DIGITALCOAST CONNECTIONS

February 2021

New Data, New Resources

Digital Coast

- Visit our virtual booth at **Coastal GeoTools**.
- **Training** – Virtual - Estimating the Local Marine Economy: Telling Your Story
- **Training** – Virtual - Facilitation Basics for Coastal Managers
- **Story from the Field** – Informing Bird Habitat Conservation Decisions in Texas
- **Story from the Field** – Creating a Comprehensive Plan for Resilient Tidal Marshes in New Hampshire
- **Data** – See the list of new and updated data sets.

Office for Coastal Management

- Check out the latest issue of the **Davidson Fellowship newsletter.**
- The **Coral Reef Conservation Program** is holding a yearlong social media campaign on coral restoration in recognition of the United Nations Ocean Decade and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Follow *#OceanDecade* and *#GenerationRestoration* on Twitter and Facebook.
- A monitoring team funded by the Coral Reef Conservation Program identified a new **record size coral head** in the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.
- **Impact Story Database** – Explore the list. Use the stories in your communication efforts. The most recent stories are at the top.

Tech Topics

Reduced Flooding AND Cheaper Insurance Premiums

You read that right—now let us explain.

When communities reduce flood risk, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) often can provide policyholders with discounts on their flood insurance premiums. Participant communities in FEMA's Community Rating System receive credit to determine the amount. One way to earn credit is by preserving floodplains as open space and implementing land use policies that 1) prevent development and 2) maintain naturally protective features.
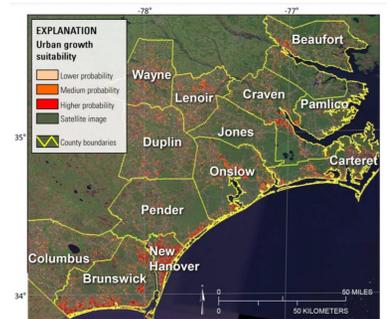
NOAA can help you explore these possibilities with its "how-to" guide, a step-by-step approach for earning credit for floodplains that are already protected, and guidance for identifying places where additional credit could be earned.

Stories from Your Peers

Modeling Future Development for Eastern North Carolina

Coastal managers in this region had a three-pronged wish list: how to best promote sustainable economic growth while preserving local military bases and protecting vital ecosystems. Using census data and multiple land cover data sets, they created predictive urban growth models to simulate where population growth is likely to occur. The results provided the framework needed to simultaneously address each of these goals.

- Read the full story.

Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

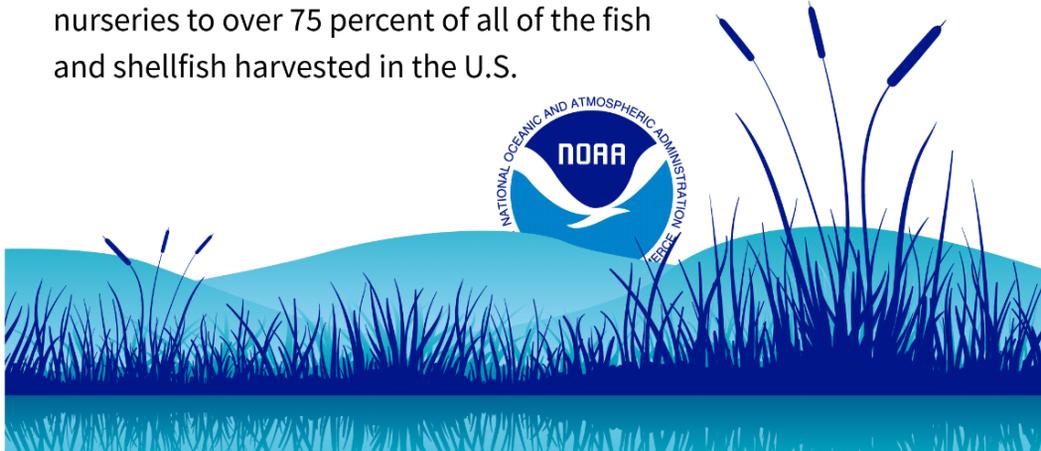### Leverage FEMA Programs for Local Success

State, tribal, and local governments are eligible for non-emergency funding from FEMA if they have an approved hazard mitigation plan. Equally good news: FEMA has resources available to help communities complete or update their hazard mitigation plans.

Contact your regional mitigation planner (in the risk analysis branch) for more information. NOAA also has a helpful handout regarding this task: Tips for Creating Partnerships with FEMA, NOAA, and State Emergency Programs. Many feel this handout should be required reading for coastal communities, as it is short, focused, and oh-so helpful.

Fast Facts

ESTUARIES:
Where Humans & Nature Thrive

29 research reserves covering 1.3 million acres in 24 U.S. states and territories. Estuaries are nurseries to over 75 percent of all of the fish and shellfish harvested in the U.S.

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 there are others you'd like to see added.

Feedback, Please

We want to hear your ideas for how to improve the Digital Coast! Let us know by emailing *coastal.info@noaa.gov*.

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