

# Public Perceptions of the Coast:

## Feedback on the State of NS Coast Report and Consultations

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*Presentation to the ACZISC  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010*



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# Content

- Process to date
- Municipal Feedback
- Public Open Houses
- Phone Survey
- Multi-stakeholder Workshop
- Online Survey and Written Submissions
- Overview of Key Themes
- Current status

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# Process-to-date

## Jun 2008 – Coastal Management Framework

- » defines 7 priority coastal issues
- » calls for development of Coastal Strategy

## Dec 2009 – State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report

- » focused on priority coastal issues
- » baseline information, trends & gaps

## May - July 2010 – Public Consultation

- » feedback on State of Nova Scotia's Coast report
- » priorities/ideas for Coastal Strategy

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# Municipal Feedback

- 3 Regional facilitated sessions
- Municipal survey
- Formal municipal submissions

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# Regional Workshops

- Developed collaboratively with the UNSM, SNSMR and the PON Secretariat
- 3 Regional Workshops: Yarmouth, Halifax and Port Hawkesbury
- Approximately 42 councilors, wardens, and municipal staff attended
- Collaboration with Department of Environment's Water Strategy.

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# Key Findings of Municipal Feedback

- Comprehensive and consistent provincial land use planning - development setbacks, better development controls
- Better coastal mapping (LiDAR)
- More land acquisition
- Streamlined jurisdictional regulations
- One coordinating provincial department or agency
- More science and studies
- More local control ie: Harbour Authority

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# Public Open Houses

- 8 open houses - Bridgewater, Yarmouth, Digby, Wolfville, Truro, Antigonish, Sydney and Halifax
- 350 People attended; 282 completed surveys
- Attendance ranged from 19 - 70 people

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# Key Findings From Open Houses

- *Coastal Water Quality and Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats* high priority issues
- Calls for better controls / regulation for development:
  - setbacks, buffers, zoning etc.
  - Planning
- Address jurisdictional fragmentation in managing the coast
- A new coordinating department or agency

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# Phone Survey

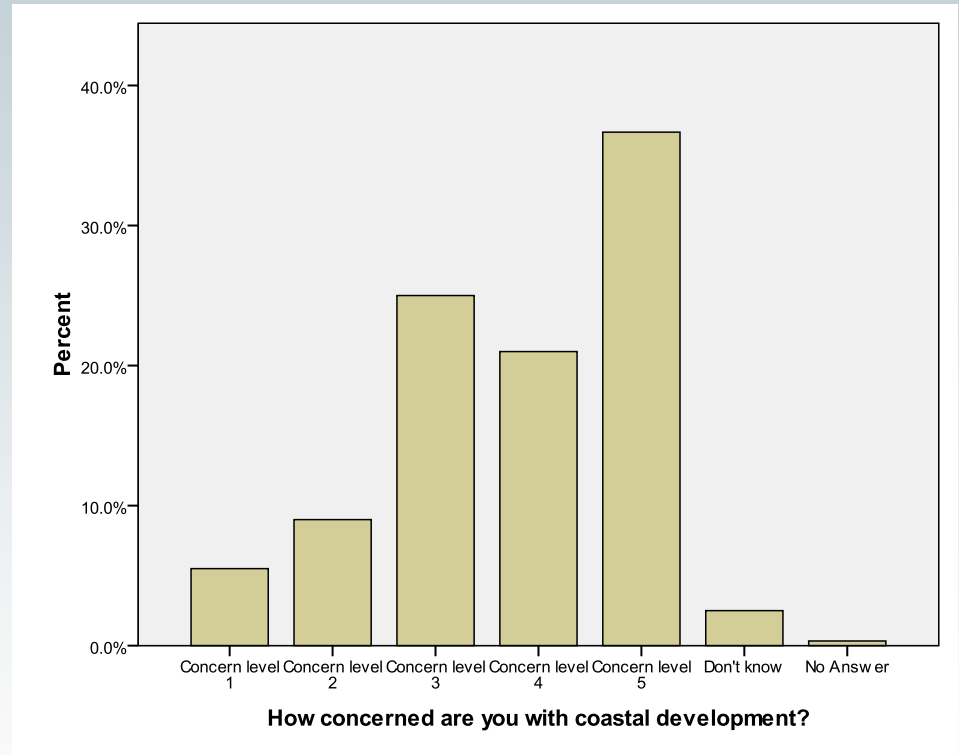
- 600+ residents completed survey (6624 calls made)
- More women responded
- Over 50% of respondents were over 56 years old
- The respondents had a higher level of education than the Nova Scotia average
- Few people were aware of the State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report

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# Coastal Development

- 82.7% of respondents are concerned about coastal development
- Protecting the natural environment is the top priority for managing coastal development



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# Working Waterfronts

- 74.4% concerned about working waterfronts
- Respondents who live in a community with a working waterfront generally feel it positively impacts the community
- High level of concern but little knowledge of how to go about ensuring they remain healthy.



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# Public Coastal Access

- 76.3% concerned about public coastal access;
- 50% feel that private property hinders their access to the coast;
- 75.7% use the coast for leisure opportunities.
- Respondents want more walking paths along the coast and more public beaches

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# Sea Level Rise and Storm Events

- 68.6% concerned about sea level rise;
- 76.2% concerned about storm events;
- Most Nova Scotians believe that it is necessary to adapt to sea level rise and storm events.



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# Coastal Water Quality

- 84.7% concerned about coastal water quality;
- 64.8% feel that sewage is deteriorating coastal water quality;
- 75.5% stated that water quality impacted their ability to use the coast for leisure.
- Coastal water quality could be improved with better sewage treatment

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# Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats

- 86.9% concerned about coastal ecosystems and habitats;
- 62.8% stated that the province's ecosystems and habitats are at risk;
- 22.7% stated that sewage is placing Nova Scotia's ecosystems at risk.
- Majority want government intervention in protecting coastal ecosystems

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# Vision for 2020

- Clean beaches
- Good coastal water quality
- No discharge of sewage or industrial waste
- Economic development *not* a major priority



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# Multi-stakeholder workshop

- 21 organizations represented (28 participants)
  - Academia / research organizations
  - Community groups / NGOs
  - Federal government
  - First Nations
  - Industry organizations
  - Municipal government
  - Private sector
  - Government of Nova Scotia

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# Key Findings of Multi-stakeholder Workshop

## Commonly suggested Management Actions

- **Integrated Planning Framework** – to provide an integrated assessment of activities proposed for the coast
- **Protected Areas** – support for coastal protected areas
- **Incentives for Private Landowners** – to support the protection of coastal ecosystems and habitats
- **Education and Awareness Systems** – to support the community and stakeholder access to information, resulting in greater collaboration and trust

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# Online and written submissions

- Online input via *Our Coast* website
  - ✓ ~119 submissions
- Written submissions (45) including:
  - ✓ Erdene Resource Development
  - ✓ Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia
  - ✓ NS Lighthouse Preservation Society (past president)
  - ✓ EAC
  - ✓ Partnership for Sustainable Development of Digby Neck and Islands
  - ✓ Nomination Grand Pre
  - ✓ Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy
  - ✓ Atlantic Air Survey Ltd.
  - ✓ Nova Scotia Nature Trust
  - ✓ Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia
  - ✓ Friends of Port Mouton
  - ✓ NS Agricultural Marshland Conservation Commission

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# Cross-Cutting Themes for Action

- **Land-use planning** – Recognizing the need for better regulation of development, which will heavily involve municipalities
- **Jurisdictional collaboration** - Recognizing the need for all levels of government to share resources, and coordinate roles and responsibilities
- **Data and Information** – Recognizing that a lot is not known about the priority issues, and a key step in forward will involve addressing these knowledge gaps
- **Understanding** – Recognizing that outreach, education and awareness campaigns will have to be up-front and centre in address the priority issues
- **Private land ownership** – Recognizing the amount of coastal land that is currently privately owned, and that
- **Targeted and adaptive** – Recognizing that the proposed Coastal Strategy will need to propose actions that address a diversity of ecosystems and uses, while setting clear targets and indicators

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# Current Status

- Finalizing the “What we Heard” overview of consultation findings
- Public commitment to have draft strategy to Cabinet in December
- Will be seeking senior-level approval of strategy direction & key commitments
- Development underway through PON

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SEARCH

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**HOME**

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**STATE OF THE COAST REPORT**

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**PRIORITY COASTAL ISSUES**

- > Coastal Development
- > Working Waterfronts
- > Public Access
- > Sea-level Rise and Storm Events
- > Coastal Water Quality
- > Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems

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**SHARE YOUR VIEWS**

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- > Links

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### Coastal Management in Nova Scotia

The Government of Nova Scotia has made coastal management a priority with the release of its *State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report*. This Report provides baseline information on our coastal areas and resources, which we will use to develop a *Coastal Strategy*. The Strategy will outline how we will take action to address the coastal issues that matter most to Nova Scotians.

**The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report**

Learn more about Nova Scotia's coast and the issues that the Coastal Strategy will address.

TAKE ME THERE →



**Priority Coastal Issues**


The government is focusing its coastal management efforts on six issues:

- **Coastal Development**
- **Working Waterfronts**
- **Public Coastal Access**
- **Sea-level Rise and Storm Events**
- **Coastal Water Quality**
- **Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems**

**Share Your Views**

We're looking for your input on how to address the six priority coastal issues.

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**Further Information**

Learn more about the Government of Nova Scotia's approach to coastal management [here](#).

[www.gov.ns.ca/coast](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coast)

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