NOAA’s National Coastal Zone Management Program

Our coastal communities are home to over 126 million people, support 56.8 million jobs, and contribute $8.6 trillion to the U.S. economy, accounting for 46 percent of the nation’s economic output. Recognizing the importance of our coasts, in 1972, Congress created the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary partnership between NOAA and coastal states and territories. The program was designed to enhance and protect coastal resources and communities.

In fiscal year 2020, NOAA invested over $77 million, allocated through the Coastal Zone Management Act, to implement coastal management programs in the 34 participating states and territories. Federal funding was matched by nearly $65 million from state, territorial, and local governments and other partners. These funds are being used to improve public access, enhance hazard resilience, and fuel the nation’s vibrant coastal economy.

FUNDING SUMMARY
2020
Office for Coastal Management
cost.noaa.gov/czm

Planning for Our Ocean and Coastal Waters ($3.5 million federal; $2.6 million matching)
Comprehensive planning supports jobs, reduces user conflicts, and sustains natural resources.

Implementing State Program Management ($3.4 million federal; $2.2 million matching)
State coastal management programs serve as the “boots on the ground” for addressing coastal management issues.

Protecting and Restoring Coastal Habitat ($17.0 million federal; $18.8 million matching)
Coastal habitats buffer communities from storms and are needed to support fisheries, robust recreation and tourism industries, and thriving wildlife populations.

Mitigating Coastal Hazards ($16.7 million federal; $10.5 million matching)
Minimizing risks from coastal hazards such as storms, flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise makes communities more resilient.

Protecting Coastal Water Quality ($6.9 million federal; $7.7 million matching)
Preventing and reducing polluted runoff and marine debris results in coastal waters that are safe and healthy for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

Promoting Coastal Community Development ($11.1 million federal; $9.0 million matching)
Wise development protects coastal community character and health and promotes appropriate coastal-dependent uses and industries.

Expanding Public Engagement ($12.2 million federal; $9.0 million matching)
Strong coordination and communication among agencies and the public results in better decision-making for America’s coastlines.

Enhancing Public Access ($6.2 million federal; $11.4 million matching)
Providing public access allows all Americans to enjoy the coast and delivers substantial economic benefits to coastal communities.

8% 10% 5% 25% 19% 14% 15% 10% 8% 4% 5%
EXAMPLES – ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Making the Coast Accessible for All
Recognizing the need to address historic inequities, the three agencies that make up the California Coastal Management Program recently adopted environmental justice and social equity policies and guidelines. The programs are incorporating environmental justice concerns into the decision-making process and are making public processes more accessible to all. Here’s an example: Surf Beach, near the City of Lompoc, is an ethnically diverse and low-income community. Under the previous beach plan of 20-plus years, the beach was often closed to visitors by mid-summer to protect the threatened western snowy plover. This meant community members had to travel 20 miles to access a beach. After Lompoc officials and community members raised environmental justice concerns, a new approach was developed. The beach is now open to enjoy all summer long, and bilingual signage and docents help the public avoid the protected habitat areas—a win for environmental justice, public access, and conservation.

Improving Coastal Hazards Planning with At-Risk Communities
Coastal communities that are historically underserved in terms of the information, services, and support structures needed to reduce risks are often the most at risk from coastal hazards. Through an effort called “A Seat at the Table,” the New Jersey Coastal Management Program worked with partners and members of these communities to understand the challenges and incorporate their needs into the state’s coastal climate resilience planning. The resulting training and policy options will help other practitioners more meaningfully engage diverse populations to improve hazard protection for all.

Elevating Indigenous and Place-Based Knowledge
The Ocean Resources Management Plan is a core component of Hawaii’s Coastal Management Program. The comprehensive plan works to resolve important coastal issues by fostering collaboration among agencies. The 2020 update integrates indigenous knowledge from interviews with Hawaiian cultural practitioners—wisdom and experience gained through thousands of years of island conservation. Honoring this knowledge also established strong principles of respect and collaboration that will guide plan implementation over the next five years.

See more stories at coast.noaa.gov/states/stories/index.html.

MAKING AN IMPACT
OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2,600</th>
<th>3,000</th>
<th>69,000</th>
<th>1,000</th>
<th>200,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed over 2,600 projects, including developing and updating state and local policies and plans, that improve resilience to coastal hazards.</td>
<td>Worked with over 3,000 communities to help them grow in a balanced way that protects coastal character and health.</td>
<td>Protected over 69,000 acres of habitat and restored an additional 64,000 acres.</td>
<td>Created nearly 1,000 new public access sites and enhanced over 2,800 additional access sites to improve the visitor experience.</td>
<td>Trained nearly 200,000 coastal decision makers to ensure informed decision making.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office for Coastal Management
coast.noaa.gov/czm