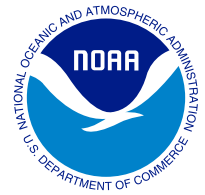


DIGITAL COAST PARTNERSHIP



Frequently Asked Questions about the Partnership

- What is the difference between a contributor and a partner?
- What is the Digital Coast Partnership?
- What does the partnership work on?
- What makes the partnership successful?
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What is the difference between a contributor and a partner?

Resources found on the Digital Coast website come from a variety of sources. Any group or agency that provides content to the website is called a contributor. To find out more information about possibly providing content to the site, contact coastal.info@noaa.gov.

A partner refers to one of the eight national organizations that participate in the Digital Coast Partnership.

What is the Digital Coast Partnership?

The Digital Coast Partnership is a group of eight national organizations that work with NOAA to ensure coastal managers have the relevant data, tools, and information needed to make informed decisions about our nation's coastal resources. Beyond ensuring that critical informational resources are available via the Digital Coast website, this partnership also works to unify groups that might not otherwise work together. The partnership supports events such as conferences, webinars, workshops, and meetings to give coastal professionals a forum to collaborate on key coastal issues. These issues include coastal resilience, ocean planning, and protecting and mapping coastal habitats. As a result, a strong alliance of coastal professionals is being established and nurtured.

The Digital Coast Partnership includes the following organizations:

- American Planning Association
- Association of State Floodplain Managers
- Coastal States Organization
- National Association of Counties
- National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
- National States Geographic Information Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Urban Land Institute
- NOAA

What does the partnership work on?

Coastal management is a complex, interdisciplinary field. The Digital Coast partnership meets in a variety of forums to discuss issues, needs, and resources required to address challenging coastal issues. To date, a few things the partnership has accomplished include

- Fostering better connections and coordination across the partnership organizations
- Fine-tuning products and services to meet variegated needs across the coastal management spectrum
- Launching solution-driven pilot projects, called Digital Coast Connects, that help communities crowdsource flood information and understand how to use tools and training to improve their Community Rating System scores
- Advancing coastal management through the Digital Coast Fellowship Program

What makes the partnership successful?

While it might not appear that these eight groups have much in common, over the years the partnership has identified areas where their memberships have common interests and needs. Opportunities to discuss challenges, issues, needs, and partnership success occur through annual in-person meetings and quarterly calls. Through these meetings and regular communication, the partnership has been able to identify common needs and has worked to develop creative solutions to complex coastal problems. Bringing diverse perspectives from their memberships is what is key. Additionally, they share their expertise at each other's conferences and workshops, which allows for further forging of new relationships to tackle the problems.

Is the partnership open to expansion?

Not at this time. However, all members of the partnership, including NOAA, work with many other organizations. Through those relationships, other organizations contribute to content and ideas that increase the value of the Digital Coast

What is the role of NOAA in the partnership?

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management leads the Digital Coast Partnership. The Office for Coastal Management leads and hosts meetings and provides technical support to each participating partner. This support allows for a deeper understanding of partner needs and goals, identifies forums to talk directly to their members, and provides opportunities to work together with other partners.

What is the benefit to the partner organizations?

Collaboration, leverage, and identifying new project opportunities have all been cited as benefits to participating partners.