

The Digital Coast Act

To Deliver the Next Generation of Coastal Data for Community Planning, Shoreline Management, and Disaster Response

Challenge: Coastal managers and developers need up-to-date mapping information in order to make smart choices for economic development, shoreline management, and coastal restoration. However, this data is complex, very expensive to gather, and can be hard to use without in-house data experts.

Solution: Digital Coast

The Digital Coast project, based at NOAA, has begun to solve these problems by gathering the most up-to-date coastal data and making it available to non-experts in the public and private sectors. NOAA pulls together complicated datasets, makes them available on their website for easy and free public access, and then provides the tools and training that coastal communities need to turn that data into useful information for their decision making. The project has partners in other federal agencies, state, county, and local governments, and members of the private and non-profit sectors.

Why is this bill needed?

This bill authorizes the next phase in coastal mapping at NOAA. Ocean and shoreline advocates including the U.S. Oceans Commission and the Pew Commission have highlighted the need for modern coastal data, and the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act made investments in data infrastructure. As part of implementation, NOAA launched the Digital Coast project to develop partnerships with coastal entities across the country. The Digital Coast Act would officially authorize the Digital Coast as a program at NOAA and support the next phase in delivering accurate and relevant data to our coastal communities. The bill has a bipartisan House companion, H.R. 1382, introduced by Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD-2) and Rep. Don Young (R-AK).

Who uses the program?

The Digital Coast Partnership includes the National Association of Counties, American Planning Association, Association of State Floodplain Managers, Coastal States Organization, National Estuarine Research Reserves Association, National States Geographic Information Council, The Nature Conservancy, Urban Land Institute, and NOAA. See attached for a full list.

What kind of information does the Digital Coast provide and why is it important?

Coastal managers have to ask critical questions every day. How much is a shoreline likely to erode after a big storm? What are water level trends at the marina where a dock is being installed? What is the storm surge threat in an area? Digital Coast provides the high tech mapping information—geospatial data—that allows planners and coastal managers to make accurate decisions and smart investments.

The Digital Coast Act is being introduced by Senator Baldwin. If your Senator is interested in cosponsoring, or you have questions, please contact Colleene Thomas (4-4028).

DIGITAL COAST PARTNERS

Nongovernmental

American Planning Association
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Center for Ocean Solutions
Coastal States Organization
MarineMap Consortium
Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium
National Association of Counties
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
National States Geographic Information Council
Natural Capital Project
NatureServe
OpenTopography
Puget Sound Lidar Consortium
Save the Bay
The Nature Conservancy
Urban Land Institute

State

American Samoa Department of Commerce
California Coastal Conservancy
California Coastal Conservancy
California Ocean Protection Council
Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center
Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Delaware Coastal Program
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Hawaii Office of Planning
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New York Department of Environmental Conservation
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Northwest Florida Water Management District
Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Southwest Florida Water Management District
St. Johns River Water Management District
Texas Water Development Board

Private

ASA
Dewberry
Digital Globe
Esri
Fugro EarthData
I.M. Systems Group
Image Matters
MDA Federal
Photo Science
TetraTech
The Baldwin Group
Warren Pinnacle Consulting
Woolpert

Federal

Bureau of Economic Analysis
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Emergency Management Agency
MarineCadastre.gov
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis
National Cooperative Soil Survey
National Estuary Program
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Park Service
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research
NOAA Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

NOAA Coastal Services Center
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program
NOAA National Geodetic Survey
NOAA National Geophysical Data Center
NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center
NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries
NOAA National Ocean Service Special Projects
NOAA National Weather Service
NOAA Office of Coast Survey
NOAA Office of General Counsel
NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation
NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource
Management
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research
Reserve
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Census Bureau Longitudinal Employer-
Household Dynamics
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
USACE Jacksonville District
USACE National Coastal Mapping Program
USACE St. Louis District
USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing
Applications Center
USDA National Agroforestry Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program

County

Cayuga County, New York
Chatham County, Georgia
City of Baltimore, Maryland
Harris County Flood Control District, Texas
King County, Washington
Oconee County, Georgia
Pearl River County, Mississippi
St. Johns County, Florida
Volusia County, Florida

Academia

Clemson University Baruch Institute
Duke University
Florida International University
Oregon State University
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of Connecticut
University of Connecticut Center for Land Use
Education and Research
University of Queensland Australia
University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources
Center-Sea Grant
University of South Carolina Hazards and
Vulnerability Research Institute
University of Texas
University of Washington Climate Impacts
Group
Washington Sea Grant
Washington State Department of Ecology