



# DIGITAL COAST

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## CONNECTIONS

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McCombs". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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.



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## 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.



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