

SEA-LEVEL RISE PLANNING

A look across coastal states

Presentation by Kirsten Howard
NOAA Coastal Management Fellow
NHDES Coastal Program

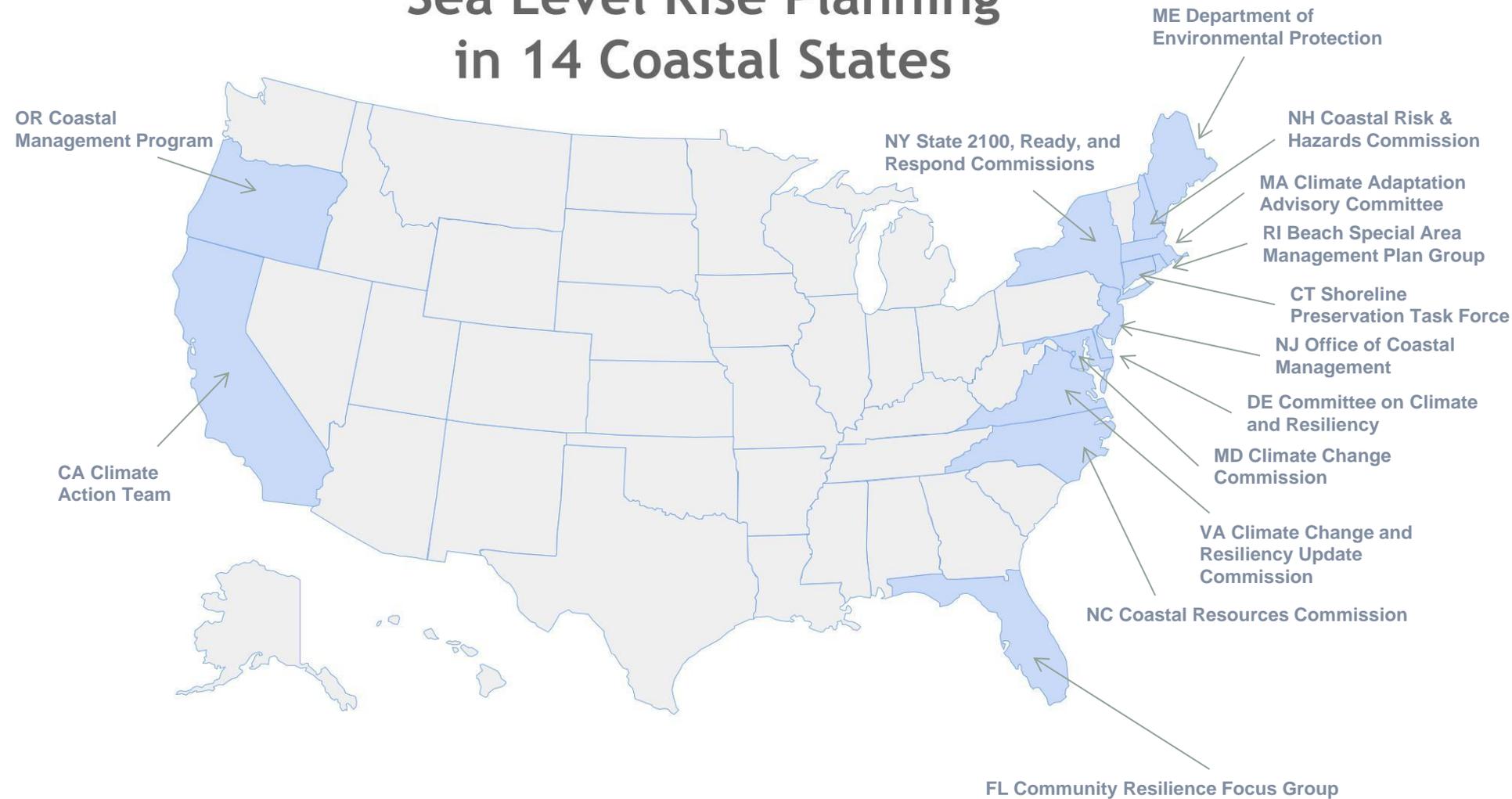
NH Coastal Risk & Hazards Commission meeting
July 18, 2014



Definition

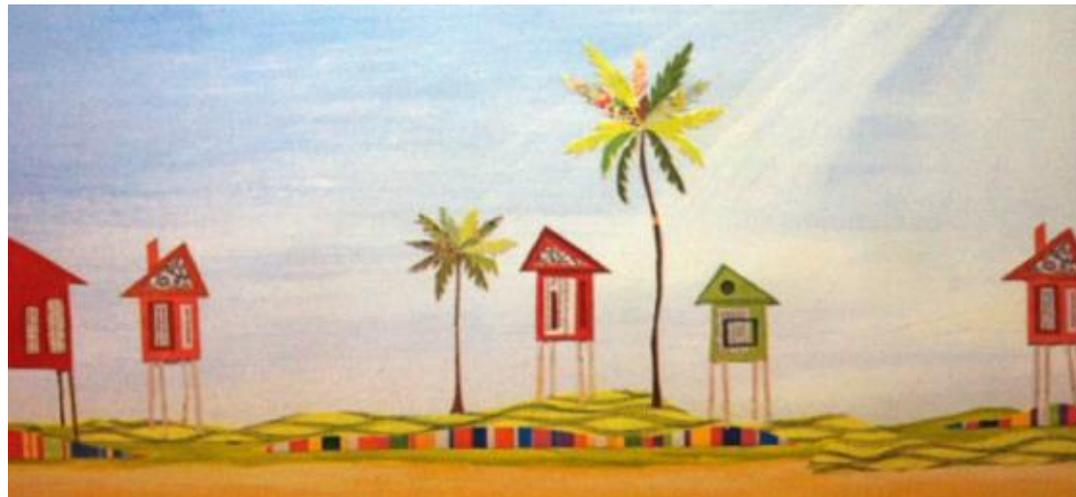
A **state sea-level rise planning effort** is a multi-stakeholder effort, sanctioned by state government (whether legislature, executive order, or coordinated by a state agency) focused on better understanding coastal risks from sea level rise.

Sea Level Rise Planning in 14 Coastal States

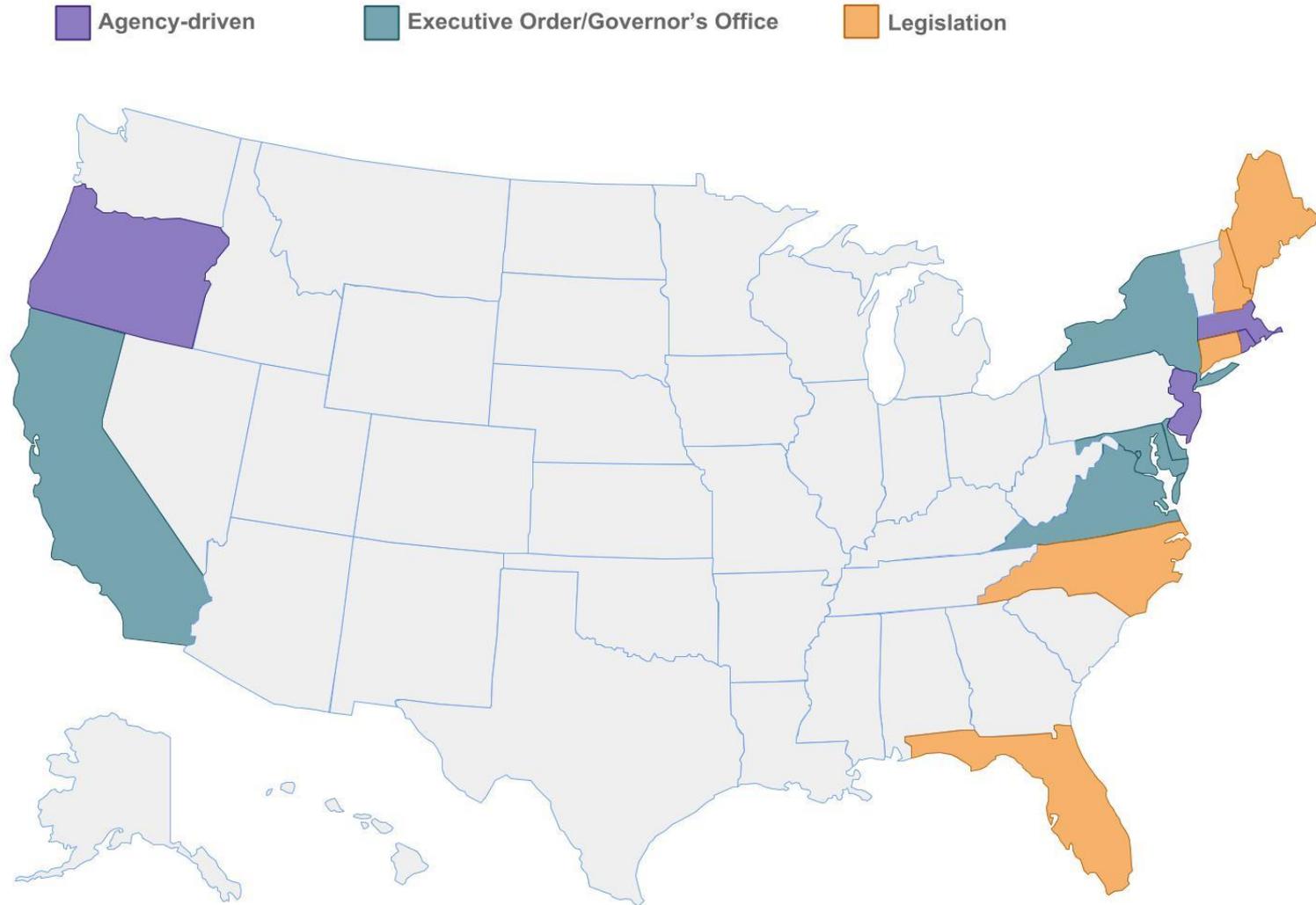


Today

- Types of efforts
- Sea-level rise science
- Recommendations
- Next steps
- Innovative examples from leading states
- Lessons to be learned



Trends: origin of efforts



Trends: types of efforts

- Groups include multi-stakeholder commissions, government-only groups, scientist-only groups
- Reports released beginning in 2008, coastal focus as of 2011
- Most efforts:
 1. Summarize best available science
 2. Assess risk and vulnerability
 3. Recommend legislative and other actions
- Varying success

Trends: sea-level projections

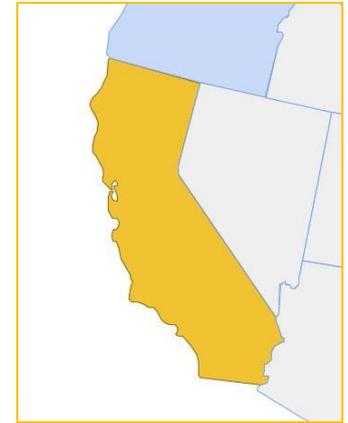
Most efforts summarize the science based on IPCC scenarios, ice melt, and local data

Efforts resulted in:

- sea-level rise planning guidance (CA)
- legislated authority for localities to plan for a range of sea level rise (FL)
- a mandate for state agencies to consider sea level rise in regulatory decisions and capital planning (DE, MD, CA)
- no efforts mandated specific sea-level rise estimates to be used, but rather offered ranges and guidance

Leader: California Sea-level rise policy guidance

- 2013
- Guidance for incorporating sea level rise into planning and decision-making for projects in California
- Recommends using National Research Council (NRC) 2012 sea level rise projections as a starting point, but also recommends considering project context



Trends: recommendations

- Almost all efforts involved recommendations to state and local governments
- Some made recommendations for homeowners and businesses (CT)



Leader: Connecticut Shoreline Preservation Task Force Report



- January 2013
- Legislative committee of elected officials and staff
- Recommendations focus on:
 - Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
 - Local land use regulations, building codes
 - Insurance and real estate
 - Education resources
 - Financial assistance for property owners
 - Open space
- As of May 2013, four bills introduced from report leading to at least one new law on DEEP Clean Water Fund



Trends: implementation & next steps

Some states are clearly ahead while others are delayed

- Possible factors include:
 - Accountability (DE, NJ)
 - Funding (MA)
 - Storms & vulnerability (NY, FL)
 - Administration (ME, VA)



Leader: Massachusetts Sea-Level Rise Analysis & Planning



- 2013 NOAA grant to update science and provide planning guidance
- Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs incorporating sea-level rise into Chapter 91 regulations on waterfront structures and the Wetlands Protection Act
- Capital funds for community grants



Leader: Florida Statewide Community Resilience Initiative

- 2011-2016
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity & the multi-stakeholder Community Resilience Focus Group
- Community Planning Act created 'Adaptation Action Areas'
- Pilot in Ft. Lauderdale with assistance from DEO



THANK YOU.

Questions?

EXTRA SLIDES

Leader: Maryland “Coast Smart” Construction

- Comprehensive Strategy report in 2008
- 2012 Executive Order on Climate Change and “Coast Smart” Construction
- Requires state agencies to consider coastal flooding and sea-level rise in capital project site and design
- Update sea-level rise projections



Photo: © Whitney Flanagan,
The Conservation Fund

Leader: Rhode Island Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan

- Ongoing
- Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Sea Grant, and URI
- SAMP planning tool to identify how the RI shoreline is changing and risk from changes
- Will result in new coastal policies and guidance for communities



Leader: Delaware Committee on Climate and Resiliency

- September 2013 Executive Order to implement recommendations of the Sea Level Rise Task Force
- EO requires state agencies to consider climate impacts in siting and design of state-funded projects
- Directs agencies to develop strategies that promote resiliency with focus on natural systems solutions like green infrastructure
- Delaware Coastal Programs is a leading state office
- Workshop planned for 2014



Leader: NYS2100 Governor Commission Recommendations

- 2013
- Group of multiple stakeholders from government, NGOs, industry
- Post-Hurricane Sandy, review of state's infrastructure systems
- Recommendations to be implemented in transportation, energy, land use, insurance, and infrastructure finance

