



# MyCoast Interviews & Survey Report

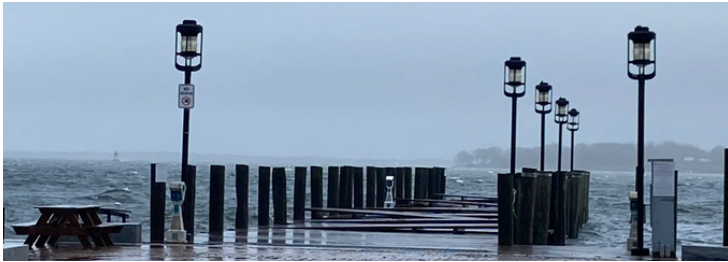
RESULTS | JANUARY 2023





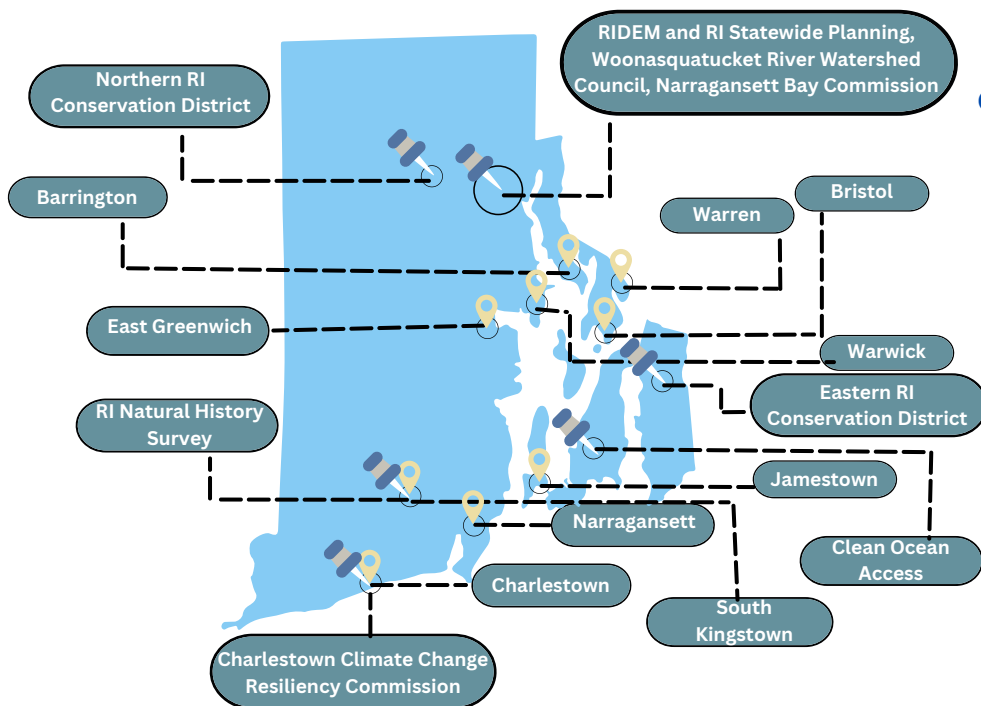
## MyCoast: Rhode Island is a portal to collect and analyze photos of shorelines across the Ocean State. Photos are linked to information about weather, tides, and damage, creating reports that help make decisions.

Rhode Island Sea Grant, the URI Coastal Resources Center, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Save The Bay, and Clean Ocean Access have partnered to encourage community members across coastal Rhode Island to take photographs and reports of shoreline impact from extreme high tides and storms and upload them to MyCoast to help document coastal change. This survey was done to understand better how stakeholders, decision-makers, and community members currently use MyCoast data and how they envision its future use.



**"I think it's important. A picture is worth a thousand words"**  
~ Tom Kravitz, Planning Director

## WHERE WE RECEIVED FEEDBACK FROM



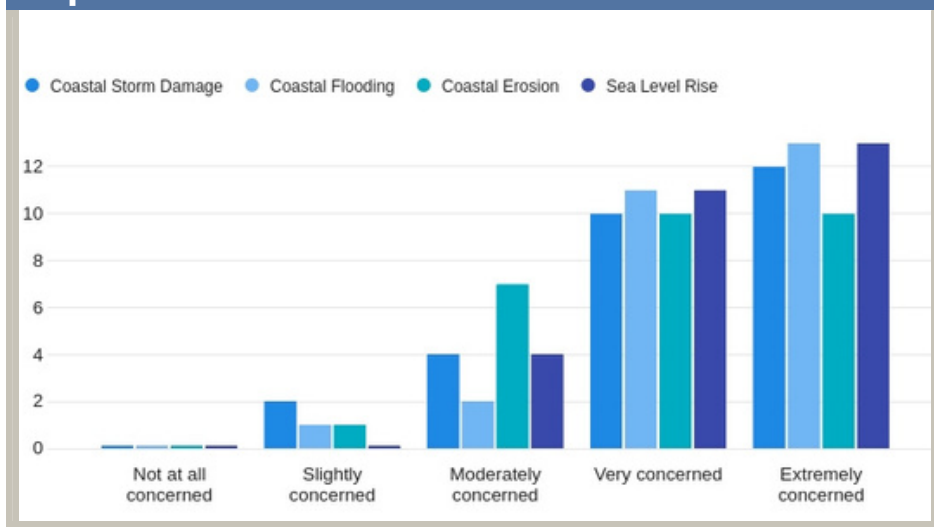
**Survey responses & interviews came from a number of different stakeholders across a variety of coastal communities.**

We reached out to relevant stakeholders throughout the state and coastal communities with a brief survey to evaluate how decision-makers use the information collected through MyCoast. Survey respondents were asked if they would like to follow up with us for longer interviews so that we could learn more from interested decision-makers.



**Coastal flooding, storm damage, erosion, and sea level rise were all issues of concern for the stakeholders.**

## How concerned are you with the following impacts?



Six decision-makers were interviewed including municipal and statewide planners, town managers, and interested organizations, coming from a wide range of municipalities. There were several areas of concern in regard to flooding, king-tides, storms, and climate change. These include flooding, destruction of private and public property, and infrastructure damage; all things that MyCoast documents. Both survey respondents and those interviewed noted that MyCoast would be beneficial for monitoring & in documenting flooding new and existing areas of concern.

## Interviews revealed that decision-makers see value in MyCoast as a tool for public engagement and identified the potential benefits of community engagement and coastal documentation.

Respondents expressed their interest in the ways that MyCoast could be used at both the community and institutional levels. The identified usage for photos and Information includes:

- Grant applications
- Hazard mitigation plans
- Comprehensive planning
- Reports & presentations
- Individual site reviews
- Monitoring areas of concern
- Increasing community knowledge and engagement with flooding
- Documenting change over time

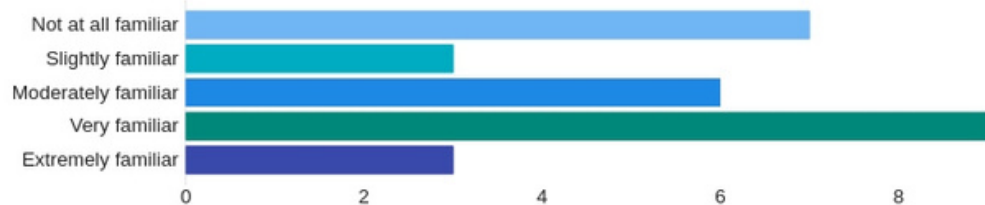
Along with this, surveyors expressed the benefits of documenting location, time, and frequency with MyCoast as a tool to better understand flooding, identify vulnerable areas, and track weather & tidal conditions.





## Respondents had mixed familiarity and previous engagement with MyCoast.

### How familiar were you with MyCoast before beginning this survey?



While there were some respondents that were not familiar with MyCoast, they did express interest in the program. Those who were familiar were excited about the continued use of the application. Overall, stakeholders were interested in the use of MyCoast in their decision-making.

## Interviews revealed the value that decision-makers see in MyCoast and expressed ideas for possible future use.

All of the stakeholders interviewed expressed an interest in further helping to engage more of their community members as MyCoast volunteers as and had specific ideas to do so including:

- Posting a link to MyCoast on their municipal or organization webpages.
- Utilizing existing email lists or newsletters to spread the word about MyCoast to specific groups.

Stakeholders also identified a number of groups and organizations to reach out to as key audiences for both MyCoast volunteers and stakeholders that could utilize the information.

**"I could see us accessing MyCoast to help decision-makers at the local level on a case-by-case basis for ongoing long-term hazard mitigation planning"**

**~Michael DeLuca, Planning Director, Narragansett**



The Rhode Island Sea Grant would like to say a thank you to all of the survey and interviewer participants, your insight has been invaluable and will aid us in improving the MyCoast experience for volunteers and stakeholders alike.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all of the volunteers who have uploaded photos to MyCoast, the information you are providing is helping Rhode Island better understand the impacts of flooding, king-tides, coastal erosion, storms, climate change, and so much more. We can't wait to see the photos you all upload in 2023!





# MyCoast

Rhode Island Snap  
the Shore, Track  
the Change



COASTAL  
RESOURCES  
CENTER  
URI • GSO



**SAVE THE BAY®**  
NARRAGANSETT BAY



[Click here](#) to fill out a survey rating your MyCoast experience!

