



National Shoreline Management Study

Eroding U.S. Shorelines - A Call for Resilience Planning

The congressionally-authorized National Shoreline Management Study (NSMS) is the first undertaking in nearly a half-century to document the physical, economic, environmental, and social impacts of shoreline change across each region of the U.S. Under the leadership of the *Institute for Water Resources* of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NSMS provides coastal scientists, government policymakers, and stakeholders with information about the coastal regions most in need of resilience planning.

National Overview

Continual erosion of the U.S. shoreline presents a considerable financial and safety risk to coastal infrastructure, economies, and populations. Individual regions face unique challenges and require solutions reflective of that. Federal leadership is critical to facilitate and support regional and local efforts to identify shoreline management issues and develop shoreline management plans as a basis for action. **Resilience planning to address potential future risks allows for a fundamental shift away from costly and near-sighted disaster-driven responses.**

As facilitators with technical expertise, **the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies can assist states and local governments to form regional collaborations** that involve key stakeholder groups, as well as academia and the private sector. The lessons learned from NSMS show that tackling the dual problems of shoreline erosion and sediment buildup in channels and inlets is best done regionally and proactively. **Similarly, it is through such alliances that existing funding efficiencies can be achieved and alternative sources of funding pursued.**

National Totals	Shoreline Counties	% of U.S. Total
Population	119.32 million	37 %
GDP	\$6,843.3 billion	43 %
Employment	51.19 million	38 %

Source: National Oceans Economic Program (NOEP) National Report 2016

Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic shorelines extends from the south shore of Long Island to the Delmarva Peninsula. It is characterized by low-lying coastal plains and barrier islands.

The Mid-Atlantic coastal region is sediment-rich, but highly susceptible to coastal storms and sea level rise.

Given the population density and potential social and economic effects of changes in ocean circulation and sea level, the Mid-Atlantic coast of the U.S. may be one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to rising sea levels.

Superstorm Sandy demonstrated that beach renourishment projects were effective at reducing storm damage. Similarly, it emphasized the potential efficacy of regionally-defined resilience strategies that take advantage of area-specific geographic and natural elements.

Government agencies should continue to seek ways to move from site-specific reactive management to more comprehensive regionally-based shore management to increase resilience and long-term sustainability.

Mid-Atlantic Totals	Shoreline Counties	% of U.S. Total
Population	28.22 million	8.9 %
GDP	\$1,808.7 billion	11.5 %
Employment	12.23 million	8.9 %

Source: National Oceans Economic Program (NOEP) National Report 2016