

Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast

*A 5-state survey of coastal community residents
(New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia)*

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SUMMARY

In June 2007, the Urban Coast Institute and the Polling Institute at Monmouth University embarked on a survey of residents in coastal communities along the Mid-Atlantic bight – from the southern shores of Long Island to the tip of the DelMarVa peninsula. The purpose of this survey is to further awareness of the Mid-Atlantic coast as an inter-related environment, and to assess similarities and differences among residents' views of that coast.

The sample was divided into five coastal regions: New York East (Suffolk county), New York West (Nassau county), New Jersey North (Monmouth and Ocean counties), New Jersey South (Atlantic and Cape May counties), and DelMarVa (coastal portions of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia). A total of 850 residents of coastal towns were interviewed.

– Coastal Community Life –

Mid-Atlantic coastal community residents report that the ocean is an important part of their lives, although many do not take full advantage of its amenities (such as swimming, boating or fishing).

- *Most residents (60%) indicate that living near the ocean is a very important part of their lives. Another 25% say it is somewhat important and 14% not important.*
- *While most residents can often be found on the beach or walking the shoreline (58%) and many often go swimming in their local waters (41%), fewer residents regularly participate in fishing (20%) or boating (26%) activities.*

The vast majority of coastal residents say that protecting the coast should be a high priority for their town. On a personal level, they are somewhat more concerned about housing affordability, followed by pollution and development. They are relatively less concerned about habitat loss, decline of marine-based industries, and fishery depletion.

- *Fully 3-in-4 residents say that protecting the coastal environment (76%) should be a high priority for their town. This is somewhat larger than the number who would give a high priority to improving education (67%), lowering taxes (66%), or controlling growth (54%).*
- *A majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are seriously concerned about housing affordability (71%), coastal pollution (59%), and the pace of development (58%) in their towns. Just under half are seriously concerned about declining fish populations (48%), loss of wetland habitats (47%), loss of small-scale marine industries (46%), and increasing risks from storms and sea level rise (45%). Fewer are worried about the need to revitalize coastal downtown areas (28%).*

– The Coastal Environment –

Residents give generally favorable ratings to the health of their local coastal environment, but they are split on whether this has gotten better or worse in the last decade. They identify shoreline erosion and pollution as their biggest environmental concerns today.

- *Two-in-three residents say that their coastal shorelines (67%) and waters (64%) are in good health, but only about 1-in-7 would rate their health as “excellent”.*
- *Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are split on whether their local coastal environment’s health has improved (27%), worsened (31%) or stayed the same (36%) over the past ten years.*
- *Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are slightly more likely to expect that their local coast will get worse (34%) rather than better (26%) over the next ten years. Another 32% anticipate no change.*
- *When asked to name the single most important environmental issue affecting their local coast, erosion/sea rise (39%) and pollution (35%) are the top two concerns mentioned, with the pace of development (10%) coming in third.*

– Coastal Policy –

Mid-Atlantic coastal residents tend to give the government poor marks on protecting the environment. But they say they are willing to pay more in taxes in order to protect coastal waters, shorelines and beaches.

- *Just 4-in-10 say government has done a good job protecting coastal wetlands (43%) and keeping the waters clean (43%), 3-in-10 say it has done a good job reducing storm damage (32%) and managing marine life (31%), and 1-in-4 say it has done a good job managing coastal growth and development (26%).*
- *Six-in-ten residents (60%) indicate they would support greater efforts to protect their local coasts even if it required tax increases. Only 27% oppose this.*

Most Mid-Atlantic coastal community residents are convinced that coastal areas will be at a greater risk for flooding and damage from sea level rise in the next 25 years. In general, residents support the use of most preservation measures such as replenishing sand and building dunes (even if they obscure sightlines), but they draw the line at measures which may interfere with the rights of current property owners. There are also divisions in opinion on public and private rights and responsibilities in terms of who should control access to the waterfront and who should pay the cost of reducing coastal hazards.

- *About 2-in-3 residents (65%) acknowledge that sea level rise and flooding risk will increase substantially over the next 25 years. Only 27% feel that public reports of these risks have been exaggerated.*
- *Majorities support a variety of measures for reducing risks from coastal hazards, including dunes and natural buffers (81%), beach replenishment (79%), public purchase of existing open space (78%), and jetty and seawall construction (76%). However, residents are less supportive of any policy that would allow government purchase of private homes in high risk areas (42%).*

- *About half (48%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say that government should carry most of the costs for any risk reduction projects, 24% say the burden should mainly be carried by coastal property owners, and 23% say that both government and property owners should share the costs equally.*
- *Residents are split on who should have final say on waterfront access issues – affected property owners (41%) or the public interest (38%). Another 15% say both parties should have equal say in the matter.*

In terms of using the oceans for energy production, a majority support placing wind farms off their local coast, even if the windmills are visible from the shoreline. However, they are less favorable toward drilling for oil or gas in the Atlantic Ocean.

- *71% of residents say that, in principle, they would support energy-generating windmills that are not visible from the shoreline. Support drops only slightly for visible wind farms – 57% would support this to 20% opposed and 21% who have no strong opinion either way.*
- *On the question of drilling for oil or gas, only 33% of coastal residents would support this compared to 40% who are opposed and 24% who have no strong opinion.*

– Regional Differences –

The survey also found some interesting regional differences of opinion among Mid-Atlantic coastal community residents.

New York:

- New Yorkers tend to be the most positive about the current state of their coastal environment. Despite this, they are more likely than New Jersey residents to feel their coastal environment will worsen in the next ten years.
- New Yorkers are twice as likely to name erosion/sea rise rather than pollution as their top environmental concern.
- Residents of eastern Long Island are more positive than those in western Long Island about government performance on preservation efforts.
- Western Long Island residents are among those most supportive of efforts to build natural buffers and manufactured barriers and replenish sand, while those in eastern Long Island are the most supportive of purchasing and preserving existing open space along the coast.

New Jersey:

- New Jerseyans are the most likely to report seeing an improvement in their coastal environment over the past ten years.
- While southern New Jerseyans are more likely to name erosion and sea rise as their number one concern, pollution is the top issue along the northern New Jersey coast.
- Residents of southern New Jersey are more positive than those in northern New Jersey about current government preservation efforts.

DelMarVa:

- Virginians tend to be the least positive about the current state of their coastal environment. DelMarVans in general are somewhat more likely than their northern Mid-Atlantic neighbors to feel their coastal environment has worsened in the past ten years.
- Pollution is a bigger concern than erosion for DelMarVa residents.
- DelMarVans tend to be less approving of government preservation efforts, except in the area of managing marine life.

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Survey Instrument

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I. Introduction

Coastal environments are by their nature interrelated. However, local activities can have a great impact on these environments. These activities, ranging from regulatory oversight by government to the personal behaviors of coastal residents, can vary greatly from community to community and from state to state. For example, a community concerned about declining school performance may emphasize using their tax dollars for educational programs over coastal preservation efforts. Differing priorities and the consequent policy decisions can have an impact along the entire coast, well beyond the borders of a single community.

In June 2007, the Urban Coast Institute and the Polling Institute at Monmouth University embarked on a survey of residents who live in coastal communities along the Mid-Atlantic bight, from the southern shores of Long Island to the tip of the DelMarVa peninsula. The purpose of this survey is to further awareness of the Mid-Atlantic coast as an inter-related environment, and to assess similarities and differences among residents' views of that coast.

The sample was divided into five coastal regions: New York East (Suffolk county), New York West (Nassau county), New Jersey North (Monmouth and Ocean counties), New Jersey South (Atlantic and Cape May counties), and DelMarVa (coastal portions of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia).¹

In order to statistically compare responses among regions, a separate sample of 170 residents was drawn for each of the five regions, creating a total sample of 850 residents. The sampling error associated with the full sample is $\pm 3.4\%$. For results based on each of the five regions, the sampling error is $\pm 7.5\%$.

The survey sample was drawn to reflect the views of permanent residents who live in communities that geographically abut the Atlantic Ocean. The survey covered issues surrounding the importance of the ocean and coast to residents' lives; policy concerns in their

¹ Due to its relatively small geographic size and unique urban quality, the coastal portion of Queens county in New York was not included in this study.

local communities; evaluations of the coastal environment; assessments of government performance in protecting the coast; and opinions on different coastal policy issues, including sea hazard risk reduction and coast-related energy resources. The survey results for each of these topics are covered in subsequent sections of this report.

– Acknowledgments –

This project was directed by Tony MacDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University. The survey was designed and analyzed by Patrick Murray, Director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, with the assistance of research associate Timothy MacKinnon.

The authors wish to express their appreciation to the staffs of the state coastal management programs in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia for their assistance in reviewing the proposed topics and questions for the survey.

This project was funded through a federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). However, this report and the interpretation of the survey findings are the sole responsibility of the Urban Coast Institute and the Polling Institute at Monmouth University.

II. Coastal Community Life

This section covers survey information on Mid-Atlantic coastal community life. This includes demographic information on community rootedness; the personal importance of the coast in residents' lives and participation in coast-related activities; and where preserving the coastal environment fits among a variety of issues that affect these communities.

Key Findings:

- Those living in waterfront homes are twice as likely as other community residents to be newcomers to their town.
- Six-in-ten residents indicate that living near the ocean is a very important part of their lives.
- While most residents spend time on the beach or walking the shoreline and many go swimming in their local waters, fewer residents regularly go fishing or boating.
- White residents are more likely than black, Hispanic and Asian residents to feel connected to the ocean and participate in coastal activities.
- In terms of town issues, protecting the environment is deemed a somewhat higher priority than education, taxes, and growth.
- A majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are very concerned about housing affordability, coastal pollution, and the pace of development in their towns.

– Resident Demographics –

More than 6-in-10 survey participants live within a few blocks of the ocean or bay, including 17% who live on a waterfront property. About 7-in-10 residents own their coastal community home. The percentage of home ownership is fairly similar across all regions surveyed.

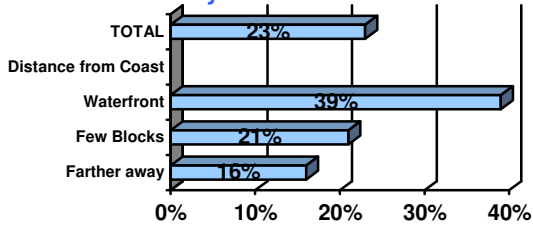
Nearly all of the residents interviewed (82%) live in their coastal community home for at least 10 months out of the year.

However, waterfront dwellers (24%) and wealthier residents earning over

Resident Type			
<i>How much of the year do you live in this home?</i>			
	Year round, at least 10 months	Part year, less than 10 months	No response
Total	82%	16%	3%
<u>Region</u>			
--New York	84	14	1
--Long Island East	78	20	1
--Long Island West	92	7	1
--New Jersey	79	16	4
--New Jersey North	79	15	6
--New Jersey South	79	19	2
--DelMarVa	85	15	--
<u>Distance from Coast</u>			
--Waterfront	73	24	3
--A few blocks	80	17	3
--Farther away	88	11	2
<u>Income</u>			
--Under \$50,000	94	6	--
--\$50,000 to \$100,000	83	16	2
--Over \$100,000	75	24	1

\$100,000 (24%) are somewhat more likely than others to be only part-time residents of their coastal community.

Residents living in town for 5 years or less



About 4-in-10 of those surveyed report being long-term residents of more than 20 years in their town. This includes 16% who are life-long residents. On the other hand, the survey also found that a sizable portion of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents have weaker roots in their towns. Specifically, 23% have lived in their town for 5 years or less. Residents of waterfront property (39%) are twice as likely as those living either a few blocks (21%) or farther away (16%) from the shoreline to have moved there in the last five years.

Other interesting demographics find that about 3-in-10 adult coastal residents are age 60 or older, 34% are age 40 to 59, and 33% are age 18 to 39. One-third of Mid-Atlantic coastal homes include a child under the age of 18. The only region where this differs is in southern New Jersey, where the number of households with children is slightly lower at 1-in-4.

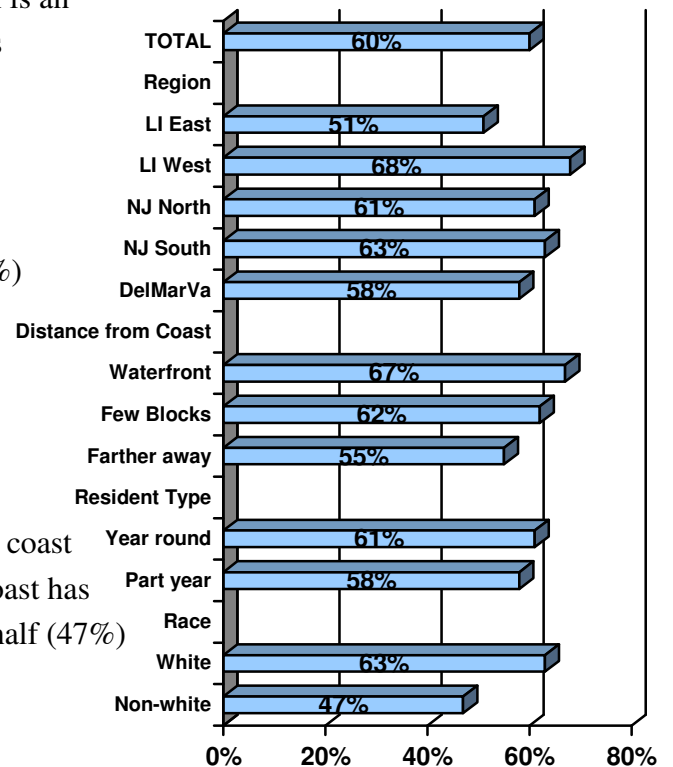
– Personal Importance of the Coast –

When presented with the statement “The coast and ocean is an important part of my life,” fully 60% of residents say this describes them a lot, another 25% say it describes them somewhat, 8% say not much, and 6% say not at all.

While there is little difference in the coast’s personal importance between year round (61%) and part year (58%) residents, those in western Long Island – which has the highest proportion of year-round residents – are the most likely (68%) to say the statement about the coast’s role in their life describes them a lot.

Also, there is a racial difference on the importance of the coast to these residents. Most white residents (63%) say the coast has a lot of importance to them personally while fewer than half (47%) of black, Hispanic and Asian residents feel the same.

The coast and ocean are an important part of my life



The survey asked residents how often they utilized five different recreational opportunities offered by the coast. The most popular activity is sunbathing or walking along the shoreline – 58% say they do this often and another 24% do this occasionally. Swimming or surfing are also popular, 41% do these water activities often and 22% occasionally. Recreational boating is something that just 26% do often and 17% occasionally. And just about 4-in-10 go fishing from a boat (23% often and 14% occasionally) or from the land (20% often and 20% occasionally).

Coastal Activities					
<i>I'm going to ask you about some activities people may do within five miles of their homes. In the past year, have you [READ ITEM] often, occasionally, rarely, or never?</i>					
	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Don't know
Gone sunbathing or walking along the shore or other natural area	58%	24%	6%	10%	2%
Gone swimming or surfing	41%	22%	11%	24%	1%
Taken a boat, canoe, kayak or jet-ski out for pleasure	26%	17%	14%	42%	1%
Gone fishing or crabbing on a boat in coastal waters	23%	14%	15%	46%	2%
Gone fishing, crabbing or clamming from a beach, pier or bulkhead	20%	20%	16%	43%	1%

Regionally, about 6-in-10 residents of New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland say they often walk or sunbathe on the beach. This drops to just over 4-in-10 among Virginia residents. Swimming and surfing tends to be most popular among permanent coastal residents in New York, Maryland, and northern New Jersey. It is less popular in southern New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia. There are no significant regional differences for boating or fishing activities among permanent residents of these Mid-Atlantic coastal communities.

The survey findings also indicate that participation in any of these activities is generally lower for those age 60 and older as well as among non-white residents.

– Priority Issues for Coastal Communities –

When asked to rate the importance of five different policy issues facing their town, more residents choose protecting the coast as high priority than say the same about education, taxes, and development. Three-in-four residents (76%) feel that protecting the coastal and ocean environment should be a high priority for their town. This compares to 2-in-3 residents who would give the a high priority rating to improving public education (67%) and lowering taxes

(66%). Just over half say their town should give high priority to reducing risks from coastal hazards (56%) and controlling growth and development (54%).

Protecting the coastal environment is the highest priority in each of the five regions surveyed. There are some interesting regional differences on the other issues though. Specifically, on the issue of reducing risks from coastal hazards, the same number of New Jerseyans (56%) and DelMarVans (56%) rate this as a high priority, but in New York, western Long Islanders (75%) are much more concerned than eastern residents (42%) about this issue. The survey results also indicate that among those who live on or near the waterfront, reducing risks from coastal hazards receives the same priority rating as education and taxes.

High Priority Issues for Your Town					
<i>Here are some issues that your town may have to deal with. After I read each one, please tell me whether it should be a high, medium, or low priority?</i>					
<i>Percentage saying "high priority":</i>	Protecting the coastal and ocean environment	Improving public education	Lowering taxes	Reducing the risk to people and property from storms and other coastal hazards	Controlling growth and development
Total	76%	67%	66%	56%	54%
<u>Region</u>					
--New York	79	72	68	57	59
--Long Island East	78	67	60	42	62
--Long Island West	82	77	78	75	55
--New Jersey	74	63	70	56	52
--New Jersey North	74	66	71	50	55
--New Jersey South	74	61	69	61	48
--DelMarVa	77	72	50	56	56
<u>Distance from Coast</u>					
--Waterfront	74	64	60	60	56
--A few blocks	78	65	68	63	54
--Farther away	75	71	67	46	54

The survey also asked residents to evaluate the seriousness of eight different concerns specifically related to living in a coastal community. Of these, housing affordability is the top issue, with 71% saying it is a very serious concern in their area. Nearly 6-in-10 say that water pollution (59%) and coastal development (58%) are very serious issues. Just under half have very serious concerns about declining fish populations (48%), loss of wetland habitats (47%), loss of small-scale marine industries (46%), and increasing risks from storms and sea level rise (45%). Only 28% report that the revitalization of traditional downtown businesses is a very serious concern in their area.

Housing affordability is an issue that concerns 3-in-4 resident in every regions surveyed. Water pollution, however, is somewhat more of a concern in New Jersey (64%) than it is in either DelMarVa (55%) or New York (51%). Development along the coast is a slightly higher concern in New Jersey (62%) and DelMarVa (62%) than it is in New York (49%). Within New York, there is a difference of opinion on the seriousness of storm risk – 57% of western Long Island residents say this a very serious concern in their area compared to 37% of western Long Islanders who feel the same.

Serious Concerns for Local Community

Please tell me if you think each of the following is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious concern in your area?

Percentage saying "very serious":	Housing is becoming less affordable	Coastal and ocean water pollution	The amount of development along the coast	A decline in fish and shellfish populations	The loss of wetlands and coastal habitats	Small-scale marine and fishing industries are disappearing	Sea level rise and increasing risk from storms	The revitalization of traditional downtown and business areas
Total	71%	59%	58%	48%	47%	46%	45%	28%
<u>Region</u>								
--New York	75	51	49	55	49	50	46	23
--Long Island East	76	45	53	60	49	52	37	20
--Long Island West	74	59	45	47	48	48	57	26
--New Jersey	70	64	62	44	46	43	44	30
--New Jersey North	65	65	62	39	43	46	41	28
--New Jersey South	74	63	62	48	49	40	46	32
--DelMarVa	68	55	62	52	49	46	46	31
<u>Distance from Coast</u>								
--Waterfront	59	65	58	40	43	51	46	28
--A few blocks	73	58	61	49	49	43	50	30
--Farther away	74	56	54	51	47	46	39	26

III. The Coastal Environment

This section discusses Mid-Atlantic residents' assessments of the state of their coastal environment. This includes evaluations of coastal health and changes over the past few years; expectations for the future of their local environment; and residents' top concerns for their communities' coastal environments.

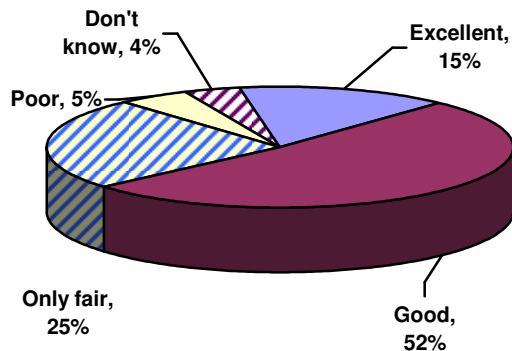
Key Findings:

- Two-in-three residents say that their coastal shorelines and waters are in good health, but only about 1-in-7 would rate their health as “excellent”.
- New Yorkers tend to be the most positive about the current state of their coastal environment, while Virginians are the least positive.
- Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are split on whether their local coastal environment's health has improved (27%), worsened (31%) or stayed the same (36%) over the past ten years.
- New Jerseyans are most likely to report seeing an improvement along their coast, while residents of eastern Long Island and the DelMarVa peninsula are more likely to feel their coastal environment has deteriorated in the past ten years.
- Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are slightly more likely to expect that their local coast will get worse (34%) rather than better (26%) over the next ten years. Another 32% anticipate no change.
- When asked to name the single most important environmental issue affecting their local coast, erosion/sea rise (39%) and pollution (35%) are the top two concerns, with the pace of development (10%) coming in third. New Yorkers and southern New Jerseyans are more likely to name erosion and sea rise issues as their top concern, while pollution is the top issue along the northern New Jersey and DelMarVa coasts.

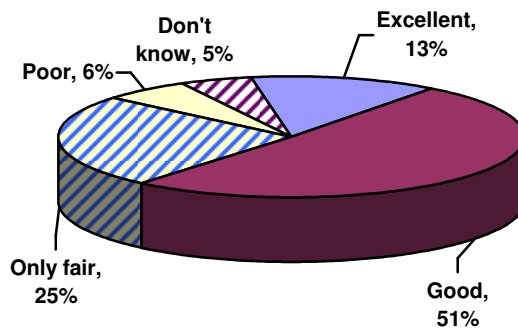
– Coastal Health –

Mid-Atlantic coastal residents give generally positive ratings to the health of their coastal environment. Both land and water habitats receive identical marks. About 2-in-3 residents rate the health of their local shorelines and beaches as either excellent (15%) or good (52%). Another 25% give only fair ratings and 5% say they are poor. Likewise, nearly 2-in-3 residents rate the health of their waters and bays as excellent (13%) or good (51%). Another 25% give only fair ratings and 6% say they are poor.

Rate health of beaches and shorelines



Rate health of coastal waters and bays



By region, New Yorkers and New Jerseyans tend to be the more positive than DelMarVa residents about their coastal habitat's health. More than 7-in-10 New Yorkers say their shores (74%) and waters (72%) are in excellent or good health and 2-in-3 New Jerseyans say the same – 66% for shores and 65% for waters. Among Delmarvans, just over half (56%) rate their shore habitats as being in excellent or good health, but fewer – only 46% – give the same rating to their local waters. The lower ratings within this region are due in part to more negative views among residents of the southern portion of the peninsula. The close proximity of Virginia coastal residents to the Chesapeake Bay, which has been the focus of environmental concern in recent years, as well as the Atlantic Ocean may have an impact on these evaluations.

Coastal Health Ratings

-Thinking about coastal habitats, beaches and natural shorelines in your area, would you rate their health as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

-Thinking about the coastal waters and bays in your area, would you rate their health as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Percentage saying "excellent" or "good":	Beaches and Shorelines	Waters and Bays
Total	67%	64%
<u>Region</u>		
--New York	74	72
--Long Island East	73	74
--Long Island West	76	69
--New Jersey	66	65
--New Jersey North	65	65
--New Jersey South	67	64
--DelMarVa	56	46

– Coastal Evaluations Past and Future –

When asked how far their environment has come and where it is going, Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are split. Compared to ten years ago, 27% say the condition of their coastal environment has improved, 36% say they haven't seen much change, and 31% say it has worsened. Thinking about what their environment will look like ten years from now, 26% predict it will improve, 32% feel it will stay the same, and 34% believe it will get worse.

Change in Local Environmental Quality				
<i>Compared to ten years ago, would you say the condition of your local coastal environment has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?</i>				
	Now better	Now worse	Stayed same	Don't know
Total	27%	31%	36%	6%
<u>Region</u>				
--New York	17	37	41	5
--Long Island East	14	42	38	6
--Long Island West	21	31	43	5
--New Jersey	36	24	33	7
--New Jersey North	42	25	26	7
--New Jersey South	30	23	39	8
--DelMarVa	14	43	40	3

There are some noteworthy regional variations in these views. For example, New Jersey residents (36%), especially those along the state's northern coast (42%), are the most likely to report having seen a change for the better in their coastal environment over the past few years. By comparison, residents of DelMarVa (43%) and Long Island East (42%) are the most likely to report it has become worse in that time. Similarly, residents of Long Island east and west (44%) as well as DelMarVans (43%) are more likely than New Jerseyans (27%) to feel their coastal environment will deteriorate in the coming years.

Expectations for Local Environment's Future				
<i>And looking ahead to ten years from now, do you think the condition of your local coastal environment will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?</i>				
	Will be better	Will be worse	Will be same	Don't know
Total	26%	34%	32%	8%
<u>Region</u>				
--New York	22	44	28	6
--Long Island East	20	46	26	7
--Long Island West	24	42	30	5
--New Jersey	31	27	33	9
--New Jersey North	36	26	32	7
--New Jersey South	28	28	34	10
--DelMarVa	18	43	33	7

– Environmental Concerns –

Survey participants were asked to name the top issue affecting the coastal and ocean environment in their area. These answers were recorded and grouped into categories. The top concerns of these residents are beach erosion (29%) and sea rise or storm damage (10%). Taken together, this issue is named as the top concern by about 4-in-10 residents. Another 1-in-3 residents name pollution as their main concern, although they split between water pollution (19%) and beach or shoreline pollution (16%). Another 10% name development and coastal construction as their top issue and 3% mention habitat loss as the coastal environment issue that concerns them most.

Top Environmental Concerns					
<i>Thinking specifically about environmental issues in your area, what is the number one issue affecting the coastal and ocean environment in your area?</i>					
<i>Responses were recorded verbatim and grouped into the following top categories:</i>					
	Erosion	Storms/ sea rise	Water pollution	Beach pollution	Development
Total	29%	10%	19%	16%	10%
<u>Region</u>					
--New York	40	10	14	12	9
--Long Island East	39	7	12	14	14
--Long Island West	41	13	17	9	3
--New Jersey	25	11	21	18	9
--New Jersey North	25	4	22	22	10
--New Jersey South	26	17	21	14	8
--DelMarVa	20	5	18	19	15
<u>Distance from Coast</u>					
--Waterfront	32	5	24	10	7
--A few blocks	30	13	20	14	10
--Farther away	26	7	15	22	12

Among coastal New Yorkers, erosion and storm rise (50%) is much more of a concern than pollution (26%). This is true for both eastern and western residents of Long Island. Southern New Jersey residents are also somewhat more likely to be concerned with erosion (43%) than pollution (35%). However, northern New Jerseyans are more likely to see pollution as their top issue (44%) rather than erosion (29%). DelMarVans are also slightly more likely to tab pollution (37%) rather than erosion (25%) as their top concern.

The survey also found an interesting racial difference on this question. More white residents name erosion (42%) as their top concern, while a majority of black, Hispanic and Asian residents say pollution (52%) is their top issue affecting the coastal environment.

IV. Coastal Policy

The final section of this report focuses on coastal policy. Specifically, this covers residents' assessments of government efforts to protect the coast; levels of support for increased coastal protection efforts; views on waterfront access issues; perceptions of sea rise risk and policy views on reducing damage from coastal hazards; and views on using coastal resources for energy production.

Key Findings:

- Residents of the Mid-Atlantic coast tend to give the government poor marks on protecting the environment. Just 4-in-10 say it has done a good job protecting coastal wetlands and keeping the waters clean, 3-in-10 say it has done a good job reducing storm damage and managing marine life, and 1-in-4 say it has done a good job managing coastal growth and development.
- Residents of the eastern Long Island and southern New Jersey coasts are more positive toward government preservation efforts than are those in western Long Island, northern New Jersey and DelMarVa.
- Six-in-ten residents say they would support greater efforts to protect their local coasts even if it required tax increases. Only 1-in-4 are opposed to this.
- Residents are split on who should have final say on waterfront access issues – affected property owners (41%) or the public interest (38%).
- About 2-in-3 residents acknowledge that sea level rise and flooding risk will increase substantially over the next 25 years. Majorities support a variety of measures for reducing this risk, including building buffers, beach replenishment, and public purchase of existing open space. However, residents are less supportive of any policies that would allow government purchase of private homes in high risk areas.
- About half of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say that government should carry most of the costs for these projects, 1-in-4 say the burden should mainly be carried by coastal property owners, and 1-in-4 say that both government and property owners should share the costs equally.
- A majority of coastal residents support the placement of electricity-generating wind farms off their local coasts, even if they would be visible from the shoreline. On the other hand, few would support drilling for oil or gas in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

– Assessing Government Performance –

Mid-Atlantic coastal residents generally give government low marks for managing coastal policy. Only 4-in-10 feel that government is doing either an excellent or good job protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats (43%) and keeping coastal and ocean waters clean (43%). In fact, half the residents feel their government is doing only a fair or poor job in these two areas.

Only 3-in-10 give the government positive marks for protecting property from storm damage (32%) and managing fish and other marine life (31%), and just 1-in-4 say the government is doing a good job managing growth and development along the coast (26%).

Government Performance on Coastal Issues					
<i>How good a job is government doing at each of the following. Please respond with excellent, good, only fair, poor, or tell me if you don't have an opinion on this.</i>					
<i>Percentage saying "excellent" or "good":</i>	Protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats	Keeping coastal and ocean waters clean	Protecting coastal property from storm damage	Managing fish and other marine life	Managing growth and development in coastal communities
Total	43%	43%	32%	31%	26%
Region					
--New York	47	45	32	30	25
--Long Island East	56	52	35	40	28
--Long Island West	36	35	28	18	20
--New Jersey	43	45	36	30	27
--New Jersey North	33	40	31	25	22
--New Jersey South	52	50	41	35	33
--DelMarVa	37	32	21	40	23

Regionally, residents of the DelMarVa peninsula, tend to be more negative than New Yorkers and New Jerseyans on government efforts to protect coastal habitats, keep coastal waters clean and protect coastal property from storms. DelMarVans are slightly more positive on how government has managed marine life. There are few regional differences on how government has handled managing growth and development.

Given that this question asked about government's role, there are also some intra-state differences of opinion worth noting. Residents of eastern Long Island are more likely than residents of the west portion of New York's Atlantic coast to give government positive ratings on coastal policy. In fact, more than half of eastern residents say government has done an excellent or good job managing habitats (56%) and keeping coastal waters clean (52%). Among Long Island West residents, only 1-in-3 give government positive marks in these two areas – 36% for managing habitats and 35% for coastal waters. Also, while 40% of Long Island East residents say government is doing a good job managing marine life, only 18% of those in the west feel the same.

A similar dynamic is found down shore in New Jersey, where southern coast residents are more positive towards government efforts than are their northern neighbors. This is especially true in the area of protecting coastal habitats, where 52% of New Jersey South residents give the government good marks compared to only 33% of New Jersey North residents who do the same.

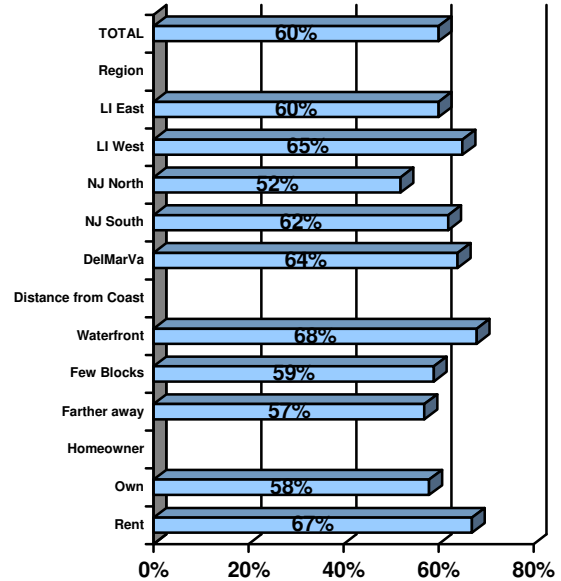
– Support for Efforts to Preserve Coastal Environments and Access –

The survey found widespread support among coastal residents for greater efforts to protect coastal waters, shoreline, and beaches in their town, even if they would have to pay more in local taxes. Overall, 60% would support such efforts, 27% would oppose and 13% are unsure or have no opinion.

Majority support for increased efforts to protect the coast is found in every region, although residents of New Jersey North (52%) are somewhat less likely than residents in the other Mid-Atlantic regions surveyed to support this if it is coupled with an increase in local taxes.

The survey also asked residents about the issue of coastal access, specifically whether these decisions should be made by government of waterfront property owners. On this issue, residents are split,

Support local coastal protection efforts even if taxes go up



Who Should Control Waterfront Access

Now I'd like to ask you about access to waterfront areas or waterways adjacent to private property. When there is a dispute over how the public is allowed to gain access to these areas, who should have more say – residents who own the adjacent waterfront property OR government agencies representing the public interest?

	Property owners	Government	Both equally	Don't know
Total	41%	38%	15%	6%
<u>Region</u>				
--New York	33	48	13	6
--Long Island East	30	54	11	5
--Long Island West	37	40	14	9
--New Jersey	40	39	15	6
--New Jersey North	38	45	11	6
--New Jersey South	43	33	18	6
--DelMarVa	60	17	18	5
<u>Distance from Coast</u>				
--Waterfront	51	33	13	3
--A few blocks	42	37	13	8
--Farther away	35	42	17	5
<u>Homeowner Status</u>				
--Own	36	43	15	6
--Rent	50	27	15	8

with 41% who feel that affected property owners should have more say in coastal access issues compared to 38% who say that government agencies representing the public interest should prevail. Another 15% say that both parties should have equal say in the decision.

Residents of Long Island East are most supportive of giving government more say in coastal access decisions (54%). Those on Long Island West are more divided – 40% say government should have more say to 37% who side with property owners. New Jerseyans are about evenly divided 39% for government to 40% for property owners, with northern coast residents slightly more likely to side with the public sector and southern residents slightly favoring private rights. On the other hand, residents of DelMarVa clearly side with property owners (60%) over government (17%) in any debate regarding access to the waterfront via property currently in private hands.

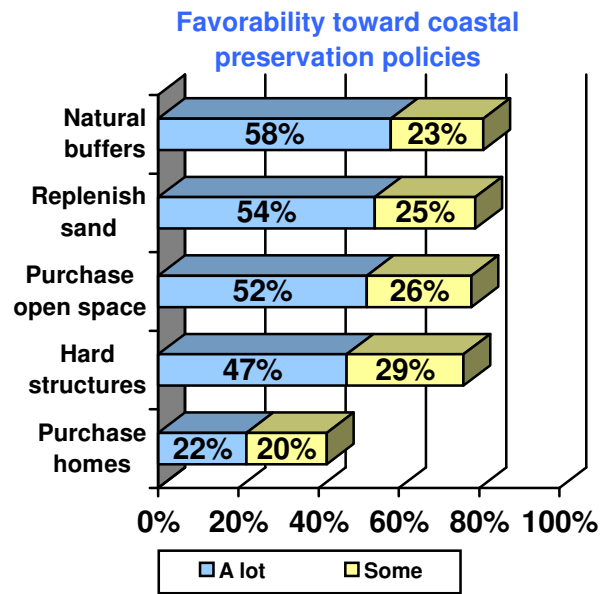
– Sea Level Rise and Storm Damage –

About 2-in-3 residents accept the premise that sea level rise will substantially increase risk from storms and flooding within a generation’s time. This includes 52% who say that such reports are generally accurate and another 13% who feel that the risk is being under-estimated.

Only 27% feel such reports are being exaggerated. New Jersey residents (32%) tend to be slightly more skeptical than coastal DelMarVans (25%) and New Yorkers (20%) of these reports.

Perceptions of Sea Level Rise Risk				
<i>Some reports predict that sea levels will rise substantially in the next 25 years and that many coastal areas will be in much greater risk from storm damage and flooding. Based on what you have heard, do you think that this risk is generally accurate, generally exaggerated, or generally underestimated?</i>				
	Accurate	Exaggerated	Under-estimated	Don't know
Total	52%	27%	13%	7%
<u>Region</u>				
--New York	58	20	13	8
--Long Island East	59	19	14	8
--Long Island West	58	22	13	8
--New Jersey	50	32	11	7
--New Jersey North	54	29	8	8
--New Jersey South	47	35	13	6
--DelMarVa	47	25	20	7
<u>Distance from Coast</u>				
--Waterfront	56	26	12	6
--A few blocks	51	30	12	7
--Farther away	53	25	15	8

The survey asked coastal residents about their views toward five possible policies for preserving coastal habitats and reducing storm damage. The results show majority support for most solutions, as long as they don't involve government purchase of private homes. Specifically, more than half say they favor the following by "a lot": creating sand dunes and other natural buffers (58%), sand replenishment (54%), and public purchase of existing open space (52%). Just under half (47%) say they have a lot of favorability toward building hard structures, such as jetties or seawalls. For all four of these policies, fewer than 1-in-5 residents do not favor them.



Coastal Protection Preferences

How much do you favor each of the following as a way to preserve coastal habitats and reduce storm damage in your area – a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

Percentage saying "a lot":	Creating sand dunes and other natural buffers	Replenishing sand when it is washed away	Public purchase of existing natural coastal areas for preservation	Building bulkheads, jetties, seawalls and other hard structures	Public purchase of private homes located in high risk areas
Total	58%	54%	52%	47%	22%
<u>Region</u>					
--New York	60	56	61	41	23
--Long Island East	54	49	67	29	25
--Long Island West	67	63	53	56	21
--New Jersey	60	56	49	51	23
--New Jersey North	56	55	48	50	23
--New Jersey South	64	57	50	53	23
--DelMarVa	47	45	47	40	16
<u>Distance from Coast</u>					
--Waterfront	64	57	47	50	32
--A few blocks	58	59	50	52	20
--Farther away	56	47	56	38	20

The public is more divided on a potential policy where government would purchase private homes in high risk areas. Just 22% say they favor this a lot and 22% favor this somewhat. This compares to 15% who do not favor this policy much and 32% who do not favor it at all.

Regionally, support for building natural buffers is similar in New York (60%) and New Jersey (60%), although western Long Island (67%) show higher support than their eastern counterparts (54%). DelMarVa support is lower at 47%, but this is wholly due to lower levels of support for this idea among Virginia residents. Delaware and Maryland support levels are closer to those of their northern neighbors. Also, a large number of these residents say they support this idea “somewhat” if not “a lot”.

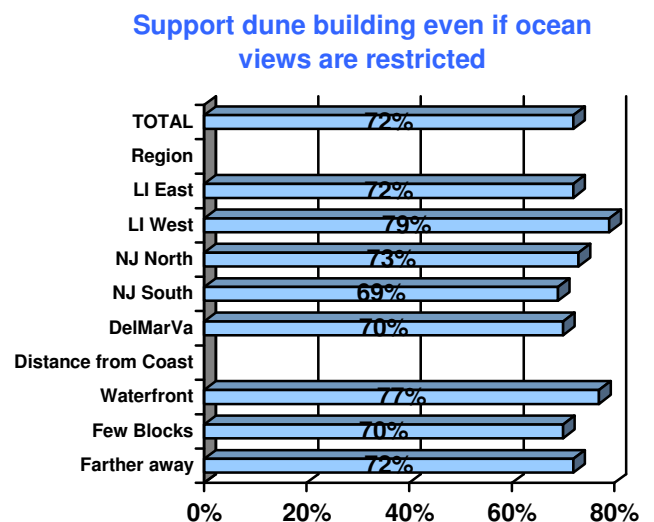
There is a similar regional pattern on the policy of beach replenishment. New York (56%) and New Jersey (56%) show comparable support levels, with western Long Island (63%) residents again showing higher support than their eastern counterparts (49%). Support for this idea among DelMarVans (45%) is lower, again mainly due to a difference in strength of opinion in the southern portion of the peninsula.

New Yorkers and New Jerseyans part ways somewhat when it comes to public purchase of existing open space. Most New York coastal residents (61%) favor this idea a lot – and this time it is eastern Long Islanders (67%) who are more likely than their western neighbors (53%) to give this idea strong support. On the other hand, fewer than half of those living on either the New Jersey (49%) or DelMarVa (47%) coasts say they favor this idea a lot.

When it comes to building hard structures, New Jerseyans give the most support – 51% say they favor this idea a lot. Only 41% of New Yorkers and 40% of DelMarVans would give this policy a lot of support. However, there is another noteworthy split among Long Islanders on this issue, with those in the west (56%) being much more in favor of building jetties and seawalls than those in the east (29%).

There are no significant regional differences on the public purchase of private homes in high risk areas as a coastal policy. Fewer than 1-in-4 residents in all regions say they favor this idea “a lot”.

Building sand dunes and other natural buffers generate the strongest levels of support. The survey found that this support is sustained, even if it restricted ocean views. Overall, 72% of coastal residents would support building dunes to protect their towns even if views are restricted. Only 20% oppose this. Fully 3-in-4 (77%) waterfront property owners support this.



A key issue in the coastal hazards debate is who should pay for projects designed to reduce damage from these risks. About half (48%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say that government should carry most of the costs for these projects, 24% say the burden should mainly be carried by coastal property owners and 23% say that both government and property owners should share the costs equally.

Who Should Pay for Coastal Hazard Reduction				
<i>Who should pay for most of the cost for projects designed to reduce damage from storms and other coastal hazards – government or coastal property owners?</i>				
	Government	Coastal property owners	Both equally	Don't know
Total	48%	24%	23%	4%
<u>Region</u>				
--New York	45	27	25	3
--Long Island East	29	38	29	5
--Long Island West	64	14	20	2
--New Jersey	52	23	20	5
--New Jersey North	53	25	18	4
--New Jersey South	51	20	23	6
--DelMarVa	42	25	30	3
<u>Distance from Coast</u>				
--Waterfront	49	29	20	1
--A few blocks	53	21	22	4
--Farther away	42	26	26	5

There are few differences by state, with New Yorkers, New Jerseyans, and DelMarVans answering this question similarly. However, within New York, there is a clear split of opinion. On eastern Long Island, residents are more likely to say property owners (38%) rather than government (29%) should pay the cost of these projects. On western Long Island, residents overwhelmingly feel the public sector (64%) should shoulder more responsibility than property owners for this cost (14%).

On the topic of coastal hazards, the survey also asked residents about their flood and storm insurance coverage. Overall, 64% of homeowners and 26% of renters report carrying flood and storm insurance. Among homeowners who live within a few blocks of the ocean or bay, 74% report having this type of insurance coverage. This ranges from about 8-in-10 waterfront homeowners in Long Island West, New Jersey South and DelMarVar, to just over half in Long Island East and New Jersey North. The survey found that about 1-in-5 of these Mid-Atlantic coastal homeowners feel they might have to either drop their coverage or sell their home in the next ten years because of rising flood insurance premiums.

– Utilizing Coastal Energy Resources –

A majority of residents support placement of energy-generating wind farms off their coast, but are more likely to oppose efforts to allow drilling for oil or gas in the Atlantic Ocean. Specifically, 71% of residents say that, in principle, they would support placing energy-generating windmills off their coast that are not visible from the shoreline. Only 8% oppose this and 19% have no opinion either way. Support drops only slightly if those windmills would be visible – 57% would support this to 20% opposed and 21% who have no strong opinion either way. Support levels for wind farms are fairly similar in all regions surveyed, albeit slightly higher on Long Island East than Long Island West.

On the question of drilling for oil or gas off the Atlantic coast, only 33% of coastal residents would support this compared to 40% who are opposed and 24% who have no strong opinion. These low support levels are fairly similar in all regions surveyed.

Support for Using the Coastal Energy Resources			
<i>Would you support or oppose or do you have no opinion either way:</i>			
<i>-Placing electricity-generating windmills off your coast as long as they are not visible from the shoreline?</i>			
<i>-Placing these windmills off your coast if you could see them in the distance?</i>			
<i>-Drilling for oil or gas in the ocean off the Atlantic coast?</i>			
<i>Percentage saying "support":</i>	Non-visible windmills	Visible windmills	Drilling for oil and gas
Total	71%	57%	33%
<u>Region</u>			
--New York	71	57	35
--Long Island East	76	64	36
--Long Island West	66	50	33
--New Jersey	70	55	30
--New Jersey North	68	51	26
--New Jersey South	72	59	33
--DelMarVa	73	61	40
<u>Distance from Coast</u>			
--Waterfront	77	57	47
--A few blocks	72	58	28
--Farther away	67	55	32

APPENDIX:



The **Urban Coast Institute** (UCI) was established in September 2005 as one of Monmouth University's "Centers of Distinction."

UCI's mission is to serve the public interest as a forum for research, education, and collaboration in the development and implementation of science-based policies and programs that support stewardship of healthy, productive, and resilient coastal ecosystems and communities.

The UCI builds on the University's program in Marine and Environmental Biology and inter-departmental strengths in marine biology, environmental science, business, economics and real estate, public policy, and the arts and social sciences.

The UCI maintains a principal focus on the interactions between humans and the coastal and ocean environment, and sustainable coastal development along New Jersey's coasts and watersheds. Monmouth County and the New Jersey-New York region is an ideal "laboratory" for study of these issues.

The UCI has a unique focus on how good science can inform public policy and the "human dimensions" of coastal ecosystem-based management, including the impacts of human use and development on coasts.

The UCI seeks to foster collaboration among citizens, watershed and community organizations, governmental agencies, business, the scientific community, and other parties interested in coastal and watershed management, conservation, and restoration.

Contact the Urban Coast Institute

Tony MacDonald, Director

400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764

(732) 263-5392 • amacdona@monmouth.edu • www.monmouth.edu/urban_coast_institute



Monmouth University's Polling Institute is a full service research center that conducts surveys and focus group research for federal, state, and local agencies, and other organizations that cover social, political, and related issues of public policy. This is in addition to our mission of conducting public interest polls to track opinion on vital issues of the day.

The Polling Institute conducts needs assessments, program evaluations, agenda-setting studies, and research to gauge public reaction to issues, events, and campaigns. Research areas include media and communications, community needs and social services, education and youth, health, the environment, transportation, and image research.

The Institute's research capabilities include: large and small-scale survey projects; telephone, mail, and in-person interview designs; quantitative data analysis; and qualitative research techniques such as focus group facilitation and analysis.

Survey research is a reliable and cost-effective way to learn about policy-relevant attitudes and behaviors, either from the general population or a specified demographic group. The insights gained through high-quality survey research can be invaluable to policymakers charged with setting priorities, implementing new policies, and evaluating outcomes. Survey research is a particularly valuable tool when determining how to direct limited program resources where they will be most effective.

The Monmouth University Polling Institute's integrated approach to survey research ensures that policymakers get the best value from our research services. The Polling Institute's services are tailored to meet the research needs of each client's specific policy area.

Contact the Polling Institute

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Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire for this survey was drafted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute (MUPI) and Urban Coast Institute (UCI) research staff in consultation with research concerns raised by stakeholders from the affected states covered in the survey. The draft questionnaire was pretested with a random group coastal residents and modifications were made to the survey instrument in order to increase the understandability and accuracy of the questions asked.

A random probability sample was used to select Mid-Atlantic coastal community residents 18 years of age and older to participate in this study. The sample was divided into five coastal regions: New York East (Suffolk county), New York West (Nassau county), New Jersey North (Monmouth and Ocean counties), New Jersey South (Atlantic and Cape May counties), and DelMarVa (coastal portions of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia).¹ In order to statistically compare responses among regions, a separate sample of 170 residents was drawn for each of the five regions, creating a total sample of 850 residents.

The telephone sample was drawn by first selecting communities that geographically abut the Atlantic Ocean. Utilizing census tract information to map telephone coverage, the sample process first selected from among all the three-digit telephone exchanges that serve these communities. The remaining four digits of the sampled phone number were randomly generated. This procedure insures that those with unlisted or new telephone numbers were included in the sample. Each working phone number was called a minimum of five times, at different times of the week, in an effort to reach people who were infrequently at home.

¹ Due to its relatively small geographic size and unique urban quality, the coastal portion of Queens county in New York was not included in this study.

The questionnaire was programmed into a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system and the interviews were conducted by telephone June 7-28, 2007 by experienced professional interviewers at Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc.

The survey included questions to screen out respondents who did not live or maintain a primary home in these coastal communities. Thus, the final survey results represent the views of “permanent” residents of these communities.

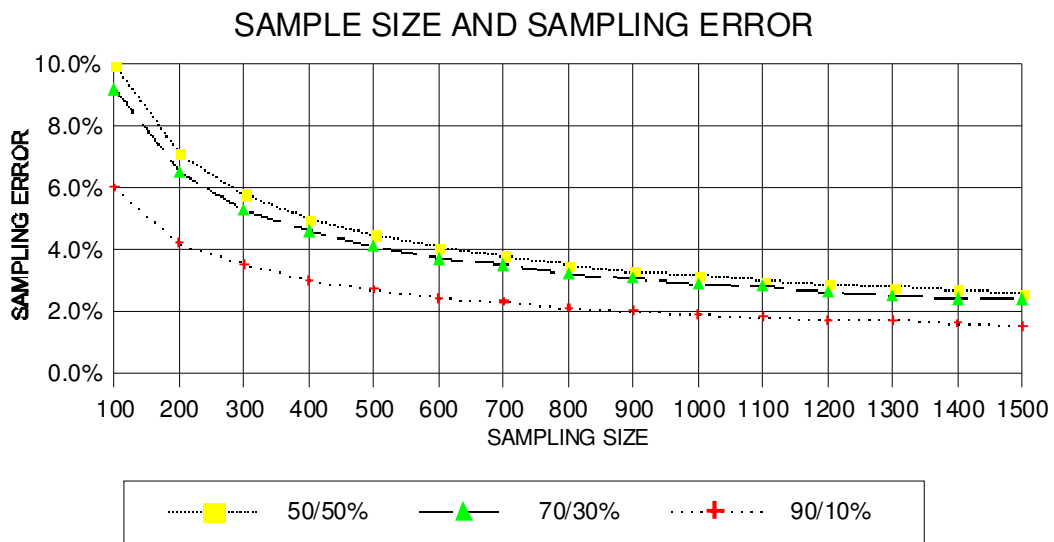
While those interviewed in a survey ideally will have the same characteristics as the population they represent, samples frequently may under-represent groups that are more difficult to interview, such as the elderly or those with less than a high school education. To correct this imbalance, a statistical technique known as "weighting" is used. The weighting procedure for this survey compared population figures for age and education based on census data with those of the sample and weighted the sample to more accurately reflect the population. For example, if census figures show 39 percent of residents 18 years and older have a high school education, and the sample consists of 32 percent with a high school education, each respondent in this category would be counted as 1.21 persons to adjust for this difference. This weighting system was applied within each of the five sample regions.

Since the survey sample was drawn disproportionately from each of the five regions, the final weighting step was to adjust the survey weight of each of the five regions to better represent their proportional share of the Mid-Atlantic coastal community population (as defined by this survey).

The percentages obtained in a sample survey are estimates of what the distribution of responses would be if the entire population had been surveyed. "Sampling error" is a statistical term which describes the probable difference between interviewing everyone in a given

population and a sample drawn from that population. For example, the sampling error associated with a sample of this size is ± 3.4 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus, if 47 percent in this sample are found to agree with a particular statement, the percentage of agreement within the population from which the sample was drawn would be between 43.6 and 50.4 percent (47 $\pm 3.4\%$) 95 times out of 100.

Sampling error increases as the sample size is reduced. For example, if statements are made based on a sub-group of 340 (as with the New York and New Jersey state samples), the sampling error is ± 5.3 percent. For percentages based on each of the five regions (n=170), the sampling error is ± 7.5 percent. This fact must be kept in mind when comparing the responses of different groups within the total sample. Readers should note that sampling error does not take into account other possible sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The following chart shows the relationship between sample size and sampling error.



SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast

*A 5-state survey of coastal
community residents*

[*Long Island, NY; New Jersey; DelMarVa*]

**June 7-28, 2007
(n=850)**



A. LIVING ON THE COAST

A1. Do you own or rent this apartment or house?

- 70% Own
- 26% Rent most of the year
- 4% Live year round, rent-free with family/friends

A2. Is this home a waterfront property right on the beach or bay, within a few blocks of the beach or bay, within one mile, within five miles, or farther away?

- 17% Front a beach or bay
- 46% Within a few blocks
- 22% Within one mile
- 14% Within five miles

A3. How much of the year do you live in this home – 10 to 12 months, 6 to 9 months, or less than 6 months?

- 82% 10 to 12 months
- 6% 6 to 9 months
- 10% Less than 6 months
- 3% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

A4. How many years have you lived in this town, or have you lived here all your life?

- 2% Less than 1 year
- 21% 1 to 5 years
- 15% 6 to 10 years
- 21% 11 to 20 years
- 24% More than 20 years
- 16% All my life
- 3% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

B. COASTAL COMMUNITY ISSUES

B1. Here are some issues that your town may have to deal with. After I read each one, please tell me whether it should be a high, medium, or low priority.

	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Improving public education	67%	18%	9%	5%
B. Controlling growth and development	54%	30%	11%	5%
C. Lowering taxes	66%	21%	8%	5%
D. Protecting the coastal and ocean environment	76%	16%	5%	3%
E. Reducing the risk to people and property from storms and other coastal hazards	56%	27%	10%	6%

B2. How much does the following statement describe you: "The coast and ocean is an important part of my life"? Does this describe you a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

60%	A lot
25%	Some
8%	Not much
6%	Not at all
1%	(VOL) Don't know/Ref

B3. Thinking specifically about environmental issues in your area, what is the number one issue affecting the coastal and ocean environment in your area?

29%	Beach/dune/shoreline erosion
1%	Loss of wetlands/vegetation
1%	Loss of wildlife
16%	Pollution on beaches/shoreline
17%	Water pollution/water quality
1%	Decline in fish/shellfish populations
2%	Air pollution
9%	Development/new construction on the waterfront
6%	Damage/threats from coastal storms
2%	Flooding
1%	Traffic/Tourists
1%	Global warming
1%	Non-point source pollution
2%	Other
9%	No answer/Don't know/Refused

B4. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious concern in your area?

	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Coastal and ocean water pollution	59%	21%	12%	5%	4%
B. The loss of wetlands and coastal habitats	47%	28%	13%	6%	6%
C. Sea level rise and increasing risk from storms	45%	26%	17%	8%	4%
D. A decline in fish and shellfish populations	48%	23%	11%	4%	14%
E. Housing is becoming less affordable	71%	19%	6%	3%	1%
F. Small-scale marine and fishing industries are disappearing	46%	27%	10%	9%	9%
G. The amount of development along the coast	58%	23%	10%	6%	4%
H. The revitalization of traditional downtowns and business areas	28%	33%	19%	12%	8%

B5. Thinking about the coastal waters and bays in your area, would you rate their health as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

13% Excellent
 51% Good
 25% Only fair
 6% Poor
 5% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

B6. Thinking about coastal habitats, beaches and natural shorelines in your area, would you rate their health as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

15% Excellent
 52% Good
 25% Only fair
 5% Poor
 4% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

B7. Compared to ten years ago, would you say the condition of your local coastal environment has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

27% Better
 31% Worse
 36% Same
 6% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

B8. And looking ahead to ten years from now, do you think the condition of your local coastal environment will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

- 26% Better
- 34% Worse
- 32% Same
- 8% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

C. COASTAL POLICY

C1. How good a job is government doing at each of the following. Please respond with excellent, good, only fair, poor, or tell me if you don't have an opinion on this.

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Keeping coastal and ocean waters clean	8%	35%	34%	16%	7%
B. Managing fish and other marine life	6%	25%	37%	15%	17%
C. Protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats	11%	32%	30%	19%	8%
D. Protecting coastal property from storm damage	6%	26%	34%	20%	13%
E. Managing growth and development in coastal communities	5%	21%	32%	33%	8%

C2. Would you support or oppose efforts to protect the coastal waters, shoreline, and beaches in your town if it meant you would have to pay more in local taxes?

- 60% Support
- 27% Oppose
- 9% (VOL) Depends
- 4% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

C3. Some reports predict that sea levels will rise substantially in the next 25 years and that many coastal areas will be in much greater risk from storm damage and flooding. Based on what you have heard, do you think that this risk is generally accurate, generally exaggerated, or generally underestimated?

- 52% Generally accurate
- 27% Generally exaggerated
- 13% Generally underestimated
- 7% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

C4. How much do you favor each of the following as a way to preserve coastal habitats and reduce storm damage in your area – a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Building bulkheads, jetties, seawalls and other hard structures	47%	29%	8%	11%	5%
B. Creating sand dunes and other natural buffers	58%	23%	7%	6%	6%
C. Replenishing sand when it is washed away	54%	25%	9%	8%	4%
D. Public purchase of existing natural coastal areas for preservation	52%	26%	8%	8%	7%
E. Public purchase of private homes located in high risk areas	22%	20%	15%	32%	10%

C5. Would you support or oppose building sand dunes and other natural features to protect your town's beaches, property, and people if it meant ocean views would be restricted?

72% Support
 20% Oppose
 5% (VOL) Depends
 4% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

C6. Who should pay for most of the cost for projects designed to reduce damage from storms and other coastal hazards – government OR coastal property owners?

48% Government
 24% Coastal property owners
 23% (VOL) Both equally
 4% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

C7. Now I'd like to ask you about access to waterfront areas or waterways adjacent to private property. When there is a dispute over how the public is allowed to gain access to these areas, who should have more say – residents who own the adjacent waterfront property OR government agencies representing the public interest?

41% Residents who own the adjacent waterfront property
 38% Government agencies representing the public interest
 15% (VOL) Both equally
 6% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

Some people have proposed using coastal resources to help meet our energy needs.

C8. Would you support or oppose placing electricity-generating windmills off your coast as long as they are NOT visible from the shoreline, or do you have no opinion either way?

- 71% Support
- 8% Oppose
- 19% No opinion either way
- 2% (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Ref

C8A. And would you support or oppose placing these windmills off your coast if you could see them in the distance, or do you have no opinion either way?

- 57% Support
- 20% Oppose
- 21% No opinion either way
- 2% (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Ref

C9. Would you support or oppose drilling for oil or gas in the ocean off the Atlantic coast, or do you have no opinion either way?

- 33% Support
- 40% Oppose
- 24% No opinion either way
- 3% (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Ref

D. PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

D1. I'm going to ask you about some activities people may do within five miles of their homes. In the past year, have you **[READ ITEM]** often, occasionally, rarely, or never.

	<u>Often</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Gone fishing, crabbing or clamming from a beach, pier or bulkhead	20%	20%	16%	43%	1%
B. Gone fishing or crabbing on a boat in coastal waters	23%	14%	15%	46%	2%
C. Taken a boat, canoe, kayak or jet-ski out for pleasure	26%	17%	14%	42%	1%
D. Gone swimming or surfing	41%	22%	11%	24%	1%
E. Gone sunbathing or walking along the shore or other natural area	58%	24%	6%	10%	2%

D2. Do you currently have flood and storm insurance for your home?

- 52% Yes
- 41% No
- 6% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

[ASKED OF THOSE WITH FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE; n=480]

D3. In the next ten years, do you think that you may have to either sell your home or drop flood insurance primarily because of the cost of that insurance?

- 9% Yes, may sell home
- 7% Yes, drop flood insurance
- 3% Yes, both
- 66% No, neither
- 14% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

E. DEMOGRAPHICS

Now just a few final questions so we can classify your answers --

E1. What was the last grade in school you completed?

- 1% 8th grade or less
- 6% High school incomplete (Grades 9, 10 and 11)
- 38% High school complete (Grade 12)
- 2% Vocational/Technical school
- 14% Some college
- 9% Junior college graduate (2 year, Associates Degree)
- 14% 4 –year college graduate (Bachelor's degree)
- 14% Graduate School (Masters degree, Law/Medical school, etc.)
- 2% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

E2. What was your age on your last birthday?

- 13% 18 - 29
- 20% 30 - 39
- 14% 40 - 49
- 21% 50 - 59
- 13% 60 - 69
- 17% 70 or over
- 2% (VOL) No answer/Refused

E3. How many people live in your household, including yourself?

- 17% One, live alone
- 33% Two
- 48% Three or more
- 1% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

E3A. How many are children under the age of 18?

33% One or more
66% None
1% (VOL) Don't know/Ref

E4. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin?

E5. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

79% White
9% Black
3% Asian
4% Hispanic
1% (VOL) Other
3% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

E6. So that we can group all answers, is your total annual family income before taxes:
Under \$50,000; from \$50,000 to just under \$100,000; from \$100,000 to just under
\$150,000; or \$150,000 or more?

25% Under \$50,000
27% \$50,000 - \$99,999
14% \$100,000 - 149,999
13% \$150,000 or more
4% (VOL) Don't Know
17% (VOL) Refused

E7. Respondent gender.

49% Male
51% Female

E8. Regional Distribution (*weighted*):

16% Long Island East
14% Long Island West
26% New Jersey North
29% New Jersey South
15% DelMarVa