

Coastal Flooding and Salt Marshes in Connecticut: A Survey of Landowners



A study conducted by:

This survey is for all coastal landowners in Connecticut. All opinions matter and are valuable, even if this is a new topic for you.

The purpose of this survey is to learn about your opinions on increased coastal flooding and salt marshes in your community. You were chosen as part of a random sample of people who own land in areas that will likely convert naturally to salt marsh in the future. Our report on this research will be shared with state and local officials so that the opinions of people like you are considered when developing coastal management policies and programs that could benefit landowners in your area. Even if you aren't very interested in these topics or live far from existing salt marshes, we still would like you to answer the questions and return the questionnaire. Please be assured that your identity will be kept strictly confidential and **your responses will never be associated with your name or address.**

In this questionnaire, a **salt marsh** is a coastal wetland that is flooded by salt water brought in by the tides at least twice each month. As increased coastal flooding continues, salt marsh will likely move inland into areas that are **not currently marsh**, as shown below. We are interested in your thoughts on this process and how it might affect you.



Please complete this questionnaire as soon as you can, place it in the envelope provided, and drop it in any mailbox; return postage has been paid. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and you may stop at any time, but we encourage you to respond to all questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

What are the characteristics of your coastal property in Connecticut?

Coastal property includes land within one mile of the coast.

1. Is your coastal property your primary residence? *(Check one)*

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Approximately how many acres is your coastal property? *(Fill in the blank)*

_____ number of acres

3. How many times has the first floor of the house on your coastal property flooded in the last 10 years? *(Fill in the blank)*

_____ number of times the first floor of my house has flooded

4. Did the first floor of your house flood as a result of Hurricane Sandy (October 2012)? *(Check one)*

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. What percent of your property is currently salt marsh (coastal wetland that is flooded by salt water brought in by the tides)? *(Fill in the blank with a whole number from 0-100)*

_____ percent of my property is salt marsh

The next several questions concern your thoughts about increased coastal flooding, whether it will impact your coastal property, and what actions you will take on your property. Shoreline protection is any construction designed to prevent water levels from rising on your property. Common examples include bulkheads, revetments, and concrete sea walls.

6. Research by The Nature Conservancy (<http://coastalresilience.org>) suggests that part of your property is likely to convert naturally to salt marsh in the future as a result of increased coastal flooding. What are your thoughts about the likelihood of water level rising on your property and your potential response? *(Check one box for each row)*

Within the next twenty years, how likely is it that...	Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
...water levels will rise naturally on any part of your coastal property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...rising water levels would create salt marsh in new locations on your coastal property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...you will use shoreline protection (such as bulkheads, revetments, and/or concrete sea walls) to prevent water levels from rising?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...you will allow water levels to rise naturally?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Assuming that water levels may rise on your coastal property in the next 20 years, what are your thoughts about allowing water levels to rise naturally (not using shoreline protection) on your coastal property? (Check one box for each row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Allowing water levels to rise on my property would be bad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most people who are important to me think I should allow water levels to rise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most people who are like me will allow water levels to rise on their coastal property.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allowing water levels to rise naturally on any part of my coastal property is up to me (as opposed to other people).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. If water levels are allowed to rise naturally on your coastal property in the next 20 years, how likely are each of the following outcomes for your coastal property? (Check one box for each row)

Allowing water levels to rise naturally on my coastal property will result in ...	Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
...losing my land to the sea.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...more habitat for saltmarsh wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...more salt marsh for storm protection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...others thinking I am neglecting to care for my property.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...more mosquitos.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...more expensive insurance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduced property value.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...increased risk of my house flooding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. How good or bad would each of the following outcomes be for your coastal property? (Check one box for each row)

Outcomes	Very Bad	Bad	Neither	Good	Very Good
Losing my land to the sea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More habitat for saltmarsh wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More salt marsh for storm protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others thinking I am neglecting to care for my property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More mosquitos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More expensive insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced property value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased risk of my house flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. In the next twenty years, do you think the following situation will occur? How will it influence your ability to allow water levels to rise on any part of your coastal property? (*Check one box for each row*)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I will be offered a <u>monetary incentive</u> to allow water levels to rise on my coastal property.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being offered a <u>monetary incentive</u> would enable me to allow water levels to rise on any part of my property.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. How important are the thoughts of others when it comes to your coastal property? (*Check one box for each row*)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
When it comes to my property, I want to do what people important to me think I should do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When it comes to my property, I want to be like people important to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Is there currently shoreline protection on your coastal property? (*Check one*)

☐ Yes, I built it. ☐ Yes, it was on my property when I bought it. ☐ No ☐ I don't know

13. In the past, have you allowed water levels to rise on any part of your coastal property? (*Check one*)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable (water levels have not risen on any part of my property)

14. Do you think that sea level rise is happening? (*Check one*)

☐ Yes ☐ No

How sure are you? (*Check one*)

Very Unsure	Unsure	Neither	Sure	Very Sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. To address some people's concerns about coastal flooding in Connecticut, non-profit organizations that focus on land conservation are offering a variety of voluntary agreements to interested landowners. We are interested in whether the following agreements might be of interest to you.

A. A conservation easement is a binding agreement with a conservation organization that prevents shoreline protection from taking place on the land in perpetuity. The landowner retains ownership of their property, with the remainder of their private property rights intact. Because use is permanently restricted, a property subject to a conservation easement may be worth less on the open market than comparable unrestricted parcels. How likely are you to sign a conservation easement within the next ten years if a conservation organization offered to pay you a one-time sum of \$4,000 for each undeveloped acre? *(Check one)*

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. How likely are you to sell your property (including your house) to a conservation organization for fair market value within the next ten years, if the conservation organization made you an offer? *(Check one)*

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. A restrictive covenant is a mutual agreement among neighbors that requires everyone in the neighborhood to allow water levels to rise naturally, creating salt marsh in new locations on your property. Such an agreement could prevent the unintended consequences of additional shoreline protection on nearby properties, such as increased erosion or unplanned flooding on your property. How likely are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years, if your neighbors also participated? *(Check one)*

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. You may have the option of signing an agreement that would transfer ownership of your property (including your house) to a conservation organization in the event of a flood that reduces the total property value by more than 50% of its current value. Under this agreement, the conservation organization would be required to pay you the pre-flood property value at the time of transfer. How likely are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years? *(Check one)*

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Which of the agreements shown in A-D above are you most likely to participate in? *(Check one)*

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ I am not likely to participate in any agreements

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *(Check one)*

If I sold my property to a conservation organization for fair market value, I would be worried about receiving a fair price. *(Check one)*

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BELLWETHER BIRD

Saltmarsh Sparrows are the only bird species in the world found only in salt marshes.



1 in 3 Saltmarsh Sparrow nests in Long Island Sound are washed away during high tides.



If salt marshes can migrate into new areas, Saltmarsh Sparrows can survive in the face of sea level rise.

SALT MARSHES **UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR COASTS**

Salt marshes store more carbon per acre than tropical forests.

Long Island Sound's marshes can survive sea level rise if they can migrate into new areas.



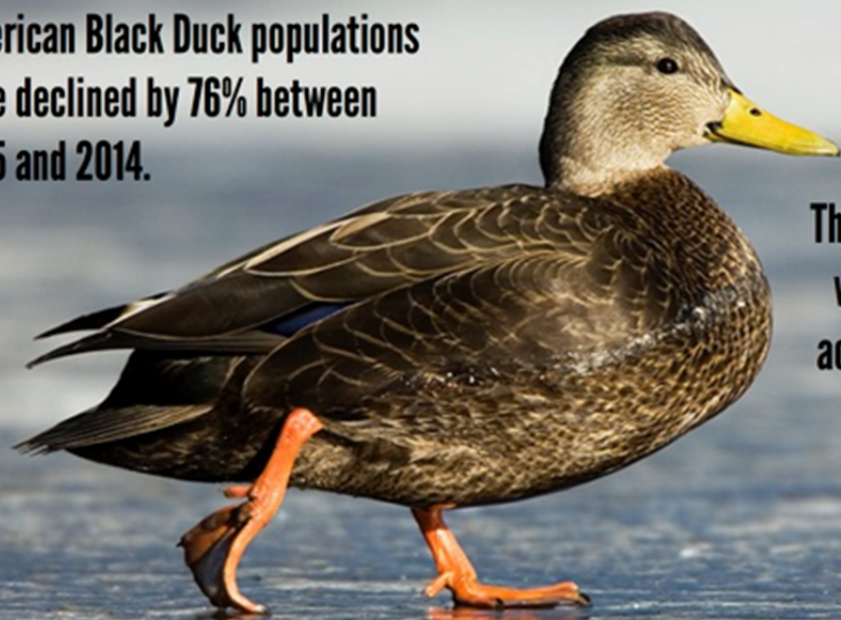
Salt marshes keep communities safe by reducing wave height and coastal erosion.



NEW ENGLAND'S **DUCK**

The American Black Duck is the iconic and native duck species of the Northeast.

American Black Duck populations have declined by 76% between 1955 and 2014.



The Atlantic Flyway, which includes CT, accounts for 91% of the wintering American Black Duck population.

American Black Ducks rely on healthy coastal salt marshes from Newfoundland to North Carolina to survive the winter.



18. How interesting did you find the information on the previous page? (Check one)

Very Uninteresting	Uninteresting	Neither	Interesting	Very Interesting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. After reading the information on the previous page, we would like to know your thoughts about increased coastal flooding, whether it will impact your coastal property, and what actions you will take on your property. (Check one box for each row)

Within the next twenty years, how likely is it that...	Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Strongly Likely
...you will use shoreline protection (such as bulkheads, revetments, and/or concrete sea walls) to prevent water levels from rising?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...you will allow water levels to rise naturally?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Allowing water levels to rise on my property would be bad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. How important to you are the following attributes of salt marshes? (Check one box for each row)

Outcomes	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
A. Flooding protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Erosion protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Wildlife viewing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Hunting opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Carbon storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Providing a home for wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which of the attributes shown in A-F above is most important to you? (Check one)

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F

Background Information

21. Are you male or female? (*Check one*) ☐ Male ☐ Female
22. In what year were you born? (*Fill in*) 19____
23. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (*Check one*)
- ☐ Less than high school
 - ☐ High school diploma/G.E.D.
 - ☐ Some college or technical school
 - ☐ Associate's degree
 - ☐ College undergraduate degree (e.g. B.A., B.S.)
 - ☐ Graduate or professional degree (e.g. M.S., Ph.D., M.D.)
24. Which conservation organizations, if any, are you a member of? (*Check all that apply*)
- ☐ National land conservation organization (e.g. Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy)
 - ☐ National bird or wildlife conservation organization (e.g. Audubon, Ducks Unlimited)
 - ☐ Local land conservation organization or land trust
 - ☐ Local/state bird or wildlife organization society
 - ☐ Hunting or fishing organization
 - ☐ None
25. Do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or a Libertarian? (*Check one*)
- ☐ Republican
 - ☐ Democrat
 - ☐ Independent
 - ☐ Libertarian

Thank you for your time and effort!

To return this questionnaire, place it in the envelope provided, and drop it in the mail.
(Return postage has been covered).

First cover letter

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

Dear NAME or current owner,

Increased coastal flooding is a critical issue affecting communities across Connecticut. I am writing to ask for your help in improving our understanding of landowners' views on increased coastal flooding and salt marshes in their community. The best way we know how to do this is by asking people who live by the coast to share their thoughts and opinions with us. Your address is one of only a small number that have been randomly selected to help with this study by completing the enclosed survey.

Please be assured that your identity will be kept strictly confidential and **your responses will never be associated with your name or address.**

This brief survey should take less than 15 minutes. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire as soon as you can and drop it in any mailbox; return postage has been paid. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and you may stop at any time. As an added incentive to participate, landowners who complete and return this survey will be automatically entered into a raffle to win one of two Amazon gift cards, worth \$250 each. If selected, the gift card will be sent to you by mail within five weeks of completing the survey. **Your name and address will still never be associated with your responses.**

Many thanks,

Second Cover Letter

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

Dear NAME or current owner,

About three weeks ago, we sent you a survey request asking for your opinions on coastal flooding and salt marshes in your community. To the best of our knowledge, we have not received your responses.

We are writing again because of the importance that your responses have for helping to get accurate results. It is only by hearing from nearly everyone in the sample that we can be sure that the results truly represent coastal landowners like you.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire as soon as you can and drop it in any mailbox; return postage has been paid. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and you may stop at any time. As an added incentive to participate, landowners who complete this survey will be automatically entered into a raffle to win one of two Amazon gift cards, worth \$250 each. If selected, the gift card will be sent to you by mail within five weeks of completing the survey. **Your name and address will still never be associated with your responses.**

Many thanks,

Interview script

Welcome participants and thank them for participating

Good afternoon. Thanks for coming to our session today. We are preparing for a survey of coastal landowners to understand how they will respond to sea level change. Our discussion today will inform our survey. We are asking you to take part because you are a coastal landowner in Long Island Sound, and you can help us ensure that our survey is relevant to other landowners like you.

We will talk about issues related to sea level rise and programs that landowners can take advantage of in the face of sea level rise. We will also ask for your help in defining words and phrases in a way that makes sense to landowners. Finally, we will run some of our survey questions by you to get your thoughts on them. We need your help to improve our questions so that they are as clear as possible to other coastal landowners.

[Read cover letter]

Participation in this interview is voluntary and anonymous. We will not be collecting personal information or linking your names with your comments. We would like to use an audio recorder, so that we can listen to the discussion and transcribe it later, but it is your right to opt out of being recorded. Is anyone concerned about audio recording?

If you would like a copy of the final study report, we would be pleased to send it to you. Please let me know at the end of our session.

The session will last for about an hour and 30 minutes. Before we begin, let's discuss our approach for the session:

- There are no right or wrong answers. We want to know your opinions. This is not a quiz.
- I'll ask a question, and then we will go around the circle so that each person can give their response.
- Please feel free to share any ideas you have and be honest.
- Please be respectful of the thoughts and opinions of others.
- Please turn off your cell phones.
- We do hope that all of you will be able to stay for the entire session.

Does anyone have any questions?

Let's begin our discussion.

Reasoned Action Approach questions

In your opinion, what are some of the advantages and disadvantages of allowing water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your coastal property?

What would make it easier for you to avoid taking measures to prevent water levels rising naturally?

Do you think your neighbors would approve or disapprove of allowing water levels to rise naturally? What type of people do you think will allow this to happen on their own property?

If a non-profit organization offered to pay you for putting a conservation easement on your land, would you consider that a "voluntary program" or a "voluntary agreement"?

What benefits do you think salt marshes provide coastal landowners? Do you prefer the term “ecosystem services” or “nature’s benefits to society” to describe these benefits? Or do you have another term that you like better?

List of questions to cover for each question:

[Pass out list of questions and go through them one at a time.]

Is the question clear?

Think about how, hypothetically, you would answer the question. How did you arrive at your answer?

Do you have any suggestions for making the questions clearer?

Wrap-up

[Highlight key points of the discussion and answer any final questions.]

[Have participants, on their own, write their definitions of the **Keywords and phrases**]

Interview topics

Keywords and phrases

Coastal resilience

Salt marsh

Mean-High-Water

High-tide line

Ecosystem

Ecosystem services

Conservation easement

Land trust

Non-profit land-conservation organization

Tax incentive

Restrictive covenant

Habitat

Endangered species

Survey questions

1. How **likely** are you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property over the next twenty years, creating salt marsh where it is not currently?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How **likely** are you to sell your property to a land trust for fair market value within the next ten years?

Strongly	Unlikely	Slightly	Neither	Slightly	Likely	Strongly
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------

Please briefly describe how you would define the following words or phrases:

Mean-High-Water

Ecosystem services

Land trust _____

Conservation Easement

High-tide line _____

Example question 1

How **likely** are you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property over the next twenty years, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 1) Is the question clear? Yes/No
- 2) Please circle any words or phrases in the above question that you did not understand.
- 3) Please answer the question hypothetically. Briefly describe how you arrived at your answer:

- 4) Do you have any suggestions for making the question clearer?

Example question 2

If your neighbors also participate, you may have the option of signing an agreement that would mutually require landowners in your neighborhood to allow water levels to rise naturally, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently. How **likely** are you

to sign such an agreement within the next ten years, assuming your neighbors also participated?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 1) Is the question clear? Yes/No
- 2) Please circle any words or phrases in the above question that you did not understand.
- 3) Please answer the question hypothetically. Briefly describe how you arrived at your answer:

- 4) Do you have any suggestions for making the question clearer?

Example question 3

You may have the option of signing an agreement that would transfer ownership of your property to a land trust in the event of a flood that reduces the total property value by more than 50% of its current value. Under this agreement, the land trust would be required to pay you the post-flood property value at the time of transfer. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years?

Strongly	Unlikely	Slightly	Neither	Slightly	Likely	Strongly
----------	----------	----------	---------	----------	--------	----------

Unlikely		Unlikely		Likely		Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 1) Is the question clear? Yes/No
- 2) Please circle any words or phrases in the above question that you did not understand.
- 3) Please answer the question hypothetically. Briefly describe how you arrived at your answer:

- 4) Do you have any suggestions for making the question clearer?

Pre-test interview question bank

#1a#

How **likely** are you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property over the next twenty years, creating salt marsh where it is not currently?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#1b#

How **likely** are you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property over the next twenty years, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#2#

How **likely** are you to sell your property to a conservation organization for fair market value within the next ten years?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#3a#

You may have the option of signing an agreement with a conservation organization that would require you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently. Voluntarily signing this agreement would result in a Federal tax deduction of 30% of your gross adjusted income over the next six years. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#3b#

You may have the option of signing an agreement with a conservation organization that would require you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property, creating salt marsh where it is not currently. Voluntarily signing this agreement (without receiving monetary compensation from the conservation organization) would result in a Federal tax deduction of 30% of your gross adjusted income over the next six years. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#4a#

If your neighbors also participate, you may have the option of signing an agreement that would mutually require landowners in your neighborhood to allow water levels to rise naturally, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years, assuming your neighbors also participated?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#4b#

If your neighbors also participate, you may have the option of signing an agreement that would mutually require landowners in your neighborhood to allow water levels to rise naturally, creating salt marsh where it is not currently. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years, assuming your neighbors also participated?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#4c#

If your neighbors also participate, you may have the option of signing an agreement that would mutually require landowners in your neighborhood to allow water levels to rise naturally, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently. Entering into such an agreement could prevent the unintended consequences of shoreline hardening, such as increased erosion or flooding on your property. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years, assuming your neighbors also participated?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#5a#

You may have the option of signing an agreement today that would transfer ownership of your property to a conservation organization in the future, once the Mean High Water line reaches the center of your property. Under this agreement, the conservation organization would be required to pay you the current fair market value of the property at the time of transfer. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#5b#

You may have the option of signing an agreement today that would transfer ownership of your property to a conservation organization in the future, once the Mean High Water line reaches the center of your property. Under this agreement, at the time of transfer the conservation organization would be required to pay you the fair market from the date of signing. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#6#

You may have the option of signing an agreement today that would transfer ownership of your property to a conservation organization in the event of a flood that reduces the total property value by more than 50% of its current value. Under this agreement, the conservation organization would be required to pay you the post-flood property value at the time of transfer. How **likely** are you to sign such an agreement within the next ten years?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#7a#

How **likely** are you to sign an agreement with a conservation organization that would require you to allow water levels to rise naturally on the edges of your property, which will create salt marsh where it is not currently, if the conservation organization paid you a one-time sum of \$4,000 for each undeveloped acre?

Strongly Unlikely	Unlikely	Slightly Unlikely	Neither	Slightly Likely	Likely	Strongly Likely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#8#

Please rank the following attributes of tidal marshes according to how important they are to you. Place a "1" next to the attribute that is most important, a "2" next to the attribute that is the next most important, and so on. Please be sure that no two attributes have the same ranking.

- ☐ Flooding protection
- ☐ Erosion prevention
- ☐ Wildlife viewing
- ☐ Hunting opportunities
- ☐ Carbon storage
- ☐ Protection of wildlife

#9#

Considering the items above, please select one:

- ☐ All of these are important to me
- ☐ Some of these are important to me
- ☐ None of these are important to me