FORERUNNER

Strengthening Coastal Communities: Resilience and Preparedness Through Regional Partnerships

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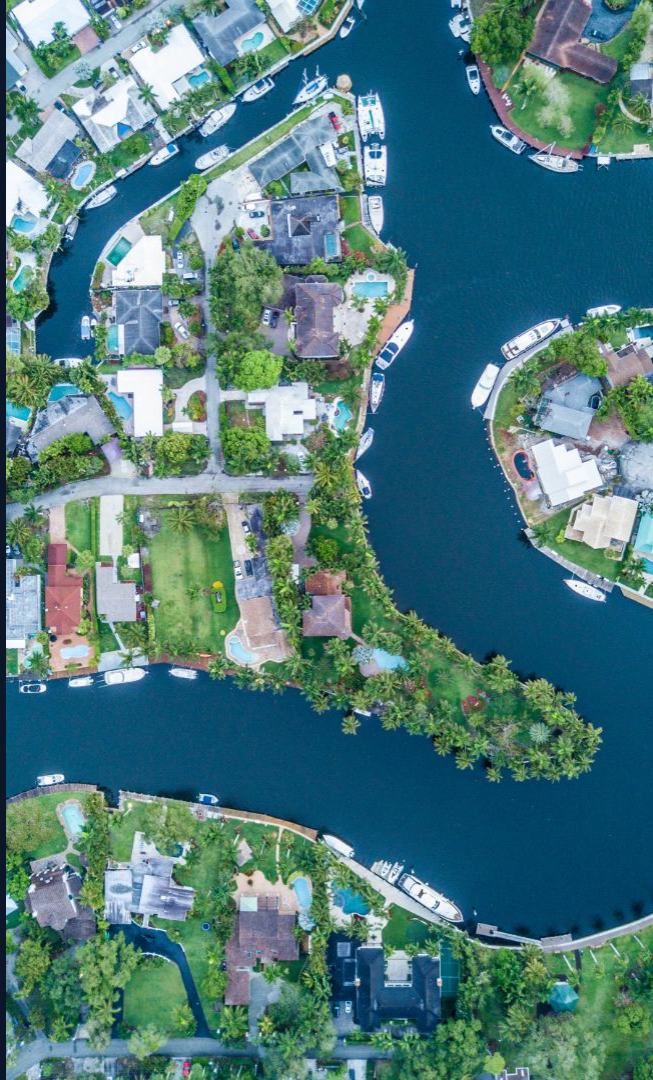
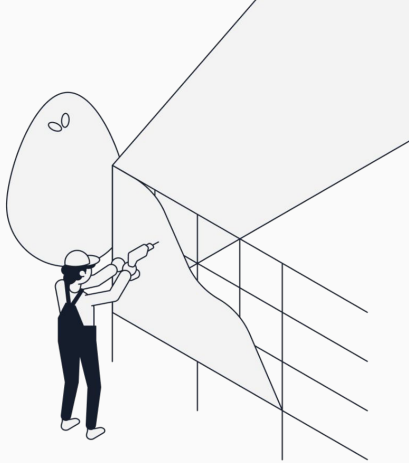


Housekeeping

- This presentation is being recorded.
- The recording will be shared via email after the webinar.
- If you have a question, please post it in the chat.
- At the end of the webinar, complete the attendance survey to receive your 1 ASFPM CEC and .10 ICC CEU. The certificates will be sent via email to you, ASFPM, and ICC next week.
- Please reach out after the webinar for additional questions.



Poll

Contents

Introduction

Floodplain management and hazard mitigation matter more than ever.

Partners

We work with over 190 cities, counties, and states throughout the U.S.

FDEM
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DWR
California

MEMA
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California

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Florida

Gila County
Arizona

Raleigh
North Carolina

Old Orchard Beach
Maine

Cedar Rapids
Iowa

Las Cruces
New Mexico

Peterborough
New Hampshire

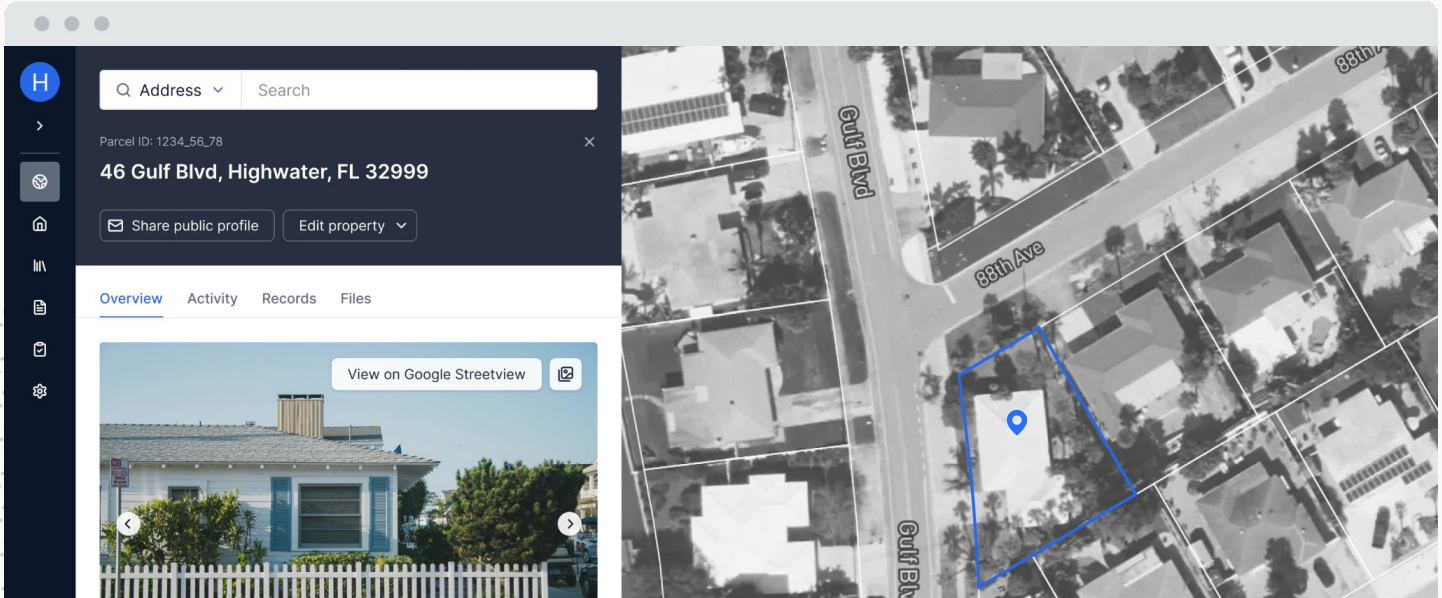
Lincoln
Nebraska

Wilmington
Delaware

Hoboken
New Jersey

Our solution

Forerunner empowers gov. agencies to do more.

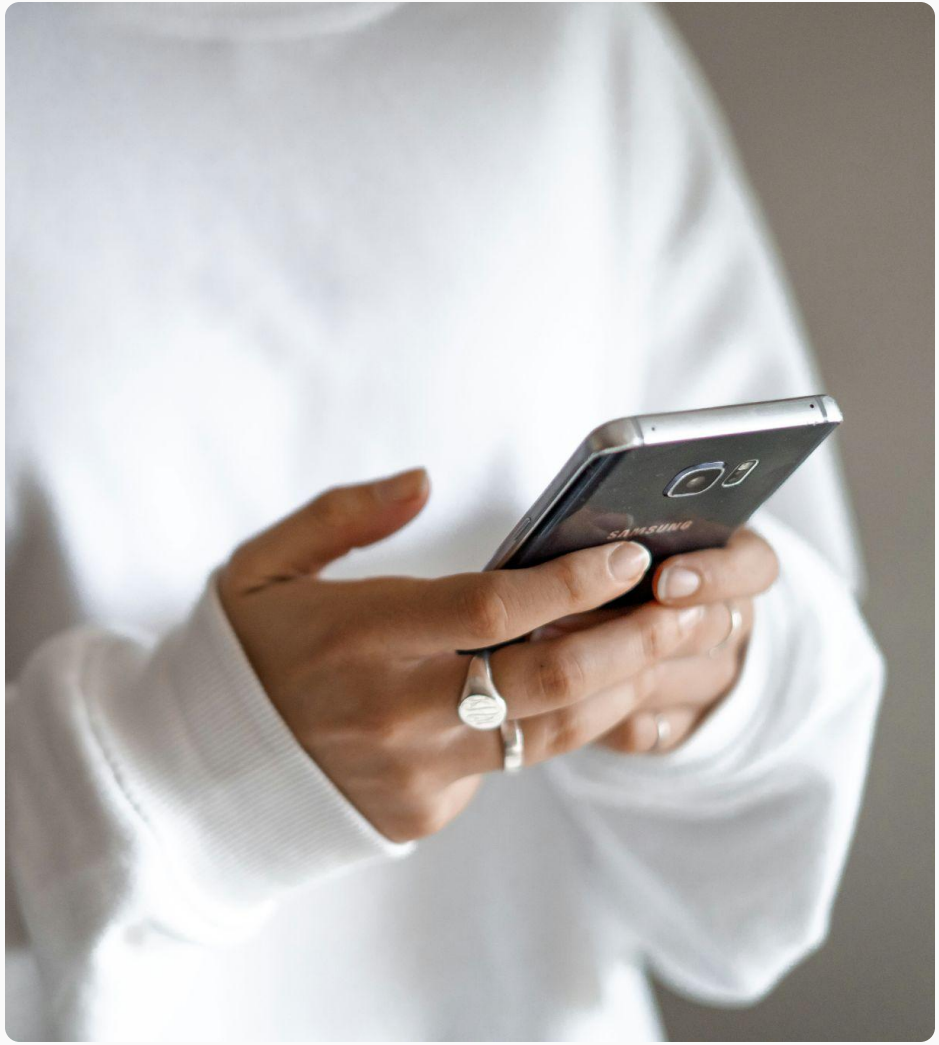


OUR APPROACH

Use AI to make your day-to-day work faster, easier, and more accurate.

OUR APPROACH

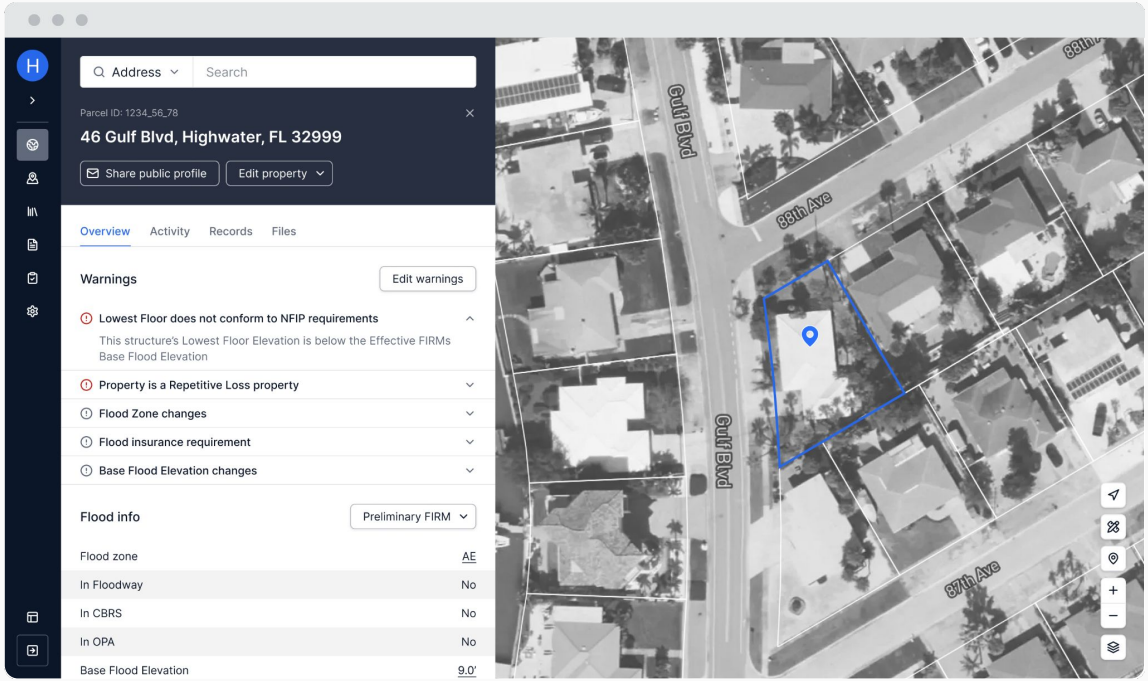
Keep humans in the loop.



Combine flood maps and data in one simple dashboard.

Geospatial dashboard delivers per-property insight.

- Parcel level information
- Property warnings
- FIRM information
- SI / SD tracking



Jennifer Gilbert, CFM
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New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Strengthening Coastal Communities: Resilience and Preparedness Through Regional Partnerships

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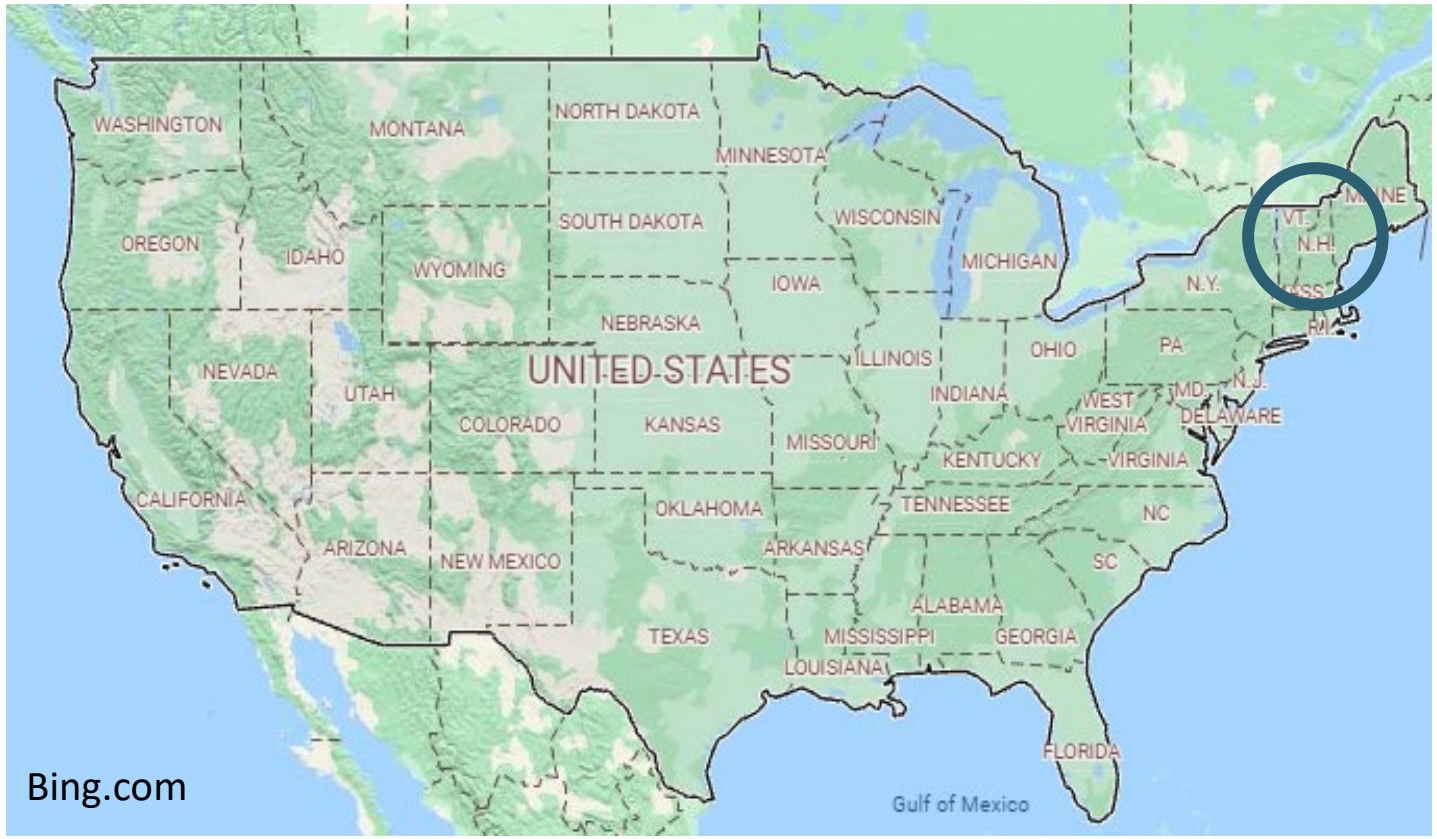
New Hampshire Coastal Program

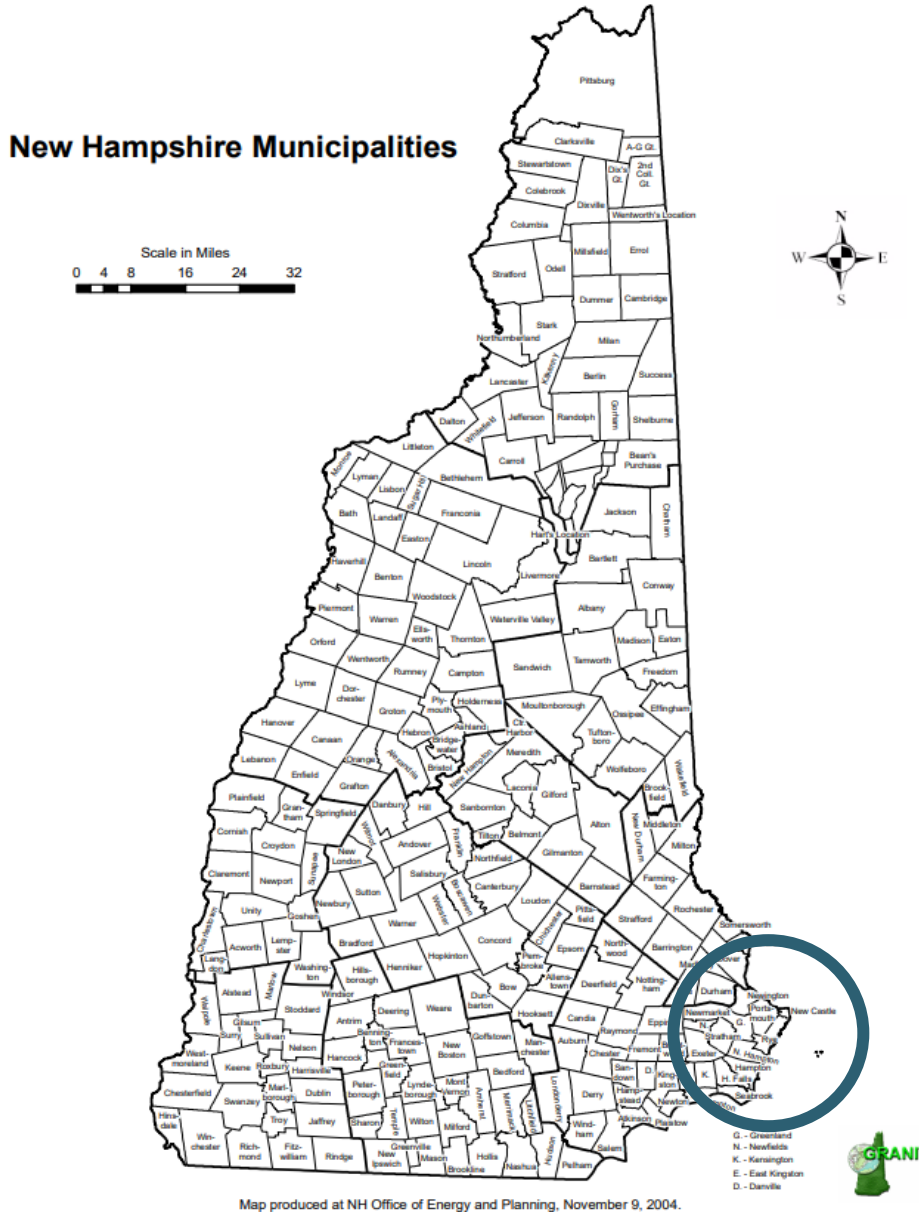
The Flood Smart Seacoast Project and PREPARE Project were funded, in part, by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program.

Presentation Agenda

- NH Coastal Region
- Flood Smart Seacoast Project
- PREPARE Project
- Reflections

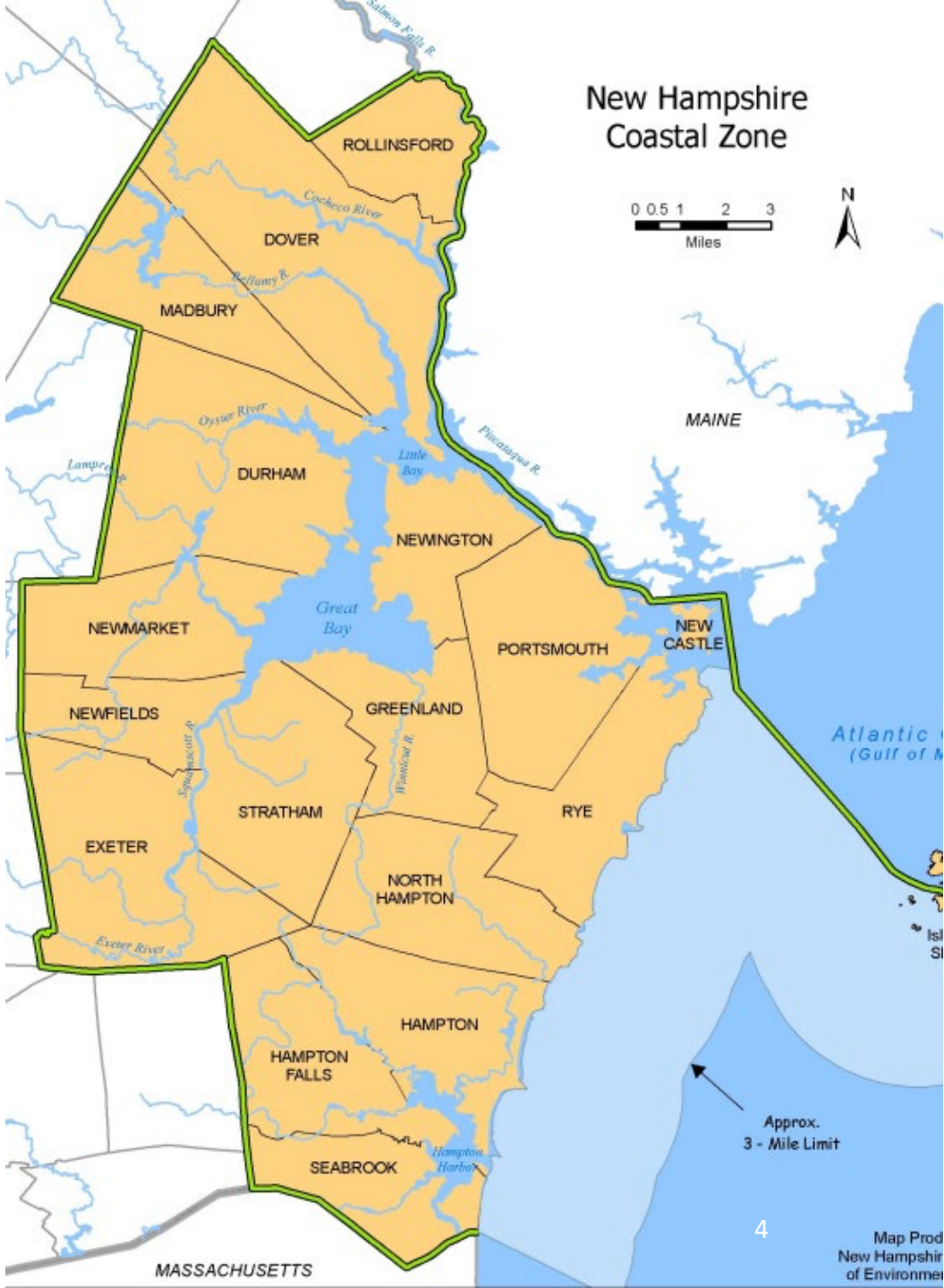
New Hampshire





NH Coastal Region

18 miles of shoreline along Atlantic Ocean	235 miles of estuarine shoreline	7 Atlantic Ocean and 10 Great Bay communities
Rockingham and Strafford Counties	11% of the State's population (1.4 million) in coastal region	Municipality's populations range from 700 to 30,000
Key tourism destination in the State	All communities participate in the NFIP	40% of State's NFIP policies, just over 3,000 policies

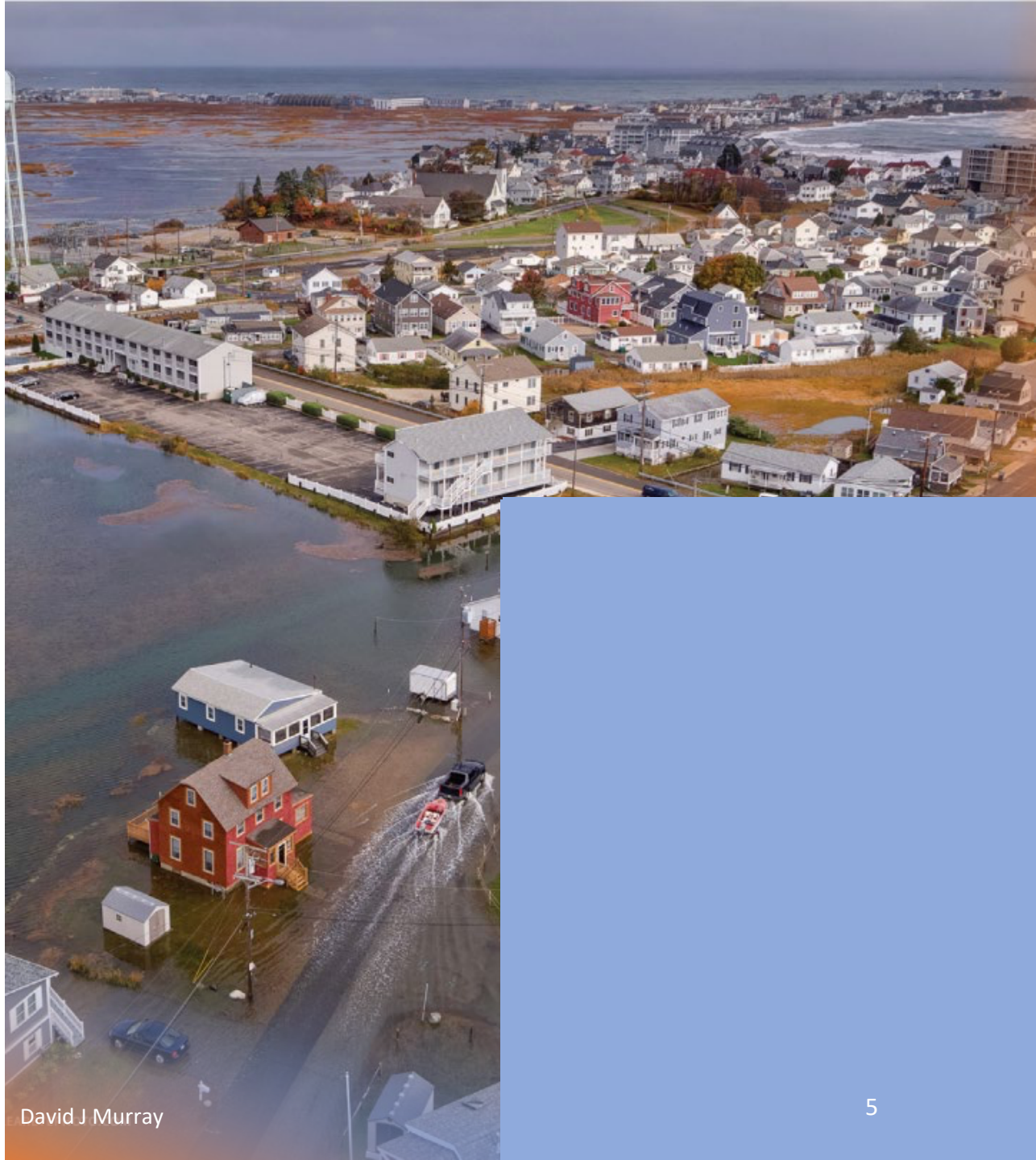


Flooding in Coastal NH

Disaster Declarations

- IA/PA
- PA
- None

August 1991 → October 1991 → October 1996 → June 1998 → May 2006 → April 2007 → July 2008 → March 2010 → October 2012 → January 2014 → September 2015 → November 2016 → May 2017 → March 2018 → January 2022 → July 2023 → January 2024 x2 → April 2024



David J Murray

Flood Smart Seacoast Project

FY2021 competitive Project of Special Merit Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management ($250,000)

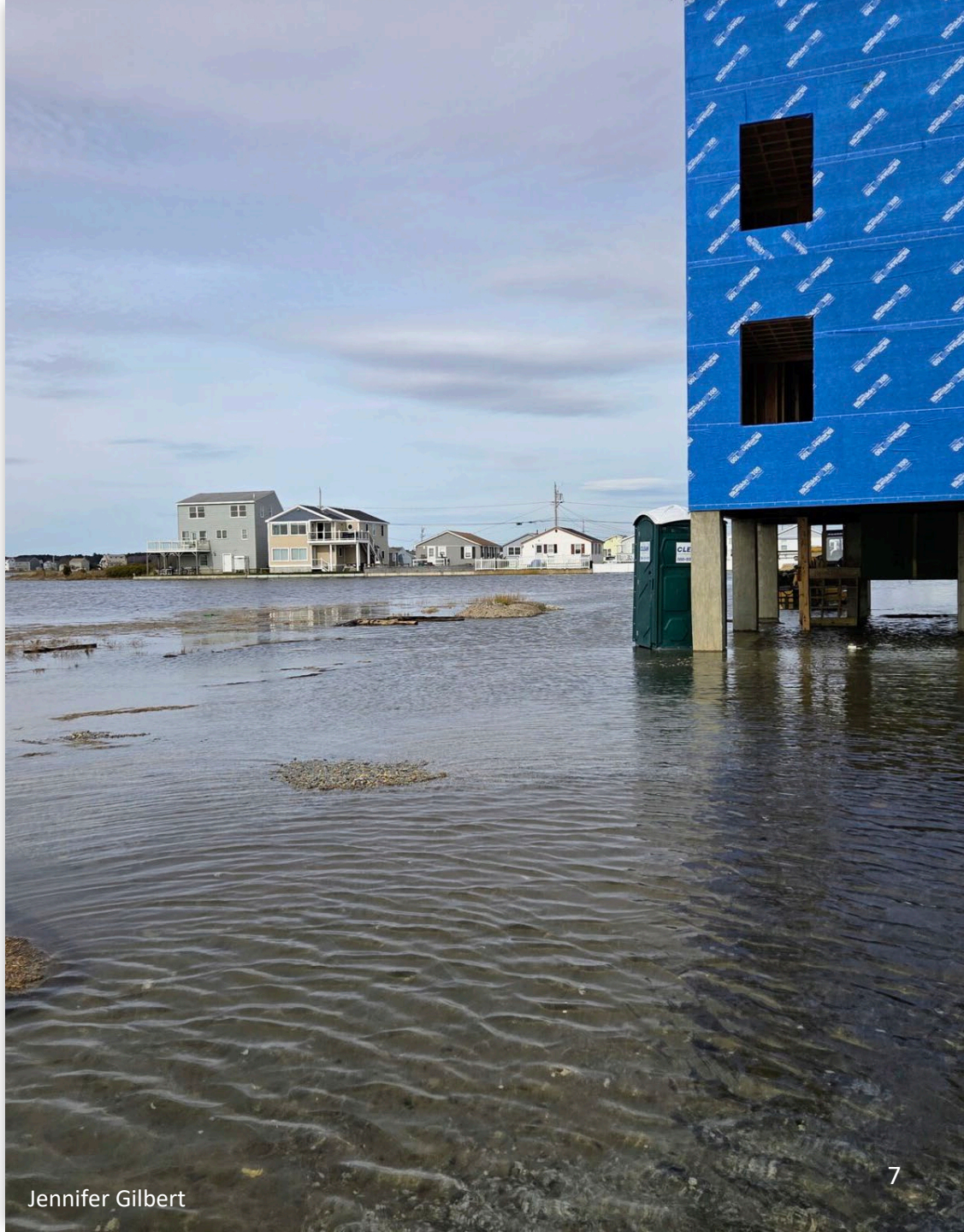
Project Period: October 2021 to March 2024

Project Purpose: Build regional capacity and coordination to strengthen assistance to coastal communities.

Michael Kent

Project Need

- Local governance structures are composed primarily of volunteers, limited paid staff, and town meeting voting.
- More dedicated support to coastal communities needed with:
  - incorporating best available coastal flood risk science and guidance in decision making,
  - adopting higher floodplain management standards, and
  - accessing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding for coastal resilience projects.
- Technical assistance providers had capacity limitations and staff turnover.



Jennifer Gilbert

Project Tasks and Team

- Regional Capacity Building and Coordination
- Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Outreach and Training
- Local Assessment and Technical Assistance

Regional Capacity Building and Coordination

- Piloted a Coastal Flood Mitigation Specialist
- Established a Flood Smart Seacoast Partnership
- Developed a Regional Capacity Building Strategy
- Built Capacity of Partnership's Knowledge

Rebecca Katz

Local Technical Assistance

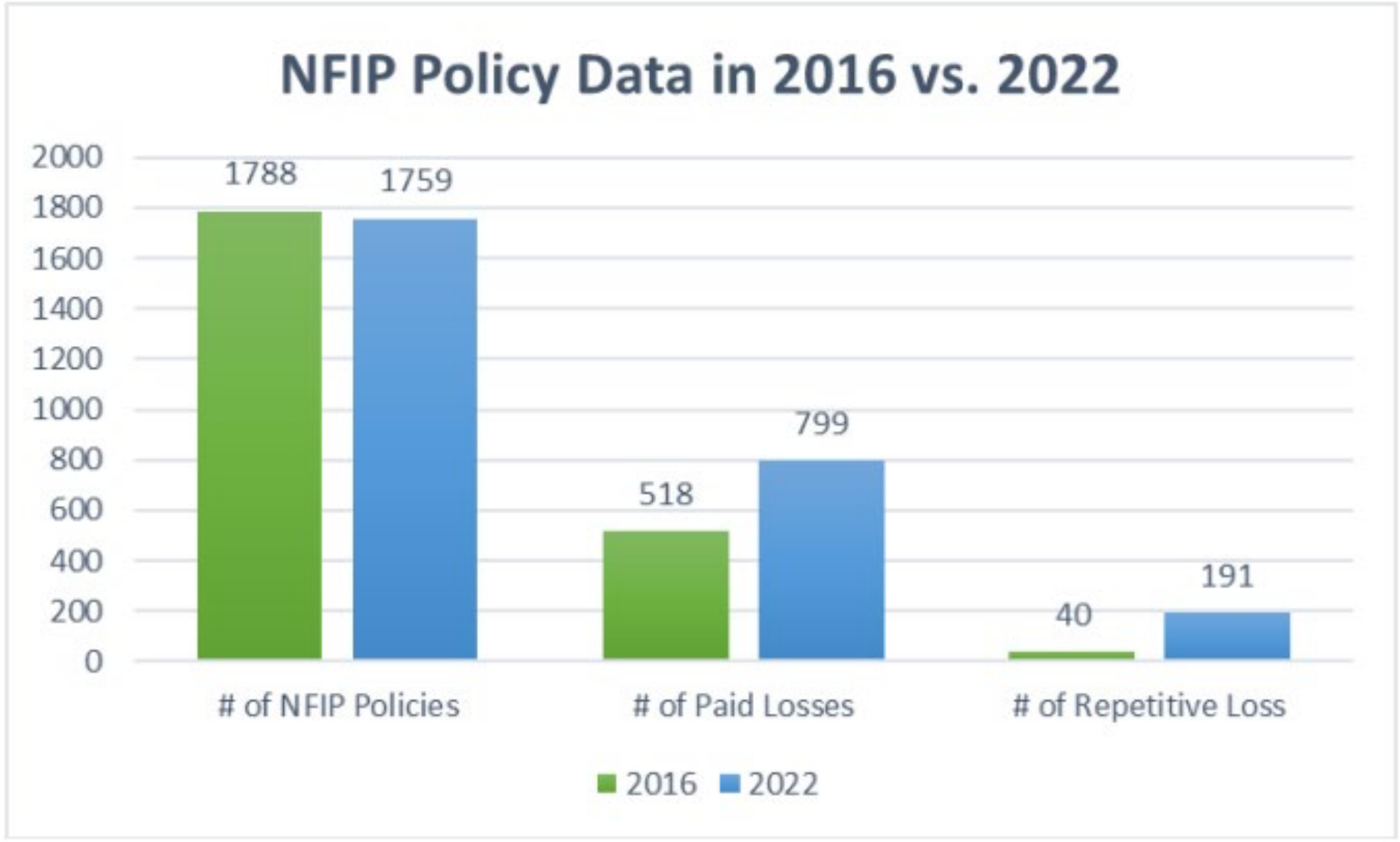
- Town of Hampton
- Town of Madbury
- Town of Rollinsford
- Town of Durham
- Town of Rye Sewer Commission
- City of Portsmouth

Table 1: Sea-level Rise Design Flood Elevation Requirements for Flood Design Classes 1-4 in the Special Flood Hazard Area

ELEVATION	FLOOD ZONE	FLOOD DESIGN CLASS (ASCE 24-14)			
		1	2	3	4
Minimum Elevation of the Top of the Lowest Floor *(ASCE 24-14, Table 2-1)*	A Zones	BFE + 1’	BFE + 3’	BFE + 4’	BFE + 6’
Minimum Elevation of the Bottom of the Lowest Horizontal Structural Member of Lowest Floor *(ASCE 24-14, Table 4-1)*	Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone VE)	BFE + 1’	BFE + 3’	BFE + 5’	BFE + 6’
Minimum Elevation of Dry Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures and Non-Residential Portions of Mixed-Use Buildings *(ASCE 24-14, Table 6-1)*	A Zones	BFE + 2’	BFE + 3’	BFE + 4’	BFE + 6’
	Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone VE)	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Minimum Elevation of Utilities and Equipment (*ASCE 24-14 Table 7-1*)	A Zones	BFE+ 1’	BFE + 3’	BFE + 4’	BFE +6’, or 500-year flood elevation, whichever is higher
	Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone VE)	BFE+ 1’	BFE + 3’	BFE + 5’	BFE +6’, or 500-year flood elevation, whichever is higher

Hampton NH Increased Freeboard using sea level rise design flood elevation (SLR DFE) based on tolerance for flood risk

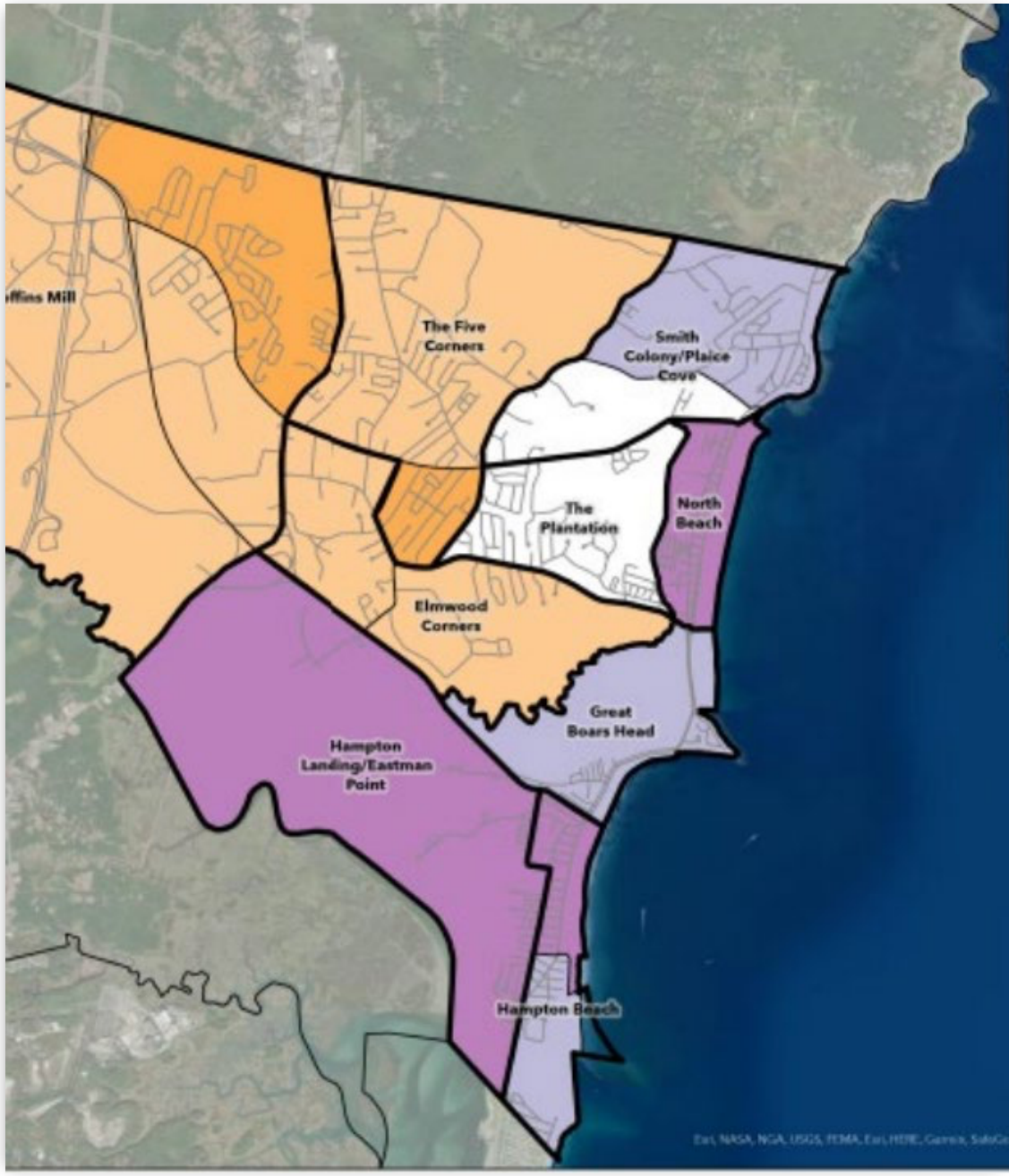
Town of Hampton, NH



Source: Hampton NH 2024 State Hazard Mitigation Plan

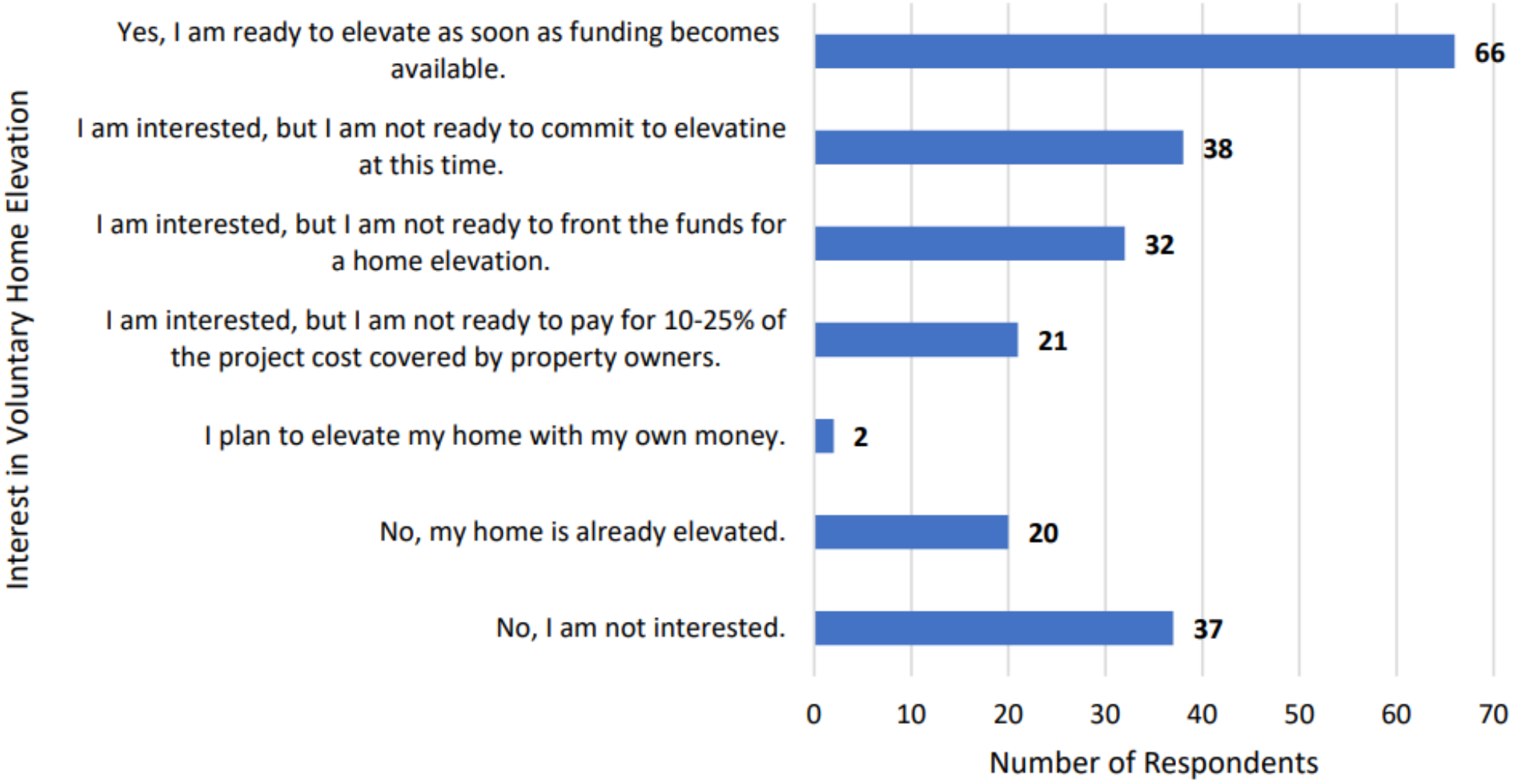
Hampton Flood Mitigation and Relocation Program

- Designed and piloted program
- Identified neighborhoods of high physical and social vulnerability
- Conducted survey in identified neighborhoods
- Completed a report summarizing the findings of the survey



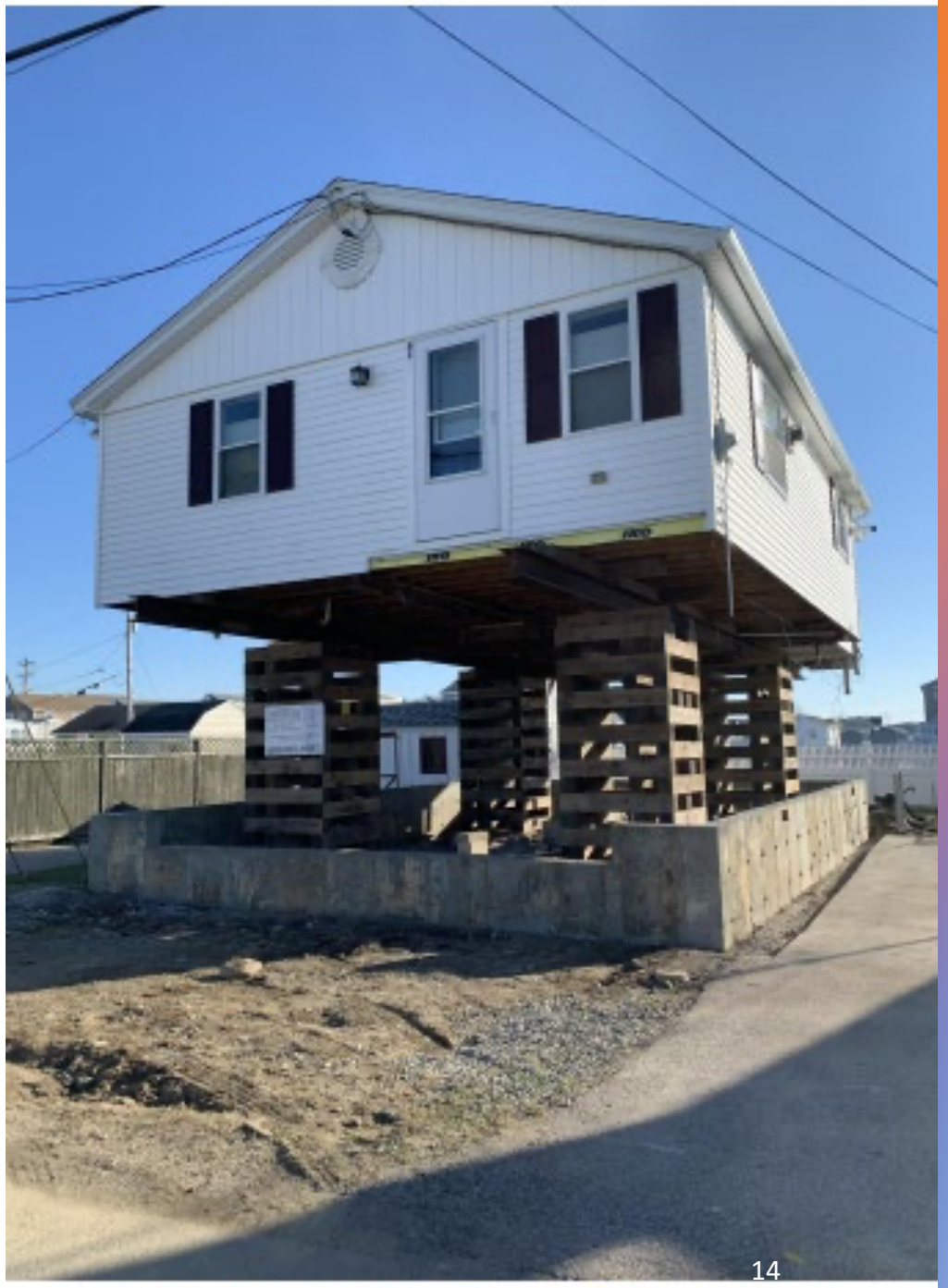
Hampton Survey Results

Question 23. Are you interested in elevating your home if funding becomes available?



Hampton Voluntary Elevation and Property Acquisition and Relocation (VEPAR) Proposed Program Framework

- Town plan to support residents and building owners seeking financial assistance to elevate their buildings or sell their flood-prone properties
- Pilot home elevation work plan with detailed tasks, timeframes, and deliverables
- Unexpected funding opportunity post-project



Hampton, NH 2021 Photo: Kirsten Howard

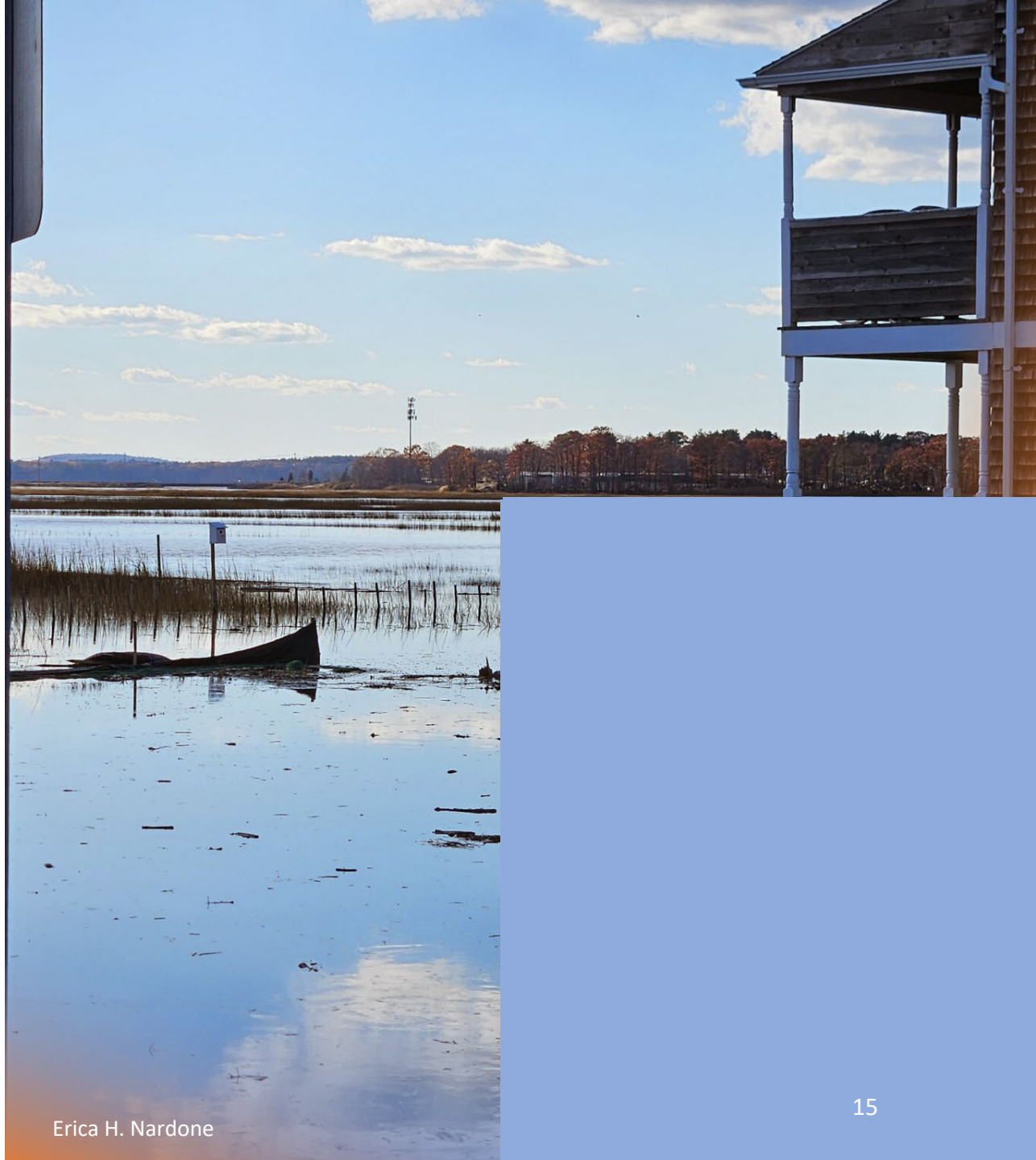
PREPARE Project

Preparing for Resilient and Equitable Post-disaster Assistance and Recovery to Events (PREPARE)

FY2024 competitive Project of Special Merit Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management ($250,000)

Project Period: October 2024 to March 2026

Project Purpose: Assist New Hampshire's 17 coastal communities with preparing for flood events to ensure all community members are represented and assisted in the post-disaster recovery process.



Erica H. Nardone

Project Need

- Coastal communities are uniquely vulnerable to flood risk
- Local staff capacity limitations and limited resources for post-flood substantial damage and hazard mitigation grant applications
- Engagement with community-based organizations
- Large widespread flood events have not been experienced since May 2006 and April 2007

Polly Perkins

Project Tasks and Team

- Advisory Group
- Regional Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement
- Preparing Communities to Conduct Substantial Damage Determinations
- Advancing Community Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Regional Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement

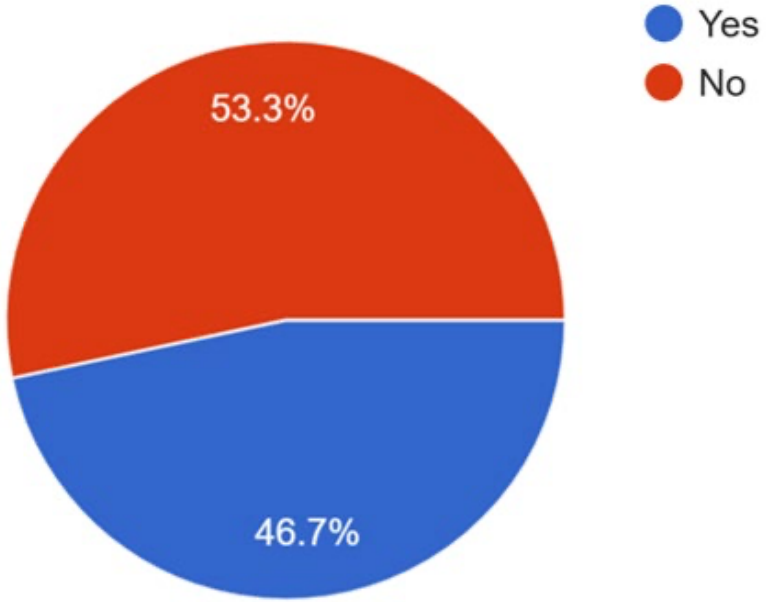
- Regional Assessment
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Regional Flood Recovery Assessment and Action Plan
- Coastal NH Community Network for Flood Recovery

Stakeholder Engagement

Public Input Survey Key Take-aways:

- Have experienced flooding in the region.
- Feel somewhat prepared; want to see their communities take more action to prepare.
- Desire for more information on steps they can take to prepare.
- Key challenge during both the immediate and longer-term recovery phases: navigating the insurance and disaster assistance process.

Did you experience any issues or challenges recovering (the process of going back to “normal”) from a flood event?



Stakeholder Interviews

October and November 2025

30-minute interviews with a series of questions

71% of coastal communities interviewed

73% of community-based organizations interviewed

Common Themes of Interviews

Greatest strength:

- Relationships with residents and other officials or stakeholders

Common gaps:

- Knowing who to call for different types of support
- Ability to organize at a regional level
- Plan and physical space for temporary housing
- Isolated individuals, elderly, and low-income residents will need the most support

Frequently-mentioned barriers or challenges:

- Limited staff capacity
- Lack of funding for infrastructure repairs
- High demand for personnel and equipment to support large-scale clean up

Workshops Summary

Group Discussion Plan Organize Resources, Train, and Evaluation	No county-level govt for emergency management means no “default” agency to support coordination.
Station 1: Health, Education, Human Services, and Government Support	Lack of recovery efforts stems not from a current lack of desire for coordination, but rather from a lack of capacity.
Station 2: Economic and Natural & Cultural Resources	Prioritize short-term recovery strategies for people; long-term strategies on the natural and built environment.
Station 3: Infrastructure and Housing	Prioritize restoring foundational infrastructure such as communications, power, and transportation

Arcadis

Regional Flood Recovery Assessment and Action Plan

General Overview

Assessment

Action Plan

Coastal NH Community Network for Flood Recovery

- Long-term space for stakeholders to convene regularly to prepare for and recovery from destructive flood events
- Responsible for advancing recommendations from the Regional Assessment and Action Plan

Preparing Communities to Conduct Substantial Damage

- Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Management Plan Template and Guidance
- Regional Substantial Damage Training Program
- Regional Substantial Damage Team

Hazard Mitigation Grant Initiatives

Technical assistance to 4 to complete FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant applications

- Identify a priority mitigation project in their hazard mitigation plan
- Determine eligibility for FEMA HMA funding
- Identify potential sources of non-federal match

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Home > Climate and Sustainability > Resiliency and Adaptation > Coastal Hazards and Adaptation > PREPARE Project

PREPARE Project

Assisting coastal communities with preparing for flood recovery.

The Preparing for Resilient and Equitable Post-disaster And Recovery to Events (PREPARE) project assists New Hampshire's 17 coastal communities with preparing for flood events to ensure all community members are represented and assisted in the post-disaster recovery process. The project is funded by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant awarded to the NHDES Coastal Program.

Related content

Disaster Preparedness FAQ

Flooding

Coastal Hazards and Adaptation

Resiliency and Adaptation

Internet search for: "NHDES PREPARE Project"

Reflections

Erica H. Nardone

Thank you

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603-559-0029

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Contents

The Role of Codes and Standards in Supporting Safe and Resilient Communities

Shirley Ellis, CBO

Building Official
City of Gonzales, TX

Wednesday, February 25 @ 12 pm ET
1 ASFPM CEC | .10 ICC CEU

FORERUNNER

Thank you!

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