

NOAA has tools, training, and information to guide you through the planning process.



# DIGITAL COAST

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## CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

You probably know about the many benefits that natural infrastructure provides, from flood protection to cleaner air and water. But are you aware of all of the related resources NOAA and the Digital Coast have to offer?

Interactive tools, such as [CanVis](#) and the [Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper](#), allow coastal managers to assess vulnerabilities and visualize natural infrastructure ideas. Additionally, a suite of training products is available to guide communities throughout the planning process; the instructor-led [Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience](#) covers fundamental concepts and practices, while the six-step publication, "[A Guide to Assessing Green Infrastructure Costs and Benefits for Flood Reduction.](#)" provides a practical approach to understanding the costs associated with this type of planning.

Natural infrastructure techniques have proven advantages, but the process can seem daunting. Instead of getting overwhelmed, use these [Digital Coast resources](#) to guide your efforts. You can find [examples](#) of communities that have benefited from our tools and training online.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lauren" and last name "Long" clearly distinguishable.

Lauren Long  
Coastal Conservation Specialist  
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



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## Digital Coast Stories and Impacts

Data and Tools in Action

### Using Data to Build Better Beach Dunes

Altered dune systems diminish coastal defense, making coastal communities extremely vulnerable to “nor’easters.”

Using NOAA [data](#) to analyze the beachfront can help communities assess a dune’s effectiveness as a storm surge barrier and, in turn, plan accordingly. That’s exactly what these [New Jersey communities](#) did.

### Survey Says...Training Works

Graduates of the [Digital Coast Academy](#)—the training resources available on the Digital Coast—have been known to make a difference. Throughout the country, they have used skills they learned to build better coastal communities. In fact, a recent

## Data

### New and Updated Data Sets\*

#### Elevation

- 2000 North Carolina Lidar
- 2013 Hawaii Lidar
- 2015 Oregon Lidar
- 2016 Florida Lidar
- 2016 Maine Lidar

#### Imagery

- 1977 South Carolina
- 2011 Vermont
- 2012 Virginia
- 2016 North Carolina
- 2017 Texas
- 2017 Virginia

### Ocean Uses and Planning Areas

- Aids to Navigation – Update
- Coastal Energy Facilities – Update

### Physical and Oceanographic

survey revealed that the overwhelming majority of respondents said they gained knowledge and skills that they would apply in their jobs. Read more about the [survey results and success stories](#), and visit the Digital Coast Academy to create a success story of your own.

## Additional Updates

### Don't Let a Diverting Dolphin Stop Your Meeting

There's nothing worse than making progress in a meeting only to have it stopped short by a dominating personality or constant complainer. Learn how to handle these situations with NOAA's [Dealing with Disruptive Behaviors](#) mobile tool. Get tips to help prepare for any type of situation.

### 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 changes to the site. [Contact us](#) if you would like to participate in our usability testing.

### Training Calendar

See what trainings are coming up in the [Training Calendar](#).

- High Frequency Radar Location – Update

### MarineCadastre.gov Only

- Hawaii Benthic Habitat Map
- Hawaii Bottomfish
- Hawaii Brown Booby
- Hawaii Humpback Whale
- Hawaii Probability of Eddy Rings
- Hawaii Reef Fish
- Hawaii Speed of Surface Currents
- Hawaii Spinner Dolphin
- Hawaii Wedge-tailed Shearwater

See a [full list](#) of the new and updated data, or [subscribe to the data updates newsletter](#).

\*Some data sets do not cover the entire state.



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Send your product, personnel, or event news to [Caitlyn.McCrary@noaa.gov](mailto:Caitlyn.McCrary@noaa.gov). We'll include it in *Digital Coast Connections*, space permitting. For answers to additional questions, contact [coastal.info@noaa.gov](mailto:coastal.info@noaa.gov).

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