

Coastal Roundtable Coalition

FY 2021 Appropriations Requests

Investing in Our Nation's Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes

Healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments provide significant economic benefits to our nation. Targeted investments in the management of vital coastal and marine resources will ensure these resources will continue to contribute to thriving communities and economies well into the future. This request would invest in critical programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which partner with states, territories, local communities, academia, and non-governmental organizations to protect resources, build resilient coastal communities, ensure sustainable development, collect sound ocean and coastal science, and inform decision making to protect and preserve our ocean and coastal environment for future generation.

\$66.5 Million for National Marine Sanctuaries

This request provides \$58M for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas and \$8.5M for Marine Sanctuaries Construction. The National Marine Sanctuary System is our network of protected waters held in trust for all Americans. Sanctuaries are vital to maintaining healthy ocean and Great Lakes ecosystems that underpin our productive coastal economies. They generate \$8 billion annually in local economies and support jobs and businesses in fishing, tourism, recreation, and scientific research. Nationwide, communities are coming together to expand existing national marine sanctuaries and propose new designations for the first time in 19 years. Engaging communities as stewards of these protected waters provides a comprehensive, highly participatory approach to managing and conserving marine ecosystems and the Great Lakes for current and future generations.

\$45.25 Million for Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations

The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is essentially the weather service for the coastal oceans and Great Lakes, providing the ability to “see” what is happening both above and below the surface and making the data readily available. IOOS provides the coastal infrastructure necessary to support jobs, economic development, maritime safety and environmental health. IOOS includes 17 Federal agencies and a network of 11 regional observing systems. The Regional Associations (RAs) deploy, operate, and maintain over 300 observing assets that collect oceanographic and coastal data to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment. The RAs fill critical ocean observing information gaps. For example, non-federal organizations provide over 50% of the marine data used by NOAA's National Weather Service.





\$87 Million for Coastal Management Grants

The Coastal Management Grants support 34 State and Territory Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Programs which promote the effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the coastal zone. An \$87M investment in Coastal Management Grants would result in at least \$77M in match funding from the states. The CZM Programs enable our nation's coastal communities to plan for changes along the coast - both chronic and increasing episodic coastal hazards - to protect both lives and coastal infrastructure and investments. The CZM Programs provide essential long-term planning and technical assistance to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities and resources to ensure that they remain the economic drivers they are today. CZM Programs lead project planning, design, and implementation that enhance the resilience of our coasts, including green and grey coastal infrastructure.

\$35.5 Million for National Estuarine Research Reserves

America's estuaries sustain coastal businesses, protect communities from flooding, keep water clean, sustain commercial fisheries, support wildlife, and provide opportunities for recreation. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) maintains 280 stations that track local water quality, pollution, and weather around the country. These platforms collect data – 42 million data points each year – that track hazardous spills, shellfish industry operations, storm damage and more. Similar to Sea Grant, approximately 98% of federal NERRS funding goes to the communities in which the Reserves are located. NERRS funding also leverages State matching funds raising \$6 million annually to supplement the federal funding; and over the last three years, matching funds invested in the NERRS leveraged an average of approximately \$22 million annually.

\$82.9 Million for National Sea Grant College Program

Sea Grant is a unique program within NOAA that awards 95% of its appropriated funds through a competitive process to university-based Sea Grant programs to address critical issues identified by public and private sector constituents and coastal communities throughout the United States. In 2018, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$624 million in economic benefits; created or supported 7,621 jobs; provided 34 state-level programs with funding that assisted 269 communities improve their resilience; helped nearly 23,741 fishers adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices; helped restore an estimated 207,773 acres of coastal ecosystems; worked with about 1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners; and supported the education and training of 1,994 undergraduate and graduate students.

