

Memo: FY 2027 CSO Appropriations Request

To : CSO Membership

From : Rebecca Dennis, Federal Affairs Director

Following discussions with CSO membership, staff are proposing increasing our FY 2027 ask for Coastal Management Grants to \$118.7 million. This amount encompasses our previous ask of \$108.5 million plus an additional \$10.2 million, the total amount of annual capacity funds awarded to CZM programs in recent years.

This proposal (both the chart and added justification language) is listed as “**Option 1**” in the request. IF a vote on this increase fails, we will hold a vote on maintain the ask from last year. This is listed as “**Option 2**”.

We have also added an ask this year around providing "robust funding" for beach nourishment. All other asks have been held steady with our FY2026 asks or with the amount authorized in statute.

Also note: Where funding levels are listed for “FY 2025 Enacted”, the total included is congressionally appropriated amount based on the full year Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in March 2025, NOT the level in the Administration’s spend plan, which included cuts that have not been approved by Congress.



CSO FY 2027 Programmatic Request
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities
Coastal Management Grants

Option 1: Increase by \$10.2 Million (FY 2026 ask + annual capacity funding)

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted*	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Coastal Management Grants	\$81,500	\$81,500	XXX	\$118,700

Option 2: Maintain FY 2026 Ask

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted*	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Coastal Management Grants	\$81,500	\$81,500	XXX	\$108,500

(in thousands)

**FY 2025 numbers reflect the continuing resolution and subsequent documentation, but do not take into consideration pocket rescissions implemented by OMB in August 2025, which brought the total amount down to \$79.99 million*

Recommendation

Support an increase to the Coastal Management Grants line to ensure State and Territory Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Programs have the resources and capacity necessary to address increasing needs for coastal resilience and program mandates.

Coastal Management Grants

The Coastal Zone Management Act was enacted in 1972 and for the past fifty-three years, the State and Territory CZM Programs have effectively tackled the country's most pressing and emergent coastal issues. The CZM Programs support the congressionally recognized priority of the effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the nation's coastal zone. A tenet of this priority is that healthy coastal resources support both business and conservation, and that long-term planning is essential for coastal areas to remain the economic drivers they are today.

Year after year, the demands on CZM Programs increase with continuously more complicated balancing of coastal zone uses and needs for conservation, while emerging issues including sea level rise, increased coastal storm frequency, and other coastal hazards, including coastal flooding and erosion, threaten the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities. Coastal States and Territories have identified that annual appropriations would need to be over \$138M in FY 2027, which they would match nearly dollar-for-dollar, to fully address these demands.

While CZM Programs are facing increased demands, they have also faced budget stagnation. Between FY2002 and FY2017 the appropriations for CZM Grants went up from \$68.93M to only \$70M. While there have been more recent increases bringing CZM Grants up to \$81.5M in FY24, that amount has not kept pace with inflation or the increased costs of staffing and operating programs. When adjusted for

inflation, the FY 2002 appropriation's level would be the equivalent of \$126M today, as a result CZM programs are effectively operating under decreased funding,

The CZM Programs play a critical role working with coastal communities, including those that have been historically marginalized or underserved, to enhance their preparedness for, mitigate the impacts of, and build their resilience to changing coastal conditions. They work to ensure that our coasts are available and accessible to all and that the shared (economic, recreational and conservation) uses of coastal areas and resources are balanced. Additionally, state and territory CZM programs support local municipalities by providing grant funding, technical assistance, planning, and implementation support. These programs also help to permit and protect local green and gray infrastructure, such as sea walls, beaches, dunes, ports and harbors and critical offshore energy production facilities. As coastal communities face steadily growing coastal hazards, increasing efforts to ensure robust protection of coastal areas and address other emerging challenges and opportunities, requires increased and sustainable funding. Unfortunately, many states CZM programs still lack the core funding needed to support their workforce and capacity and/or must forego promising projects.

Over the past several years, the United States has made a historical investment in coastal management through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (also known as the IIJA). As part of this investment, each CZM of the 34 states and territories with CZM programs annually received \$300,000 to increase their capacity and build up their workforce. As this temporary, supplementary funding is no longer available, we encourage Congress to support an increase in annual funding to maintain the gains in capacity that were achieved through the IIJA investment.

(Closing for option 2) The temporary influx of IIJA and Inflation Reduction Act funds in to coastal resilience in recent years have been pointed to by some as a rationale for allowing coastal management grants funding to remain stagnant. As this funding came to an end following FY 2026, it is the time to support increases in funding for coastal management grants.

Requested Report Language

Coastal Management Grants – The Committee provides \$108,500,000 for Coastal Management Grants, which states match nearly dollar-for-dollar and are vital to the effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the nation's coastal zone.



CSO FY 2027 Programmatic Request
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities
Coastal Zone Management and Services

		FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted*	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Coastal Zone Management and Services		\$51,000	\$51,000	XXX	\$64,782

(in thousands)

**FY 2025 numbers reflect the continuing resolution and subsequent documentation, but do not take into consideration pocket recissions to NOAA programs implemented by OMB in August 2025, which increased the total to \$54,483 million*

Recommendation

Support increased funding for the Coastal Zone Management and Services line to ensure that the National Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is providing the State and Territory CZM Programs with robust data, tools, technical support, and other resources to inform effective and integrated coastal zone management.

Coastal Zone Management and Services

The NOAA Office for Coastal Management (OCM) is the federal partner to the State and Territory CZM Programs providing implementation support and coordination and technical assistance. OCM supports various tools and programs which are valuable for effective and integrated management of the nation's coastal zone including data and tools on the Digital Coast as well as supporting the Coastal Management and the Digital Coast Fellowships which serves as a professional development pipeline for the next generation of coastal managers while also supporting on-the-ground initiatives and projects of the State and Territory CZM Programs. In addition, OCM provides national level coordination and technical assistance to the CZM partner program under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), and the NERRS Margaret Davidson Graduate Fellowship.

The investment in FY 2026 will enable NOAA OCM to support the following actions:

- Enhance critical products, services and technical support by investing in the Digital Coast. OCM will make key investments to improve the Digital Coast including addressing data refresh backlogs and acquiring data to fill critical gaps, particularly in underserved areas. This data is critical for maintaining timely and accurate data in the Digital Coast's decision support tools for coastal resilience and adaptation.
- The developing the next generation of coastal managers through support of the Coastal Management, Digital Coast, and Margaret Davidson Fellowships. These fellowships develop qualified coastal management experts while also filling critical capacity needs and completing significant coastal management projects for State and Territory CZM Programs and NERRS. Investments include:
 - Improving the Coastal Management and Digital Coast Fellowships by supporting more fellows, increasing salaries for fellows to make the program more competitive and

desirable for applicants, expanding recruitment, and building out the programs with more extensive mentoring, career development, and alumni engagement opportunities;

- Providing resources for oversight and management of the Margaret Davidson Fellowship; and
 - Investing in expanding successful fellow projects to develop national level resources for coastal management.
- Investing in modernizations in OCM's information technology infrastructure, ensuring that OCM has the developers, cyber security systems, data storage, and data management tools to ensure effective online delivery of data projects and services, including Digital Coast tools.
 - Supporting the expansion of the NERRS. Providing pre-designation financial and technical support for the designation process for new NERRS. The proposal of new NERRS requires pre-designation financial and technical support from OCM for the designation processes. Additionally, with recent and future expansions of the system there is an increased need for national program support.



CSO FY 2027 Programmatic Request
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities
Regional Ocean Partnerships

		FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted*	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Regional Ocean Partnerships		\$2,500	\$2,500	XXX	\$11,520

(in thousands)

**FY 2025 numbers reflect the continuing resolution and subsequent documentation. As of 9/26 ROPs funding does not appear to be impacted by the pocket recissions to NOAA programs.*

Recommendation

Fully fund Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) at the authorized level to support enhanced collaboration across State lines on shared ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes regional priorities.

Regional Ocean Partnerships

The four ROPS—the Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA), the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), and the West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) – play a unique role in facilitating collaboration across State coastal agencies, including CZM Programs, and with federal coastal agencies. The ROPs have an effective record of an effective record of bringing together the expertise of the state CZM Programs, other state coastal agencies, and key coastal decision-makers to address regional priorities.

Congress passed the Regional Ocean Partnership Act as part of the James M. Inhofe , National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (P.L. 117-263) authorizing \$11.1M in FY2023, \$11.202M in FY2024, \$11,306,040 in FY2025, \$11,412,160 in FY2026, and \$11,520,404 in FY2027 with \$1M of that amount authorized for supporting Indian Tribe engagement and the remainder to the ROPs.

Over the past several years, ROPs have relied on funding under IIJA which will be fully expended by the end of FY2026. However, the ROPs will continue to exist and their work to advance regional coastal priorities will continue to be necessary. To ensure continuity of the ROPs, it is imperative that they are funded at the authorized level through annual appropriations, particularly in FY 2027 the first year in which they will not have supplemental funding available.

CSO FY 2027 Programmatic Request
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Other Budget Lines



National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities and Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Support the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), authorized under the CZMA. The NERRS is a network of 29 place-based coastal sites designated in partnership between NOAA and the Coastal States to protect and study marine estuarine systems.

	*	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 Enacted*	FY2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
National Estuarine Research Reserve System ORF	\$32,500	\$33,300	\$33,300	\$XXX	\$47,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System PAC	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$XXX	\$10,000

(in thousands)

**FY 2025 numbers reflect the continuing resolution and subsequent documentation, but do not take into consideration pocket recissions to NOAA programs implemented by OMB in August 2025, which decreased the total to \$29,300 million in ORF funds*

National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities

National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund

Support maintained funding for the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund managed as the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) through a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA.

The NCRF provides grants to non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations for the purpose of investing in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities.

State and Territory CZM Programs utilize the competitive NCRF grant program to leverage their Programs' coastal planning expertise and resources to execute State and Territory priority coastal resilience projects.

		FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund		\$32,000	\$32,000	XXX	\$34,000

(in thousands)

**FY 2025 numbers reflect the continuing resolution and subsequent documentation, but do not take into consideration pocket recissions to NOAA programs implemented by OMB in August 2025, which eliminated all funding for NOCSF.*

Additionally, support funding for the following partner programs under NOAA which provide complementary efforts to the CZM Program:

Line Office		FY 2024 Enacted	FY2025 Enacted*	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Recommendation
IOOS Regional Observations (NOS)		\$42,500	\$42,500	\$XXX	\$56,000
IOOS Regional Associations provide ocean observations, data, and tools that inform coastal zone management efforts.					
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas (NOS)	\$68,000 (ORF) \$5,500 (PAC)	\$68,000 (ORF) \$4000 (PAC)	\$67,000 (ORF) 4000\$ (PAC)	\$XXX	\$68,000 (ORF) \$5,500 (PAC)
Sanctuaries provide important place-based habitat and species conservation, preservation of maritime heritage, and public education on the value of our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes.					
Coral Reef Program (NOS)	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$XXX	\$45,000
The Coral Reef Conservation Program provides research, technical, and financial assistance to the States and Territories to help them protect and restore their reefs.					
National Sea Grant College Program (OAR)	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$XXX	\$147,325
The State and Territory Sea Grant Programs provide valuable research and public communication and facilitation.					

(in thousands)

**FY 2025 numbers reflect the continuing resolution and subsequent documentation, but do not take into consideration pocket recissions to NOAA programs implemented by OMB in August 2025. While most of the above programs were unimpacted by the recissions, Sea Grant's funding decreased to \$73,770.*



CSO FY 2026 Programmatic Request Other Committee Requests

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Construction

Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

Support increased funding for the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM). USACE implements projects which demonstrate effective beneficial use of dredge material (BUDM) while informing best management practices for future BUDM projects. CZM Programs work directly with USACE to design and implement these projects to ensure BUDM projects are advancing State and Territory CZM objectives. The Corps has set the ambitious goal of using 70% of sediment it dredges beneficially by 2030, which necessitates an increase in funding to achieve this goal.

		FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Beneficial Use of Dredge Material	\$4,173	\$18,000	\$18000	\$XXX	\$30,000*
<i>*This amount represents funding across all relevant USACE projects and programs.</i>					

(in thousands)

Investigations

Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study

Support full funding for the Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Study. Throughout the Great Lakes Region, coastal States are threatened by extreme weather events and lake level fluctuations. The Great Lake Coastal Resiliency Study, authorized in WRDA 2018 and funded at \$3M in FY23 and FY24, is a collaborative study between the eight Great Lakes States, the USACE, NOAA, USGS, FEMA, and the EPA to identify coastal vulnerabilities and solution measures that will maintain the economic, environmental, social, and cultural vitality of the region.

		FY2024 Enacted	FY2027 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$XXX	\$4,450

(in thousands)

National Shoreline Management Study

Support funding for the National Shoreline Management Study (NSMS). Through the NSMS, USACE has developed a range of tools and reports to support the active management of our nation's coasts. Additionally, the NSMS recently completed eight regional assessments and a national assessment (that has yet to be released), the recommendations of which should be implemented. The NSMS was funded through FY 2023 but was not included in FY 2024 appropriations.

		FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
National Shoreline Management Study		--	--		\$2,000

(in thousands)

Operations and Maintenance

Engineering with Nature

Engineering with Nature is an initiative within USACE to support the “intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to efficiently deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits through collaboration.” In 2024, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works signed a memorandum stating that nature-based solutions (NBS) should be considered and included in USACE Civil Works projects to the “maximum extent practicable”. Engineering with Nature is among the federal government’s most important and effective programs for advancing NBS along our nation’s coasts.

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
Engineering with Nature	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	XXX	40,000

(in thousands)

Beach Nourishment

Beach Nourishment carried out by USACE involves adding sediment to an eroding beach or dune system. Healthy beaches play an important role in protecting coastal communities from hazards such as storm surge, flooding and additional erosion, as they serve as a natural buffer between waves and developments along the shore. Beach funding comes from a variety of sources including annual appropriations and disaster supplementals and can be included in different USACE line items (such as Shore Protection (CAP 103), Flood and Storm Damage Reduction or FCCE) depending on the size of the nourishment, and whether it's for rebuilding post-disaster, regular cycle nourishment, or a new project.

CSO requests robust funding be made available through appropriations in FY 2027 for beach nourishment.

Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

Department of Interior

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Support funding for the following programs which provide habitat conservation specific benefits to coastal communities.

		FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Requested
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$50,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	XXX	\$50,000
Provides competitive grants to eligible entities including States and Territories to support projects which protect, enhance, and restore habitats for wetland-dependent birds and wildlife.					
Coastal Program	\$13,957	\$13,000	\$1300	XXX	\$23,750
Provides technical and financial assistance in 24 priority coastal areas for habitat conservation and restoration projects in coastal watersheds. These funding levels are aligned with the authorizations for this program included in bipartisan legislation introduced in the Senate (S.1381).					

(in thousands)

Environmental Protection Agency –

BEACH Act Grant Program

The Beach Act Grant Program provides funding to eligible states, territories, and Tribes with beaches on the ocean or Great Lakes to monitor water quality and notify the public when it is not safe to swim. These funding levels are aligned with the amounts authorized in bipartisan legislation introduced in Congress.

		FY2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Recommended
BEACH Act Grant Program	\$10,619	\$9,750,	\$9750	\$XXX	\$30,000

(in thousands)

National Estuary Programs

Support maintained funding for the National Estuary Program (NEP). The NEP is a network of 28 place-based programs to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance. These programs collaborate directly with State and Territory non-point source pollution programs authorized under the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA).

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 President's Budget	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Recommended
National Estuary Programs	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$32,611	XXX	\$40,000

(in thousands)