

THE DIGITAL COAST: MORE THAN JUST DATA



The Digital Coast Partnership Group includes NOAA, the American Planning Association, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Coastal States Organization, the National Association of Counties, the National States Geographic Information Council, and The Nature Conservancy.

The Website

Data sets alone are not enough. For data to be truly useful, additional training, tools, and information are often required. The Digital Coast provides this total package for coastal officials, from elevation data to instructions for developing community risk assessments.

The Partnership

To keep the Digital Coast relevant, an impressive group of organizations guides website content. This effort extends beyond the website, since the Digital Coast is a springboard from which these diverse organizations band together to address the coast's unique environmental, economic, and hazard-related needs.

What Makes It Work

- **Improved efficiency.** Stovepipes and organizational boundaries are stripped away, replaced by unity and efficiency as all sectors come together through the Digital Coast.
- **Local focus.** The focus is on coastal communities. All content is driven by the needs of these users.
- **Documented results.** Reports from coastal communities, such as the ones included here, guide current and future efforts.

DIGITAL COAST IN ACTION

“We will continue to actively participate in Digital Coast, because we have witnessed its many benefits for our coastal county members.”

Larry E. Naake, National Association of Counties

Stretching Local Government Dollars

“In the past, acquiring and utilizing high-quality geospatial data was prohibitively expensive for many counties, due to the high cost of gathering information, maintaining data sets, or hiring staff with the appropriate expertise. The Digital Coast has demonstrated that we can overcome these challenges. For the past five years, the National Association of Counties has worked as a Digital Coast partner to connect coastal county leaders with GIS data to assist them in making sound, science-based local policy decisions. We will continue to actively participate in Digital Coast, because we have witnessed its many benefits for our coastal county members.”

LARRY E. NAAKE—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
National Association of Counties

Spotlighting Accessible Products

“It is easy to find what we are looking for on Digital Coast because data sources are grouped into helpful categories, data specifications are featured, and examples show Digital Coast ‘In Action.’”

STEVE LEWIS AND BRIAN D. GEORGE—GIS ADMINISTRATOR AND SPECIALIST
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Providing a Spectrum of Resources

“Digital Coast answers many needs. For example, our staff members have downloaded lidar data to delineate beachfront dunes in South Carolina. We have also used the Digital Shoreline Analysis System to update beach erosion rates. For a number of the coastal issues we’re working on, we

can now access the data, models, case studies, and related training through one resource.”

BRAXTON DAVIS—DIRECTOR, POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION
South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program

Filling Data Gaps

“Through the efforts of the Digital Coast’s Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP), we were able to get land cover data for a part of the Delaware River Basin previously exempted from C-CAP analysis. Having that data gap filled will truly enhance our reporting—and give me peace of mind, too.”

JESSICA RITTLER SANCHEZ—RIVER BASIN PLANNER
Delaware River Basin Commission

Supporting Adaptation Plans

“We have been looking at the implications of sea level rise for our state and will use our findings to inform future education and adaptation plans. Digital Coast is helping us in that effort—especially the lidar data, Coastal Inundation Toolkit, and Sea Level Rise Affecting Marshes Model tool. It’s always nice when accurate data leads to the development of good tools, and then you can apply those tools to inform policy implementation efforts.”

DAVID CARTER—ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER
Delaware Coastal Programs

Forging Coastal Partnerships

“One significant benefit the Coastal States Organization has realized since joining the Digital Coast Partnership is the relationship we have established with each partner organization. For example, this effort has led us to present at conferences for the National Association of Counties and National States Geographic Information Council, which would not have happened otherwise.”

KRISTEN FLETCHER—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Coastal States Organization