Thank you for your contributions to MyCoast New York! Launched on July 1, 2022, MyCoast NY is a tool used to collect and analyze photos of changing shorelines, inland and coastal flooding, and hazardous weather impacts across New York State. Through MyCoast, anyone with a phone or camera can easily participate in gathering images that help build awareness of changing conditions and support local efforts to address flooding and erosion.

Our hearts go out to the communities impacted by recent flooding. MyCoast NY is a critical tool for collecting evidence of rising seas and increased precipitation and flooding resulting from climate change. Photo reports can support planning and decision-making at all levels – from residents to municipal leaders – for increased resilience around the Empire State. Read on for more on all we learned through the first year of MyCoast NY.

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Flood Outlook

Flooding can happen anywhere, anytime.

NOAA predicts a near-normal 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season (June 1-Nov 30). El Nino and above-average Atlantic Ocean temperatures set the stage. Read more here.

Tides

The highest tides typically occur each month during the new ● and full ○ moon. Other contributing factors include distance of the moon from earth and mean sea level (predictable) and storms or strong winds (predictable up to 4 days in advance). Learn more about tides here.

Dates for possible high tide flooding over the next 6 months according to NOAA’s Monthly High Tide Flood Outlook at the Battery tide gauge in New York, NY are:

- Aug 1 ○
- Sept 30 - Oct 2 ○
- Oct 26 - Oct 31 ○
- Nov 26 ○
- Dec 13 - Dec 14 ●

COMING SOON: MYCOAST NY USER SURVEY!
Peconic Baykeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring Long Island’s drinkable, swimmable, and fishable waters. On March 4, 2023, they put out a call to their Instagram followers for photos of coastal flooding from a passing storm.

After the storm, they uploaded the photos to MyCoast NY using the Flood Watch photo report and included any additional information and photo credits using the comments box. In total, 11 photo reports were uploaded for the March 4th event from locations throughout Peconic Bay (see map).

Peconic Baykeeper is also encouraging folks who are interested in volunteering to be flood watch volunteers and to submit photos from weather events in the future.

“*This app will allow us to benefit from a degree of crowdsourcing to obtain flooding, coastal erosion and storm damage information throughout the Town. In the Emergency Operations Center we will be able to view pictures of conditions in the field as soon as they are submitted via MyCoast NY. These images are also shared with the National Weather Service staff who can utilize them to verify forecasts and improve warning operations,*”

- Ryan Murphy, Town Code Compliance & Emergency Management

Read more about this effort.
By the Numbers

Total Photo Reports: 402
July 1, 2022-July 1, 2023

Storm Reporter
23

Flood Watch
158

County with the most reports:
Suffolk with 50!

Coast Snap Stations

CoastSnap is an international network of simple camera mounts at coastal locations that invite the public to take a photo and share it to track the shoreline over time

Ferry Landing: 18
Rockaways: 177
Watch Hill: 26
Not Just for the Coast

Despite the name, MyCoast NY can be used to capture flooding and storm damage in every NY county through Flood Watch or Storm Reporter.

All photos are placed on a map (geotagged) and linked to the closest water level and weather data based on the time the photo was taken.

Help us fill up the map!

Tracking River Floods

This photo captures a road closure in New Paltz, NY caused by the Wallkill River overtopping its banks after a weekend of heavy rain in late April 2023.

The water level at the Wallkill gauge in Gardiner was 9.38 ft above NAVD88* at the time of this photo. Flood mitigation action, such as a road closure, is recommended when this gauge reaches 7.3 ft.

*NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum, a reference point for zero elevation

Photos can help forecasters, community leaders, and residents better communicate and respond to local flooding.
Storm Event Recap

Number of Reports: 108

On December 23, 2022, Winter Storm Elliot brought freezing temperatures, damaging wind, and the highest storm surge recorded in the downstate region since Hurricane Irene in 2011. Forty-one people contributed reports to MyCoast NY. Twenty-eight photo reports were submitted anonymously.

Tracking Storm Surge

How to read this map:

Blue dots are tide gauge locations

Blue labels list tide gauge name, time of peak water level, and height of peak water level (feet above NAVD88*) from the December 23, 2022 storm surge event.

Photos are from approximate time and location of peak water level.

Sources: Stevens Flood Advisory System & MyCoast NY

*NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum, a reference point for zero elevation

High water levels along the coast were a result of higher-than-normal tides due to the New Moon on Dec. 23rd and the massive extratropical storm system that brought additional surge of almost 3 ft.

Learn more about storm surge here.
Updates & Resources

Check out the new Resources page at: https://mycoast.org/ny/resources

New Website Features

Filter for Reports
We've added filters for the different report types and you can now filter for multiple counties at once. Start on the "Search Reports" page of the website.

Batch Download
All users can now batch download MyCoast NY photos and/or download photo report data as a .csv.
1) Go to the "Search Reports" page
2) Filter the data for what you want
3) Hit the "Download These Reports" button
4) Select to download by .csv or as images

Thanks for the feedback!

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Jessica Kuonen,
jak546@cornell.edu

Arverne, Queens by Corinne Sommer (Full report)

Mastic Beach by Thomas Tascarella (Full report)