



# NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER

*highlights*

*The NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER provides skills and information to state and local coastal programs. Focus areas include hazards, conservation, and coastal and ocean planning.*

Throughout fiscal year 2008, the Center continued to provide coastal resource managers with the information, tools, technical capacity, and expertise needed to effectively manage and protect the Nation's coastal communities.

## LAND COVER DATA NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE DEVELOPED COASTAL ZONE

Land cover maps made from remotely sensed data document how much of a region is covered by forests, wetlands, impervious surfaces, and other land and water types. By comparing land cover maps over a period of time, users can also document land-use trends and changes. Land cover data are now available for nearly all of the developed areas of the Nation's coasts, and a process is in place to update these data every five years. Land cover data collected for Hawaii mark the first maps in this series developed from high-resolution satellite imagery. These data are being used to assess human impacts on coral reef environments and identify at-risk populations and resources during events such as tsunamis. The data are online at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/landcover/>.



## COMPREHENSIVE SHORELINE DATA AVAILABLE FROM SINGLE SITE

Accurate, accessible shoreline information and data have never been more important, as sea-level rise is expected to bring unprecedented challenges to coastal communities worldwide in the coming decades. For the first time, shoreline data and related information from NOAA and other Federal agencies are now available from one Web site – the NOAA Shoreline Web site (<http://shoreline.noaa.gov>). Local and State officials use this information to predict sea-level rise, establish setback lines, and perform a multitude of ocean and coastal community planning tasks.

## TOOL COMBINES WEATHER FORECASTS WITH HAZARDS PLANNING DATA

Officials in California can now display and animate forecasts for weather conditions such as waves, winds, temperature, humidity, and rainfall using the newly created Southern California Weather and Hazards Data Viewer ([http://maps.csc.noaa.gov/CSP\\_SoCal/](http://maps.csc.noaa.gov/CSP_SoCal/)). This new delivery technique makes the data much easier to comprehend and use. The NOAA Coastal Storms Program worked with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and local National Weather Service forecast offices to develop the tool.

## LIDAR DATA AVAILABLE FOR THE GREAT LAKES, WEST COAST, & SOUTHEAST

New coastal LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data are now available for portions of the Great Lakes, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, Oregon, and Southern California. LIDAR is a remote sensing technology used to collect topographic and bathymetric data. The sensors are typically mounted on an aircraft and represent a great savings of time and money for States that traditionally have used ground surveys to get this information. Through partnerships, the NOAA Coastal Services Center has gathered significant coastal coverage for the United States.

## ON-LINE FLOOD INUNDATION MAPS PROVIDED

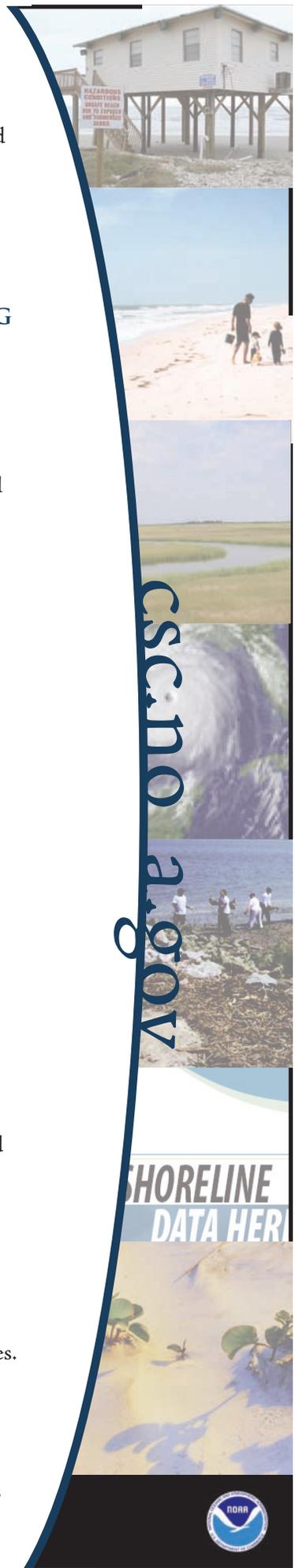
The Center is working with the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide on-line access to flood severity maps for 17 flood forecast locations in southeastern North Carolina and 20 locations in the Gulf of Mexico. These maps, based on high-resolution digital elevation data and hydraulic modeling, contain visual and interactive information on the extent and severity of floods. The information will assist local officials and emergency managers when making evacuation and road closure decisions.

## REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE ADDRESSES COASTAL CHALLENGES

Coastal states are developing strong regional alliances, and the Center is providing technical and leadership support to these efforts. Topics addressed this year include reducing the impacts of offshore development; promoting ecosystem-based management; and restoring coastal and ocean habitats. These developing regional governance organizations are poised to be one of the Nation's more effective forms of coastal resource management.

## TRAINING COASTAL PROFESSIONALS

In 2008, the Center trained more than 1,100 coastal professionals from 42 States and Territories. Follow-up surveys note that users of the Center's E-learning courses log thousands of user sessions and that more than 90 percent of them say their time was well spent and that they achieved their learning objectives. The end result is a workforce better trained to manage the Nation's coastal resources. The Center also matched six coastal management fellows with state coastal zone management organizations around the United States, to begin training tomorrow's coastal leaders.



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