

THE COASTAL DEFENSE APPLICATION: EVALUATING NATURE'S ROLE IN COASTAL PROTECTION

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Coastal Resilience is an approach that guides decisions to reduce the risks of coastal hazards. This approach is communicated through a web tool, maps.coastalresilience.org. The tool contains various “apps” that address specific coastal issues. The Coastal Defense app quantifies how habitats like marsh, oyster reefs, mangroves, and coral reefs protect coastal areas by decreasing wave-induced erosion and inundation. This app provides a mechanism to change the perception of what “defenses” can be by exploring the role that nature can play. This app ultimately helps stakeholders identify appropriate nature-based solutions to increase community resilience.