



The National Shoreline

The National Shoreline provides critical baseline data to manage coastal resources and define America's territorial limits, including the Exclusive Economic Zone. The National Shoreline is fundamental to the growth of the Nation's shipping, manufacturing, export, coastal development, and insurance industries.

An accurate, consistent, and up-to-date national shoreline can provide and improve:

- Charts for navigation and harbor docking
- Storm surge, coastal flooding, and pollution trajectory modeling
- Land and marine geographic information systems
- Environmental analysis and monitoring

NGS delineates the shoreline through stereo photogrammetry, using tide-coordinated aerial photography controlled by kinematic Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques. This process produces a seamless, digital database of the national shoreline and a database of aerial photography.

NGS is exploring the use of new technologies and methodologies to map the shoreline including:

- Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR)
- Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR)
- Imaging spectroscopy (Hyperspectral)

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The U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
National Geodetic Survey

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) defines and manages the National Spatial Reference System, which determines position, height, distance, gravity, and shoreline throughout the United States. Since 1807, NGS and its predecessor agencies have led the world in precise positioning and developed emerging technologies for the public. NGS provides its expertise and a wealth of free information, including direct access to its data base on the World Wide Web at: www.ngs.noaa.gov.

