

NYS Sea Level Rise Task Force Overview & Opportunities for Involvement

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Creation of the Task Force

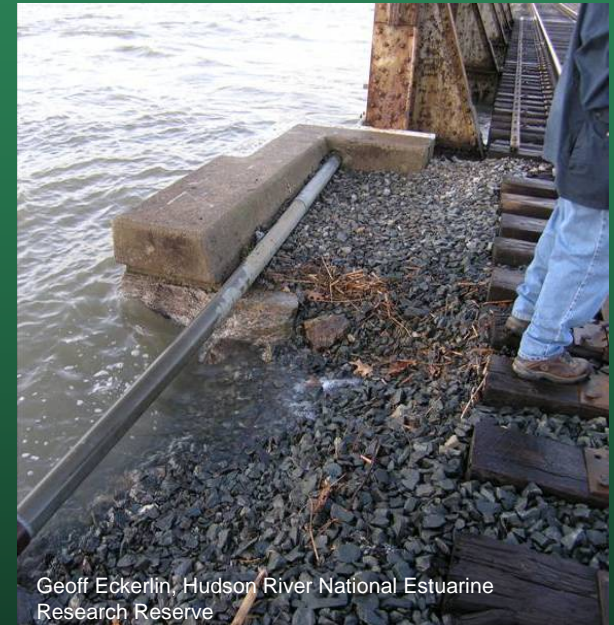
- Legislation passed in 2007
- Established by Chapter 613 of General Laws of NYS
- Scope: Troy Dam to tip of Long Island
- Charged with the creation of a report by December 31, 2009



Deliverables

Report must include:

- An assessment of the anticipated impacts of sea level rise;
- Recommendations for protective standards for coastal development, wetlands protection, shoreline armoring and post-storm recovery;



Sea level rise threatens low-lying infrastructure.



Deliverables

Report must include:

Recommendations for adaptive measures to:

- protect and connect habitats to facilitate range shifts,
- protect and restore critical habitats and ecosystem services,
- identify and monitor climate change effects on natural biota, and
- integrate climate change adaptation strategies into state environmental plans; and
- recommendations on regulatory and/or statutory alterations to respond to sea level rise.



Task Force Organization

- 15 appointed Task Force members, chaired by DEC Commissioner Grannis
- Staff steering committee, chaired by Robin Schlaff
- Workgroups
 - Impact sectors: Ecosystems, Infrastructure
 - Legal
 - Public Outreach



Coordination with other climate adaptation planning efforts

- NYSERDA Climate Impacts Assessment
- NYC Climate Change Adaptation Task Force
- Rising Waters (Hudson Valley)
- Other state and federal agency efforts



Beth Waterman, Hudson River Estuary Program

Town of Bethlehem, Hudson Valley



Public Participation and Outreach

- Active participation through membership in work groups
- Written comments and/or presentations from stakeholders on specific issues
- Public meetings on scope
- Public hearings on the draft final report



Where can I find more information?

- Task Force website:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/45202.html>
- Listserv:
<http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/sealevelrisetaskforce> .
- Mail to: Mark Lowery
Office of Climate Change
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1030

