

Emerging Coastal Management Challenges and Solutions—FY 2011

Facing New Challenges along the Coast

With the increasing demand for offshore energy development, pressures of continuing coastal growth and the advent of new coastal and ocean uses, and the escalating effects of climate change with changing sea and lake levels, coastal states and territories are facing an unprecedented number of management challenges in and along our coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes waters. Over the last several years, the federal investment in programs to manage our nation's coasts has been constant, representing a loss in the real dollars spent, which is then further exacerbated by the need for additional resources to address these emerging management challenges. In order to adequately address these issues, it is essential that Congress provide additional funding to coastal states and territories for coastal and marine spatial planning,



renewable energy development, and climate change adaptation. Already possessing the necessary on-the-ground expertise and firsthand knowledge of their unique coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources, coastal states need the funding for the tools and increased management capacity to ensure the sustainability of these resources for future generations.

Funding the Solutions

FY 2011 Appropriations Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

2011 Request \$20 million

As new uses of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes waters become a reality, there are increasing demands on the available space and resources. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) is a public process of identifying the most suitable areas for human



activities in the ocean and Great Lakes to sustain economic, ecological, and cultural resources for future generations. CMSP focuses on the spatially explicit nature of activities and resources and is used to inform management decisions by evaluating tradeoffs of different spatial scenarios based on how they meet the specific goals.

CSO requests \$20 million for grants to the states and territories to engage in new and build upon existing CMSP in their respective waters and at the regional level. With a long track record of working in close coordination with federal agencies, local communities, industry and stakeholders on management and planning, coastal states are critical in balancing competing uses in coastal waters. In many regions of the country, the states have led the move toward comprehensive, ecosystem-based coastal and ocean management and utilized CMSP as an effective tool in that process. This funding would serve as an initial down payment on the long-term implementation of CMSP. It would support planning efforts, including the creation and implementation of stakeholder processes and consensus building tools, collection and analysis of the best available data and information, and facilitation of broad public participation. A base amount should be granted to each coastal state with the remainder granted based on a formula. An equal amount should be provided to the federal agencies.

Renewable Energy Management

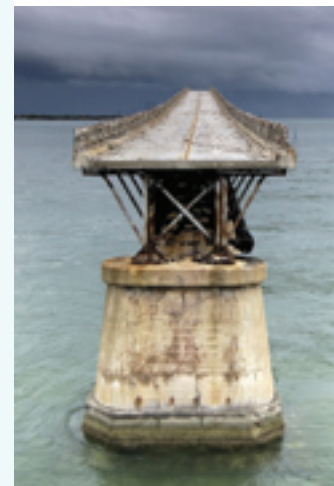
2011 Request \$10 million

Coastal states play a critical role in the development of renewable energy sources – particularly offshore renewable energy in the form of tidal/current,

These programs are located in the Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill under NOAA.



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wave, wind, ocean thermal, and marine biomass. As a result, they are taking steps to ensure that new energy development is balanced with the stewardship of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and the economic viability of our coastal communities. As federal, state, and local governments consider coastal and offshore renewable energy policies, state coastal zone management programs are facing new pressures for better planning, siting and management strategies in order to balance the various interests off our coasts. Investing in research, baseline data, mapping and modeling will be crucial to wise decision-making that advances renewable energy development while protecting vital coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. CSO requests \$10 million through the Coastal Zone Management Grants to meet the challenges of increasing offshore renewable energy demands for the nation.

Climate Change Adaptation

2011 Request

\$50 million

Coastal areas and islands are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially with respect to accelerated sea level rise and lake level changes, shoreline erosion, increased storm frequency and/or intensity, and changes in rainfall and related flooding. Other impacts to coastal areas may include changes in both chemical and physical characteristics of marine systems, such as ocean acidification and changes in current dynamics and heat exchange; saltwater intrusion into groundwater aquifers; increased harmful algal blooms; the spread of invasive species, habitat loss, and impacts among marine and coastal species.



Coastal states are on the nation's front lines for the impacts of climate change. They must prepare now in order to successfully respond and adapt to these impacts in the short and long term, which include unique challenges for each state and coastal community. Without significant preparation and planning, coastal states foresee considerable economic losses to public infrastructure, water dependant industries and livelihoods, and critical ecological services. CSO requests \$50 million in grants to support coastal state efforts to protect residents, collect and manage essential data and information for planning, adapt key public facilities, infrastructure, and ecosystems



and deliver services to local communities. The most cost-effective approach to dealing with the anticipated impacts of climate change is to prepare for these consequences before they occur, as opposed to after, when the toll on the nation and its communities is much greater. The funding can be provided to the states and territories through the Coastal Zone Management Grants or through another appropriate funding mechanism.

Coastal States Organization

A Voice for the States

CSO represents the interests of the thirty-five Governors of the coastal states and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes, and ocean resources. Economically, geographically and socially, the states and territories are as diverse as their individual coastlines, yet their commitment to common objectives in coastal and ocean management is what shapes the organization's unique character. Together, we serve the nation by maintaining healthy coasts.

