



# DIGITAL COAST

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## CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

Addressing coastal issues often begins with assessing the land—learning how far the marsh extends, where the forest lies, and how much impervious surface is present.

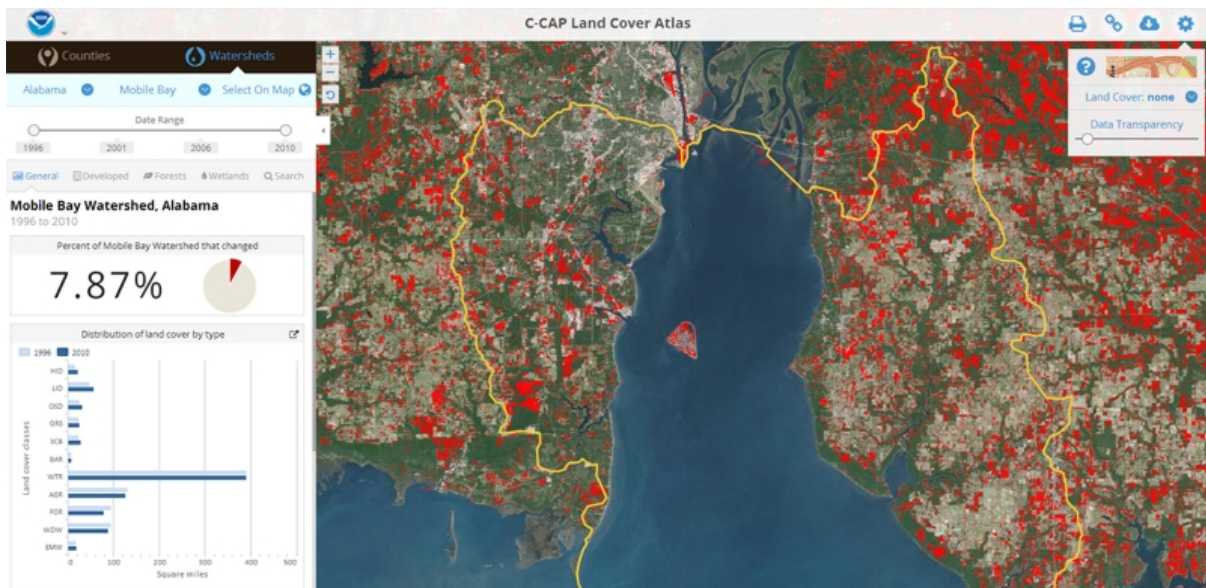
That's where the [C-CAP Land Cover Atlas](#) comes into play. The latest version of this easy-to-use data delivery system includes 2010 land cover data for most of the coastal U.S. Historical data (going back to 1996) is also available, giving users the ability to see how land cover has changed over time.

The Land Cover Atlas is one of the easiest ways to document current land cover conditions and identify emerging trends in your county or watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean McLoughlin".

Sean McLoughlin  
Geospatial Analyst  
NOAA Coastal Services Center



This image shows the Land Cover Atlas zoomed to Mobile Bay Watershed, Alabama. Red highlights indicate areas of land cover change between the years 1996 and 2010, accounting for 7.87% of the total watershed. This includes changes such as woody wetlands, forest, and agricultural lands being converted to development.

## Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

### [Assessing Seagrass Vulnerability along Florida's Gulf Coast](#)

Seagrass provides many essential ecosystem functions, and, like terrestrial plants, requires sunlight for photosynthesis. With the threat of sea level rise and the presence of hardened structures such as sea walls, coastal managers in Florida wanted to assess the future viability of their shore's seagrass habitat. Data from a NOAA tool, the [Sea Level Rise Viewer](#), gave officials the information they needed to develop a seagrass management plan.

### [Planning for Resilient Coastal Communities in New York](#)

With preliminary damage estimates

## Data Updates

### Elevation

- 2005 Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Lidar: Unalakleet
- 2010 Kure Atoll Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Lidar
- 2010 Laysan Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
- 2010 Lisianski Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
- 2010 Midway Atoll Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Lidar
- 2010 Pearl and Hermes Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
- 2010 Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP):Diablo Canyon, California, Central Coast
- 2011 PGE DCPP Lidar: Los Osos,

nearing \$50 billion, the impact of Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy emphasized the need for New York and other East Coast communities to plan for future hazardous weather and climate change impacts. Using a process designed by NOAA, the [Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk](#), New York City managers evaluated Sandy's impacts to natural and cultural resources. Additionally, NOAA's Coastal Services Center worked with the New York Department of State to create a composite map of inundation hazards and future flood risk. These resources helped target both damage assessment areas and funding requirements for recovery, as well as assess the vulnerability of key community assets.

## Additional Updates

### So Much to Discover in the GeoZone Blog

Stuck on a technical problem? Want to learn how to use OpenNSPECT? Curious about economics data? All that and more is within the [GeoZone Blog](#). Twice a month, NOAA Coastal Services Center staff members tackle the tough questions about GIS, data, or tools and answer them in easy-to-understand, witty—and sometimes cheesy—ways. Go ahead, explore and learn something new!

### Training Calendar

See the trainings that are coming up on the [trainings calendar](#).

California, Central Coast

- 2011-2013 Indiana Office of Technology: Lake Michigan Watershed Counties
- 2012 Georgia DNR Lidar: Baldwin, Hancock, Morgan, Putnam Counties
- 2013 NOAA Oahu Topographic Lidar
- 2013 PG&E DCPD Lidar: San Simeon, California, Central Coast

## News from our Coastal Colleagues

### [Put Adaptation Principles into Practice with New Guide](#)

Resource managers are constantly exploring how climate change affects wildlife and habitats, as well as how to prepare for and adapt to these unprecedented changes. A new guide, [Climate-Smart Conservation: Putting Adaptation Principles into Practice](#), dives deeper into these questions and provides a state-of-the-art toolbox to help managers plan and implement natural resource conservation efforts. This peer-reviewed publication was developed by an expert workgroup convened by the National Wildlife Federation.



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