Announcing the New Decision Support Tool
for Nature-Based Strategies in Southern Maine

The Climate Ready Coast Southern Maine project team is pleased to share a new GIS-based decision support tool for nature-based strategies to address coastal hazards in southern Maine.

What is the tool?
The Decision Support Tool is an online interactive map that includes three shoreline data layers created from a detailed GIS analysis:

1. A **Site Suitability Assessment** that indicates the relative biophysical suitability for nature-based strategies of locations along the southern Maine coastline, based on a weighted scoring system for environmental, wave exposure, topography, and erosion factors.
2. A **Socio-Political Feasibility Assessment** which describes proximity to key habitats, conservation lands, infrastructure, and other factors that may affect project feasibility.
3. A **Beach Priority Assessment** which identifies beaches that may benefit most from resilience actions using a relative scoring system that considers erosion rates, beach width, dune stability, and proximity to structures.

Features of the tool:

● The tool includes sea level rise and parcel boundary layers for additional planning context.
● The tool is optimized for use on mobile devices to facilitate access in the field.
● The tool also allows users to add additional layers to the map for greater context using the "Add Data" widget, and the datasets are available as a feature service from ArcGIS Online.

Why was the tool created? The Decision Support Tool for Nature-Based Strategies in Southern Maine was developed to support implementation of the Climate Ready Coast - Southern Maine Regional Coastal Resilience Plan. Feedback received from participating communities and regional partners during the creation of the Regional Coastal Resilience Plan indicated a need for more information about the suitability of coastal areas for nature-based strategies. The Decision Support Tool is intended to provide site-specific, bio-physical, and socio-political information to support decision making around where these strategies may be suitable and feasible in southern Maine.

Who created the tool? The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve worked closely with Nearview, LLC, Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission, and York County Soil and Water Conservation District to develop the tool and the geospatial datasets.

The development was guided by an advisory team with representatives from the Maine Geological Survey, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Walsh Engineering Associates Inc., and the New Hampshire Coastal Program.

How do I access the tool? The Decision Support Tool for Nature-based Strategies in Southern Maine is available online at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/78ffbbafe86944ad84e1a9be440a2c05

Please bookmark this URL address in your internet browser for future access.