



CSO FY 2025 Programmatic Request
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities
Coastal Management Grants

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY25 President's Budget	FY2025 Recommended
Coastal Management Grants	\$81,500	\$81,500	\$81,500	\$108,500

(in thousands)

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 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 \$134M in FY2025, 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 FY23, 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 over \$118.55M 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. As coastal communities face steadily growing coastal hazards, increasing efforts to ensure robust protection of coastal areas, establishment of new offshore wind energy resulting from advancements in renewable energy and experience other emerging challenges and opportunities increased and sustainable funding is necessary to address these issues.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided one-time supplemental funding through

FY2026 for habitat restoration projects under the CZMA Sections 310 and 307a. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) presents further opportunity to invest in coastal community resilience and climate adaptation through the CZMA Sections 310 and 307a. The CZM Programs recognize that the IJA and IRA funding are unique opportunities to make strategic, large-scale investments in the long-term resilience of our nation's coasts and looks forward to implementing these funds. However, these funds do not address all coastal resilience needs nor the persistent deficit in annual appropriations for CZM Programs.

As CZM Programs begin implementation of the IJA and IRA Section 310 and 307a funds, they will track how the funds are used and identify where there are gaps in implementing coastal resilience. For example, this influx of funds places increased demands on the capacity of the CZM Programs executing these projects, including, impacting the speed of related regulatory processes and requiring increased staffing. NOAA has allocated a small portion of funds to bolster implementation capacity, but it remains insufficient to meet the need. Additionally, CZM Programs anticipate identifying increased needs for activities such as vulnerability assessments; long-term resilience planning; and project planning, design, engineering, and implementation for green and grey infrastructure projects with coastal community resilience benefits, which may require additional funding support in the future through annual appropriations.

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 2025 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

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President's Budget	FY2025 Recommended
Coastal Zone Management and Services	\$51,220	\$51,000	\$50,274	\$64,782

(in thousands)

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 2025 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 2025 Programmatic Request
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities
Regional Ocean Partnerships

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President's Budget	FY2025 Recommended
Regional Ocean Partnerships	\$2,500	\$2,500	---	\$11,306

(in thousands)

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 Mexico Alliance (GOMA), 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 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.

Prior to the passage of the ROP Act, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) providing for \$56M for ROPs allocated evenly over FY2022 – FY2026. This provides \$11.2M each year, approximately the amount that was subsequently authorized under the ROP Act.

While Congress has made appropriations for ROPs under IIJA, it is important to recognize the need for this funding to be supported through annual appropriations not just supplemental funding. The funding under IIJA will be fully expended by the end of FY2026 but 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 once supplemental funding has ended.



CSO FY 2025 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.

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President’s Budget	FY2025 Recommended
National Estuarine Research Reserve System ORF	\$32,500	\$33,300	\$32,500	\$47,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System PAC	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$3,002	\$10,000

(in thousands)

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.

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President’s Budget	FY2025 Recommended
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	\$34,000	\$32,000	---	\$34,000

(in thousands)

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

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Enacted	FY2025 President's Budget	FY2025 Recommendation
IOOS Regional Observations (NOS)	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$10,000	\$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)	\$67,000 (ORF) \$4,000 (PAC)	\$87,000 (ORF) \$4,000 (PAC)	\$86,187 (ORF) \$8,500 (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	\$19,431	\$35,000
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	\$72,392	\$147,325
The State and Territory Sea Grant Programs provide valuable research and public communication and facilitation which support effective coastal zone management.				

(in thousands)



**CSO FY 2025 Programmatic Request
Other Committee Requests**

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Construction

Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Pilot Program

Support increased funding for the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) Pilot Program. USACE’s ability to implement 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. While the program was funded at \$11.83M in FY 2021, funding in FY 2024 is only XXX.

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President’s Budget	FY2025 Recommended
Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Pilot Program	\$4,173	\$18,000	\$1,000	\$12,000

(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 \$500,000 in FY22 and \$3M in FY23, 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.

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President’s Budget	FY2025 Recommended
Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$4,450

(in thousands)

Subcommittee on Interior and Environment

Department of Interior

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Support maintained funding for the following programs which provide habitat conservation specific benefits

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 President's Budget	FY2025 Recommendation
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$50,000	\$49,000	\$33,000	\$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	\$14,647	\$20,400
Provides technical and financial assistance in 24 priority coastal areas for habitat conservation and restoration projects in coastal watersheds				

(in thousands)

Environmental Protection Agency – Environmental Programs and Management

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).

	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 President's Budget	FY2025 Recommended
National Estuary Programs	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$32,611	\$40,000

(in thousands)