

MYCOAST: SOUTH CAROLINA - ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF COASTAL HAZARDS  
THROUGH CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

*Daniel Burger, SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control, Ocean and Coastal Resource  
Management*

MyCoast: South Carolina is a web and mobile-device enabled site that allows users to upload images and information related to coastal events. This application was produced by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as a tool to engage the public, visualize the impact of coastal hazards and enhance awareness of coastal hazard vulnerability among decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public. MyCoast houses two complementary applications: South Carolina King Tides Initiative and Storm Witness. New users may register at <http://www.MyCoast.org/SC> via desktop, smartphone or tablet. Once logged in, users can view photos from other users, see the distribution of reports on the map, and submit a report for SC King Tides or Storm Witness. The SC King Tides Initiative encourages users to document the effects that extreme tide events have on beaches, private property, and public infrastructure. "King Tides" is a nonscientific term used to describe the highest seasonal tides that occur each year. The application geolocates the photographer's position and appends data including weather conditions, proximity to the nearest tidal gauge, and tide stage at the time of the photograph. Individual reports and photographs are displayed via an interactive map interface on the MyCoast website. King Tide events can be identified by consulting the DHEC Tide Chart: <http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Water/2014TideTables/>. Storm Witness focuses on the collection and communication of storm-related impacts to coastal structures and beach erosion. In addition to submitting photos, participants of Storm Witness are prompted to characterize post-storm beach conditions and impacts to specific types of structures. The information collected through Storm Witness will enable DHEC to more efficiently coordinate with state and local governmental entities and prioritize storm response activities. For questions, contact Dan Burger, Director, Coastal Services Division at 843-953-0251 or [burgerdj@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:burgerdj@dhec.sc.gov).