

NOAA's National Coastal Zone Management Program

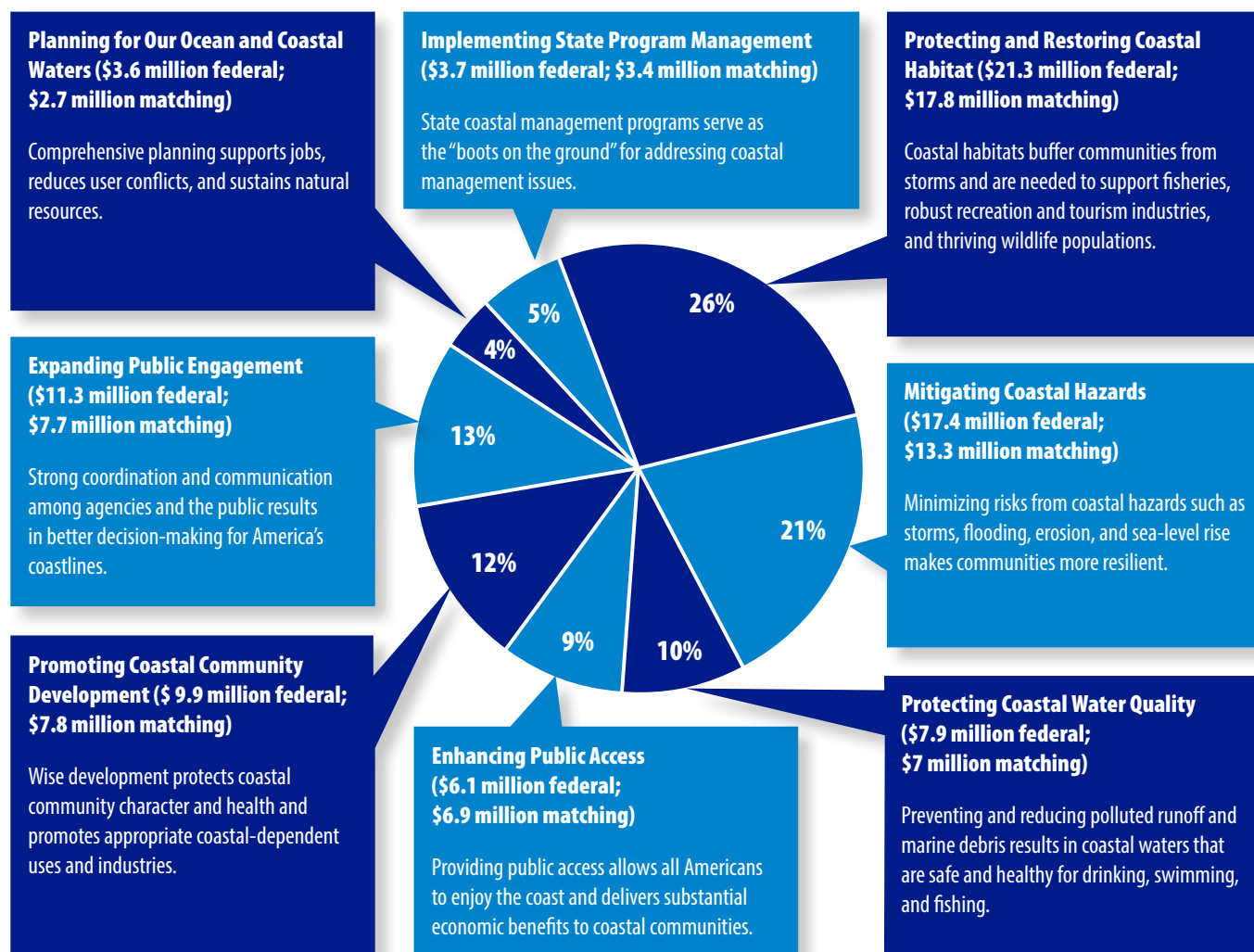
Our coastal communities are home to over 128 million people, support 58.3 million jobs, and annually contribute \$9.5 trillion to the U.S. economy. Recognizing the importance of our coasts, in 1972, Congress created the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary partnership between NOAA and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

In fiscal year 2023, NOAA invested over \$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 over \$66 million from state, territorial, and local governments and other partners. These funds are being used to improve public access, enhance hazard resilience, and fuel the nation's vibrant coastal economy.



FUNDING SUMMARY 2023

Office for Coastal Management
coast.noaa.gov/czm





The National Coastal Zone Management Program

Building Stronger Coastal Communities and Economies

Resilience-Oriented Program for Coastal Leaders

Michigan's coastal hazards include erosion, flooding, stormwater issues, and urban heat. Recognizing the need to teach local leaders how to respond to these hazards and increase resilience, the Michigan Coastal Program partnered with the Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Association of Planning to create a Coastal Leadership Academy. These place-based education workshops allow leaders to learn from each other and provide the tools this audience needs to improve local planning and zoning efforts. During the past year, the program graduated 12 local leaders.

Promoting Responsible Eco-Tourism

Many people travel to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to enjoy the natural environment. While tourism helps the economy, poor visitor behavior can harm nearshore waters, beaches, and coral reefs. To promote responsible tourism, the CNMI Coastal Program created the Eco-Tour Operator Best Practices Certification Program. The program teaches tour and marine sport operators how to minimize environmental impacts and gives them the space to discuss environmental and safety issues. Operators in good standing who complete the course can receive permit fee reductions of up to 25 percent. Since its introduction in January 2023, the program has certified almost a third (18 out of 67) of the permitted marine sport companies in the CNMI.

Restoring Tidal Flow, Reducing Flood and Erosion Risk

New Hampshire has approximately 120 tidal stream crossings, many in need of repair. A multi-year effort to repair these crossings started in 2014 when the Nature Conservancy and the New Hampshire Coastal Program worked together to create the state's tidal crossing assessment protocol. The state assessed all of the tidal crossings in 2018 and determined that 80 percent of crossings were moderately to highly restrictive of tidal flows, leading to increased flood risk. These two lead organizations, along with other stakeholders, advanced the effort with design and engineering projects from 2020 through 2023. This work led to the program recently securing \$2.9 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to upgrade three of the culverts classified as priorities. The upgrade will improve tidal flow, which reduces flooding and erosion and positively affects the ecosystem. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2025.

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

MAKING AN IMPACT

Over the last 5 years, the National Coastal Zone Management Program

800

Completed **800 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.

52,000

Protected over **52,000 acres** of habitat and restored an additional 58,000 acres.

300

Created over **300 new public access sites** and enhanced over 700 additional access sites to improve the visitor experience.

95,000

Trained over **95,000 coastal decision makers** to ensure informed decision-making.