



PEP Shoreline Adaptation Initiative (ShAdI) Fact Sheet

Overview

The **Shoreline Adaptation Initiative (ShAdI)** was launched in 2022 by the **Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP)** and **New York Sea Grant (NYSG)** to address challenges in shoreline management and promote nature-based solutions for erosion and flood resilience. Funded by NYS DEC, EPA, and local governments, ShAdI investigates barriers to adaptation, assists in streamlining permitting, and enhances collaboration among regulatory and community stakeholders.

Why It Matters

Shoreline projects in New York must comply with a **multi-jurisdictional regulatory framework** involving federal (e.g., **USACE**), state (e.g., **NYS DEC, NYS DOS, NYS OGS**), and local governments. Navigating these overlapping rules can be complex, creating barriers to sustainable shoreline protection, especially for nature-based solutions.

Seven Key Focus Areas

1. **Permitting Process** – Understanding application timelines, reviews, approvals, and enforcement.
2. **Interagency Connection** – Enhancing communication and reducing duplicative efforts.
3. **Codes & Regulations** – Reviewing and updating local laws to support nature-based practices.
4. **Program Support** – Assessing available technical and financial aid for municipalities.
5. **Access to Technical Resources** – Compiling tools, training, and pilot project lessons.
6. **Public Understanding** – Educating landowners on sustainable alternatives to hard structures.
7. **Practitioner Confidence** – Supporting engineers and contractors through the permitting process.

Stakeholder Sub-Groups:

- **Shoreline Regulators** – Government agencies responsible for reviewing permits.
- **Policy Makers** – Officials who shape shoreline policy and codes.



- **Land Managers** – Homeowners and municipalities applying for permits.
- **Practitioners** – Engineers, contractors, and consultants executing shoreline projects.

What We've Learned Thus Far

Through **interviews, workshops, and collaborative sessions**, ShAdI revealed:

- The permitting process is fragmented and often unclear.
- Nature-based solutions face regulatory and cultural resistance.
- Increased access to technical resources, thoughtful guidance, inter agency coordination, and education are key to success.

Our Goals

- Promote **nature-based solutions** (e.g., living shorelines) where feasible.
- Clarify and align **multi-agency permitting processes**.
- Support **adaptive, science-informed management** across the Peconic Estuary.
- Develop actionable policy recommendations to **foster climate resilience**.

Looking Ahead

ShAdI is planning to release a Peconic Estuary overview guidance and recommendations document, local municipality guidance and recommendation documents for each town, website, literature review and permitting process roadmaps. A summit will be held in June 2025. The initiative continues to foster collaboration between regulators, municipalities, and practitioners to simplify shoreline permitting, support sustainable design, and build a more resilient future for the Peconic Estuary.

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