Current, accurate land cover information is a foundational data set that is used to address a wide range of management issues, from flooding risk and natural infrastructure assessments to policy evaluation and land use planning.

For decades, NOAA’s C-CAP (Coastal Change Analysis Program) has provided reliable coastal land cover data and maps. In addition to providing baseline information, comparing one year to another is a helpful way to document regional land cover change over time.

Historically, the data were produced at a regional scale, which provided limited mapping detail and applicability at the local level. But recent NOAA initiatives are focused on developing higher-resolution data to better serve local needs.

Visit the website to access the land cover data available for your area of interest.

cost.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/coastal-land-cover.html

Products include

- Data
- Maps
- Tools
- Technical assistance
- Case studies
LAND COVER RESOURCES

DATA
These data are used in many applications and tools, enabling communities to incorporate land cover data into conservation, green infrastructure, and hazards planning initiatives.

Regional Land Cover – Produced at a 30-meter resolution for the coastal areas of the contiguous U.S. Data are updated every five years from multiple dates of remotely sensed Landsat imagery and ancillary information. Most areas have 20 years of data, with some areas having up to 40 years. coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccapregional.html

Derived BETA Land Cover – Produced through entirely automated methods at a 10- and 30-meter resolution for select project areas within the contiguous U.S. These data provide a more detailed land cover than that seen in our regional product line, but not as detailed as our high-resolution products. coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccapderived.html

High-Resolution Land Cover – Produced at a 1- to 2.4-meter resolution for select project areas within the contiguous U.S., Hawaii, and U.S. territories in the Pacific and Caribbean, with additional areas being added as completed. Multiple dates of data are available in some locations. coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccaphighres.html

Salt Marsh Habitat – Produced based on 30-centimeter to 1-meter imagery for select coastal areas. These products provide more detailed mapping of salt marsh habitat types (typically around a dozen categories, depending on the need). Data can be used for more detailed conservation or restoration planning, and monitoring impacts of climate change into the future. coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccapsalthabitat.html

TOOLS
C-CAP Land Cover Atlas – Provides user-friendly access to land cover and land cover change data over time for a specified county, island, or watershed. coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca.html