

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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May 12, 2016

State posts aerial photos and elevation data for western Alaska communities

(Fairbanks, AK) – To assist communities impacted by coastal change, the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys is publishing new high-resolution digital aerial photos and elevation data for 26 coastal communities in western Alaska. The new images and data are available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.14509/29548>.

The west coast of Alaska lacks the critical baseline data necessary to conduct coastal vulnerability mapping for community planning and emergency decision-making. To facilitate mapping, DGGGS in 2015 contracted the collection of high-resolution aerial photos along 2,175 miles of coast from Wales to Kongiganak. The images were orthorectified and used to produce high-resolution digital surface models of elevations. The current data release includes the 26 communities within the region. Continuous data covering the coastline between communities will be released at a later date.

This is the first dataset of its kind to cover the Norton Sound and Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta regions, and is a huge and sorely needed improvement over the previous sparse, discontinuous, or outdated information. The data will serve as a regional baseline to support coastal flood and shoreline mapping for projects such as FEMA flood mapping, erosion monitoring, and nautical charting, and will give communities up-to-date maps showing locations of critical buildings and roads for emergency planning and future development.

For more information about DGGGS, visit <http://dgggs.alaska.gov>, where you can sign up for RSS feed or email notification or follow DGGGS on Twitter or Facebook.

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