

DIGITAL COAST CONNECTIONS



July 2018

New Data, New Resources



Digital Coast

- **Tool** – [Global Change Explorer](#)
- **Tool** – [Gulf TREE](#)
- **Story from the Field** – [Applying Ocean Economy Data in a Rutgers University Class in New Jersey](#)
- **Story from the Field** – [Building Skills for Future Flood Hazard Preparedness in Puerto Rico](#)
- **Video** – [Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper Tutorial](#)
- **Data** – 50+ new data sets added to the data registry. See the [full list](#).



Office for Coastal Management

- The National Estuarine Research Reserve System recommended [11 projects](#) to enhance oyster management, marsh restoration, and climate adaptation as part of its Science Collaborative program.
- The new [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#) will award up to \$30 million for projects that restore and strengthen natural systems to protect coastal communities and enhance wildlife habitat. Apply by August 7, 2018, to this National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA partnership.
- Announcing the [2018 Coastal Management Fellows](#).

Tech Topics

Use Economic Data to Make the Case

You need to sell your coastal management efforts to town council. While your ideas will surely gain support based on merit alone, relevant economic figures could provide just the extra oomph needed to send your proposal over the finish line. NOAA's recently released economic reports will help.

Here are some facts to consider: the report says that the ocean and Great Lakes economy's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product grew by 5.7 percent—twice as fast as the U.S. economy as a whole. The ocean economy supports 152,000 business establishments with 3.2 million employees and \$128 billion in wages.

The [NOAA Report on the Ocean and Great Lakes Economy of the United States](#) profiles national economic conditions. From this site, you can also access similar reports that are focused on regional- and state-level statistics. Also included: lots of fun facts and cool economic graphics that should prove helpful.

Good luck!



Stories from Your Peers

Urban Golf Course-Turned-Wetland Cuts Hurricane Harvey Flood Impacts

As Hurricane Harvey bore down on the Texas community of Clear Lake, a reclaimed urban wetland in the heart of the community performed exactly as it should—acting as a sponge to keep floodwaters away from area homes. This 200-acre wetland and green space, named Exploration Green, was transformed from an abandoned golf course. Additional Exploration Green features include hiking, biking, and pedestrian trails; athletic fields; and natural habitat and native grassland areas. Recreation, flood protection, beautification, and water quality enhancement—all in one package. Now you're talking!

- See the [full story](#).
- [Watch a video](#) of the wetland in action and read more about [Exploration Green](#).



Opening Day Festivities - (photo obtained from [Exploration Green](#) website)

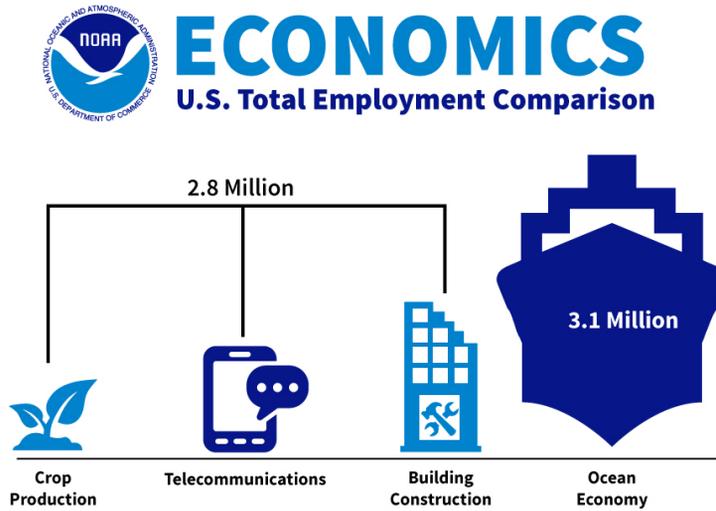
Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

Conserve Land to Reduce Flood Risk and Save Money

Conserving open space and implementing land use policies that encourage development away from wetlands, dunes, and other naturally protective features allows a floodplain to best serve its natural function. FEMA offers discounts on flood insurance premiums for policyholders when communities that participate in the Community Rating System program protect open spaces and reduce community flood risks.

Use this guide, [How to Map Open Space for Community Rating System Credit](#), to see how communities can earn credits on already protected areas and identify areas for additional credits through future preservation.

Fast Facts



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 you have 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](#)



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