Dear Colleague,

What happens on land doesn’t stay on land. But don’t worry, we have you covered! Land cover products from NOAA’s Digital Coast assist planners with water quality issues, wetland analysis, flood mapping, and more. Historical data allow for analysis of land cover changes, and regional reports provide convenient summaries.

See the latest product that uses NOAA’s land cover data—a story map highlighting land cover change patterns and population growth rates for urbanized areas along the U.S. coast.

Sincerely,

John McCombs
Senior Remote Sensing Specialist
NOAA Office for Coastal Management

PS - 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 usability on the new site. Contact us to get involved.
Stories from the Field
Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Assessing River Basins Using Land Cover Information
Water resources from river basins supply drinking water, support industry, transport products, provide habitat, and contribute to overall quality of life. Changes in land cover in these areas play a crucial role in water resource condition. NOAA's land cover data allow managers to assess current conditions and past trends in order to mitigate impacts. The Delaware River Basin Commission used these data to analyze impacts to the Delaware River from land cover change.

Examining the Effects of Land Cover on Coral Reef Health
Coral reefs, among the most vulnerable ecosystems worldwide, provide populations with a wide range of resources, including food, jobs, and coastal protection. Human activities affect reefs in a variety of ways, and researchers must identify and mitigate stressors on land to keep reefs healthy. Land cover data from NOAA's Digital Coast help researchers identify the amount of impervious surface, cultivated

Data Updates
New and Updated Data Sets

Elevation
- 2015 Delaware and New Jersey Topobathy
- 2005 Massachusetts Lidar
- 2008 and 2011 New York Lidar
- 2010 Wisconsin Lidar
- 2014 Virginia Lidar

Imagery
- 2010 and 2012 California
- 2011 Delaware and Mississippi
- 2013 Delaware, Maine, and Mississippi
- 2014 Florida
- 2015 Florida, Maine, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Ohio, and Texas
- 2016 Florida and Texas

State Clearinghouse and Data Portals Collection
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Landview Map Viewer
- San Francisco Estuary Institute Data Center

Ocean Uses and Planning Areas
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Planning Wind Planning Areas
lands, and pasture areas in order to determine runoff issues. NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center completed this analysis as part of its “ridge to reef” management approach.

Additional Updates

Smart Planning Incorporates Green Infrastructure
Green infrastructure approaches such as wetlands and dune systems provide multiple community-level benefits. Coupled with additional smart growth strategies, green infrastructure can better manage stormwater and enhance resilience while achieving other environmental, social, and economic benefits. The coastal smart growth website shows examples of integrating green infrastructure into broader community planning efforts.

Training Calendar
See what trainings are coming up in the Training Calendar.

News from our Coastal Colleagues

Open for Public Comment: Northeast's First Draft Ocean Plan

The draft Northeast Ocean Plan, designed to enable more transparent, informed, and coordinated ocean decisions for New England waters, is now open for public comment. Through the Northeast Ocean Data Portal, the plan features unprecedented data access to assist with wise regulatory and management decisions. Its “best practices” guidance will encourage better coordination across government and stronger engagement by stakeholders in management decisions. The final plan will be submitted in September 2016 after nine public meetings and online and written comments.