Sea-Level Rise – Focus on PEI and New Brunswick

Gary Lines Meteorological Service of Canada Environment Canada



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Climate-Change Issues in the Coastal Zone

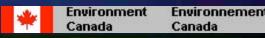
> sea-level rise

- > storms & storm-surge flooding
- > wave climate & shoreline erosion
- > sea ice & open-water
- > geophysical impacts
- > ecosystem impacts
- > community impacts
- socioeconomic response

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personal & commercial property
public infrastructure
natural ecosystems
personal security

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Storm-surge flooding & coastal erosion are problems that are with us today!

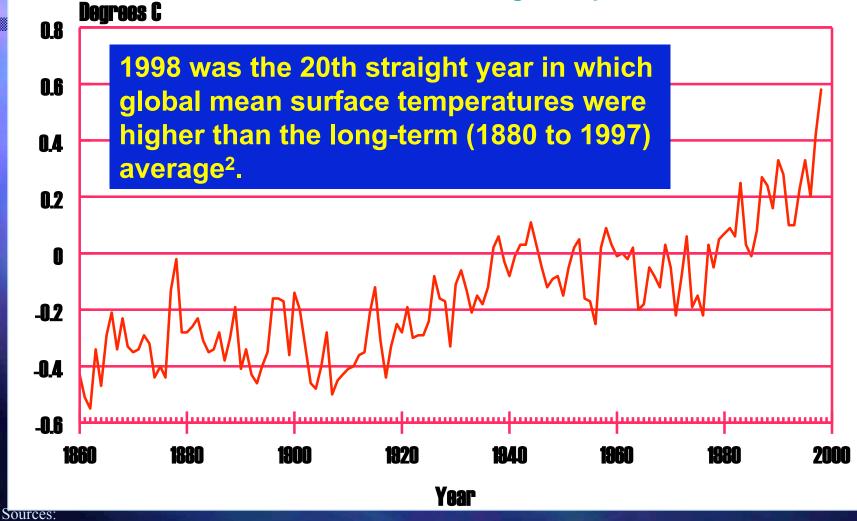
Crustal subsidence is occurring...

Even without global warming, these problems will get worse ... **Sensitivity of Coastal Areas to Sea Level Rise** Low Moderate High

Source: Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 505, Sensitivity of the Coasts of Canada To Sea Level Rise, 1998.

Global Temperature Change 1860-1998

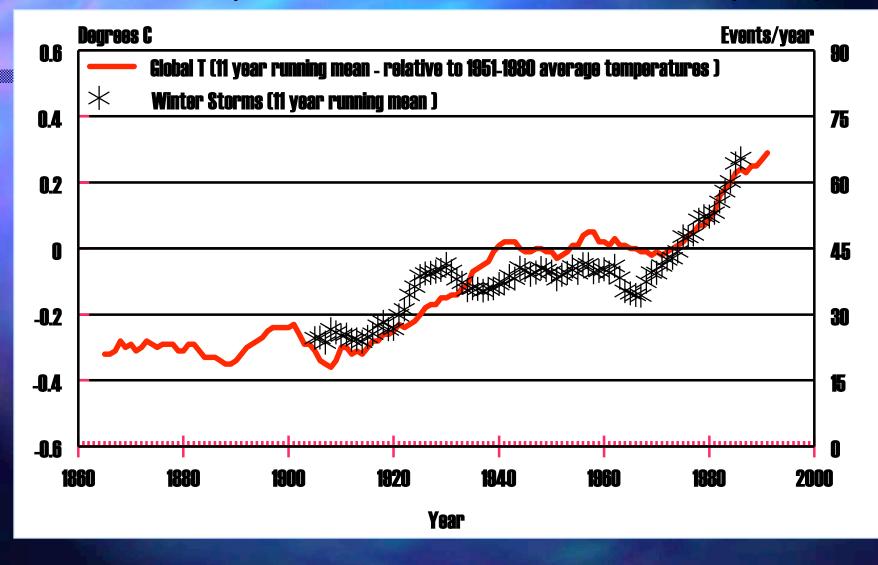
Relative to 1961-90 average temperature¹



1. Data for graph from: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/climate/research/1997/globet3.txt

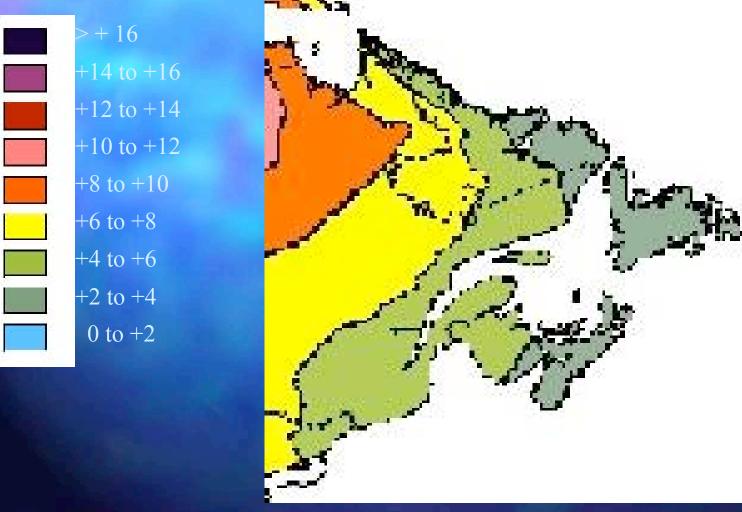
2. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Climate of 1998, Annual Review, January 12, 1999

Changes in Global Temperature And Northern Hemisphere Intense Winter Storm Frequency

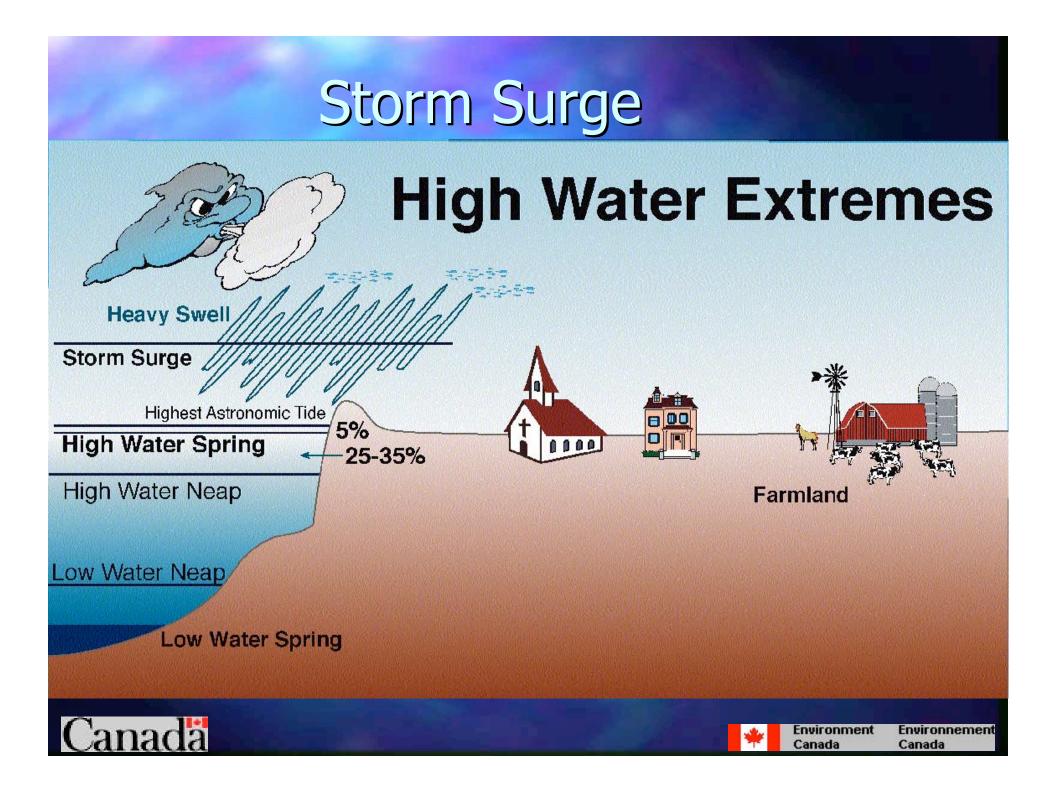


Source of storm frequency data: Lambert, S.J., Intense Extratropical Northern Hemisphere Winter Cyclone Events: 1899-1991, Journal of Geophysical Research, Vol 101, No. D16, Pages 21319-21325, Sept. 27, 1996.

Projected Temperature Increase - Winter 2090 (December, January, February)



Source: Adaptation and Impacts Research (AIR) Group, Environment Canada, 1999



Storm Surge and Coastal Erosion

Recent events – January 21st, 2000 – October 29th, 2000











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Measured and Projected Sea-Level Rise

Results from a recently completed PEI Sea Level Rise Study. - area RSLR ~30 cm/century global SLR ~10 cm/century crustal subsidence ~20cm/century -global SLR projections $\sim 50 \text{ cm} \pm 40 \text{ cm}$ to 2100 AD - RSLR to 2100 AD = \sim 70 ± 40 cm

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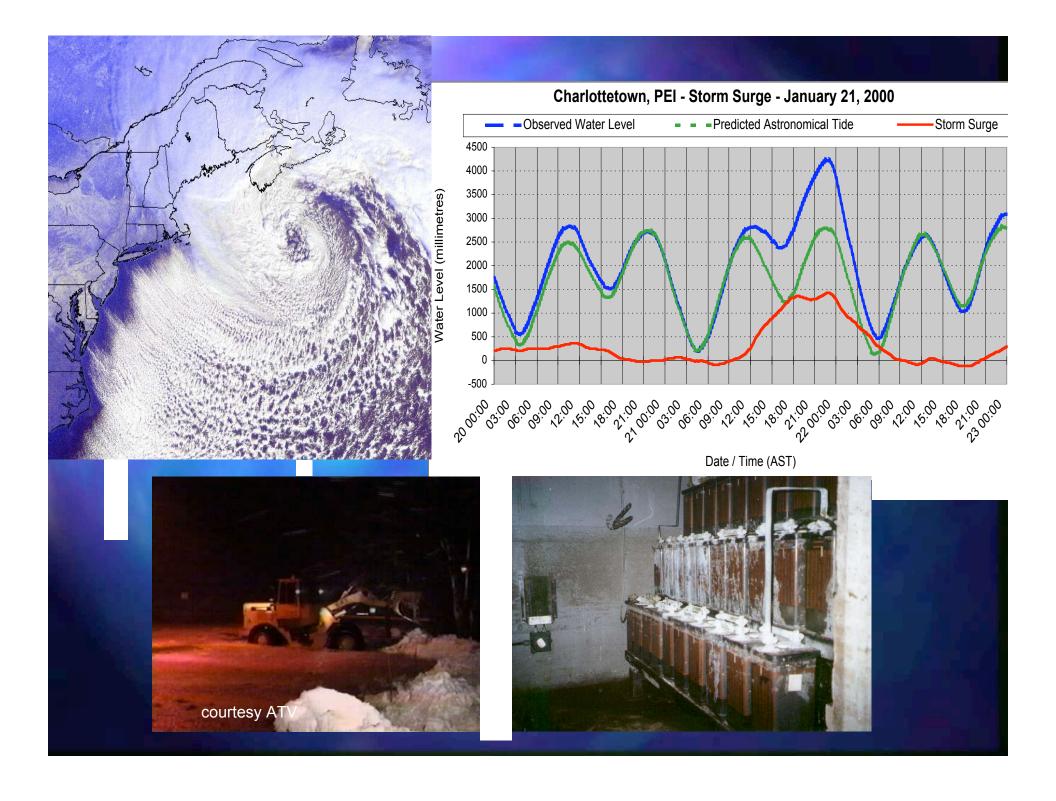
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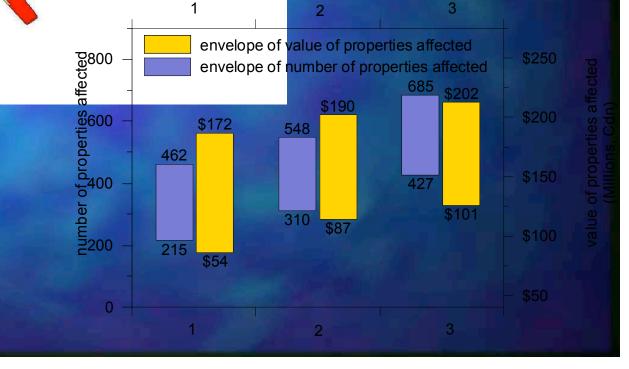




Properties a

Charlottetown

Economic impact of storm-surge f in Charlottetown now (scenario 1) with SLR (scenarios 2 & 3)

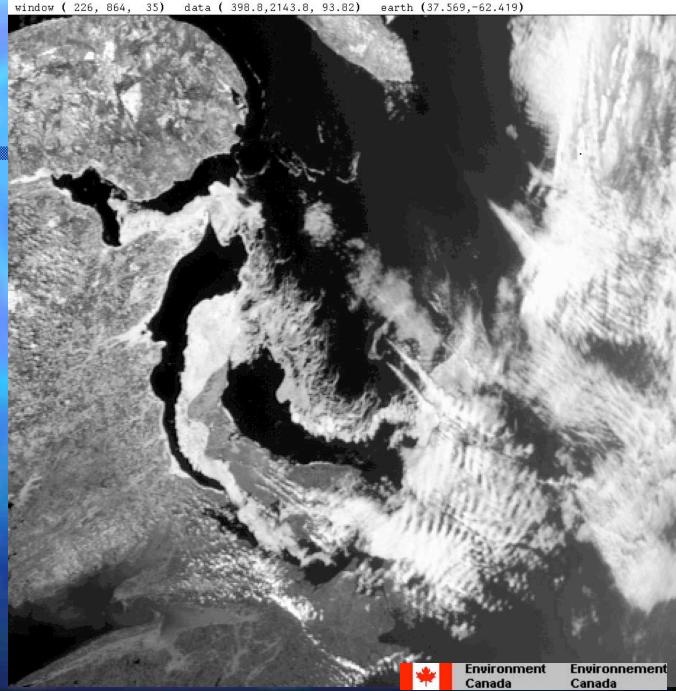


Municipal infrastructure at risk ... > \$48M

Heritage propertiesat risk49 @ \$11.3M

Ice in the Gulf of St Lawrence 26 Mar 1999

Reduced winter ice in future warmer climate may lead to increased winter storm wave activity and coastal damage



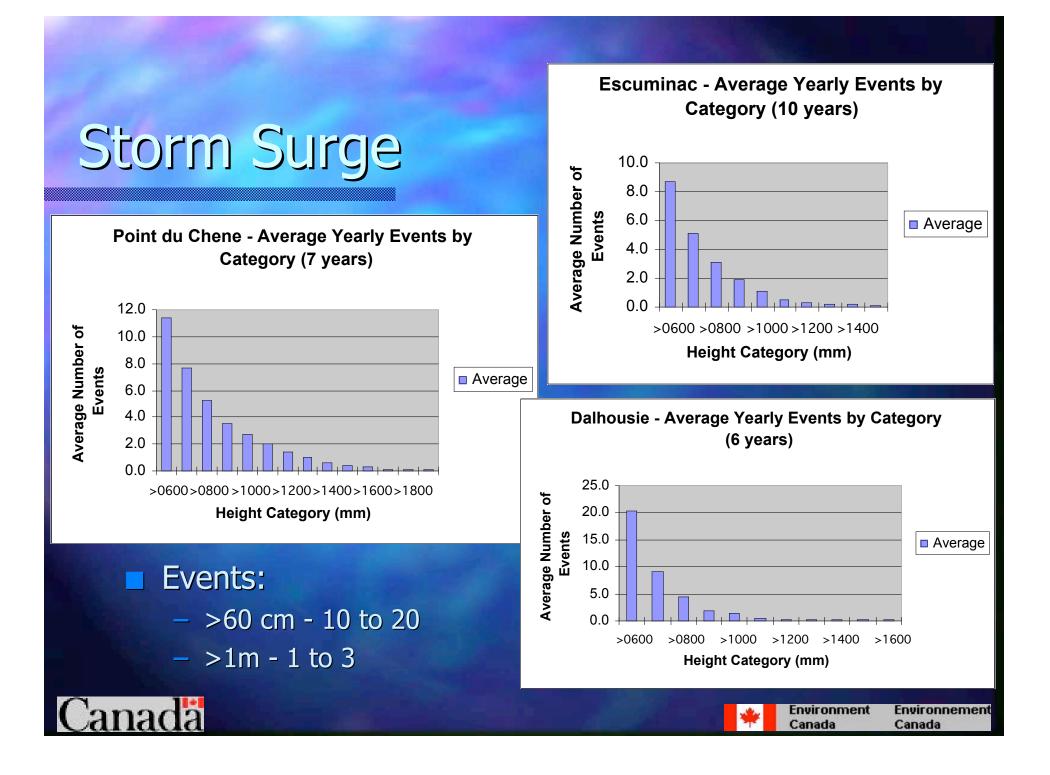


Erosion risk to coastal lands on the North Shore

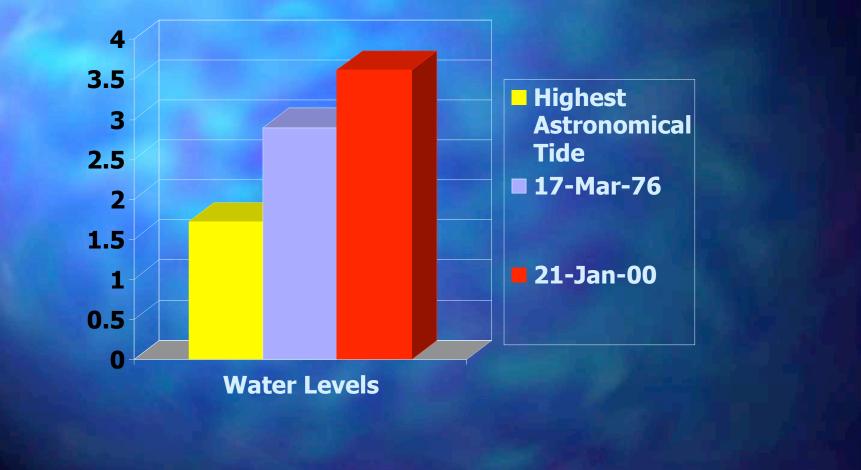
past losses	cottage	non-cottage
value of land lost, 1935 - 1990	\$ 816,000.00	\$ 63,400.00
value of land lost, 1980/81 - 1990	\$ 242,000.00	\$ 10,600.00

100-year erosion forecast (all properties)

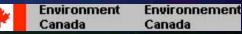
	Current	Erosion	Erosion	Erosion
	Total	1.0x	1.5x	2.0x
Area	703 ha	34.7 ha	52.1 ha	69.5 ha
Value	\$2.6 M	\$638 K	\$957 K	\$1.28 M
% of Current Value		24.6%	36.9%	49.1%



Record Water Level in Point-de-Chene











Pointe-Du-Chene

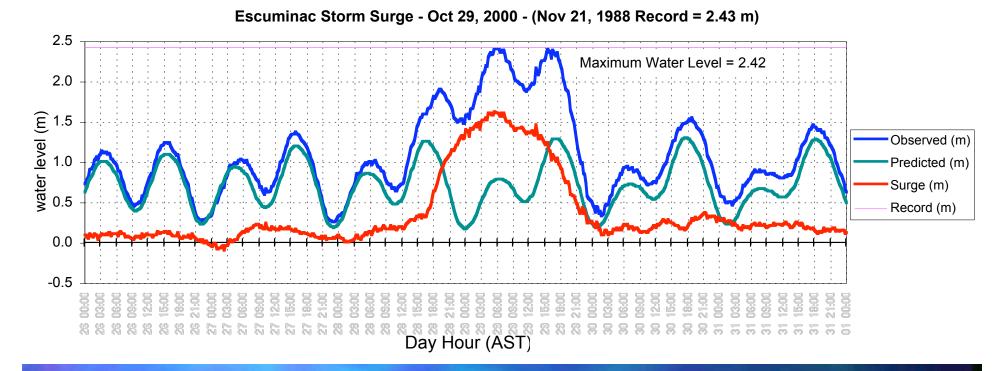


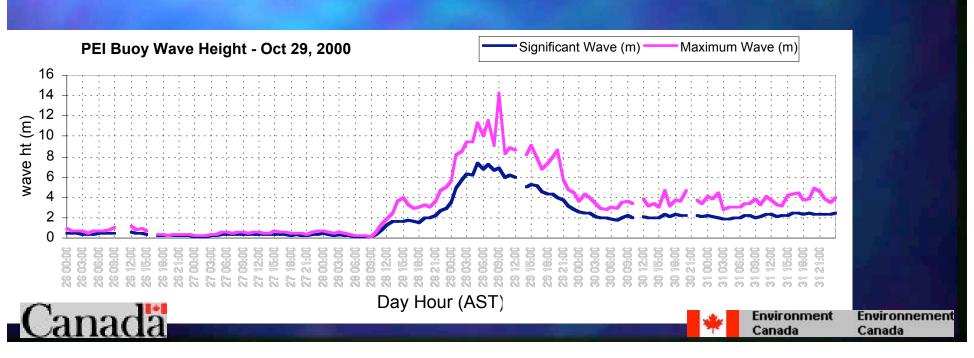
Cap-des-Caissie











Changing the Landscape

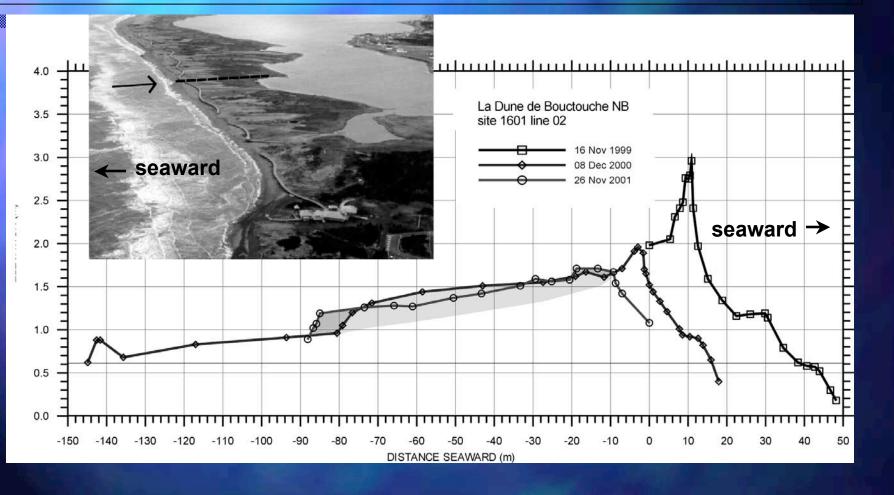






Successive profiles across La Dune de Bouctouche spit

- November 1999
- December 2000 following October 2000 storm
- November 2001 following storm earlier in that month



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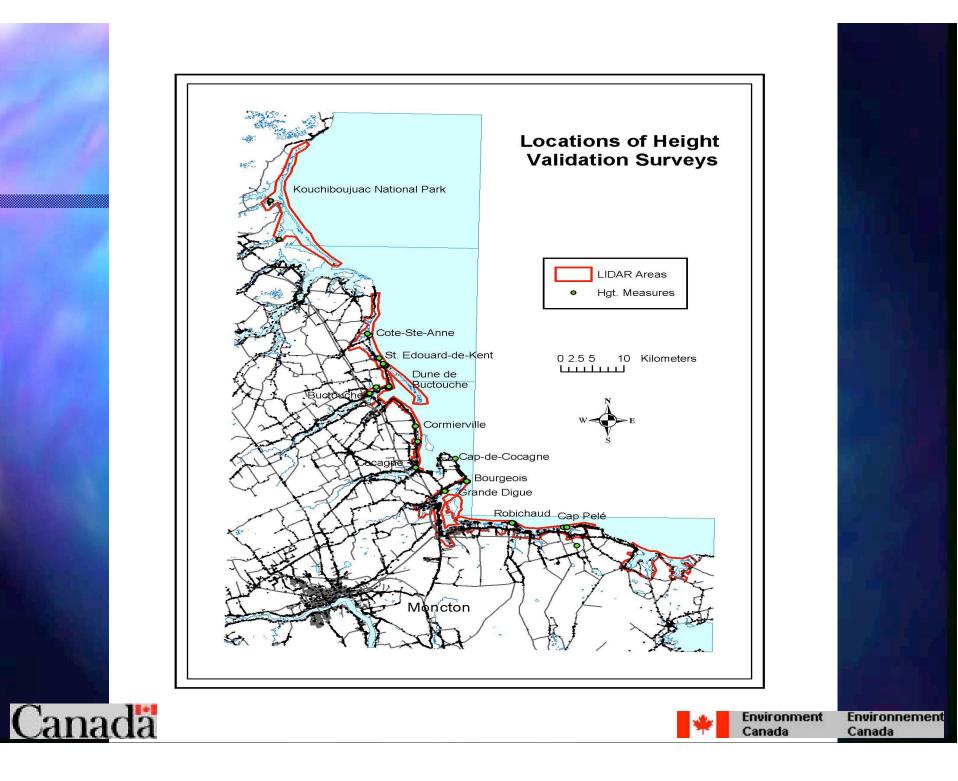


New Brunswick Sea-Level Rise Project Overview

"The Impacts of Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change on the Coastal Zone of Southeastern New Brunswick"



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Project Objective

Quantify impacts of climate change and more specifically sea-level rise, storm surge and coastal erosion on the Gulf of St. Lawrence coastal zone of southeastern New Brunswick, in support of sustainable management, community resilience and the development of adaptation strategies.

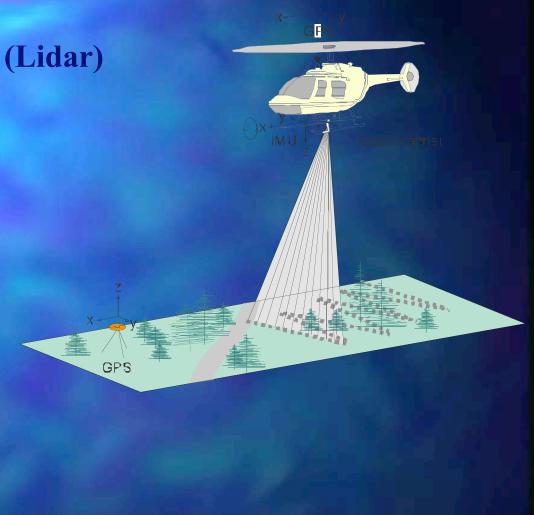




Airborne laser altimetry (Lidar)

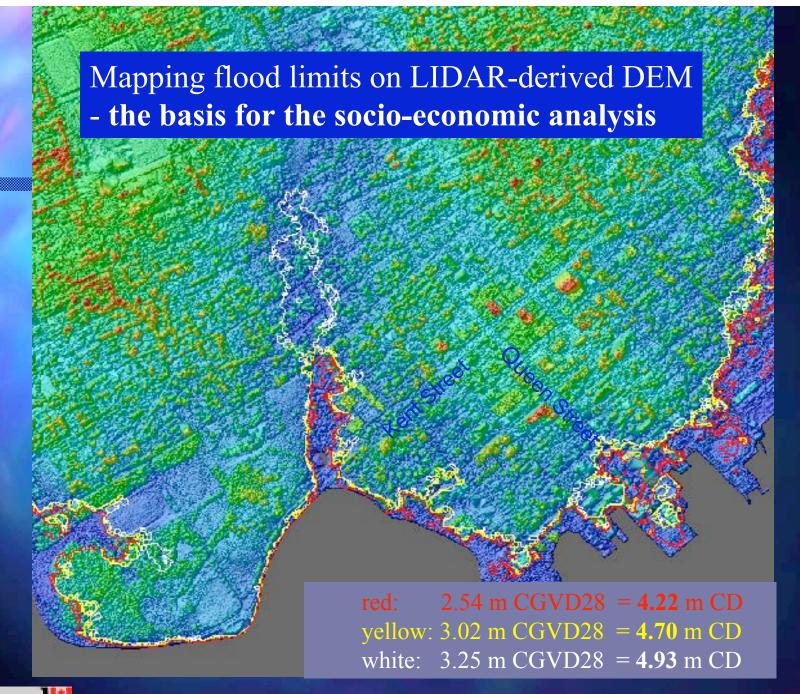


• used to build digital elevation models (DEMs) onshore

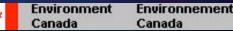




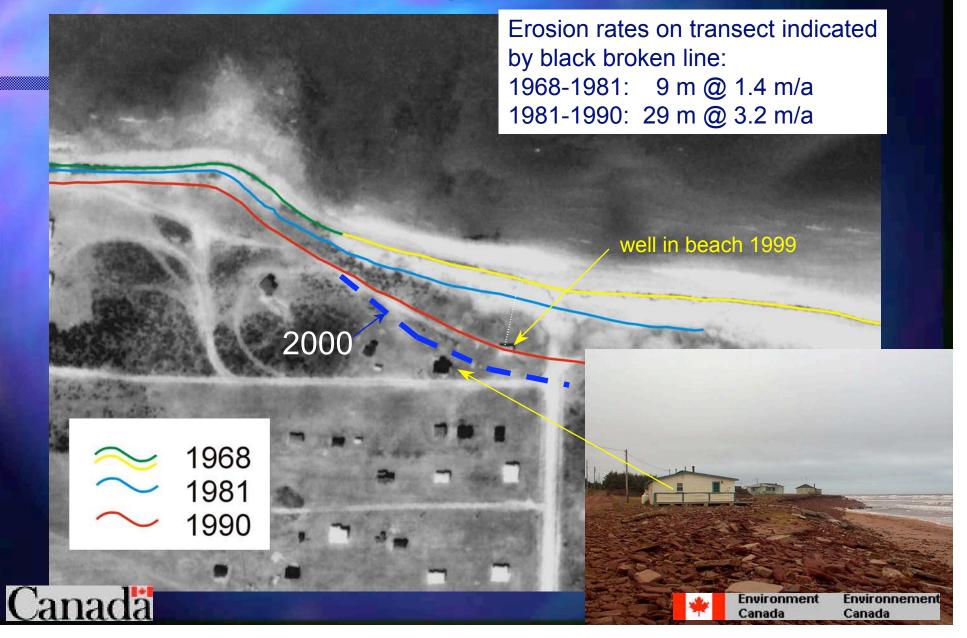


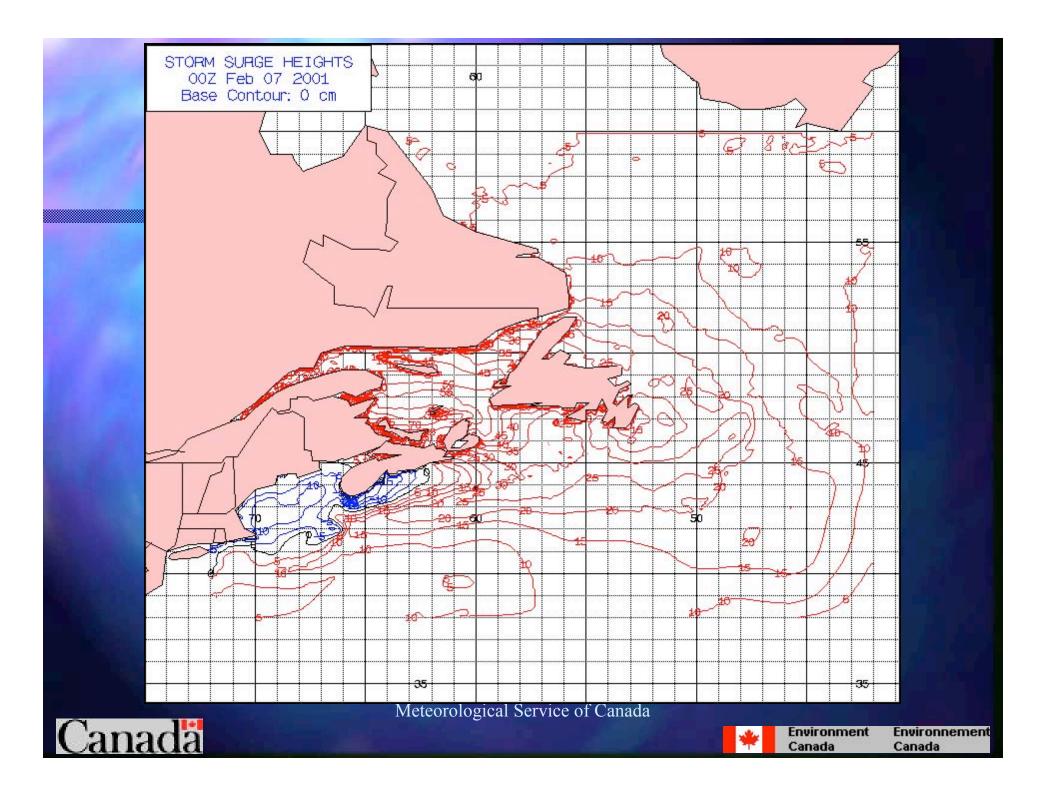






Coastal retreat at Pigots Point, PEI





Project Deliverables (2003-2006)

To policy makers and the local communities:

- Identification of anticipated Sea-Level Rise and Storm Surge effects in the coastal zone;
- Assessment of associated impacts;
- Better understanding of vulnerability in coastal communities and the impacts on residents' lives and livelihood;

Delineation of hazard zones and suggested adaptation strategies - Protection, Accommodation, and Retreat or Avoidance (applicable to coastal areas protection policy)

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Application of Outcomes

La Dune Breach

- Impacts on Aquaculture
 The future of
 - its infrastructure



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Application of Outcomes

Parlee Beach (Beach Nourishment Program) - Designing more natural and resistant beach systems



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Project team Environment Canada Natural Resources Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans Parks Canada New Brunswick Government Dalhousie University Centre of Geographic Sciences University of New Brunswick Université de Moncton •Mount Allison University •La Dune de Bouctouche



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