

8. Definitions and Acronyms

Definitions

Atlantic Coast Municipalities	The seven New Hampshire municipalities in the coastal zone that are directly exposed to the Atlantic Ocean. Includes Hampton, Hampton Falls, North Hampton, New Castle, Portsmouth, Rye, and Seabrook.
Adaptation	Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects.
Adaptive Capacity⁸²	The combination of the strengths, attributes, and resources available to an individual, community, society, or organization that can be used to prepare for and undertake actions to reduce adverse impacts, moderate harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities.
Built Landscape	The network of structures and facilities owned by state and municipal governments and private entities in coastal New Hampshire.
Climate Adaptation	A response or action that seeks to reduce the vulnerability of social and biological systems to the impacts of climate change.
Climate Effect	A direct result of climate change (e.g., an effect of climate change is that the average annual temperature is rising).
Climate Impact	A consequence of one or more climate change effects (e.g., rising average annual temperature (climate effect) may lengthen the agricultural growing season (climate impact) in some regions).
Climate-Ready	The state of being able to prepare for, adapt to, and respond after expected impacts of climate change. This can refer to a variety of entities, including a program, regulation, or entity like a municipality or State agency.
Coastal Hazard	Natural or human-induced physical events (e.g., hurricanes, nor'easters, storm surge, sea-level rise, extreme precipitation) that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, facilities, livelihoods, and natural resources.
Coastal Risk⁸³	The probability that coastal hazards will adversely affect a coastal area as determined by the combination of physical hazards and vulnerabilities of exposed elements.
Coastal Zone	New Hampshire's coastal zone includes the 17 coastal municipalities bordering tidal waters in New Hampshire. Represents the geographical scope of the Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission.
Critical Action⁸⁴	Any action for which even a slight chance of flooding is too great. Critical actions include, but are not limited to, those which create or extend the useful life of structures or facilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Such as those which produce, use or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic or water reactive materials;Such as hospitals and nursing homes, and housing for the elderly, which are likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid the loss of life or injury during flood and storm events;Such as emergency operation centers, or data storage centers which contain records or services that may become lost or inoperative during flood and storm events; and such as generating plants, and other principal points of utility lines.

Cultural and Historic Resources	A district, site, building, structure or object that is significant in the history, architecture, engineering, archaeology or culture of this state, its communities, or the nation.
Ecosystem Services	The benefits humans derive from nature such as food and water, erosion and flood control, nutrient cycling, and recreation.
Exposure⁸⁵	The presence of people, livelihoods, environmental services and resources, structures, facilities, or economic, social, or cultural assets in places that could be adversely affected by physical events and which, thereby, are subject to potential future harm, loss, or damage.
Extreme Precipitation	Precipitation falling as extreme events, defined by the 2014 National Climate Assessment and in this report as the largest one percent of daily events in a year. There are many other definitions of “extreme precipitation.”
Facility	Any man-made or man-placed item other than a structure. ⁸⁶ Examples include, but are not limited to, bridges and roads. The term “structure” is defined later in the glossary.
Great Bay Municipalities	The ten New Hampshire municipalities in the coastal zone that are not directly exposed to the Atlantic Ocean, but whose boundaries are exposed to tidal waters along Great Bay and its tributaries. Includes Dover, Durham, Exeter, Greenland, Madbury, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, Rollinsford, and Stratham.
Infrastructure	A subset of the term “facilities,” as defined in this glossary. Often refers to roads and other transportation assets, wastewater and stormwater management facilities, and other facilities. Can also refer to natural resources that provide services similar to manmade infrastructure. For example, a salt marsh that cleans and provides flood storage for stormwater is a type of natural infrastructure.
Mean Higher-High Water	The average of all the higher of the two daily high water heights recorded at a particular point or station over a considerable period of time, usually 19 years.
Mean High Water	The average of all the high water heights recorded at a particular point or station over a considerable period of time, usually 19 years.
Mitigation	Any action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from natural hazards. For the purposes of this report, the term mitigation should not to be confused with climate change mitigation, which refers to efforts to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions.
Natural Resources	The natural systems that support important species and biodiversity in coastal New Hampshire and provide critical and important services to coastal New Hampshire like food, flood protection, fresh water, raw materials, and recreation opportunities.
Nature-based Approaches	Features (sometimes referred to as green infrastructure or natural infrastructure) designed to mimic natural processes and provide specific services such as reducing flood risks and/or improving water quality. Nature-based approaches are created by human design (in concert with and to accommodate natural processes) and generally, but not always, must be maintained in order to reliably provide the intended level of service.
New Construction	The construction of a new structure (including the placement of a mobile home) or facility, or the replacement of a structure or facility which has been totally destroyed or is being upgraded. This definition does not override existing or future municipal definitions of this term.

Piscataqua Region (Coastal) Watershed	The land area from which water drains through the Hampton-Seabrook and Great Bay estuaries out to the Atlantic Ocean. Includes 42 municipalities in New Hampshire and portions of Maine and Massachusetts.
Resilience	The ability to avoid, minimize, withstand, and recover from the effects of adversity, whether natural or manmade, under all circumstances of use.
Sea-level Rise	The increase in sea level primarily caused by two factors related to climate change: the added water from melting land ice and the expansion of sea water as it warms. The acronym SLR stands for sea-level rise.
Science	The NH Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission defines science as the knowledge about or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation and published in peer-reviewed academic journals. Peer review is the evaluation of research methods and results by one or more people of similar competence (peers) to the producers of the research. Reviews are often completed anonymously. Peer review constitutes a form of self-regulation by qualified members of a profession within the relevant field. Peer review is used to maintain standards of quality, improve performance, provide credibility, and reduce the dissemination of unsubstantiated results and unacceptable interpretations. Publications that have not undergone peer review are regarded with a higher degree of skepticism by academics and scientists. Sources and additional resources can be found at: Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Science Magazine, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Storm Surge⁸⁷	The sea height during storms such as hurricanes that is above the normal expected at that time and place based on the tides alone.
Structures	Walled or roofed buildings, including mobile homes and gas or liquid storage tanks. ⁸⁸ The related term “facility” is defined earlier in the glossary.
Upland	Land currently above mean high-high water line (i.e., shoreline).
Vulnerability	The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected, which results from diverse historical, social, economic, political, cultural, institutional, natural resource, and environmental conditions and processes.

Acronyms

CRHC	New Hampshire Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission
DHR	New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (within NHDCR)
DRED	New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFRMS	Federal Flood Risk Management Standard
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GBNERR	Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (within NHFG)
HSEM	New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
NHCAW	New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup
NHDCR	New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources
NHDES	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
NHDOT	New Hampshire Department of Transportation
NHFG	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHOEP	New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PREP	Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
RPC	Rockingham Planning Commission
SLR	Sea-level rise
SRPC	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
STAP	Science and Technical Advisory Panel
UNH	University of New Hampshire
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USGCRP	United States Global Change Research Program
USGS	United States Geological Survey
