Dear Colleague,

Don’t let spring come in like a lion and go out in a massive flood. While snowmelt and heavy rainfall combine to increase flooding and runoff issues, NOAA’s Digital Coast has a variety of resources to help community managers prepare for these devastating situations.

The Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper is used to pinpoint areas where communities are most vulnerable, and reports generated by the Coastal County Snapshots tool help identify vulnerable infrastructure. Top it off with the OpenNSPECT tool to analyze runoff volume. Armed with this information, March will certainly seem milder.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Schmidt
Division Chief, Science and Geospatial Division
NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Stories from the Field  
Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Assessing the Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure
For many cities, road closures during storm and flood events are already the norm. To better understand how flooding threats will increase as a result of sea level rise, community planners can use [NOAA’s Sea Level Rise Viewer](https://coastwatch.noaa.gov/) to see projected impacts to roads and critical infrastructure. See what the Virginia Coastal Management Program did to [assess their future needs](https).

Identifying Environmental Concerns from Offshore Drilling
Opening new areas to offshore oil and gas poses environmental and natural resource concerns. Using [MarineCadastre.gov data](https), stakeholders can analyze habitat areas, natural resources, and more to determine

Data Updates
New and Updated Data Sets

Jurisdictions and Boundaries
- Congressional Districts

Marine Habitat
- West Coast Canopy-Forming Kelp, 1989-2014

Ocean Uses and Planning Areas
- North Atlantic Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas
- Marine Minerals Significant Sand Resource Blocks

Physical and Oceanographic
- Ocean Current Resource Potential: Mean Power Density
- Ocean Current Resource Potential: Mean Speed

News from our
Coastal Colleagues

Natural Solutions Help to Reduce Flood Risk
Flood threats are increasing, with average flood losses now topping $10 billion per year. The Nature Conservancy is working with communities to invest in a mixture of natural approaches for reducing flood risks. By combining wetlands, marshes, and forests with existing levees and floodwalls, or “gray infrastructure,” communities have a better chance of successfully mitigating impacts.

Congratulations
Our American Planning Association (APA) Digital Coast partners Jim Schwab, manager of the APA Hazards Planning Center, and David Rouse, managing director for research and advisory services, have been elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). This is one of the highest honors AICP bestows upon its members.

Additional Updates

Educate the Public and Motivate Risk-Minimizing Action
NOAA’s Digital Coast lives up to its “more than just data” slogan, for the website provides a wealth of materials focused on risk communications, including trainings and publications. Curious to see risk communication in action? See one approach, the storm surge fast draw video, and consider joining us on March 15 for the next Seven Best Practices for Risk Communication webinar.

Training Calendar
See the trainings that are coming up on the trainings calendar.

Coastal Colleagues

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