

Advancing Living Shorelines in New England

Project Update

**Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Meeting
Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee**

Joan LeBlanc, NROC Coastal Hazards Resilience Program Director

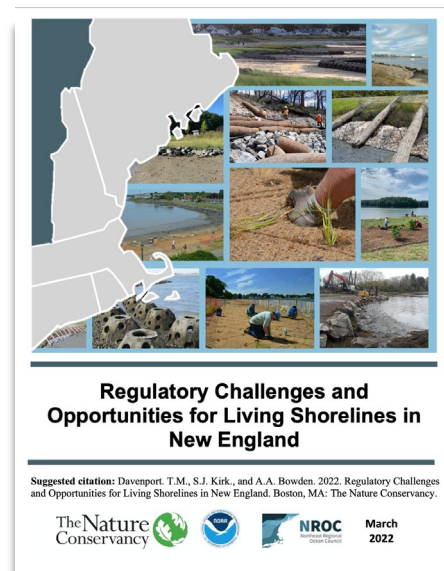
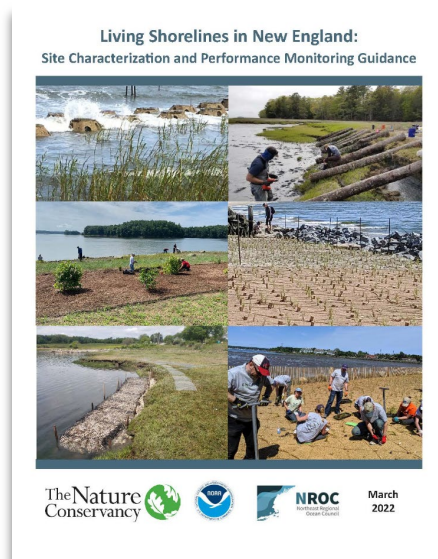
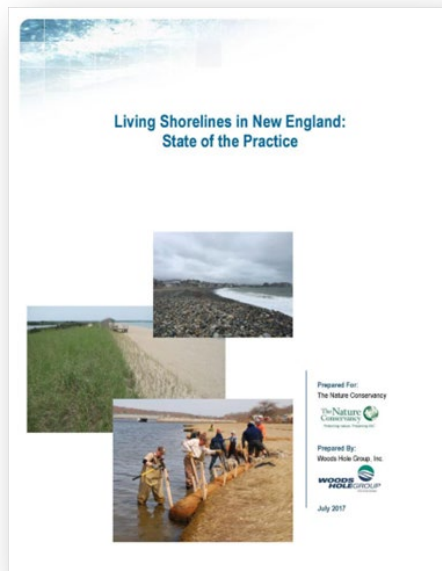
Tuesday, November 12, 2024



Advancing Living Shorelines in New England

- NROC continuing partnership with New England coastal managers, The Nature Conservancy, and Consensus Building Institute
- Advance implementation of successful living shorelines projects in New England by increasing understanding of regulatory issues, monitoring techniques, and application of living shorelines approaches

Current funding from NOAA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)



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Key Activities (complete)

- Series of interviews with regulatory stakeholders about **permitting**
- Webinar and workshop to consider regulatory challenges and mitigation opportunities (Fall 2023)
- Series of interviews with engineers and coastal managers about the **design, construction, and monitoring** of living shorelines (Summer 2024)
- Workshop with coastal managers, engineers, and practitioners to discuss lessons learned (Sept. 2024)
- Educational site visit to Wagon Hill living shorelines project in Durham, NH (Sept. 2024)

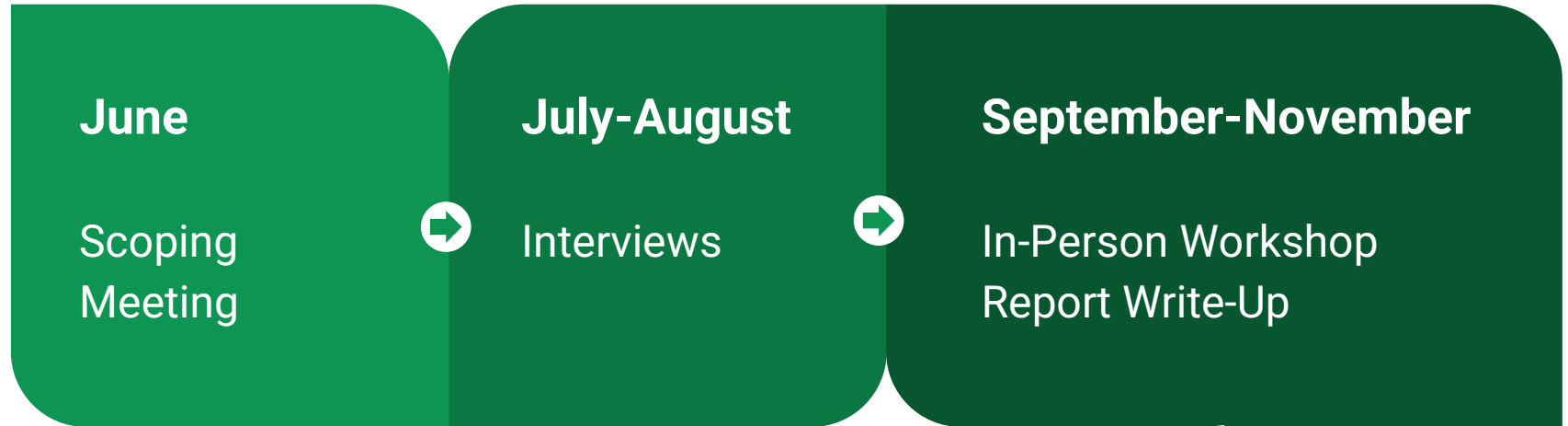


Focus of 2024 Project

Seek to **identify lessons learned** about the effectiveness and challenges of constructed living shorelines in New England across the different stages of establishment - pre-construction, during the establishment process, and after completion.



Project Approach

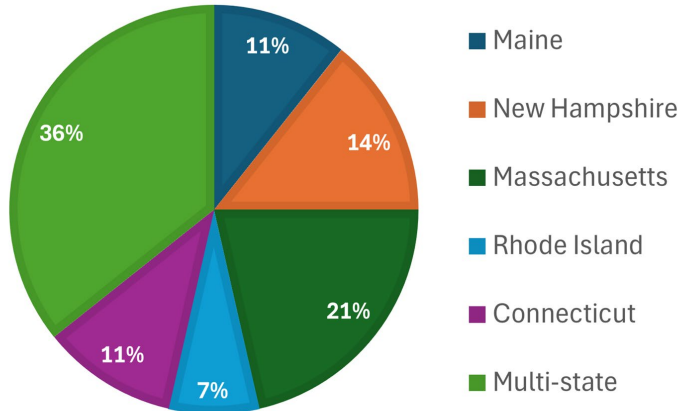


Educational site-visits to view living shoreline projects

Sources of Input:

- Feedback from June 17 Scoping Webinar
- Interviews with 28 Stakeholders
- Discussions during September 26 Workshop in NH

INTERVIEWEES BY LOCATION



Affiliations

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Local Managers
- Academia
- Environmental Consulting Firms
- NGOs

Key Themes: **Monitoring**

- Project design, goals, and objectives need to be in alignment to create effective monitoring plans
- Straightforward and affordable monitoring strategies are key for consistent monitoring
- Knowledge exchange across regions is essential for improving monitoring and maintenance practices



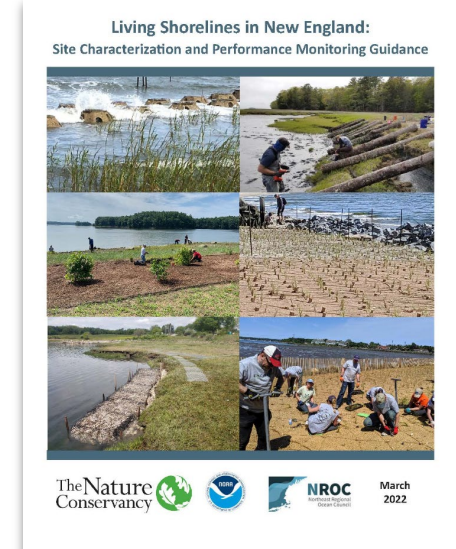
Key Themes: Design, Construction and Performance

- Living shorelines designs should align with effective site assessment and clear project goals
- Hybrid (green and grey) solutions are common, but confusion exists about them
- Differing state and federal regulations can significantly slow or alter living shorelines projects
- Living shorelines design standards need to factor in future climate conditions



Key Themes: Education and Training

- Living shorelines bring valuable co-benefits:
ecological + economic + social
- Many contractors and engineers have limited knowledge or experience with living shorelines
 - Opportunities to incentivize training for contractors by offering certification or credentialing for living shoreline design
- Case studies and documentation of lessons learned are needed to inform best practices
- Significant interest and need for continued cross-discipline dialogue and collaboration (academics, professional consultants, project proponents, engineers, state and fed regulators)



Key Themes: Community Engagement

- Managing expectations about living shorelines cost, design/look, purpose, and protection offered by the project, is vital for community support of public and private projects
- Project design should take into account how communities are already using the space
- The most successful living shorelines projects involve communities in every step of the process
 - design -> implementation -> monitoring -> evaluation



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Key Activities (next steps)

- Finalize Report: *Living Shorelines Permitting in New England*
- Prepare report from interviews and recent workshop about lessons learned
- Conduct outreach and education to expand knowledge about design, permitting, construction, and monitoring of successful living shorelines
- Compile, develop, and share resources to expand knowledge about successful living shorelines
- Incorporate living shorelines into the NE Ocean Data Portal (2025)



Thank You!

Living Shorelines Project Team Leads

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