Dear Colleague,

Users spoke, and NOAA’s Digital Coast listened. A recent website redesign addressed user feedback to better provide data, tools, and training to coastal communities. Information is now easier to find, as users can filter items by product type, focus area, or location.

The training section of the Digital Coast, now the Digital Coast Academy, combines trainings, case studies, videos, and more to help users address a wide range of coastal issues all in one place. Lastly, users can see how other people have used Digital Coast resources with the new “Stories from the Field” map. Take a look at the new features—and spread the word!

Sincerely,

Lori Cary-Kothera  
Digital Coast Lead  
NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Stories from the Field
Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

**Identifying Sources of Pollution That Impact Coral Reef Communities**
Land-based sources of sediment and pollution are a major threat to the health of coral reefs, and NOAA Digital Coast land cover data help identify these sources. Combining land cover data with coral survey data allows reef managers to explore the relationship between landscape and reef health in specific locations. Managers in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands used this data combination to assess reef health and predict problem areas.

**Assessing Seagrass Vulnerability**
Seagrass provides many essential ecosystem functions and requires shallow water and sunlight for photosynthesis. With the threat of sea level rise, deeper waters would limit seagrass habitat. Data from NOAA Digital Coast's Sea Level Rise Viewer are being used to investigate various sea level rise scenarios and determine how changes will affect seagrass habitat. See this example in Florida to

Data Updates
New and Updated Data Sets

**Elevation**
- 2014 Topobathy Lidar for California
- 2015 Topobathy Lidar for New Hampshire and Oregon
- 2015 Lidar for Miami-Dade County

**Imagery**
- Lake Superior
- Great Lakes
- Pennsylvania
- Wisconsin

**Physical and Oceanographic**
- Marine Place Names
- U.S. Geological Survey Sediment Texture

News from our Coastal Colleagues

**New Hampshire Releases Draft Climate Report**
The New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission released a draft report, now out for public comment,
Additional Updates

Regional and Data Comparisons Are Easier with Ecological Standard

The Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard provides a national framework for organizing information about coastal and ocean ecosystems. The standard's five components represent different aspects of the seascape—water column, geoform, surface geology, benthic biotic, and sub-benthic—including all the elements associated with a specific habitat type. Use these standards to allow for comparison among regions or data sets.

Training Calendar

See what trainings are coming up in the Training Calendar.