

DIGITAL COAST ACT (H.R. 4062)

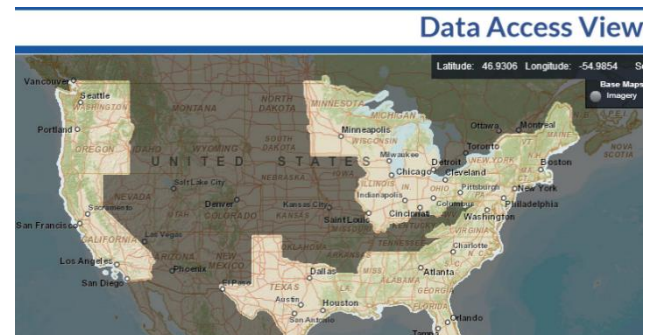
MAPPS supports Senate Bill 110 (Digital Coast Act) which passed the Senate in May of 2017 and H.R. 4062 which was introduced in the House in October of 2017. The House version is currently awaiting action by The Natural Resources Committee.

This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a constituent-driven Digital Coast program. This program currently exists under NOAA to provide data, tools, and training that communities use to manage their coastal resources. The program must: (1) provide an online resource that integrates geospatial data, decision-support tools, training, and best practices to address coastal management issues and needs, and to enhance resilient communities, ecosystem values, and coastal economic growth and development; and (2) provide for the documentation, dissemination, and archiving of the data.

NOAA must focus on filling data needs and gaps for critical coastal management issues and support continued improvement in existing efforts to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key data sets needed for coastal management, and other purposes. NOAA may: (1) enter into financial agreements and collect fees to carry out the program; (2) enter into contracts with private sector entities as may be necessary to collect, process, (3) provide remote sensing and other geospatial data and products, and (4) establish publicly available tools to track ocean and Great Lakes economy data.

A survey led by the American Planning Association identified the following Digital Coast benefits:

- Land Use Planning/Growth Management (86%)
- Conservation (72%)
- Economic Development (71%)
- Flooding/Inundation/Storm Surge (68%)
- Ground Transportation (67%)
- Infrastructure/Utilities Development (67%)
- Sustainability (63%)
- Recreation & Tourism (61%)
- Public Access (61%)
- Hazard Management (60%)



Extent of Digital Coast Data, Products and Services (also includes AK, HI, PR)

MAPPS firms are actively involved in the current mapping programs by the Office for Coastal Management (OCM). This legislation will make the benefits provided to the public by OCM permanent. The budget line is Coastal Management Services.

Congressional Action Requested:

MAPPS respectfully requests support and co-sponsors, as needed of H.R. 4062.

For specific questions concerning the Digital Coast Act (H.R. 4062), please contact Ed Cox, MAPPS Legislative Director at (202) 530-4591, Edward.Cox@prime-policy.com.