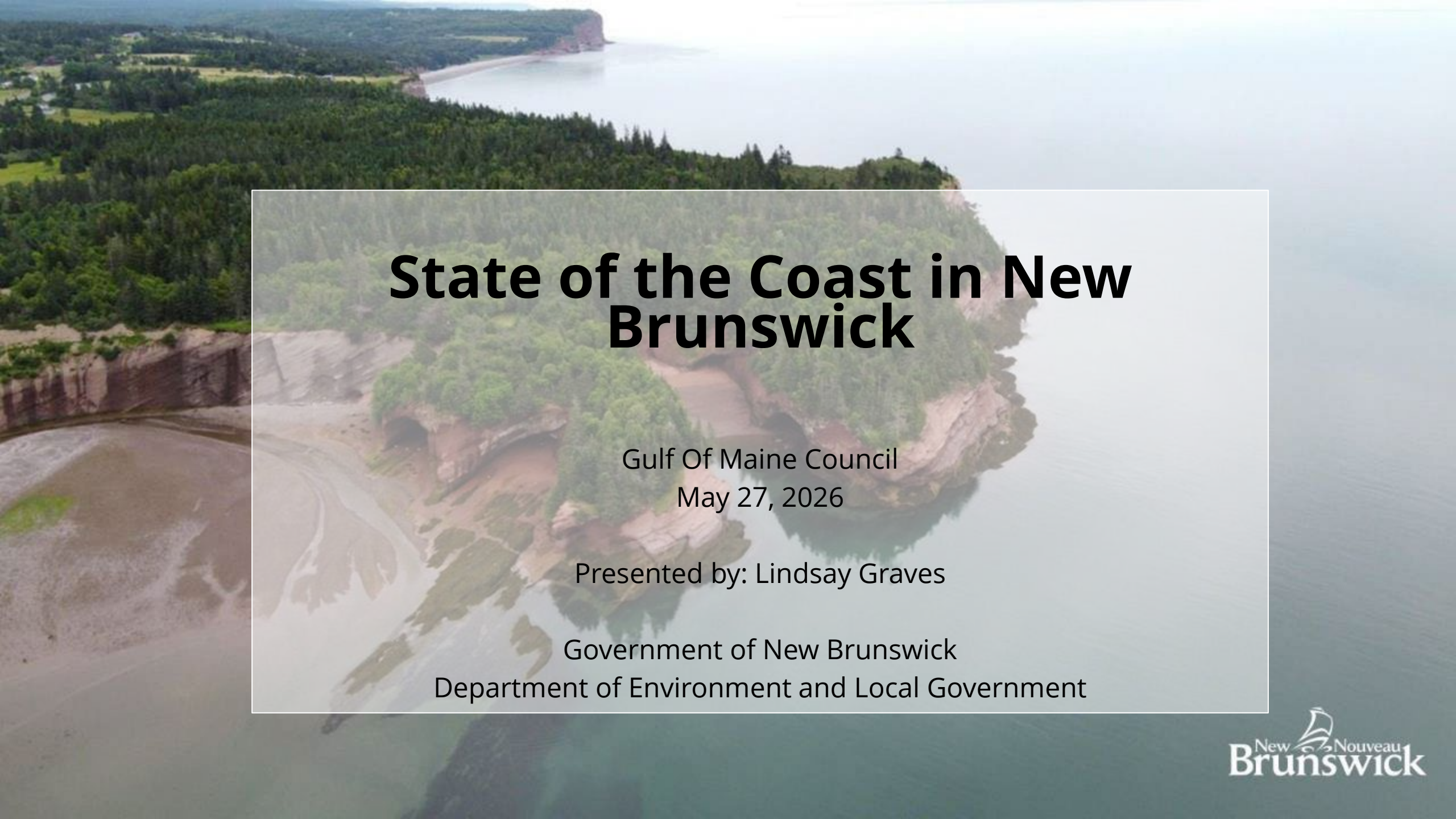


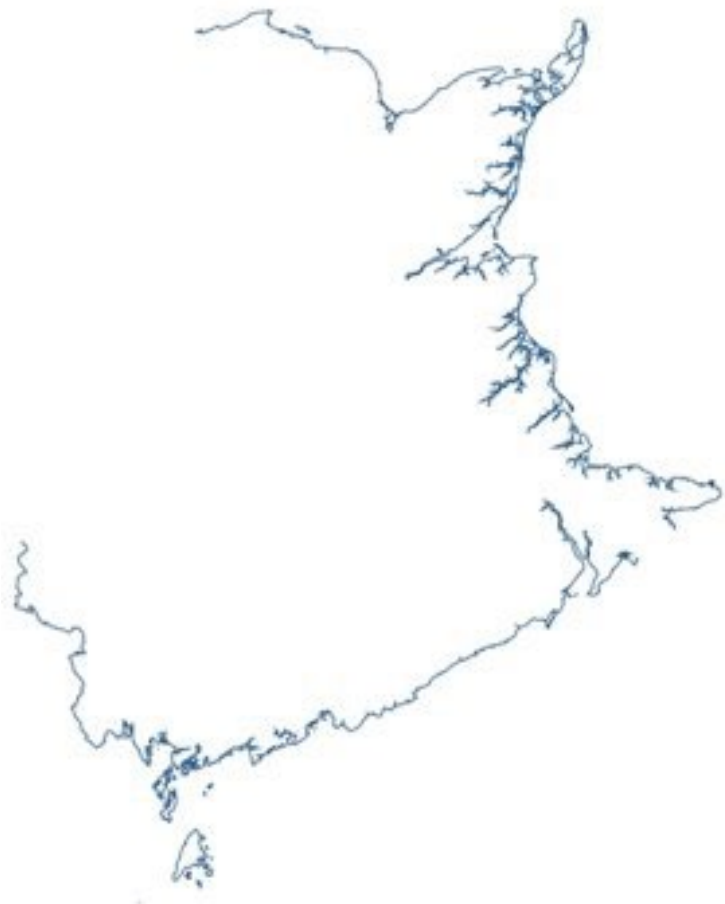


State of the Coast in New Brunswick

Gulf Of Maine Council
May 27, 2026

Presented by: Lindsay Graves

Government of New Brunswick
Department of Environment and Local Government



Over 5,500 km [3,400 miles] of coastline

~500 km of seawalls, riprap and dyke structures



Coastal systems

- natural systems
- built systems
- social and economic systems

Coastal Pressures

- erosion
- storm events
- sea level rise
- saltwater intrusion
- land subsidence (sinking)
- flooding

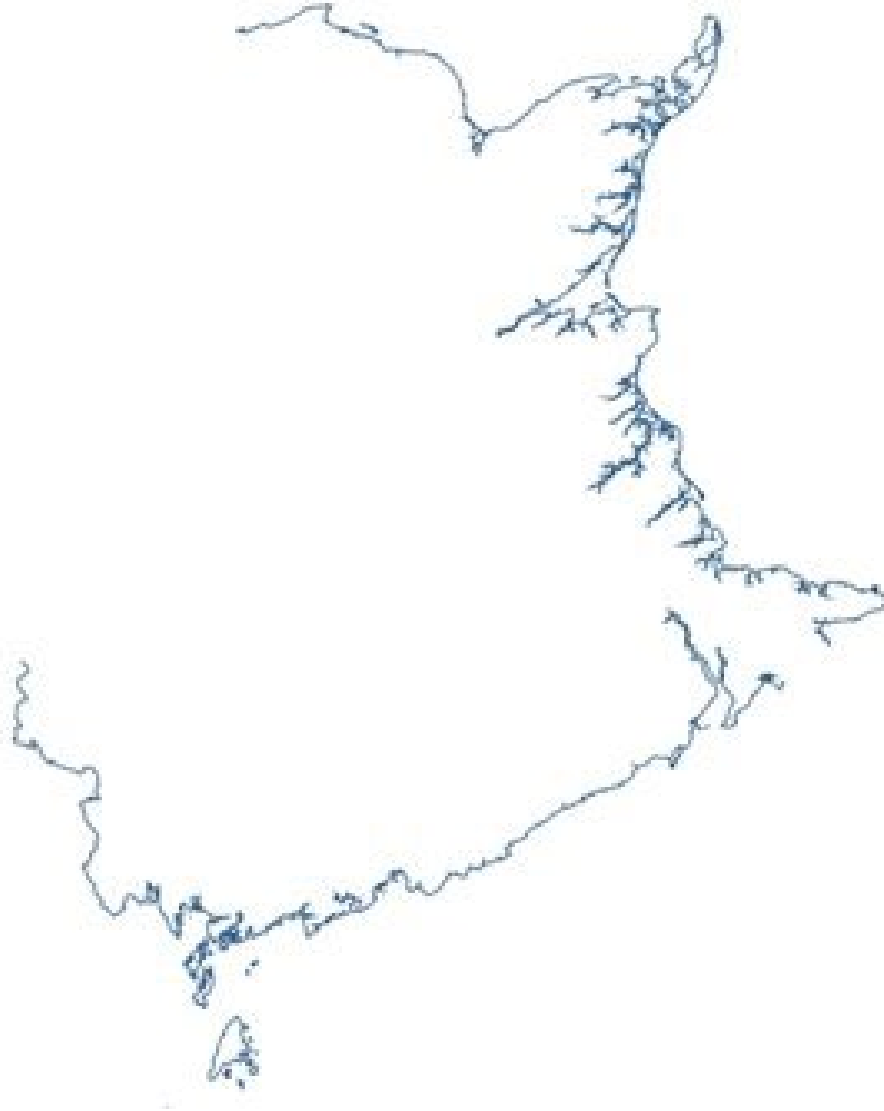
Coastal Challenges

Impacts to:

- natural, built, social and economic systems

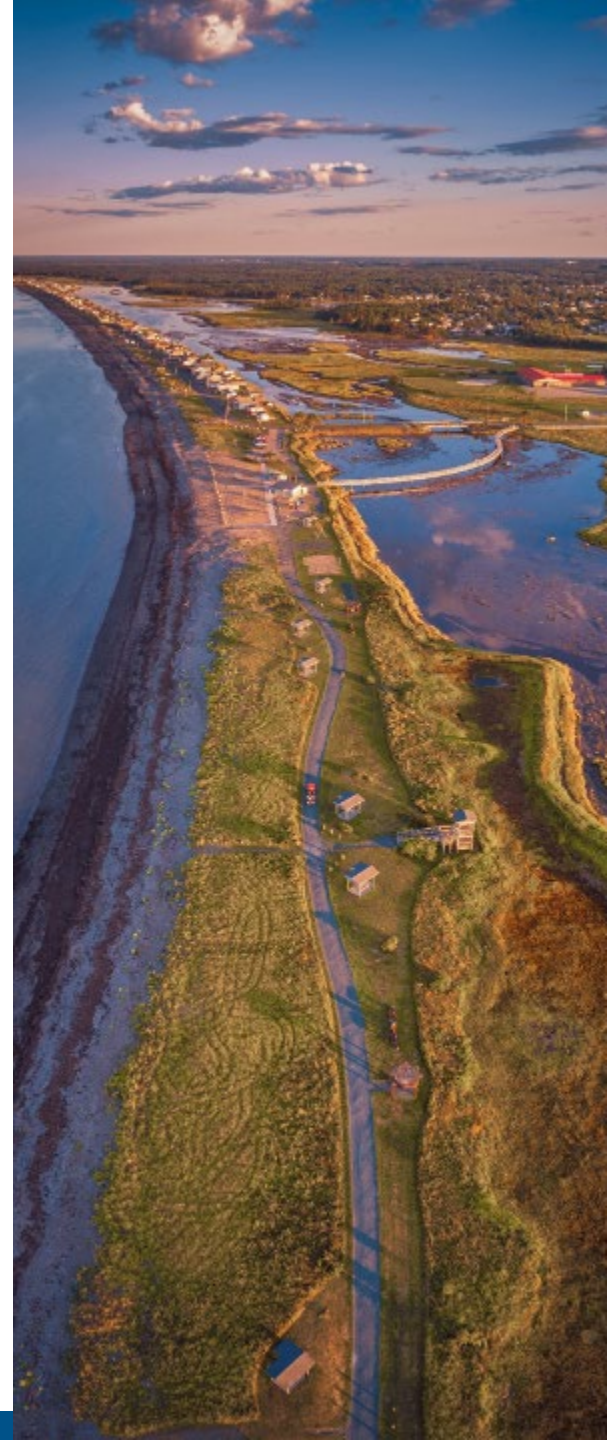
Examples:

- impacts to homes and businesses
- loss of natural systems



Current State - Coastal Management

- NB is lagging behind most Atlantic Canada and U.S.A. neighbours, despite many attempts to improve
- *NB Coastal Areas Protection Policy (2002)*
 - Defines zones, setbacks and permitted/non-permitted activities
 - **Advisory only** unless specific provincial regulation applies
 - Ex: Applied through conditions on Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Industrial Approvals, through Community Planning (regional variation)
- Coastal management - complex structure across provincial and other levels of government





Project Context

- **New government commitment:**
 - *Implement a coastal erosion plan to protect communities*
- **Many other issues facing the coast**
 - Developing broader coastal plan
 - Collaborating with multiple departments within GNB



State of the Coast Report – Goals

- **Improved public education and awareness**
 - Provide educational starting points
- **Improved coastal management**
 - Better define coastal pressures, issues, and gaps
 - Define past, current and future coastal states
- **Creating proactive / adaptive frameworks**
 - Develop practical actions
- **Improved coordination**
 - Facilitate collaboration between government and external experts
 - Better coordination between provincial departments with coastal mandates

State of the Coast Report - Structure



Shape the future
of New Brunswick's
coastlines

- **Lead:** DELG Steering Committee
- **Internal support:** Interdepartmental working group (other provincial departments)
- **External consultant:** develop State of the Coast Report
- Engaging with **First Nations**
- Engaging with **coastal experts**

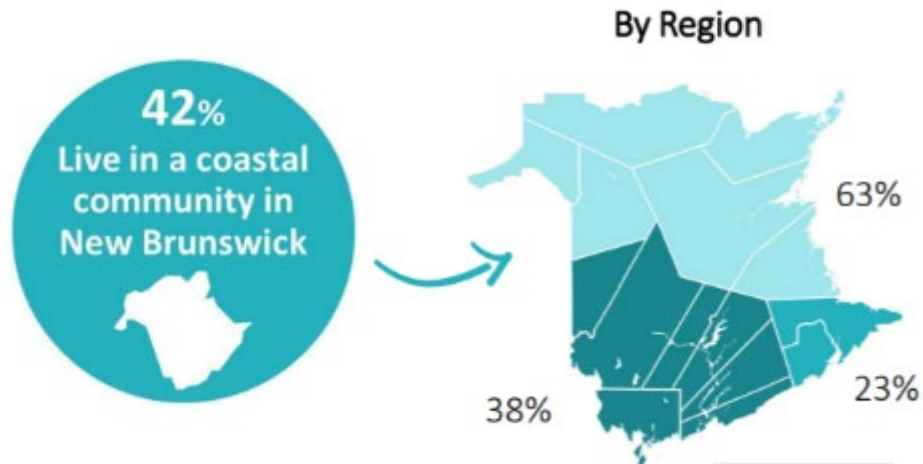


What We've Heard – Engagement Summary

Public Surveys

2024 and 2025

Survey of 500 New Brunswickers (2024):



- **2024 and 2025: 90% agree** that development on the coast should have stronger controls in place.
- **~50%** have experienced loss of access to services (ex: roads, electricity) due to weather events.
- **~50%** have experienced coastal erosion, rising sea levels and property damage.

Survey of 289 New Brunswickers (2025):

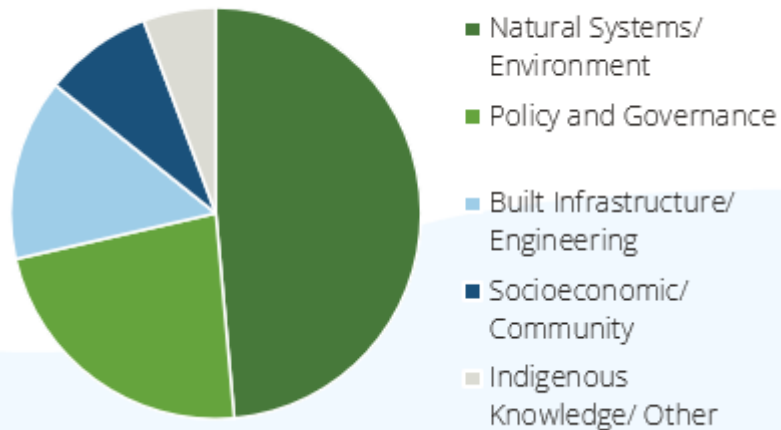


- **~70% of coastal residents** agree that the following issues are serious concerns: loss of access to services and property damage (due to weather), coastal erosion, sea level rise
- **The highest value coastal aspect** was – **natural habitat** (98% respondents said very high to high important)

Coastal Engagement 2025-2026

- **Indigenous** engagement (1 virtual, 4-in-person)
- **Coastal expert** engagement (3 virtual sessions)

Attendees Primary Area of Expertise



Key Feedback:

- **Data and planning gaps** – limited access to standardized data, outdated mapping and need for stronger land-use planning
- **Policy and governance challenges** – unclear policies and permitting, inconsistent enforcement, unclear roles and responsibilities
- **Need for integrated approaches** – incorporating multidisciplinary perspectives and nature-based solutions
- **Capacity and funding constraints** – unstable funding leads to poor capacity, need to improve coastal access management
- **Communication and risk concerns** – public awareness challenges and insurance and liability pressures

NB State of the Coast Report– Draft Outline



- **Introduction to Project**
- **NB Coastline**
 - Coastal regions
 - Physical, cultural, demographic characteristics
 - Coastal vulnerability and pressures
- **Natural Environment**
 - Climate driven changes and natural systems; how they evolve and function
- **Coastal Processes**
 - Physical processes driving coastal flooding and coastal change
- **Socioeconomic and Built Environment**
 - Interaction between the coast and people, communities, infrastructure, and industry
- **Legislative Landscape**
 - Overview of federal, provincial, municipal laws, regulations and policies governing coastal activities, development, and environmental protection
- **Actions for Mitigation**
 - Overview of findings from coastal expert engagement and draft recommendations
- **Concluding Remarks**



Next Steps

- **2026-2027**
 - Draft 'State of the Coast' report currently being reviewed internally with leadership and IWG
 - Developing phase 2 contract with consultant
 - Tentative continued First Nation and Expert engagement **Summer 2026**, public engagement in **Fall 2026**
 - Tentative develop implementation plan for recommended actions in **Winter 2026**
- **2027-2028**
 - Implement actions

Questions?

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