

METHODS, IMPROVEMENTS, ACCURACY, AND USE OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED 2010 NOAA COASTAL CHANGE ANALYSIS PROGRAM LAND COVER

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ABSTRACT:

Land use and land cover play a significant role as drivers of environmental change, and in increasing the vulnerability of places to inundation, sea level rise, etc. Information on what land covers are changing and where those changes are occurring is essential to improving our understanding of past management practices, and effectively responding to those environmental and human induced changes now and in the future.

Through its Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP), NOAA's Coastal Service Center 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 90's, and now has four dates of information available (1996, 2001, 2006, and 2010) for the coastal areas of the lower 48 states.

The recently completed 2010 C-CAP contains improvements to mapping techniques, incorporation of wetland potential modeling, and an accuracy assessment. This presentation will summarize the methods used and resulting improvements and accuracy, discuss the availability of C-CAP data and how that data can be accessed via NOAA's Digital Coast, and highlight several tools that make use of these data in a user-friendly format.

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