

DIGITAL COAST CONNECTIONS



April 2018

New Data, New Resources



Digital Coast

- Coastal Zone Management Act 101 Training Module: [Funding and Cooperative Agreements](#)
- Training – [Social Science Basics for Coastal Managers](#)
- Data – 50+ new data sets added to the data registry. See the [full list](#).



Office for Coastal Management

- Coral Reef [Watershed Management Plan](#) for Puerto Rico's Northeast Ecological Corridor
- National Coral Reef Monitoring Program Socioeconomic Monitoring Component: [Summary Findings for Hawai'i, 2015](#)
- U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (Florida) introduced a [CZMA reauthorization bill](#) showing continued support for our mission and programs.

Tech Topics

Using Land Cover as a Water Quality Indicator

You can do this. We promise.

Land cover data helps people understand their community's water quality issues by providing a means to explore water quality indicators, such as the relationship of forest cover to impervious area, or the role of lawns, parks, and golf courses. NOAA's Digital Coast provides a six-step guide for this task. Included with each step is a link to a web-based map that highlights the results, using NOAA's land cover information, as well as a link to a document that describes how that map was created.

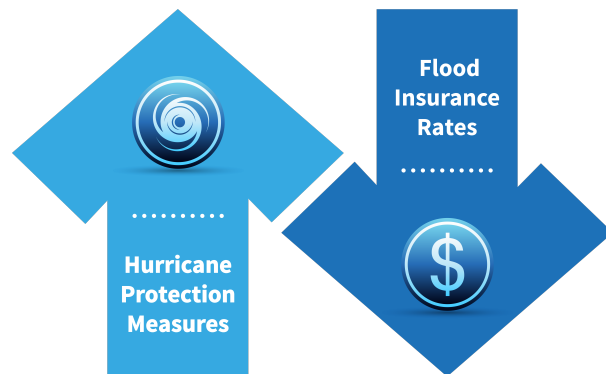
See this ["how-to"](#) explanation, and drop us a line at coastal.info@noaa.gov if you have a question. Happy exploring!

Stories from Your Peers

Hurricane Protection Measures Go Up, Flood Insurance Rates Go Down

Coastal storms are giving coastal New Jersey residents a renewed interest in community safety preparations. A variety of tools and resources were used to develop customized community resilience recommendations, such as a coastal hazard disclosure policy, a detailed mitigation plan, and up-to-date erosion data. As a result, community safety ratings are going up, and federal flood insurance rates have gone down.

- See the full story [here](#).
- NOAA Digital Coast products used include the [Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper](#).



**Insurance Premiums
Saved: \$92 Million**

Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

Adaptation Planning and Real Life

Adaptation planning is the rage, but is it possible in your community, given existing policy and planning instruments (laws, regulations, processes, or programs)? If you think the answer might be "no," what specific changes are needed to change this dynamic? Answering a few questions ahead of time can save time and energy and put you on the right track early in the process.

We have compiled a list of questions for you. Use this publication, [Assessing the Feasibility of Adaptation Options](#), to get ahead of potential issues. Want an in-person training on this topic? Check out, [Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities](#).

Fast Facts

An illustration featuring stylized coral reefs in various shades of blue and white. Above the coral, there are three small blue fish swimming in different directions. The title 'CORAL REEFS: Protectors and Providers' is centered at the top in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'CORAL REEFS:' in dark blue and 'Protectors and Providers' in a lighter blue.

CORAL REEFS: Protectors and Providers

\$3.4 billion value every year, benefiting fisheries, tourism, and coastal communities

This is just one of the many coastal management [fast facts and graphics](#) provided for your use. See the [list](#) here, and let us know if you have others you'd like to see added.

Coastal Resilience Grants: An Update

Communities use these NOAA grants to develop projects that make communities more resilient. The projects save lives, protect property, reduce damage to infrastructure, and benefit ecosystems and the economy.

NOAA has received 411 proposals, requesting \$327 million, since the program began in 2015. Forty-eight projects have been funded, with a federal expenditure of \$35.8 million and \$22.3 million in matching funds. The projects are benefiting approximately 550 communities in 20 states. Almost 3,500 acres of habitat have been restored.

Additional information about the program can be found in this [handout](#) and on the program [website](#).

NOAA in the Field



Photo: NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff members ground-truthing data inside the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Also pictured are staff members from Grand Bay and San Francisco Bay Research Reserves. Credit: Sue Bickford.

Feedback? Please!

This newsletter is created for coastal professionals dedicated to keeping coastal communities safe and productive. Please provide any feedback you may have to coastal.info@noaa.gov



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NOAA's Digital Coast



NOAA Office for Coastal Management

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