

Support for the Digital Coast Act

The Digital Coast Act is supported by: American Planning Association, Ayres Associates, Association of State Floodplain Managers, Coastal States Organization, Continental Mapping Consultants, Inc., The National Association of Counties, The Nature Conservancy, Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS), National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), National States Geographic Information Council, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department.

"Senator Baldwin and Senator Murkowski'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," **said American Planning Association President Carol Rhea, FAICP.**

"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 recommendation 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," **said Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS) Executive Director John Palatiello.**

"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," **said National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Executive Director Curtis W. Sumner.**

"The Digital Coast Act will help enable communities to become more resilient. It will ensure that coordination efforts by the NOAA Office for Coastal Management will continue into the foreseeable future, resulting in improvements for high accuracy mapping programs like LiDAR elevation data. The Digital Coast Act will also allow NOAA to continue the development of new and useful tools and training programs that aid local planning and coastal management efforts," **said National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) President Chris Diller.**

"Managing flood risk is a shared responsibility among the federal, state, and local level – private and public. ASFPM is thrilled to support the Digital Coast Act which would officially authorize this effort and allow for the development of new datasets and tools that are critical for effective decision making by communities, states and others," **Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Executive Director Chad Berginnis.**

“Communities in Wisconsin need tools like Digital Coast to make better decisions about the safety and resilience of our coastal regions. Digital Coast 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,” **said Steve Hiniker of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.**

"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,” **said Ozaukee County, Wisconsin Planning and Parks Department Director Andrew Struck.**

"Our coastal areas are used for a wide range of activities from the intensive use of industry to wildlife protection. Having accurate and in-depth data is critical for planners in Wisconsin in order to make the best, knowledge-based solution for the community and its citizens. The Digital Coast Act will help meet this need. We thank Senator Baldwin for her leadership on this important issue,” **said American Planning Association Wisconsin Chapter President Linda Stoll, AICP.**

“Wisconsin’s coastal areas are one of our state’s most important and treasured natural resources and this bill will provide the kind of current, robust geospatial data that is required by those who are making critical decisions on how these regions will be managed and maintained in the future. As a Wisconsin-based engineering and geospatial firm, Ayres Associates recognizes the many benefits this bill will provide our clients throughout the state and applaud Senator Baldwin’s leadership on this important issue,” **said Ayres Associates Vice President Kirk M. Contrucci, CP.**

"Planners in Alaska support this legislation because good data and information not only helps our Alaskan communities but also provides the competitive edge our nation needs to interact in global commerce and address the effects of our planet’s changing environmental conditions,” **said American Planning Association Alaska Chapter President Lauren Driscoll, AICP.**

“Thanks to Senator Baldwin for introducing the Digital Coast Act of 2015, a bi-partisan effort needed to realize the concept of a digitally and geospatially enabled view of the Nation’s coastlines as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. This bill addresses the urgent need recognized by the U.S. Oceans Commission, the PEW Commission, and several NAS reports, all of which have highlighted the need for up-to-date surveying, charting, remote sensing and analysis of our coast’s, ports, shorelines and ocean resources critical to our Nations’ environmental and economic well-being,” **said Continental Mapping Consultants, Inc. President David Hart, CP, SP, RPP.**

“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,” **said The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin Director of Government Relations Todd Holschbach.**