


A Coastal Areas Protection Policy for New Brunswick

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Why manage activities along the coast?

- Environmental protection
 - Ecological integrity of features
- Climate change
 - Reducing the impacts of sea level rise and changing climate
- Public Safety / Health
- Protection of development investment (private/public)
 - Cost of Disaster Financial Assistance.
 - Cost to individual investors.



Tools and Implementation

1. Coastal Areas Policy and Wetlands Conservation Policy - 2002
 - Policies created Coastal Areas and Provincially Significant Wetlands.
 - Policies guide reviews and application of regulations, and where provincial approval is required (ex. EIA, Watercourse Alteration, Crown Land Approval).
2. Watercourse Regulation enhanced to include wetlands - 2003
3. EIA Regulation – applies to all coastal wetlands and all other wetlands > 2 ha.
4. Coastal Designation and Wetland Designation Orders – in progress
 - Designation Orders require clearly mapped 'protected areas' – GEONB.



The Coastal Areas Protection Policy for New Brunswick


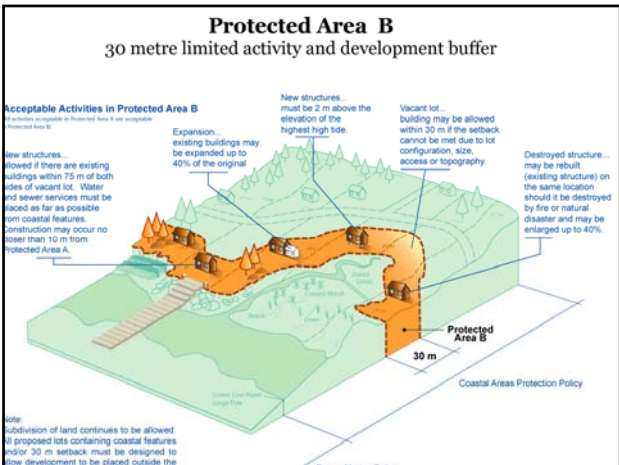
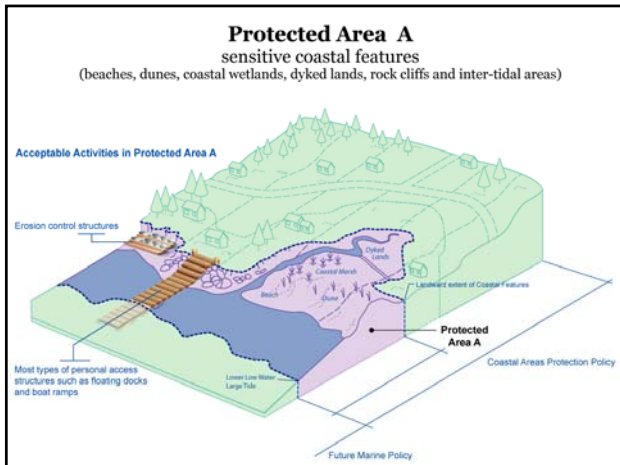
'Protected Area A'

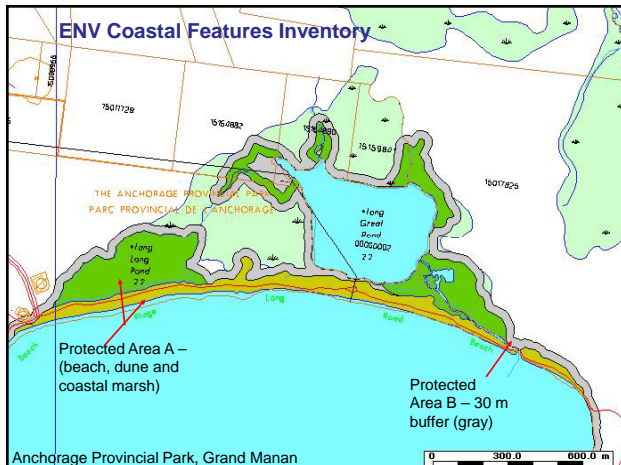
“discernable landward limit of the “coastal feature”
(dune, beach, wetland, dykeland, tidal flats, rock platform)

'Protected Area B'

“30 meters landward of the limit of Protected Area A”

NB Clean Environment Act



What are we guarding against – The Issues

When infrastructure is located in the wrong place - on or near a coastal feature

Public Safety
 Personal Hardship
 Saltwater intrusion / water contamination
 Flood compensation burden for government

Infrastructure at Risk

Principles of Sustainable Planning need to be incorporated in development process.

Adaptation must be at the forefront of Planning

- We have the data = LIDAR surveys, SE NB study
- Implement new perspectives that consider long-term risk.
- Infrastructure in the right place = people not at risk.
- Conduct due diligence for clients.
- Keep new development out of 'at-risk' zones.
 - *floodplains
 - *storm surge prone areas
 - *erodible areas

Coastal areas are susceptible to storm surge, waves, flooding, erosion, and SLR.

1. Preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the protective functions of coastal features - dunes, beaches and coastal wetlands.
2. New Municipal infrastructure must not add to existing hazards or damage features.
3. Keep growth and development out of hazard-prone areas and buffer areas.
4. Development must be protected from flooding and erosion areas.
5. Ensure responsible investment in public works projects in coastal areas. Sea levels are rising!
 - When public services are installed in at-risk areas - new development will follow!
3. Prioritize public funds for acquisition of hazardous coastal areas for conservation and recreational use.
 - European Model – Coastal parks created without affecting features. Tourism without reducing the area's buffering capacity.

Infrastructure development guidelines for coastal NB

New development in coastal areas should be directed away from the shoreline and designed to provide better resistance to damage caused by coastal hazards.

Policy guidelines

– no infrastructure within 30 meters of the OHWM or of the landward limit of the coastal feature.

-infrastructure outside of know flood/surge zones.

-livable portion at least 2 meters above OHWM.

- no finished basements.



The Potential

- 1) Prevent and reduce threats to loss of life, destruction of property and degradation of coastal features resulting from improper development.
- 2) Allow natural coastal processes to continue to the extent feasible, while allowing appropriately sited coastal development and economic growth.
- 3) Limit, prohibit or condition public funding in coastal areas to ensure that increased exposure to coastal hazards is not promoted.
- 4) Encourage public funding for acquisition of hazard prone areas to function as a recreational public resource.



Thank you



What municipalities can do

•Climate change and sea level rise will necessitate adjustment to coastal development.

•Power, water, roads, bridges and service buildings are vital to a community's well being - in an emergency intact infrastructure allows the community to better cope with the emergency.

•Cost of erosion / flood damage to critical facilities can be mitigated.

Place facilities

- a) above know flood zones = above 1/100 yr flood line (SE NB)
- b) outside surge zones
- c) away from shorelines subject to erosion
- d) where they will be accessible and able to perform critical functions during hazard events.
- e) relocate poorly-sited structures.



Summary Statement - Objective

Sustainable Development

Driven by

Policies, Designation Orders, Regulations

Guided by

Ecological Integrity of Coastal Features and Wetlands

And

Reduction of risk



Next Steps - Implementation

- ✓ Create a regulation under the *Clean Environment Act* - the Coastal Designation Order (CDO).
- ✓ Order is linked to the existing land use planning process – development approvals and permits must conform to CDO
- ✓ Allowed Activities – current activities with low impact.
- ✓ DENV will provide on-going training and support for planners and others

