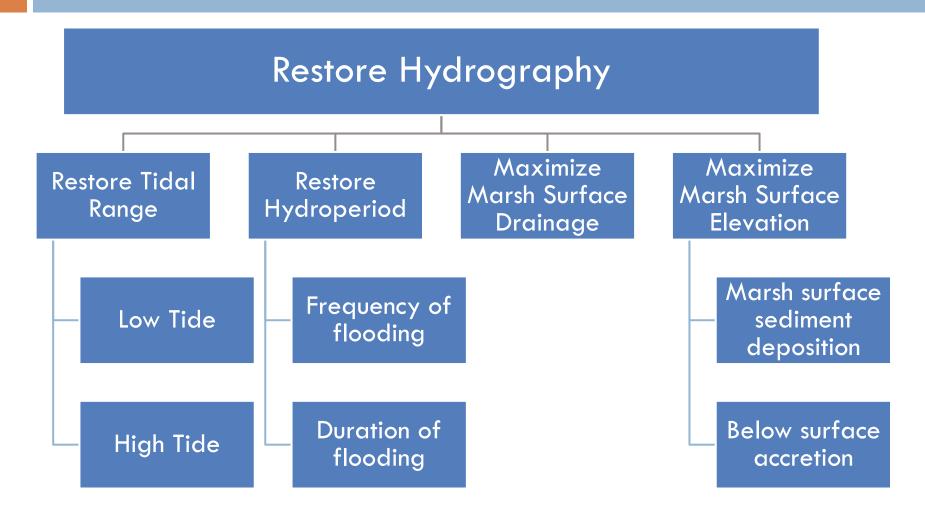
- There are uncertainties about how the system will respond to restoration actions
- Decisions regarding actions must be made in the face of this uncertainty

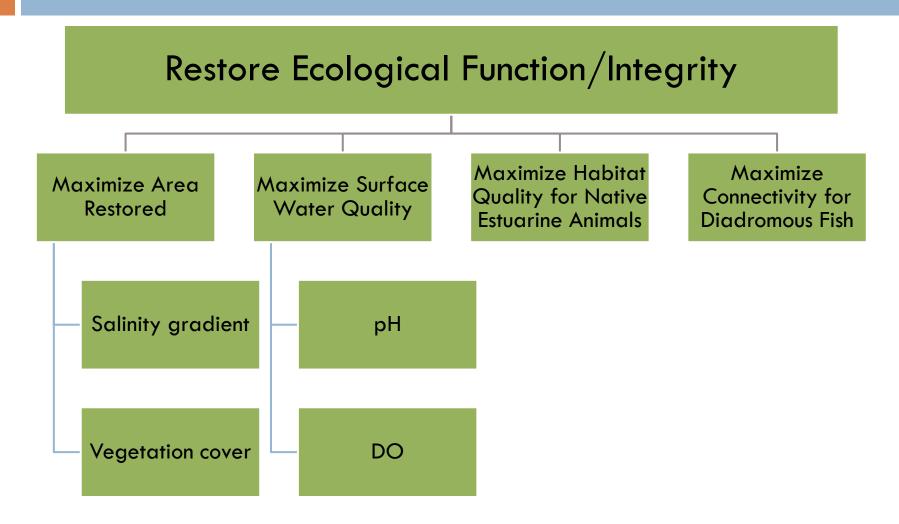
The long-term nature of the restoration provides the opportunity to formally learn – through a repeated cycle of prediction, decision making, and focus monitoring – and to adapt the decisions regarding management actions based on this learning

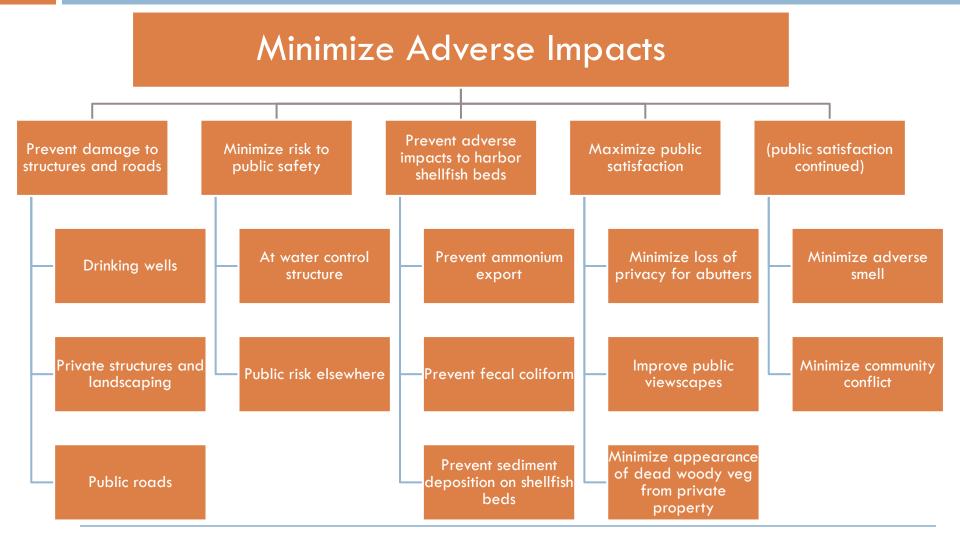


For each objective

- Performance measure
- 🗖 Unit
- Direction
- Spatial scale
- Temporal scale
- Prediction method
 - Preliminary
 - Improved
 - Ideal
- Monitoring method

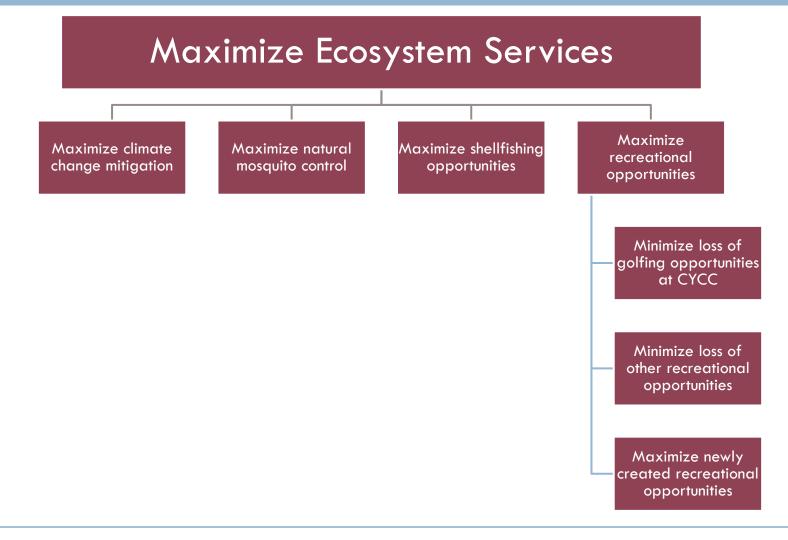


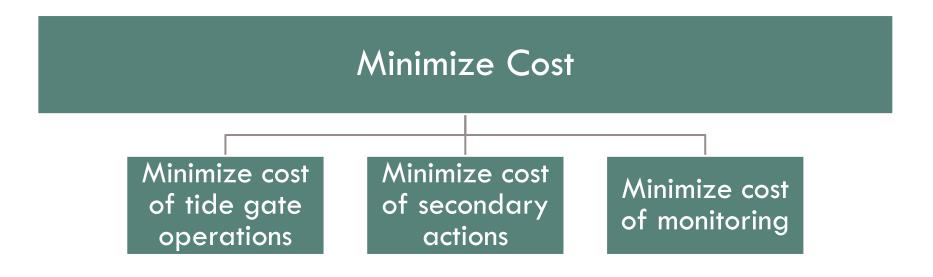




Northeast Regional Ocean Council

April 5, 2017





Consequence Table

- Parts of the table
 - Objectives
 - Measurable Attributes (Performance Metrics)
 - Unit
 - Desired Direction
 - Alternative Actions (Policies)
 - Predicted Outcomes
- Consequence Table >>
 - Six different timeframes
 - Predictions capture uncertainty (low, most likely, high, confidence)

Evaluating Alternative Actions

Objectives	Alternative Actions: How Much and How Quickly to Open Gates				
	Small/ Slow			Large/ Fast	
Min Sediment export					
Max Shellfishing opp.					Predicted outcomes of
Max Tide range					each potential action for
Max Water quality					each objective
Min Cost					



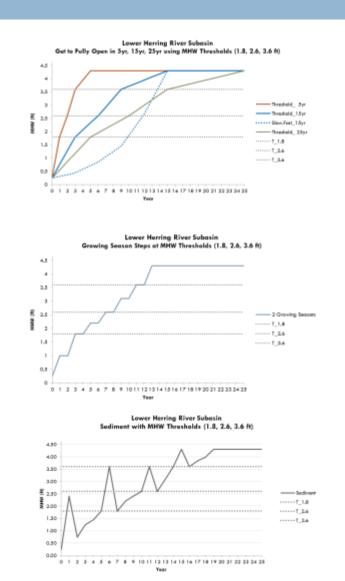
A menu of actions or choices for management decisions

Regulatory Oversight Group

November 17, 2016

Alternative Gate Policies

- Six different policies
 - Manipulation of the CNR dike gates
 - Platform policies on which Secondary Actions will be added
 - Each policy identifies a complete sequence of gate manipulations that would occur over a 25-year timeframe
 - Based on six distinct hydrographs of MHW



Inclusion of Secondary Management Actions

Types of actions

- Vegetation management
- Sediment management
- Channel and pool management
- Wildlife, fish, and shellfish management
- Recreation management
- Secondary actions are 'added on top of' gate policies
 - 1. Identify the best performing gate policies
 - 2. Add secondary policies to improve performance
 - 3. Select best overall policy (gate mgmt plus secondary actions)
- Inclusion of secondary actions is one way of adapting as restoration progresses

Future Steps

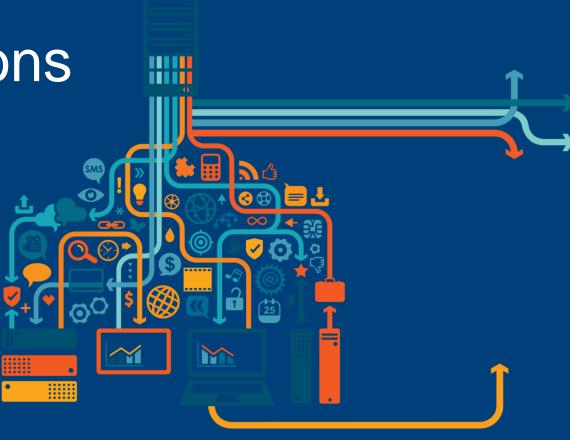
Trade-Off Analysis

- Process to compare predicted outcomes and associated utilities in the consequence table
- Assign relative weights of each objective

- Sensitivity Analysis
 - Look for policy that most frequently performs best (most robust)

Transportation Decisions in Uncertain Times

Judy C. Gates MaineDOT Environmental Office NROC/NALCC April 5, 2017









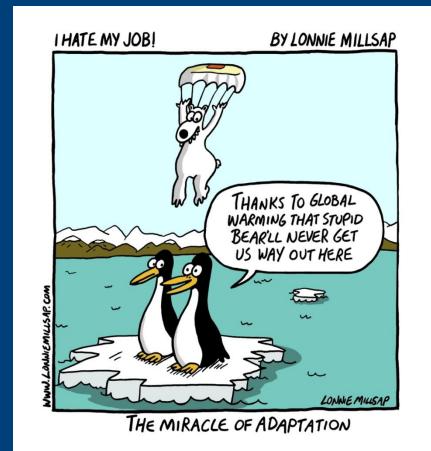
How vulnerable are we REALLY?

What is the size of the problem?

Is there a design 'sweet spot' we can tolerate?

Can we say for sure that we'll be better off?

How can we afford to throw the baby out with the bath water?





"Roads and culverts are barriers to everything", says everyone.



"We don't need transportation infrastructure", says no one

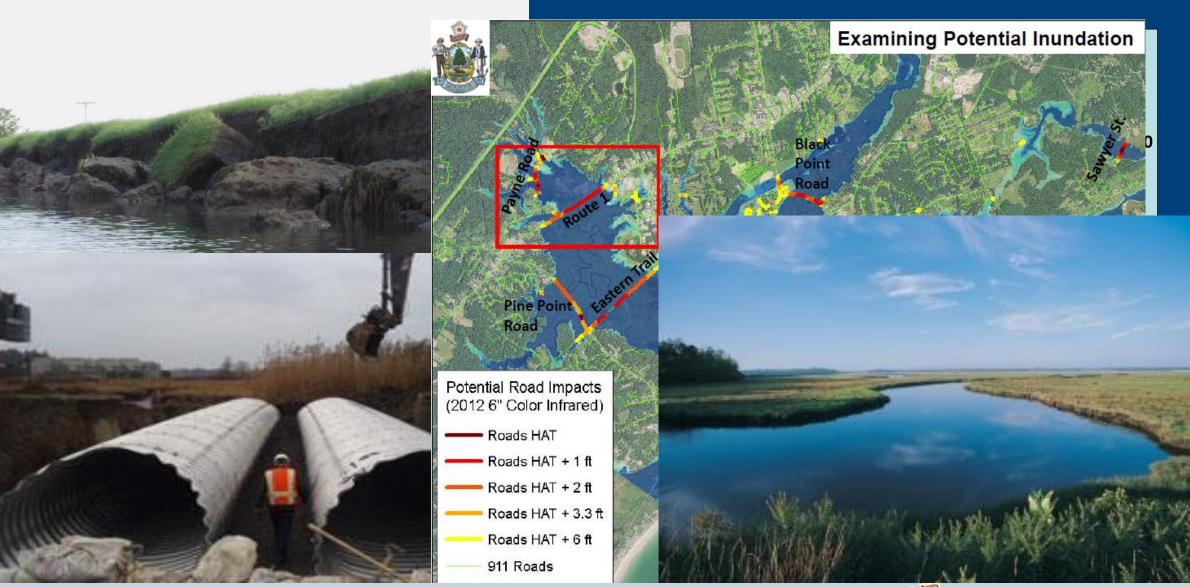


How vulnerable are we really? FHWA Climate Change Initiative Grant Plan A

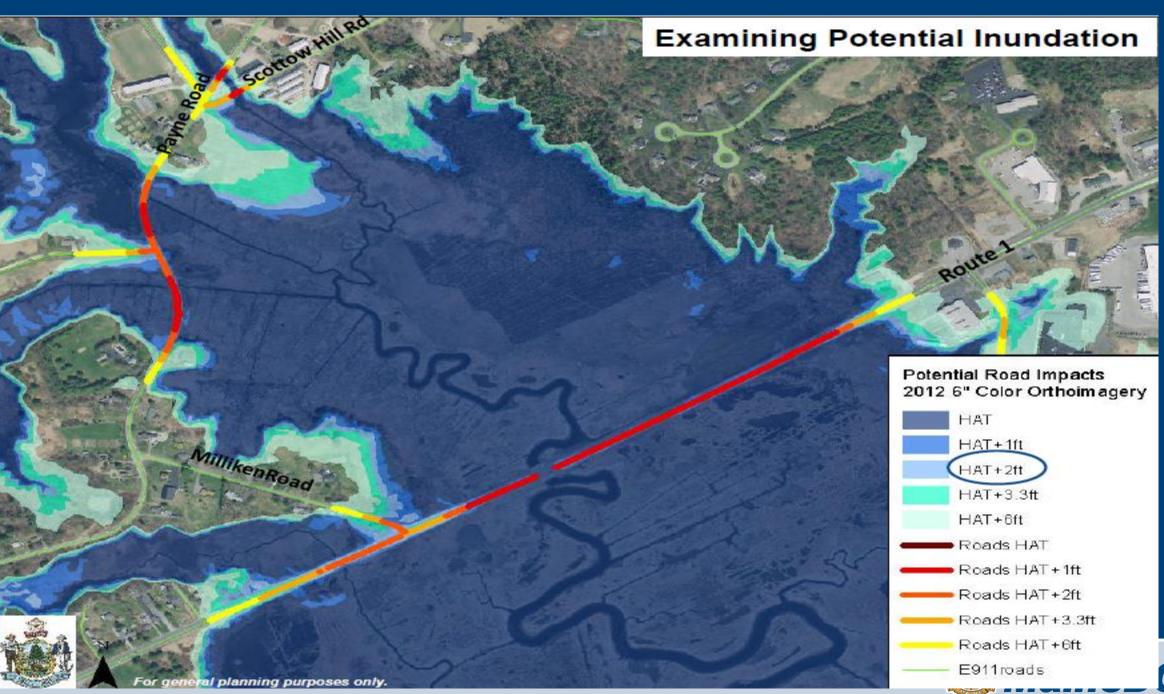
- 1. Apply three sea level rise scenarios;
- 2. Design options for one asset in each of six coastal towns;
- 3. Apply depth-damage function to design options;
- 4. Create Decision Support Tool to rate level of vulnerability;
- 5. Truth DST results to "I remember when...";
- 6. Ask: can we automate decision support tool to assess risk as part of MaineDOT asset management process?



Route 1 & Scarborough Marsh







Inte 🍽

Unfortunately, the answer depends.



Is there a design 'sweet spot' we can tolerate?





Customer	Safety	
Service Level	Condition	
	Service	



Large Culvert Sizing Engineering Guidance



1.2 bank full width

Q100

Q50



Uncertainty = Risk

[probability that a project schedule/budget won't be met



X

probability that a decision will not be "right"]

X

consequences



Coastal asset vulnerability...Will we be better off?

- Coastal assets
 - Roads _
 - Bridges/facilities
 - Large culverts
- Vulnerabilities
 - Low SLR in 2065 (1 ft)
 - High SLR in 2065 (2 ft)
 - Low SLR in 2115 (2 ft)
 - High SLR in 2115 (5 ft)
 - 100-yr storm surge
 - We did not combine storm surge and sea level rise





Useful vs. Meaningful

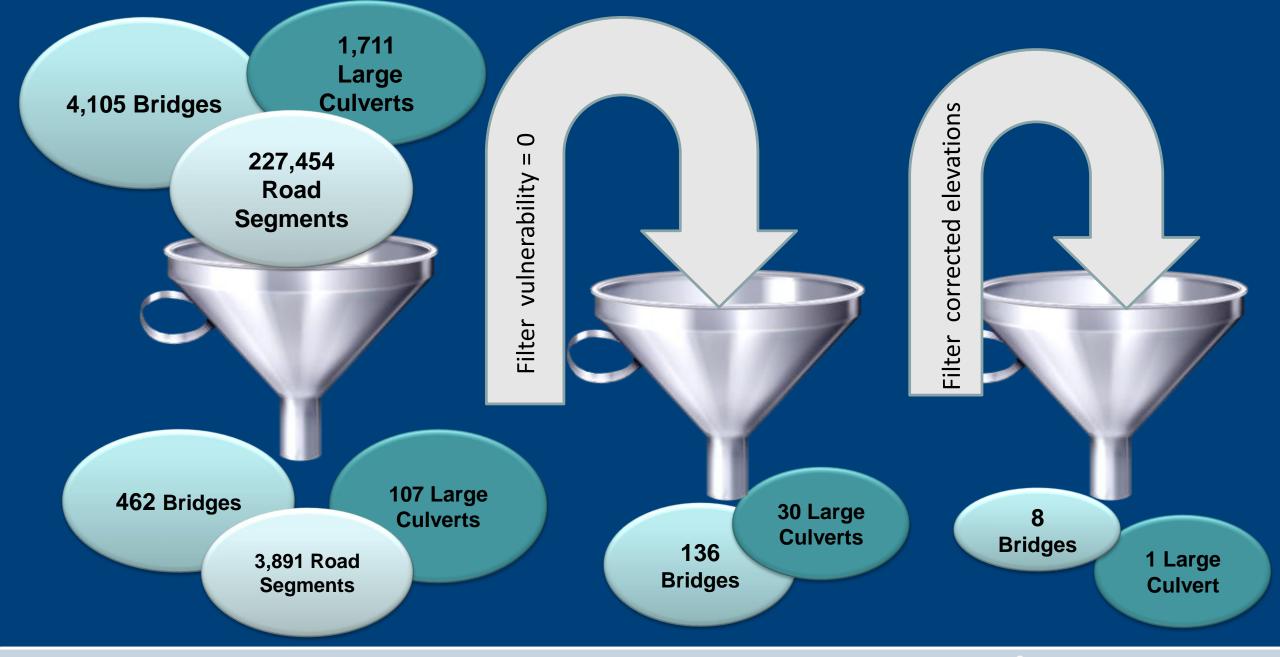
- MaineDOT asset & location information
- NOAA's terrain and depth grids to extract values of:
 - Ground elevation
 - Water surface elevations from SLR (tidally influenced)
- Select tolerable future scenarios
- Flooding polygon overlays on roads, bridges, and culverts translated to vulnerability ratings (0-5)
- T-COAST depth damage functions for 'most' vulnerable
 Institutional knowledge



Filter #3: correcting for elevations









Ecological

- Atlantic salmon, EBKT, NLEB
- Mapped stream barriers
- Wildlife passage

_ X Weighting Factor (0-4) Ecological Risk Score (0 – 20)

Hydrologic/Hydraulic

- Watershed size
- 100 year flows
- Flooding history

Structural

- Condition
- Scour
- Size

Integrity - Competence - Service

- Depth of cover
- Corridor Priority

X Weighting Factor (0-3)

Weighting

Factor (1-4)

Х

Hydrologic Risk Score ___ (0-22)

Structural

Risk Score

(3-43)

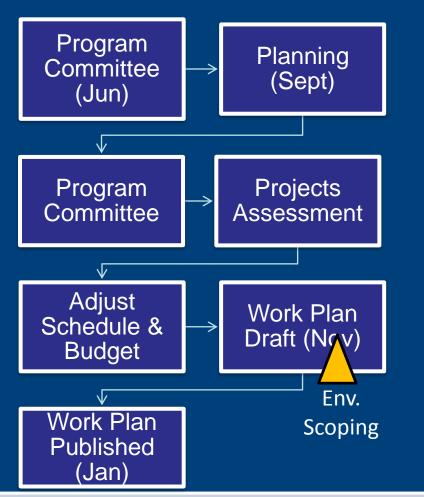


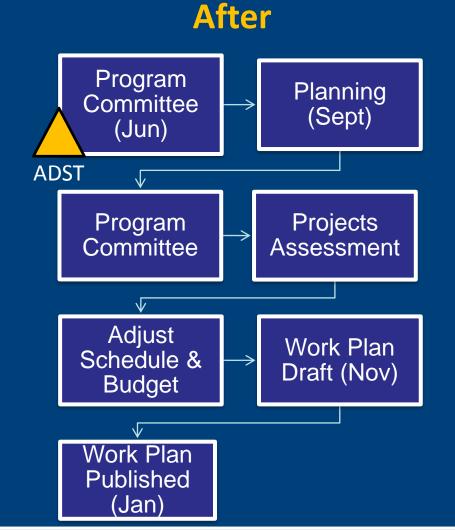
Final Risk Score (3-85)

MaineDOT

Making Transportation Decisions in Uncertain Times

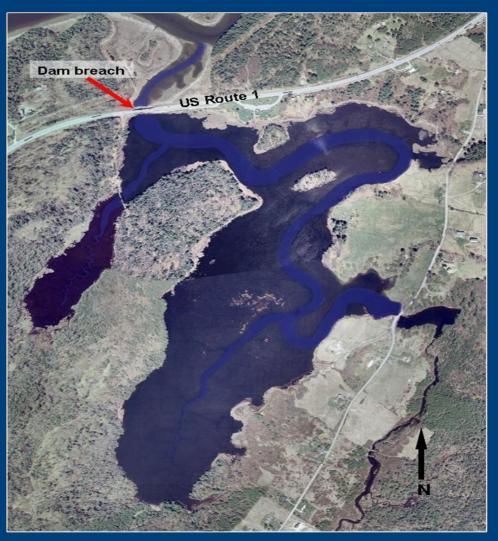
Before

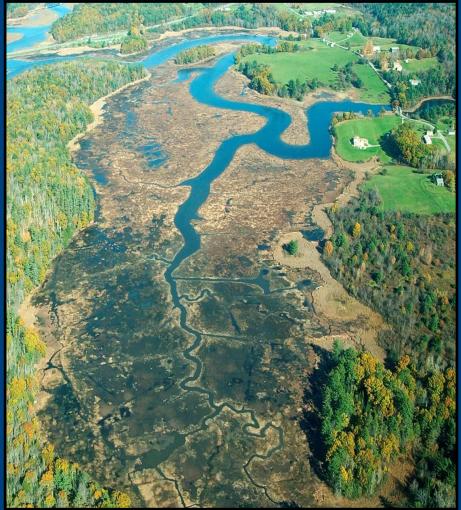






Newcastle US-1 Sherman Marsh 2008

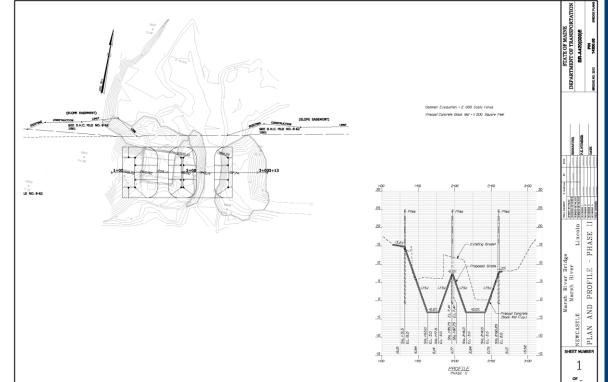






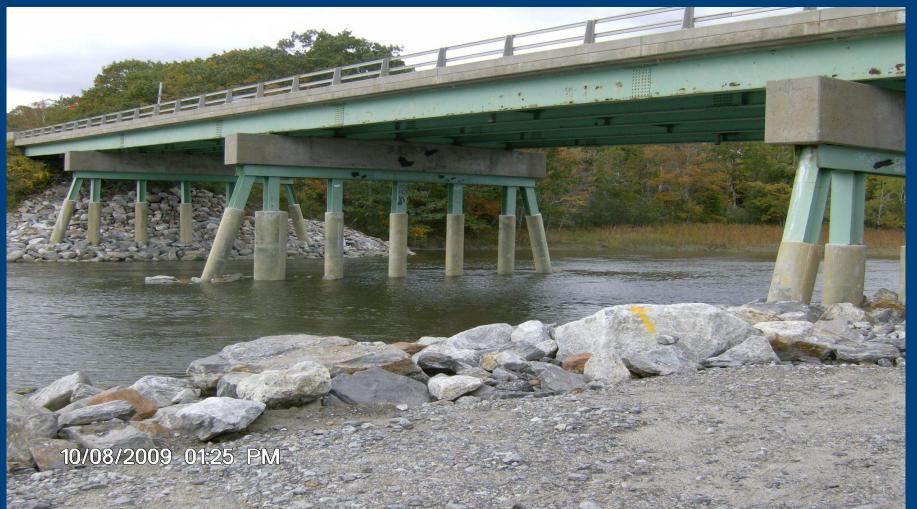


Responding...



Lafe Con





Remove old causeway;

Add new Channel;

Invasive control



Machias Dyke 20??







Helen's RESTAURANT

THE HE

alle alleran

26°





Risk "Multipliers"



Carrabassett Valley bridge failures, Hurricane Irene, 2011

The usual suspects... V

- Extreme weather A
- Increased precipitation/runoff
- Sea level rise

The less obvious...

- Political climate
- Organizational paralysis
- Pace of evolving science



Insights?

- Adapting to sea level rise and storm surge is more of an organizational problem than a technical one
- We still don't know what we don't know (e.g. elevations)
- The dumpy splooge
- Uncertainty is not palatable for an engineering agency
- Is anyone out there?



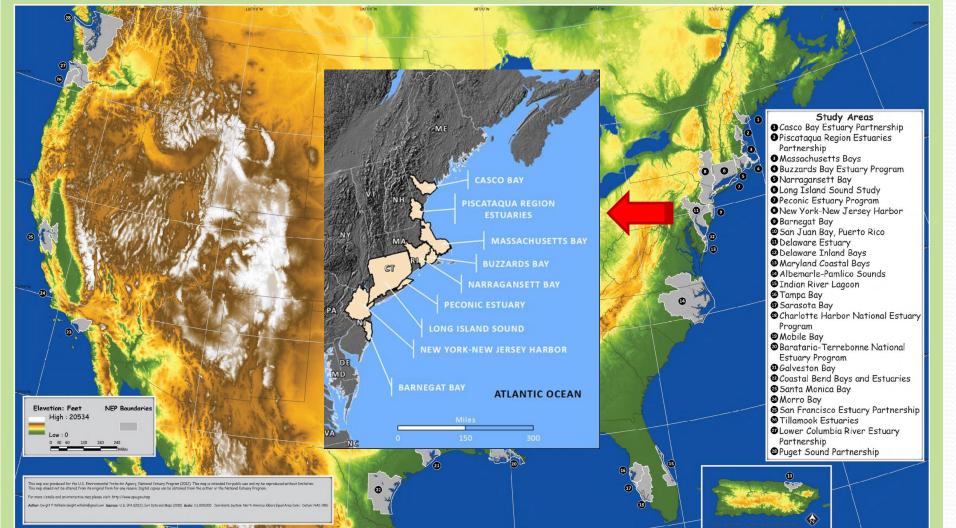
Against the tide: An inventory of tide gates in Massachusetts

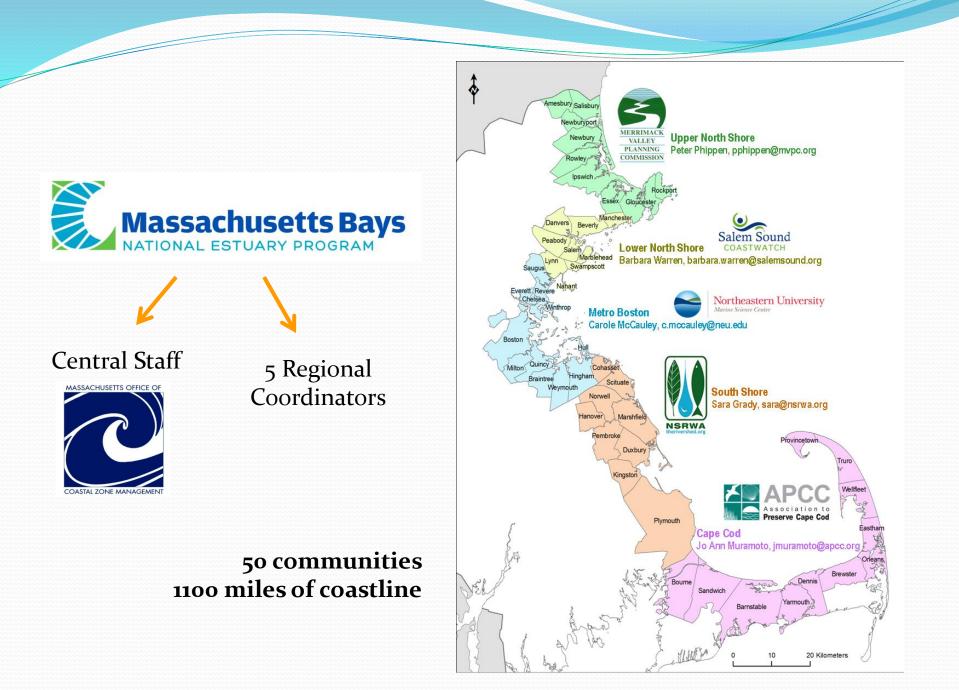
Pam DiBona Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program April 5, 2017

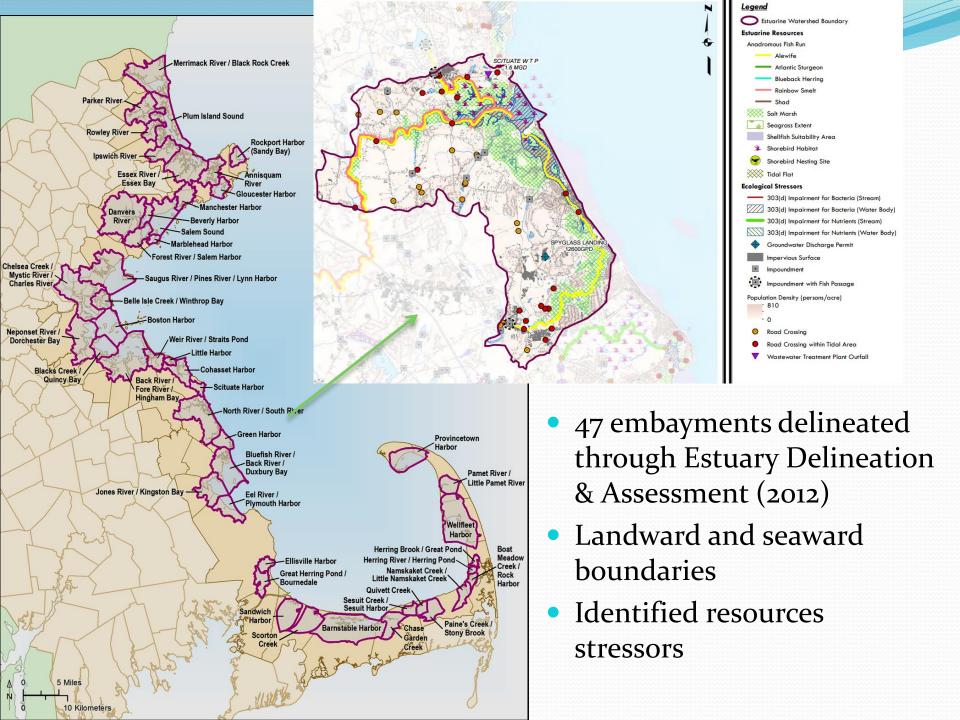


NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM STUDY AREAS









Tide Gate Inventory and Assessment

- Impetus
- Purpose
- Process & protocols
- Findings
- Next steps

Tide gate = any conveyance of tidal flow with the ability to passively or actively manipulate water flow.

Why tide gates?

- How many?
- Where?
- What condition?
- What purpose?
- Who owns them?
- Who is managing them, and how?
- What are the impacts?
- What are the implications?

2015 NOAA Project of Special Merit

Objectives:

- Locate and characterize existing tide gates
- Initiate, inform, and prioritize management for ecological benefit and hazard mitigation
- Prompt an increase in active and appropriate local management of tide gates.

2015 NOAA Project of Special Merit

Project leads



Project consultant



engineers | scientists | innovators



Coastal Zone Management









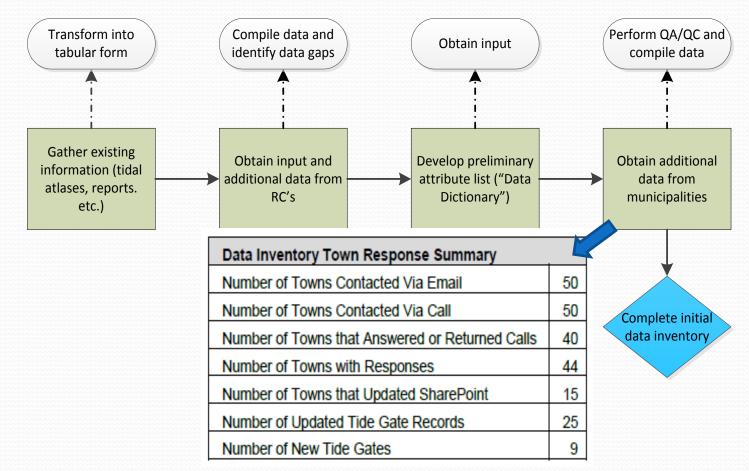




Project advisors

- Data mining
- Field assessments

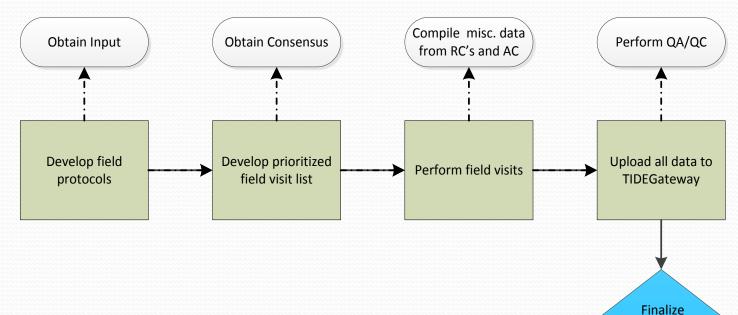
Data mining



Data mining

- Operator & operator type
- Installation date
- Intended purpose
- Permits
- Operation & maintenance plan

Field assessments

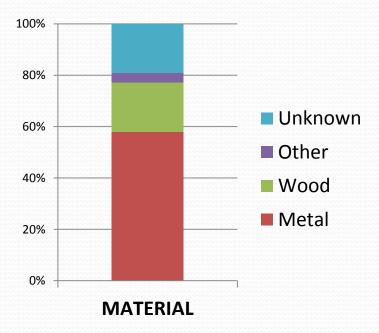


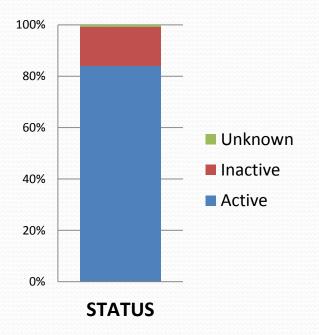
geodatabase

- Field assessments
 - Coordinates
 - Control type & mechanism
 - Tide gate material and dimensions
 - Culvert material and dimensions
 - Tide gate & culvert condition
 - Presence/absence of (named) invasive species
 - Invert elevation
 - Upstream and downstream tidal influence
 - Upstream & downstream photos

Findings: Material & Status

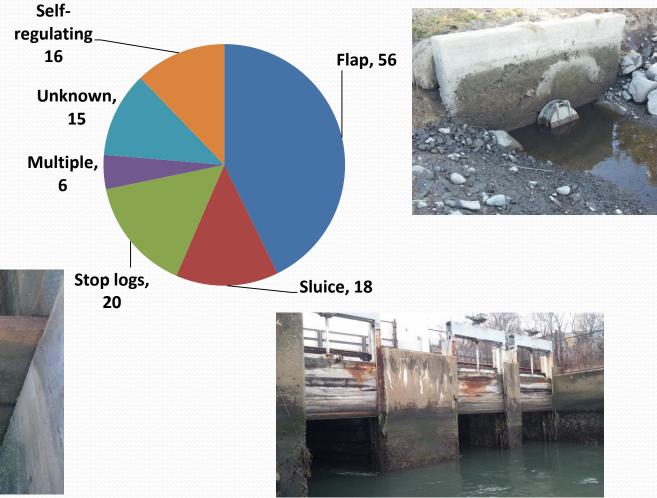
131 tide gates!





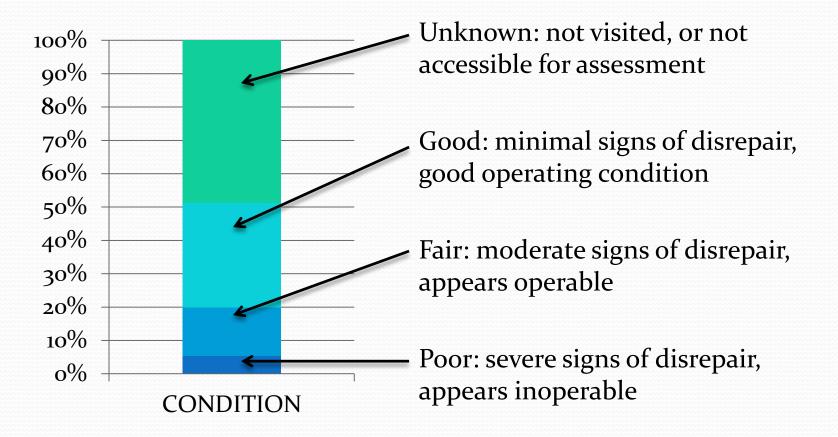
Findings: Control type



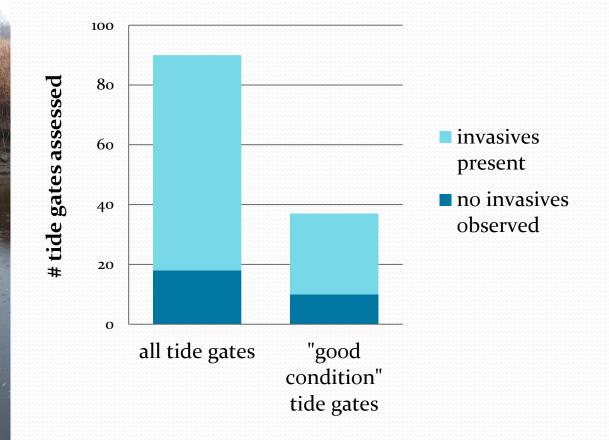




Findings: Condition



Findings: Invasive species

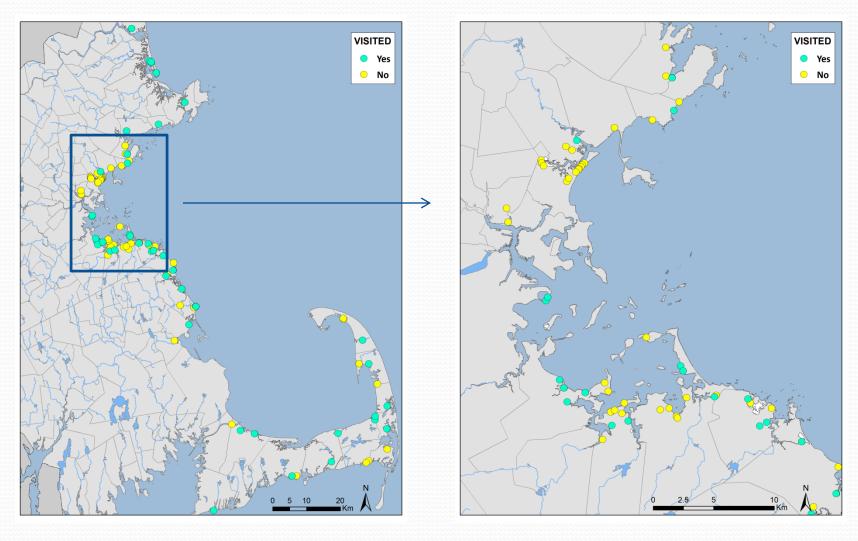




- Document & data mining
- Modeling?
- Policy discussions
- Municipal outreach

- Document & data mining
 - Conduct additional field assessments
 - Add more parameters to database
 - Locate and upload permits & plans
 - Implement additional field protocols
 - Incorporate additional restrictions & conveyances

Site visits



- Document & data mining
- Modeling?

- Document & data mining
- Modeling?
- Policy discussions
 - Prioritize regulatory & permitting action
 - Identify potential restoration sites
 - Upstream development planning

- Document & data mining
- Modeling?
- Policy discussions
- Municipal outreach
 - Town-specific fact sheets
 - Regional workshops
 - One-on-one meetings & technical support
 - Restoration & management



Pam DiBona pamela.dibona@state.ma.us



Assessing New Hampshire's Tidal Crossings for Coastal Resilience

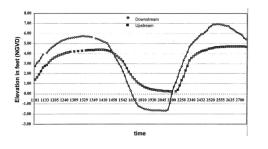
April 5, 2017 <u>Kevin Lucey</u> NHDES Coastal Program

Pete Steckler The Nature Conservancy



Complex Decision Making at Tidal Crossings

Bi- Directional Flow



Salt Marsh Functions and Values



Low Lying Infrastructure



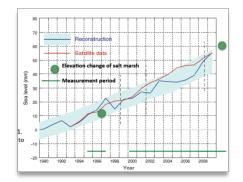
Increased Storm Intensity



Operations & Maintenance



Rising Sea Levels



Tidal Crossings Assessments Workshop

September 10, 2015

Portsmouth, New Hampshire





NROC Northeast Regional Ocean Council





North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Management Objectives Assessment Parameters Evaluation Criteria

What are the possible decisions that could be made from a tidal crossing inventory? What attributes of a site should we measure?

How do we evaluate the field data to make conclusions about the adequacy and effects of each crossing?

Do the Evaluation Criteria inform/satisfy the Management Objectives?



To identify locations of tidal crossings To identify locations of tidal restrictions To determine the condition of the tidal crossing To determine aquatic organism passage To identify opportunities for salt marsh migration To identify flood inundation risk To identify conflicting uses To determine feasibility of replacement To prioritize replacement To develop standardized baseline information for permitting, mitigation, engineering and design.

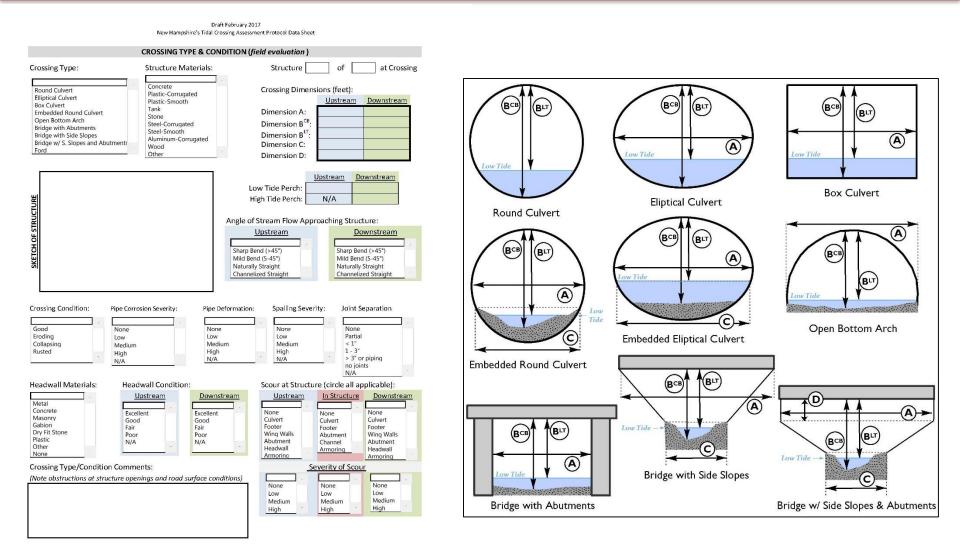


Landscape Position Structure Condition Structure Dimension and Type Channel Characterization Relative elevations of structure, road, marsh, channel Fish and Wildlife Observations Vegetation Characterization (field and desktop) Sea Level Rise Comparison (desktop) SLAMM Comparison (desktop)

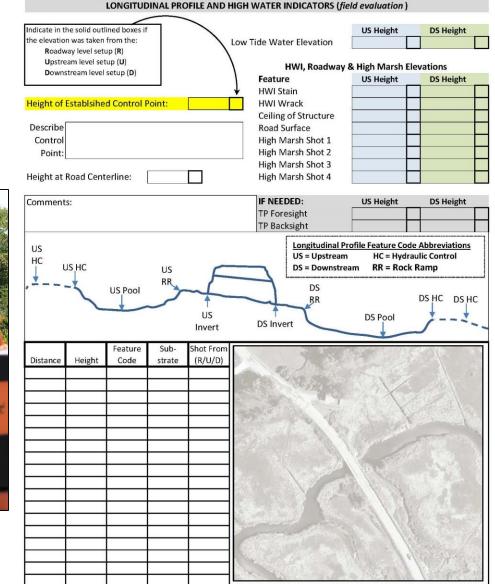


Structure Condition Crossing Ratio Erosion Classification Vegetation Comparison Tidal Range Comparison Salt Marsh Migration Potential **Inundation Risk to Crossing Structure** Inundation Risk to Road **Inundation Risk to Low Lying Infrastructure Replacement Feasibility**

Crossing Type & Condition



Longitudinal Profile:



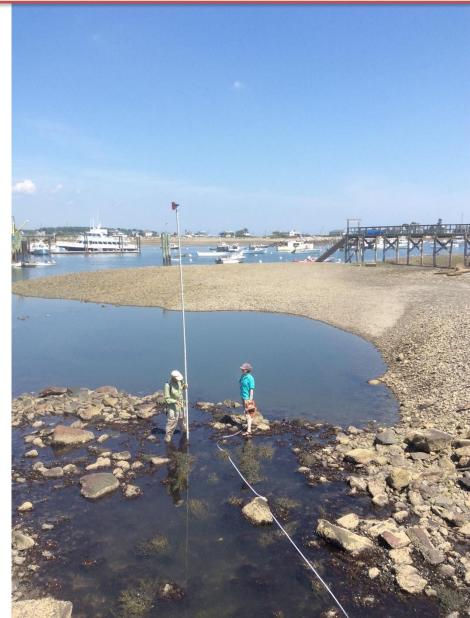
QC - Height of Establsihed Control Point:



Benefits of a Longitudinal Profile

Understand...

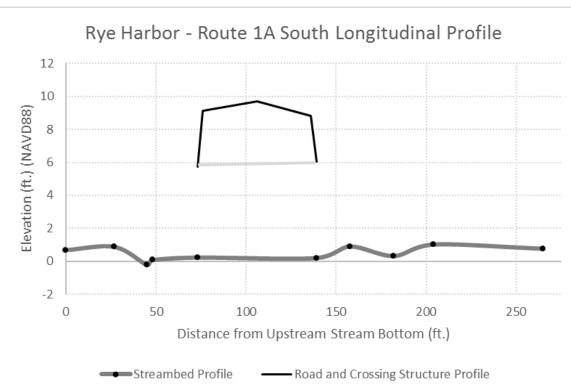
- Compatibility of the Crossing Structure with the Tidal System
- Tidal Range and Aquatic Organism Passage
- Inundation Risk to the Structure and Roadway
- And more!



Crossing Structure Compatibility



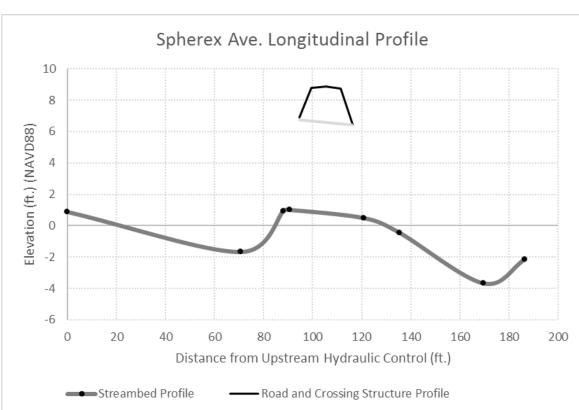




Crossing Structure Compatibility



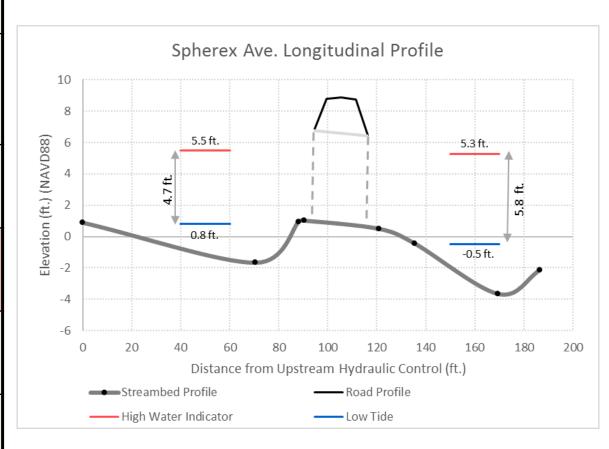




Tidal Restriction Evaluation

Tidal Range Ratio: An Indicator for Aquatic Organism Passage

SCORE	Classification Criteria
1	No perch at low tide; stream grade through the crossing matches that of the natural system (<10% difference)
2	Tidal range downstream is between 10 and 20 percent greater than upstream
3	Tidal range downstream is between 20 and 30 percent greater than upstream
4	Tidal range downstream is between 30 and 50 percent greater than upstream
5	Downstream invert is perched at high tide, or tidal range downstream exceeds upstream tidal range by more than 50 percent

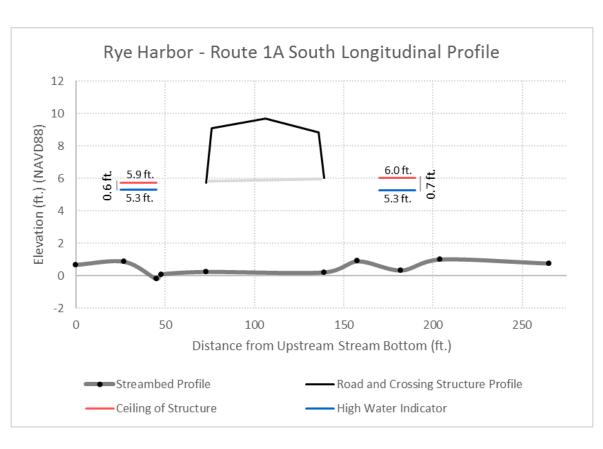


High Water Indicators?



Inundation Risk to the Crossing Structure

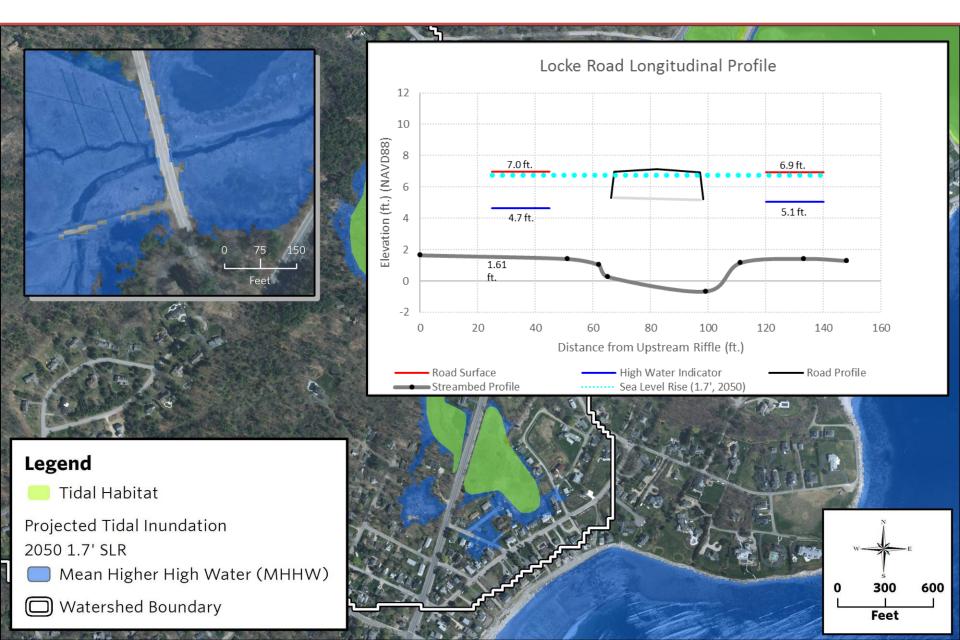
SCORE	Classification Criteria
1	High water indicator is greater than 3' from ceiling of structure
2	High water indicator is between 2 and 3' from ceiling of structure
3	High water indicator is between 1 and 2' from ceiling of structure
4	High water indicator is less than 1' from ceiling of structure
5	High water indicator is above ceiling of structure



Inundation Risk to the Roadway

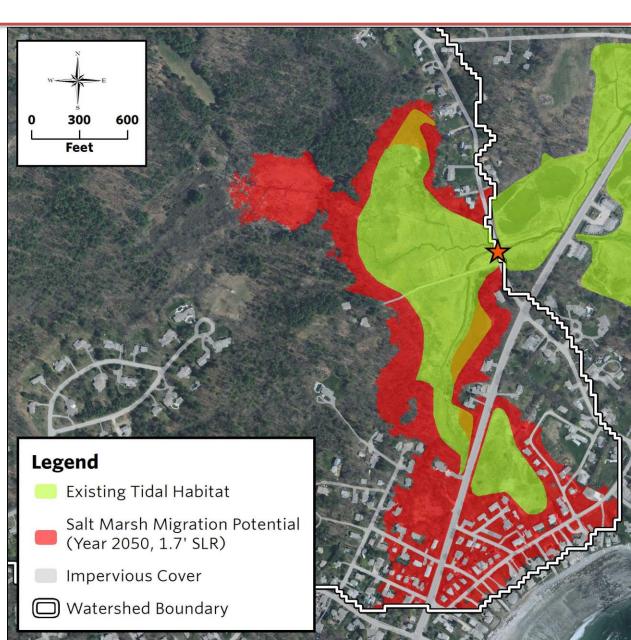
SCORE	Classification Criteria		
1	High water indicator is greater than 6' from road surface	Locke Road Longitudinal Profile	
2	High water indicator is between 3 and 6' from road surface	10 $\begin{array}{c} 10\\ \hline \\ \hline$	
3	High water indicator is between 1.5 and 3' from road surface	$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1$	
4	High water indicator is less than 1.5' from road surface		
5	High water indicator suggests road is occasionally inundated		

Inundation Risk



Salt Marsh Migration

SCORE	Classification Criteria
1	0-1 acre increase
2	1-2 acre increase
3	2-5 acre increase
4	5-10 acre increase
5	>10 acre increase (35 ac.!)



Scoring & Prioritization

Theme Scores

- Crossing Condition
- Tidal Restriction
- Ecological (marsh migration, vegetation comparison, aquatic organism passage)
- Inundation Risk

Plus an "Overall Score"









Next Steps & Questions?

