



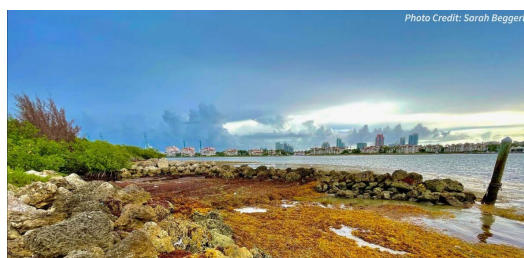
January 2023

New Data, New Resources



Digital Coast

- **Data** – See the [list of new and updated data sets](#). New elevation data is available for Minnesota, Alaska, Washington, and Michigan. New imagery is available for a variety of states. Updated ocean feature services are also available.



Office for Coastal Management

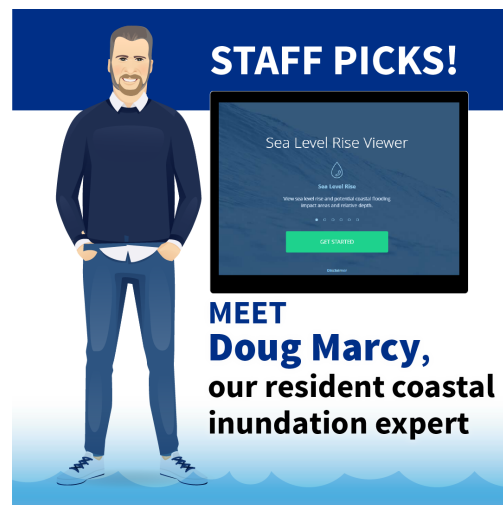
- Calling all postgraduate students! NOAA is recruiting candidates for the 2023 [Coastal Management Fellowship Program](#).
- Explore the [list of state impact stories](#) and use them in your communication efforts. The most recent stories are at the top.

Staff Picks

Sea Level Rise Viewer

It comes as no surprise (to us, at least) that the favorite tool of our resident sea level rise expert, Doug Marcy, is the [Sea Level Rise Viewer](#). Here users visualize potential flooding and future sea level rise. It's available nationwide (except Alaska) and is constantly being updated with the latest sea level rise projections and elevation data.

Doug says two frequently asked questions have to do with zero inundation levels, and the one-foot increments used in the tool. His reply: "The zero-inundation layer is the current average high tide, and the tool goes up in one-foot



increments to match the data's accuracy. All of this data is [available for download](#). An additional fun fact: users often request the back-end code of the viewer for their own use, and we provide it for no charge.”

Have your own questions about the Sea Level Rise Viewer? [Email us](#)! You'll probably get an answer from Doug himself.

Tech Topics

Reduced Flooding AND Cheaper Insurance Premiums

You read that right—now let us explain.

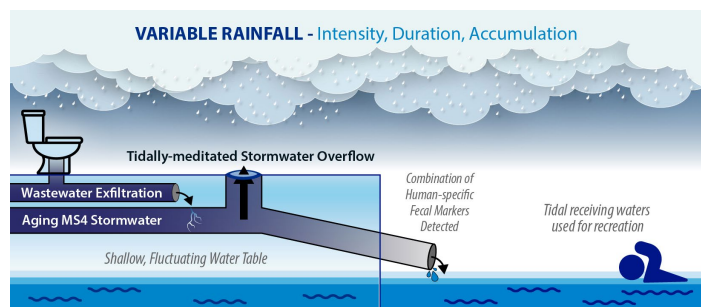
When communities reduce flood risk, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) often can provide policyholders with discounts on their flood insurance premiums. Participating communities in FEMA's Community Rating System receive credits to earn these [discounts](#). One way to earn credits is by 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

Analyze and Address Stormwater Pollution Threats

As communities grow, so do their stormwater infrastructure needs. The North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve worked with the Town of Beaufort and partners to identify stormwater issues and find solutions. The group is developing an Adopt-a-Drain program, lesson plans for middle- and high-school students, and a training for ecosystem scientists through a grant provided by the reserve system's Science



Collaborative program. The stormwater discharge data the team collected helped Beaufort secure additional funding for infrastructure upgrades.

- Read the [full story](#).

Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

Invest Time to Engage Residents About Risk

Residents in communities that are underserved and underrepresented in conversations about coastal hazards are often the most vulnerable. As coastal managers, it's our job to effectively communicate potential risks with all community members. [A recently updated publication](#) focuses on best practices and lessons learned for developing culturally relevant and targeted approaches to engaging communities. All examples were pulled from real-world projects with three Sea Grant programs.

Important lesson learned: Start the process by taking the time needed to get to know the community you're trying to reach. You need to understand their culture, beliefs, social networks, and languages in order to meet them where they are. It's not the responsibility of the community to educate risk communicators on their history.

Learn more in [this publication](#) and as always, [email us](#) with questions.

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. [Read the list](#) and let us know if there are others you'd like to see added.

Feedback? Please!

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

NOAA's Digital Coast



NOAA Office for Coastal Management

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