The Digital Coast Act

Action Requested: MAPPS and its member firms respectfully requests support for the Digital Coast Act and strongly encourages Members of the Senate and the House to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Congressional Sponsors:
Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) – Staff: Kendall Strong
Representative Don Young (R-AK) – Staff: Martha Newell
Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) – Staff: Colleene Thomas
Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) – Staff: Ann Robertson

Summary: This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to establish, in cooperation with states, counties and the private sector, a constituent-driven Digital Coast program. The program must: (1) provide an online resource that integrates geospatial data, decision-support tools, training, and best practices to address coastal management issues and needs, and to enhance resilient communities, ecosystem values, and coastal economic growth and development; and (2) provide for the documentation, dissemination, and archiving of the data.

NOAA must focus on filling data needs and gaps for critical coastal management issues and support continued improvement in existing efforts to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key data sets needed for coastal management, and other purposes. NOAA may: (1) enter into financial agreements and collect fees to carry out the program; (2) enter into contracts with private sector entities as may be necessary to collect, process, and provide remote sensing and other geospatial data and products.

A survey led by the American Planning Association identified the following Digital Coast benefits:
- Land Use Planning/Growth Management (86%)
- Conservation (72%)
- Economic Development (71%)
- Flooding/Inundation/Storm Surge (68%)
- Ground Transportation (67%)
- Infrastructure/Utilities Development (67%)
- Sustainability (63%)
- Recreation & Tourism (61%)
- Public Access (61%)
- Hazard Management (60%)

The digital mapping of our coastlines has historically produced, and continues to produce, a significant return on investment for the federal government. MAPPS supports codifying this crucial program with the passage of the Digital Coast Act.

For additional information please reach out MAPPS Legislative Director Ed Cox at edward.cox@prime-policy.com, (202) 530-4591.
Digital Coast Return on Investment through Fiscal Year 2013

Net Benefits: $22,915,419
ROI: 311%

- Cumulative values from fiscal year (FY) 2007 (project initiation) to FY13
- ROI (Return on Investment) = Cumulative Net Benefits / Cumulative Costs

Historical Benefits and Costs

Data Downloads | Data Services Visits | Partner Data Page Visits
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153,391 | 42,510 | 39,303
Tool Downloads | Tool Visits | Map Services Visits | Partner Tool Page Visits
51,056 | 167,786 | 893,971 | 46,466

Projected Values

15 Years (through FY28)
- Net Present Benefits: $117 million
- ROI: 411%

- Net present benefit (NPB) is the cumulative net benefit in the future that is discounted to show its present values in 2013
- Values are based on conservative estimation of future benefits and costs

Survey Results

NSGIC survey respondents represented 197 professionals and described more than 300 projects that use Digital Coast resources

Project Results without Digital Coast

- Conduct lower quality work without the resources or with less suitable resources (16%)
- Conduct comparable work by extra effort (time/cost) (5%)
- Conduct higher quality work with additional effort (20%)
- Conduct comparable work without the resources (57%)

Source: [https://coast.noaa.gov/data/docs/digitalcoast/benefits-costs.pdf](https://coast.noaa.gov/data/docs/digitalcoast/benefits-costs.pdf)