

# DIGITAL COAST CONNECTIONS



April 2019

## New Data, New Resources



### Digital Coast

- **Quick Reference** – [Meeting Engagement Tools](#)
- **Tool** – [West Coast Estuaries Explorer](#)
- **Digital Coast In Your State** – [Documents](#) updated with fiscal year 18 data.
- **Data** – See the [list](#) of new and updated data sets



### Office for Coastal Management

- **Coastal Management in Action Photo Contest** – [Submit photos](#) before May 6, 2019.
- **State Story Database** – Read the [most recent stories](#).

## Tech Topics

**The Best Ingredient for Creating the Best Product:  
Hearty Stakeholder Engagement, Please**

Have you ever ordered something at a restaurant or online only to find that it's not what you wanted? Our stakeholders sometimes have this same problem. They tell us about a tool or resource they want, we go away and create it—with a lot of hard work!—and then the tool falls flat. As frustrating as this situation can be, it is also avoidable.

Active engagement with stakeholders throughout the development process will help you avoid the “that’s not exactly what we wanted” problem. A regular check-in also helps ensure that what they ask for is what they really want. This [blog](#) has more information and includes a resource designed to help you navigate the design process.

And if you'd like to volunteer to be a product tester for NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, please let us know! ([coast.info@noaa.gov](mailto:coast.info@noaa.gov))

## Stories from Your Peers

### Program Promotes Wetland Restoration by Reducing Regulatory Burden

Terrebonne Parish's fishing industry depends on its wetlands, which make up 88 percent of the land area. Louisiana's Office of Coastal Management is promoting wetlands restoration with a fee program that cuts red tape on habitat mitigation permits. The program has helped fund 37 acres of wetland restoration within the parish by having applicants pay the coastal program directly through an in-lieu fee. The program has also generated \$1.8 million to support the Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project, which will restore 465 acres of marsh.

- Read the [full story](#).



**\$1.8 Million Generated  
465 Acres of Restored Marsh**

## Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

### Put Focus Groups to Work

Focus groups represent more than just a place to test survey questions. Use them to generate new ideas or to allow your community members to express their feelings about a particular topic. To ensure a successful focus group, it's best to set guidelines for the structure and standardization of the group ahead of time. Follow the guidelines, tips, and tricks in this [guidebook](#) to increase the success of your efforts.

But remember this: whatever data you've gathered are not meant to be generalized across populations. These data provide subjective insight into the perspectives within a particular population of interest. Learn more about survey design in this [publication](#).

## Fast Facts



# 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.*

## News from our Coastal Colleagues

### Register for the June 10 Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Workshop

As part of the [Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Program](#), the Coastal Society has partnered with the International Association for Great Lakes Research to host a [coastal career workshop](#) at their 2019 conference. The full-day event will feature a seminar-style morning session with seasoned professionals providing personal insights on pathways to coastal-related careers. The afternoon session will focus on developing career skills, such as networking, resume writing, interviewing, and job searching, with smaller breakout group sessions. Check out the [draft agenda](#) and [register](#) today.

#### 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](mailto:coastal.info@noaa.gov)



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