



September 2020

New Data, New Resources

Digital Coast

- **Self-Guided Resource** – [Working with Lidar](#)
- **Training** – [Diving into the Digital Coast](#)
- **Training** – [Planning and Facilitating Virtual Meetings: Technical Assistance Hour](#)
- **Data** – See the list of [new and updated data sets](#).

Office for Coastal Management

- **NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program** has a new webpage that documents the process used to create an [environmental impact statement](#).
- **NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program** is celebrating its [20th anniversary!](#) Watch the [video](#) and participate on social media all year using the hashtag [#NOAACoral20th](#).
- **Impact Story Database** – Explore the [list](#). Use the stories in your communication efforts. The most recent stories are at the top.

Tech Topics

Next-Generation Satellite Data Furthers Coral Health Monitoring

Coral reefs represent a critical part of any coastal ecosystem. NOAA's Coral Reef Watch has provided valuable coral-monitoring satellite data for more than 20 years. On May 1, 2020, the program entered a new era with its next-generation [daily global satellite coral-bleaching and heat-stress-monitoring products](#). These 5-kilometer resolution data help users determine when local reefs are vulnerable to climate change.

Organizations can now implement more timely, effective responses, such as reducing local stressors (e.g., closing major scuba diving and fishing areas), rescuing rare corals, or shading key coral reefs in nurseries. Read more about the [methods](#) used to provide these data.

Stories from Your Peers

Crabs in the Marsh Study: Results

Do burrowing crabs harm the marsh? That's the question scientists from the nation's National Estuarine Research Reserve System wanted to answer. Their study, published in the *Ecology* scientific journal, found it unlikely that crabs pose a major threat on a broad scale. The study, which focused on the types of crabs living in salt marshes, was conducted at 15 NOAA research reserve sites in 13 coastal states. "What is true at one scale may not be true at another," notes Kerstin Wasson, PhD, of California's Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve, the study's lead author. "We found that crabs can cause a lot of harm at a local scale, in some parts of some marshes, but they don't seem to be a main cause of marsh dieback at a national scale."



- Read the [full story](#).
- Read the [study](#).

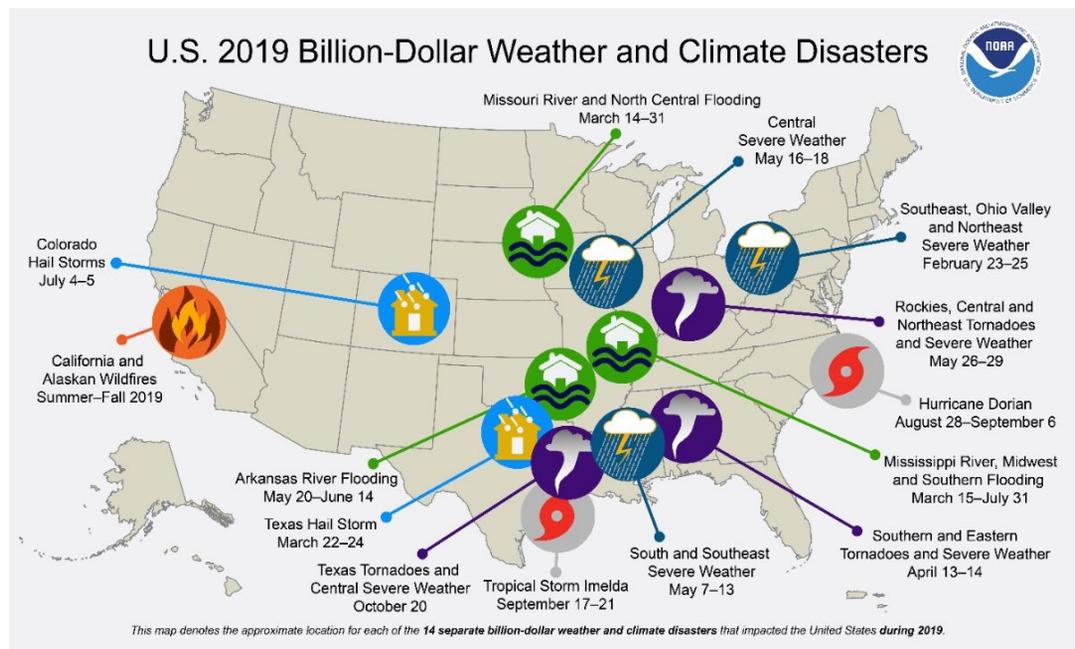
Tips from the Digital Coast Academy

The SMART Way to Set Project Objectives

Well-written objectives that clearly define desirable project outcomes are vital for success. Use this [set of quick tips](#) to write objectives that are SMART (and yes, SMART stands for something—look at the link to see!). For example: make your objective measurable by adding a numerical target that can be counted. And don't forget to include deadlines and define points where the project team stops to assess its efforts along the way.

Need more project planning help? [Email us](#). Our staff can answer your questions!

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 there are others you'd like to see added.

Feedback, Please

We want to hear your ideas for how to improve the Digital Coast! Let us know by emailing coastal.info@noaa.gov.

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