

Snowmelt could make March come in like a lion and out like a massive flood. These resources will help.

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DIGITAL COAST

CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

Don't let spring come in like a lion and go out in a massive flood. While snowmelt and heavy rainfall combine to increase flooding and runoff issues, [NOAA's Digital Coast](#) has a variety of resources to help community managers prepare for these devastating situations.

The [Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper](#) is used to pinpoint areas where communities are most vulnerable, and reports generated by the [Coastal County Snapshots](#) tool help identify vulnerable infrastructure. Top it off with the [OpenNSPECT tool](#) to analyze runoff volume. Armed with this information, March will certainly seem milder.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicholas Schmidt
Division Chief, Science and Geospatial Division
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



Photo credit: FEMA

Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Assessing the Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure

For many cities, road closures during storm and flood events are already the norm. To better understand how flooding threats will increase as a result of sea level rise, community planners can use [NOAA's Sea Level Rise Viewer](#) to see projected impacts to roads and critical infrastructure. See what the Virginia Coastal Management Program did to [assess their future needs](#).

Identifying Environmental Concerns from Offshore Drilling

Opening new areas to offshore oil and gas poses environmental and natural resource concerns. Using [MarineCadastre.gov data](#), stakeholders can analyze habitat areas, natural resources, and more to determine

Data Updates

New and Updated Data Sets

Jurisdictions and Boundaries

- Congressional Districts

Marine Habitat

- West Coast Canopy-Forming Kelp, 1989-2014

Ocean Uses and Planning Areas

- North Atlantic Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas
- Marine Minerals Significant Sand Resource Blocks

Physical and Oceanographic

- Ocean Current Resource Potential: Mean Power Density
- Ocean Current Resource Potential: Mean Speed

News from our

conflicts before lease sales. The Southern Environmental Law Center [analyzed conflicts](#) for proposed areas off the coasts of North and South Carolina.

Additional Updates

Educate the Public and Motivate Risk-Minimizing Action

NOAA's Digital Coast lives up to its "more than just data" slogan, for the website provides a wealth of materials focused on risk communications, including [trainings](#) and [publications](#). Curious to see risk communication in action? See one approach, the [storm surge fast draw](#) video, and consider joining us on March 15 for the next [Seven Best Practices for Risk Communication](#) webinar.

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

Coastal Colleagues

Natural Solutions Help to Reduce Flood Risk

Flood threats are increasing, with average flood losses now topping \$10 billion per year. The Nature Conservancy is [working with communities](#) to invest in a mixture of natural approaches for reducing flood risks. By combining wetlands, marshes, and forests with existing levees and floodwalls, or "gray infrastructure," communities have a better chance of successfully mitigating impacts.

Congratulations

Our American Planning Association (APA) Digital Coast partners Jim Schwab, manager of the APA Hazards Planning Center, and David Rouse, managing director for research and advisory services, have been elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). This is one of the highest honors AICP bestows upon its members.



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