

Climate Change: What's Coastal Management Got to Do with it?

Susan Snow-Cotter

Director

Massachusetts Office of CZM



Overview

- ▶ *What are coastal managers?*
- ▶ *What do we do?*
- ▶ *What do we know about climate change?*
- ▶ *What are we doing about it?*
- ▶ *What are the challenges that we face and how can we overcome them?*
- ▶ *How can we do more?*



Coastal Managers

- ▶ *Local: Planning boards, building inspectors, conservation commissions*
- ▶ *State: coastal management offices, National Estuary Programs, Research Reserves, water quality agencies, public land management agencies*



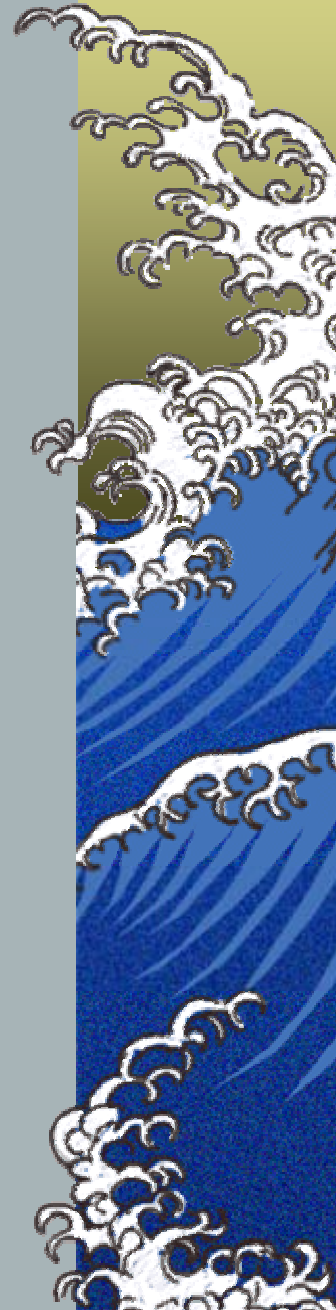
Coastal Management

- ▶ *Regulation (project review, Federal Consistency Review)*
- ▶ *Planning (special area management, issue specific management)*
- ▶ *Technical Assistance (municipalities, developers)*
- ▶ *Research*
- ▶ *Outreach*
- ▶ *Grant Programs*



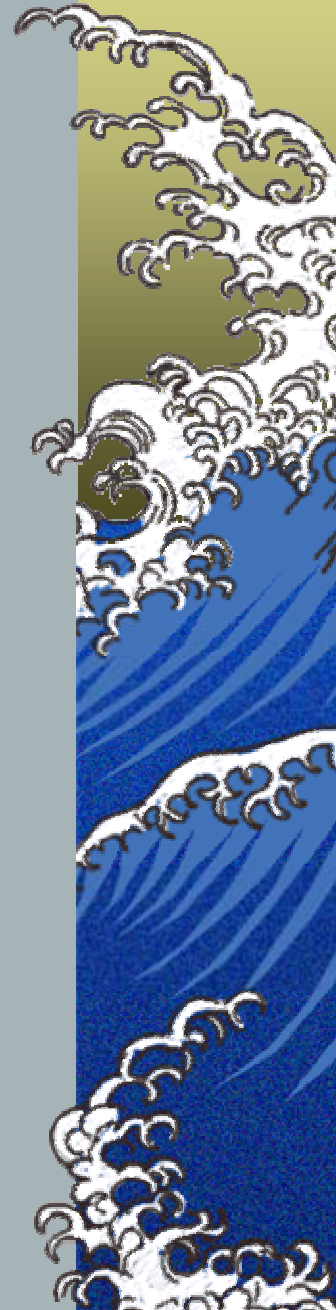
MCZM Priorities

- ▶ *Ocean planning (seafloor mapping, ocean use planning, information system, outreach)*
- ▶ *Desalinization Policy Development and Guidance*
- ▶ *Habitat Restoration (wetland, eelgrass)*
- ▶ *Invasive Species (control, planning, outreach, database)*
- ▶ *Project Review (Cape Wind, 4 LNG proposals, 2 desal, offshore sand mining, beach nourishment)*



More MCZM Priorities

- ▶ *Coastal Hazards (technical assistance, shoreline change maps, coastal structure inventory, workshops)*
- ▶ *Smart Growth Tools*
- ▶ *Non-Point Source Pollution Control/
Point Source Control*
- ▶ *Public Access*



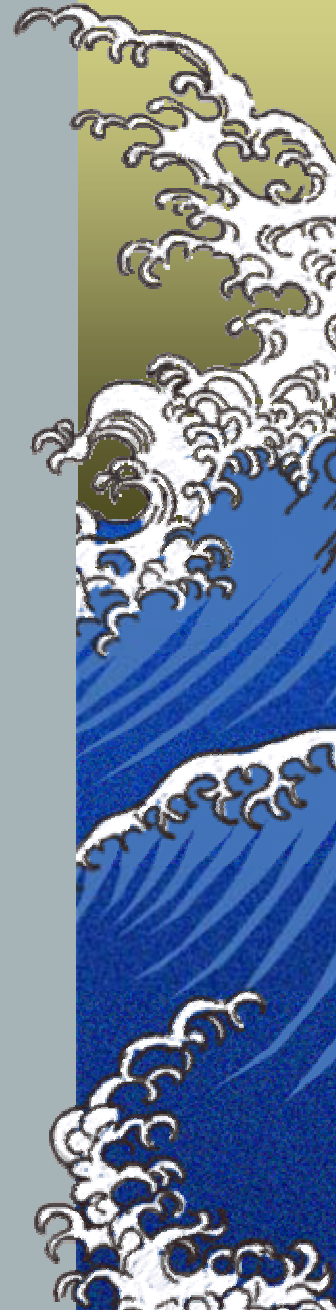
Climate Change/Sea-Level Rise: Current Efforts in MA

- ▶ *New England Governors and E. Canadian Premiers Climate Action Plan*
- ▶ *Mass. Climate Action Plan*
- ▶ *REGGI – Cap in Trade Program*
- ▶ *Reviewing Cape Wind*
- ▶ *Energy Policy – Project Review Comments*
- ▶ *South Shore Coastal Hazards Atlas vulnerability index*



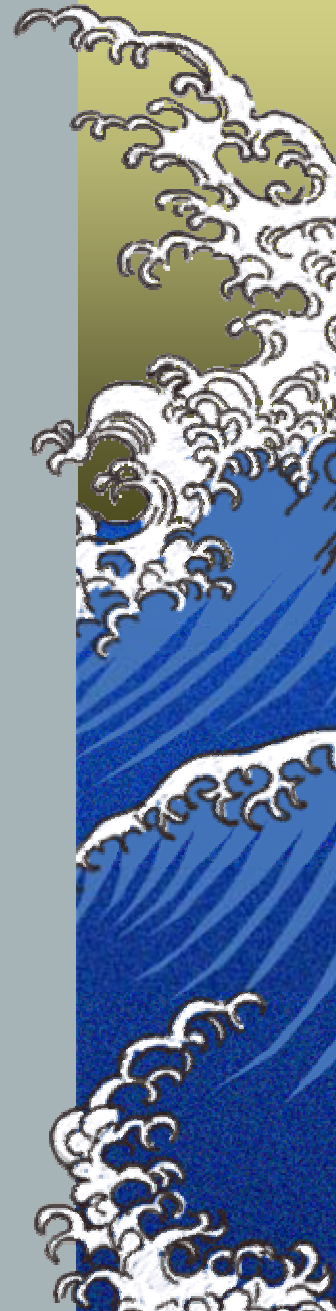
Climate Change/Sea-Level Rise: Current Efforts in US

- ▶ *MD – Sea Level Response Strategy*
- ▶ *CT – Research into wetland change analysis*
- ▶ *Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve – Local Workshops on Climate Change/Alternative Energy*



Challenges

- ▶ *Perception that there is no scientific consensus*
- ▶ *Lack of awareness of role/responsibility of coastal managers*
- ▶ *Incremental/uncertain risk gets lost amid other immediate, concrete issues*
- ▶ *Property Rights*
- ▶ *Politics...*



Opportunities

- ▶ *Market synthesis information with clear messages on actions needed*
- ▶ *Coastal managers are adept at dealing with interdisciplinary and emerging issues*
- ▶ *Capitalize on Katrina and couple with comprehensive hazards management*
- ▶ *Piggy-back on related efforts*
- ▶ *Start with outreach and education and build toward management, planning and response*



Next Steps

- ▶ ***Outreach** – get coastal managers up to speed on science/projections, use science translation opportunities, Coastal Training Program, Focus on what we **can** do*
- ▶ ***Management** – CELP plans, special area management plans, hazards planning, CZMA reauthorization, coastal elevation data, network of reference sites*
- ▶ ***Regulatory** - Upgrade building code, Flood Insurance Maps, Wetland Protection Act, project review*

