



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT  
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August 2, 2006

Dear Concerned Member of the Public:

It is hard to ignore coastal hazards in Massachusetts, especially when an above normal hurricane season has been predicted for Southern New England and the private insurance industry is raising premiums and pulling policies for coastal homes. Since the Coastal Hazards Commission began meeting in February, we have been discussing these and other issues related to coastal hazards including sea-level rise, erosion, flooding, and failing seawalls that threaten coastal communities and ecosystems. The goal of the Commission is to review existing coastal hazards practices and policies, identify data and information gaps, and draft recommendations by November for possible administrative, regulatory, and statutory changes. This has been a challenge in such a short timeframe considering Massachusetts has over 1,500 miles of diverse coastline.

Five working groups of experts have been assisting the Commission with our recommendations. The experts represent various fields including policy, planning, emergency management, biology, geology, and engineering. The working groups have focused on (1) coastal hazards data and tools, (2) policies, (3) planning and regulations, (4) structural measures to protect coastal development, and (5) public coastal infrastructure. While the Commission continues to work hard on these issues, we are providing a draft of our recommendations for your review.

The Commission requests your feedback now through September 15 on our draft recommendations. Please let us know if the recommendations cover all of the critical issues related to coastal hazards in Massachusetts. The Commission will prioritize the recommendations and provide plans for implementation in the final report, which will be released in November. If you have any suggestions on prioritization or implementation, those comments are welcomed as well.

Thank you for your interest in the Coastal Hazards Commission. Our draft recommendations and additional information about the Commission can be found on CZM's website, <http://www.mass.gov/czm/chc/index.htm>. We look forward to reviewing your comments. Please send them to the attention of Julia Knisel at [coastal.commission@state.ma.us](mailto:coastal.commission@state.ma.us) or 251 Causeway St., Suite 800, Boston, MA, 02114-2138.

Sincerely,  
Susan Snow-Cotter  
Chair, Coastal Hazards Commission  
Director, CZM

