



The Digital Coast: More Than Just Data

It's a simple concept with powerful impact. Coastal communities and researchers need access to up-to-date mapping information to address critical coastal issues such as storm preparation, flood management, ecosystem restoration, and coastal development. Mapping information can be complex, expensive to gather, and difficult to use without in-house expertise*. **NOAA's Digital Coast provides the data, tools, and training that States, local governments, and communities need to manage their coastal resources.**

Authorized by the Digital Coast Act, 16 U.S.C §1467, the Digital Coast is led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and made possible through its community; the Digital Coast Partnership. The NOAA Office for Coastal Management convenes this group of eight non-governmental membership organizations, (which includes the National States Geographic Information Council) with expertise in a wide range of policy and technical issues to provide an effective platform for these groups to work together to address coastal issues. The product of this collaboration is support for coastal managers and technicians that is relevant, timely, and supports the complexities of coastal issues that span federal, state, and local jurisdictions.



Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025

We ask for your Support in passing H.R.4256
Reauthorization Includes:

Supporting local decision-making by providing technical assistance and resources to state and local governments, planners, and businesses.

Promoting coastal resilience and smart planning through continued collaboration with stakeholders like the private sector, nonprofits, and academia.

Enhancing access to coastal data, such as satellite imagery, mapping tools, and elevation data.

Extending funding and authorization for NOAA to operate the Digital Coast program.

H.R.4256



The reauthorization ensures the Digital Coast program can continue to help communities plan for and respond to coastal challenges using reliable, up-to-date data and tools.



NOAA's Blue Economy Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

The Digital Coast Act aligns with NOAA's Blue Economy Strategic Plan (2021–2025), which aims to advance sectors such as marine transportation, ocean exploration, seafood competitiveness, tourism and recreation, and coastal resilience. By supplying critical data and tools, the Digital Coast program supports informed decision-making that fosters sustainable economic growth in coastal areas. In summary, the NOAA Digital Coast Act underpins efforts to bolster the blue economy by equipping coastal communities with the necessary resources to manage their environments effectively and sustainably.

A Significant Return on Investment

State and local governments appreciate the savings provided by the partnership, as the resources provide significant cost savings for their work.

75%
of Digital Coast users reported their project would not have been possible without the Digital Coast

\$1.8 to \$9.7 M
Annual benefits provided from training programs

\$1.1 to \$2.2 M
Benefits provided by Sea Level Rise Viewer application in a single use case

400%
NOAA Estimated return-on-investment



Many Users, Many Uses

Coastal Communities power the Nation's economy.

40%
Of the Nation's population lives in coastal communities.

10%
Of the Nation's landmass is coastal.

3rd
World GDP rank if U.S. Coastal counties were a country

From planners to engineers, emergency managers to county council members, scientists to state officers, non-profits to private businesses, **the public relies on Digital Coast data and tools to protect investments and communities.**

About the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Since 1991, NSGIC has been the state led hub of national geospatial experts promoting coordinated, impactful, and efficient application of geographic Information systems (GIS) to best serve the nation. GIS and the spatial information it serves underpin much of the activities of government and the lives of the people of the nation.