



DIGITAL COAST

CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

Nature provides communities with a variety of benefits, from food and water to protection from storms. We call these benefits “ecosystem services,” and we think they’re worth celebrating. Learn more with this entertaining [ECON 120 video](#).

But don’t stop there. We have a [webpage](#) that lists the top Digital Coast data, tools, and trainings related to this topic. For example, [a report](#) is available that explains how to assess the costs and benefits of natural infrastructure. We have a cool tool developed by the Nature Conservancy, the [Atlas of Ocean Wealth](#), that links to interactive web apps people use to visualize and understand ecosystem services.

These resources can help you prove that ecosystems represent more than just a pretty face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Wiley".

Pete Wiley
Economist
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Evaluating Restoration Effectiveness to Reduce Runoff and Protect Corals

Land-based erosion can wash onto nearshore coral reef habitat, disrupting growth and causing damage and death. Stabilizing highly erodible lands is one potential solution. Managers can evaluate the effectiveness of this proposed solution for their location by using [NOAA's OpenNSPECT](#) tool to compare erosion and pollution runoff scenarios. See how managers in Puerto Rico [put this tool to use](#) to protect coral reefs.

Establishing Baseline Habitat Conditions to Monitor Salmon Fishery Restoration

Salmon species depend on clear paths from the ocean to the freshwater areas they breed in. When there's an obstruction, the population will inevitably suffer. Monitoring and remediating these issues and then evaluating the effectiveness of solutions takes [high-quality data](#). In Alaska, partners worked

Data Updates

New and Updated Data Sets*

Elevation

- 2015 Florida Lidar
- 2015 North Carolina Lidar
- 2016 Florida Lidar
- 2016 Michigan Lidar
- 2016 NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer

Imagery

- 2016 Louisiana
- 2016 Michigan
- 2016 New York
- 2016 Ohio

See a [full list](#) of the new and updated data, or [subscribe to the data updates newsletter](#).

*Some data sets do not cover the entire state.

Additional Updates

Smart Planning Incorporates Natural Infrastructure

with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management to [collect the high-resolution land cover data they needed](#) despite weather and timing issues. The resulting [habitat maps](#) can now be used to monitor critical habitat and ensure future salmon population success.

News from Our Coastal Colleagues

Living Shoreline Information Finds a Home Online

Learn about living shorelines, get training on how to build them, and ask questions of experts in the field, all without leaving the office. The [Living Shorelines Academy](#) provides a one-stop shop for all things on this topic. Produced by Restore America's Estuaries and the North Carolina Coastal Federation, the resource is an answer to the number-one request from people attempting to implement living shorelines in their communities. The website features a question forum, training modules, and project databases that target property owners, contractors, and policy makers.

Natural infrastructure approaches - wetlands, parks, beaches, and dune systems, for instance - provide multiple community-level benefits. Natural infrastructure is therefore often a superior solution for managing stormwater and enhancing coastal resilience. The [coastal smart growth website](#) shows examples of integrating natural infrastructure into broader community planning efforts.

Be a Part of Improving the Digital Coast Website

The Digital Coast was just revamped, but we never stop trying to improve. Help us assess changes to the site. [Contact us](#) if you would like to participate in our usability testing.

Training Calendar

See what trainings are coming up in the [training calendar](#).



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Send your product, personnel, or event news to Caitlyn.McCrary@noaa.gov. We'll include it in *Digital Coast Connections*, space permitting. For answers to additional questions, contact coastal.info@noaa.gov.

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