

# COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

Washington, DC – Membership Meeting  
March 24 – 25, 2025

## **Monday, March 24, 2025**

### **Roll Call**

Attendees: Jill Andrews, Nick Angarone, Kathleen Angel, Henry Bell, Laurel Bohl, Stacy Box, Alison Brizius, Jeff Burright, Jeff Caiola, Natacha Carbajal-Evangelista, Nicole Carlozo, Sarah Chang, Ester Chavira-Meza, Steve Couture, Jack Dafoe, Steven Dierking, Holly Edmond, Georgina Faiga-Naseri, Grace Felise, Elise Frazier, Mike Friis, Rylan Gervase, Christy Goebel, Larry Goldzband, Austin Grace, David Green, Ryan Green, Megan Hall, Jared Harris, Jesse Hayden, Marlon Hibbert, Rebecca Hill, Steve Holland, Jennifer Holmes, Jonathan Howell, Kate Huckelbridge, Amy Hutzell, Arati Kaza, Meg Kelly, Julia Kendzierski, Lauren Leckwee, Chris Liu, Rachel Love-Adrick, Maureen Madera-Garcia, Lucas Manweiler, Floyd Masga, Catherine McCall, Patti McCurdy, Laura McLean, Tancred Miller, Stephanie Mueller, Ashley Norton, Jenny Orsburn, Lisa Phipps, Bettina Rayfield, Alex Reed, Ashley Reineman, Decker Reno, Edwin Reyes, Agnes Sablan, Kisha Santiago, Evyann Sloan, Michael Snyder, Tyler Soleau, Christ Stout, Jennifer Street, Angela Sunley, Will Underwood, Matthew Walderon, Amber Westerbur, Jeffrey Willis, Jennifer Wittman, Erin Wilson

Staff: Derek Brockbank, John Ryan-Henry, Rebecca Dennis, Vidya Balasubramanyam, Norma Longhi, Natalie Cross, Elizabeth Crocco, Spenser Wipperfurth, Alexandria Pouliot

### **Welcome and Introductions**

CSO's Chair, Catherine McCall welcomes the attendees and opens the meeting. She thanks everyone for attending and expresses her gratitude for all work that staff and members are doing on the coasts across the nation to strengthen our communities.

Derek Brockbank also makes opening remarks and introduces himself. He reviews the meeting agenda in detail, and thanks the staff for their work.

### **Legislative, Administrative, and Regulatory Updates**

#### **Campaign Updates**

#### **Regulatory**

John Ryan-Henry kicks off this session by sharing some regulatory highlights and relevant dates.

- Apr. 15: USACE Principles, Requirements, & Guidelines
- May 28: FEMA FFRMS Website and Tool Beta Version
- Jul. 11: NOAA draft ROP designation guidance

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- Aug. 19: FEMA draft Public Assistance guidance
- Nov. 25: NOAA draft National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy
- Jan. 29: FEMA PA Mitigation Cost Share Incentive Policy
- Mar. 27: CEQ NEPA Recission Interim Final Rule

He tells members that further discussions will take place on Wednesday during the Legal Council Meeting. He informs members that updated information is posted on CSO's website, which is also used to inform and brief members, support peer-to-peer coordination, and engage and build coalitions.

Mr. Ryan-Henry states that, in these early days, the Administration is relying primarily on executive actions to implement its agenda, and that outcomes may take months or even years to fully parse.

## Reduce Federal Role

- Climate Change
- Emergency Management
- Foreign Policy, Education
- Deregulation
- Disinvestment / Impoundment
- Restructuring / Elimination
- Workforce Reduction

## Advance National Policy

- Energy and Mineral Development
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Immigration
- Accelerated Permitting
- Spending Conditions & Renegotiation
- Investigations & Enforcement
- Review & Rulemaking

## Deregulation

### Office of Management & Budget

- Centralize regulatory planning
- Planning & review standards
- Independent agency oversight
- Program termination and RIF
-

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## Dept. of Government Efficiency

- Rulemaking
- Workforce
- Grantmaking & Contracting

## Agencies

- Rulemaking & Policy
- Enforcement & Implementation

## Congress

- Congressional Review Act
- Appropriations & Impoundment
- Legislative Reforms

## Courts

- Statutory Interpretation (Chevron)
- Constitutional Interpretation

## Issue areas

### Impacts on Core Operations

- Agency capacity & priorities
- Energy emergency
- National Environmental Policy Act
- USACE Nationwide Permits

### Coastal Environments

- Waters of the United States
- Vessel Incidental Discharge Act
- Endangered species

### Ocean Management

- Offshore energy
- Regional Ocean Partnerships
- National Marine Sanctuaries & MPAs
- Aquaculture

Environmental Justice Rollback and hazard mitigation

Role of the Federal Government in Emergency Management

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The Administration has moved to block funds and remove data and language related to climate change, while publicly raising the possibility of reforming or even abolishing FEMA. Executive Order (EO) 14180, issued on January 24, established the Federal Emergency Management Agency Council, led by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, with recommendations due by August. This was followed by EO 14239, issued on March 19, titled “Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness.” These actions are connected to the development of a National Resilience Strategy, a National Critical Infrastructure Policy, and a National Risk Register overseen by the APNSA and OMB, which emphasize protecting “national infrastructure, related systems, and their users.” The Administration has framed this effort as a shift from an all-hazards approach to a risk-informed approach, moving beyond information sharing to concrete action. It has also argued that state and local governments have neglected investments in resilience, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness because they have long relied on an unlimited federal backstop.

## **Legislative Update**

Rebecca Dennis provides the following legislative updates:

The FY 2025 Continuing Resolution provides funding through September 30, 2025, but excludes earmarks and eliminates community special projects. It also does not include a joint explanatory statement. Instead, the bill sets only topline numbers for accounts such as ORF and PAC, while allowing funds to be moved around within those accounts. This structure grants the Administration significant authority to determine how much funding is allocated to individual programs.

The budget process is just beginning, with the President’s Budget not expected until late April or early May. In the meantime, many Congressional offices are now accepting appropriations requests, including those related to CZM funding and community special projects. As part of this process, NOAA and CZMA letters are being prepared. The CZMA House letter will be led by Representatives Van Drew (R-NJ) and Larsen (D-WA), while the NOAA “wet” letters will be championed by Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) in the Senate and Representative Bonamici (D-OR) in the House.

Other possible budget-related actions include a Rescissions Package, which provides the legal mechanism for the Administration to cut funding under the Impoundment Control Act. In this process, the President must submit a request to Congress, which can then introduce resolutions to accept some or all of the proposals. Debate is limited, and only a simple majority is required for passage, but the resolutions must be approved within 45 days. Another potential action is a Budget Resolution, which outlines fiscal goals for up to ten years but does not carry the force of law. Currently, the House and Senate are working from a House-passed resolution and will need to negotiate a single resolution that both chambers can adopt. Finally, a Budget Reconciliation process may be used to reconcile tax and spending laws in order to meet the goals of the budget resolution; however, it can only address revenues, spending, and debt limits.

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CSO is supporting several pieces of legislation currently before Congress. Introduced bills include the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2025, introduced as H.R. 284 by Representative Joyce (R-OH) in the House and as S. 528 by Senator Peters (D-MI) in the Senate. Another key bill is the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, introduced as H.R. 583 by Representative Joyce (R-OH) and as S. 508 by Senator Wyden (D-OR). In addition to these measures, CSO anticipates the introduction of the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act.

The Federal Consistency issue is highlighted by the introduction of the Coastal Commission Accountability Act (H.R. 1874), also known as the Kiley Bill. This legislation would impact all coastal management programs by presuming concurrence in virtually all scenarios. It grants the Secretary of Commerce the authority to nullify “the conclusive presumption of concurrence” if the Secretary determines that an activity is not a covered activity. Under the bill, objections from states would not be permitted to delay or otherwise prevent an activity from proceeding. Currently, the bill has no cosponsors, no Senate companion legislation, and its prospects remain uncertain, although hearings are still possible.

## **Appropriations/Hill messaging**

In upcoming Congressional meetings, CSO will emphasize several key asks. On funding, the organization will highlight the importance of timely FY 2025 spend plans and advocate for \$108.5 million in FY 2026 appropriations—an increase from \$81.5 million in FY 2024—along with support for community requests. For NOAA, CSO will stress the value of the Office for Coastal Management to state programs, underscoring its role as a strong partner, while also noting the need for adequate staffing. On federal consistency, CSO will emphasize how the program upholds state and local priorities, protects states’ rights, and advances the quality of life for Americans who live, work, and recreate along the coasts. Finally, CSO will encourage Members to cosponsor the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act upon its introduction.

## **Chair’s Initiative: Communications**

Ms. McCall speaks about her Chair’s Initiative and invited members to provide input. Building on the CSO Strategic Plan, she highlights the importance of strengthening capacity and education by sharpening CSO’s messaging, addressing federal developments, identifying and securing funding, and developing impact stories along with a content repository. She also emphasizes the need for tailored communications, with a focus on priority Congressional actions, educating and supporting coastal champions, and engaging CSO’s broader community and partner networks.

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CSO introduced new communications tools designed to strengthen outreach and engagement. A Messaging and Content Ideas Form will allow members to submit suggestions for new communications products—such as fact sheets, talking points, and social media highlights—as well as share content like successful messaging examples, photos, and new resources. In addition, a Messaging and Story Bank will provide a searchable and sortable repository of talking points, stories, and other communications materials. CSO is also working to refresh existing communications, including strengthening outreach to congressional offices, rallying partners by demonstrating the impacts of Coastal Programs, and calendaring key communications moments throughout the year.

## **CSO Business**

### **Approval of Minutes from 2024 Fall Meeting**

Members reviewed the minutes from the 2024 Fall Meeting and voted to approve them. The vote passed with no comments.

Steve Couture – moves

Arati Kaza – seconds

### **Treasurers Report**

Amber Westerbur introduces herself, notes that the final reconciliation has not yet been completed, and provided the following updates:

#### **Income**

Acct under # 4005 – State Dues – The amount is higher than budgeted because all but one state member was able to pay their dues in 2024.

Acct under # 4010 – Ex-Officio – The amount is also higher this year because all the Ex-Officio members were able to pay their dues in 2024.

Accts # 4205 – DC and Georgia Meeting Revenues – The amount is higher than budgeted because of the increased number of participants joining CSO's Meetings in 2024.

Accts # 4210 – Other Meeting Revenue – This line accounts for the NOAA PMM income CSO received from Cvent registrations.

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Acct under # 4780 – 2022 NOAA Coop Agreement – This amount represents the remaining funds from a previous agreement.

Acct under # 4780.1 – NOAA Coop Agreement – This line includes Great Lakes project work, Digital Coast Connect projects, and CSO NOAA PMM contract.

Acct under # 4800 – Management Fees CSSF – Total funds received from CSSF in 2024 amounted to \$562,972.69; however, \$222,892.61 was allocated to CSSF staff salaries. This leaves the total fiscal sponsor income for CSO at \$340,080.08, which is higher than the budgeted amount due to increased ROP spending and funding received in 2024.

## Expenses

Accts under # 5001 & 5100 – Personnel Costs/Benefits – These lines are lower due to the removal of CSSF staff costs.

Acct # 5160 – Other Benefits – This total is higher than the budgeted because it includes Vidya's U.S. visa renewal costs.

Acct # 5203 – Supplies – This line is over budget because it includes supply purchases under the NOAA Digital Coast grant for Delaware.

Acct # 5212 – Website – As a reminder, this line is higher than budgeted due to the complete upgrade of CSO's website.

Acct # 5215 – Computer Maintenance – This line is higher than budgeted due to an increase in the upkeep and maintenance of equipment.

## **FY 2025 – Budget v. Actual Report basis on accrual basis**

### Income

# 4005 State Dues: Currently, we are at approximately 55% of the budget for this line, which is lower than expected and compared to last year's figures.

# 4200 Meetings & Events: This account is higher than expected because invoices were already sent out to members.

# 4800 Management Fees: Please note that this amount only reflects totals from January, as CSSF staff and the accountant are still in the process of closing their February books.

## **Expenses**

### Expenses

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#5001 Personnel Costs: As an FYI, CSO staff worked with the new accountant to remove all CSSF staff costs from the primary section of CSO’s books; however, these expenses will continue to be accounted for separately “behind the scenes.”

All other expenses are on track for this time of year.

## Accounts snapshot

Please ask members to review the attached snapshot file of CSO’s balance accounts.

<b>CSO Accounts Balance Snapshot</b>		
<b>Accessible Accounts</b>	<b>as of March 1, 2025</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Truist Checking	\$432,620.00	This account is primarily designated for CSO's day-to-day financial needs, such as paying salaries and other regular expenses.
Truist Money Market	\$115,811.15	This account also serves as a secondary accessible account for CSO's operations, but it yields interest.
<b>Total Cash-on-Hand</b>	<b>\$548,431.15</b>	
<b>Investment Accounts</b>		
Truist CD 4.00% interest	\$209,516.00	Maturity date 06/21/2025
Ameriprise as of February 2025	\$393,461.64	Mutual Funds Investment account. This account has a very conservative portfolio where the larger portion of funds is placed into low-risk investments.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$602,977.64</b>	
<b><i>Overall Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,151,408.79</i></b>	



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Mr. Brockbank shares that audit for both organizations is scheduled to start in later April.

## **CSO Policies**

Mr. Brockbank shares that today members will review and vote on two policies: the Coral Reefs Policy and the Coastal Hazards, Resilience, and Climate Change Policy. He reminds members of his earlier email, noting that after the policies were circulated, comments were received from different jurisdictions, which are now proposing edits.

### **Coral Policy**

Amendments proposed to CSO Coral Reefs Policy

- Stronger recognition of the reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act and the codification of US Coral Reef Task Force, included within the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. (Authorized through FY 2027).
- Strengthen funding language to call for full funding at authorized levels for coral jurisdictions and ensure funding for Coral Reef Disaster Fund and National Ocean and Coastal Security Fund
- Increased coordination with Coastal Zone Management Programs
- Encouraging solutions through the Reef Research Coordination Institutes and Coral Reef Research Centers
- Remove section on regional solutions (now incorporated into the section on applied research)
- Remove section on international coordination

### **Coastal Hazards Policy**

- November: Table for further revision, alignment with new language policy
- December & January: Revisions via hazards work group, email
- February & March: Messaging shift at program level; additional feedback received
- Lapses May 18, 2025 – by default, decisions go to Ex Comm vote

Potential Policy Areas

- Federal Role in EM
- Robust & flexible funding for mitigation
- Build capacity at state and local level
- Poss: NFIP Reauthorization, Floodplain management

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## Coastal Erosion

- Coastal program niche
- [Existing policy]

## Federal Investments

- Design standards [e.g., FFRMS]
- Nonstructural / nature-based solutions
- Corals [cf existing policy]

## Federal Coastal Data and Research

- Using best science - [Identify key products]
- Flood mapping backlog
- Fed/state coordination on data gap filling

## Principles (Not specific to this policy)

- State Leadership (funding, sovereignty, federal consistency, public trust)
- Process Alignment (planning, investment, permits)
- Federal Program Efficiency (access)
- Design & Plan for Future Conditions
- Level Playing Field for Nature-Based Solutions

## Goal for Today's Discussion

- Reflect national consensus
- Align messaging for national audience
- Aware of changes in state priorities
- Get on same page re near-term priorities

## How We Would Use

- Respond to bills and rulemaking
- Engage Hill and National Partners
- Build coalition
- Track developments and inform members
- Not an exclusive list of issues to work on

## Next Steps (Proposed)

- Today: Refine high level priorities (no final decisions)
- April-May: Draft via hazards work group
- Develop short policy document
- Discuss federal role, FEMA reform
- May: Circulate with members
- Early summer: Membership vote

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- Fall meeting: Amend as needed

## **Coral Policy vote**

Following a brief discussion, members agreed to hold a vote on moving forward with the updated recommendations and approved the edits contained in the redline document. Steve Couture makes the motion. Tancred Miller seconded the motion. Motion is approved. Ohio abstains.

## **Coastal Hazards**

Following a brief discussion, members agreed to postpone further consideration, as some wished to have additional time to provide edits. Kisha Santiago moved to table the vote and develop an abbreviated document. Amber Westerbur seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## **CSO Project Updates**

### **Sediment (Manomet)**

Mr. Ryan-Henry states that Manomet Conservation Sciences, CSO, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are collaborating on a beneficial use project aimed at strengthening coastal habitat resiliency. The project is supported through funding from the Wildlife Conservation Society's 2022 Climate Adaptation Fund and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund.

As part of this effort, the partners conducted a series of workshops designed to map critical information. These sessions focused on aligning sediment availability from dredging projects with appropriate placement opportunities to maximize environmental benefits.

Building on this work, USACE identified the highest-priority projects for engagement and placement. The outcomes of the workshops were compiled into a messaging document intended to assist nonprofits and other agencies in advancing related initiatives.

In addition, a series of webinars has been held to share this information more broadly and to address common challenges. These discussions highlighted barriers such as permitting requirements, potential coastal impacts, and other implementation hurdles, while also offering strategies to overcome them.

### **Great Lakes (GLRI E&D, GLCRS and ASFPM)**

Vidya Balasubramanyam states that the project brings together several key partners, including the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Coastal States Organization, the American Planning Association, and the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. Their

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collaboration combines expertise in floodplain management, coastal policy, community planning, and regional research to advance shared resilience goals.

The initiative is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through its 2022 National Coastal Resilience Fund, which supports projects that strengthen coastal ecosystems and communities against the impacts of climate change and other hazards.

The project engages community teams from across the Great Lakes region, including the City of New Baltimore, Michigan; the City of St. Clair Shores, Michigan; Minnesota Point, Minnesota; and Wayne County, New York. These communities are actively involved in advancing local resilience efforts and tailoring strategies to meet their unique coastal challenges.

As part of the initiative, the project will deliver a range of tools and resources to support these communities. Key deliverables include Coastal Resilience Self-Assessments, a Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard, and Scenario Planning Reports. In addition, each community will develop its own Community Action Plan, supported by outreach materials and a Funding Opportunity Crosswalk to help identify and secure resources for implementation.

## **NWF and CSO Partnership Goals**

Natalie Cross stated that this partnership will help reduce the barriers frontline communities face in accessing and using natural and nature-based infrastructure approaches. It will also support CZMPs in providing community technical assistance and in strengthening their relationships with the communities they serve.

### **Supporting Under-resourced Communities**

- NWF - Doing work in Chester PA for frontline communities to improve their access to nature-based infrastructure funding.
- Digital Coast Connects – Completed purchases for Delaware Resilience Hub
- NWF next steps – tribal engagement; case studies to analyze states' roles in climate driven coastal relocation

## **Public Trust Doctrine workshop**

Mr. Ryan-Henry highlights the following for this project:

- National Sea Grant Law Center is convening government practitioners to chart a roadmap for supporting the next generation of state leadership in coastal management.

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- Proposed to be on June 10, 2025, at Reservoir Center – focused on state leadership and state sovereignty in relationship to the coasts.

## **“No Adverse Impact”/Digital Coast Fellow Project Plan**

Allie Pouliot shares the following updates:

- Coastal No Adverse Impact Project – the focus is on updating and refreshing the handbook (originally written in 2007)
- Goal is to make it more accessible, engaging, with modular training.
- Out of 7 building blocks, she is leading the Hazard Identification and Mapping building block.
- She also presented at Coastal Geotools in January.
- Ms. Pouliot reminds members to fill out the survey of the needs assessment.

## **Knauss Fellowship Project Planning**

Spenser Wipperfurth shares the following updates:

- Working on science policy to improve community access to resources  
Spenser’s role at FEMA is to look at Benefit Costs Analysis toolkit expansion and beach mitigation guidance and eligibility.
- On the CSO side, she will be CHPA working group point of contact, will continue coastal resilience conservations, and Great Lakes engineering projects.
- She intends to talk to members about FEMA projects – issues states and territories have run into re: working with FEMA on beach projects. She also wants to learn about federal role in emergency management.

## **Coastal Stewardship Foundation Update**

Mr. Brockbank provides an update on CSSF and highlights the following:

In December 2024, CSSF bid a fond farewell to Board members Gwynne Schultz and Terry Howey in recognition of their service and contributions.

Several current Board members began new terms on January 1. James Murley, Tony MacDonald, Ryan Orgera, and Jessie Ritter each commenced new two-year terms, while Mike Friis, Tancred Miller, and Fran Castro began new four-year terms.

CSSF is also pleased to welcome new members to the Board. Lisa Engler, Deputy Managing Director for Offshore Wind at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, has joined the Board, and Sara Gonzalez-Rothi, formerly with the Council on Environmental

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Quality, along with Heather Stirratt of the International Joint Commission Great Lakes (and former NOAA), are expected to join in April.

Hillary Reddock joined the CSSF team in December as second full-time Grants Administrator.

CSO and CSSF welcomed Between the Fences in Fall 2024 as new contracted accounting firm to work with both organizations.

In general, federal funding that supports the work of all CSSF partners is still active.

BOEM contracts related to the work of RWSC is currently under review for consistency with recent Executive Orders, but work is still ongoing.

ROPs are still slated to submit their applications for last round of BIL funds (Year 4 and Year 5). Applications are due April 7.

No update on the status of annual regional data sharing funds for FY25, but we hope to have more information within next month or two.

## **Continuing Support for Under-Resourced Communities**

### Meaningful Engagement Environmental Justice Breakout Group

Participants identified several opportunities to strengthen community engagement. Partnerships with community-based organizations can be valuable for building credibility, establishing trust, and gaining access to communities, though challenges may arise if the organization has a different agenda. Expanding outreach efforts could include translating materials, exploring new marketing approaches such as bus-side posters or inserts in bills and mailers, and creating engaging templates and best practices that CSO could help provide. Incentives like food, gifts, or contests may also encourage participation. Increasing access to meetings was highlighted as another opportunity, with suggestions such as holding them outside typical work hours or on weekends, choosing local venues, and offering transportation or childcare support. However, access to social media platforms varies by state, and political dynamics in certain areas can also influence engagement.

At the same time, several barriers were noted. Funding limitations and short grant timelines can restrict what is possible, while it can also be difficult to determine how much outreach is “enough.” Efforts to ensure inclusivity—such as holding smaller group meetings so everyone can contribute—require more time and resources. Additionally, communities often lack the actual power to effect change, which can discourage participation. Other challenges include establishing meaningful metrics to measure impact, addressing issues of trust and credibility, managing staff turnover, and

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navigating the political climate. The need for translation services was also noted as a recurring challenge. As one example, in Delaware a community event had a promising concept but ultimately only drew a single participant. For follow-up, participants suggested reviewing Sarah Schecter's work on community engagement strategies, which explores what motivates people to attend events, though further information is pending a response to an outreach email.

## **Upcoming Meeting Prep**

### **Adjourn**

Ms. McCall thanks the members and adjourn the meeting at 5 pm ET.

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## **Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

*Members and Guests Day*

### **Welcome**

CSO's Chair, Catherine McCall welcomes the attendees and opens the meeting.

### **Meeting presentations**

#### **How Federal Agencies are approaching Coastal Management policy and funding over the next 2 years**

OWOW EPA – Brian Frazer

- Jessica Cramer – Appointed nominee assistant administrator; chief of policy in Trump 1.0
- Principal Deputy assistant admin (acting AA for the moment) – Peggy Brown
- In good standing with Leadership currently
- Administrator Zeldin's Pillars
  - Clean Air, Land and Water – Want to move from guidance language and be consistent with what is statutorily required.
  - Restore American Energy
  - Permitting Reform, Coop Federalism and Cross-Agency Partnership
  - Protecting Cars
- OWOW Mission
  - Using our statutory authorities, OWOW leads National efforts to protect and restore freshwater, coastal wetland and ocean ecosystems
    - Reduce and prevent water pollution
    - Assess, monitor and communicate the quality of our nation's waters
    - Fund the restoration and protection of water quality
  - OWOW Support for Pillar #1 and #3
    - Clean water Act standard, permits and grants
    - Marine Protection and Research and Sanctuaries Act (Monitoring and Permits)
    - Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization (319)
    - National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)
    - Wetland restoration
    - Gulf Hypoxia taskforce
    - National Estuary Program
    - National Water quality initiative
- Program Updates



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- Waters of the United States
  - On 3/12/25 the EPA and Dept. of Army announced a joint memo issuing guidance to field staff on implementation of “continuous surface connection” consistent with SCOTUS’s May 25, 2023, decision in the case of Sackett Vs. EPA
  - The agencies are committed to obtaining stakeholder input
  - The listening sessions will be held as web and in-person conferences in late March-May 2025 Site should be updated soon with specific info.
- NEP
  - Approx. 86 million in infrastructure investment and jobs act funds have been delivered to NEPs (as of 3/2025)
  - New Program Guidance (issued 3/25)
    - Aligns with pillars and exec orders
    - Implements the protect and restore Americas estuaries act
    - Directs NEPs to address effects of recurring extreme weather events on the estuary and to increase public ed and awareness of the Ecological health and water quality conditions of estuary
    - Leverages \$1 to \$15.
    - Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary of National Significance Acts
    - Directs the EPA to give priority consideration to these but they need \$\$ in place to ensure it’s sustainable.
  - Marine Pollution and Protection – EPA Marine program in 2023 over 36 m cubic yards of dredged material, was permitted or authorized under the MPRSA to be dumped at 98 ESA designated ocean sites – playing a critical infrastructure role in maintaining coastal port and navigation channels
  - EPA responsibilities
  - Nonpoint Source Updates
    - Gulf Hypoxia implementation Memo
      - Issued 3/25/2025
      - Requests the Hypoxia Task Forces states to submit workplan
  - CZM reauthorization Amendments
    - Jointly administered by EPA and NOAA
      - CZMP and Clean water act Sec. 319

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- To date 31 of the 34 state and territorial coastal nonpoint
- Future Collaboration
  - Information Sharing
  - Outreach on EPA Resources
  - Opportunities for engagement
    - Connections with NEPs and EPAs Geographic programs
    - Natural infrastructure
    - Habitat Restoration, including coral reefs and areas of coastal resilience
    - BUDM
    - MPRSA
- Cuts to funding are almost guaranteed, but don't know about staffing.
- Questions:
  - AL: Commissioner chairs committees with the Alabama NEPS and has them influencing CZM 309 Priorities. Pillar #5 Dauphin Island causeway project protects roadways and oyster industry.
  - CA CC: Thank you for the bay programs

USFWS – Coastal Program: Annie Sawabini

- USFW- Working with others to conserve protect and enhance fish wildlife and plants
- Statutory Authorities
  - Coastal habitat conservation Act of 2023~
  - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Helped protect 2.5 million acres of habitat; restore 660,000 acres of habitat; conserve 3,000 + miles of streams
- Coastal Program Partners
  - Work with anyone who wants to come to the table
  - Work on private, tribal and public lands
  - Technical and financial assistance
- National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants
  - Not appropriations but taxes on sport fishing equipment
- How to help support:
  - Help us get the message out! It's not just critters! We're important to coastal states and communities
  - Waiting to hear about reorganization, once an administrator is in place
- No Priorities yet, DOI priorities are very high level and mostly focused on energy not conservation at this point.

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- Questions
  - NE rep serves on ROP and salt marsh NEP. Drones for surveys now available!
  - How does being authorized impact?
    - We have something to point to when someone ask why we are doing something and helps to ask for more \$\$
  - Economic Info: Provide annually and now historically to start of the program
  - How much do you work with EPA Geo programs like GLRI:
    - GL work very closely with GLRI.
    - Great Bat info!
  - CMNI – Mariannas Trench National Monument
    - Hoping that budgets will remain flat to help with that. Largest Property in wetland system.

BOEM, Office of Strategic Resources: Megan Carr – Associate Director for Strategic Resources,

- Priorities for offshore Energy and Minerals
  - Everything is outer continental shelf
  - Biggest addition is in Alaska region (large amount of landmass added)
  - Extends to leasing rights in territories looking at environmental conditions and mineral deposits of themselves
- Oil and Gas Leasing Program Overview
  - Establishes a 5-year schedule of potential offshore oil and gas lease sales
  - Specifies the potential size timing and location of leasing activity that the Sec. of Interior determines will best meet national energy needs, as outline in Section 18 and OCS Lands Act
  - Early review will be in national register soon.
  - Lease Sale 262, 263, 264 Map depicts the gulf of America area identification
  - Proposed notice of sale.

Status of GOA Programatic EIS

Revenue statistics

Boem's role in Coastal Resilience

Marine Minerals Programs ensures stewardship of sand and environmental by

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Helping to find where OCS sand is and is not

Facilitating the USE of OCS Sand

National offshore Sand inventory

Critical Minerals

- Strategic Priorities for offshore critical minerals (2019; being updated by an interagency group)
  - Advance resource eval and environ assessment standards and info assets
  - Advance assessment of offer critical minerals
- Questions:
  - Lack of resources and sand studies in the USVI and PR.
    - Looking at regional approaches to sand management
  - Mineral exploration how does it relate to Law of the Sea?
    - BOEM is on the Int Seabed Authority, but that doesn't mean that the US will automatically meet regulations there.
  - Atlantic coast minerals? There is some on a shelf from the 1970s, going back to look next year, but it's not entirely economical to harvest the less amount to the resources.

## **USACE Panel: Planning and project development focusing on Nature Based and Non-Structural Solutions**

- Transitioning Nature Based Solution
  - Engineering with Nature is the USACE Tool that everyone is most knowledgeable about
  - There are many nature-based solutions that have been researched and included in the Atlas however many have not made it onto the ground as projects
- To get them to the ground you need:
  - Planning and policy to develop guidance and metrics
  - Engineering to develop manuals and construction
  - Operations and regulatory
  - EWN Engineering Research and development center
- Engineering with Nature cadre was interviewed about NBS implementation and identified knowledge gaps/pushback as the greatest barrier followed by risks and costs

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- Agency Specific Procedures – new way of assessing benefits that focus on Net Public Benefits
  - This is enabled by a memo called comprehensive documentation of benefits in decision making
- EWN and Jacobs Engineering develop technical guidance for NbS.
  - They are and will continue to make an Engineering Pamphlet
  - Highlights include designs conditions for floodplain bench, Wood toe protection, oyster reefs, coastal wetlands
    - What else would the group like to see guidance on?
      - Corals?
  - ERDC and Engineering with Nature have been collaborating over the last several years to advance nature-based solutions implementation
  - Communication withing USACE is a key point of focus and working to get different offices speaking together
    - Has been a larger barrier for NBS
    - Using existing comms and developing collaborations with existing good NbS comms
      - Silver Jackets, Tribal Nations, international
      - Strategic Communications for NbS: bring it up early and often!
  - Panel – The Corps is moving to operationalize NbS using existing authorities (WRDA), statutory challenges?
    - Last few WRDAs have outlined need for implementation of NbS, broadened aperture to investigate opportunities
    - Technical capacity has been what has held us back as well as risk – what risk are people willing to live with? Agency Specific procedures have allowed USACE to pull in different teams to address these concerns.

A member asked about how the corps establishes proving grounds for NbS – when does the Corps engage the states? CZMA reviews under consistency but would like to be included more upfront.

## **Member Updates**

Executive committee and other regional representatives lead a session to share regional updates.

## **Northeast Region**

Alison Brizius kicks off the presentation by stating that this year's updates will focus on the economic value of each of the coastal programs.

**Maine** – Working Waterfront Access Protection Program

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- It protects significant working waterfront
- Creating a covenant
- Protections against future development that is incompatible with WWF
- Accessible and affordable to support marine economy

## **New Hampshire** – Hampton Seabrook Estuary – Salt Marsh Restoration and Flood Reductions

- Coastal Economy activity in that estuary – 1,745 businesses, 17,252 employees, \$1.2 billion in wages \$1.97 billion residential value
- Impacts (3ft SLR & Surge) – 255 businesses, 1,780 impacted employees, \$6.41 Million tax loss (Hampton) ~10%
- Risk Reduction Efforts – 120 acres of salt marsh restoration, neighborhood scale stormwater/flood reduction

## **Massachusetts** – ResilientCoasts Plan (A guide to state & local policy & management actions on the coast) – final public review for comment will be done in the spring 2025

- Map climate vulnerabilities districts (long and near term)
- Evaluate current and new strategies (based on scales)
- Development of recommendations for state-led actions

## **Rhode Island** – ACOE Pawcatuck Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

- There are 4,800 ocean shoreline residential structures identified, with property valuations totaling over \$600 million.
- Study found that 247 structures are recommended for elevation (82 homeowners signed on)
- Requires a state cost share, and owners can repay the state with low to zero interest.
- Local contractors are being hired to complete the work

## **Connecticut** – Expansion of boat facility (Electric Boat/Dale Wicks (EB) boat manufacturing facility is expanding to build submarines)

- CT DEEP- took a unique permitting approach which allowed for permittees to work with a third party to address impacts to coastal resources
- Economic impact – manufacturing company has 15,000 employees in CT, and it contracts with 333 suppliers in the state
- By 2040, the company will have manufactured 12 Columbia class submarines
- EB invested about \$2.2 billion in capital investments in CT and RI

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## **Mid-Atlantic Region**

Nick Angarone provides the following highlights from the region.

### **New York** – Advancing Environmental Bond Act

- Infrastructure programs to implement restoration, rehabilitation, and flood risk reduction
- Growth sectors – maritime, infrastructure planning and implementation, energy planning
- Geographic information gateway – expand capabilities to support locals (e.g., Kids MapVenture)

### **New Jersey** – Implementing Resilience Action Plans

- The Resilient NJ program has supported 32 municipalities in developing community-led, risk informed Resilience Action Plans at the local and regional scales.
- These efforts have led to over \$26.5 million in federal investments for these communities to implement the actions identified in their plans

### **Delaware** – Skimmer Says Podcast – An Estuarine Podcast and Climate Action Plan Ocean and Bay

- Hosted by DNERR Education team
- Highlights coastal management programs, experts, and research
- Provide action and guidance to public and private sector to improve resilience

### **Maryland** – Coastal Flood Explorer

- MD CZM has been working with local partners to create a new flooding visualization tool that will be released in 2025
- This project was funded through a Project of Special Merit and provides localized historic, current and future flood risk as well as accompanying data and suggested use cases

### **Virginia** – Virginia Ocean Plan (Open Forum)

- Looking for input from workgroups and public forums
- Reviewing recommendations from workgroups
- 309 Assessment & Strategy – considering strategies for coastal hazards, wetlands, ocean resources, and marine debris
- CELCP Plan – Virginia Ecological Value Assessment

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## **Southeast Regional Updates**

**North Carolina** is pursuing the acquisition of a 97 acre parcel totaling 7 million dollars to improve public access.

**South Carolina** is working on a Vessel Turn In Program, where about 13 boats were turned in last year. US Virgin Islands is looking at finding ways to do something similar.

**Georgia** Coastal Program is working on their Resilience Academy – elected officials are getting exposed to resilience tools to identify resilience needs within their constituencies. They are now receiving requests from other communities for this training.

**US Virgin Islands** – after 54 years, a comprehensive land and water use plans has been signed and adopted! This will help make better land and water use decisions. This means they now have a roadmap for this work.

## **Great Lakes Regional Updates**

4,530 miles of shoreline in the Great Lakes!

Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study is going on right now. Lots of work, engagements, analyses, and collaborations.

Almost 30 million people, earning 1.3 trillion dollars, enjoying 6 quadrillion gallons of water. Great Lakes is an economic powerhouse. Maritime, industrial, commercial economies generate trillions of dollars in GDP.

**Minnesota** is celebrating 25 years of coastal program existence. They are working on visitor improvements for public access and working with Chippewa tribes on cultural impacts.

**Wisconsin** is working on the restoration of Samuel Myers Park in the City of Racine which leveraged 23 funding sources to improve public access and public health outcomes! They have a storymap that shows the past and present “before and after” of the park to show what outcomes look like. This helps show how coastal programs are making a difference on the ground. The unique nature of this is that communities garnered private funds first and then used it as match for other public funding sources.

**Illinois** – Openlands Nature Preserve – working on engineering, design and permitting for bluff and ravine restoration to maintain this nature preserve. They conducted an Indigenous water ceremony and land healing ceremony. First time working with tribes on this project.



# COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

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**Indiana** – Working on a trail connecting Chicago to New Buffalo. Over a 100 million dollars have been invested in this trail. 650 million dollars invested in putting in a train line to improve these connections. Every year, they fund projects out of this long-term vision of connectivity. A Regional Development Authority came out of this vision to implement large projects. These projects are intergenerational – regardless of administration, partisanship, etc. - everyone is working to implement this vision of decommissioning the coal power plant and removing the state prison to improve the coastline.

**Ohio** – over 50 state, federal, local grants to protect more than 25,000 acres of coastal habitat. More than 8 million dollars awarded to over 150 projects since 1998.

In **Michigan**, City of Maysville – an accessible kayak launch was installed thanks to coastal program funding. This is a huge economic development project for their community.

In **Pennsylvania**, coastal program is working with communities to monitor Harmful Algal Blooms that has a direct impact on their economy. HABs deter visitors from tourism and recreation in the coastal zone.

**New York** state – has an approved National Marine Sanctuary! They are looking at economic impacts to evaluate the contributions of their marine sanctuary. also studying ports – and addressing challenges relating to navigation, commerce, sustainability. Their local waterfront revitalization program encourages local communities to access funds for local improvements to community stewarded areas. They used 306 funds to do this!

## **Gulf Coast Regional Updates**

The gulf is focusing on expanding the economy through net oil exports (only region in the country that does that), as well as preserving natural resources & supporting tourism.

**Texas** – deepwater port permits, there is one in Louisiana, but TX is receiving a lot of applications right now. The TX general land office is in charge of reviewing applications under the deepwater port act. Two applications had permits issued – both in same location (only one will likely be developed)

**Louisiana** – expansion of LNG Terminal, \$18 billion, going to be the largest LNG facility in the US. Has a deepwater port program that has been in place for about 2 decades and operates w/ almost no spills and protecting the environment.

**Mississippi** – have been expanding their off-bottom oyster aquaculture program, 465 acres under lease (81 acres are sub-leased) and 48 different lessees/businesses. 1.7

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million oysters have been produced, cost ~\$1 per oyster at wholesale price, and 97 people have gone through their aquaculture training program.

**Alabama** – Coastal Area management Program comprehensive program that allows for public access improvement, they funded the City of Foley to make improvements that contributing over \$70 million in economic growth

**Florida** – Added their 43<sup>rd</sup> aquatic preserve, the Crystal Jacobs Coral Reef Aquatic Conservation Preserve. Over 2.6 million acres in their aquatic preserve system and attracts many tourists which is a big economic driver for Florida.

## **West Coast Regional Updates (Natalie)**

**Washington** – launched an interagency program (COHORT) to provide hands-on assistance & capacity to communities facing coastal resilience challenges. In their first year, COHORT helped tribes & coastal communities secure \$77 million in funding, with another ~\$30 million in progress right now. CZM is also working with Washington Sea Grant to establish a new coastal resilience fellowship program, workforce development to provide capacity to rural/small communities at no cost to the community.

**Oregon** – Closed on a 27 acre acquisition as Cape Foul Weather, protects many natural resources & connects upland to the coast, as well as gives the land back to the local tribe. Another acquisition project is underway planning to give another 40 acres back to the tribe (utilizing BIL funds).

**CA Coastal Conservancy** – Wildfire Resilience Program has awarded over \$50 million to projects since starting in 2022, training and providing support to fire management projects.

**BCDC** – Updated PG&Es Bay Wide programmatic permits, leading to 800 new towers in the bay. The permits that were being operated under were from the 60s, so needed an update to better protect the bay's natural resources and create a more streamlined and efficient process. Large projects (full tower replacement) will require individual permits, but smaller repair projects will be covered under this permit, saving a lot of time on both sides.

**CA Coastal Commission** – permit streamlining project for CA's open access broadband middle mile network, hoping to provide affordable and fast internet to close the digital divide in California, using public lands along state highways. A majority of the network runs under CCC's jurisdiction, so CCC collaborated with Caltrans to consolidate the permitting efforts across the transportation jurisdictions.

## **Pacific Islands Updates**

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**Guam** – created land use planning tool, that proposed allowing septic tanks on smaller parcels of land and sparks some concerns about contamination of aquifer resources. Provides precise information on a parcels' location and sensitivities and can possibly be used by other permitting agencies outside of CZM.

**CNMI** – NOAA Coastal Management Fellow has added capacity to update a CNMI-wide comprehensive wetlands management plan by August of 2026. Development pressures & invasive species threaten the wetland ecosystems, challenges such as competing jurisdiction & unique land-ownership laws have made coordinated protection difficult. Hosted a workshop in January with 25 participants from a number of agencies to begin data collection. Planning to host other workshops on other islands this summer.

**American Samoa** – launched their first online land use permit application system this February, increased efficiency and transparency, and generates increased permit revenue which is a big economic benefit for the island.

**Hawai'i** -- Shoreline Adaptation Initiatives around development that was legal at time of construction but no longer is with new Regulations. Regional Shoreline Management – developed a delineation methodology to determine the appropriate size of regions and begin to work on pilot projects. SLR Vulnerability Assessment tool for state facilities, to ensure that state adaptation efforts are aligned across the state, as well as guidance on how to develop adaptation pathway plans and small adaptation actions in every maintenance request.

## **How CSO and CZMPs are approaching Coastal Management issues over the next 2 years**

### Working Waterfronts Breakout Group

- Maine's Working Waterfronts
  - Has a dedicated staff member and won \$69 million in CRRC, which is going toward another staff member for 5 years
  - More aquaculture in the area
  - Non profits, regional planning connected to CZM
  - Efforts to inventory:
    - Public access – lots of private property. Want to look at activities, use, management
    - Shellfish protection
    - Property owners
  - WW access protection program – grant funded
    - Must preserve access in perpetuity

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- Through Land for Maine’s Future (they fund one staff for the nonprofit) and the NERR
  - 10 meetings with Sea Grant, Island Institute on storm response and preparedness – issuing a report this spring
  - Needs:
    - Building capacity, resource access, long-term planning
  - Highlight local heroes
  - Stonington lobster co-op has been bought and reconstructed
  - 2 planning grants to get projects shovel-ready (shore and harbor improvement projects)
    - First cut if flat-funded
- Best messages:
  - Impact list – what would happen if the program was lost – people expect these services
  - Does any of this lead to other money or investment
  - Long term planning creates a covenant
    - Property owners might sell without thinking it through, CZM can protect the land and make improvements (there is demand for what we do)
  - Tangible stories – here's how we help, here's how you can help us
  - Catch is changing – how to support that?
  - Development pressure is incredibly intense – out of places to put houses
    - Show people that these areas are still serving a purpose if not developed
    - Only available land is wetlands or airgap limited (NY)
    - ME has a housing crisis – waterfront workers have to commute really far because there is nothing affordable by the water
      - Also, flooding cuts these areas off, so people can't get to work – want to get the boats back on the water
      - Still interest in working on the water
      - ME often thought of as the lead in working waterfronts
    - Sustained access to the coast, sustained economic benefit
  - NY has a maritime program – talk about economic benefits of stable, local jobs
  - NJ – people want to stay, even when it isn't safe, which is where long-term planning comes in
    - Trying to make tiny wastewater plants to serve the houses that are falling into the water
- WI has a strategic plan for their port, a harbor assistance plan
  - Doing an infrastructure inventory, asset inventories

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- o Some conflict between business improvement district and port in Milwaukee over public access and commercial activity, looking to find common goals
- Be careful when cleaning up – don't want to gentrify it, once it's clean, people want to come it
  - o How do we message “keep the dirty jobs”, importance of deep lake work
- Once waterfront space is gone, you never get it back
  - o If a park, you don't want to take it, if it's private, you usually can't
  - o Likened to death by a thousand cuts
- Oakland A's wanted to develop land in SF bay – turned out to be a draw, allowed to do so but didn't happen
- How much is development pressure happening nationally? Could help with making a case to the administration
  - o NWWN may be able to support that
- The port is not as sexy as a salt marsh, but is not renewable
  - o Some things are okay if they get wet and have to have access to the water
  - o Don't want to burden people by placing a port
- Certain waterfronts (New Bedford) can expand, other's can't
- Historic designations aren't protecting land
- Can we look at military waterfronts and use military funds (REPI)?
  - o Priority for sentinel landscapes
  - o There are often easements around military bases for safety reasons
  - o Maine Portsmouth shipyard naval could look at this
  - o RI military infrastructure resilience review  
<https://www.richamp.org/case-studies-and-demo/newport>
- Focus on the human value of the blue economy

## Beaches Breakout Group

–Holly shared that for Florida, the Coastal Access Guide was made using CZM funds.

- Funds were used for a GIS based tool on the web, looking to make it more friendly in next iteration.
  - o Used for funding decisions for beach nourishment.
- Local govt subgrants (up to 60,000) represent a bottom-up approach, ask communities to tell them what they need (dune walk ups, boardwalks, mobility mat, etc.)
  - o Looking to ask for benefit cost analysis and increased use assessment

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- Place based management – used CZM dollars in 309 assessment and used university partners to analyze beach visitation to aquatic preserves (up to 100 million visitors driving up to 12 trillion in local spending and 196,000 jobs, 10s of millions in state tax revenue).

## -USVI

- CZM in USVI acts primarily as regulator and permitter
- They are also one of the most long standing and trusted in the room and the local partner that can respond and connect when consulted
  - Department of tourism asked how developments bring investment into the area
  - Economic development agency shopping out parcels to developers but that may be backwards
    - ♣ It could be better for coastal management and community performance if agencies identified parcels and then decided as regulators what THEY want there and then shop for developers based on that
      - CZM funds could be used for that
- Subgrants for accessibility and public access
- How to sell their program through messaging
  - 1.2 million cruise ship passengers per year.
  - GDP wise their program protects 187 million dollars because of tourism
  - Additional 12.5% head tax per person staying.
  - Public spaces remain public for guests
  - They are acquiring parcels that would be open for public through partnerships and networking

## Feedback from others in the group:

- For communicating to the NOAA Chief of Staff, for example:
  - Tourism brings in half of the GDP in USVI, they are the long lived program that everyone goes to for connection
  - Protect public access and beach quality and that is the draw causing this tourism
  - 12 trillion dollars in local spending in Florida is on land managed by NDEP
  - People coming in from other countries and spending money here
  - Drop in hotel occupancy tax vs water quality
  - Lost beach days are damaging to economy
  - Offer a specific example

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- Be specific, focus on benefit dollars and total impact. For hill visits, share a story and bring human aspect into it.
- Can CSO collect CZMP impacts nationally?
- What total billions in tourism do we enable
- How many local jobs do they enable?
- How many visitors do grants from CZMPs enable?

Regional Ocean Partnership – how to calculate coastal and ocean economy methodology available

- Can we pull this as a deliverable?

*Aquaculture breakout group notes: (Rebecca Notes)*

Oyster collapse –

Bay Program (CZMA Oyster Heritage program – allocate funding over a number of years. One of the first challenges faced was wondering why restoration had not previously been successful.)

Oyster shell recovery... needed to provide a substrate to get the oysters up on the top of the water. VIMS

VMRC – rotation to avoid over harvesting.

Really looked at emphasizing the comms piece to talk about the quality and the history of oysters in VA (oyster trail and tour!) Working waterfronts were propped up by this. 2023 was the largest oyster harvest to date. Restaurants, fishing, etc.

Eel grass restoration by products was the increase of bay scallops to almost have a commercial fisheries. VIMS. Offshore conflicts are high right now. Collocate with wind.

Alabama – Oyster restoration efforts. Leasing structure for off the bottom aquaculture. Boutiques. Sea lab research oyster drill population. Mariculture center land based, 3 fish types and oyster. Offshore / NOAA just got permitted, sighting, on historical reefs and state submerged labs, in state waters. L

Texas – limited to only resources czmp does permitting and citing parks does the licensing; everything goes back to schools. Program to move oysters; Offshore has never come to fruition, research. Viability; Lots of concerns. Tensions between other restoration and

Georgia – Mariculture law in 2022. Trying to get the inshore leases put into place. Coregulated with dept. ag. FDA guidance.

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Rhode Island- Aquaculture in 1996. Use an space conflicts. Research permits to determine if this a a good area. Technology permits over the year. How far can you push until there is an issue. Kelp farming in the winter trying to find marketability.

NY – Fish pens? Fin Fish.

Guam – comprehensive planning and sustainability. Food sustainability. And economic incentives in to open up

- Partnerships within govt, universities and industry
- Self-sustaining over time, over time.
- Boutique industries
- Viability research
- Natural system has to be in balance.
- \$\$ or regulating
- Story telling / tourism
- Success is due to CZM
- We have to go to so many state agencies, make the process explainable and help them through the regulatory process.
- Appreciate the economy and conservation side.

## **Advancing Resilience and Coastal Hazard mitigation in a dynamic era (Natalie Notes)**

### **Part 1 – Panel**

#### **Panelists:**

- Alex Reed, Director, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Alison Brizius, Program Director, Office for Coastal Management, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
- Henry Bell, Senior Coastal Planner, Coastal Zone Management Program, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Moderator – Spenser

### ***How will Massachusetts' Resilient Coasts Initiative enable Cities & Communities?***

Alison:

- First step was to hire a Chief Resilience Officer and have someone to work fulltime
- Had several planning grants and support to create vulnerability analyses/plans for all 78 of their coastal communities



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- o Also been able to support ~60 of the communities in adaptation projects
- Realizing that the scale of support needed did not match what was available w/ the one-off grants and the capacity of local communities who had to apply repeatedly
  - o And also had communities coming to very different solutions and plans that are in conflict w/ their context & the state-level coastal policies
- State-level plan was meant to set consistent priorities & policies to support the municipalities in their initiative to do coastal resilience/adaptation
- Still in progress of developing this plan

## ***How has Washington's recent Projects of Special Merit helped to enhance local level work?***

Henry:

- Washington was awarded \$70 million+ CRRC to directly assist communities & tribes
- In 2023, the legislature allocated funds to an interagency coastal resilience team to provide capacity to local community adaptation projects (Henry/CZM is the coordinator)
- Both of those funds were due to PSM projects in the past
  - o 2021 – 2023: piloted the interagency concept through a PSM & identified over a 100 coastal hazard needs in a couple months, and only helped 3 get funding
  - o Community support and testimonials from the pilot project led to the legislature standing up the long-term interagency collaboration
- Needing to develop SLR guidance for consistency in qualifications and quality, being asked by local communities for this support

Alex:

- Office was only created in 2019 & the first time coastal-focused programs were consolidated in one programmatic unit
- Used a CZM grant to develop adaptation planning guidebook in 2018 – the first time they had provided guidance to communities on how to increase their resilience
- Received a lot of funding in the first year, to provide planning guidance, regional resilience entities, a flood hub (ensure everyone was using the same projections/etc), and implementation grants along with planning grants
- Also created CART initiative – CZM funded, staff would go into community and show publicly available tools & provide technical expertise
- State statutes required the creation of some tools:

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- Any new development required consideration of the impact of SLR, so the program created an online tool (Sea Level Impact Projection Tool) that required only 7 inputs and will spit out results
  - Tool is pulling data live from the publicly available data sources (constantly updating)
- Also created a State-wide vulnerability assessment tool that is also integrated with the SLIP tool

***How do you plan to continue the most important hazard mitigation plans/programs you were able to build during the influx of federal funding? Are there ways the CSO network can help?***

Alex:

- Created state-wide estuarine restoration team (FLERT), made up of 5 regional estuarine restoration teams
- Bringing together best management practices into a guidebook

Henry:

- Good acronyms are essential!!
- 65:1 return on investment of state dollars: federal funds they've brought in through COHORT
  - Most of it is the CRRC funding, but it's only been a little over a year
  - Still quite a lot of submitted proposals waiting for funds
- Also carried out over 300 community engagement / outreach events, to understand needs of communities

Alison:

- A lot of their past strategies have relied on leveraging federal programs, the scale of need is so large it requires leveraging local, state and federal funds
  - 40% of MA residents are in at-risk resilience districts
- Trying to stay nimble in ResilientCoasts
  - Trying to understand new funding / financing mechanisms
  - Still need to keep telling the story and leveraging federal dollars
  - Pivoting to near-term statistics & emergency management basics
  - Trying to embed work in other state agencies

***How Can the CSO Community Help You be Most Effective in your Continuity:***

Alison:

- Want to steal best practices & not reinvent the wheel
- Curious to learn more about FL's regional resilience scale initiatives

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- Would love to hear about how other states are advancing conversations about insurance's role in resilience
- Continue convening and being practical

Alex:

- Expanded who can fit within the regional resilience entities (now the National Estuary Programs are eligible)
  - Hoping to further the connection that started at CSO
- Need assistance in formulating grants / applications and know what funding sources are out there

Henry:

- Would like CSO to keep playing matchmaker, help programs learn from each other on the topics they're hoping to learn about
  - CSO staff to actually set up calls
- Sharing successful applications (past PSMs/etc)
- Chair's initiative on communications would be really helpful to create templates on brochures, factsheets, one-pagers, that states can plug and play around different success stories

## ***Audience Questions:***

Marlon Hibbert [USVI]: Is SLIP only for state-led projects?

- Alex – Yes, because the tool is only for the state of Florida and doesn't expand outside of the boundary, was created by Taylor Engineering
  - Not required by private projects (only if state funding is in use) but it is publicly available

Steve Coucher [NH] – NH struggles with a large coastline and no county structure, and appreciate that Massachusetts is creating a structure where communities are able to collectively relate and identify around a region otherwise making regional districts won't work

- Alison – spent a lot of time fact-checking and connecting with communities to designate the regional districts, ended up making watershed scales based around the similar coastal features they experience
  - Also need to address compound flooding along w/ coastal resilience

Jenny [IN] -- How did you interact w/ federal agencies/lands in your work? (specifically park service land)

- Alex – most projects are not on federal lands, working with federal partners on coral reef (defense work), but it really depends on the project

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- Henry – inviting them into conversations and meetings that might not be related to the project has been helpful for building relationships & connections
  - Give space to share their projects, offer free registration or food, act like partners even if not actually working together
- Alison – when working in Boston did a series of neighborhood resilience plans, and the first attempt was a struggle but after multiple iterations it got much easier & familiar to work together

### ***What has been effective messaging?***

Alex – Key message in FL is to stick to the fundamentals (resource management), words go in and out of being banned

Henry – Received a message from local planner that they are at the end of their capacity, USVI also considers themselves to be a one-stop shop & trusted program that communities will voluntarily come to with their needs

- Also actually must follow through on the response – interagency team instantly set up meetings and will be responding and be the one that communities will turn to

Alison – feel as though the program is good at speaking to their communities & knowing their unique needs, but it's important to distinguish your messages (a broader national story is different than specific community messaging)

- It's okay to bring in experts w/ the narrative (most of us aren't communication experts)

Erin (ME) -- Maine Coastal Program is moving into the Maine Office of Community Affairs, which is bringing together technical assistance programs & standing up a specific resilience office (that will have a resilience communications staff member)

- Hopefully moving in the right direction

Stacey (PA) -- Not allowed to communicate publicly, no social media & strict communications office, so work w/ partners and network and grantees to get the word out (might be missing some people but trying their best)

Larry (BCDC) -- Allies w/ businesses & developers, actually need to pick up the phone and talk to the heads of the ports/whoever else is actually interested

- Need to think about the channels that are available to us, probably have different channels that other agencies/partners/etc

CT – Creating an outreach section & just developed two guidance documents, getting invited to homebuilders' association/etc.

Washington, DC – Membership Meeting  
March 24 – 25, 2025

- Didn't develop them with them but now there is perhaps a need to create one in collaboration with them now
- Made progress on legislation for flood disclosure

## **Coastal No Adverse Impact Update** – Allie Pouliot

- No Adverse Impact -- “do no harm” / “good neighbor” philosophy
- Fellowship working to update ASFPM's Coastal NAI Handbook & developing modular training to accompany guidance
  - Target audience – local & state coastal/floodplain managers
- Almost done w/ needs assessment
  - Completed crosswalk of Digital Coast Crosswalk
    - Looking to see which 7 principles didn't have a lot of resources
    - Which pillars have data/tools but lacking training for the use of the tools
  - Identifying Additional Resources
  - 2 questionnaires (NAI Awareness/Interest & Training Preferences)
- Hazard ID & Mapping / Emergency Services had a lot of data/tools but almost no training
- NBS & urban flooding were top topics of interest
- List of content for new recommendations

## ***Audience Feedback:***

Spenser – FEMA is getting a lot of requests for assistance w/ compound flooding (supported by other programs as well)

Larry [BCDC] -- groundwater rise

[RI] -- University of Rhode Island is working to combine inland flooding & coastal flooding in a tool (also one in New Jersey)

Henry [WA] -- Digital Coast resources are trying to be everything for everywhere, could instead be more tailored with new content (pulling out regional/state differences or context)

## **Adjourn**

**Ms. McCall thanks the members and adjourns the meeting at 5:30 pm ET.**