

MAPPING PARTNERSHIP FOR COASTAL SOILS AND SEDIMENT (MAPCOAST)



STEERING TEAM

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PARTNERS

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
URI - Department of Natural Resources Science
URI - Department of Geosciences
URI - GSO Environmental Studies and Paleomagnetism Laboratory
URI - Coastal Institute
Rhode Island Geologic Survey
Rhode Island Sea Grant
RI Agricultural Experiment Station & Cooperative Extension Service
The National Park Service
North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit
RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Rhode Island Natural History Survey
URI - Environmental Data Center
RI Geographic Information System
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE MAPPING PARTNERSHIP FOR COASTAL SOILS AND SEDIMENT (MAPCOAST)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a partnership of individuals, institutions, organizations, and groups with common interests in developing an inventory of coastal and subaqueous soil and sediment resources. The goal of the Mapping Partnership for Coastal Soils and Sediment, hereinafter referred to as "MapCoast," is to develop a readily accessible database of soils and sediment in coastal Rhode Island that meets the variety of needs of the user community. Soils and sediment map data and attributes are essential for management and protection of these important coastal ecosystems.

MapCoast strives to create a seamless soils/ sediment database of the near-shore coast above and below (~ 2.5 m) the sea surface. MapCoast also strives to create a high resolution, accurate seamless digital terrain model (topography and bathymetry) above and below the sea surface in coastal environments. These data (and their metadata) will be made available to all members of the user community in a reliable, accessible manner.

OBJECTIVES:

MapCoast understands the need to develop a common hierarchical system of coastal soil and sediment classification that encompasses all disciplines including biology, wetlands, geology, and pedology. It is mutually agreed that MapCoast will work cooperatively and partners will share resources, technology, and knowledge to achieve the following objectives:

- Develop soil and sediment mapping standards and protocols to produce accurate and useful maps.
- Build multiple interpretations of the soil and sediment data to service the coastal resource management community.
- Ensure that the soil, sediment, and bathymetric data collected will be made available to all users.
- Provide training and educate users about the soil and sediment data and maps.

For more information visit: <http://www.mapcoast.org>