

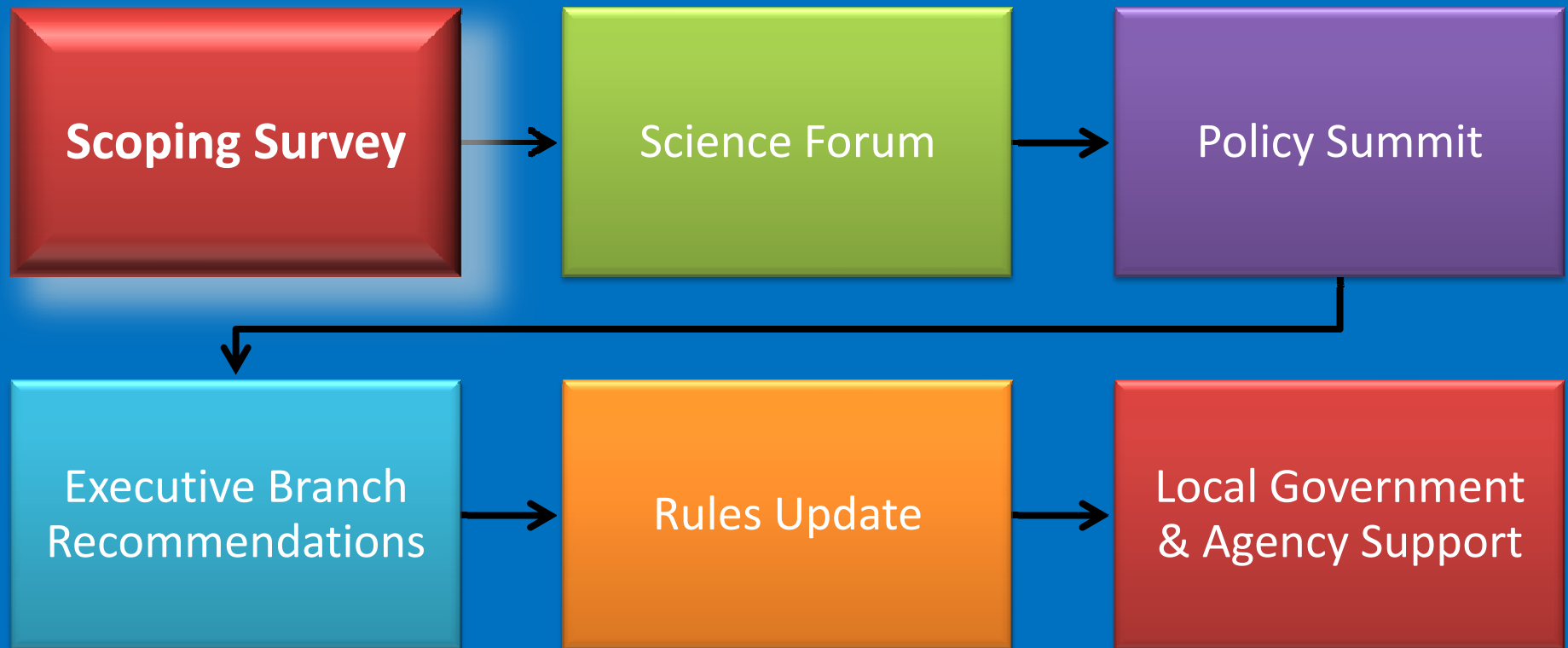
Public Perceptions about Sea Level Rise

DCM Survey Report



Tancred Miller
DENR/DCM SLR Science Forum
January 14, 2010

DCM Sea Level Rise Roadmap



Why a Survey?

- Non-scientific perception and scoping survey
- Interested in the public's perception of the reality and magnitude of sea level rise
- Interested in public perception of perceived vulnerability to its effects, and potential response actions
- Tool for DCM to communicate to the public
- Results will help DCM to understand public perception of sea level rise, to design public education and outreach efforts, and to foster collaborations

"This survey has been helpful to me in showing the terms of current thinking."

Methods

- Questionnaire developed by DCM, NC Coastal Reserves, and CRC Science Panel
- 10-question online survey, several open ended
- Broadcast solicitation (email, media outlets)
- Responses collected July 21 – August 31, 2009

“You are assuming that there is a problem where there has been no substantiated science to back it up.”

Results

Total number of clean responses

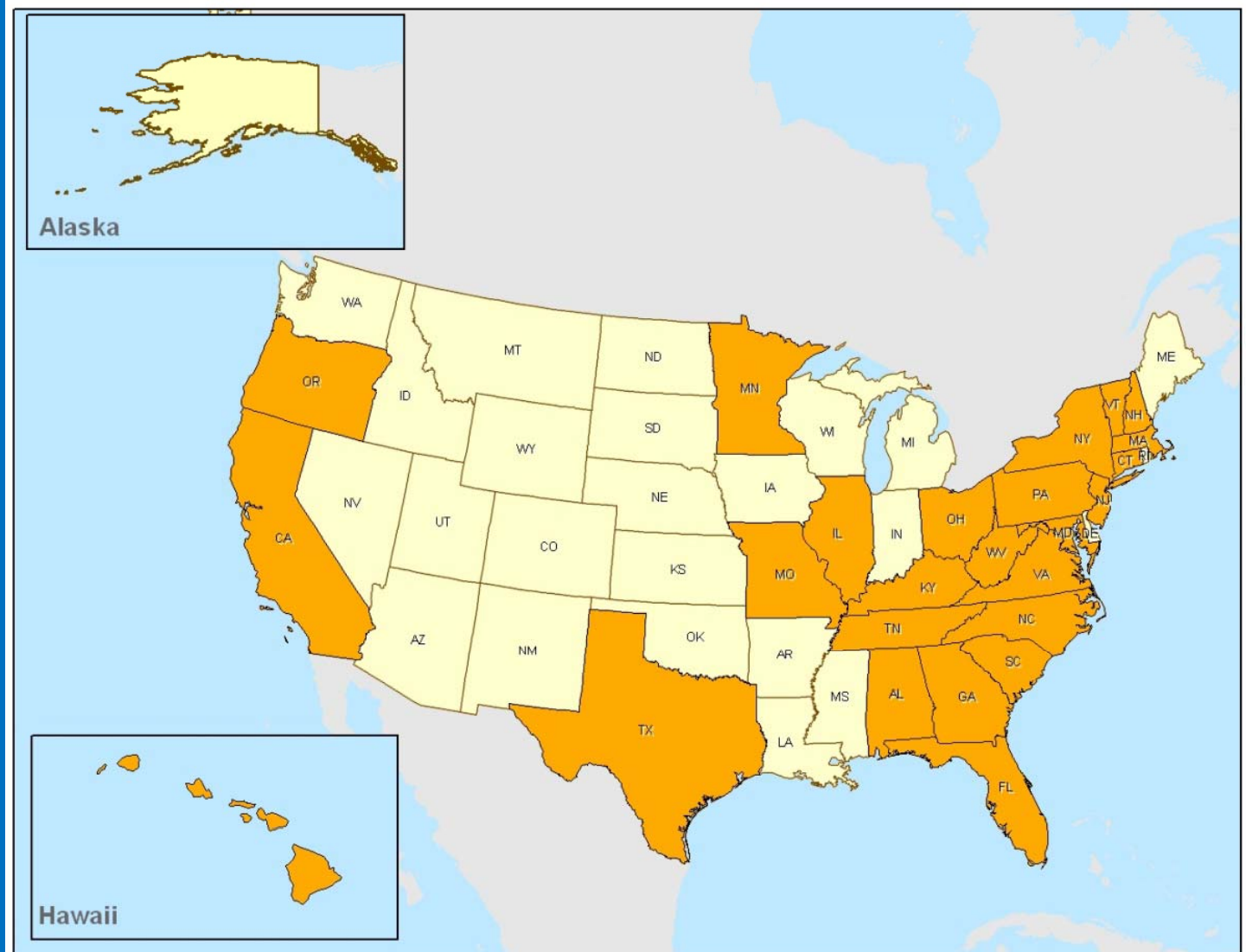
N. Carolina:	1076 (620 own NC coastal property)
Non-NC:	100 (53 own NC coastal property)
NC Counties:	77 out of 100
CAMA :	18 out of 20
U.S. States:	26 out of 50
Total clean:	1176 (673 own NC coastal property)

*“Man made global warming is a total scam and will have ZERO effect on the OBX, except for higher taxes, which will result in fewer tourists.
There....aren't you happy now?”*

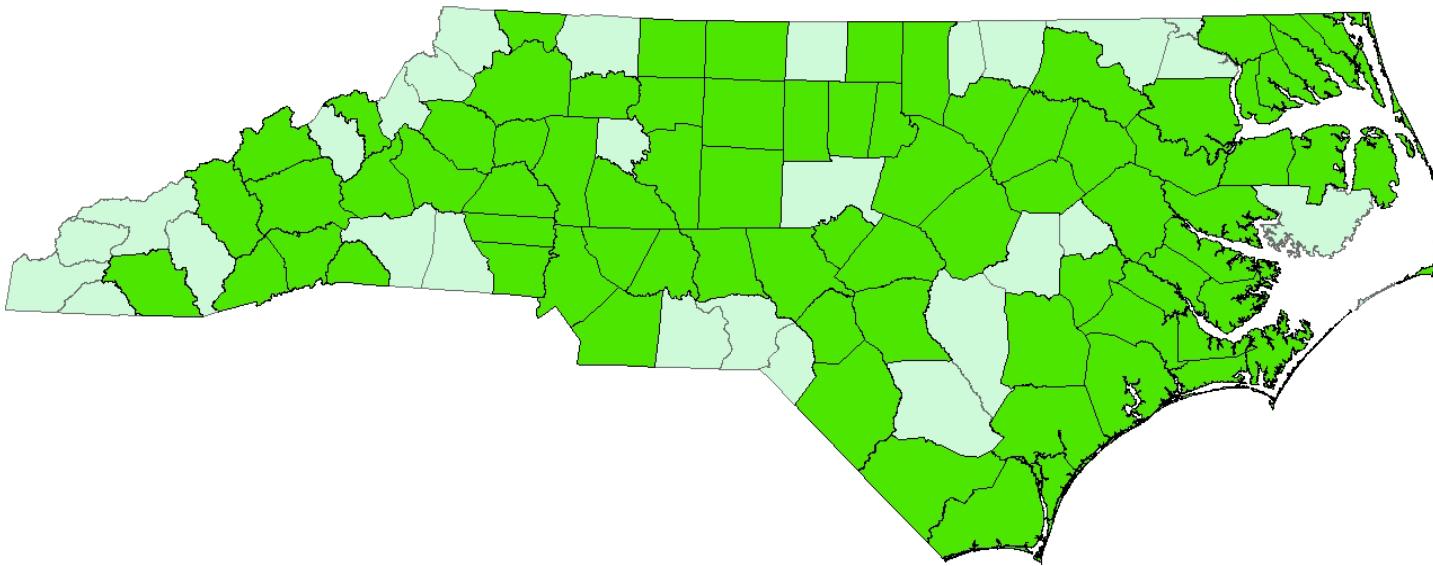
U.S. States

“Please don't make this a panic issue. Simple education of the facts will suffice.”

“Those concerned about the potential sea level rise should move to the mountains or build an ark.”



NC Counties



“The same tools that can be used to mitigate sea level rise will also pay dividends in hurricane and coastal storm mitigation.”

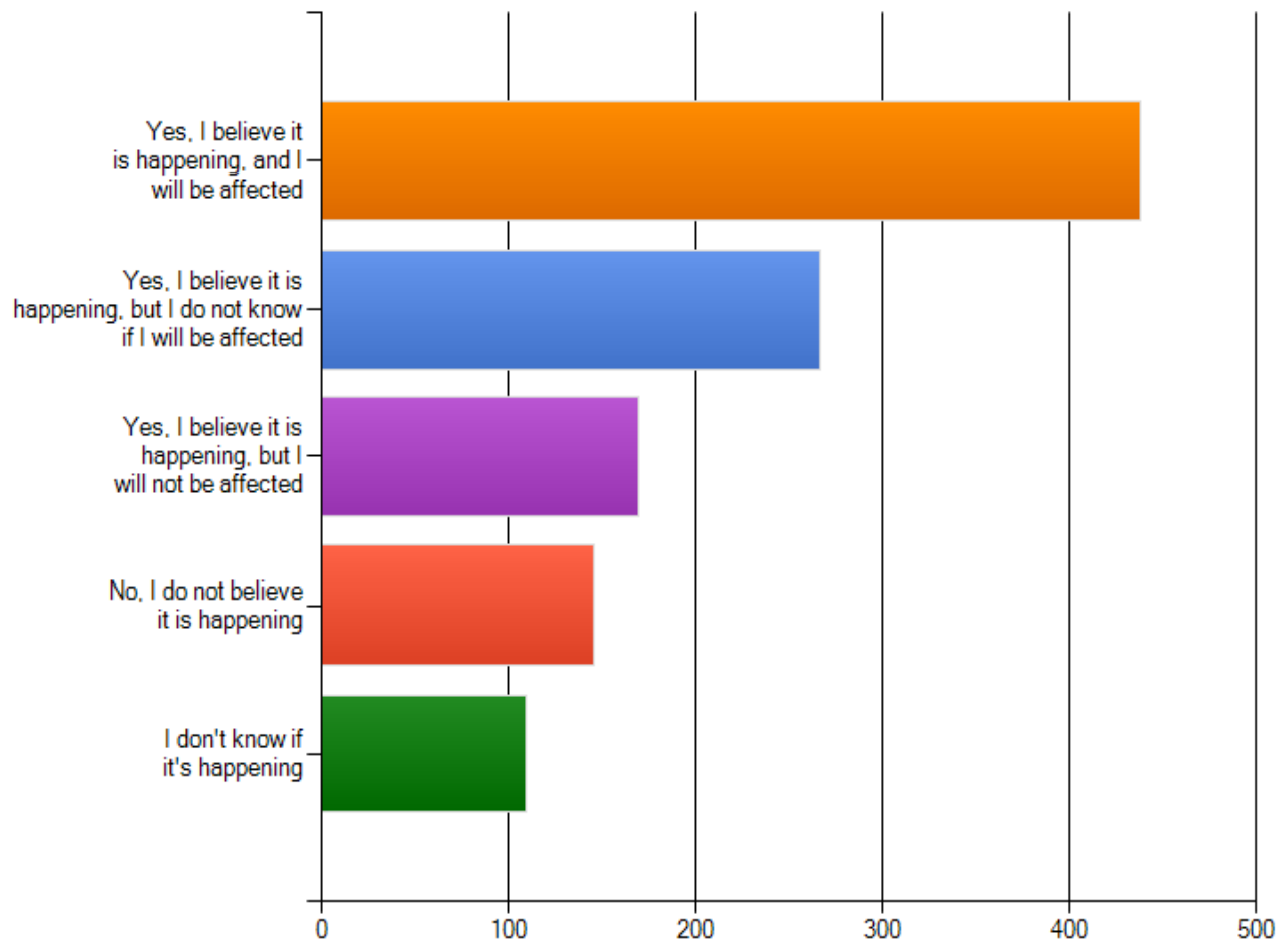
CAMA Counties

COUNTY	RESPONSES #	COUNTY	RESPONSES #	COUNTY	RESPONSES #
Beaufort	39	Currituck	7	Pamlico	13
Bertie	3	Dare	73	Pasquotank	7
Brunswick	63	Gates	1	Pender	18
Camden	2	Hertford	0	Perquimans	2
Carteret	92	Hyde	0	Tyrrell	1
Chowan	7	New Hanover	114	Washington	3
Craven	25	Onslow	26		

“Sea levels are more affected by ocean temps than ice forming or melting. Oceans have been cooling for the past ten years as the earth cools. Cooler water has more density. This is not fiction. The Arctic ice cap is as large as it has been in 30 years.”

Perceptions

Do you believe sea level rise is happening in North Carolina, and do you think your property or finances will be affected?



75% believe that sea level rise is occurring, 12% do not, 9% don't know.

38% believe they will be affected, 15% do not, 22% don't know.

Property Owner Perceptions

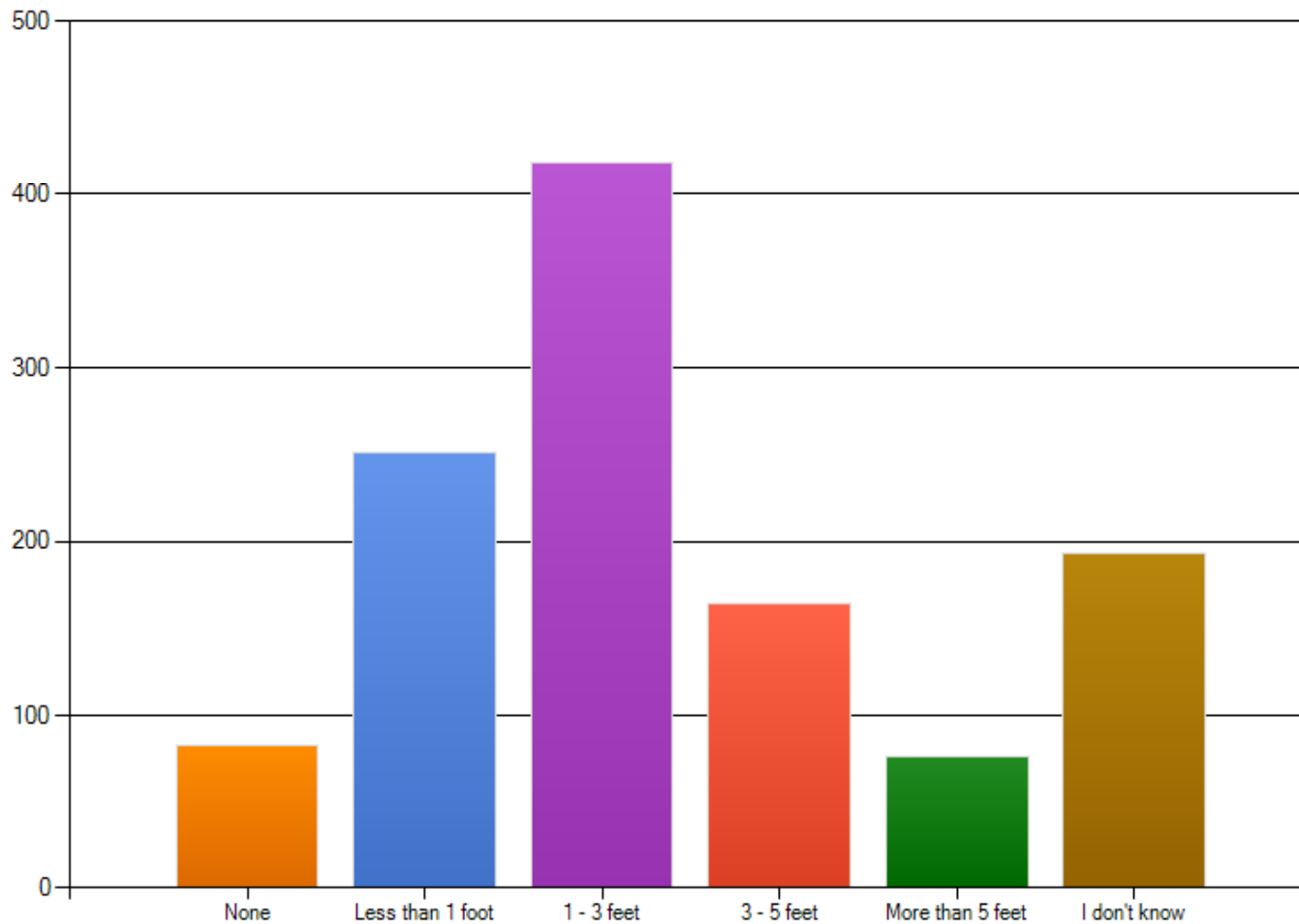
Comparison of respondents who believe that sea level rise is occurring.

RISK PERCEPTION CATEGORY	ALL NC RESPONDENTS %	NC RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS %
Will be affected	38	51
Will not be affected	15	16
Don't know if they will be affected	22	33

"I've used the same boat ramp for over 30 years. At mean low water, the water level is where it was 30 years ago. At mean high water, the water level is where it was 30 years ago. If sea level rise is happening at greater and greater rates today, one would think that we would notice it, particularly at a boat ramp that was poured in concrete over 50 years ago."

Quantity of Rise

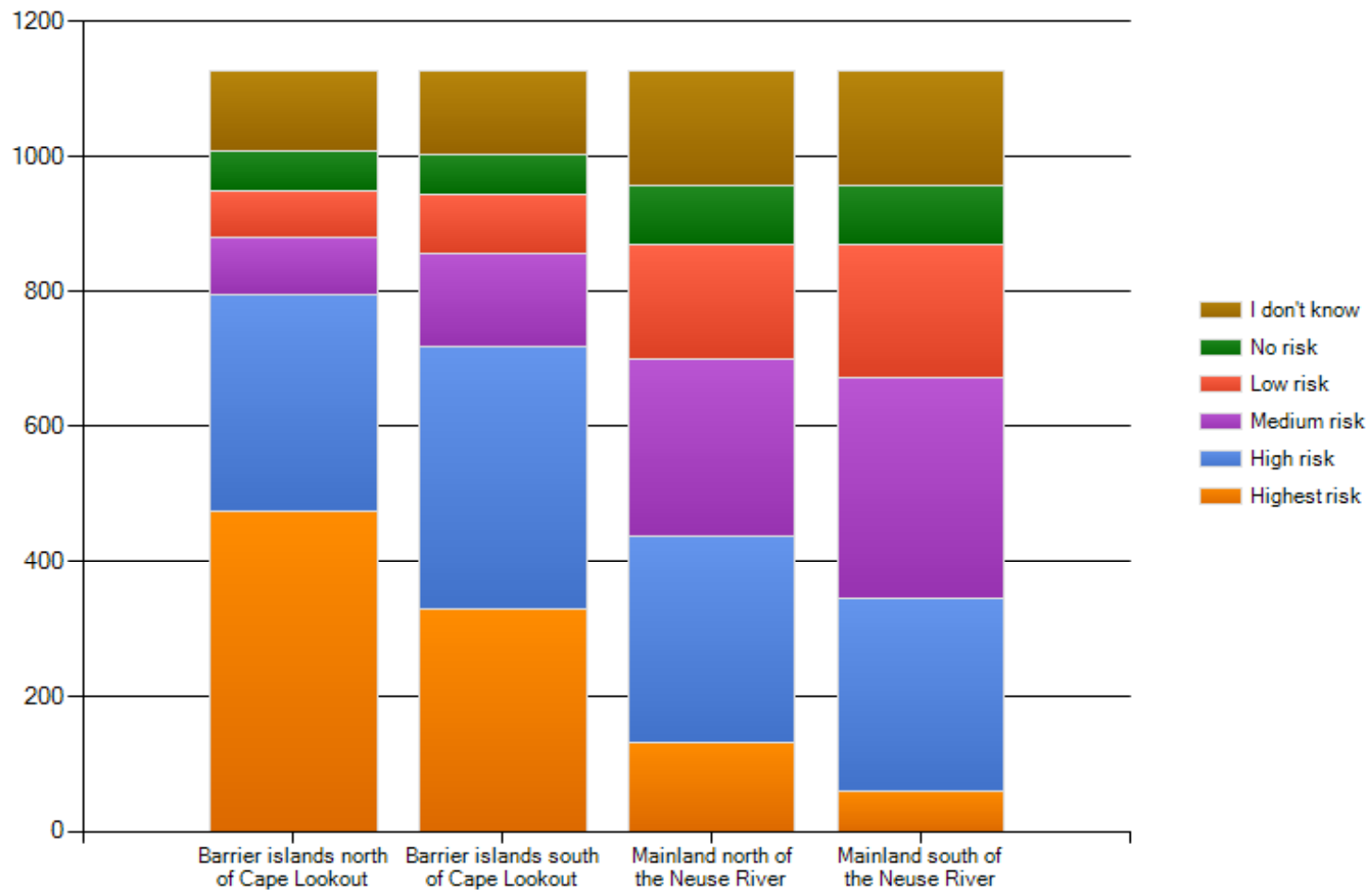
How much do you think the sea will rise along the NC coast by 2100? (Check all that apply)



AMOUNT OF RISE	PERCENT (%)
Zero rise	7
Less than 1 foot	21
1-3 feet	36
3-5 feet	14
More than 5 feet	6
Don't know/no opinion	16

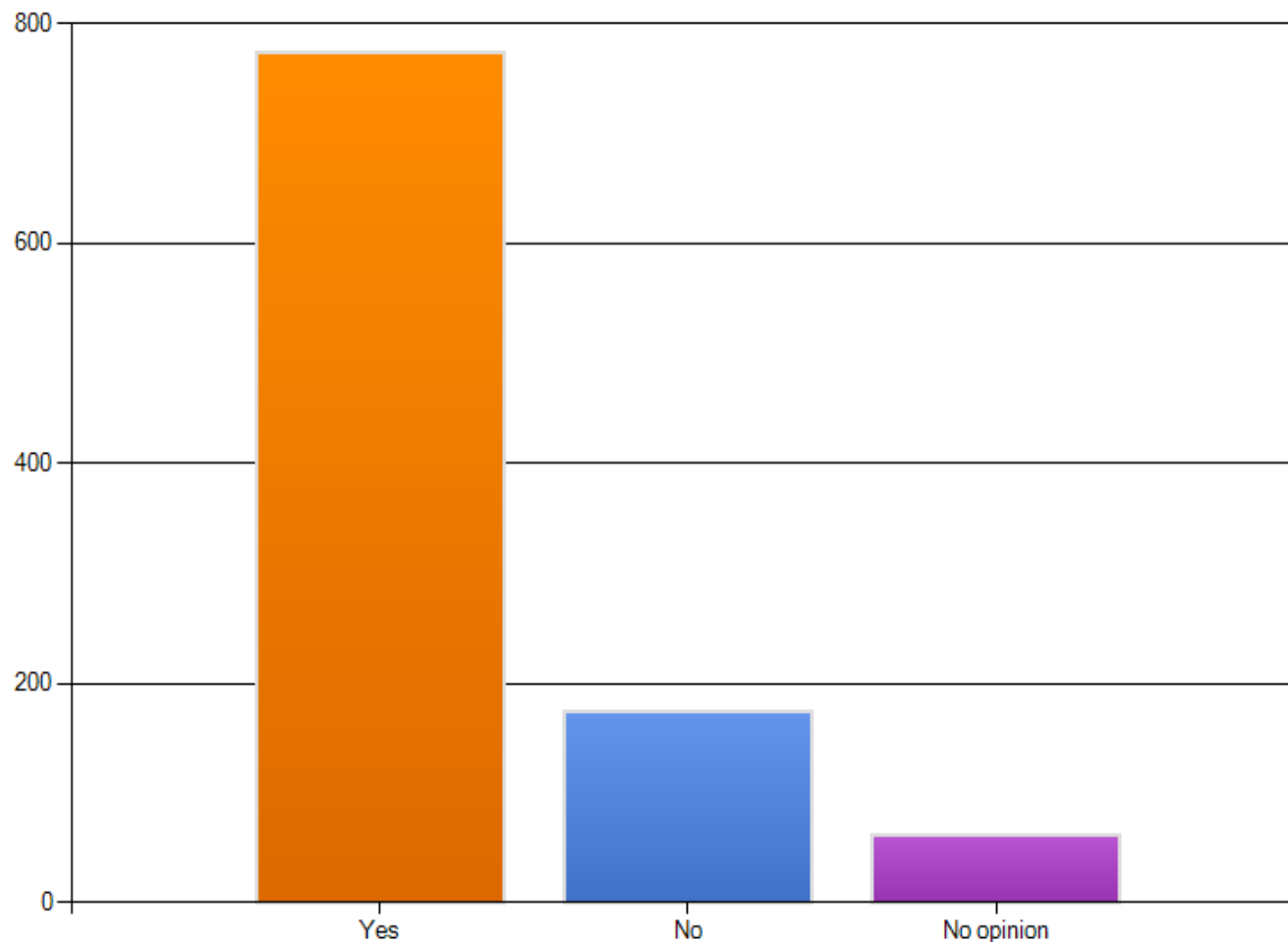
Regional Vulnerability

How would you rate the vulnerability of the following regions to impacts of sea level rise?



Action

Do you think that the State should be taking steps now to plan and prepare for sea level rise?



Start now?

All: 66% yes

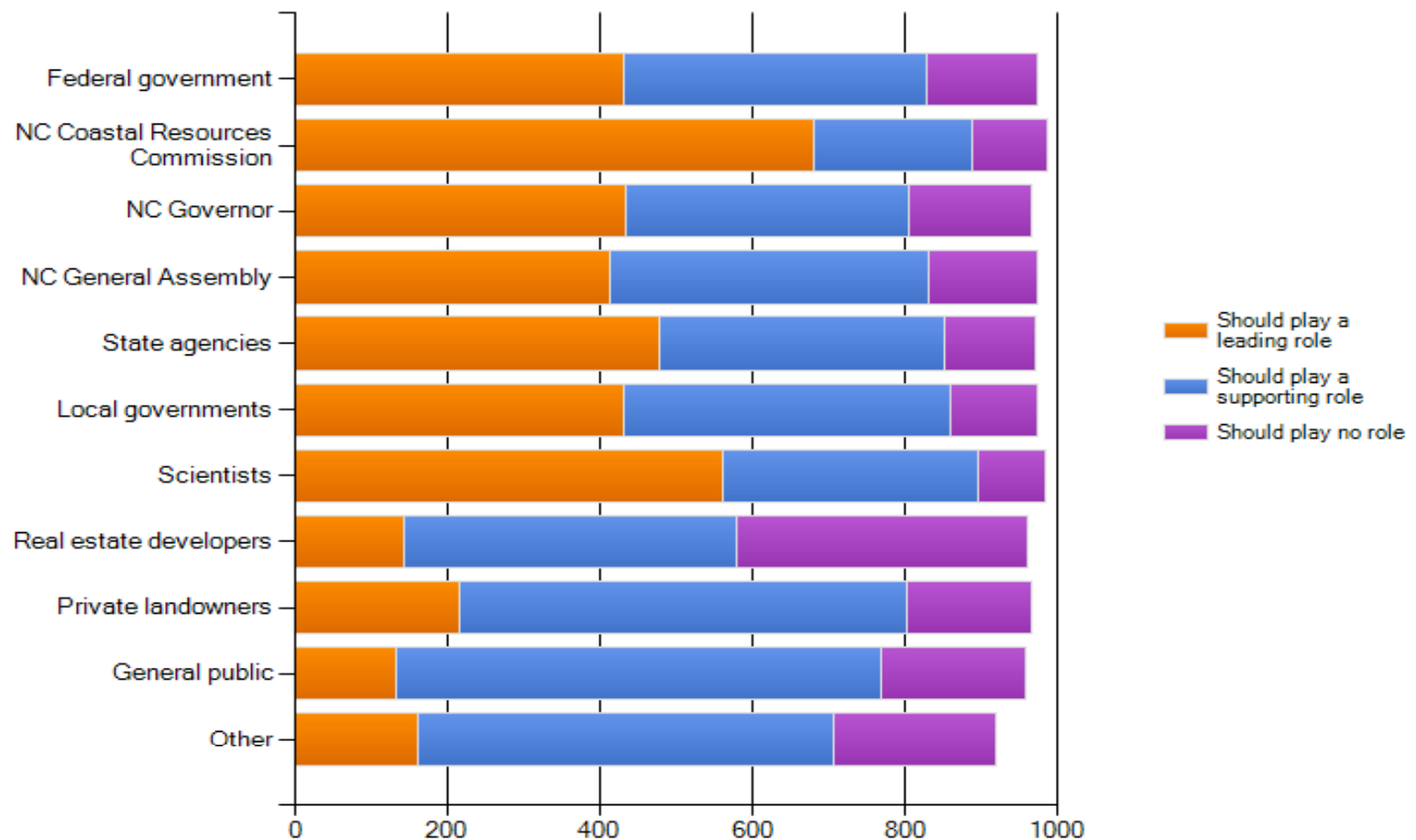
CAMA: 59% yes

All: 14% no

CAMA: 21% no

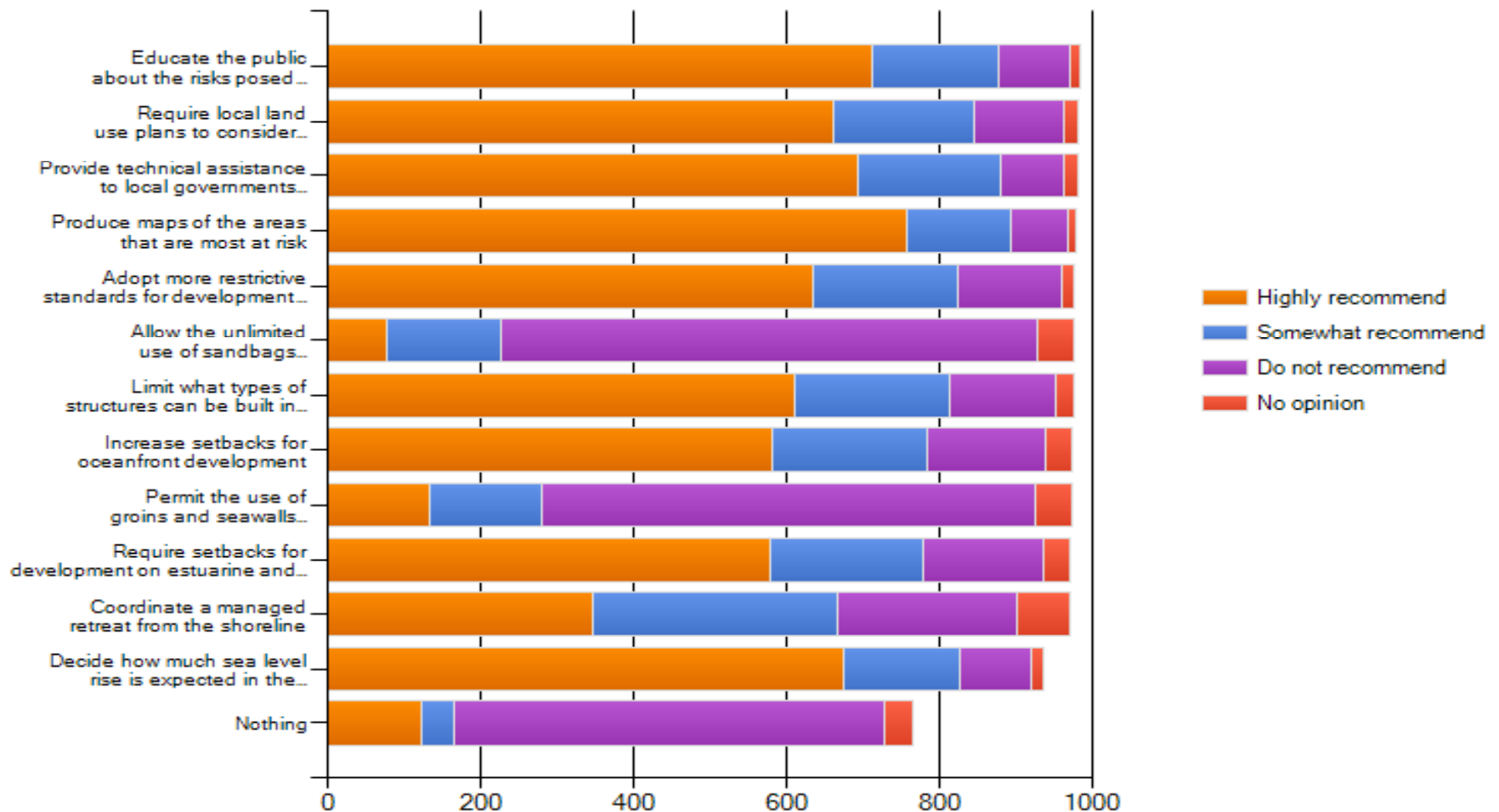
Roles

Who do you think should be taking action on sea level rise in North Carolina, and in what roles? (Check any that apply)



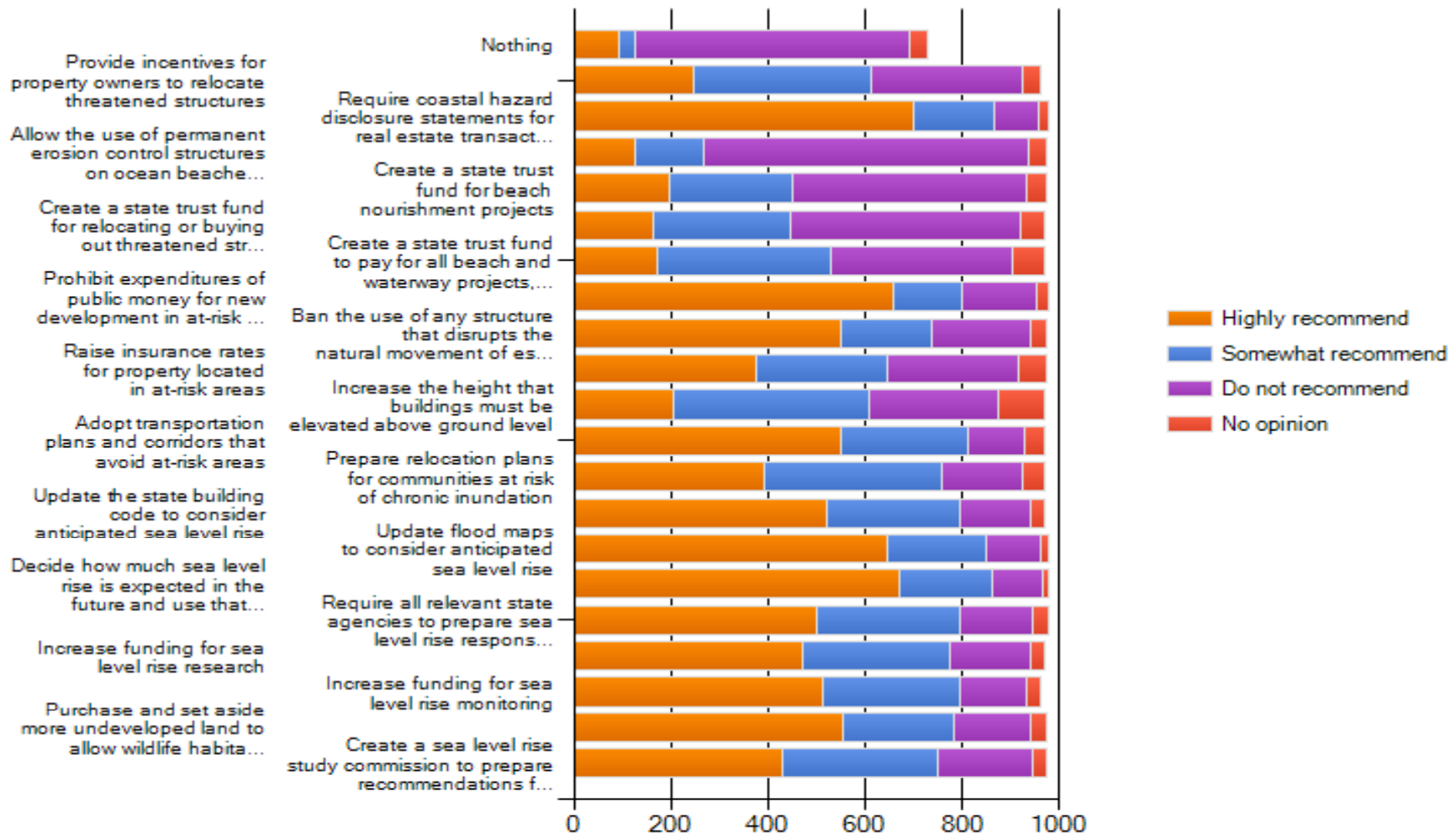
CRC Actions

What measures would you recommend the Coastal Resources Commission and Division of Coastal Management take to address sea level rise.



State Actions

Please describe what else you think should be done in North Carolina to address sea level rise.



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"Your survey is too complicated."

Thank You!

The full survey report will be available online at
www.nccoastalmanagement.net

“The CRC was the result of North Carolina taking a leadership role in coastal management many decades ago. We as a state staked our future on a natural and accessible coast. It has served us well. We need a new era of bold leadership that maintains those values in the face of great pressures to do otherwise.”