

Woods Hole Sea Grant: What's New

Updated Massachusetts Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Hazards Now Available

[A newly updated version of the Massachusetts Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Hazards](#) is now available to help you get your family and property ready.

Related Files

» [Homeowner_Guide-FINAL_UPDATE_202084.pdf](#)

This second edition of the handbook was developed collaboratively with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Barnstable County, and the two Massachusetts Sea Grant programs, MIT Sea Grant (MITSG) and Woods Hole Sea Grant (WHSG). A key priority of this project partnership is increasing the resiliency of coastal communities to coastal hazards. One major component of strong communities is enhancing individual resilience and recognizing that adjustments to day-to-day living are necessary. This book is designed to promote individual resilience, thereby creating a fortified community, and specifically to help homeowners prepare for coastal hazards to reduce risks to family and property.

The resource provides information about coastal hazards in addition to guiding residents on practical measures that can keep them safe and minimize damage to homes and property. While it is never possible to eliminate all potential damage from a natural hazard, as a homeowner you can take action and implement many small and cost-effective steps that could significantly lower your risk. Mother Nature can be intense. Your family and home deserve protection that only you can provide.

Free hard copies are currently available at all town offices on the Cape and Islands and at various other towns throughout Massachusetts, and a limited number of books can be ordered by emailing seagrant@whoi.edu. The Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Hazards is available as a free download at:

<http://seagrant.mit.edu/>

<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/publications-and-reports.html>

Career Information

Interested in a career in the marine sciences? You won't want to miss our web site Marine Science Careers: A Sea Grant Guide to Ocean Opportunities. The site offers profiles of people working in the marine sciences, and includes overviews of the fields of marine biology, oceanography, ocean engineering, a look at what the future is likely to hold for careers in these fields, links to a wide range of additional resources, information on salaries, frequently asked questions, and more. Be sure to set a bookmark to www.marinecareers.net today!

Hurricanes vs. Nor'easter Marine Extension Bulletin

Shorelines are subject to erosion when wind, waves, and currents wear away the land along the water's edge. Occasional coastal storms can dramatically intensify the erosion process in the short term and have a significant impact on longterm erosion rates. In Massachusetts we hear about erosion caused by hurricanes and by "nor'easters". While heavy winds, rain, large waves, and storm surge from both types of systems have potential for coastal damage, there are some significant differences between the two types of systems. [This Marine Extension bulletin](#), recently produced by Woods Hole Sea Grant in conjunction with the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies/National Severe Storm Laboratory, covers the two types of storms, explains the differences, and discusses the potential coastal impacts in Massachusetts.

Listserve Postings

The SEMCO (Southeastern Massachusetts Coastal Outreach) listserve was created to help enhance the communication of coastal outreach organizations in southeastern Massachusetts. The listserve provides an easy way of communicating your announcements, needs, and resources in one easy step. To sign up and for information on posting messages, [click here](#).

Shellfish, Nitrogen and the Health of our Coastal Waters

[This new marine extension bulletin](#) serves to summarize the often confusing potential for shellfish to be used as part of a plan to mitigate the effects of excess nutrients in coastal waters. The Cape Cod area in particular is grappling with the potentially enormous costs of reducing the nutrient load to coastal waters and all options are up for discussion.

Shellfish are natural inhabitants of coastal waters and through their normal feeding activity are involved in cycling and incorporating nutrients through their food. This bulletin discusses the potential, and also the challenges to using shellfish production as part of a nutrient reduction plan.

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