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New York State Department of  
**Environmental Conservation**

# Lake Ontario Watershed Discovery Meeting

September 16-19, 2013

**RiskMAP**

Increasing Resilience Together



*Great Lakes*  
*Coastal Flood Study*

[greatlakescoast.org](http://greatlakescoast.org)



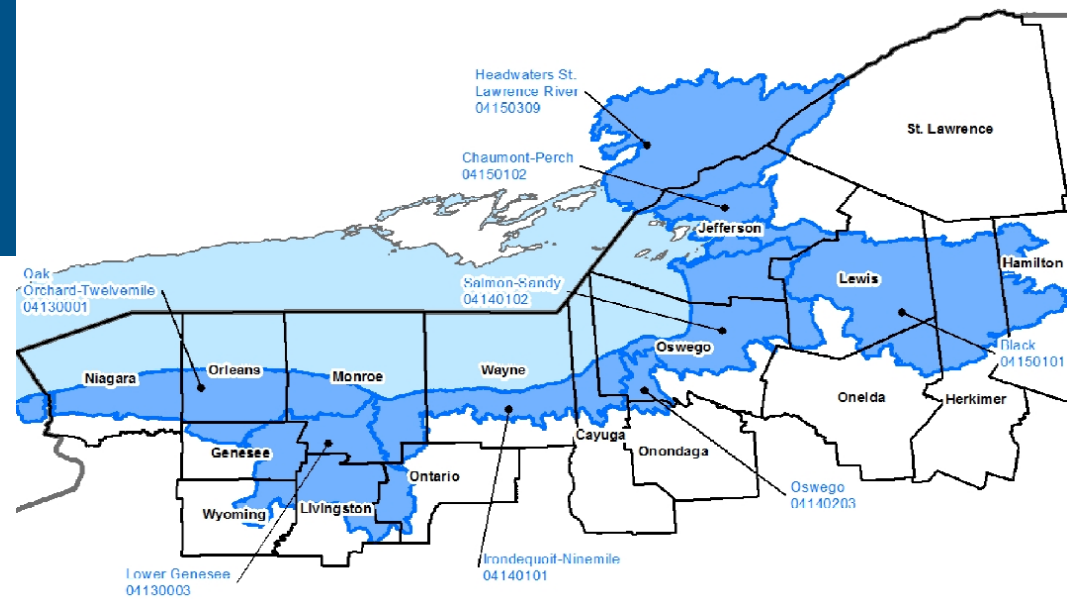
# Who's Involved

## ■ Project Team

- FEMA
- NYS DEC
- Dewberry

## ■ Federal, State and Local Partners

- NOAA Coastal Services Center
- USACE
- USGS
- Local and Regional Agencies



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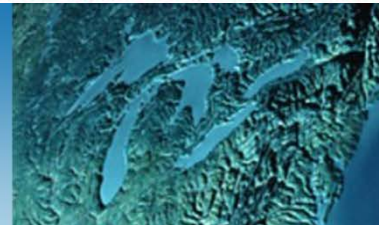
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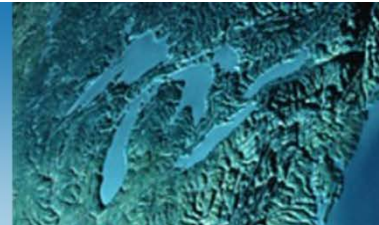
# Purpose of This Meeting

- Provide an overview of the Project to date and schedule
- Overview of the ongoing Coastal Study
- Solicit input and feedback on local issues and concerns
- Identify path forward for Stakeholder involvement



# Project to date

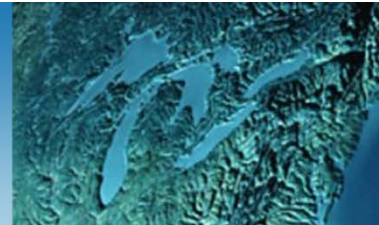
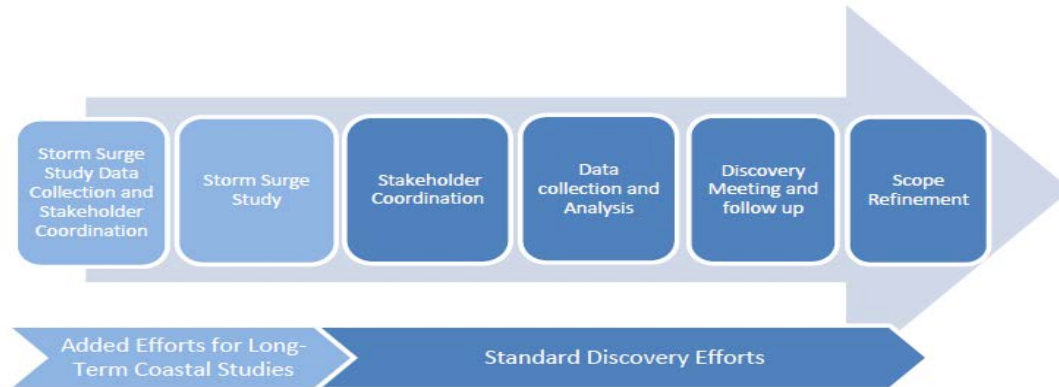
- **Initial Discovery Meeting**
  - August 13-15, 2013
    - Follow up email sent August 27, 2013
- **Interactive Meeting Invites with data collection worksheet**
  - Emails sent: September 5, 2013
  - Hard Copy mailed: September 6, 2013
- **Interactive Meeting**
  - Today



# Discovery Process Overview

Discovery is a collaborative process for data collection and analysis with the goal of initiating flood risk discussion:

- Data and Projects
  - Historical flooding information
  - Existing flood hazard data
  - Areas of significant bluff erosion
  - Mitigation activities and strategies
  - Hazard risk assessments, for example, vulnerable assets
- Collaboration
  - Communities
  - Regional planning entities
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - State agencies
  - Other Federal agencies





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# Discovery Results and Products

- **Final Discovery Reports by Watershed**
  - Comprehensive report for documenting discovery process
  - Includes background information and data analysis, meeting agenda, sign-in sheets, discussion topics, decisions made, etc.
- **Final Discovery Maps**
  - Includes feedback from participants
  - Visual representation of meeting outcomes



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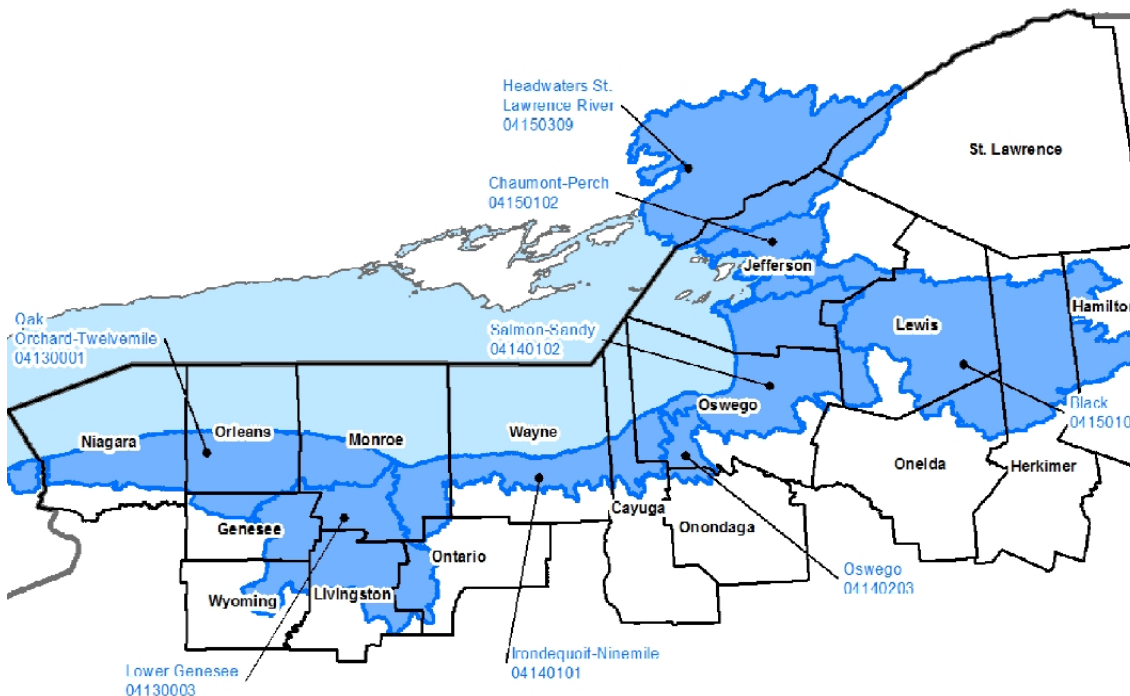
# Discovery and Flood Mapping

- Discovery helps inform whether a Risk MAP project will occur in the watershed
- Specific areas are prioritized based on flood hazard study needs and available funding
- Within watersheds studied, not all streams and communities will receive new studies or maps
- All Risk MAP communities will receive updated flood risk assessments, but not necessarily new regulatory products

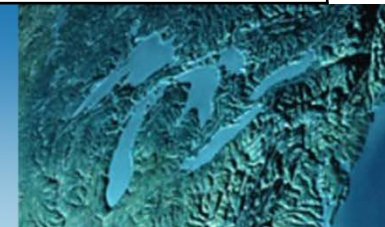


# Study Area

- 8 Watersheds
- 17 Counties



County	Effective FIRM Date
Cayuga	8/2/2007
Genesee	1979–1988
Hamilton	1984–1986
Herkimer	1980 – 2002 Prelim 9/30/2011
Jefferson	1977–2002 Prelim 4/30/2012
Lewis	1976–2000
Livingston	1977–2010
Monroe	8/28/2008
Niagara	9/17/2010
Oneida	1985 – 2001 Prelim 9/30/2011
Onondaga	1979 – 1999 Prelim 6/30/2008
Ontario	1977–2004
Orleans	5/1/1978–6/8/1984
Oswego	6/18/2013
St. Lawrence	1979–1998
Wayne	1977–1996
Wyoming	1977–1992







# Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study: Overview

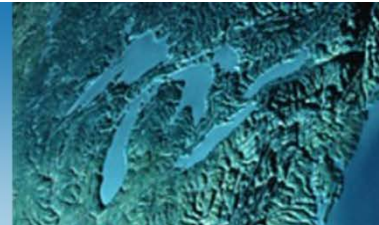
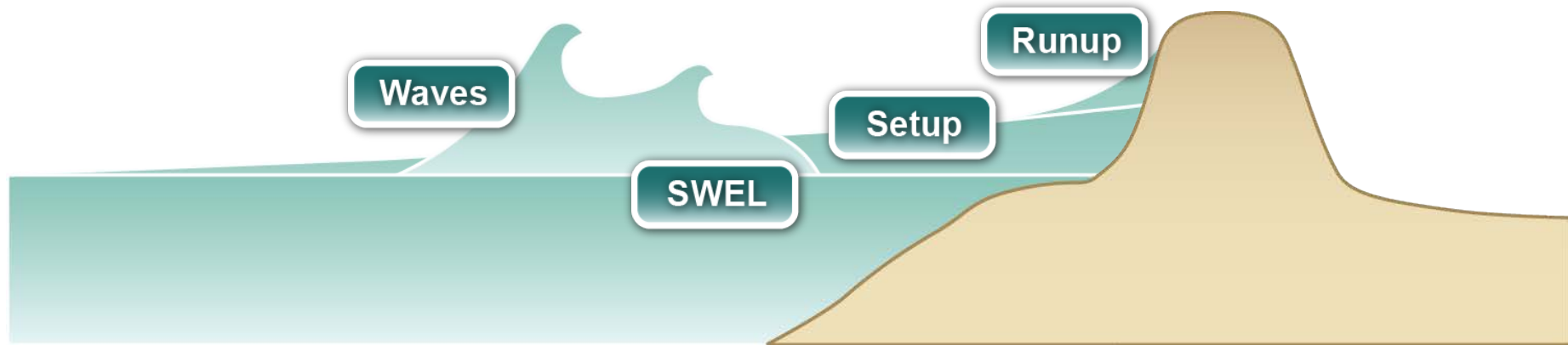
- Current FIRMs outdated due to the age of data & methodologies – many date to 1970s
- Changes in NFIP policies and methodologies have since occurred, creating need for an update
- New methods have been developed
  - Includes basin-wide water surface grids and storm sampling, built from continuous record of 50 years of meteorological, water level, and ice field data (1960 - 2010)
  - Methods will be incorporated into official FEMA guidance – Appendix D.3
  - Demonstration projects were conducted in several lakes to test and improve new methodology described in FEMA guidance
- Study will include entire U.S. Great Lakes coastline



# Findings: Changing BFEs

Base Flood Elevation on FIRM now includes 4 components:

1. Wave height above storm surge (stillwater) elevation
2. Storm surge stillwater elevation (SWEL)
3. Amount of wave setup
4. Wave runup above storm surge elevation (where present)





# Local Data Worksheet

- **Completed Worksheets:**
  - City of Watertown (Jefferson County)
  - Town & Village of Naples (Ontario County)
  - Town of Ohio (Herkimer County)
  - Village of Fairport (Monroe County)
  - Genesee County
  - Lewis County
  - Monroe County
  - Oswego County
  
- **Questions on how to Complete Worksheet?**



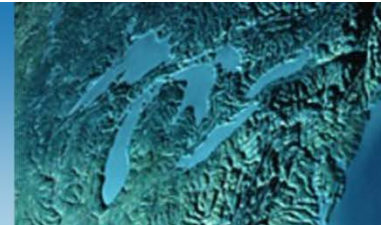
# Floodplain Mapping Needs

- **Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS)**
  
- **Interactive Mapping**
  - Areas within your community where the FEMA FIRMs are not accurate
    - Significant changes have impacted maps (ie. culvert replacement)
  
  - Flooding problem spots not currently shown on FEMA maps



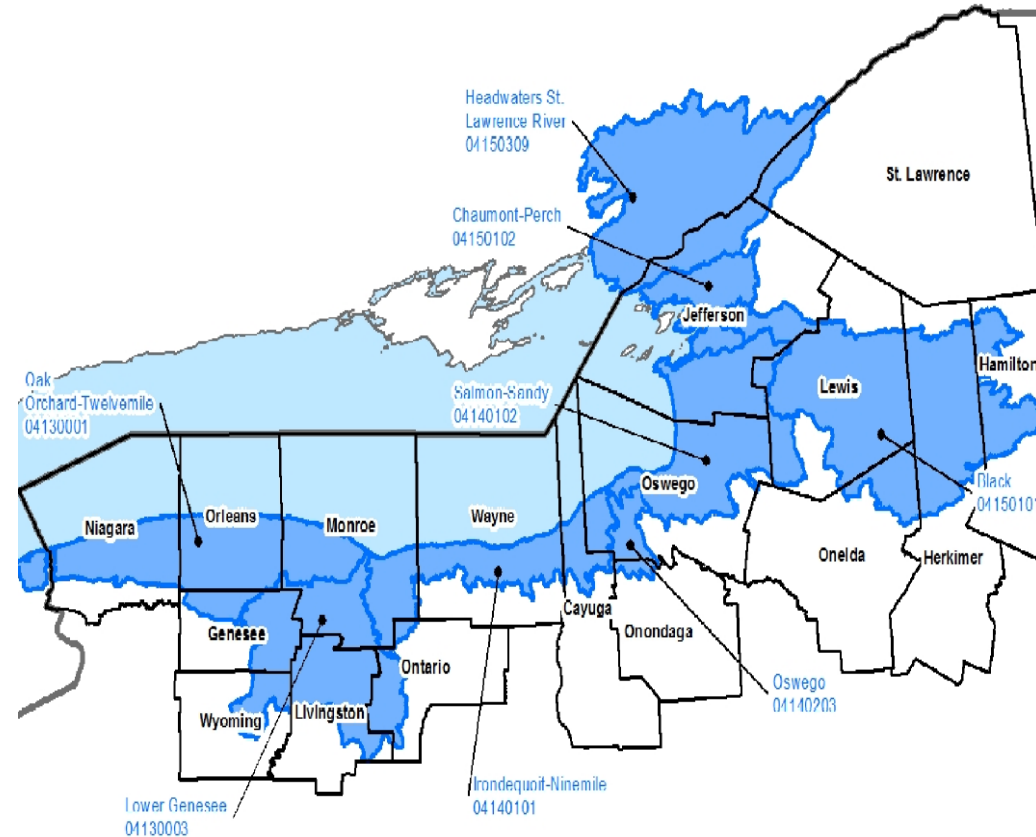
# Interactive Mapping

- Launch ArcMap



# Project Schedule

- **Today**
  - Interactive web-ex
- **In person Meetings**
  - Mid-Late October 2013
- **Final Discovery Report and Maps – March 2014**



# Next Steps

- **We will provide:**
  - Summary of Today's Meeting
    - Document discussions and outcomes
    - Action items
- **Work with you to:**
  - Complete the local data survey
  - Verify and identify community contacts to attend Discovery Meetings
  - Determine locations and dates for Discovery Meetings







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# Questions?

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