Dear Colleague,

Using natural features such as wetlands to store and filter floodwaters is an effective way to make communities more resilient. These "green infrastructure" approaches provide benefits that range from reducing erosion to enhancing water quality and providing habitat.

Throughout the month of May, we're highlighting the theme "Green is the New Gray Infrastructure," with tools and resources that will help communities plan and implement green infrastructure projects. See what the Digital Coast has to offer!

Sincerely,

Bethney Ward
Project Lead and Research Reserve Site Liaison
NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Assessing Beach and Dune Susceptibility

Beach and dune systems serve as the last line of defense against hurricanes and other major storms. In areas where the dune system is lowered or altered over time, the system's ability to function as a coastal defense is diminished. Using coastal lidar data and high-resolution orthoimagery from NOAA's Digital Coast, communities can analyze the performance potential and susceptibility of their dune systems. See how New Jersey analyzed 65 miles of the state's coastline.

Analyzing Impacts of Impervious Surface on Water Resources

Natural vegetation plays a large role in managing a community's water supply. Replacing natural vegetation with impervious surface leads to a variety of issues such as increased flooding and decreased water quality. By using NOAA's land cover data, a community can analyze the change in natural vegetation and impervious surface to help mitigate these impacts. Southern California used these data to find tremendous growth in the amount of impervious surface in the region.

Additional Updates

Standardize Benthic Data Sets Easily

Use the new Crosswalk Tool to translate existing benthic data sets into data compliant with the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard, or CMECS. The tool uses look-up tables to translate attributes of other data sets to

Data Updates

New and Updated Data Sets

Elevation

- 2010 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Lidar: Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda, and Sumter Counties
- 2011 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Lidar: Anderson, Oconee, Pickens and York Counties
- 2013-2015 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Topobathy Lidar: Lake Huron
- 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Lidar: California Coastal Project Zones 3 and 4; Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton and Lee Counties, South Carolina
- 2013 City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska Lidar
- 2013 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Coastal Mapping Program Topobathy Lidar: Lake Michigan North and South
- 2006 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Lidar: Aiken County
- 2007 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Lidar: Anderson County
- 2008 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Lidar: Putnam County
- 2007 Suwanee River Water Management District Lidar: Mallory Swamp and R.O. Ranch, Florida
- 2006 Santa Clara Water District Lidar: Santa Clara County, California
- 2014 Puget Sound Lidar Consortium Lidar: Cedar River Watershed (Delivery 2)
- 2010 U.S. Army Corps of

their CMECS equivalents.

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

News from our Coastal Colleagues

How to Value a Community's Beaches

Often, small communities don't have the resources to carry out economic valuations of their local beaches, and without accurate values, officials can have a hard time finding support to maintain these areas. In [a paper](#) published in *Shore and Beach* journal, the Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center presented a way to address this challenge. This paper showcases a process used by Folly Beach, South Carolina, a small community with substantial tourism and a strong need for economic valuation. With the methods outlined in this paper, the community was able to estimate tourist spending, jobs, taxes, and the recreational and ecological values of its beaches.

Engineers Topobathy Lidar: California
- 2014 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District Topobathy Lidar: New Hampshire
- 2011 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Topobathy Lidar: California
- 2009 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Topobathy Lidar: California

Land Cover

- 2010 Hawaii Maui High Resolution Land Cover
- 2005-2010 Hawaii Maui High Resolution Land Cover Change
- 1975-2010 C-CAP Regional Land Cover Change
- 1975-1996 C-CAP Regional Land Cover Change
- 1975-2006 C-CAP Regional Land Cover Change
- 2006 Old Woman Creek, Ohio High Resolution Land Cover
- 1975-2001 C-CAP Regional Land Cover Change
- 1975-1985 C-CAP Regional Land Cover Change
- 1975 C-CAP Regional Land Cover

High-Resolution Orthoimagery

- 2014 Cape Lookout, North Carolina Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2013 Puget Sound, Washington Mean High Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Humboldt, California Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit

Imagery

- 2014 Conneaut, Ohio Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Savannah, Georgia Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Freeport, Texas Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Seattle Ship Canal, Washington Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Whidbey Island, Washington Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Cabbage Creek, Florida Mean Lower Low Water and Mean High Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2013 Puget Sound, Washington Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 St. Johns River, Florida Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Tampa, Florida Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Everett, Washington Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color Infrared 8 Bit Imagery

- 2015 Georgetown, South Carolina Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Gulf Port, Mississippi Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Eastport, Maine Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2013 San Francisco Bay North, California Mean Lower Low Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Kings Bay, Georgia Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2014 Edisto Island, South Carolina Mean High Water Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color and Infrared 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Wilmington, North Carolina Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Pensacola, Florida Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Palm Beach, Florida Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Galveston, Texas Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery

- 2015 Port Everglades, Florida Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery
- 2015 Jacksonville, Florida Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management Digital Sensor System Natural Color 8 Bit Imagery

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Send your product, personnel, or event news to Caitlyn.McCrary@noaa.gov. We'll include it in *Digital Coast Connections*, space permitting. For answers to additional questions, contact coastal.info@noaa.gov.

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