

# LAND COVER CHANGE IN COASTAL WATERSHEDS 1996 TO 2010

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Land use and land cover play a significant role as drivers of environmental change. Information on what is changing and where those changes are occurring is essential if we are to improve our understanding of past management practices or policies and effectively respond now and in the future. Through its Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) produces nationally standardized land cover and change information for the coastal regions of the U.S. These products provide inventories of coastal intertidal areas, wetlands, and adjacent uplands (using documented, repeatable procedures), with the goal of monitoring these habitats every five years. This program has been in existence since the mid-1990s and features multiple dates of information available for most coastal areas of the U.S. This presentation will summarize the availability of this land cover and change data, how it can be accessed via NOAA's Digital Coast, recent improvements to wetland mapping accuracies, summarize changes observed regionally, what change information is available on a watershed basis, how C-CAP can be used to inform management decisions or drive more detailed mapping efforts, and how this data is being used to model potential future impacts from sea level rise.

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