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Accelerating Coastal Resilience
across the Commonwealth



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October 20, 2026

Support for Regional Partnerships & Projects



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KEY THEMES OF 2025 PLAN

- **Evolving challenges require new approaches**
 - Account for accelerated sea level rise & more damaging coastal storms
- **Proactive planning & investment will help reduce costs & damages**
 - Consider design life & benefit-cost analysis
- **Managing the coast requires collective action & planning for a range of scenarios & time horizons**
 - Stakeholders will have different needs & risk tolerances
- **Risks can be significantly reduced**

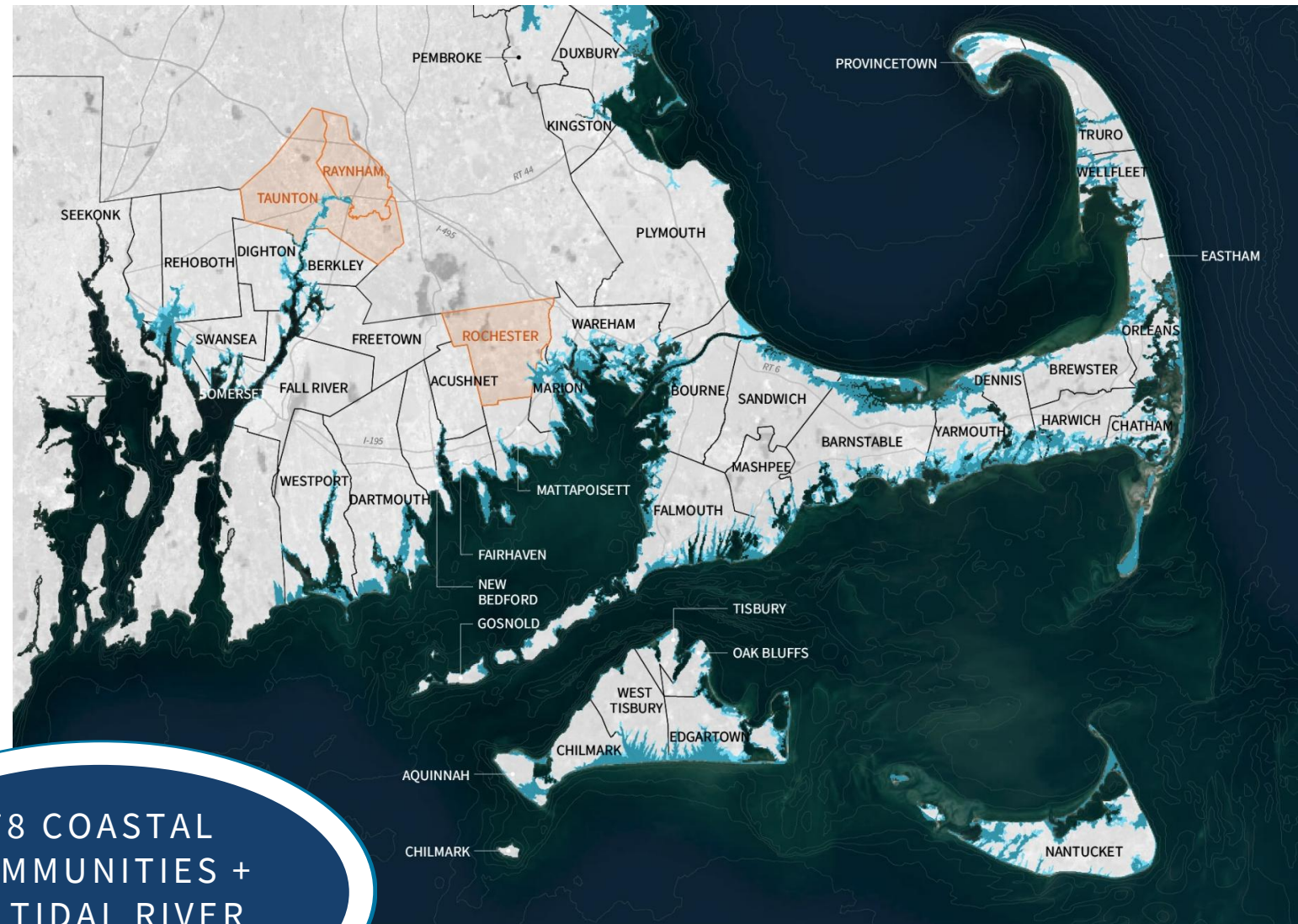
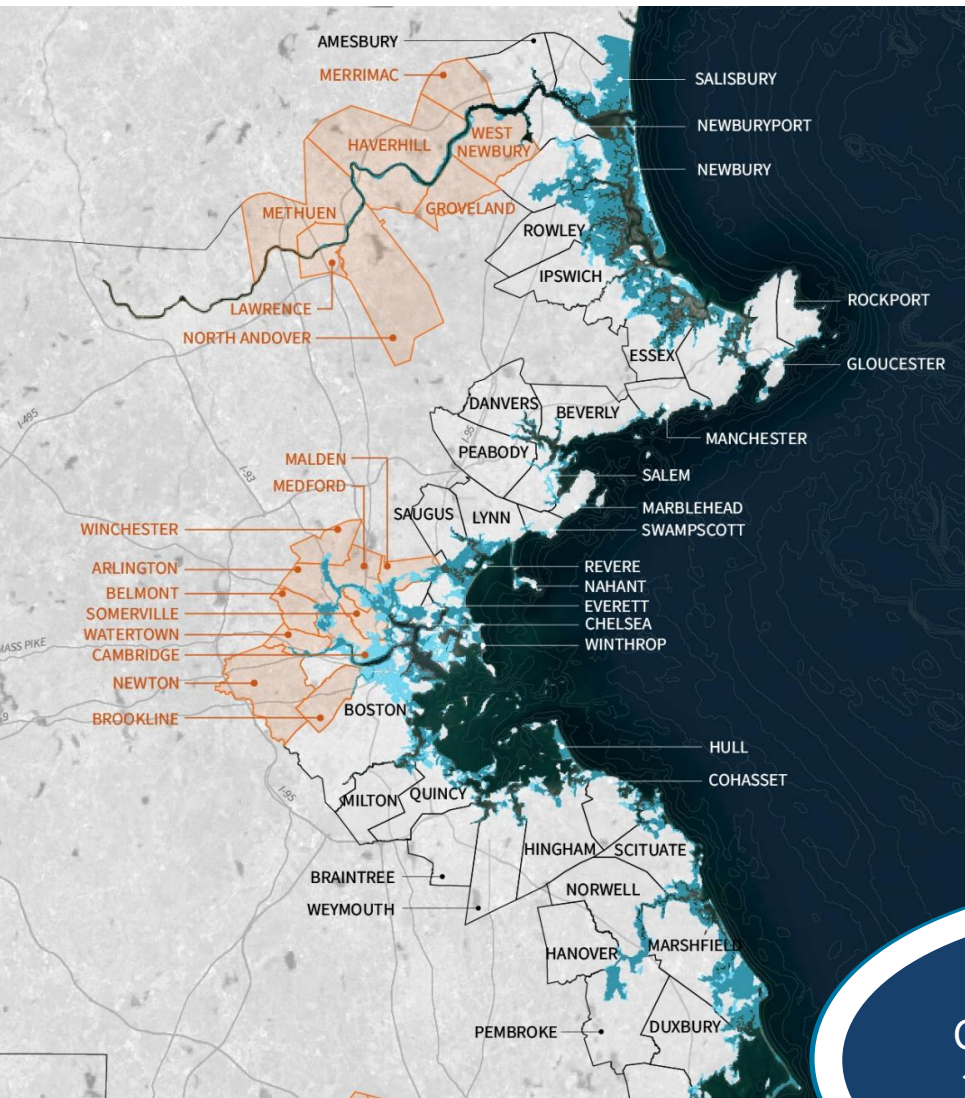
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FINAL PLAN



November 2025

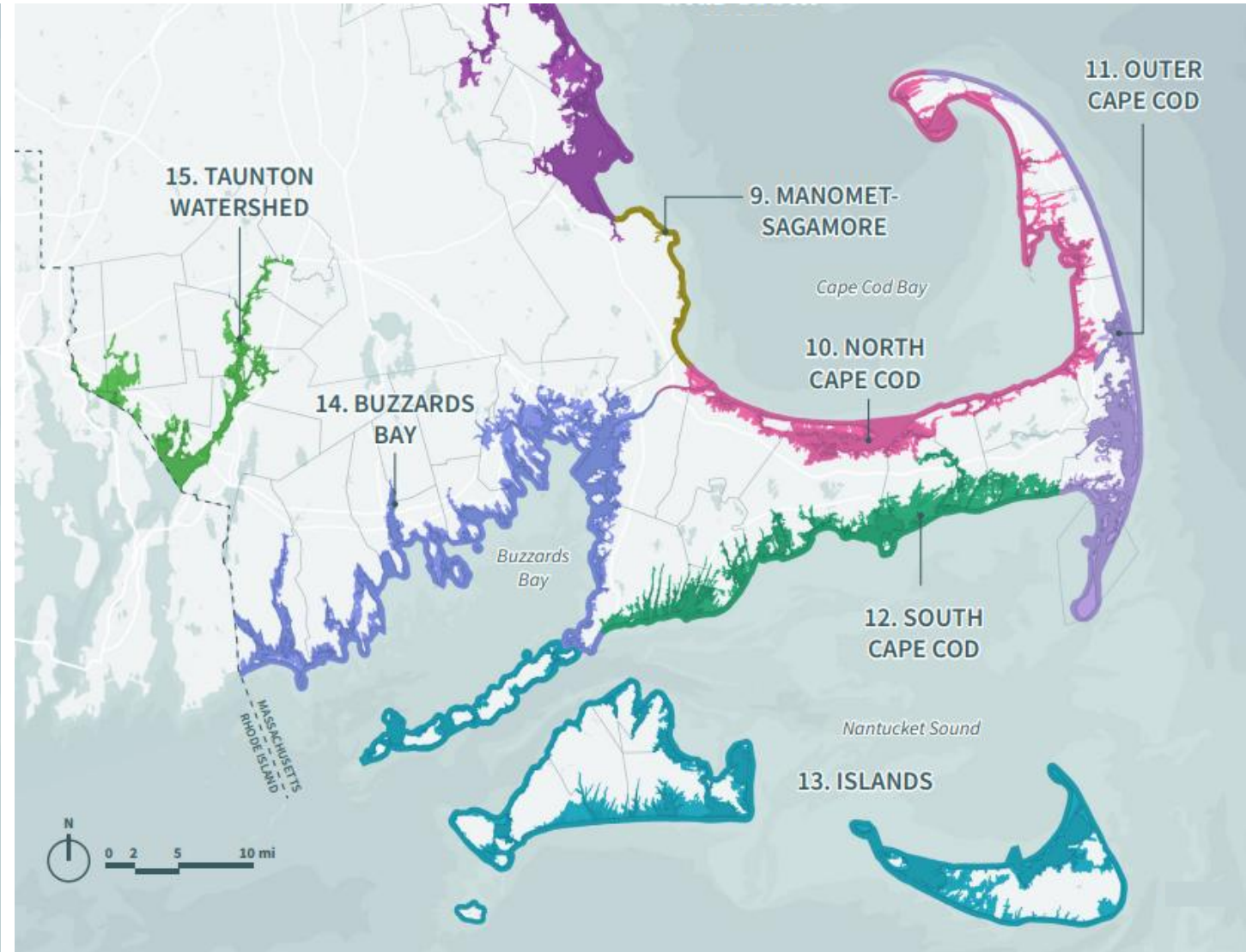
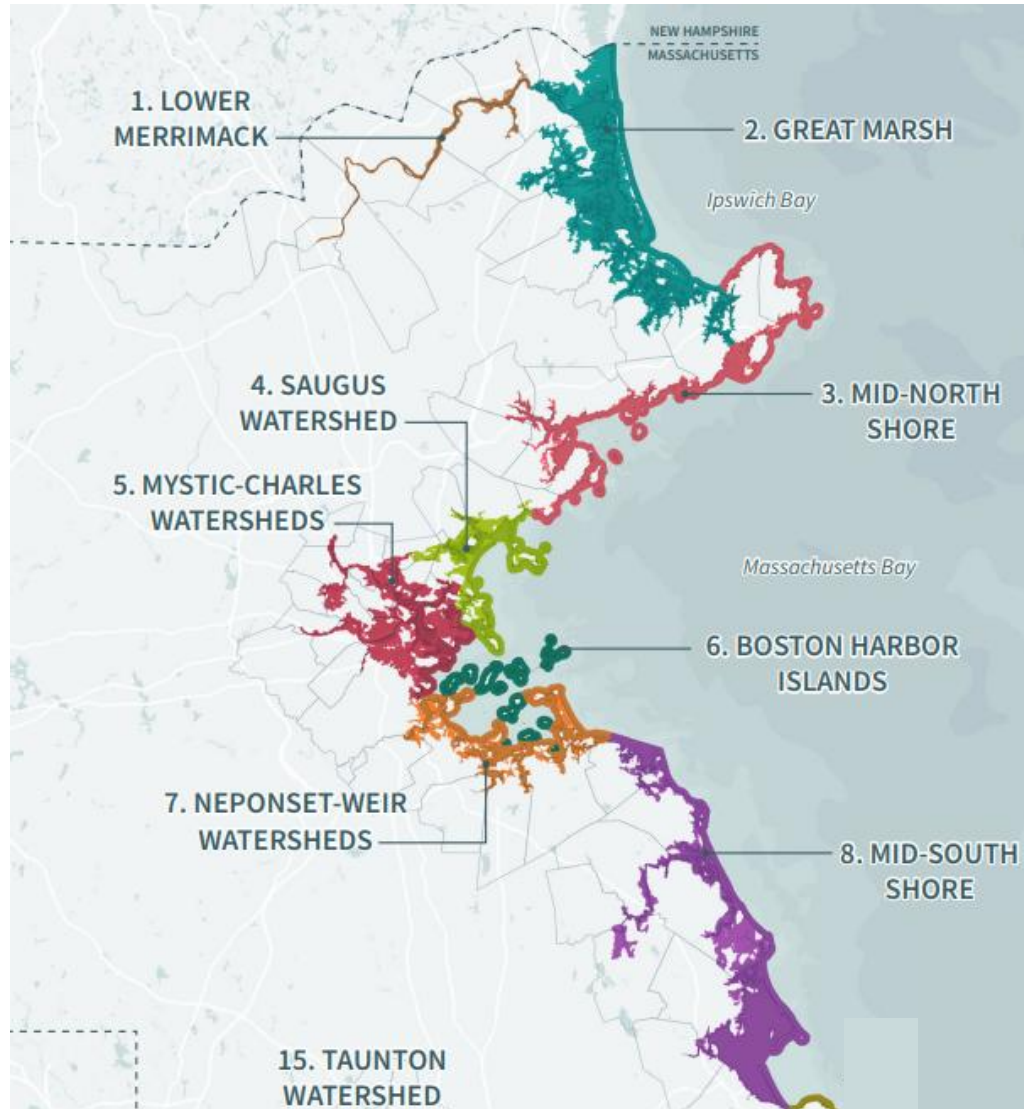
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE – COMMUNITIES WITH NEAR- & LONG-TERM RISK



78 COASTAL
COMMUNITIES +
20 TIDAL RIVER
COMMUNITIES

15 COASTAL RESILIENCE DISTRICTS

Characteristics include similar coastal environments, population & development patterns



10 STATE-LED STRATEGIES & 71 ACTIONS

Strategy 1 - Identify & invest in district & regional-scale projects & partnerships, tailored where necessary to region-specific needs & circumstances

Action 1.1 - Support & incentivize Coastal Resilience District collaboration to identify, prioritize & implement resilience projects through funding for regional capacity building

Technical Services Opportunity



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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECTS

Support for:

- Regional partnerships & identification of priorities & projects
- Projects across a broad geographic area or that protect regional assets
- Greater efficiency, cost savings & resilience

Regional project examples:

- Transportation infrastructure (e.g., evacuation routes, causeways & bridges)
- Critical infrastructure (e.g., regional hospitals, energy facilities & water/wastewater systems)
- Coastal infrastructure (e.g., redesign & replacement of failing seawalls that protect regional assets)
- Large-scale regional sediment management
- Nature-based solutions (e.g., coastal landform enhancement in flood pathways to buffer coastal storm impacts)
- Relocation of vulnerable populations (e.g., identification of potential receiving areas)

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Service Providers:

- CZM contracts with qualified planning & engineering vendors on two statewide contracts (PRF 76-2 & PRF 77-F)
- Original Vendor RFQs were posted in winter 2025
- Vendors may subcontract with other firms & regional planning agencies

Types of Services:

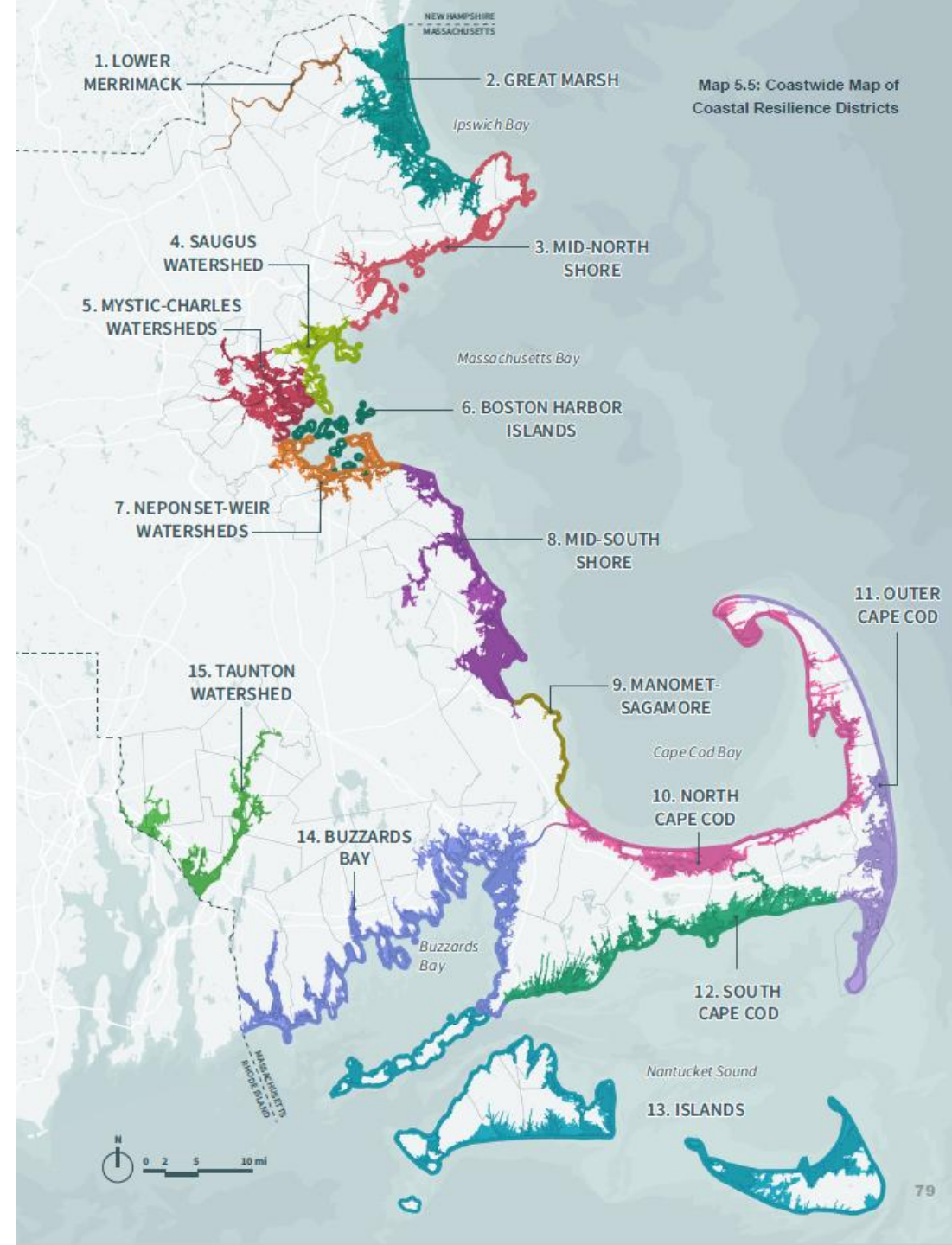
1. Project management & meeting facilitation
2. Community engagement
3. Refinement of regional climate risks, potential projects & adaptation benefits
4. Advancement of design concepts & permitting pathways
5. Establishment of regional collaboration & funding mechanisms

REGIONAL COHORTS

- Partnerships across multiple communities within one or more Coastal Resilience Districts

Eligible leads:

- Priority: municipal & tribal governments
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit watershed associations in partnership with local governments
- Need to submit an EOI to CZM
- CZM will contact regional cohorts on a first-come, first-served basis by Coastal Resilience District to develop scopes & kick off projects with service providers



Future Investments/Considerations

MASS READY ACT:

- Environmental Bond Bill filed by Healey-Driscoll Administration in 2025 would authorize \$200 M for coastal resilience

BIG, REGIONAL PROJECT NEEDS:

- New services, skill sets, and expertise needed as large projects move from design/permitting to implementation including owner's rep services

STATE CONTRACT:

- Contract user guides and contacts on mass.gov
- Look for new contract bid dates – PRF77 may be coming up in spring 2027

Increased Building Standards



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10 STATE-LED STRATEGIES & 71 ACTIONS

Strategy 2 – Increase the resilience of new and re-development by integrating best available data on current and future coastal hazards

Action 2.2 – Embed resilience into administrative and other processes for Board of Building Regulations and Standards by establishing board seats for resilience experts and adding resilience to the board's core objectives.

Action 2.6 – Incorporate resilience amendments into the 11th edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code.

Building Code Efforts – Research, Statutes, Regulations

MASS READY ACT

- Add expertise in climate risk, resilient design and housing supply to the board
- Add climate resilience as an objective of the board

STATEWIDE FLOOD LOSS AVOIDANCE STUDY

- Better understand measures that reduce food losses over time and benefits yielded

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Recommendations on amendments to increase resilience in the code

Building Code Efforts – Research, Statutes, Regulations

TAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 11TH EDITION:

- Consistent **definition of DFE** and **Flood Hazards Areas** across entire code (currently different definitions in residential and base codes which is confusing)
- Use **FEMA's NFIP Elevation and Dry Floodproofing Certificates** to satisfy documentation requirements of MSBC (provides uniformity across projects and communities)
- **Clarify coastal dune** location documentation provisions so projects follow building code requirements for all coastal dunes
- **Clarify no new dwelling units** are allowed **below the base flood elevation** (currently required for new buildings but not existing buildings)
- **Expand regulated area** for flood resistant construction standards to the **0.2% (500-year) annual chance floodplain** for new construction (aligned with 2027 ICC codes and ASCE 24-24 and ASCE 7-22)

Contact

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