

Hampton Seabrook Estuary Collaborative: Working Webinars

Summary: Getting on the Same Page

Thursday, Feb 11, 1:00 to 2:30, 2021

<p>2/11: Getting on the Same Page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & Introductions Overview of HSE system Why focus on salt marshes? Management goals for marshes Related research questions Related science & Monitoring Discussion of gaps 	<p>3/4: Digging In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome, housekeeping Lightening presentations on work related to gaps Generating ideas to address the gaps 	<p>3/18: Collaborating on Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idea presentations Idea refinement (breakouts & report out to big group) Recruitment: who wants to work together to advance what ideas? Wrap up Exit survey
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Series Overview

[Getting on the Same Page Recording available here.](#)

Getting on the Same Page (2/11)		
Presenter	Presentation	Time Stamp
Rachel Rouillard, director, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership	Orientation to Hampton Seabrook Estuary Collaborative Webinars	2:40 - 7:40
David Burdick, research associate professor of coastal ecology and restoration, University of New Hampshire, interim director, Jackson Estuary Lab	Overview of the Hampton Seabrook Estuary System & Its Marshes	10:00 - 24:41
Dolores Leonard, principal, Roca Communications	Why Focus on Salt Marshes? (Data correction on slide 6)	26:18 - 32:08
Rayann Dionne, vice president, Seabrook Hampton Estuary Alliance	About SHEA & its Management Plan for the Hampton Seabrook Estuary	32:08 - 40:56
Kalle Matso, coastal scientist, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership	Hampton Seabrook Estuary: Marsh Related Research Questions	45:00 - 52:54

Kevin Lucey, restoration coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services	Science and Monitoring in the Hampton Seabrook Estuary	59:50 - 1:15:42
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Discussion Highlights

Questions for Presenters

- Is this system fed primarily by marine sediments (as opposed to riverine sediments)?
- Could you elaborate on single channel drainage?
- Guessing that a single channel lends itself to better sediment trapping? Possible that a single channel focuses the tidal energy into a 'natural' number of water courses?
- With so many structures and infrastructure at or below the High Tide Line throughout Hampton and Seabrook, I am curious if pure sea level rise has more of an impact on the estuary's health as compared to damage from future storms impacting all of the structures and infrastructure? Certainly a question that lots of people don't like to consider.
- What is to happen with the homeowners who live on Glade Path, cross marsh road, etc.?
- Is there any anticipated beneficial sediment transport/trapping due to the inundation of mosquito or other man made berms? Talking about the smoothing out of the mud flat and redistribution of sediment as the man made channels slowly degrade into a more constant slope → Ditches can degrade into more natural looking waterways, but also most don't change that much.
- Is there any active work on managed retreat underway at this time in the H/S area?

Gaps and Needs Discussed

- Concern about sediment release downstream of the Taylor River Dam was also a public concern → That would have helped the marsh grow and protect homeowners subject to tidal flooding in the systems → Also, dams are expensive to maintain.
- NH DOT wanted the Taylor River dam removed and Hampton did not over concerns of contaminated sediments. Given how difficult communication about SLR data projections can be, we'll have to give some serious thought about how to frame the discussions within the context of the metonic cycle. Challenging but not impossible. Abutters on the impoundment are what I believe stopped the Taylor River Dam. They did not want to lose their artificial pond.
- Has not been any reference to where flood control projects (new or modified tide gates/ berm etc.) are likely to be proposed. One small adjustment of a tide gate could be completed in about an hour and can instantaneously impact large areas of salt marsh. Pressure is growing for these kinds of actions everywhere.
- Using sediment dredge to nourish marshes
- Would love to have a common definition in this group of what high quality saltmarsh habitat is, how much we have, and where we should focus restoration efforts to get sub-par saltmarsh up to higher standards.
- Monitoring and enhancing marsh resiliency

- Is there a need for clam/mussel data? Can tie ecological conditions to cultural values.
- Need locations of critical human infrastructure that have implications for the feasibility of marsh management
- Cheri Patterson (NHFG) would like to hear more about sediment dynamics in the Estuary.
- Managed retreat
- Will Brown photo of Dr. Burdick's really raises the need for coastal retreat.
- Environmental justice considerations / diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion ([perhaps w/ EBC](#))
- Towns should collaborate to re-site some of the most vulnerable businesses on route 1.
Linking all of this to the communities that surround the estuary. Why should they care? How does a healthy salt marsh help them?
- The Wildlife and Vegetation column could use "fish"...which is important in so many ways to these communities (i.e. not just protected or endangered species.)
- Possible Social-Science gap with regard to "value" of the marsh and open rivers to individual perceptions: Survey of economic impacts associated with recreational and commercial fishing interest in the Hampton/Seabrook area and query if responders understand the relationship of fish passage and utilization on a healthy marsh surface and/or ability to migrate up rivers to spawn and forage.
- How about adding "regulation" to the Management column?

Additional Resources

- Social vulnerability assessment done by Semra Aytur for the Kirshen et al NOAA's Coastal and Ocean Climate Applications project is a good starting point for Environmental Justice
- NOAA Coastal Management Fellow Ben Sweeney is working to incorporate Diversity, Equity, Justice, & Inclusion considerations into his climate policy work.
- NOAA Office for Coastal Management has begun working with the NH Coastal Program to provide information on the marine sector and real estate to understand how changes to the marine environment (through anticipated flooding) translate to potential tax loss, unemployment, etc.
- With respect to the conversation about managed retreat, the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup recently announced a Save the Date for the [2021 Coastal Climate Conference](#) (May 26 and 27). This year we are excited to feature A.R. Siders [who will speak more to managed retreat considerations/](#)
- Catherine Ashcraft, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources and Environment, College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, University of New Hampshire