

ShoreZone Mapping in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest

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ShoreZone is a coastal habitat mapping and classification system in which spatially referenced aerial imagery is collected specifically for the interpretation and integration of geological and biological features of the intertidal zone and nearshore environment.

100,508 km of ShoreZone imagery exists for the northeast Pacific coastline, including the entire shoreline of Oregon (1,750 km), Washington (4,933 km), British Columbia (37,619 km), and 56,206 km of the Alaskan coast. The project is on-going with ~19,244 km of the Alaskan coastline left to be imaged. The Alaska imagery can be viewed online at shorezone.org or at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/shorezone/>.

ShoreZone imagery provides a useful baseline and visual reference, while mapped resources (such as shoreline sediments, eelgrass and salt marsh distributions) are an important tool for scientists and managers.

ShoreZone data has many uses, including: oil spill contingency planning and response, conservation planning, habitat research, development evaluation, mariculture site review, recreation, archaeological inventory, and other uses.

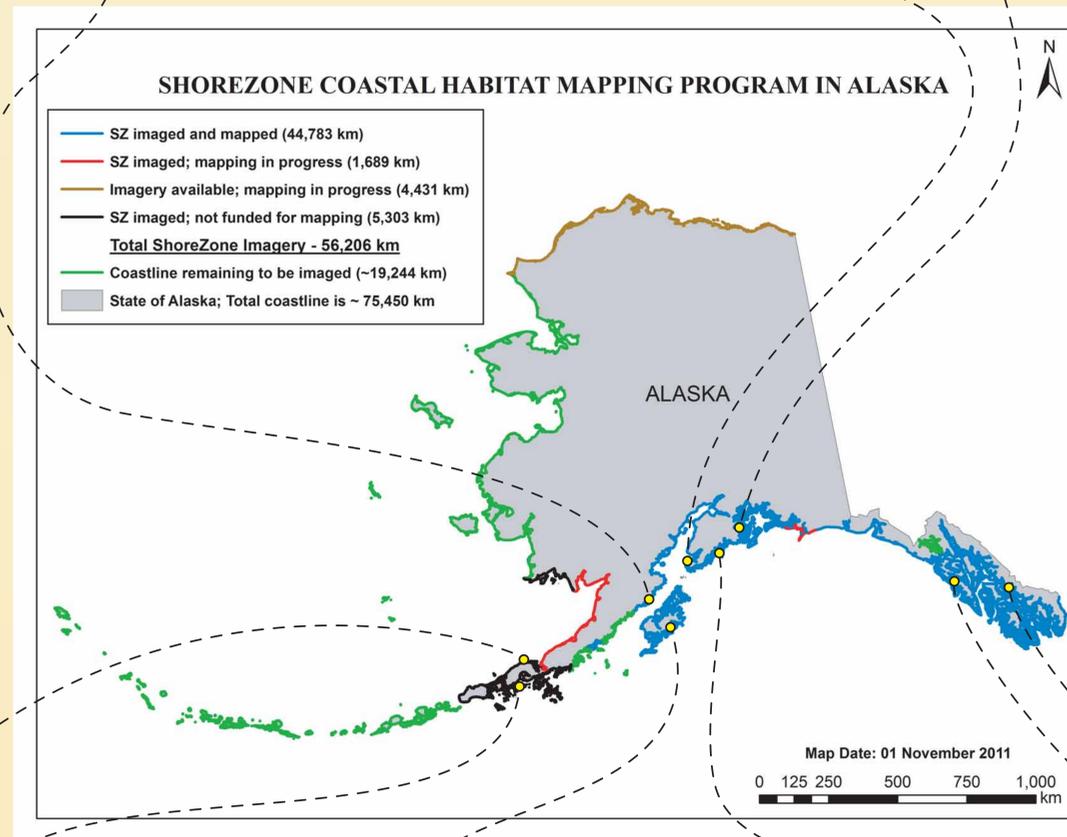
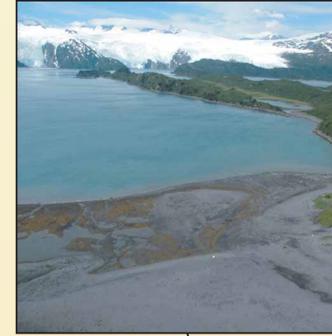
Amalik Bay, Katmai National Park



Little Tutka Bay, Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet



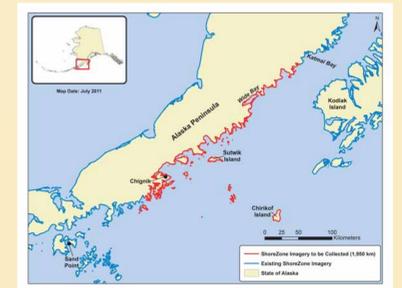
Willard Island, Blackstone Bay, Prince William Sound



The Alaska ShoreZone program is a partnership of scientists, GIS specialists, web specialists, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies. Organizations working in partnership for the Alaska ShoreZone effort to date include: Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, and Natural Resources; Archipelago Marine Research Ltd.; Coastal and Ocean Resources Inc.; Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council; Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council; NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service; National Park Service; Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council; Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, The Ocean Fund; The Nature Conservancy; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; USDA Forest Service; and others.

This partnership offers the opportunity to build a contiguous integrated coastal resource database that extends from Oregon, through British Columbia, the Gulf of Alaska, western Alaska, and northwards to the Arctic coast (on the order of 120,000 km).

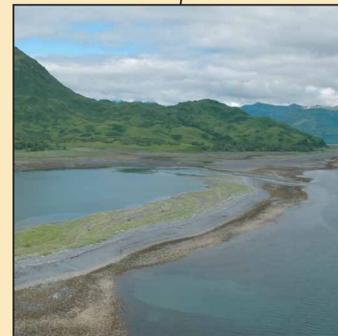
The Alaska Peninsula is a focus area for ShoreZone work in 2012. Partners are being sought to help fund the collection of ShoreZone imagery along 1,950 km of coastline and the mapping of 4,584 km of existing imagery.



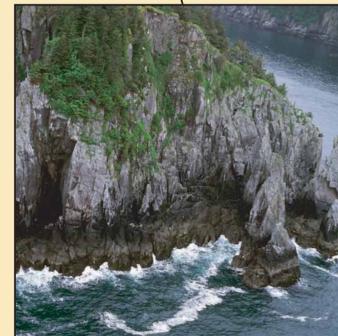
Nelson Lagoon south of Port Moller, Bristol Bay



Dolgoi Island, Alaska Peninsula



Kiliuda Bay, Kodiak Island



Entrance to Aialik Bay, near Kenai Fjords National Park



Deep Bay, Peril Strait, Baranof Island, Southeast Alaska



LeConte Bay, Frederick Sound, Southeast Alaska

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