

Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast 2017

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

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Released: December 5, 2017

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*This project was funded through a grant from
the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.*

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SUMMARY

Monmouth University, through the initiative and interdisciplinary resources of its Urban Coast Institute and Polling Institute, conducted a public opinion survey of coastal residents in the Mid-Atlantic region in the spring of 2017 on attitudes toward different aspects of a proposed Ocean Action Plan for the region. Because these institutes conducted a similar survey in 2009, this project is also able to track opinion changes among Mid-Atlantic coastal residents, particularly after a number of damaging storms hit this area including the Sandy disaster in 2012.

This unique study of coastal residents is one of three surveys on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan, including a survey of key regional stakeholders (Fall 2016) and a survey of all residents from six states that make up the region (Summer 2017). These surveys are part of a larger Urban Coast Institute project to support mapping and facilitate dialogue about ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region. It was made possible through the generous support of a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

The sample for the survey was divided into eight coastal regions: New York East (Suffolk coastal communities), New York West (Nassau), New Jersey North (Monmouth/Ocean), New Jersey South (Atlantic/Cape May), Delaware (Sussex), Maryland (Worcester), Virginia North (Accomack/Northampton) and Virginia South (Virginia Beach). A total of 1,005 permanent residents of coastal towns were interviewed by telephone from April 26 to May 31, 2017. The survey results have a $\pm 3.1\%$ margin of error.

– Coastal Community Life –

Most Mid-Atlantic coastal residents own their homes and many are long-time residents of their towns.

- *Almost three-quarters (74%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents own their homes. Half (48%) of coastal residents live a mile or more from the beach, 38% live within a few blocks of the beach, and 13% live on the water.*
- *A majority (51%) of coastal residents are long-time residents of their towns, living there for more than 20 years or their whole lives.*

Coastal residents take advantage of the activities their location provides them.

- *Nearly 9-in-10 residents (89%) have swum, sunbathed, or walked along the shore of beaches near their homes.*

- 58% have boated, canoed, kayaked, or jet-skied, and 51% have gone fishing, crabbing, or clamming in the waters near their homes.
- One-fifth of coastal residents own a boat.

– Community Issues and Coastal Awareness –

The vast majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say that protecting the coast should be a high priority for their towns. They also say that coastal and ocean water pollution and sea level rise and storms are very serious concerns.

- *Out of five issues that their towns might face, protecting the coastal and ocean environment is the issue that Mid-Atlantic coastal residents most often identify as a high priority for their towns (81% say it is a high priority). This is followed by improving public education (71% say it is a high priority), improving the local economy and creating jobs (65%), lowering taxes (60%), and controlling growth and development (50%).*
- *Nearly all coastal residents (95%) say the condition of the ocean and beaches are at least somewhat important to their local economies.*
- *Six-in-ten Mid-Atlantic coastal residents rate coastal and ocean water pollution (62%) and sea level rise and storms (60%) as very serious concerns, 53% say the same about the loss of wetlands and coastal habitats, and slightly under half say the amount of development along the coast (46%) and the disappearance of small-scale marine and fishing businesses (45%) are very serious concerns.*
- *Residents are much more concerned today about the threat of sea level rise and storm risks than in 2009 (+19 points to 60% saying it is a very serious concern), with all states except Maryland experiencing a double-digit increase.*

Most residents have some knowledge about coastal and ocean issues in their local communities and recognize the impact the quality of ocean ecosystems can have in four different areas.

- *74% of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say they know at least some about local coastal environment issues and 73% recognize that what happens along their coast affects the coasts of other states.*
- *76% of coastal residents say the quality of ocean ecosystems is very important for protecting the global environment, 69% say it is very important for growing the local economies of coastal communities, 61% say it is very important for maintaining strong national security, and 59% say it is very important for developing new sources of energy.*

– Coastal Policy –

Mid-Atlantic coastal residents tend to give the government poor marks on its handling of coastal issues. They say they are willing to pay more in taxes in order to protect coastal waters, and they believe it is important for the government to maintain a database with information about the health of the ocean.

- *Four-in-ten coastal residents (39%) say the government is doing an excellent or good job protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats. About one-third say the government is doing*

an excellent or good job managing fish and other marine life (32%) and collecting data that tracks the health of the ocean's ecosystem (31%). Slightly under a third (28%) say the same about the government's efforts to manage growth and development in coastal communities.

- *Residents from northern Virginia, southern New Jersey, and Maryland tend to be slightly more positive about the government's efforts to protect coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats and manage fish and other marine life, with roughly 40-50% saying the government is doing an excellent or good job.*
- *Opinion is split on current efforts to protect local waters and beaches. Almost half of coastal residents (48%) say efforts are about right, but 42% say they are too little. Very few residents (5%) feel efforts are too much.*
- *Coastal residents of Maryland and Virginia are most likely to say efforts to protect local waters and beaches are about right (59%), while coastal residents of New York (47%) and New Jersey (45%) are most likely to say efforts are too little.*
- *A majority (68%) of residents say they are willing to pay more in taxes to protect the coastal waters, shoreline, and beaches in their towns.*
- *67% of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say it is very important for government to collect information and maintain databases on the health of the oceans, while another 24% say this is somewhat important.*

Opinions are mixed about how much input into coastal management decisions the federal government gives various stakeholders. Support for off-shore energy production has declined since 2009, and residents are generally supportive of certain restrictions placed on areas of the ocean.

- *Just under half (47%) of coastal residents say the government does not give enough input to state and local officials or local fishing and marine industries into decisions about managing the ocean. About a third (36%) say the federal government does not give the mining and energy industries enough input into these decisions.*
- *72% of coastal residents say they would support placing electricity-generating windmills off the coast as long as they are not visible from the shoreline, 52% would support visible windmills, and only 22% would support off-shore oil and gas drilling.*
- *Almost 6-in-10 residents (63%) would support designating certain areas of the ocean where fishing would be restricted, and 78% would support such restrictions on oil and gas drilling.*

– Climate Change –

The vast majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents believe in climate change. They are split on how prepared they think their towns are for sea level rise and storm risks.

- *83% of coastal residents believe in climate change compared to 15% who do not.*
- *48% of coastal residents believe climate change has hurt their local fishing industries.*
- *Roughly three-quarters of coastal residents believe reports of future sea level rise and storm and flood damage are either accurate (59%) or underestimated (15%), but 23% say they are exaggerated.*

- *36% of coastal residents say human activity is the main cause of climate change, 19% say natural changes are the main cause, and 42% say both are equally to blame. Coastal residents in Virginia are least likely to say human activity is the main cause of climate change (19% say this) but most likely to say climate change and natural changes are equally to blame (61%).*
- *57% of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say their communities are prepared to deal with the threats of sea level rise and coastal storms, while 40% say their towns are not prepared.*
- *Besides the 18% who already say their communities are very prepared for the threats of sea level rise and storms, 42% of coastal residents say it is possible to be prepared, 21% say it is not possible, and 19% say they are not sure.*

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I. Introduction

Monmouth University, through the initiative and interdisciplinary resources of its Urban Coast Institute and Polling Institute, conducted a public opinion survey of coastal residents in the Mid-Atlantic region in the spring of 2017 on attitudes toward different aspects of a proposed Ocean Action Plan for the region. Because these institutes conducted a similar survey in 2009, this project is also able to track opinion changes among Mid-Atlantic coastal residents, particularly after a number of damaging storms hit this area including the Sandy disaster in 2012.

This unique study of coastal residents is one of three surveys on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan, including a survey of key regional stakeholders (Fall 2016) and a survey of all residents from six states that make up the region (Summer 2017). These surveys are part of a larger Urban Coast Institute project to support mapping and facilitate dialogue about ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region. It was made possible through the generous support of a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Environmental science has long recognized that coastal and ocean environments are, by their nature, interrelated. However, policy implementation is sometimes constrained by the concerns and priorities of local communities. A 2007 Monmouth University survey effort was the first to systematically measure similarities and differences in public attitudes toward ocean issues among residents who live in Mid-Atlantic coastal communities. This was followed up by a larger study in 2009. Establishing a grounded understanding of local concerns and public opinion on critical ocean issues can help policymakers effectively develop targeted strategies for working with local populations and government entities to advance regional solutions.

The sample for the survey was divided into eight coastal regions: New York East (Suffolk coastal communities), New York West (Nassau), New Jersey North (Monmouth/Ocean), New Jersey South (Atlantic/Cape May), Delaware (Sussex), Maryland (Worcester), Virginia North (Accomack/Northampton) and Virginia South (Virginia Beach).¹ In order to statistically compare responses among regions, a unique sample was drawn for each region; 150 coastal residents for each of the four New York and New Jersey regions and approximately 100 each for the remaining four regions, creating a total sample of 1,005 residents. Interviews were conducted by telephone from April 26 to May 31, 2017. Results for the total sample have a statistical margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$.

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 survey sample was drawn to reflect the views of permanent residents who live in communities that geographically touch the Atlantic Ocean. The survey covered the relative priority of coastal and ocean issue concerns in local communities; evaluations of the coastal and ocean environment; assessments of government performance in protecting the coast and ocean; and opinions on different coastal and ocean policy issues, including climate change and ocean-related energy resources.

The survey was designed and analyzed by the Monmouth University Polling Institute, Patrick Murray, Director, and Carolyn Lau, Research Associate. The overall project effort was directed by Tony MacDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University. 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 describes the demographic composition of Mid-Atlantic coastal communities as well as the ocean-related activities residents engage in.

Key Findings:

- Almost three-quarters (74%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents own their homes. Half (48%) of coastal residents live a mile or more from the beach, 38% live within a few blocks of the beach, and 13% live on the water.
- A majority (51%) of coastal residents are long-time residents of their towns, living there for more than 20 years or their whole lives.
- The vast majority (84%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are white.
- Nearly 9-in-10 residents have swum, sunbathed, or walked along the shore of beaches near their homes. Almost 6-in-10 have boated, canoed, kayaked, or jet-skied, and half have gone fishing, crabbing, or clamming in the waters near their homes.
- One-fifth of coastal residents own a boat.

– Coastal Demographics –

Most Mid-Atlantic coastal residents own their homes (74%), roughly the same percentage as in 2009 (77%). Thirteen percent of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents live on the waterfront (either on a beach or a bay), about the same as in 2009. They are less likely to live within a few blocks of the beach today than in 2009 (38% vs. 46%) and are more likely to live a mile or more from the beach today (48% vs. 39%). Slightly over half of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (51%) have lived

in their towns for more than 20 years or for their entire lives, 32% have lived in their towns for 6-20 years, and 17% have lived there for five years or less. This distribution is similar to what it was in 2009.

Forty- to fifty-nine-year-olds make up the largest portion of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (38%), followed by people 60 or older (34%) and people 18-39 (27%). Delaware has a particularly large older population, with half (50%) of its coastal residents age 60 or older. Only a quarter (25%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents have children under the age of 18 in their households, a drop of five points from 2009.

The majority of coastal residents are white (84%), ranging from 77% of coastal residents in Virginia to 91% of coastal residents in New York. There is a roughly even split among coastal residents with a high school education or less (33%), some college (30%), or a college degree (36%). Residents of these coastal communities come from a variety of economic backgrounds but tend to earn higher incomes, with 28% earning a household income of less than \$50,000, 27% earning from \$50,000 to just under \$100,000, and 35% earning \$100,000 or more. The percentage of residents in the highest income group increased ten points from 2009.

– Coastal Residents' Activities –

The survey asked Mid-Atlantic coastal residents whether they had participated in a variety of recreational activities within five miles of their homes in the past year. Most coastal residents (89%) report having swum, walked, or sunbathed near their home, which is nearly the same percentage as eight years ago (90%). These are popular activities in all states, with the lowest percentage engaging in these activities at 82% in Virginia and the highest at 93% in Delaware.

Almost 6-in-10 residents (58%) have boated, canoed, kayaked, or jet-skied near their homes in the past year, ranging from 52% of coastal residents in Delaware to 63% of coastal residents in New York. There has been a significant increase in the percentage of residents reporting these activities, up eight points from 50% in 2009, driven by large increases in New York (from 52% in 2009 to 63% in 2017) and New Jersey (from 47% in 2009 to 57% in 2017).

Half of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (51%) report fishing, crabbing, or clamming, exhibiting no change from 2009. New Jerseyans are least likely to report doing these activities (47%) while residents from coastal Maryland are most likely to report them (63%).

Men are more likely to report engaging in all of the aforementioned activities than women. There is an especially large jump in the number of men saying they have boated, canoed, kayaked, or jet-skied (from 55% in 2009 to 70% in 2017). In addition, younger people tend to be more likely to engage in these activities than people 60 or older.

One-fifth of coastal residents in Mid-Atlantic states own a boat, including 14% who own motorboats, 5% who own non-motor boats, and 1% who own both types of boats.

Coastal Activities						
<i>Have you done any of the following activities within five miles of your home in the past year?</i>						
	Swim, walk, sunbathe		Boat, canoe, kayak, jet-ski		Fish, crab, clam	
	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009
Total	89%	90%	58%	50%	51%	51%
<u>Region</u>						
New York	89	87	63	52	52	47
New Jersey	90	94	57	47	47	50
Delaware	93	85	52	54	52	53
Maryland	87	91	60	65	63	61
Virginia	82	85	56	55	56	59
<u>Distance from Coast</u>						
Waterfront	84	91	67	59	51	63
A few blocks	93	93	58	51	50	49
Farther away	86	86	56	46	52	48
<u>Age</u>						
18 to 39	90	95	69	55	58	55
40 to 59	92	92	65	59	55	57
60 and older	84	83	42	36	41	39
<u>Gender</u>						
Male	93	93	70	55	63	59
Female	85	88	48	45	41	43

III. Community Issues and Coastal Awareness

This section covers the priority Mid-Atlantic coastal residents place on a number of issues affecting their towns as well as their concerns about specific coastal issues. It also addresses coastal residents' awareness of coastal environmental issues, the interconnectedness of the coasts of Mid-Atlantic states, and the importance of ocean ecosystems.

Key Findings:

- Out of five issues that their towns might face, protecting the coastal and ocean environment is the issue that Mid-Atlantic coastal residents most often identify as a high priority for their towns (81% say it is a high priority). This is followed by improving public education (71% say it is a high priority), improving the local economy and creating jobs (65%), lowering taxes (60%), and controlling growth and development (50%).
- Nearly all coastal residents say the condition of the ocean and beaches are at least somewhat important to their local economies.

- Six-in-ten Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say coastal and ocean water pollution and sea level rise and storms as very serious concerns, just over half say the same about the loss of wetlands and coastal habitats, and slightly under half say the amount of development along the coast and the disappearance of small-scale marine and fishing businesses are very serious concerns.
- Residents are much more concerned today about the threat of sea level rise and storm risks than in 2009 (+19 points to 60% saying it is a very serious concern), with all states except Maryland experiencing a double-digit increase.
- Three-quarters of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say they know at least some about local coastal environment issues. Roughly the same proportion recognize that what happens along their coast affects the coasts of other states.
- Seventy-six percent of coastal residents say the the quality of ocean ecosystems is very important for protecting the global environment, 69% say it is very important for growing the local economies of coastal communities, 61% say it is very important for maintaining strong national security, and 59% say it is very important for developing new sources of energy.

– Priority Issues for Coastal Communities –

Residents were asked about the priority they place on five issues that their towns might face. Out of the five issues, protecting the coastal and ocean environment is deemed a high priority by the greatest percentage of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (81%), followed by improving public education (71%), improving the local economy and creating jobs (65%), lowering taxes (60%), and controlling growth and development (50%). Compared to 2009, two of these issue areas saw increases in the percentage of residents saying they are high priorities - education (+7 points) and the coastal and ocean environment (+5 points). There was a decrease in concern for the remaining three issues – the economy and jobs (-4 points), taxes (-5 points), and growth and development (-6 points).

Protecting the coastal and ocean environment is the highest-rated priority for all states except Virginia, where it is virtually tied with improving public education (78% say public education is a high priority vs. 76% who say the same of protecting the ocean). Coastal residents of Delaware are most concerned about the coastal and ocean environment (86% say that protecting it is a high priority), compared with 82% in New Jersey and New York, 80% in Maryland, and 76% in Virginia. This was also the top issue in 2009, but its importance grew at varying rates in the Mid-Atlantic states. Specifically, New Jersey saw an eight-point increase since 2009, Maryland saw a five-point increase, Delaware saw a four-point increase, and Virginia saw a three-point increase. There was no change overall in New York.

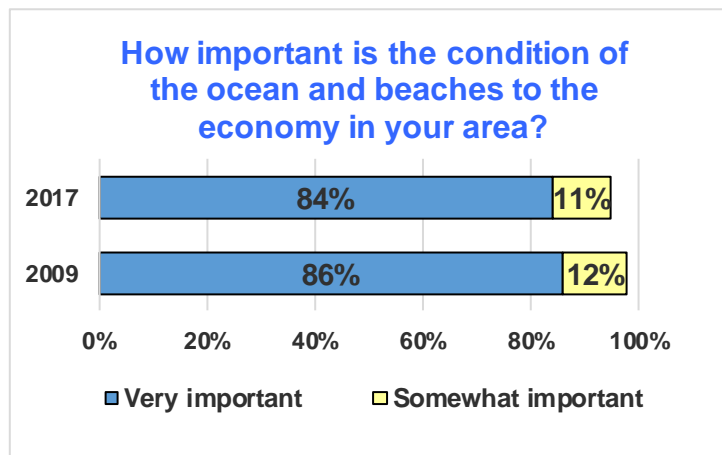
High Priority Issues for Your Town

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.

Percentage saying "high priority":	Protecting the coastal and ocean environment		Improving public education		Improving the local economy and creating jobs		Lowering taxes		Controlling growth and development	
	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009
Total	81%	76%	71%	64%	65%	69%	60%	65%	50%	56%
Region										
New York	82	82	68	65	59	69	59	70	54	59
New Jersey	82	74	72	62	70	68	70	69	48	56
Delaware	86	82	62	62	47	66	19	42	67	68
Maryland	80	75	62	51	64	73	49	65	48	56
Virginia	76	73	78	76	71	74	45	47	46	49
Distance from Coast										
Waterfront	82	74	77	56	65	61	56	66	44	49
A few blocks	85	79	68	66	59	67	63	67	46	59
Farther away	77	74	72	66	70	75	59	63	56	56

– Coastal Concerns –

Most Mid-Atlantic coastal residents recognize the importance of the condition of the ocean and beaches to their local economies. Eighty-four percent say it is very important, ranging from 81% in New York to 96% in Delaware. Eleven percent say it is somewhat important and only 4% say it is not too important. There is very little change in these numbers since 2009.



The survey also included questions about the seriousness of five issues especially relevant to coastal residents. Six-in-ten Mid-Atlantic coastal residents rate coastal and ocean water pollution (62%) and sea level rise and storms (60%) as very serious concerns. Just over half (53%) of coastal residents say the loss of wetlands and coastal habitats is a very serious concern, and slightly under half say the amount of development along the coast (46%) and the disappearance of small-scale marine and fishing businesses (45%) are very serious concerns.

There was a large increase in those saying sea level rise and storm risks are very serious concerns, up 19 points from just 41% in 2009. In fact, whereas coastal residents were least

concerned about sea level rise in 2009, it is nearly tied for first place today. Residents of coastal New Jersey are most concerned about sea level rise and storms (67% say these are very serious concerns) and residents of coastal Maryland are least concerned (46% say these are very serious concerns). All of the states except Maryland saw a double-digit increase in concern from 2009, led by a 41-point jump in northern New Jersey up to 73%, a 23-point increase in Virginia Beach up to 55%, a 21-point increase in Delaware up to 60%, and a 20-point increase on western Long Island up to 70%.

There were more modest increases of five to six points in concern about coastal and ocean water pollution and the loss of wetlands and coastal habitats. Concern about coastal and ocean water pollution ranges from 48% of coastal residents in Maryland and Delaware saying it is a very serious concern to 69% in New Jersey. The increase in concern since 2009 was driven by respondents from northern New Jersey (+10 points to 74%) and Virginia (+13 points to 58%), especially those on the northern Virginia coast (+15 points to 54%). In addition, the loss of wetlands and coastal habitats is rated as a very serious concern by 47% of coastal residents in Virginia and Maryland and up to 62% of coastal residents in New York. There was minimal change in concern for the loss of wetlands since 2009 except in New York, where concern increased 17 points.

The percentage of residents rating the amount of development along the coast as a serious concern is basically the same as eight years ago across the Mid-Atlantic as a whole. Those saying it is a very serious concern ranges from 33% of Virginia's coastal residents to 61% of Delaware's coastal residents. The most notable change occurred in Maryland where those rating coastal development as a serious concern dropped by 15 points since 2009 to 34%.

The disappearance of small-scale marine and fishing businesses is a new question in 2017, so there is no comparison to 2009. This issue is of most concern to residents on the northern Virginia coast (70% say it is a very serious concern) and on eastern Long Island (61%). In contrast, only 27% of residents on the Delaware coast say it is a very serious concern.

Coastal Concerns of Local Communities

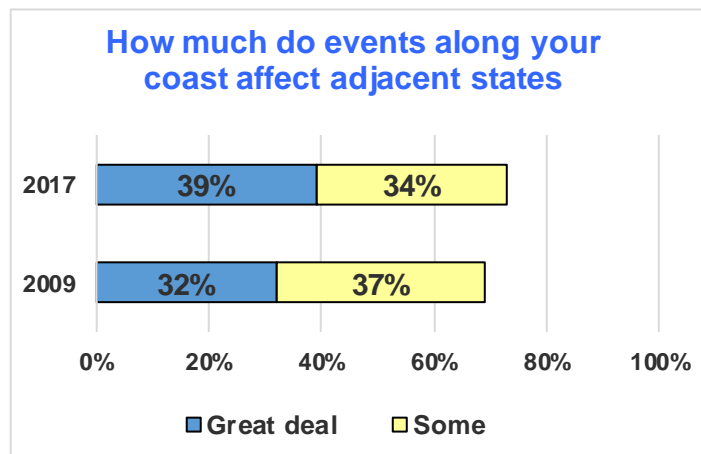
Please tell me if you think each of the following is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious concern in your area.

Percentage saying "very serious":	Coastal & ocean water pollution		Sea level rise & increasing risk from storms		Loss of wetlands & coastal habitats		Amount of development along the coast		Disappearance of small-scale marine & fishing businesses	
	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009
	Total	62%	57%	60%	41%	53%	47%	46%	47%	45%
<u>Region</u>										
New York	58	58	59	49	62	45	51	44	52	--
New Jersey	69	61	67	39	49	48	46	49	41	--
Delaware	48	52	60	39	52	59	61	56	27	--
Maryland	48	50	46	37	47	48	34	49	42	--
Virginia	58	45	48	34	47	45	33	40	51	--
<u>Distance from Coast</u>										
Waterfront	67	49	70	38	47	43	39	47	42	--
A few blocks	60	60	62	44	52	52	43	46	39	--
Farther away	61	56	56	38	56	43	49	47	52	--

– Awareness and Connections –

Overall, 74% of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say they know a great deal or some about local coastal environment issues, virtually the same as in 2009 (75%). Eight years ago the percentage of coastal residents saying they knew a great deal or some about these issues was very similar in all of the Mid-Atlantic states, ranging from 72% in New York and Delaware to 78% in Virginia. Today there is more variation in the states, with a low of 68% of New Jersey's coastal residents saying they know a great deal or some about coastal environment issues to a high of 89% of Maryland's coastal residents. Virginia (75%), New York (80%), and Delaware (83%) fall in the middle.

Roughly three-quarters of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (73%) acknowledge that what happens on their local coast has a great deal or some impact on the coast of other states in the region. This is a slight increase from eight years ago when 69% said the same thing. The 2017 results range from 65% of Delaware's coastal residents saying events along their coast have a great deal or some impact on other



states in the region to 75% of coastal residents in Maryland and Virginia saying this. Interestingly, the results were flipped in 2009, when coastal residents of Delaware (75%) were most likely to say events on their coast had a impact on other states and coastal residents of Virginia (67%) and Maryland (69%) were least likely to say there was an impact. However, these state-level changes are not statistically significant.

The vast majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say the quality of the ocean ecosystems is at least somewhat important in four different areas, with 6-in-10 or more saying it is very important. Specifically, a majority of coastal residents recognize that the quality of ocean ecosystems is very important for protecting the global environment (76% overall), ranging from 70% in Virginia to 84% in Delaware. Sixty-nine percent of coastal residents say the quality of ocean ecosystems is very important for growing the local economies of coastal communities. Responses range from 61% of Virginia’s coastal residents saying ocean ecosystems are very important for this task to 73% in Delaware. In addition, 61% of coastal residents deem the quality of ocean ecosystems very important for maintaining strong national security. Residents along Maryland’s coast are least likely to say it is very important (55%) and those in Virginia are most likely to say so (66%). It is interesting to note that the largest percentage saying the quality of ocean ecosystems is very important for national security (72%) comes from Virginia Beach, home to the world’s largest naval station, Naval Station Norfolk. Finally, 59% of coastal residents say the quality of ocean ecosystems is very important for developing new sources of energy, ranging from 54% in New Jersey to 65% in New York.

Ocean Ecosystems				
<i>How important is the quality of the ocean ecosystems for:</i>				
<i>Percentage saying "very important":</i>	Protecting the global environment	Growing the local economies of coastal communities	Maintaining strong national security	Developing new sources of energy
Total	76%	69%	61%	59%
<u>Region</u>				
New York	78	71	62	65
New Jersey	75	70	59	54
Delaware	84	73	63	62
Maryland	74	64	55	56
Virginia	70	61	66	61
<u>Distance from Coast</u>				
Waterfront	74	69	69	59
A few blocks	77	69	62	54
Farther away	75	68	57	63

IV. Coastal Policy

This section includes coastal residents' assessments of government performance on a variety of coastal issues and discusses the input given to various ocean stakeholders. Support for policies that protect the ocean are examined along with opinions on different coastal energy resource policies.

Key Findings:

- Overall, Mid-Atlantic coastal residents give the government poor marks on its handling of four coastal issues. Four-in-ten say the government is doing an excellent or good job protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats. About one-third say the government is doing an excellent or good job managing fish and other marine life and collecting data that tracks the health of the ocean's ecosystem. Slightly under a third say the same about the government's efforts to manage growth and development in coastal communities.
- Residents from northern Virginia, southern New Jersey, and Maryland tend to be slightly more positive about the government's efforts to protect coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats and manage fish and other marine life, with roughly 40-50% saying the government is doing an excellent or good job.
- Opinion is split on current efforts to protect local waters and beaches. Almost half of coastal residents say efforts are about right, but 4-in-10 say they are too little. Very few residents feel efforts are too much.
- Coastal residents of Maryland and Virginia are most likely to say efforts to protect local waters and beaches are about right, while coastal residents of New York and New Jersey are most likely to say efforts are too little.
- A majority (68%) of residents say they are willing to pay more in taxes to protect the coastal waters, shoreline, and beaches in their towns.
- Two-thirds of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say it is very important for government to collect information and maintain databases on the health of the oceans, while another quarter say this is somewhat important.
- Just under half of coastal residents say the government does not give enough input to state and local officials or local fishing and marine industries into decisions about managing the ocean. About a third say the federal government does not give the mining and energy industries enough input into these decisions.
- Support for off-shore energy production has declined since 2009. Seven-in-ten coastal residents say they would support placing electricity-generating windmills off the coast as long as they are not visible from the shoreline, but only half would support visible windmills. Only a fifth of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents would support off-shore oil and gas drilling, down from nearly half in 2009.
- Almost 6-in-10 residents would support designating certain areas of the ocean where fishing would be restricted, and almost 8-in-10 would support such restrictions on oil and gas drilling.

– Assessing Government Efforts –

Residents of Mid-Atlantic coastal communities have largely negative views of the government's handling of four coastal issues. Roughly 4-in-10 residents (39%) say the government is doing an excellent or good job protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats, a seven-point drop since 2009. Meanwhile, over half (53%) say the government is doing a fair or poor job. Residents also give the government poor marks on managing fish and other marine life, with only a third (32%) saying the government is doing an excellent or good job, about the same percentage as eight years ago (35%).

Despite the largely negative ratings, some states are more positive than others. On the issue of protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats, half of the coastal residents from northern Virginia (47%), southern New Jersey (51%), and Maryland (52%), say the government is doing an excellent or good job, whereas only a third of coastal residents of the other Mid-Atlantic regions say the same. Similarly, residents of southern New Jersey (41%), Maryland (44%), and northern Virginia (46%) say the government is doing an excellent or good job managing fish and other marine life, but the other Mid-Atlantic regions give lower ratings, ranging from a quarter to a third saying the government is doing an excellent or good job.

A third of coastal residents (31%) rate the government's efforts at collecting data that tracks the health of the ocean ecosystem as excellent or good. This number ranges from 27% in New York to 50% in Maryland. A plurality (40%) say the government is doing only a fair or poor job, and 28% say they don't know or have no opinion on the matter.

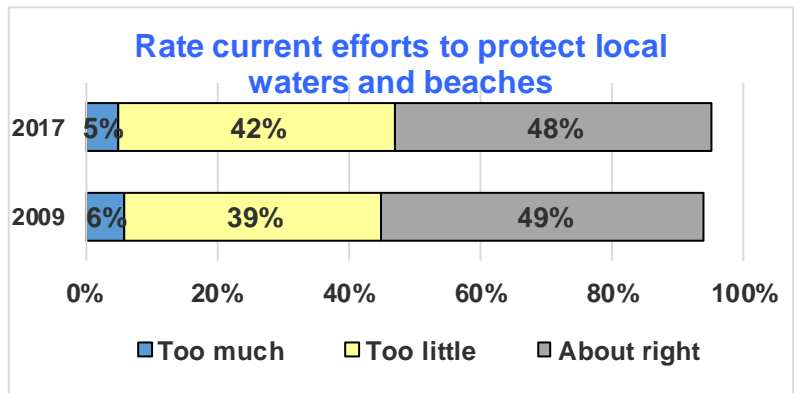
Out of the four coastal issues addressed in this question, Mid-Atlantic coastal residents give the poorest marks on the government's ability to manage growth and development in coastal communities. Only 28% of residents say the government is doing an excellent or good job, nearly the same as in 2009 (29%). Coastal residents in New York are least likely to say the government is doing an excellent or good job (24%) and residents of coastal Virginia are most likely to say this (36%). A majority (61%) of residents say the government is doing only a fair or poor job.

Government Performance on Coastal Issues

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.

Percentage saying "excellent" or "good":	Protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats		Managing fish and other marine life		Collecting data that tracks the health of the ocean's ecosystem		Managing growth and development in coastal communities	
	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009
Total	39%	46%	32%	35%	31%	n/a	28%	29%
<u>Region</u>								
New York	33	44	25	29	27	--	24	31
New Jersey	41	48	33	36	31	--	28	28
Delaware	34	36	33	36	41	--	25	20
Maryland	52	58	44	55	50	--	34	30
Virginia	40	41	40	40	32	--	36	29
<u>Distance from Coast</u>								
Waterfront	34	44	28	41	28	--	31	30
A few blocks	41	48	32	34	32	--	30	34
Farther away	38	45	34	34	32	--	26	23

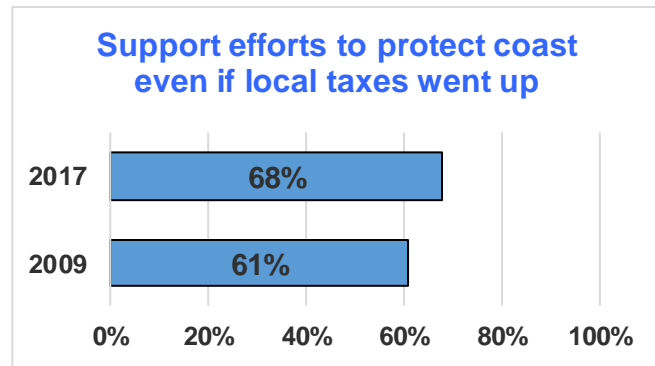
Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are split on whether current efforts to protect local waters and beaches are about right (48%) or too little (42%), but very few say the efforts are too much (5%). These percentages show very little change from 2009, when 49% of residents said efforts were about right, 39% said they were too little, and 6% said they were too much.



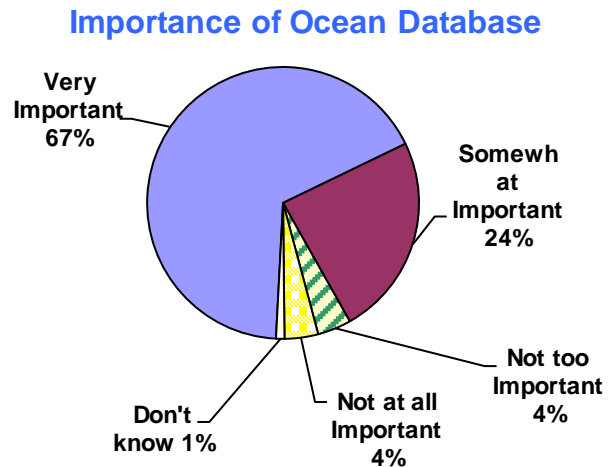
Coastal residents of Maryland and Virginia are most likely to say efforts are about right (59%), while coastal residents of New York are least likely to say this (40%). Virginia was actually tied with New York for least likely to say efforts were about right in 2009 (44%), but Virginia has since experienced a 15-point increase.

Coastal residents of New York (47%) and New Jersey (45%) are most likely to say efforts to protect local waters and beaches are too little, Delaware falls in the middle at 39%, and coastal residents of Virginia (30%) and Maryland (29%) are least likely to say this. There was an eight-point increase from 2009 in New Jerseyans who said efforts were too little and a 13-point drop in Virginians who said the same.

Residents are more supportive now than they were eight years ago regarding efforts to protect coastal waters, shoreline, and beaches in their towns even if it means they would have to pay more in local taxes. Support stands at 68% today compared to 61% in 2009. Residents of coastal Delaware show the most support (74%), followed by New York (71%), New Jersey (68%), Maryland (66%), and Virginia (62%). The order of states has changed since 2009, when New York and New Jersey were least supportive of potential tax increases to protect the coast. In fact, there was an 18-point increase in support from New Yorkers. While the survey did not directly measure the reasons for this change, it is worth noting that these two states' coasts were particularly hard hit by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.



Coastal residents also recognize the importance of having an ocean database. One objective of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan is to create a database tracking information about the ocean along the coasts of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. When asked how important it is for the government to collect information about the health of the ocean and maintain it in a database, 67% of residents say it is very important, 24% say it is somewhat important, and 8% say it is not important. Residents in New York are most likely to say collecting this information about ocean health is very important (73%) and residents in coastal Maryland are least likely to say the same (59%). About two-thirds of coastal residents in Delaware (67%), Virginia (65%), and New Jersey (64%) agree that it is very important.



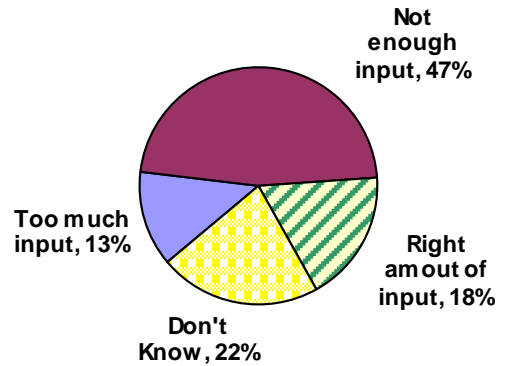
– Input into Decision Making –

Respondents were asked a series of questions about how much input they feel the federal government gives various entities into decisions about managing the ocean. A plurality of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (47%) say not enough input is given to state and local officials, 18% say the input is the right amount, 13% say the input is too much, and 22% say they don't know. There is no significant regional variation in the percentage of residents who say the input is not enough, ranging from 45% in Maryland to 49% in New York.

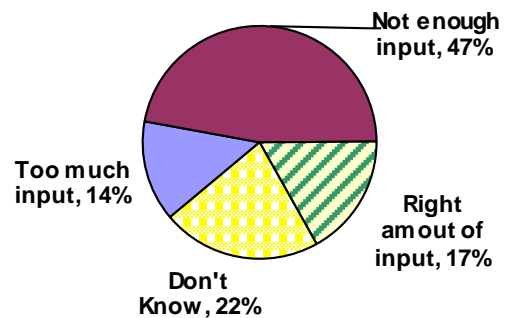
Opinions about the input given to local fishing and marine industries are nearly the same as opinions given about the input from state and local officials. Forty-seven percent of residents believe the federal government does not give local fishing and marine industries enough input into decisions about how to manage the ocean, 17% say they have the right amount of input, 14% say they have too much input, and 22% say they don't know. There are no significant differences by state in the percentage of coastal residents who say local fishing and marine industries do not get enough input.

Roughly one-third of coastal residents (36%) say the federal government does not give the mining and energy industries enough input into decisions about ocean management. Twenty-three percent say the mining and energy industries have too much input, 15% say they have the right amount of input, and 22% say they don't know. Coastal New Yorkers (39%) and New Jerseyans (38%) are somewhat more likely to say these industries do not have enough input compared to residents

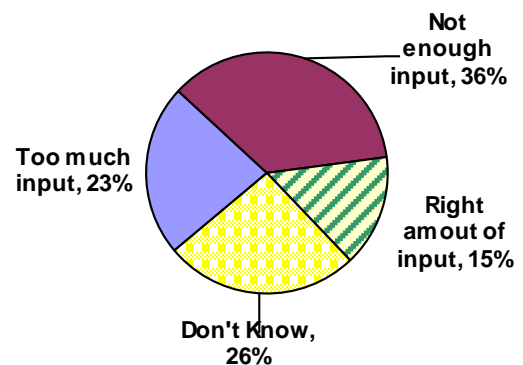
State and local government input



Local fishing and marine industry input



Mining and energy industry input



of coastal Maryland (24%). Coastal residents of Virginia (32%) and Delaware (31%) fall in between these extremes.

– Utilizing Coastal Energy Resources –

Support for off-shore energy production has declined since 2009, although a majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents still support placing wind farms off their coast while very few support drilling for oil and gas. Seventy-two percent of coastal residents say they would support placing electricity-generating windmills off the coast as long as they are not visible from the shoreline, down 10 points from eight years ago. Coastal residents of New York are most likely to support non-visible windmills (80%), followed by Maryland (77%), Delaware (74%), New Jersey (68%), and Virginia (64%). All states except New York decreased their support for non-visible windmills by 14-19 points since 2009. There was actually a small increase in support for these windmills in New York (+3 points).

Residents are less supportive of windmills that can be seen on the shoreline, with a slight majority supporting them (52%). This is a decrease of 15 points since 2009. Less than half of coastal residents in Maryland (38%) and Virginia (44%) support visible windmills while over half of coastal residents in New Jersey (53%), Delaware (54%), and New York (57%) support them. All states decreased their support for visible windmills over the past eight years, ranging from a 6-point drop in New York to a 32-point drop in Maryland.

The least popular option for off-shore energy production is oil and gas drilling. Only 22% of coastal residents say they would support it, ranging from a low of 13% in Delaware to slightly under a third in Maryland (29%). These numbers stand in stark contrast to support in 2009, when almost half (46%) of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents supported off-shore oil and gas drilling. The lowest level of support in 2009 lay at 37% in New York and went as high as 65% in Maryland. All states showed a double-digit decrease in support over the past eight years, with Delaware showing the greatest change of 39 points from 52% in 2009.

Support for Using the Coastal Energy Resources

Would you support or oppose or do you have no opinion either way:

-Placing electricity-generating windmills off your coast as long as they are not visible from the shoreline?

-Placing these windmills off your coast if you could see them in the distance?

-Drilling for oil or gas in the ocean off the Atlantic coast?

Percentage saying "support":	Non-visible windmills		Visible windmills		Drilling for oil and gas	
	2017	2009	2017	2009	2017	2009
Total	72%	82%	52%	67%	22%	46%
<u>Region</u>						
New York	80	77	57	63	22	37
New Jersey	68	83	53	69	21	51
Delaware	74	90	54	82	13	52
Maryland	77	91	38	70	29	65
Virginia	64	83	44	65	26	42
<u>Distance from Coast</u>						
Waterfront	69	81	50	64	22	50
A few blocks	73	82	53	66	22	48
Farther away	72	83	51	69	22	43

A majority of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents support designating certain areas of the ocean for special protection where fishing and oil and gas drilling would be restricted. Support is higher for restriction of oil and gas drilling (78%) than for restriction of fishing (63%). Residents in Maryland (51% support) and Virginia (54% support) are least supportive of fishing restrictions, New Jerseyans fall in the middle (63% support), and coastal residents of New York (69%) and Delaware (72%) are most supportive of fishing restrictions. Mid-Atlantic coastal residents are less varied in their support of oil and gas drilling restrictions, ranging from 73% support in Maryland and Virginia to 83% support in New York.

Support for Ocean Protection

Do you support or oppose designating certain areas of the ocean for special protection where:

-fishing would be restricted?

-oil and gas drilling would be restricted?

Percentage saying "support":	Fishing restricted	Oil and gas drilling restricted
Total	63%	78%
<u>Region</u>		
New York	69	83
New Jersey	63	78
Delaware	72	77
Maryland	51	73
Virginia	54	73
<u>Distance from Coast</u>		
Waterfront	63	74
A few blocks	62	81
Farther away	65	77

V. Climate Change

This section covers Mid-Atlantic coastal residents' belief in climate change and the causes of it. It also explores residents' perceptions of the risk of sea level rise and storms and their towns' preparedness for these events.

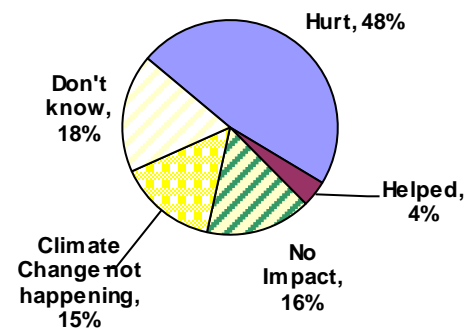
Key Findings:

- Over 8-in-10 coastal residents believe in climate change compared to 15% who do not.
- Half of coastal residents believe climate change has hurt their local fishing industries.
- Roughly three-quarters of coastal residents believe reports of future sea level rise and storm and flood damage are either accurate or underestimated. The proportion who say the risks are exaggerated has dropped 11 points since 2009 to roughly one-fifth of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents.
- Slightly over a third of coastal residents say human activity is the main cause of climate change, about a fifth say natural changes are the main cause, and 4-in-10 say both are equally to blame. Coastal residents in Virginia are least likely to say human activity is the main cause of climate change but most likely to say climate change and natural changes are equally to blame.
- Almost 6-in-10 Mid-Atlantic coastal residents say their communities are prepared to deal with the threats of sea level rise and coastal storms, while 4-in-10 say their towns are not prepared.
- Besides the 18% who already say their communities are very prepared for sea level rise and storms, 42% of coastal residents say it is possible to be prepared, 21% say it is not possible, and 19% say they are not sure.

– Threat of Climate Change –

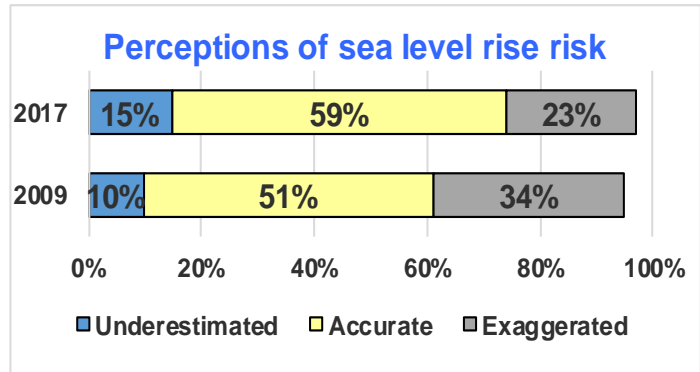
Eighty-three percent of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents believe climate change is happening, while 15% say it is not. As a point of comparison, a *Monmouth University Poll* conducted in late 2015 with a national sample found that 70% of the U.S. population believed climate change was happening, while 22% said it was not. Residents from coastal Maryland (69%) are somewhat less likely to believe in climate change than residents from Delaware (82%), Virginia (83%), New Jersey (83%), and New York (85%).

Impact of climate change on local fishing industry



Almost half (48%) of coastal residents believe climate change has hurt their local fishing industries. Very few people believe climate change has helped the fishing industry (4%). Roughly equal proportions say climate change has not had an impact on local fishing industries (16%), say they don't know about the impact (18%), or say climate change is not happening (15%).

Just under three-quarters of coastal residents believe reports of future sea level rise and storm and flood damage are either accurate (59%) or underestimated (15%). Roughly one-fifth (23%) of residents believe these reports of future sea level rise and damage are exaggerated, although this number has fallen by 11 points since eight years ago. The percentage of coastal residents believing the reports are exaggerated fell in all states, with a drop of four points in New York and Delaware, seven points in Maryland, 10 points in Virginia, and 15 points in New Jersey. Coastal residents of New York (20%) and New Jersey (23%) are least likely to say the reports are exaggerated, followed by 26% in Delaware and Virginia and 34% in Maryland.



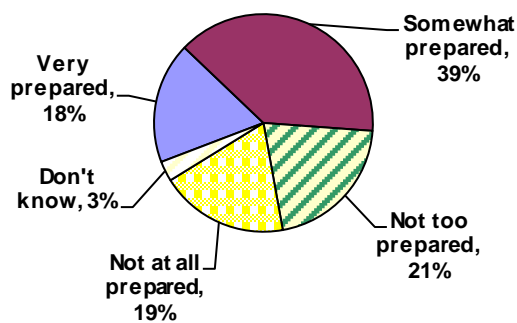
Residents are split on the main cause of climate change. Thirty-six percent believe human activity is the main culprit, 19% say natural changes are the primary cause of climate change, and 42% say it is both equally. There is wide regional variation in those who say human activity is the main cause of climate change, ranging from 19% in Virginia to 50% in New York. There is also a good deal of variation in those who believe human activity and natural changes are equally to blame for climate change, ranging from 27% in Delaware to 61% in Virginia. The percentage of residents who say natural changes are the primary cause of climate change is basically the same in each state (between 18 and 22%).

Cause of Climate Change			
<i>Is climate change caused more by human activity, more by natural changes in the environment, or by both equally?</i>			
	Human activities	Natural changes	Both equally
Total	36%	19%	42%
<u>Region</u>			
New York	50	18	32
New Jersey	32	20	44
Delaware	46	22	27
Maryland	29	20	50
Virginia	19	18	61
<u>Distance from Coast</u>			
Waterfront	32	23	43
A few blocks	36	15	45
Farther away	37	22	39

– Preparation for Effects of Climate Change –

Over half of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents (57%) say their communities are prepared to deal with the threats of sea level rise and coastal storms, with 18% saying they are very prepared and 39% saying they are somewhat prepared. Another 40% of residents say their communities are not prepared, with 21% saying not too prepared and 19% saying not at all prepared. Residents from coastal Maryland are most likely to say their communities are at least somewhat prepared (68%), followed by residents from New Jersey (60%), New York (55%), Delaware (53%), and Virginia (48%).

How prepared is your community to deal with sea level rise and coastal storms?



Besides the 18% who already say their communities are very prepared, 42% of coastal residents say it is possible to be prepared, 21% say it is not possible, and 19% say they are not sure. New Jerseyans are most confident about being prepared for sea level rise and storms, with 66% saying that either their communities are already very prepared or that being very prepared is possible. Residents of Maryland come next with 59% saying they are already very prepared/can become very prepared, followed by New York (55%), Virginia (53%), and Delaware (50%).

VI. Concerns of People in Marine Industries

Almost one-fifth of Mid-Atlantic coastal residents have a family member (either themselves or someone else in the family) working in a job related to the ocean such as fishing, boating, shipping, marine trades, or ocean recreation. Five percent of coastal residents personally work in an ocean-related business, while another 14% have a family member who works in the industry.

There are some differences between people who themselves work in an ocean-related business and people with just a family member or no family connection at all to marine jobs. For example, 69% of residents who work in an ocean-related job say that the disappearance of small-scale marine and fishing businesses is a very serious concern, significantly higher than those with a family member in the industry (of whom 48% say it is a very serious concern) or residents without a family member in the industry (44% say it is a very serious concern).

Only 6% of coastal residents who work in an ocean-related job say the federal government gives the mining and energy industries the right amount of input into decisions about how to manage the oceans, compared to 18% of residents with a family member in an ocean-related job who say that and 15% of residents who have no family connection. Residents who work in a marine job are also less likely to say the federal government gives local fishing and marine industries enough input (9%) than are residents with family members in the ocean industries (22%) or residents with no connection to the industry (17%).

Interestingly, coastal residents with a job in the marine industries are more likely to say climate change has helped the local fishing industry (17% say this) than residents without a connection to the industry (2% say climate change has helped).

The number of respondents in the sample who personally work in a job related to the ocean is relatively small. The survey results found other differences in opinion between those who work in marine-related industries and other coastal residents, but those differences did not meet a threshold of statistical significance due to this small sub-sample size.

VII. Distance From Coast

How far residents live from the coast has an impact on some, but not all, of their opinions. For example, out of five issues their towns might face, protecting the coastal and ocean environment is the highest-rated priority of coastal residents regardless of how far they live from the water. It is rated as a high priority by 85% of residents who live a few blocks from the water (+6 points from 2009), 82% of residents who live on the waterfront (+8 points), and 77% of residents who live a mile or more from the water (+3 points).

The distance residents live from the coast also has no impact on their support for visible electricity-generating windmills. About half of waterfront residents (50%), residents who live within a few blocks from the beach (53%), and residents who live a mile or more from the beach (51%) say they would support the placement of windmills that they could see off their coast.

There are a handful of issues, however, where distance from the coast matters. Residents who live on the waterfront became much more concerned about sea level rise and storms in the past eight years (+32 points to 70% saying it is a very serious concern) compared to those who live a few blocks (+18 points to 62%) or further away from the beach (+18 points to 56%). It is worth noting that many of these coastal communities suffered significant damage from Superstorm Sandy in late 2012.

Eight years ago nearly half of waterfront residents (44%) said reports predicting sea level rise and storm and flood damage were exaggerated. They were more likely than residents who live a few blocks from the beach (33%) or a mile or more from the beach (31%) to say this. However, today only 27% of waterfront residents think the reports are exaggerated, and there is less of a difference from residents who live a few blocks from the beach (26%) or a mile or more from the beach (19%).

Residents who live on the waterfront are more likely to say there is not enough input into decisions about how to manage the oceans given to state and local officials (59% say this) than are residents who live a few blocks from the beach (49% say this) or a mile or more from the beach (43% say this).

Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast 2017

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire for this survey was drafted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute (MUPI) and Urban Coast Institute (UCI) research staff to address research concerns related to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan. Slightly over half of the questionnaire items were asked in a similar 2009 survey, thus allowing for comparisons of trends in public attitudes.

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 eight coastal regions: New York East (Suffolk coastal communities), New York West (Nassau), New Jersey North (Monmouth and Ocean), New Jersey South (Atlantic and Cape May), Delaware (Sussex), Maryland (Worcester), Virginia North (Accomack and Northampton) and Virginia South (Virginia Beach).¹ In order to statistically compare responses among regions, a unique sample was drawn for each region; approximately 150 coastal residents for each of the four New York and New Jersey regions and approximately 100 each for the remaining four regions, creating a total sample of 1,005 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 selected from among all telephone exchanges that serve these communities. The final sample included 605 interviews conducted on a landline phone and 400 conducted on a cell phone.

The questionnaire was programmed into a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system and the interviews were conducted by telephone April 26 to May 31, 2017 by experienced professional interviewers at Braun Research, 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

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.

this survey compared population figures for age, education, and sex 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 1.22 persons to adjust for this difference. This weighting system was applied within each of the eight sample regions.

Since the survey sample was drawn disproportionately from each region, the final weighting step was to adjust the survey weight of each of the eight 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 ± 3.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval.

Sampling error increases as the sample size is reduced. For, example, if statements are made based on a sub-group of 300 (as with the New York and New Jersey state samples), the sampling error is ± 5.7 percent. For percentages based on the smallest geographic areas ($n=100$), the sampling error is ± 9.8 percent. This factor 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.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Life on the Mid-Atlantic Coast 2017

*A 5-state survey of coastal
community residents*



[New York; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Virginia]

Urban Coast Institute

Spring 2017

Polling Institute

(n=1,005)

A. LIVING ON THE COAST

A1. Do you own or rent this apartment or house? [*If RENT*: Do you rent this for most of the year or just for short vacation periods?]

- 74% Own
- 20% Rent most of the year
- 6% (VOL) Live year round, rent-free with parents/relatives/friends, etc.

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?

- 13% Front a beach or bay
- 38% Within a few blocks
- 24% Within one mile
- 24% 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?

- 97% 10 to 12 months
- 3% 6 to 9 months

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

- 3% Less than 1 year
- 14% 1 to 5 years
- 9% 6 to 10 years
- 23% 1 to 20 years
- 31% More than 20 years
- 20% All my life
- 0% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

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.
[ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

		<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Improving public education	2017	71%	18%	10%	1%
	2009	64%	24%	10%	2%
B. Controlling growth and development	2017	50%	33%	14%	2%
	2009	56%	29%	12%	3%
C. Lowering taxes	2017	60%	30%	9%	1%
	2009	65%	24%	9%	1%
D. Protecting the coastal and ocean environment	2017	81%	14%	5%	0%
	2009	76%	19%	5%	0%
E. Improving the local economy and creating jobs	2017	65%	23%	11%	1%
	2009	69%	21%	9%	1%

- B2. How much do you feel you know about coastal environment issues in your local area – a great deal, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

31% Great deal
43% Some
22% Just a little
4% Nothing at all
0% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

- B3. Do you think current efforts to protect coastal waters and beaches in your local area are too much, too little, or about right?

5% Too much
42% Too little
48% About right
5% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

- B4. How important is the condition of the ocean and beaches to the economy in your area -- very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?

84% Very important
11% Somewhat important
4% Not too important
0% Not at all important
0% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

B5. 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?

- 68% Support
- 21% Oppose
- 8% (VOL) Depends
- 3% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

B6. 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?
[ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

		<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	2017	62%	24%	11%	3%	1%
	2009	57%	26%	11%	5%	1%
B. The loss of wetlands and coastal habitats	2017	53%	24%	12%	7%	4%
	2009	47%	31%	12%	7%	3%
C. Sea level rise and increasing risk from storms	2017	60%	22%	10%	6%	1%
	2009	41%	36%	14%	7%	2%
D. The amount of development along the coast	2017	46%	29%	15%	9%	1%
	2009	47%	25%	20%	7%	2%
E. Small-scale marine and fishing businesses are disappearing	2017	45%	30%	11%	7%	6%
	2009	--	--	--	--	--

CATI: FOR B7, SPLIT HALF READ-IN BY EACH REGION

For Regions 1 and 2: Form A read in "New Jersey" and Form B read in "Maryland and Virginia"

For Regions 3 and 4: Form A read in "New York" and Form B read in "Maryland and Virginia"

For Regions 5 and 6: Form A read in "New Jersey" and Form B read in "Virginia"

For Regions 7 and 8: Form A read in "New Jersey" and Form B read in "Delaware and Maryland"

B7. How much do you think what happens along your local coast affects what happens along the coast of [READ IN NAME OF ADJACENT STATE(S)] – a great deal, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

- 39% Great deal
- 34% Some
- 11% Just a little
- 10% Nothing at all
- 6% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

C. COASTAL AND OCEAN POLICY

[QUESTIONS C1 & C2 WERE ROTATED]

C1. Do you support or oppose designating certain areas of the ocean for special protection where fishing would be restricted?

63% Support
 29% Oppose
 7% (VOL) Depends/Don't Know/Refused

C2. Do you support or oppose designating certain areas of the ocean for special protection where oil and gas drilling would be restricted?

78% Support
 18% Oppose
 4% (VOL) Depends/Don't Know/Refused

C3. How important is the quality of the ocean ecosystems for [READ ITEM] – very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?
 [ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Maintaining strong national security	61%	21%	7%	6%	5%
B. Growing the local economies of coastal communities	69%	24%	3%	2%	1%
C. Developing new sources of energy	59%	27%	5%	4%	6%
D. Protecting the global environment	76%	16%	3%	4%	2%

- C4. 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.
[ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Managing fish and other marine life	2017	4%	28%	30%	23%	15%
	2009	6%	29%	33%	19%	13%
B. Protecting coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats	2017	6%	33%	31%	22%	9%
	2009	8%	38%	29%	17%	8%
C. Managing growth and development in coastal communities	2017	3%	25%	38%	23%	11%
	2009	5%	24%	38%	25%	8%
D. Collecting data that tracks the health of the ocean's ecosystem	2017	6%	25%	22%	18%	28%
	2009	--	--	--	--	--

- C5. How important is it for government policymakers to collect information and maintain databases that track the health of the oceans – very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?

67% Very important
 24% Somewhat important
 4% Not too important
 4% Not at all important
 1% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

[QUESTIONS C6 THROUGH C8 WERE ROTATED]

- C6. Does the federal government give state and local officials too much, not enough or the right amount of input into decisions about how to manage the oceans?

13% Too much input
 47% Not enough input
 18% Right amount of input
 22% (VOL) Don't know/Refused

- C7. Does the federal government give the mining and energy industries too much, not enough or the right amount of input into decisions about how to manage the oceans?

23% Too much input
 36% Not enough input
 15% Right amount of input
 26% (VOL) Don't know/Refused

- C8. Does the federal government give local fishing and marine industries too much, not enough or the right amount of input into decisions about how to manage the oceans?
- 14% Too much input
 - 47% Not enough input
 - 17% Right amount of input
 - 22% (VOL) Don't know/Refused

D. CLIMATE CHANGE

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about the world's climate in general.

- D1. Do you think that the world's climate is undergoing a change that is causing more extreme weather patterns and the rise of sea levels, or is this not happening??

- 83% Yes, is happening
- 15% No, is not happening
- 2% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

- D2. Has climate change helped, hurt, or had no impact on the local fishing industry in your area?

- D2A. [*If HURT:*] Has climate change hurt the local fishing industry a lot or just a little?

- 30% Hurt, a lot
- 18% Hurt, not a lot
- 4% Helped
- 16% No impact
- 15% *Climate change not happening (from D1)*
- 18% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

- D3. 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?

- 59% Generally accurate
- 23% Generally exaggerated
- 15% Generally underestimated
- 4% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

- D4. Is climate change caused more by human activity, more by natural changes in the environment, or by both equally?

- 36% Human activities
- 19% Natural changes
- 42% Both equally
- 1% (VOL) Neither/not happening
- 1% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

D5. How prepared do you think your community is to deal with the threats of sea level rise and potential coastal storms – very prepared, somewhat prepared, not too prepared, or not at all prepared?

18% Very prepared
39% Somewhat prepared
21% Not too prepared
19% Not at all prepared
3% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

D6. Do you think it is possible to be very prepared for these threats, is not really possible to be very prepared, or aren't you sure?

18% *Already very prepared (from D5)*
42% Is possible
21% Is not possible
19% Not sure
0% (VOL) Refused

Some people have proposed using coastal resources to help meet our energy needs.
[QUESTIONS D7 & D7A WERE ROTATED WITH D8]

D7. 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?

72% Support
10% Oppose
17% No opinion either way
1% (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Refused

D7A. 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?

52% Support
21% Oppose [INCLUDES THOSE WHO SAID "OPPOSE" TO QD7]
26% No opinion either way
1% (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Refused

D8. 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?

22% Support
55% Oppose
20% No opinion either way
3% (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Refused

A. LIVING ON THE COAST (cont'd)

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

A5. Have you done any of the following activities *within five miles of your home* in the past year? [ITEMS WERE ROTATED]:

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
A. Gone fishing, crabbing or clamming	2017	51%	49%	0%
	2009	51%	49%	0%
B. Taken a boat, canoe, kayak or jet-ski out for pleasure	2017	58%	41%	0%
	2009	50%	49%	0%
C. Gone swimming or sunbathing, or walked along the shore	2017	89%	11%	0%
	2009	90%	9%	0%

A6. Do you own a boat? [If YES: Does it have a motor?]

- 14% Yes, own a motorboat
- 5% Yes, own a non-motorboat
- 1% Yes, own both motorboat and non-motorboat
- 78% No, do not own a boat
- 1% (VOL) Don't know/Refused

A7. Does any member of your immediate family work in a job that involves fishing, boating, shipping, marine trades, the recreational use of the ocean, or any other business related to the ocean? [If YES: Is that you, someone else in your household, or another family member outside of your household?]

- 5% Yes, self
- 6% Yes, other person in household
- 8% Yes, family member outside of household
- 81% No
- 1% (VOL) Don't know/Refused

A7A. [If YES:] What type of business is that? _____

E. DEMOGRAPHICS

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

- 33% High school or less
- 30% Some college
- 36% College graduate
- 1% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

- E2. What was your age on your last birthday?
- 27% 18 to 39
 - 38% 40 to 59
 - 34% 60 or over
 - 1% (VOL) No answer/Refused
- E3. How many people live in your household, including yourself?
- 22% One, live alone
 - 32% Two
 - 45% Three or more
 - 1% (VOL) Don't know/ Refused
- E3A. How many are children under the age of 18?
- 25% One or more
 - 74% None
 - 1% Don't know/Refused
- E4. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin?
- E5. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?
- 84% White
 - 7% Black
 - 1% Asian
 - 5% Hispanic only
 - 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?
- 28% Under \$50,000
 - 27% \$50,000 - \$100,000
 - 35% \$100,000 or more
 - 9% (VOL) Don't Know/Refused
- E7. Respondent gender?
- 47% Male
 - 53% Female

Thank you very much for your help.