

NOAA's National Coastal Zone Management Program

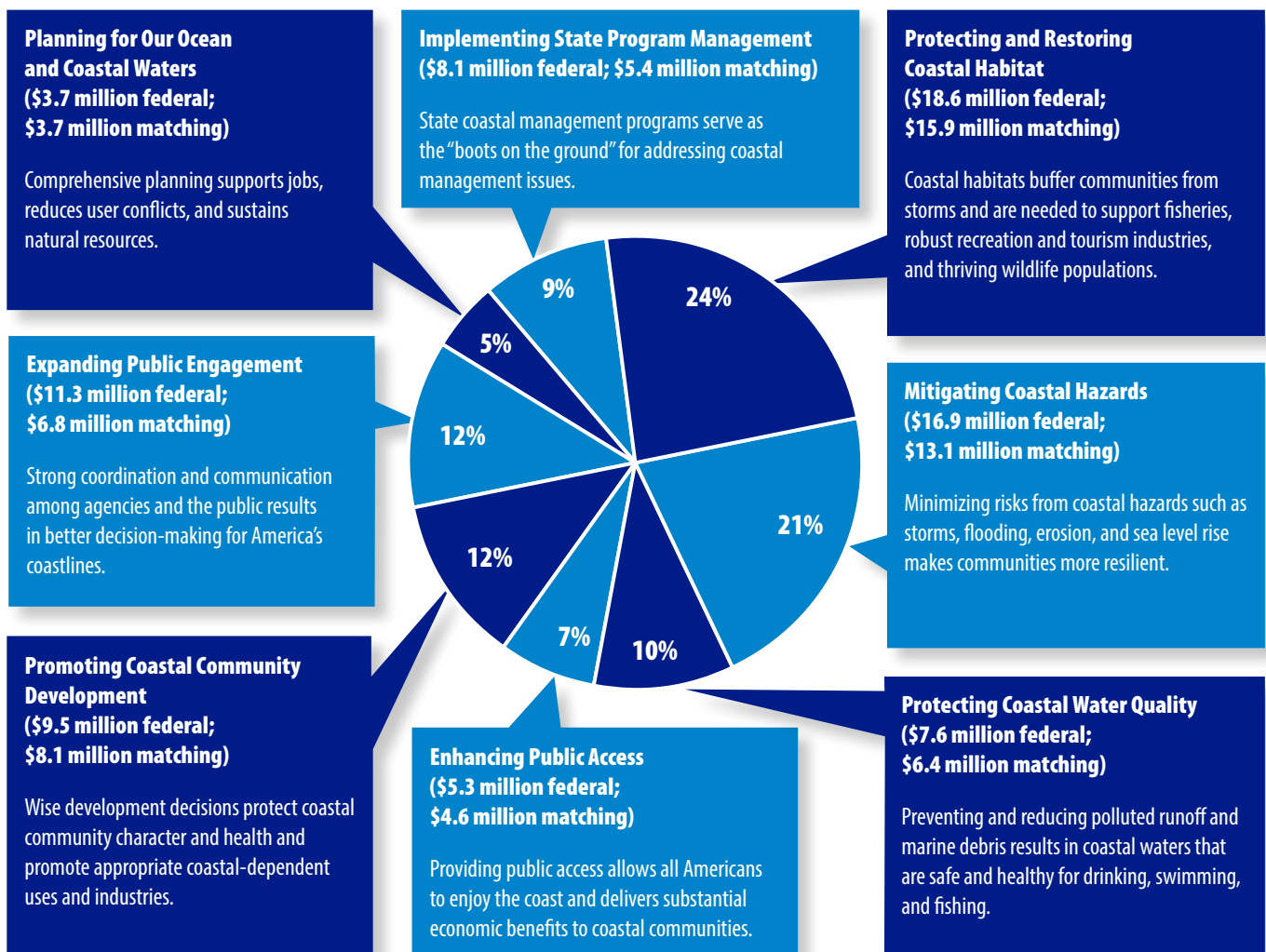
Our coastal communities are home to over 128 million people, support 58.3 million jobs, and contribute \$9.5 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. Recognizing the importance of our coasts, in 1972, Congress created the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary partnership between NOAA and coastal states and territories. The program was designed to enhance and protect coastal resources and communities.

In fiscal year 2024, NOAA invested more than \$81 million, allocated through the Coastal Zone Management Act, to implement coastal management programs in the 34 participating states and territories. Federal funding was matched by more than \$67 million from state, territorial, and local governments and other partners. These funds are used to improve public access, enhance hazard resilience, and fuel the nation's vibrant coastal economy.



FUNDING SUMMARY 2024

Office for
Coastal Management
coast.noaa.gov/czm





The National Coastal Zone Management Program

Building Stronger Coastal Communities and Economies

Supporting Working Waterfronts

The softshell clam fishery, one of Maine's most valuable fisheries, relies on informal agreements between shellfish harvesters and coastal property owners, as harvesters often walk across private property to access intertidal mudflats and dig clams. As coastal Maine becomes more popular and new property owners move in, many of those "handshake" agreements may be lost. Maine's Coastal Program therefore funded an effort to [map and identify](#) the ownership of shellfishing access points in Casco Bay, where 65 percent of the access points are across private property. The project team also created data-sharing agreements and a [guidance document](#) to help harvesters and landowners feel comfortable sharing information and help other communities replicate this effort. The [Maine Community Intertidal Data Portal](#), also funded by the Maine Coastal Program, provides comprehensive data relevant to shellfish management, including information about these access sites. The team is also creating a template agreement to further formalize existing agreements and create new access sites.

Improving Public Beaches

North Carolina's Coastal Program funds the state's Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Grants. Grants are awarded annually to local governments across North Carolina's twenty coastal counties for projects that improve public access to the state's beaches and waterways. Local governments are required to match state funds and are responsible for construction, operation, and long-term project maintenance. In 2024, more than \$2.8 million was provided to 16 different communities, including \$378,000 to Elizabeth City to install a kayak launch pad and replace and repair the existing boardwalk, observation decks, and a fishing pier in Causeway Park. Since 1981, almost \$50 million in grant funds have supported improvements to over 450 public access sites.

Advancing the Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials

Mississippi's Office for Coastal Resources Management administers the Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials Program, which restores and creates tidal marsh and associated coastal habitats by placing dredged sediment in designated habitat sites. In 2024, the program was issued a permit to restore a 900-acre site on Pelican Key, an island seven miles offshore from Mississippi's coast. Dredged material is being used to construct an 820-acre marsh habitat and 80-acre containment berm. The berm will protect the crucial coastal ecosystem from hazardous materials.

See more stories at coast.noaa.gov/states/stories/index.html.

MAKING AN IMPACT

The National Coastal Zone Management Program over the last five years.

700

Completed over **700 projects**, including developing and updating state and local policies and plans, that improve resilience to coastal hazards.

1,000

Worked with over **1,000 communities** to help them grow in a balanced way that protects coastal character and health.

95,000

Protected over **95,500 acres** of habitat and restored an additional **54,000 acres**.

300

Created over **300 new public access sites** and **enhanced more than 900 additional access sites** to improve the visitor experience.

91,500

Trained over **91,500 coastal decision-makers** to ensure informed decision-making.

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