

# York Beach Quadrangle, Maine

Coastal landslide hazard mapping by

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Funding for the preparation of this map was provided, in part, through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Emergency Management Agency under a Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Management Performance Grant.



Additional funding for this map was provided by the Maine Coastal Program, Maine State Planning Office under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, pursuant to Award No. NA04NOS4190041.

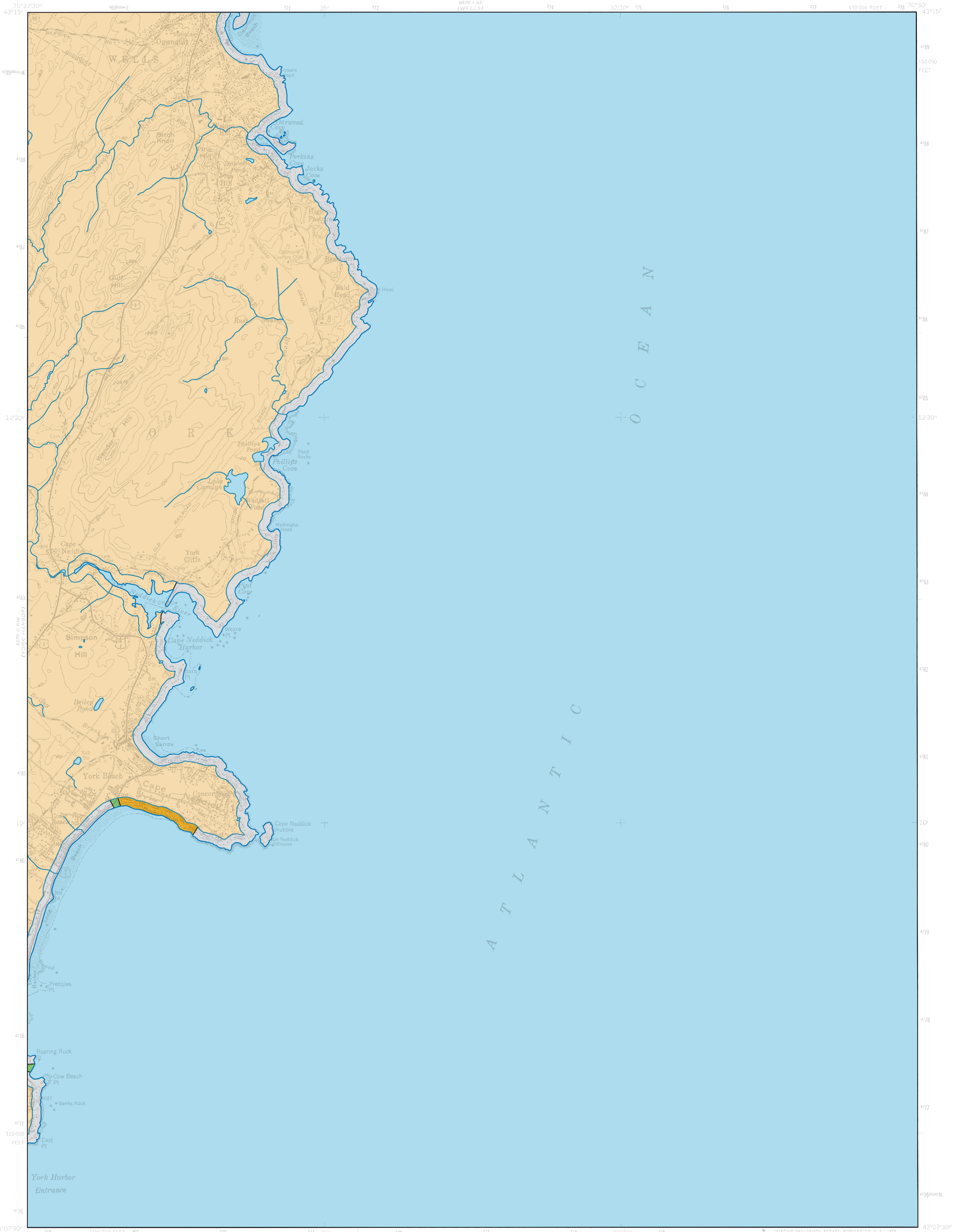


**Maine Geological Survey**

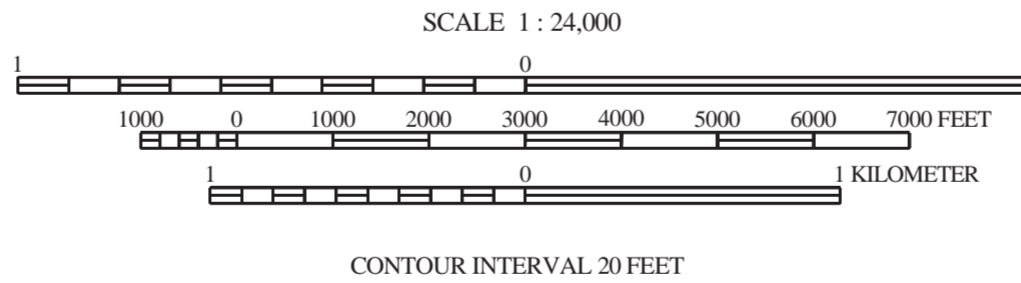
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**Open-File No. 06-60**  
**2006**

## Coastal Landslide Hazards



**Data Collection and Compilation** - Analysis of aerial photographs, topographic and surficial materials maps was done by Stephen M. Dickson. GIS compilation of bluff and landslide data was by Susan S. Tolman. Field observations from small boats were made by Christopher E. Miller and Nicole A. Raineault, with additional analysis by Stephen M. Dickson. Historical landslide investigations to produce supporting documentation for Landslide Sites and Landslide Risk Areas were conducted by Irwin D. Novak, Stephen M. Dickson, Joseph T. Kelley, Daniel F. Belknap, Rebecca V. Smith, Henry N. Berry IV, Daniel B. Locke, Robert G. Marvinney, Richard T. Reynolds, Andrews L. Tolman, Thomas C. Sanford, and others in previous publications.



York Harbor	Wallops	Maine Geological Survey
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Topographic base from U.S. Geological Survey York Beach quadrangle, scale 1:24,000 using standard U.S. Geological Survey topographic map symbols.  
Index at left shows adjacent maps in this series.

**Coastal Bluffs:** On this map, a bluff is defined as a steep shoreline slope formed in sediment (loose material such as clay, silt, sand, and gravel) that has three feet or more of vertical elevation just above the high-tide line. Cliffs or slopes in bedrock (ledge) surfaces are not sedimentary bluffs and are not subject to significant erosion in a century or more, although some may experience rockfalls. Beaches and dunes do not form bluffs, except along the seaward dune edge as a result of erosion. This map does NOT identify erosion trends on beaches or sand dunes.

**Note:** The landslide hazard classification is indicated by a colored, patterned band extending landward from the shoreline (dark blue line). The width of the band does NOT indicate the distance inland that a landslide may occur. This distance is difficult to predict and will vary from site to site. The colored buffer is for illustration purposes only. Due to variations in coastal geology, not all units in the explanation below will appear on this map.

**Landslide Site** - Location of known or interpreted coastal landslide. Includes historically recorded landslides and slides interpreted from air photos.

**Landslide Risk Area** - Land features indicate conditions that may be suitable for a landslide to occur. Features often include a steep or arcuate scarp, slump blocks, sediment lobes, or uneven land surfaces. Bluff sediments are usually muddy and twenty feet or more in thickness.

**Potential Landslide Area** - Shoreline with a sedimentary coastal bluff twenty feet or more feet high. These bluff areas have not had field investigations that are necessary to evaluate the risk of a landslide. However, some similar high coastal bluffs have experienced landslides.

**Low Coastal Bluff** - Shoreline with a sedimentary coastal bluff that has less than twenty feet of relief immediately adjacent to the shoreline. Some bluffs over twenty feet in height are included in this map unit if the bluff face is not steep. In general, low coastal bluffs are not at risk of failing in the form of a landslide.

**Non-Bluff Shoreline** - Coastal areas without extensive sedimentary bluffs. Corresponds to the no-bluff unit on MGS Coastal Bluff Maps.

**Unmapped Shoreline** - These sites generally are in the inland reaches of estuaries or beyond the scope of the field effort in this region.

### Who to Contact for More Information

It is important to realize that the coast of Maine is constantly being eroded. Coastal bluffs that show no evidence of erosion today may be endangered in the future as rising sea level continues to erode sediments at the base of a bluff. If you are concerned about ground movement on a coastal bluff, contact the Maine Geological Survey for more information helpful in evaluating the characteristics of coastal property. In addition to this landslide hazard map, a companion map series entitled "Coastal Bluffs" describes the stability and characteristics of Maine's shoreline. Maps showing topography, sediment composition, ground-water characteristics, and bedrock are also available in many areas. Survey geologists will explain the content of each of these maps. If you find indications of ground movement on your coastal bluff, you may want a professional geologist or engineer to investigate your property. To reduce the risk of a landslide, these professionals may recommend re-sloping the bluff face, diverting water flow, armor the toe of the bluff, or planting erosion-resistant vegetation. Building or engineering on Maine's coastal bluffs are subject to the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act. Permits from the Department of Environmental Protection may be required for any bluff modifications. Local Town Code Enforcement Officers will give advice on local requirements.

**Maine Geological Survey**  
*Information available:* maps showing landslide hazards, coastal bluffs, surficial geology, surficial materials, ground-water, bedrock, USGS topographic maps; geologists explain maps and coastal processes  
*Contact:* Maine Geological Survey at address shown in title block, or visit the MGS website and search your location.

**Geological Consultants**  
*Information available:* studies of specific property: ground-water studies, soil mechanics, boring or bluff mapping of site, risk analysis, recommendations about hazard reduction and slope remediation  
*Contact:* consult local yellow pages under geologists or environmental services

**Engineers**  
*Information available:* plans to reduce hazard, ground-water diversion, shoreline engineering, slope alteration, soil mechanics, risk analysis  
*Contact:* consult local yellow pages under engineers - environmental or environmental services

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection**  
*Information available:* information on state laws including the Natural Resources Protection Act, Shoreland Zoning, and the permit process  
*Contact:* on the internet: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blw/>; phone: 888-769-1137 or 207-941-4570

**Town Code Enforcement Officers**  
*Information available:* provide advice on Shoreland Zoning and other municipal requirements  
*Contact:* local town office or <http://www.maine.gov/local/>

### Related Maps

Miller, C. E., Raineault, N. A., Dickson, S. M., and Kelley, J. T. 2006. Coastal bluffs in the York Beach quadrangle, Maine. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Map 06-59.

O'Toole, P., Clinch, J. M., and Cameron, C. C., 1999. Surficial geology of the York Beach quadrangle, Maine. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Map 99-106.

O'Toole, P. G., and Clinch, J. M. (compilers), 1998. Surficial materials of the York Beach quadrangle, Maine. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Map 98-167.

**Other Sources of Information**  
American Planning Association. Landslide hazards and planning: <http://www.planning.org/landslides/docs/main.html>

Amos, J., and Sanford, T. C., 1987. Landslides in the Presumpscot Formation: An engineering study. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Report 87-4, 68 p.

Berry, H. N., IV, and others, 1996. The April 1996 Rockland landslide. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Report 96-18, 55 p.

Devin, S. C., and Sanford, T. C., 1990. Stability of natural slopes in the Presumpscot Formation. Maine Geol. Survey, Open-File Rept. 90-24, 75 p.

Kelley, J. T., Kelley, A. R., and Pilkey, O. H., 1989. Living with the coast of Maine: Duke University Press, 174 p.

National Research Council, 2004. Partnerships for Relaxing Landslide Risk, National Academies Press, www.nap.edu. Washington, D. C., 131 p.

Novak, I. D., 1987. Inventory and bibliography of Maine landslides. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Report 87-3, 27 p., map (1:500,000).

Novak, I. D., 1990. Air photo reconnaissance of slope failures in the Presumpscot Formation, Cumberland County, Maine. Maine Geological Survey, Open-File Report 90-22, 4 p., map (1:50,000).

U.S. Geological Survey, USGS Landslide Hazards: <http://landslides.usgs.gov/>

**Limitations of the Data** - This map provides only general information on the overall stability of bluffs. It should not be the sole basis upon which specific land-use decisions are made. Some map information is based on visual inspection of the coast from offshore, and parts of the shoreline may have changed slightly since the field work was completed. Historical and potential landslide areas are partially based on air photos taken in the last four decades. Since the air photos were taken, land changes may have altered the map classification. Because of the map scale, shoreline characteristics are generalized into segments at least 150 feet long. It is important to realize that the

### Methods of Mapping Landslide Hazards

**Landslide Site** - Includes the following: (1) Locations based on historical records and eyewitness accounts. In general, these earth movements have occurred in the last three centuries. (2) Locations based on interpretation of aerial photography. The age of these features is usually unknown. Some may have formed in the last few years, others in the last century, and some possibly sometime in the last few thousand years.

**Landslide Risk Area** - This determination was based on the presence of a bluff as indicated on MGS Coastal Bluff Maps and the proximity of a twenty-foot topographic contour to the shoreline. By comparison with bluffs adjacent to previous landslides, these areas are less steep than those that have shown a tendency to fail due to weakness in the earth landward of the top of the bluff.

**Potential Landslide Area** - This determination was based on the presence of a bluff as indicated on MGS Coastal Bluff Maps and the proximity of a twenty-foot topographic contour to the shoreline (similar to areas adjacent to previous landslides), and geomorphology visible in air photos. These bluff areas have not had field investigations to fully evaluate landslide risk.

**Low Coastal Bluff** - This determination was based on the presence of a bluff as indicated on MGS Coastal Bluff Maps and the proximity of a twenty-foot topographic contour to the shoreline. By comparison with bluffs adjacent to previous landslides, these areas are less steep than those that have shown a tendency to fail due to weakness in the earth landward of the top of the bluff.

**Non-Bluff Shoreline** - This shoreline type was determined by visual observation from a small boat and corresponds to the no-bluff unit on MGS Coastal Bluff Maps. These shorelines can be composed of bedrock, salt marshes, beaches and dunes, or low-lying sediments without the presence of a bluff more than three feet high and 150 feet long. Within this category there may be short shoreline segments that contain bluffs. These small coastal bluffs are not illustrated on this map.

**Unmapped Shoreline** - In some locations, access to a shoreline was limited so some areas remain unmapped. These sites generally are in the inland reaches of estuaries or beyond the scope of the field effort in this region.

classification only shows the average condition inferred for each section of the shoreline. For an evaluation of specific shoreline erosion risks or landslide potential certified geologists or geotechnical engineers should conduct site-specific studies.

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