

Term	Definition	Source
Accretion	The building up of sediment that increases coastal land area.	Sea Grant New York
Barrier Island	Dynamic bars of sand that protect natural and human communities against storm surge and wave action.	National Park Service
Beach Nourishment	A shore protection strategy in which sand is artificially added to a beach in order to counteract loss of sand due to natural processes.	Vox
Canal	A manmade waterway that allows boats and ships to pass from one body of water to another.	NOAA
Coastal Resilience	The ability of a coastal area to adapt to changing conditions and to withstand and recover from disruption due to emergencies.	NOAA
Continental Shelf	The edge of a continent that lies under the ocean. The continental shelf plays a role in protecting th shoreline from storm surge.	National Geographic
Distributary	Smaller streams that branch from a river. Distributaries are common and important features in river deltas.	National Geographic
Environmental Justice	A term used to describe the movement against the inequitable burden placed on poor and predominantly nonwhite communities in relation to envrionmental issues.	NRDC
Erosion	Erosion is the geological process in which earthen materials are worn away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water.	National Geographic
Federally-recognized Tribal Land	An American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.	US Department of the Interior
Hydrologic Restoration	The removal or modification of anthropogenic barriers to restore historic tidal estuarine and freshwater exchange.	Sea Grean MS AL
Hydrologic Modifications	Artificial changes to the natural shape or fluctuations of a body of water. Examples include canals, levees, and dams.	BTNEP
Invasive Species	Plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm.	USDA
Levee	A human-made wall intended to prevent flooding from neighboring bodies of water.	National Geographic
Living Shorelines	Shoreline protection options that allow for natural coastal processes to remain through the strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill, and other structural and organic materials.	Restore America's Estuaries
Marsh	A wetland dominated by herbaceous plants such as grasses, rushes, or sedges. Small shrubs often grow along the perimeter as a transition to drier land.	National Park Service
Mitigation	Efforts intended to limit the consequences of coastal land loss, either by developing new land or reinforcing existing land.	CPRA
Offshore Shelf	See Continental Shelf.	
Relative Sea Level Rise (RSLR)	A gauge of sea level rise that incorporates global trends in sea level change and local trends in land subsidence.	USGS
Saltwater Intrusion	The encroachment of seawater into freshwater ecosystems.	USGS
Sediment Budget	The balance between sediment added to and removed from the coastal system.	USGS

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Sediment Diversion	A mitigation strategy that works to rebuild coastal land by diverting a river to strategically deliver sediment.	ENR
Shoreline Stabilization	A mitigation strategy that seeks to fortify existing shorelines, thereby increasing their resistance to coastal erosion	NY Department of Environmental Conservation
Social Vulnerability	A measure of the economic and social factors that limit an individual's ability to respond to and recover from flood events.	CPRA
Spoil Levee	Levees created by dredging when dumped soil accumulates on either side of the newly dredged canal.	Losing Ground
Storm Surge	The abnormal rise in seawater level during a storm, measured as the height of the water above the normal predicted astronomical tide.	NOAA
Submergence	Permanent flooding of the coast caused by a rise in global sea level and/or subsidence of the land. At many coastal sites, submergence is the most important factor responsible for land loss.	USGS
Swamp	Forested wetlands, characterized by specific types of trees and soil types.	National Park Service
Wetland	A low-lying land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and contains hydric soils and aquatic vegetation.	National Park Service