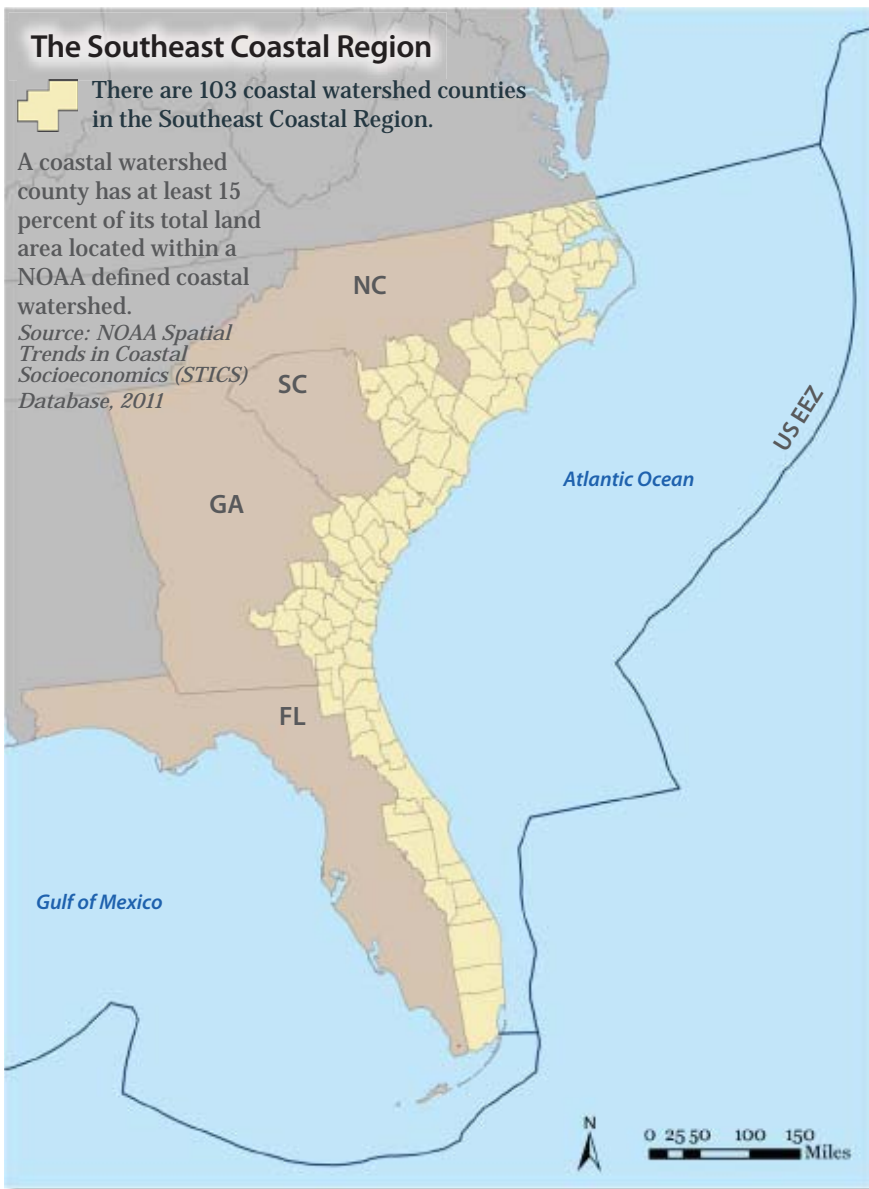


# The Southeast Coastal Region

## Coastal Communities, Economy, and Ecosystems Highlights

*This report provides highlights of the Southeast region's coastal communities, coastal economy, and coastal ecosystems. The Southeast Coastal Region encompasses the 103 coastal watershed counties on the Atlantic Coast of the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The total land area of the region is 67,459 square miles and includes 22,382 miles of coastline. The offshore ocean area extending out to the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary covers 189,615 square miles.*



### Coastal Communities

**15.7 Million**

The number of people residing in the Southeast Coastal Region in 2010.

### Coastal Economy

**\$ 151 Million**

The value of commercial fish and shellfish landed in the Southeast Coastal Region from 2007 - 2009.

### Coastal Ecosystems

**22,580**

The total square miles of freshwater and saltwater wetlands in the Southeast Coastal Region in 2006.

**Communities Topics Inside:**

Population in the Southeast Coastal Region  
 Population in the Special Flood Hazard Area  
 Population Density

**Economy Topics Inside:**

Employment  
 Ports: Waterborne Commerce  
 Commercial and Recreational Fishing

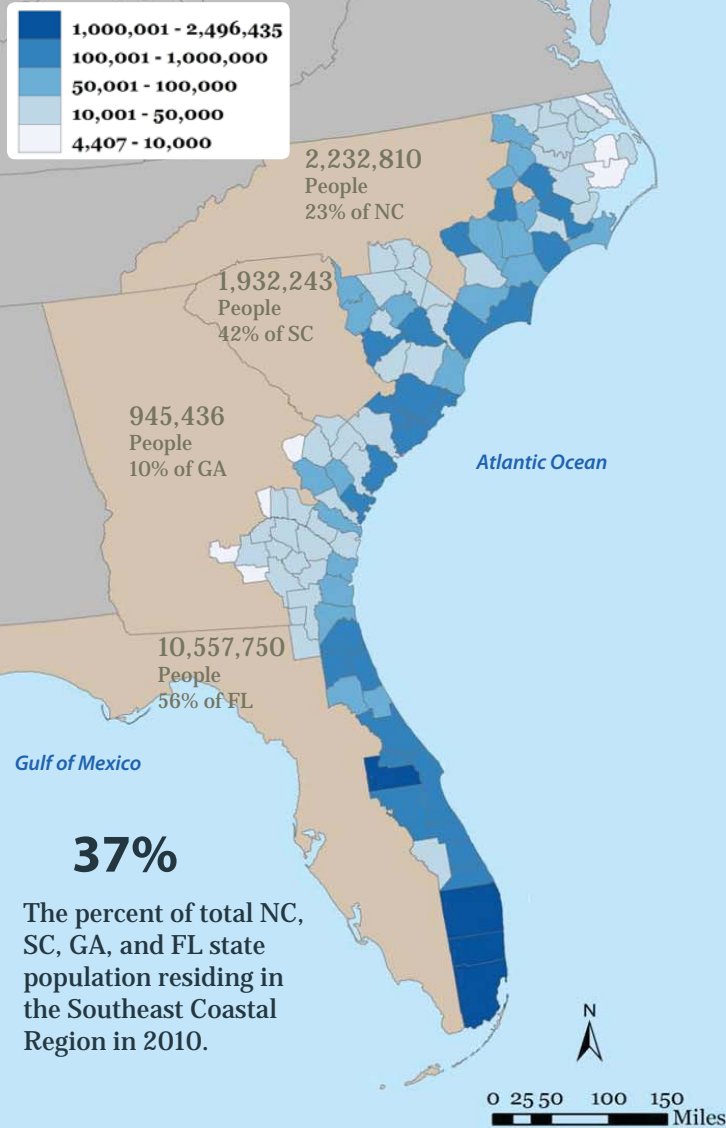
**Ecosystems Topics Inside:**

Wetland Change  
 Nutrient Pollution in Estuaries  
 Coastal Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise

# Coastal Communities

## 2010 Population of the Southeast Coastal Region

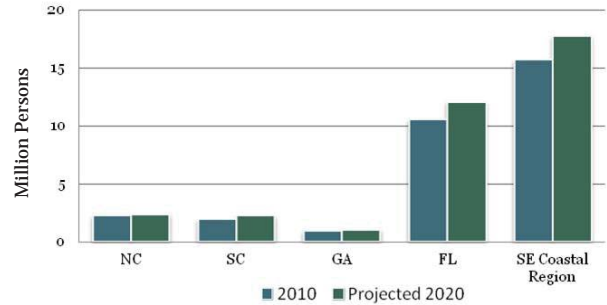
Populations of coastal watershed counties, totaled for each state.



## Population of the Southeast Coastal Region

# 15.7 Million

Number of people residing in the Southeast Coastal Region in 2010 (10% of the total U.S. coastal population of 164 million). This number represents a growth of 128% since 1970. Population is projected to increase to 17.7 million by 2020.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 and Woods and Poole Economics, 2010

## Population in the Special Flood Hazard Area

# 4.4 Million

Estimated number of people living in FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas. The majority (80%) of all higher-risk sub-populations reside in Florida.

Southeast Coastal Region	Total SFHA Population	Percent of SFHA Population		
		Over Age 65	Under Age 5	Below Poverty Level
North Carolina	243,198	15%	6%	13%
South Carolina	368,700	15%	6%	13%
Georgia	211,336	12%	8%	12%
Florida	3,606,528	15%	7%	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,429,762</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010

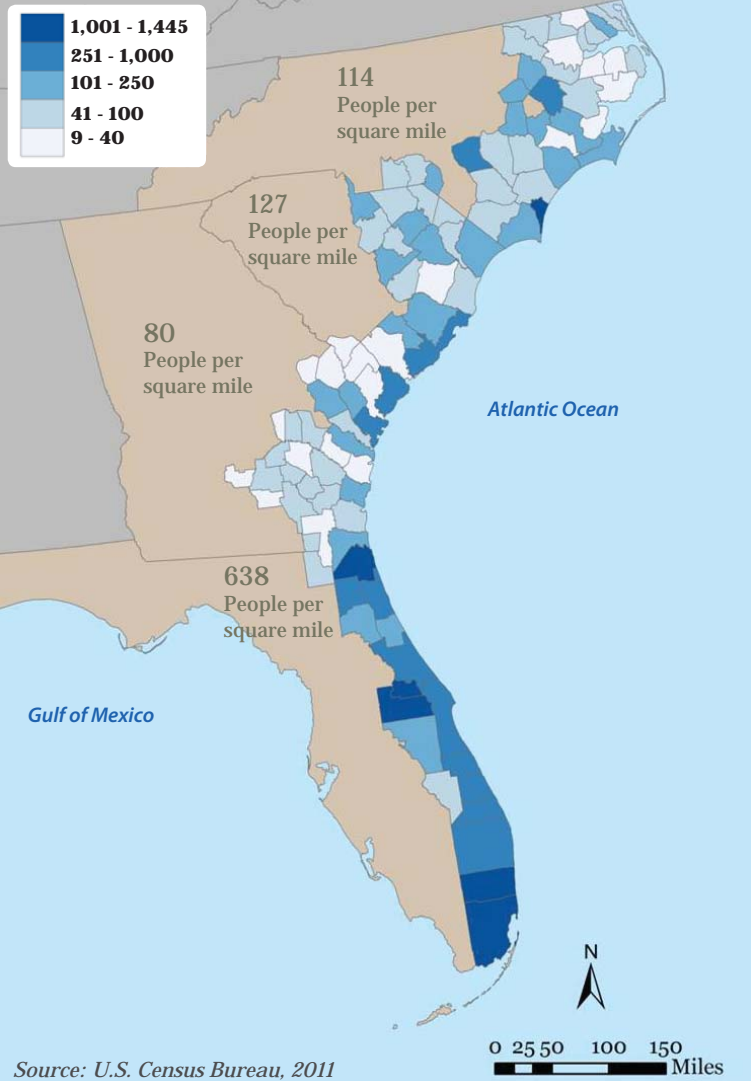
### Did You Know?

The FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is the area where the National Flood Insurance Program's floodplain management regulations must be enforced and where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies.

# Coastal Communities

## Population Density of the Southeast Coastal Region

Population density (number of people per square mile) for each coastal watershed county, totaled for each state.

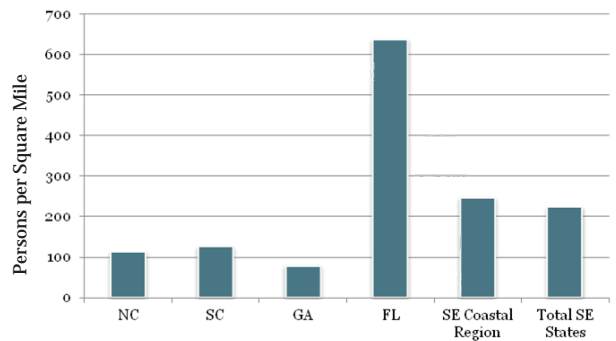


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

## Population Density

**248**

Number of people per square mile living in the Southeast Coastal Region in 2010. More than double the U.S. density (excluding Alaska) of 104 people per square mile.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011



South Carolina sunset. Credit: NOAA

## Coastal Watershed Counties with Densest Population by State (number of people per square mile)

North Carolina		South Carolina		Georgia		Florida					
1	New Hanover	1,058	1	Charleston	382	1	Chatham	622	1	Broward	1,445
2	Cumberland	490	2	Beaufort	282	2	Glynn	190	2	Seminole	1,367
3	Pitt	258	3	Dorchester	238	3	Liberty	130	3	Miami-Dade	1,315
4	Onslow	233	4	Horry	237	4	Effingham	109	4	Orange	1,268
5	Wayne	222	5	Florence	171	5	Bulloch	104	5	Duval	1,134

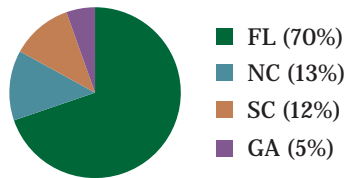
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

# Coastal Economy

## Employment

There were over 5.9 million people employed, yielding over \$236 billion in wages paid in the Southeast Coastal Region, contributing \$600 billion to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2010.

### Distribution of Employment by State



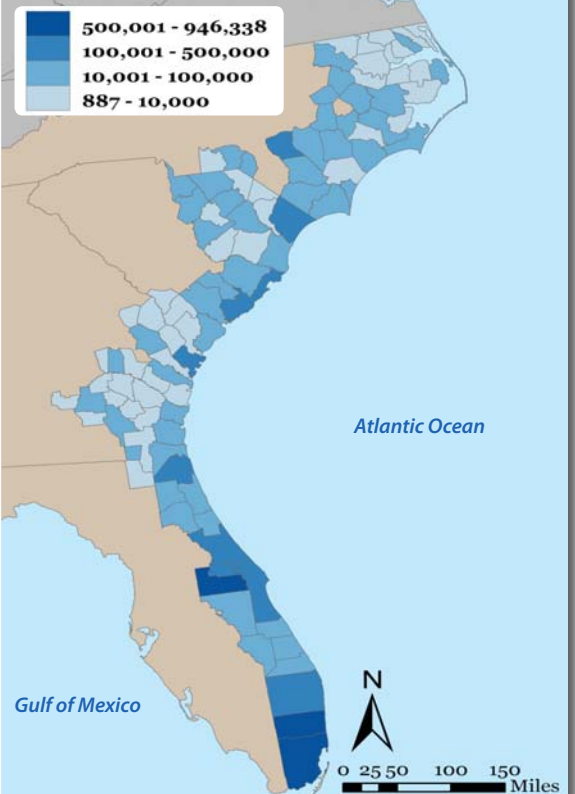
### Jobs by Major Economic Sector in 2010

Industry	Employment (Thousands)
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,251
Education and Health Services	1,143
Leisure and Hospitality	803
Professional and Business Services	766
Public Administration	373
Financial Activities	353
Manufacturing	344
Construction	263
Other Services	187
Information	102
Natural Resources and Mining	58

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2011; NOAA, Spatial Trends in Coastal Socioeconomics (STICS) Database, 2011

### Total Employment by County in the Southeast Coastal Region

Number of people employed in coastal watershed counties



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2011; NOAA, Spatial Trends in Coastal Socioeconomics (STICS) Database, 2011

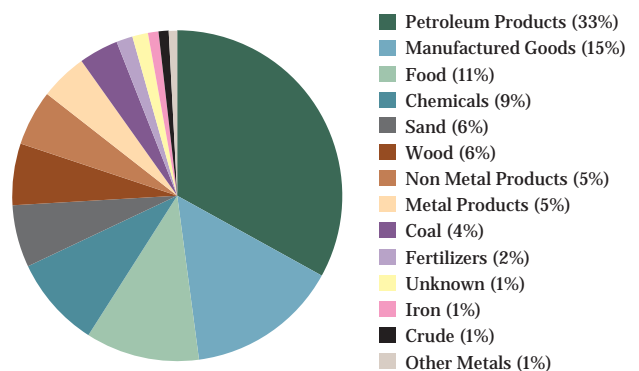
## Ports: Waterborne Commerce

### The Southeast Coastal Region Contained 10 of the Nation's Top 150 Ports for Tonnage in 2009

U.S. Rank	Port	Short Tons (Million)
21	Savannah, GA	32
35	Port Everglades, FL	20
38	Jacksonville, FL	18
40	Charleston, SC	16
61	Miami, FL	7
62	Wilmington, NC	7
85	Morehead City, NC	3
91	Palm Beach, FL	2
93	Port Canaveral, FL	2
101	Brunswick, GA	2

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Data Center, 2011

### Primary Commodities of the 10 Leading Ports in the Southeast Coastal Region



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Data Center, 2011

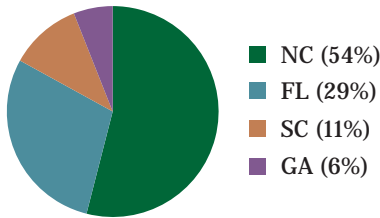
# Coastal Economy

## Commercial Fishing

**\$151 Million**

Value of commercial fish and shellfish landed in the Southeast Coastal Region, average annual value from 2007-2009.

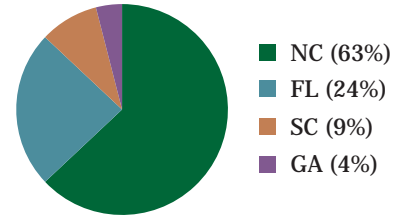
**Distribution of Fishing Landings by Value**



**108 Million**

Pounds of commercial fish and shellfish landed in the Southeast Coastal Region, average annual pounds from 2007-2009.

**Distribution of Fishing Landings by Poundage**



**Species Landings by Value**

Rank	Species	Value (million)
1	Blue crab	33
2	White shrimp	26
3	Brown shrimp	10
4	King and Cero mackerel	8
5	Summer flounder	6

The top five species by value in the Southeast Coastal Region, a three year average from 2007-2009.  
Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2011a

**Species Landings by Poundage**

Rank	Species	Pounds (million)
1	Blue crab	38
2	White shrimp	12
3	Atlantic Croaker	6
4	Brown shrimp	6
5	King and Cero mackerel	4

The top five species landings by poundage in the Southeast Coastal Region, a three-year average from 2007-2009.  
Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2011a

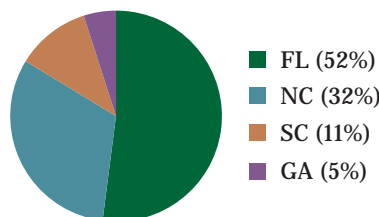
## Recreational Fishing

**84 Million**

Number of fish caught by recreational fishers in the Southeast Coastal Region in 2010.

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2011b, 2011c

**Distribution of 19 Million Marine Recreational Fishing Trips in 2010**



Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2011b

**24%**

The percentage of the total U.S. recreational fish catch that occurred in the Coastal Southeast Region in 2010.

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2011c

# Coastal Ecosystems

## Wetland Change

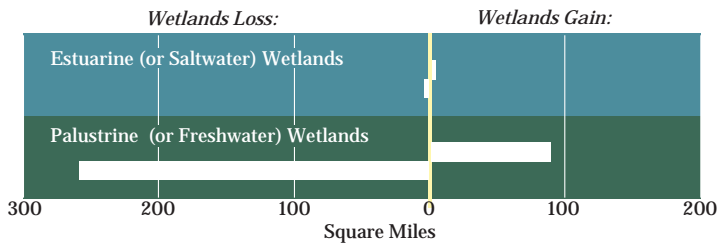
**22,580**

The total square miles of freshwater and saltwater wetlands in the Southeast Coastal Region in 2006.

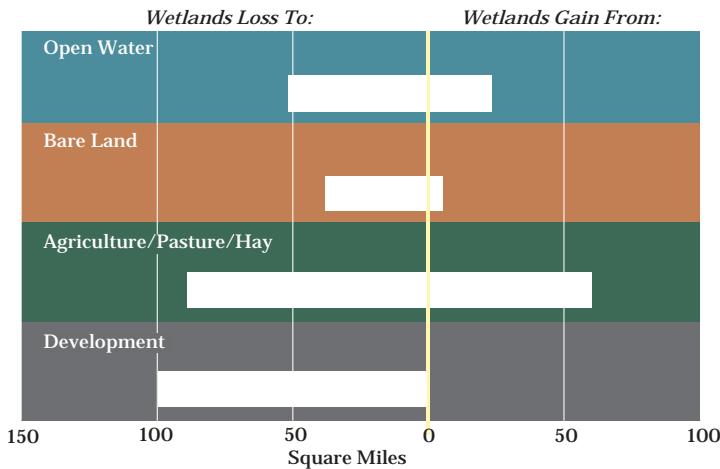
**184**

The square miles of freshwater and saltwater wetlands converted to open water, bare land, agriculture, and development between 1996 and 2006.

### Gross Loss and Gain in Saltwater and Freshwater Wetlands, 1996-2006



### Land Cover Types that Wetlands Have Been Lost To or Gained From, 1996-2006



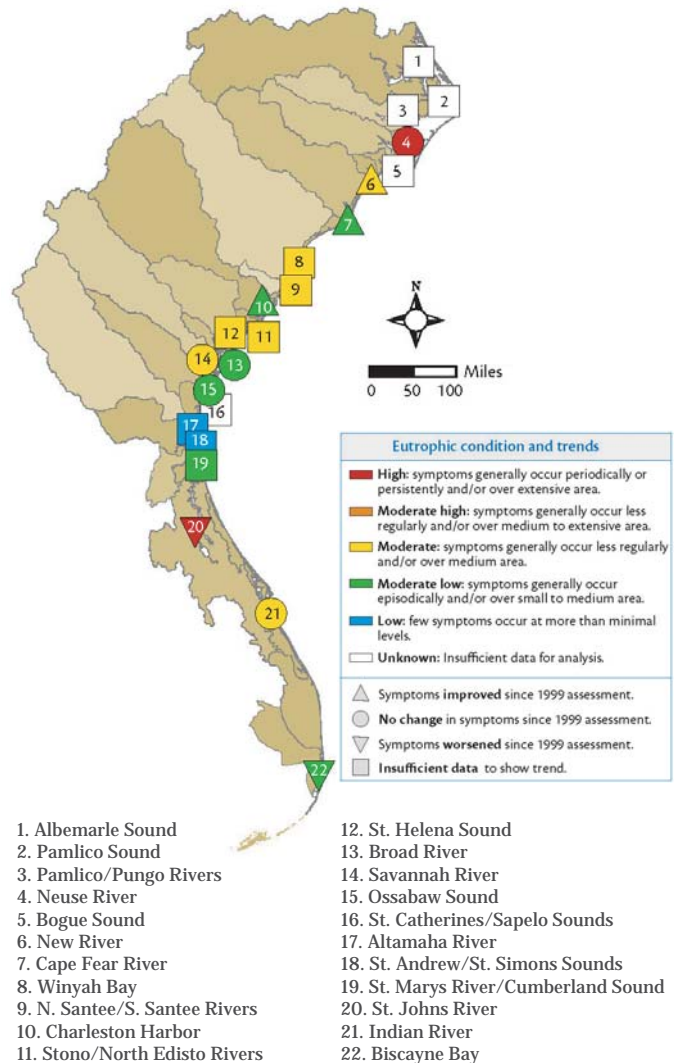
Source: NOAA Coastal Services Center, 2006

## Nutrient Pollution in Estuaries

**9**

The number of estuaries in the Southeast Coastal Region that displayed moderate or worse expression of nutrient pollution (eutrophic) conditions in 2004.

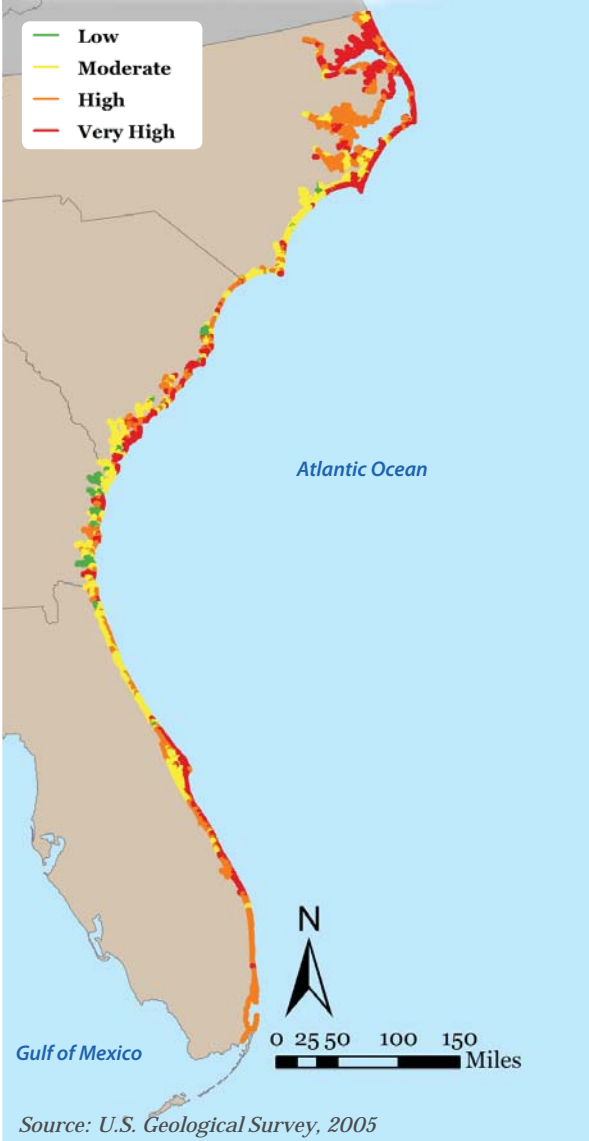
### Nutrient Pollution (Eutrophic) Condition of Southeast Coastal Region Estuaries in 2004



Source: Bricker, et. al., 2007

# Coastal Ecosystems

## Coastal Vulnerability to Sea-level Rise in the Southeast Coastal Region



### Did You Know?

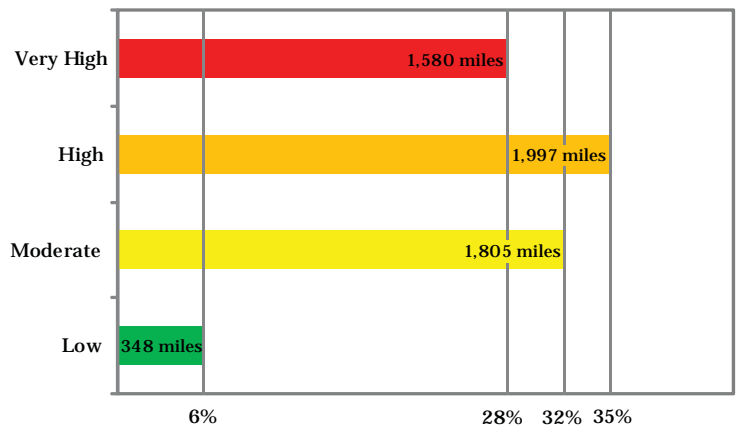
Coastal vulnerability to sea level rise is based on the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) developed by the U.S. Geological Survey. The CVI shows the relative vulnerability of the coast to physical changes due to predicted rise in sea level.

## Coastal Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise

**62%**

Percentage of Coastal Vulnerability Index and mapped shoreline miles of the Southeast Coastal Region that has a high or very high risk rating.

### Southeast Coastal Region Coastal Vulnerability



Percentage of mapped shoreline along the U.S. Southeast coast for each Coastal Vulnerability Index risk category and number of miles of each category.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey, 2005

### What is Considered When Determining Coastal Vulnerability Index Ratings?

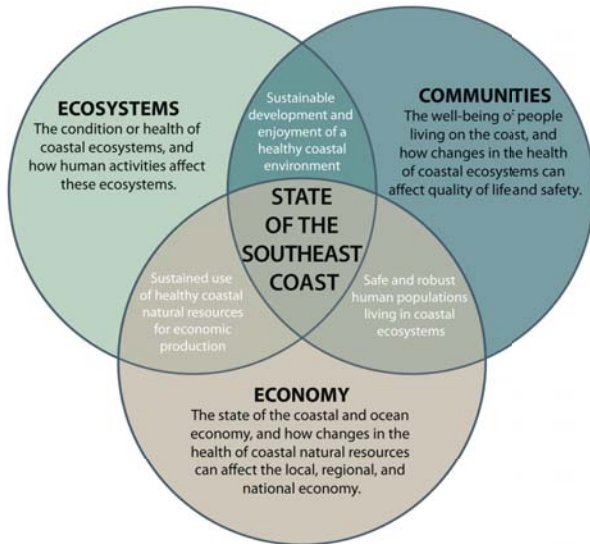
- Shoreline Erosion Rate
- Geomorphology (erodibility of shoreline)
- Historic Sea Level Rise Rate
- Regional Coastal Slope (steepness or flatness)
- Tide Range
- Wave Height



NPS—JULIA BRUNNER  
Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.  
Credit: Julia Brunner, NPS

## About This Report

This report seeks to inform Regional Ocean Partnerships, like the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance, which have formed across the nation since the release of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission reports. These reports called for improved coordination to address issues that cut across jurisdictional boundaries and affect multiple and overlapping watershed, coastal, and offshore uses.



As a product of the NOAA State of the Coast Report Series, *The Southeast Coastal Region* provides highlights of what we know about the Southeast region's coastal communities, coastal economy, and coastal ecosystems, and how climate change might impact the Southeast coast. Information in this report is organized by the interconnected themes of coastal communities, economy, and ecosystems.

This report is an abbreviated continuation of regional State of the Coast reports, which began with the *Gulf of Mexico at a Glance* and the *Gulf of Mexico at a Glance: A Second Glance*.

[stateofthecoast.noaa.gov](http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov)

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