



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Value of Coastal Wetland Habitat

Coastal wetlands filter our water, protect our coastal communities from floods, and provide habitat for fish and other wildlife—but they're quickly disappearing. NOAA is working hard to protect and restore these valuable habitats.

## Wetlands Working for You

Wetlands—including marshes, mangroves, and swamps—provide valuable benefits to people, wildlife, and communities.

Wetlands act as “nature’s kidneys” to filter and absorb pollution.

**1.5 million gallons** of floodwater can be stored by one acre of wetlands.

**8.1 million tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> are absorbed by U.S. wetlands each year. That’s equivalent to more than 900 million gallons of gas.



During storms, coastal wetlands absorb floods and wave energy, decreasing property damage by up to

**20%.**



Wetlands provide key habitat and nursery grounds for valuable wildlife like shrimp, salmon, and crabs.

**\$23 billion**

in annual coastal protection services are provided by wetlands.

More information: <https://fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-conservation>

## Habitat at Risk

**80,000 acres**

of wetlands in U.S. coastal watersheds may be lost each year to development, drainage, erosion, and sinking. That’s approximately **seven football fields** every hour.

## Our Work

NOAA works with our partners to protect valuable wetlands.

**50,000 acres**

of wetland habitat have been restored by NOAA since 2008.

