

APPROACHES TOWARDS ANALYZING, REPORTING, AND VISUALIZING COASTAL LAND COVER CHANGE

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ABSTRACT:

Land use and land cover play a significant role as drivers of environmental change. Information on the location and what land covers are changing is essential to improving our understanding of past management practices, and in effectively responding to those environmental and human induced changes.

NOAA's [Coastal Change Analysis Program](#) (C-CAP) produces nationally standardized land cover and land change 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. Information on what land covers are changing and where those changes are occurring is essential to improving our understanding of past management practices, and in effectively responding to those environmental and human induced changes now and in the future.

C-CAP land cover and change products for the coastal areas of the lower 48 states are available for 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2010 (additional dates of historic land cover in several select coastal geographies). This presentation will discuss the various ways that users can access C-CAP data including:

- **C-CAP Land Cover Atlas**
View regional C-CAP land cover data and explore land cover changes and trends
- **Landscape Fragmentation Tool**
Maps the type of fragmentation present in a specified land cover feature
- **Open Nonpoint-Source Pollution and Erosion Comparison Tool**
Examines land cover to measure runoff, nonpoint source pollution, and erosion
- **Impervious Surface Analysis Tool**
Calculate the percentage of impervious surface within user selected geographies
- **Habitat Priority Planner**
Helps to identify priority locations for conservation and restoration planning
- **Coastal County Snapshots**
Turn complex data into easy-to-understand stories, complete with charts and graphs.
- **Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Viewer**
Creates maps of potential impacts of sea level rise along the coast and provides related information and data for community officials

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