

Thank you to all of our users and partners who have helped shape the Digital Coast these past 10 years.

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# DIGITAL COAST

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## CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

This year marks 10 years of serving up coastal management resources through [NOAA's Digital Coast](#) to the people who need them. Can you believe that in 10 years we've created over 130 [stories from the field](#), added a robust [training section](#) with [case studies](#) and more, and been valued at a 411 percent [return on investment](#)?

We've grown to be a suite of products from [data](#) to training that helps managers make decisions about complex issues, and we want to thank you for helping us make the Digital Coast what it is today. We can't wait to see what the next 10 years have in store!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Cary-Kothera".

Lori Cary-Kothera  
Science and Geospatial Services Operation Manager  
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



## Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

### Using Natural Infrastructure to Reduce Runoff and Protect Corals

Sediment runoff and pollution pose threats to many coastal areas, leading to poor water quality and negative impacts on coral reefs. Incorporating natural infrastructure techniques, such as building gravel parking lots and planting native vegetation, can greatly improve water quality and decrease these impacts. Managers can then use [NOAA's OpenNSPECT](#) tool to assess the effectiveness of their methods. [See what they did](#) in Puerto Rico.

### Identifying Historical Wetland Habitat Changes

Historical comparison of habitat and wetland extent is an important component of estuary conservation. Using [NOAA's land cover data](#) in this process allows managers to gain insight into the extent of change, the main causes for change, and habitat types suitable for recovery and protection. The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

## Data Updates

### New and Updated Data Sets\*

#### Elevation

- 2015 North Carolina Lidar
- 2015 and 2016 Michigan Lidar
- 2016 Post Hurricane Matthew Lidar

#### Imagery

- 2015 Florida
- 2016 Virginia
- 2016 Florida
- 2016 Ohio
- 2016 Michigan

### Ocean Uses and Planning Areas

- Oil and Gas Leasing Withdrawal and Moratoria Areas
- Oil and Gas Proposed Final Program Areas 2017-2022

### Physical and Oceanographic

- Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Bathymetry Contours 100 ft, 100 m, 500 ft, 500 m, 1000 ft (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
- Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Bathymetry Contours 100 m, 500

[used this method](#) for its conservation and management plan.

- ft, 500 m, 1000 ft (NOAA)
- Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Bathymetry with Hill Shade

## Additional Updates

### Communicate Risks Effectively, Inspire Risk-Wise Action

A key element of communicating effectively about risk is identifying the audience's diverse values and concerns and using that information to design a communication approach. The goal is a high level of community engagement—and action. A [new publication](#) helps community leaders understand and connect with stakeholders and inspire risk-wise behavior through improved communication.

### 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](#).

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.

## News from Our Coastal Colleagues

### Guide Helps Communities Use Nature to Address Flooding

Learn more about nature-based solutions and identify which ones work best with [this guide](#) from the Nature Conservancy. The guide includes case studies of successful projects from across the country. This information helps communities understand how to incorporate nature-based solutions into local planning, zoning, regulations, and built projects. Smart nature-based solutions provide multiple benefits, giving communities high returns on their investments in terms of flood-risk reduction strategies.



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