

## FREQUENT QUESTIONS



# Wetland Benefits Snapshot

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### **Why doesn't my county have a snapshot?**

Snapshots were created using FEMA 1% annual chance flood zones. Digital flood data may not exist for your county or may not have existed when the snapshots were created.

### **Where do the data come from?**

#### ***Land Cover***

The *land cover data* come from the [NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program](#). These data represent land cover from 2006 as derived from 30-meter resolution satellite imagery.

#### **What is included in the land cover classes shown in this snapshot?**

The *Wetland* class includes salt- and freshwater wetlands. The *Developed* class consists of development ranging from low to high intensity and includes impervious surfaces. It also includes open space features such as golf courses, cemeteries, parks, lawns, etc. The *Agriculture* class includes crops and pasture or hay features. The *Other* class includes all upland features that are not developed or in agriculture production. The areas include grasslands, forests, scrub vegetation, and barren land.

#### **Why does the percentage of a county that is wetland differ between this snapshot and the [C-CAP Land Cover Atlas](#)?**

The value used in the C-CAP Land Cover Atlas reflects the proportion of the county's total area, which includes areas of water. The value reported within this snapshot reflects the proportion of the county's land area only, and excludes water. This difference can result in significant disparity between the two in counties that include large areas of water.

#### ***Economics Data***

#### **Why aren't economic data available for my county?**

The [Economics: National Ocean Watch](#) data used in this snapshot are derived from a database maintained by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with information on individual business establishments. To protect the privacy of these businesses, the totals that are generated using

these data are tested to ensure that they cannot be used to determine the wages or number of jobs associated with any specific establishment. There are four cases in which data are suppressed:

1. Any total representing three or fewer establishments is not shown.
2. Any total in which a single establishment accounts for 80% or more of the employment is not shown.
3. It must not be possible to subtract one total from another to determine a suppressed total. For this reason, a second total must also be suppressed even if it otherwise passes rules 1 and 2.
4. Totals cannot be shown if they are suppressed in any other publicly available BLS database.

What is the difference between “output from businesses” and “revenue from self-employed”? “Output from businesses,” measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), is the value of all final goods and services produced in an industry. The value of inputs from other industries has been subtracted from this total to determine the “value added” by the industry. “Revenue from self-employed” represents the gross receipts of self-employed persons in an industry without subtracting the value of inputs from other industries. Although this mismatching is undesirable, it is unavoidable because of differences in the way the two sets of statistics are computed. Estimates of GDP are produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and estimates of gross receipts by the self-employed are produced by the Census Bureau.

**What is included in the total number of jobs?**

“Jobs” includes both employees (from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) and self-employed persons (from Nonemployer Statistics, U.S. Bureau of the Census).

**Flood Zones**

The flood zone data are the result of a FEMA report titled, “Coastal AE Zone and VE Zone Demographics Study and Primary Frontal Dune Study to Support the NFIP.” The data represent the digital riverine and coastal flood zones available as of 2010 and are a combination of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Q3 flood data. The most up-to-date flood zones can be requested from [FEMA’s Map Service Center](#).

**Where can I learn more?**

**Understanding Wetlands**

- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Wetlands Information](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, \*Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States, 2004 to 2009\*](#)
- [Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Wetlands and Water \(Synthesis\)](#)
- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, \*National Coastal Condition Report III\*](#) (see the Coastal Habitat Index)

**Economic Value of Wetlands**

Wetland benefits can be manifested in many ways, including recreation, tourism, and other economic opportunities, as well as priceless benefits such as clean water and beautiful views. These resources

help explain the full value of wetlands to society:

- [GecoServ Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Services Valuation Database](#)
- [Introduction to Economics for Coastal Managers](#)
- [National Marine Fisheries Service, \*Economic Value as an Incentive to Protect and Restore Estuarine Habitat\*](#)

In addition to commercial fishing, recreational fishing is another component in assessing the economic value of wetlands. These resources include more information on commercial and recreational fishing:

- [Interactive Fisheries Economic Impacts Tool](#)
- [NOAA Fisheries, \*Fisheries of the United States – 2012\*](#)
- [NOAA Fisheries Recreational Fisheries Information](#)
- [NOAA Fisheries Commercial Fishery Landings Data](#)

### **Wetlands and Sea Level Rise**

Rising sea levels threaten coastal communities and wetlands, heightening the need for protection and bringing new challenges to the task. These resources help communities address this challenge:

- [Conserving Coastal Wetlands for Sea Level Rise Adaptation](#)
- [Coastal Resilience project](#)
- [Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Viewer](#)

### **Funding to Conserve Priority Wetlands**

Listed below are some of the federal programs that offer funding for wetland protection projects:

- [NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program](#)