



## Mississippi Coastal Management Program Federal Evaluation for October 2018 to May 2024

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management is conducting an evaluation of the Mississippi Coastal Management Program for the period from October 2018 to May 2024.

### Background

The Mississippi Coastal Management Program is part of the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary partnership between the federal government and the coastal states that was established by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. NOAA provides funding, national guidance, and technical assistance, while lead state agencies administer the coastal programs.

### Purpose of the Evaluation

The Coastal Zone Management Act calls for the periodic evaluation of all federally approved coastal management programs. Each evaluation assesses the operation and management of the program and how the state is addressing the national coastal zone management objectives contained in Section 303(2) of the act, how it is implementing and enforcing the state coastal management program, and how well it is adhering to the terms and conditions of federal financial assistance awards.

In this evaluation, the team will prepare a set of findings that identifies the Mississippi Coastal Management Program's successes and areas needing improvement. Recommendations from the findings are used to negotiate future Coastal Zone Management Act financial assistance awards to the state. Copies of the findings will be available in late 2024 and will be sent to evaluation participants. Members of the public may request copies by emailing the evaluation team lead at [Pam.Kylstra@noaa.gov](mailto:Pam.Kylstra@noaa.gov). The most recent evaluation findings are available at [coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations/evaluation\\_findings/index.html](https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations/evaluation_findings/index.html).

### Public Participation

Public participation is a valued part of the evaluation process, and the evaluation team would like to hear the views of all interested parties. For this evaluation, the team is particularly interested in these areas:

- Program administration
- Coastal habitat
- Resilience and coastal hazards

The Coastal Zone Management Act provides three mechanisms for public participation in the evaluation process:

- Meeting with the evaluation team
- Attending the public meeting
- Submitting written comments

A virtual public comment meeting will be held to solicit public comments on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Central Time. Please use the following link to register to participate:

*(continued)*

<https://forms.gle/CRiA3ngoXUBZCyus8>. You may also email written comments for inclusion in the findings to Pam Kylstra, the evaluation team leader at [Pam.Kylstra@noaa.gov](mailto:Pam.Kylstra@noaa.gov) no later than May 31, 2024.

**Evaluation Team**

Pam Kylstra, Evaluator  
NOAA Office for Coastal Management  
Charleston, South Carolina  
[Pam.Kylstra@noaa.gov](mailto:Pam.Kylstra@noaa.gov)

Kristin Ransom, Coastal Management Specialist  
NOAA Office for Coastal Management  
Stennis Space Center, Mississippi  
[Kristin.Ransom@noaa.gov](mailto:Kristin.Ransom@noaa.gov)

Hilliard Hicks, Coastal Management Specialist  
NOAA Office for Coastal Management  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
[Hilliard.Hicks@noaa.gov](mailto:Hilliard.Hicks@noaa.gov)

Steve Couture, Coastal Program Administrator  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Concord, New Hampshire  
[Steven.Couture@des.nh.gov](mailto:Steven.Couture@des.nh.gov)