



TOP TEN THINGS TO KNOW SERIES

National Coastal Zone Management Program



coast.noaa.gov/czm

- 1. The coast matters. A lot.** Forty percent of the population living on ten percent of the land mass. Over fifty-four million jobs.
- 2. The program was created by the Coastal Zone Management Act.** Authorized in 1972, the program ensures that the nation's coastal lands and waters are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.
- 3. It is a state and federal partnership effort.** NOAA works hand-in-hand with the states, providing national coordination and technical assistance, and contributing funding (usually a 50-50 split). States implement the program at the state and local level. Thirty-four coastal and Great Lakes states and U.S. territories participate.
- 4. State coastal management programs are customized.** A set of national policies guide the programs, yet the state approach is flexible. That means each state program is uniquely designed to effectively address local challenges and work within state and local laws and regulations.
- 5. "Federal consistency" is an important governance tool.** This "states' rights" approach gives state coastal management programs a unique review authority and a strong voice in federal actions affecting coastal uses or resources. (Examples of federal actions include dredging, renewable and non-renewable energy, and aquaculture.)
- 6. The program keeps coasts healthy and vibrant.**
Each state program employs these key activities.
 - Protecting natural resources
 - Managing development in high-hazard areas
 - Giving priority for development to coastal-dependent uses
 - Providing public access for recreation
 - Improving coastal water quality
 - Coordinating state and federal actions
 - Involving the public in state and community-based decisions
- 7. Storm preparedness pays off.** Coastal storms are deadly and expensive. Every dollar invested to reduce disaster costs saves the nation about \$13 in future costs. Between 2012 and 2021, coastal zone management programs helped over 3,000 communities prepare for coastal hazards to reduce future damages to homes, businesses, and valuable natural resources.
- 8. Public access is good for visitors, residents, and businesses.** The program supports public access so everyone can enjoy the coast. Recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, swimming, and nature-watching drive coastal tourism, support coastal businesses, and fuel our economy.
- 9. The blue economy needs coastal management.** Coastal communities contribute \$10 trillion to the economy, accounting for 44 percent of the nation's economic output.
- 10. Development, historical resources, working waterfronts, habitat, water quality, hazard resilience, erosion.** You get the point. Lots of issues are addressed through the National Coastal Zone Management Program.



OFFICE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Coastal Zone Management Programs in Action

coast.noaa.gov/czm

MAINE

Guiding the Creation of Climate-Resilient Tidal Crossings

After years of effort, the Maine Coastal Program published the *CoastWise Approach* manual, a guide featuring best practices, decision-making tools, and a pathway for designing climate-resilient tidal crossings that are cost-effective and ecologically friendly.

MICHIGAN

Stormwater Management in Action

Failing septic systems threatened the health of White Lake in Michigan. The state's coastal program worked with partners to raise awareness about these dangers and help property owners take an active role in self-inspection and preventing pollution.

GEORGIA

Repairing Damage to Salt Marshes

The logging industry caused decades of environmental damage in Georgia's salt marshes. Using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, Georgia's coastal program is making repairs and seeing improvements in water flow and the return of natural features, such as sandbars.

ALABAMA

Educating the Community on Flood Risks

Managers in Alabama have used risk communication and mapping resources from NOAA's Digital Coast to educate the community on flood risks and meet the qualifications to join the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA's Community Rating System.

HAWAII

Bleaching-Resistance Corals are Thriving

Using a National Coastal Resilience Fund grant, scientists have replanted colonies of bleaching-resistant coral species that are now thriving. Coral reefs provide billions of dollars yearly in tourism and food benefits while lessening sea level rise impacts and dissipating storm-generated wave energy.

OREGON

Land-Use Planning for Tsunami Preparation

Ten jurisdictions have incorporated tsunami considerations for safer land-use plans. Now, all of Oregon's coastal communities have "disaster cache" guidance to increase local survival odds in the wake of tsunamis and earthquakes.

