



January 2021

## New Data, New Resources

### Digital Coast

- **Self-Guided Resource** – [Coastal Ecosystem Services Management Guide](#)
- **Story from the Field** – [Boosting Community Storm Resilience in Alaska](#)
- **Story from the Field** – [Improving Stormwater Runoff Modeling in Washington](#)
- **Story from the Field** – [Assessing the Environmental Health of Streams in Washington](#)
- **Story from the Field** – [Determining the Source of Dune Restoration in South Carolina](#)
- **Data Collection** – [C-CAP Salt Marsh Habitat](#)
- **Data Collection** – [Salt Marsh Resilience to Sea Level Rise](#)
- **Data Collection** – [Sea Level Rise Wetland Impacts and Migration](#)
- **Data** – See the list of [new and updated data sets](#).

### Office for Coastal Management

- **Impact Story Database** – Explore the [list](#). Use the stories in your communication efforts. The most recent stories are at the top.

## Digital Coast Legislation Passes

It happened in late December – Senate bill 1069 was signed into law. The Digital Coast Act codifies the Digital Coast approach and shows congressional support, which in turn paves a path to an even bigger and better Digital Coast. Renewed goals for the information platform include filling data gaps, developing more tools, and providing a greater focus on underserved geographies and communities. To learn more, see [this handout](#). Thank you to all of the Digital Coast users and partners who helped make this happen.

## Tech Topics

## Use Land Cover as a Water Quality Indicator

Land cover data helps people understand their community's water quality issues by providing a means to explore water quality indicators, such as the relationship of forest cover to impervious area, or the role of lawns, parks, and golf courses. NOAA's [Digital Coast](#) provides a six-step guide for this task. Each step includes a web-based map that highlights the data, as well as a link to a document that describes how that map was created.

See this ["how-to"](#) explanation, and drop us a line at [coastal.info@noaa.gov](mailto:coastal.info@noaa.gov) if you have a question.

## Stories from Your Peers

### Improving Emotional Health after a Hurricane

As recovery from Hurricane Maria began, staff at the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Puerto Rico were concerned about lingering mental stress in nearby communities. To help, they set up monthly workshops, led by a retired social worker who encouraged participants to share stories and learn approaches for building emotional resilience. For 18 months afterwards the research reserve also provided weekly facility space to survivors requesting more intensive help from local psychologists.



- Read the [full story](#).

## Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

### Take Your Green Infrastructure to New Heights

Raise the roof with your next green infrastructure project. Green roofs are flat or gently sloping roofs that provide a surface for a layer of plantings. Blue roofs, also known as non-vegetated roofs, detain water on the surface or in engineered trays. The trays then release the water slowly around a roof drain. Both types reduce stormwater runoff volume while providing pollutant removal. Many offer public access.

To start, make sure the roof is structurally engineered to withstand the necessary weight for these systems. Investigate the maintenance required to ensure that the plants survive until they're established and to inspect the roof for problematic shrubs and leaks.

Learn more in this [guide to reducing flooding](#).

## Fast Facts



## Natural Infrastructure



### Wetlands and reefs and mangroves...oh my!



Billions in savings (\$23 billion/year),  
services (water quality and storm protection),  
and value (37% higher property value).

*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.*

## Attention Great Lakes!

A virtual training, *Diving into the Digital Coast: Great Lakes*, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. Central / 3 to 4 p.m. Eastern. During this interactive webinar, a suite of coastal resilience resources available on NOAA's Digital Coast will be featured. You'll hear about resources for assessing local coastal hazard risks and implementing nature-based solutions, and have an opportunity to ask questions. It will be a great opportunity to explore the latest and greatest data, tools, and training! Register [here](#).

## Visit Our Virtual Booth

The [National Council for Science and the Environment's Drawdown 2021 Conference](#) will focus on "Research to Action: Science and Solutions for a Planet under Pressure." Join NOAA's Climate Program Office and NOAA's Office for Coastal Management at their virtual booth to discuss the physical and social realities of climate change and the ways it affects people, ecosystems, markets, and more. [Register today](#) for the January 5 to 9, 2021 conference.

# Feedback, Please

We want to hear your ideas for how to improve the Digital Coast! Let us know by emailing [coastal.info@noaa.gov](mailto:coastal.info@noaa.gov).

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)

*NOAA's Digital Coast*



*NOAA Office for Coastal Management*

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