February 2024

New Data, New Resources

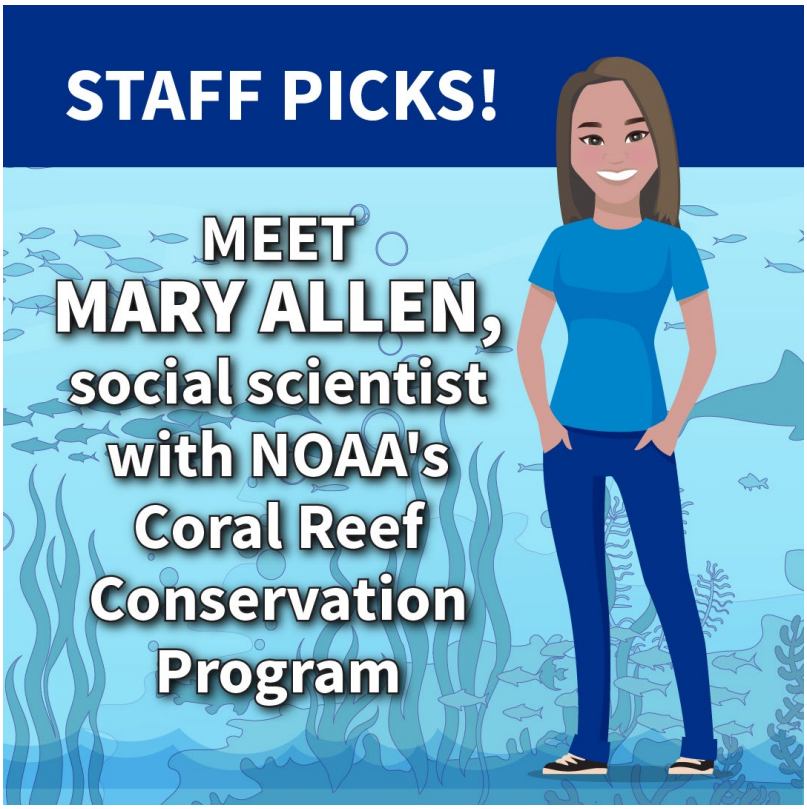
Digital Coast – **Your Coastal Information Resource**

- **Video** – Using Local Scenarios within the Sea Level Rise Viewer
- **Video** – How to download Historical Hurricane Tracks data
- **Data** – See the list of new and updated data sets.

Office for Coastal Management

- Read the Winter edition of *Fellow News* to hear from current coastal management fellows.
- Explore the list of state impact stories and use them in your communication efforts. The most recent stories are at the top.

Staff Picks



NOAA's National Coral Reef Monitoring Program Socioeconomic Component

Coral reefs are among the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on Earth. While coastal populations and people everywhere depend on coral reefs, they also may place undue pressures on these ecosystems. Enter: staff member Mary Allen's favorite project, the National Coral Reef Monitoring Program Socioeconomic Component.

This program is one of the few coral monitoring programs in the world to integrate a human dimension with standard biophysical data. Mary leads the team that goes into coastal communities and surveys people on their coral reef activities, perceptions of coral conditions, and more. This helps ensure that diverse public perceptions are represented and used to inform management decisions on these amazing ecosystems.

A Digital Coast Update

Building the Digital Coast – Lessons Learned

The Digital Coast Act (2020) required NOAA to develop a best practices document for sharing with various federal agencies and other interested parties. "Building the Digital Coast – Best Practices for a Customer-Centric Approach" is the resulting tell-all. To the surprise of none, this document is focused on how to get and implement customer input throughout the process of building and maintaining this information resource. Another report of interest may be the Digital Coast Accomplishments Report, which covers fiscal years 2021 through 2023.

Tech Topics

Tool Tips: Using the Sea Level Rise Viewer

One of the most used tool resources on the Digital Coast, the Sea Level Rise Viewer, can be described as a screening tool that helps people "see" how various projected rates of sea level rise will impact their community. These visuals can help drive a community to action. In Mississippi, for instance, Jackson County needed a new location for a wastewater facility. The Sea Level Rise Viewer helped community leaders find an optimum spot—one that would remain safe from floodwaters through the next 50 years.

Use this short video to help your constituents better understand the basic functions found within this tool. Then dive deeper in the full tutorial. It might be a game changer for your community.

Stories from Your Peers

South Carolina Community Lowers Flood Insurance Premiums Using NOAA's Land Cover Data

Pawleys Island, a small coastal town in South Carolina, sought to make the community more resilient and lower the expensive flood insurance premiums that coastal residents and business owners faced. Using high-resolution land cover data from NOAA's Digital Coast, the town mapped open spaces protected from development in the floodplain. This helped the town earn credits through FEMA's Community Rating System, advancing it to the next program level. As a result, the community was able to successfully reduce flood insurance

premiums, with home and business owners on Pawleys Island now benefiting from a 25 percent discount.

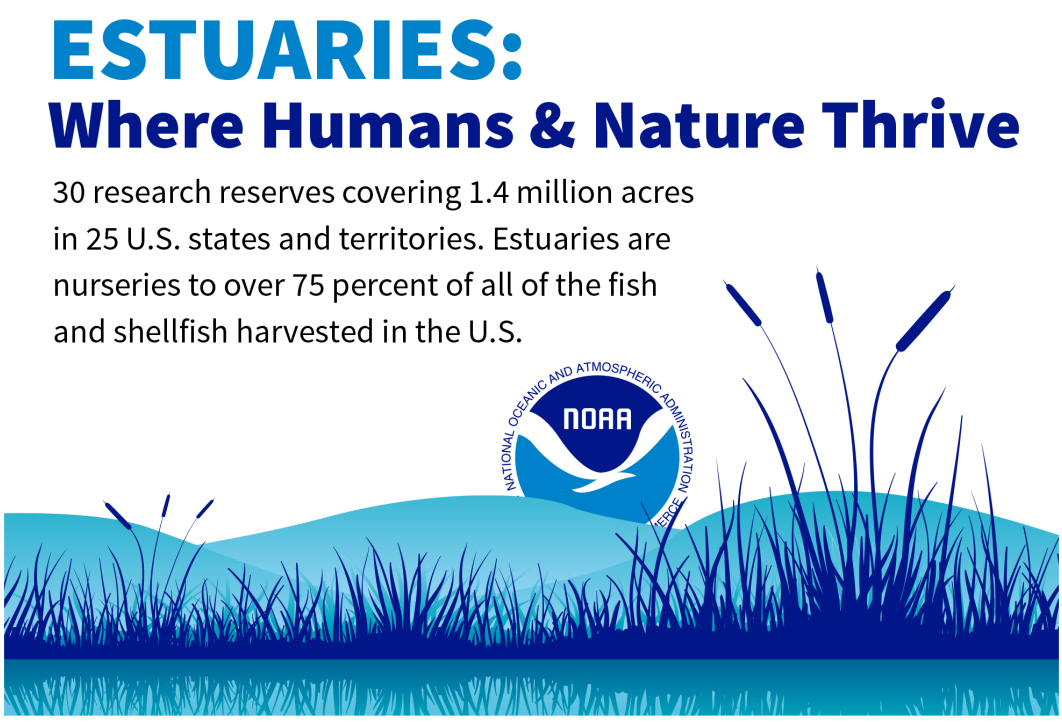
- To learn more, read the full story here.

Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

Navigate Virtual Facilitation with Finesse

When Covid-19 turned the world upside down, most people had to quickly adapt to virtual interactions—including when leading meetings. While we've been able to return to in-person events, many have chosen to continue offering remote meeting options, which means continuing to face both the challenges and opportunities they present. From determining pre-meeting details and technology to customizing the meeting to meet your objectives, this self-paced guide helps facilitators break through the computer screen barrier and successfully connect with remote participants. One of the many tried-and-true tips: use chat boxes or polls to ask questions and engage participants.

Fast Facts



This is just one of the many coastal management fast facts and graphics provided for your use. Read the list and let us know if there are others you'd like to see added.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
unsubscribe from this list