

The Digital Coast Act

Wisconsin Support for the Digital Coast Act

"Our nation's coasts are not only where the majority of our population lives and works, much of our nation's natural heritage and wealth in natural resources are also concentrated in these areas. Working with Digital Coast has helped The Nature Conservancy's Wisconsin, Great Lakes and coastal conservation staff access and share data and tools with partners to improve resilience, enhancing the environment and economies of communities across the country."

Todd Holschbach - Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin

"Coastal areas are under increasing demand. Without good data, it is difficult for communities and counties to balance the sometimes competing demands placed on our coasts. Planners in Wisconsin support this legislation so that we can have the data and information to help people and communities make wise, data-driven decisions for these critical coastal areas.

We applaud Senator Baldwin's leadership on this issue."

**Lawrence Ward, Jr., ACIP - President, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association
Executive Director, Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**

"The Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department supports the introduction of the *Digital Coast Act* bill to continue to improve digital coastal data and resources to agencies including local governments that use this critical data for making decisions for long-range community planning, coastal hazards risk assessment, coastal floodplains, habitat assessment and protection, and land use changes. The Department has used Digital Coast data including decision support tools to assess Lake Michigan coastal bluff erosion hazards, habitat assessment and protection and community planning, zoning and permitting. This digital data is critical to effective and efficient land use planning and assessments of coastal hazards and habitat; however, it is not readily available in all coastal areas nor always current or uniform. We look forward to working with NOAA on the future development of current, uniform, consistent and accessible Digital Coast data."

Andrew Struck - Director, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department

"As a Wisconsin-based company that provides geospatial data and analytics for NOAA and many stakeholders within the coastal community, Quantum Spatial applauds the Senator's sponsorship of the *Digital Coast Act*. Providing a digital framework and process that provides the data that local communities need to make smart coastal planning decisions is common sense and smart government."

Rajib Roy - CEO, Quantum Spatial

"The *Digital Coast Act* is needed to realize the concept of a digital and geospatially enabled view of the Nation's coastlines as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). This bill provides an opportunity to help America's ocean, coastal and shoreline areas by addressing issues raised by the U.S. Oceans Commission, the Pew Commission, as well as several NAS reports, all of which have highlighted the need for surveying, charting, remote sensing and geospatial data of America's coasts, harbors, ports, shorelines and ocean resources critical to the nation's most basic economic and recreational activities, and to smartly conserve a fragile environment."

Dave Hart - President, Continental Mapping Consultants, Inc.

"Digital Coast delivers the essential data and software applications that local floodplain managers need on a regular basis. The freely available resources developed and compiled by NOAA's Coastal Service Center support a floodplain manager's ability to mitigate flood losses in their community and communicate the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. We value the collaboration and partnership between the NOAA Coastal Service Center and all floodplain managers at the national, regional and local level."

Chad Berginnis - Executive Director, Association of State Floodplain Managers

"Communities in Wisconsin need tools like Digital Coast to make better decisions about the safety and resilience of our coastal regions. Digital Coast data empowers communities to better adapt to changing coastal conditions and identify cost effective tools to address those changes. Thank you, Senator Baldwin for your leadership."

Steve Hiniker - Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin

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National Support for the Digital Coast Act

“The provisions of the *Digital Coast Act* will significantly enhance the Digital Coast project through the creation of a sustainable program to utilize geospatial technologies to map and monitor the coastal waterways of the United States, providing an invaluable benefit to the public and to the professionals whose charge is to protect their health, safety and welfare.”

Curtis W. Sumner - Executive Director, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)

“MAPPS commends Senator Baldwin for her leadership in helping America’s fragile coasts and shorelines through the *Digital Coast Act*. This legislation will create a program to utilize the extensive capabilities of the qualified private sector geospatial profession in the United States to implement recommendations of numerous reports that have highlighted the need for surveying, charting, remote sensing and geospatial data of America’s coasts, harbors, ports, shorelines and ocean resources for economic growth, recreational activities, and conservation of our fragile coastal environment.”

John Palatiello - Executive Director, Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)

“Digital Coast is a valuable asset to the states because NOAA gathers data from many sources and makes it available at one location. They also build very good software applications, provide training and identify best practice models for coastal managers. Their efforts lead to efficient and effective government by reducing the need for states and others to develop these same tools. The NOAA Coastal Services Center has a long history of building effective partnerships with state governments and we appreciate their efforts.”

Kenneth M. Miller - President, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Deputy State Geographic Information Officer, State of Maryland

“Through access to data, planning tools and training, Digital Coast directly addresses constituent needs through improved capacity and skills of coastal decision-makers charged with enhancing coastal community resilience and better management of our estuaries.”

William G. Reay, Ph.D. - President, National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA)

Director, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

“Senator Baldwin’s leadership on coastal issues supports the work local communities do to manage risk and protect people and property from extreme weather and changing conditions. This legislation will directly improve local disaster response and hazard mitigation planning. This bill will help local communities minimize potential loss of life and damage to infrastructure, private property and conservation areas. The *Digital Coast Act* is an important step for effective coastal management. It will provide these data points with additional planning tools, resources and training planners need to build stronger, more resilient coastal communities.”

W. Paul Farmer, FAICP - CEO, American Planning Association