

DIGITAL COAST

CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

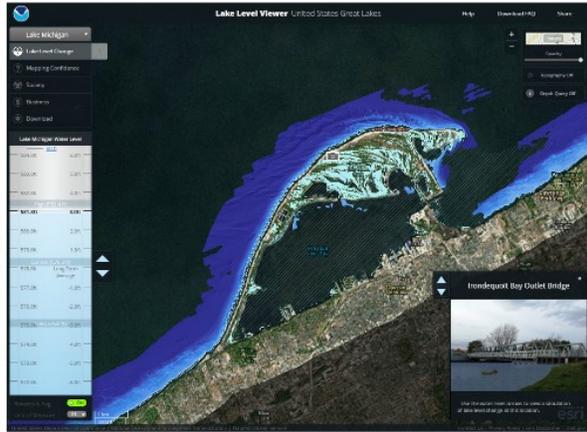
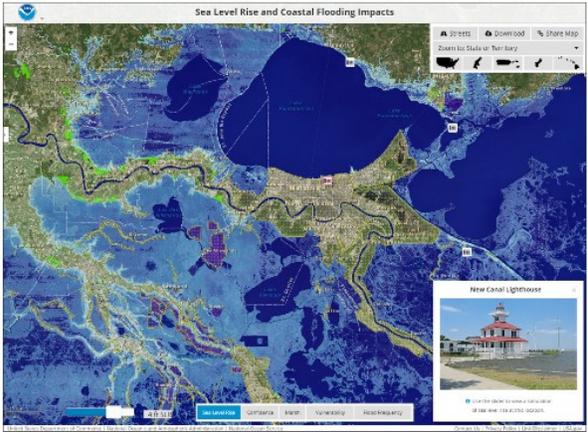
As coastal managers, we're often asked to offer a glimpse of the future. This is not an easy task, but NOAA's Digital Coast does provide a great place to start. With the addition of Louisiana data to the [Sea Level Rise Viewer](#), this popular and useful tool now covers all U.S. coastal states, excluding Alaska, and territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It doesn't stop there. The Great Lakes equivalent can be found in the [Lake Level Viewer](#), where lake level scenarios depict a plus and minus range of six feet. For both tools, GIS managers can download the data for further analysis. Combine this information with land cover data to expand your what-if scenarios, such as determining how changing water levels might influence wetlands, recreational use, or even rip currents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Marcy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Doug Marcy
Coastal Hazards Specialist
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Protecting Corals by Prioritizing Land Conservation Efforts

Runoff damages fragile coral reef ecosystems vital to island protection. NOAA Digital Coast provides [high-resolution land cover data](#) that can be used with the [Digital Coast's OpenNSPECT](#) tool to allow communities to determine sediment and water runoff rates. The island of Lana'i in the Hawaiian Island chain [used this method](#) to analyze which watersheds created the most runoff and warranted immediate action.

Picturing Offshore Aquaculture

One of the largest barriers to aquaculture development is public perception of how the projects will be viewed from the coast. Utilizing [NOAA's CanVis visualization tool](#), coastal managers can digitally enhance a photo to show marine aquaculture equipment, boats, buoys, and gear. Scientists from [NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science](#) used [these enhanced](#)

Data Updates

New and Updated Data Sets

New Version of Download Tool for Imagery Data

Beta version is [now available](#) and we're requesting feedback.

- See the data, not just the footprint, before ordering
- Hundreds of imagery data sets available for download
- Lidar and land cover data will be added soon

Benthic

- Georgia Oyster Reef

Elevation

- Florida
- Texas
- South Carolina
- Post Sandy

Imagery

- South Carolina
- California
- Minnesota

Land Cover

[images](#) as a communication tool to engage coastal managers, industry participants, and stakeholders during regional workshops in California.

News from our Coastal Colleagues

Natural Solutions Help to Reduce Flood Risk

Threats from flooding are greatly increasing, with average flood losses now topping \$10 billion per year. The Nature Conservancy is [working with communities](#) to invest in a mixture of natural approaches for reducing flood risks. By combining wetlands, marshes, and forests with existing levees and flood walls (“gray infrastructure”), communities have a better chance of successfully mitigating impacts.

- Minnesota
- Wisconsin

State Clearinghouse and Data Portals

- New York State Geographic Information Gateway
- Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
- West Coast Ocean Data Portal

Additional Updates

Learn to Create and Use Local Flood Maps

Use the Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper to create information-filled maps that make it easier to pinpoint and understand community vulnerability in terms of people, infrastructure, and natural resources. Join this [interactive webinar](#) on March 8 from 1 to 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time to learn about the tool and hear examples from real communities.

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



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