



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration



United States Environmental
Protection Agency

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

To: File

From: Allison Castellan (NOAA), Michelle Robidas (NOAA/CSS), Don Waye (EPA HQ), Robert Goo (EPA, HQ), Catherine Brady (EPA HQ), Duane Robertson (EPA R4), Tiana Blount (EPA R4)

Date: October 1, 2024

RE: Response to Public Comments Received on NOAA's and EPA's Intent to Fully Approve Alabama's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

On May 15, 2024, NOAA and EPA (Federal Agencies) jointly announced, in the Federal Register, a 30-day public comment period regarding the Agencies' intent to find that Alabama has satisfied all conditions of approval on its coastal nonpoint program. Under Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), all states participating in the National Coastal Zone Management Program need to develop coastal nonpoint programs to address nonpoint source pollution to coastal waters. NOAA and EPA approved Alabama's coastal nonpoint program, subject to certain conditions, in 1998.

In response to the request for comments, the Federal agencies received one comment during the public comment period. (See full comment and response below). The comment was not directly related to the approvability of Alabama's coastal nonpoint program, therefore, as proposed in the Federal Register on May 15, 2024, NOAA and EPA maintain that Alabama has met all requirements of the Coastal Nonpoint Program and intend to find that the State has satisfied all conditions of approval on its coastal nonpoint program.

The comment, as submitted, and a formal response is included below:

Comment 1: I hate pollution.

Response: Thank you for commenting on NOAA and EPA's proposed decision to approve Alabama's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

The Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program was established in 1990 by Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments. It is jointly administered by NOAA and the EPA, with the goal of reducing polluted runoff to coastal waters.

We encourage you to visit both NOAA and EPA's website for nonpoint source pollution to learn more about the program and other efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution.