

COASTAL PROPERTY OWNER SURVEY

The term “damage due to natural forces” used throughout this survey refers to negative impacts to buildings and property resulting from climate change, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, and increased high tides.

1. Please provide the town where this property is located _____
2. Do you rent or own this property?
☐ Rent ☐ Own

If you indicated rent in question 2, don't go any further just recycle the survey.

3. Please indicate the type of property this is (check all that apply).
☐ Primary residence ☐ Seasonal residence ☐ Investment rental ☐ Year-round business
☐ Seasonal business ☐ Other

4. Is this a waterfront property? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 4a. If you answered “yes” to question 4, how would you describe your property’s shoreline?
☐ Beachfront ☐ Sandy Bluff ☐ Rocky Bluff ☐ River or stream shorefront
☐ Other _____

5. How long have you owned this property?
☐ Less than a year ☐ 1-2 years ☐ 3-5 years
☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-20 years ☐ More than 20 years

6. How much longer do you think you will own this property?
☐ Less than a year ☐ 1-2 years ☐ 3-5 years
☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-20 years ☐ More than 20 years
☐ Plan to pass down to family members

7. Using the five point scale provided, indicate your personal level of agreement with the following statements. Note that the statements are different from each other in certain details, which are highlighted by italics.

	Strongly Agree 1	Agree 2	Disagree 3	Strongly Disagree 4	No Opinion 5
I am concerned about reported changes and variability in the Earth’s climate.					
I am concerned about how changes in the Earth’s climate might affect <i>the Maine coast</i> during this century.					
It’s important <i>for governments</i> to take immediate steps to reduce the apparent <i>causes</i> of global climate change (e.g., by reducing fossil fuel emissions).					
It’s important <i>for individuals</i> to take immediate steps to reduce the apparent <i>causes</i> of global climate change (e.g., by reducing fossil fuel emissions).					
It’s important <i>for governments</i> to prepare for the <i>effects</i> of climate change that are predicted to occur in Maine (e.g., by reducing local vulnerability).					
It’s important <i>for individuals</i> to prepare for the <i>effects</i> of climate change that are predicted to occur in Maine (e.g., by reducing local vulnerability).					
I consider myself well-informed about the expected effects of global climate change <i>on Maine</i> .					

8. Thinking about the waterfront or shoreline closest to you, how much of a problem is each of the following:

	Not a problem	Slight problem	Moderate problem	Significant problem	Very significant problem	If you do not believe it is a problem, do you think it will become a problem within the next 10 years?	
						Yes	No
Coastal erosion							
Sea-level rise							
Flooding							
Increased high tide							

9. Please indicate the actions that have been taken or should be taken in your area to prevent or lessen damage due to natural forces.

	Measure taken	Measure should be taken	Don't know
New seawalls built			
Existing seawalls made stronger			
Dunes replanted with beach grass			
Homes elevated above flood level			
Buildings moved further back from the water			
Beaches replenished with sand from elsewhere			
Stronger shoreland zoning passed			
Realtors required to disclose information about natural forces			
Town creates a plan for dealing with coastal natural forces			
Vacant waterfront properties purchased by conservation organizations to prevent new construction			

10. Using the five-point scale below, please indicate how effective you believe each of the following actions is in preventing or lessening damage due to natural forces.

	Not effective at all 1	2	Effective 3	4	Very effective 5	Don't know
New seawalls built						
Existing seawalls made stronger						
Dunes replanted with beach grass						
Homes elevated above flood level						
Buildings moved further back from the water						
Beaches replenished with sand from elsewhere						
Stronger shoreland zoning passed						
Realtors required to disclose information about natural forces						
Town creates a plan for dealing with coastal natural forces						
Vacant waterfront properties purchased by conservation organizations to prevent new construction						

If you own shoreline property please answer the following questions; if not, skip to question 18.

11. Has your personal property and/or shoreline been adversely affected by climate change, sea-level rise, and/or coastal erosion? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe _____

12. Please indicate the steps you have taken or would be willing to take to protect the shoreline and/or structures on your property.

	Have done	Would be willing to do	Would not be willing to do	Not applicable
Become familiar with floodplain maps and other information that describes my property				
Restore native vegetation on my property				
Restore dunes on my property				
Routinely return sand to the beach when cleaning up my property				
Relocate existing structures or place new structures further away from the shore				
Support stronger shoreland zoning				

13. If you have not done or would not be willing to do the actions listed in question 13, what are the barriers that prevent you from taking action? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Laws and rules do not allow it
 ☐ Engineering solutions to control nature don't work
☐ Costs are too high
 ☐ Do not have the information I need to make a decision
☐ Don't own enough land
 ☐ Other _____

14. How likely would each of the following motivate you to take action against damage due to natural forces?

	Not likely at all 1	2	Likely 3	4	Very likely 5
A low-interest loan					
A grant (receipt of money that does not need to be paid back)					
If my neighbors did similar things					
If my town led an effort to do something					
Other: (please describe)					

15. Did you evaluate risks such as flooding, erosion and sea-level rise before buying your property?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- 15a. If yes, what was your source of information? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Realtor
 ☐ Town office
 ☐ Contractor
 ☐ Federal agency
☐ State agency
 ☐ Adjacent neighbors
 ☐ Other _____

- 15b. If yes, now that you own the property, was the information you received accurate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16. What would you do if your coastal property were severely damaged due to natural forces?
- ☐ Rebuild exactly as is ☐ Sell property ☐ Rebuild using storm-resistant strategies
- ☐ Other _____

17. Using the five point scale below, please indicate how well you understand the rules and regulations pertaining to your property? (circle your response)

Don't Understand 1	2	Basic Understanding 3	4	Strong Understanding 5	Don't Know
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Specifically, in what areas do you need more information? _____

18. Please indicate the **two** sources of information about coastal erosion, sea-level rise, flooding, and high tides that you trust the most.

- ☐ Colleges/universities ☐ State agencies ☐ Environmental organizations
- ☐ Federal agencies ☐ Local officials ☐ Property owner's associations
- ☐ Maine Sea Grant/Cooperative Extension ☐ Other (please describe) _____

19. How do you prefer to receive information on topics mentioned in this survey? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Web sites ☐ E-mail ☐ Pamphlets/flyers
- ☐ Television news ☐ Informational meetings ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ Other (please describe) _____

Demographics:

20. **Gender:** ☐ Male 21. **Age:** ☐ Younger than 18 ☐ 19 - 34 ☐ 35 – 50
- ☐ Female ☐ 51 – 65 ☐ Older than 65

22. **Household Income:** ☐ Less than \$10,000 ☐ \$25,001 to \$50,000 ☐ \$75,001 to \$100,000
- ☐ \$10,000 to \$25,000 ☐ \$50,001 to \$75,000 ☐ More than \$100,000

23. **Education Level:** ☐ Less than high school ☐ High school degree
- ☐ Undergraduate degree ☐ Graduate degree

If you would like to participate in the raffle for the \$50 LL Bean gift certificate and/or attend an educational community meeting about the topics mentioned in this survey, please provide your name and mailing address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please return this survey in the enclosed envelope by March 14, 2008.