

"At the Edge of a Warming World"

Reading Guide for Part IV: Roads, Buildings and Other Infrastructure



Chatham, MA - 1/20/1988: A small group of onlookers gather around a house on Andrew Harding Road in Chatham, MA as waves hit the beach at high tide on Jan. 20, 1988. Soil erosion has threatened the home. (Barry Chin/Globe Staff)

A. Review the following key vocabulary words for this section of the article:

coastline, erosion, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), low tide, marshes, sand dunes, wetland, zoning

B. As you read, use details from the text to respond to the following questions:

- 1. What factors are causing loss of land on the Cape's beaches?
- 2. What percent of land in the Cape is in a special flood hazard area designated by FEMA?
- 3. How many towns make up Cape Cod, and how do those towns work together to respond to the impacts of climate change?
- 4. What rules has the Cape Cod Commission made to combat the impacts of climate change?
- 5. What are "living coastlines" and how they protect homes?
- 6. What are more great white sharks appearing close to the shore of Cape Cod?
- 7. How are business and homeowners currently working to rebuild beaches?
- 8. What challenges are communities in Cape Cod facing when trying to create plans that would permanently protect the beaches and buildings on the coast from flooding?

C. Write a 2-3 sentence summary of the section using key details.