



WPI

Evaluating the Vulnerability of Boston's Inner Harbor Designated Port Areas to Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storms

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The Problem

Boston's Designated Port Area's vulnerability to sea level rise (SLR) and coastal storms has not been evaluated.



Flooding in East Boston DPA August 2, 2017

What Makes a Site Vulnerable

- ### Exposure
- Area
 - Elevation From Sea Level at High Tide
 - Shore Length
 - Location in Predicted Flood Zone

- ### Sensitivity
- SLR Infrastructure
 - Chemicals on Site
 - Chemical Storage
 - Building Condition

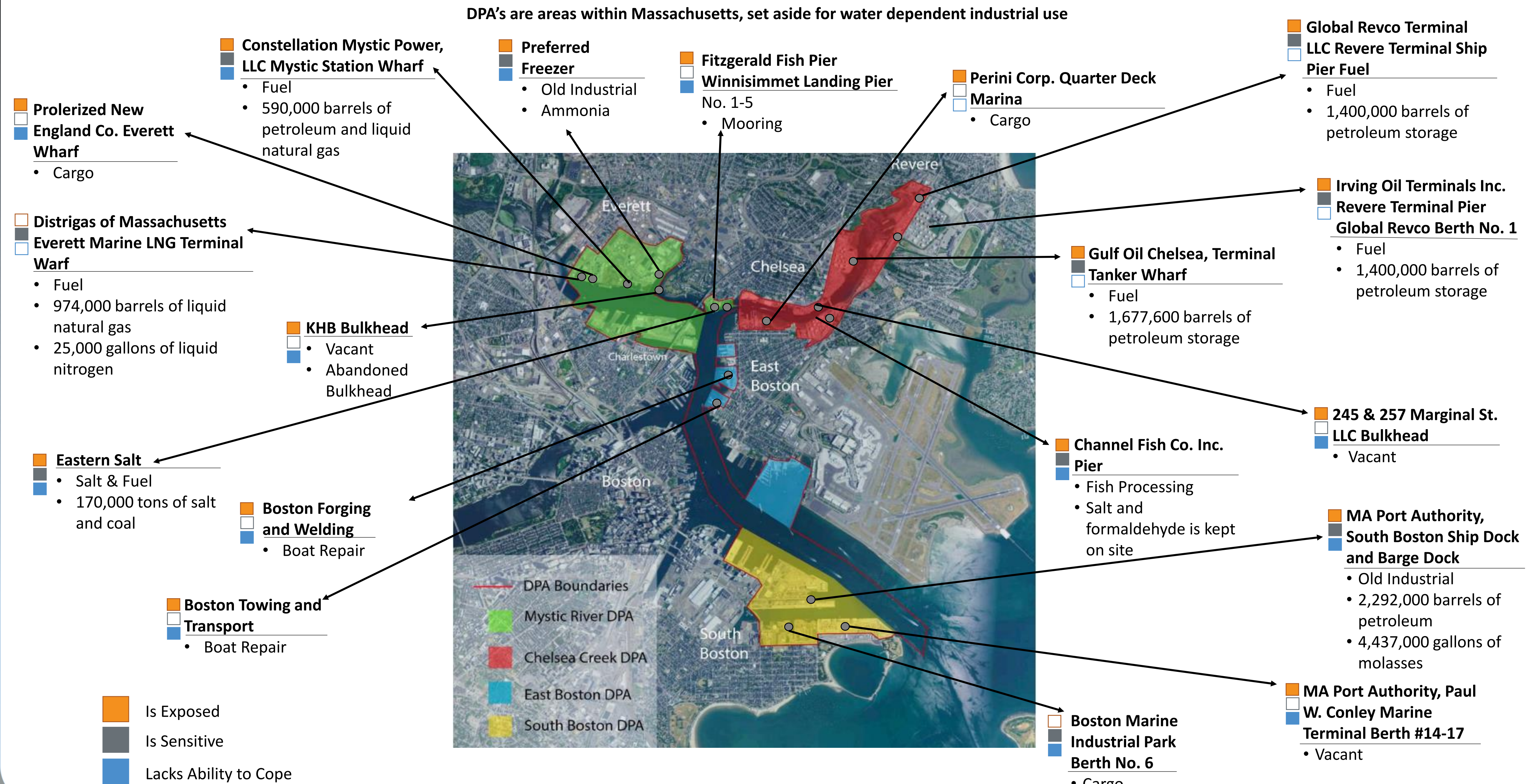
- ### Ability to Cope
- Predicted Property Damage
 - Net Worth of Business
 - Emergency Plans

Finding-Based Problems and Recommendations

- Lack of Transparency- Centralized regulations and review of emergency plans for flooding within DPAs as well as the formation of a committee to oversee this
- Gap of Knowledge of Vulnerability of DPAs- More in depth evaluation should be completed. This is a very relevant problem within Boston and more time should be dedicated to this issue

"... [DPA facility] has not had a problem with flooding at this facility in the past, nor do we foresee any problems for the future... [Our] contingency plans are not public information."
-DPA Business Representative

Map of Boston Inner Harbor DPAs and Selected Parcels



References

- www.bostonharbornow.org
- www.boston.gov
- www.mass.gov
- ss2.climatecentral.org