

# North Carolina Coastal Hazards (NCCOHAZ) Decision Portal

URL: <http://www.coastal.geology.ecu.edu/NCCOHAZ/>



## Purpose of application

North Carolina has an extensive coastal zone where people live, work and recreate. This coastal zone is home to important infrastructure and natural resources. Coastal hazards pose a threat to these resources and those who utilize them. The primary goal of the [North Carolina COastal HAZards \(NCCOHAZ\) Decision Portal](#) is to be not only a site for a variety of coastal hazards information and data but also a source of tools to allow people to better understand the hazards. A blog was recently incorporated into the site to report new activities and timely hazard information. For example, for 2011's Hurricane Irene several blog posts were created to provide forecast and impact details. The web site is managed by Dr. J.P. Walsh at East Carolina University who is affiliated with the Department of Geological Sciences, the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, RENCi@ECU and the UNC Coastal Studies Institute. The site was initiated as part of a UNC General Administration Competitiveness grant and has continued to grow as part of RENCi@ECU, which constructed a related site called [Storms to Life](#). Several faculty at ECU and in the UNC system have aided in the development of site content, including Drs. Corbett, Culver, Mallinson and Riggs in Geological Sciences and Allen and Crawford in Geography.

## Geographic extent

NCCOHAZ aims to provide hazard and mapping products for the entire state; however, there is a large emphasis in northeastern NC because of the Outer Banks and the large Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system where much research has been conducted.

## Target audience

Local, State and federal coastal managers, the public (especially coastal residents), coastal scientists.

## Data included (general categories)

**Number of data sets:** >10 themed maps

### Information :

- Inlet-opening potential
- Shoreline erosion
- Sea-level rise
- Storm surge risk
- Real-time risks and hazards
- Hazard Mitigation Plans

## Distinguishing features

**Related web sites and products have been developed:**

Storms to Life: <http://www.ecu.edu/renci/StormsToLife/index.html>

RENCi@ECU: <http://www.ecu.edu/renci/>

Storm Surge Visualization: <http://www.ecu.edu/renci/Focus/StormSurge.html>

## Technology used (web GIS, server, database, content management system?)

- Apache web server

- Some use of Google API and ArcServer

### **Atlas support (financial/institutional)**

The site was originally developed from a State grant. Over time it has grown and evolved because of State and federally funded projects (including development of related pages, see above).

### **Challenges encountered**

- Securing support
- Technical capability and changing hardware/software
- Too much to do, too little time
- Keeping content current and links updated

### **Lessons learned**

- Understand the business needs of the targeted audience and have open dialog with users
- Gain support from public, managers, and politically influential people.
- Valuable to have specific outreach products for
- Develop complementary physical materials (maps and brochures) for meeting
- Technical support is key
- Need to be committed for the long term

### **Future directions (ongoing and future improvements?)**

**Planned improvements** to the Atlas include:

- Move to content management website
- Many ideas and thoughts but depend on time and support

### **Other:**

Click on the following links for related reports: [1\) Coasts in Crisis](#), [2\) Past and Future Inlets](#), and [3\) Estuarine Shoreline Erosion](#).