

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1382

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that collects priority coastal geospatial data and supports an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision support tools, training, and best practices to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that collects priority coastal geospatial data and supports an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision support tools, training, and best practices to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Digital Coast Act of  
3 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) the lack of current, accurate, uniform, and  
7 standards-based geospatial information to charac-  
8 terize the United States coastal region presents a  
9 significant liability to adequately manage and main-  
10 tain the Nation’s—

11 (A) environment;

12 (B) infrastructure;

13 (C) economy; and

14 (D) public safety and homeland security;

15 (2) more than half of all people of the United  
16 States (153 million) currently live on or near a coast  
17 and an additional 12 million are expected in the next  
18 decade;

19 (3) coastal counties in the United States aver-  
20 age 300 persons per square mile, compared with the  
21 national average of 98;

22 (4) on a typical day, more than 1,540 permits  
23 for construction of single-family homes are issued in  
24 coastal counties, combined with other commercial,  
25 retail, and institutional construction to support this  
26 population;

1           (5) over half of the Nation’s economic produc-  
2           tivity is located within coastal regions;

3           (6) highly accurate, high-resolution remote  
4           sensing and other geospatial data play an important  
5           role in management of the coastal zone and econ-  
6           omy, including for flood and coastal storm surge  
7           prediction; hazard risk and vulnerability assessment;  
8           emergency response and recovery planning; commu-  
9           nity resilience to longer range climate change im-  
10          pacts; permitting and zoning decisionmaking; habitat  
11          and ecosystem health assessments; and landscape  
12          change detection; and

13          (7) the Digital Coast is a model approach in ef-  
14          fective Federal partnerships with local and State  
15          government, nongovernmental organizations, and the  
16          private sector.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18          In this Act:

19           (1) The term “Digital Coast” means a con-  
20           stituent-driven effort led by the Secretary to provide  
21           an enabling platform that integrates geospatial data,  
22           decision support tools, training, and best practices to  
23           address coastal and emergency management issues  
24           and needs. The Digital Coast strives to sustain and  
25           enhance coastal economies and ecosystem services by

1 helping communities address their issues, needs, and  
2 challenges through cost-effective and participatory  
3 solutions.

4 (2) The term “remote sensing and other  
5 geospatial” means collecting, storing, retrieving, or  
6 disseminating graphical or digital data depicting  
7 natural or manmade physical features, phenomena,  
8 or boundaries of the Earth and any information re-  
9 lated thereto, including surveys, maps, charts, sat-  
10 ellite and airborne remote sensing data, images,  
11 lidar, and services performed by professionals such  
12 as surveyors, photogrammetrists, hydrographers, ge-  
13 odesists, cartographers, and other such services.

14 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
15 of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of  
16 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
17 tion.

18 (4) The term “State”—

19 (A) means a State of the United States in,  
20 or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic  
21 Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mex-  
22 ico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the  
23 Great Lakes; and

24 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the United  
25 States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Common-

1           wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the  
2           Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Amer-  
3           ican Samoa, and any portion of a State that is  
4           located within 100 kilometers of the Atlantic or  
5           Pacific Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of  
6           Mexico, or the Great Lakes.

7           (5) The term “coastal region” means the area  
8           of United States waters extending inland from the  
9           shoreline to include coastal watersheds and seaward  
10          to the territorial sea.

11          (6) The term “Federal Geographic Data Com-  
12          mittee” means the interagency committee that pro-  
13          motes the coordinated development, use, sharing,  
14          and dissemination of geospatial data on a national  
15          basis.

16 **SEC. 4. BUILDING THE DIGITAL COAST.**

17          (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

18               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
19               and implement the Digital Coast to collect the fol-  
20               lowing priority supporting data and integrate such  
21               data with other available data for the benefit of the  
22               broadest measure of coastal resource management  
23               constituents and applications:

24                       (A) Coastal elevation data.

25                       (B) Land use and land cover data.

1 (C) Benthic habitat and submerged aquat-  
2 ic vegetation data.

3 (D) Parcels data.

4 (E) Planimetric data.

5 (F) Socioeconomic and human use data.

6 (2) FOCUS ON FILLING NEEDS AND GAPS.—In  
7 implementing this section, the Secretary shall—

8 (A) recognize that remote sensing and  
9 other geospatial data acquisition for naviga-  
10 tional and positioning purposes is carried out  
11 through other authorities and programs; and

12 (B) focus on filling data needs and gaps  
13 for critical coastal management issues.

14 (b) DATA INTEGRATION, TOOL DEVELOPMENT,  
15 TRAINING, DOCUMENTATION, DISSEMINATION, AND AR-  
16 CHIVE.—The Secretary shall—

17 (1) make data and resulting integrated prod-  
18 ucts developed under this section readily accessible  
19 via the Digital Coast and other related Internet  
20 technologies;

21 (2) develop decision support tools that use and  
22 display resulting integrated data and provide train-  
23 ing on use of such tools;

24 (3) document such data to Federal Geographic  
25 Data Committee standards; and

1           (4) archive all raw data acquired under this Act  
2           at the appropriate National Oceanic and Atmos-  
3           pheric Administration data center or other appro-  
4           priate Federal data center.

5           (c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate  
6           the activities carried out pursuant to this Act to maximize  
7           data sharing and integration and minimize duplication  
8           by—

9           (1) coordinating activities, when appropriate,  
10          with—

11           (A) other Federal efforts, including efforts  
12           under the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integra-  
13           tion Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Coastal  
14           Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.  
15           1451 et seq.), and the Integrated Coastal and  
16           Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33  
17           U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

18           (B) coastal States and United States terri-  
19           tories;

20           (C) local governments; and

21           (D) representatives of nongovernmental en-  
22           tities;

23           (2) participating, pursuant to section 216 of  
24           Public Law 107–347 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), in the  
25           establishment of such standards and common proto-

1 cols as are necessary to assure the interoperability  
2 of remote sensing and other geospatial data with all  
3 users of such information within—

4 (A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
5 Administration;

6 (B) other Federal agencies;

7 (C) State and local government; and

8 (D) the private sector;

9 (3) coordinating with, seeking assistance and  
10 cooperation of, and providing liaison to the Federal  
11 Geographic Data Committee pursuant to Office of  
12 Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Execu-  
13 tive Order No. 12906; and

14 (4) providing for the utilization of contracts  
15 with the private sector, to the maximum extent prac-  
16 ticable, to provide such products and services as are  
17 necessary to collect remote sensing and other  
18 geospatial data; which contracts shall be considered  
19 “surveying and mapping” services as such term is  
20 used and as such contracts are awarded at the dis-  
21 cretion of the Secretary in accordance with the selec-  
22 tion procedures in chapter 11 of title 40, United  
23 States Code.



1 **SEC. 5. COASTAL SERVICES CENTERS.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish,  
3 within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
4 tion, the Coastal Services Centers to facilitate the develop-  
5 ment of products and services that address the needs of  
6 local, State, and regional entities involved with coastal and  
7 ocean decisionmaking including those State coastal man-  
8 agement and research reserves benefitting from this Act,  
9 and to lead development and maintenance of the Digital  
10 Coast.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Coastal Services  
12 Centers shall be to—

13 (1) support the environmental, social, and eco-  
14 nomic well-being of the coast by linking people, in-  
15 formation, and technology;

16 (2) identify and assess coastal and ocean man-  
17 agement needs and increase the capabilities and ca-  
18 pacities of managers to address them at the local,  
19 State, and regional levels;

20 (3) manage the Digital Coast program to carry  
21 out the intent of this Act;

22 (4) convene and engage coastal managers and  
23 decisionmakers in dialog concerning coastal issues  
24 and share information and best practices across this  
25 audience; and

1           (5) collaborate with various programs of the  
2       National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
3       other Federal agencies, and nongovernmental enti-  
4       ties to bring data, information, services, and tools to  
5       the Nation’s coastal and ocean decisionmakers.

6       (c) FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS.—To carry out this  
7   Act, including to provide program support to non-Federal  
8   entities that participate in implementing this Act, the Sec-  
9   retary—

10           (1) may enter into financial agreements includ-  
11       ing grants, cooperative agreements, interagency  
12       agreements, and contracts with other Federal, tribal,  
13       State, and local governmental and nongovernmental  
14       entities; and

15           (2) may collect registration fees in support of  
16       training, workshops, and conferences that advance  
17       the purposes of this Act.

18   **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19       There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
20   retary \$85,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through  
21   2019 to carry out this Act.

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