**CSO FY 2024 Programmatic Request**

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities

**Coastal Management Grants**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY24 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| Coastal Management Grants | **$79,000** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **$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 $133.4M in FY2023, 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, and while there have been more recent increases bringing CZM Grants up to $79M in FY22, that amount not only lags behind the demand, but also amounts to decrease in funding when you adjust FY2002 appropriations for inflation – which would be over $128.4M in FY2023.

The CZM Programs play a critical role working with coastal communities to enhance their preparedness for, mitigate the impacts of, and build their resilience to changing coastal conditions. As coastal communities face steadily increasing coastal hazards, the advancement of renewable energy brings new offshore wind energy to the coasts, there is an increased effort in ensuring robust protection of coastal areas, and other issues along the coasts emerge, increased resources are necessary to address these issue.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided one-time supplemental funding through FY2026 under the CZMA for habitat restoration projects under Sections 310 and 307a. NOAA has allocated a small portion of these funds for capacity to implement these projects. Recognizing that these directed funds place increased demands for project execution on the CZM Programs and the amount NOAA has allocated is insufficient to meet this need, Congress has proposed additional annual appropriations in FY2023 to assist CZM Programs with meeting these needs. The CZM Programs recognize that the IIJA funding is a unique opportunity to make strategic, large-scale investments in the long-term resilience of our nation’s coasts and looks forward to implementing these funds.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) presents further opportunity to invest in coastal community resilience and climate adaptation through the CZMA. The CZM Programs look forward to working with NOAA to determine if and how these funds may be implemented through CZMA program including Section 310 and CELCP.

As the CZM Programs moving into implementation of the IIJA and IRA Section 310 and 307a funds, they will track how the funds are used and identify where there are continued gaps in implementing coastal resilience – such as needs for: 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 2024 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**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| Coastal Zone Management and Services | **$49,000** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **$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 2024 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 though 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 2024 Programmatic Request**

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

National Ocean Service – Operations, Research, and Facilities

**Regional Ocean Partnerships**

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|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024  President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| Regional Ocean Partnerships | **$2,500** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **$2,500** |

*(in thousands)*

Recommendation

Maintain funding for Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) 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 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.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided for $56M for ROPs allocated evenly over FY2022 – FY2026. This provides $11.2M each year which is a significant increase over the previous annual appropriations which will enable the ROPs to tackle increasingly complex coastal issues in a coordinated way. Additionally, a portion of the increase will go directly to supporting Indian Tribes to engage with their respective ROPs. Indian Tribes are critical partners for managing the coasts and have valuable insights to contribute to ROPs but they have often been left out of these discussions. This dedicated funding will rectify inequities for this often underserved coastal management partner. To ensure stable funding, it is critical to maintain the existing annual appropriations.

**CSO FY 2024 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.

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|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| National Estuarine Research Reserve System ORF | **$29,700** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **NERRA Request** |
| National Estuarine Research Reserve System PAC | **$6,500** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **NERRA Request** |

*(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.

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|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund | **$34,000** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **$34,000** |

*(in thousands)*

Support funding for the following partner programs which provide complementary efforts to the CZM Program:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Line Office | Program | FY2023 Recommendation | Description |
| National Ocean Service | IOOS Regional Observations | **IOOS Association Request** | IOOS Regional Associations provide ocean observations, data, and tools that inform coastal zone management efforts |
| National Ocean Service | Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas | **NMSF Request** | 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 |
| National Ocean Service | Coral Reef Program | **FY24 PB** | The Coral Reef Conservation Program provides research, technical, and financial assistance to the States and Territories to help them protect and restore their reefs |
| Oceanic and Atmospheric Research | National Sea Grant College Program | **Sea Grant Association Request** | 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 2024 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.

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|  | FY2021 Enacted | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Pilot Program | **$11,830** | **$2,044** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **$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, 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.

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|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study | **$500** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **$7,750** |

*(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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Program | FY2023 Recommendation | Description |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | North American Wetlands Conservation Fund | **FY24 PB** | 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 |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | Coastal Program | **FY24 PB** | 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).

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|  | FY2022 Enacted | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 President’s Budget | FY2024 Recommended |
| National Estuary Programs | **$35.000** | **TBD** | **TBD** | **FY24 PB** |

*(in thousands)*