

Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee 2019-2020 Work Plan



The Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee is one of three NROC standing committees. This committee was established to inform and recommend to the Council how best to approach regional issues and coordinate activities related to coastal hazards in New England.

Goal:

Build hazards resilience to impacts of coastal erosion, flooding, storms, and climate change through region-wide dissemination of data, tools, and case studies, as well as fostering collaborative actions.

Need for Action:

New England coastal communities have experienced coastal storm events that have led to loss of life and major damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure and shorelines.

Coastal hazards information and tools can assist state and local officials to better plan for impacts of storms and sea level rise and implement strategies to prevent recurring future damages. Data such as detailed terrestrial contours, shallow water bathymetry, and mean high water positions are needed throughout the region to support efforts to identify potential inundation zones from storm surge, erosion and sea level rise. A companion to data is the need to develop user-friendly tools to access and analyze data and support management decisions and recommendations.

Strategies: The committee has determined two strategies for working toward its goal. During 2019-2020, the committee will:

1. Promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise.
2. Facilitate data acquisition and user-friendly tools to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.

Strategies and activities: Each of the two strategies has specific associated activities that the committee members will implement.

Strategy CHR-1: Promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise.

Activities:

CHR-1.1 Committee communications. Co-chairs will convene regular Committee calls and organize an annual meet-up events as part of an NROC Meeting or other regional meetings or workshops. The Committee will continue to monitor membership and assess emerging needs related to coastal hazards and climate adaptation.

- Use the Committee to continue building connections between coastal science and research programs in the region with coastal management

organizations. In 2019-2020, NROC CHR Committee will focus on sharing information on USGS Science Center research, including USGS and MA CZM relationship to further erosion forecasting research.

- Invite members to lead specific Committee activities for 2019-2020.

CHR-1.2 Organize a regional roundtable on an emerging issue related to coastal hazards assessment and management as identified by the Committee.

The Committee will organize and convene a regional roundtable event that enables state and local agencies to share information, lessons learned, research needs, etc focused on an emerging issue identified by the Committee. The Committee will identify federal partner support for the event.

- Peer to peer discussion of approaches to developing policies, communication products, and options for retreat.
 - The CHR Committee will build on results and discussions from RAE Summit, Georgetown Conference as well as lessons and experiences from ongoing work in NH, MA, and other NE locations to host a regional discussion on needs and partnership opportunities around retreat.
- Peer to peer working session review of updated SLR projections and planning guidance.
 - Compare approaches and lessons learned for creating guidance and scenarios across NE states. Discuss experiences with communicating uncertainty and risk tolerance scenario planning. Potential for an in-person Working Session to brainstorm regional concepts for communicating probabilistic projections, scenarios, contextual language, and recommended approaches.

CHR-1.3 Develop regional funding proposals. Assess opportunities to partner with other organizations on funding proposals for climate adaptation and hazards resilience related projects. The Committee has specific interest in proposals that:

- Assessment of innovative approaches to build coastal resilience;
- Continue the Municipal Coastal Resilience Initiative small grants program focused on building resilience to a number of coastal hazards including sea level rise, storm surge, and erosion;
- Workshop on Regional (multi-community) Approaches for Climate Adaptation

Strategy CHR-2: Facilitate data acquisition and user-friendly tools to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.

Activities:

CHR-2.1 Support regional efforts to advance green infrastructure and living shoreline management approaches.

The Committee will maintain a Living Shorelines Group to provide input and feedback to NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant with TNC through 2020.

- Assist with development and implementation of NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant with TNC, including support for developing and communicating monitoring protocols as well as developing and communicating lessons learned.
- Continue to foster a community of practice around living shorelines and coastal green infrastructure. Develop regular communications with the NROC group focused on living shorelines updates, events, projects, etc. Invite guest speakers to NROC calls and meetings to share case studies and lessons learned from other projects.

CHR-2.2 Leverage NERACOOS data, products, and services for coastal inundation observations and forecasting.

- Continue to identify opportunities for connecting coastal management data needs with capabilities and assets of regional observing system.

Implementation Leads:

The following table shows the lead agency responsible for implementing each activity. While all committee member agencies are encouraged to participate in the implementation of activities, the lead agency is responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and reporting on designated activities

Strategies and Activities	Agency Lead(s)
CHR-1: Promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise.	
CHR-1.1 Committee Communications	
<i>Communications 1: Committee calls</i>	NOAA
<i>Communications 2: Connections with Science and Research Centers</i>	MA
CHR-1.2 Organize a Regional Roundtable	
<i>Roundtable 1: Retreat</i>	NOAA
<i>Roundtable 2: SLR Probabilistic Model Guidance</i>	NH
CHR-1.3 Develop regional funding proposals	All
<i>Proposal focus area 1: Assessment of innovative approaches to building coastal resilience</i>	
<i>Proposal focus area 2: Continue a small grants program</i>	
<i>Proposal focus area 3: Workshop on regional (multi-community) approaches to climate adaptation</i>	
CHR-2: Act on data acquisition priorities and user-friendly tools needed to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.	
CHR-2.1 Living Shorelines Workgroup Coordination and Support for NOAA CRG with TNC	TNC, NOAA
CHR-2.2 Leverage NERACOOS data, products, and services	NH, NERACOOS

Past Accomplishments:

Below is a summary of past accomplishments of the Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee.

- **Hazards Resilience Workshop (November 2007)** Thematic areas included determining impacts of past hazard events, learning the effects of climate change on the intensity and frequency of future events, and understanding the region's current resiliency to better gauge existing preparedness and improve future capacity. Nearly 60 stakeholders from diverse backgrounds participated in the workshop. Presenters provided important inspiration and background on issues like storm events and climate change impacts, as well as valuable opportunities and lessons learned from specific efforts to improve coastal hazards resiliency.
- **LiDAR Workshop (May 2009)** NROC and USGS sponsored a workshop to discuss regional LiDAR data needs and requirements.
- **New England LiDAR Proposal to USGS (2009)** New England states (data managers and data users) collaborated to submit a regional proposal for the USGS 'ARRA' Funding Opportunity for LiDAR acquisition. The NE states used the results of the May 2009 LiDAR workshop to inform the proposal.
- **Climate Adaptation Proposal to NOAA (September 2010)** NROC Hazards Committee Co-chairs worked with the Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Change Network to identify regional climate adaptation planning needs and submitted a successful collaborative proposal to NOAA's Climate Program Office.
- **Coastal Climate Adaptation Training (October 2010)** NROC identified the need for a regional Climate Adaptation Training for state managers. NOAA's Coastal Services Center and the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) organized a training with additional support from EPA's Region 1, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, and Rhode Island Sea Grant. More than 25 state agencies and regional organizations received training on coastal climate adaptation planning.
- **Development of the StormSmart Coasts New England Network (June 2011)** State pages available for Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.
- **StormSmart Coasts New England Webinar Series (September 2011 - October 2012)** NROC organized 6 webinars on topics related to impacts of coastal hazards, emergency preparedness, community resilience, and climate adaptation as well as specific case studies or pilot projects from New England. An average of 20 to 50 state and local officials participated in each webinar.
- **Northeast LiDAR and Sea Level Rise Impacts Workshop (July 2012)** 75 federal, state and local data managers and users participated in a 2 day workshop to discuss use of high resolution LiDAR in sea level rise and inundation mapping efforts.
- **Municipal Coastal Resilience Grants Program (2012).** Six grants were made to coastal communities to assess vulnerabilities, create resilience plans, and look at options to adapt to impacts of sea level rise. The results of the Municipal Coastal Resilience Initiative Grants Program have been summarized and are made available through the Northeast Climate Change Adaptation website <http://necca.stormsmart.org/>.
- **Adaptation Case Studies (2012).** The Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program was funded to develop case studies of New England coastal communities working on adaptation. The case studies are made available through the Northeast Climate

- Change Adaptation website <http://necca.stormsmart.org/>.
- **Media Toolkit (2012).** A media toolkit was created to help climate adaptation efforts work with local media outlets. The model toolkit is made available through the Northeast Climate Change Adaptation website <http://necca.stormsmart.org/>.
 - **Commuting Rating System Grants Program (2014).** NROC made 3 grants to coastal communities to look at opportunities to implement activities covered in FEMA's Community Rating System. The results have been summarized and are made available through the NROC website.
 - **Created MyCoast interface for StormReporter and King Tide databases (2015).**
 - **Need to update accomplishments**

2019-2020 Committee Members:

Julia Knisel, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (State Co-chair)
Kevin O'Brien, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (NERACOOS/State Co-chair)
Adrienne Harrison, NOAA Affiliate (Federal Co-chair)
Rick Bennett, USFWS
Patricia Bowie, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
Steve Couture, New Hampshire Coastal Program
Stephen Dickson, Maine Geological Survey
Sherry Godlewski, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Edward Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium
Janet Freedman, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Kirsten Howard, New Hampshire Coastal Program
Katie Lund, Connecticut's CIRCA
Regina Lyons, EPA Region 1
Ivy Mlsna, EPA Region 1
Ellen Mecray, NOAA
Paul Morey, FEMA Region 1
Eric Roberts, The Nature Conservancy (Boston)
Peter Slovinsky, Maine Geological Survey
Tonna-Marie Surgeon-Rogers, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Adam Whelchel, The Nature Conservancy (Connecticut)