

# 2021 Annual Report Summary

## DIGITAL COAST ACADEMY

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Leaders today must know how to use science and data to make communities more resilient to climate change and other coastal stressors. The Digital Coast Academy, the training arm of NOAA's Digital Coast, offers the resources coastal professionals need to expand their skill sets and apply best practices that are science-based and peer-tested.

### Training Demand Increased in Fiscal Year 2021

The issues facing coastal communities are quickly mounting, which translates into an increased demand for learning resources. At the same time, COVID-19 forged greater audience reliance on online tools, resources, and instruction. The Digital Coast Academy is answering this need with online learning products that are instructor-led and self-guided.

### Learners experienced over 11,430 direct contact hours with Digital Coast Academy products.

- **28% increase** in the number of online instructor-led training deliveries.
- **31% increase** in the number of online instructor-led training participants.
- **16% increase** in visits to on-demand learning products (courses, publications, etc.).



[coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/home.html](https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/home.html)

### Popular Topics

- **Social science methods, facilitation basics, and nature-based solutions** had the highest participant numbers among instructor-led courses.
- **Funding and financing coastal resilience natural infrastructure projects and managed retreat** webinars garnered high participation.
- **Lidar data training, stormwater management, and risk communication** skills ranked the highest for information downloads.
- Spanish-translated materials on **green infrastructure approaches** and a translator available for some online courses increased the accessibility of learning products and services.

### DETAILS

#### Instructor-led Courses

More, more, more! This was a record-breaking year for the Digital Coast Academy. Virtual training allowed for greater geographic diversity and participation.

- 96 courses delivered this fiscal year – highest number ever.
- 3,387 participants trained in instructor-led courses – highest number ever.
- 97% of those responding to a post-training survey say they have applied what they learned in their communities.

#### Self-guided Resources

On-demand resources allowed more coastal professionals to access learning products when needed, on the job and in the context of a work day.

- 16% rise in contact hours for on-demand products.
- Some 38,548 visits to these resources.
- 149,000 downloads of quick references and other written materials.





# Digital Coast Academy

## The 2021 Audience

### Participants by Region

Region	Instructor-Led	On-Demand	Total Participants
North	1,536	15,530	17,066
South	992	13,713	14,705
West	584	5,705	6,289
Pacific	172	671	843

### Testimonies

*“Digital Coast never disappoints!”*

*“Excellent job building the case for nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for addressing coastal hazards. Relevant and successful case studies help with ideas on how to engage others.”*

*“This NOAA course was essential to a successful collaborative resilience planning initiative that resulted in establishing a multi-jurisdictional steering committee and successfully receiving grant funding to develop a whole community plan.”*

*“Best tutorial ever. Quick, simple, easy to follow, and to the point.”*

*“NOAA trainings are consistently EXCELLENT. Thank you.”*

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### Explore the Digital Coast Academy

[coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/home.html](https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/home.html)

To get the full compilation of facts and figures about 2021 activities, contact [Ginger.Hinchcliff@noaa.gov](mailto:Ginger.Hinchcliff@noaa.gov).

