



DIGITAL COAST

CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

August is a time for enjoying the coasts, spending time outdoors, and for many people, prepping to go back to school. NOAA's Digital Coast can help coastal managers by offering a variety of [trainings](#) that cover all sorts of coastal management issues.

But it doesn't stop there! NOAA's Office for Coastal Management has [lesson plans](#) and [data for the classrooms](#) that teachers can use to share the excitement of the coastal world with students.

It's never too late to go back to school with the Digital Coast!

Sincerely,

Ginger Hinchcliff
Learning Services Division Chief
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Building Storm-Ready and Resilient Communities

Identifying community assets and where these assets are located is one of the first steps in developing plans for climate adaptation or risk reduction. The [Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper](#) was developed for this purpose. Community representatives can choose the type of information they want displayed on their community maps (risks and assets). These maps allow stakeholders to see their vulnerabilities in a visually compelling way and zoom in to see greater detail. See how the [Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) helped a New Jersey community [use and customize this tool to communicate its specific climate change risks](#).

Examining the Effects of Land Cover on Coral Reef Health

Data Updates

New and Updated Data Sets

Ocean Uses and Planning Areas

- West Coast Trawling Information
- West Coast Fishing Ethnography

Elevation

- 2014 U.S. Virgin Islands Lidar
- 2001 Florida Lidar
- 2012-2013 Guam Lidar
- 2014 Post Sandy Lidar
- 2014 Central Virginia Lidar

Imagery

- 2014 Washington State Imagery
- 2015 Florida Imagery
- 2015 Alabama Imagery
- 2015 California Imagery

Coral reefs provide communities with food, jobs, and protection from storms. Various land cover types can affect the health of these reefs due to runoff and chemical use. [NOAA's coastal land cover data](#) can be used to analyze impervious surface, cultivated land, or pastures, all of which relate to coral reef health. See how Hawaii is [using the data for its "Ridges to Reefs" initiative to determine reef health](#).

News from our Coastal Colleagues

Learn about Coastal Hazard and Resilience Tools

Join our office and the Ecosystem-Based Management Tools Network for a [webinar](#) featuring tools to help communities plan for hazard resilience and climate change. Experts from NOAA's Digital Coast will discuss the Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper and green infrastructure resources. Join in on August 26, 2015, from 1 to 2 p.m. (Eastern time) – [register here](#).

- 2015 Delaware Imagery

Additional Updates

What's the Return on Investment of the Digital Coast?

NOAA Digital Coast's social scientists recently asked that question and determined the answer to be a 311% return on investment, with \$22,915,419 net benefits. A report dives into the amount of time and manpower saved through the use of Digital Coast resources. See the [full report here](#).

Introducing the New Coastal Management Fellows

Get updates in [Fellow News](#) on the latest projects from our Coastal Management Fellowship Program, including those conducted by six new fellows who will be everywhere from New Hampshire to Puerto Rico!

Training Calendar See the trainings that are coming up on the [trainings calendar](#).



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