

An aerial photograph of ocean waves breaking onto a sandy beach. The water is a deep blue, and the foam of the waves is white and frothy. The sand is a light tan color. The waves are moving from the top of the frame towards the bottom, creating a sense of motion.

asbpa

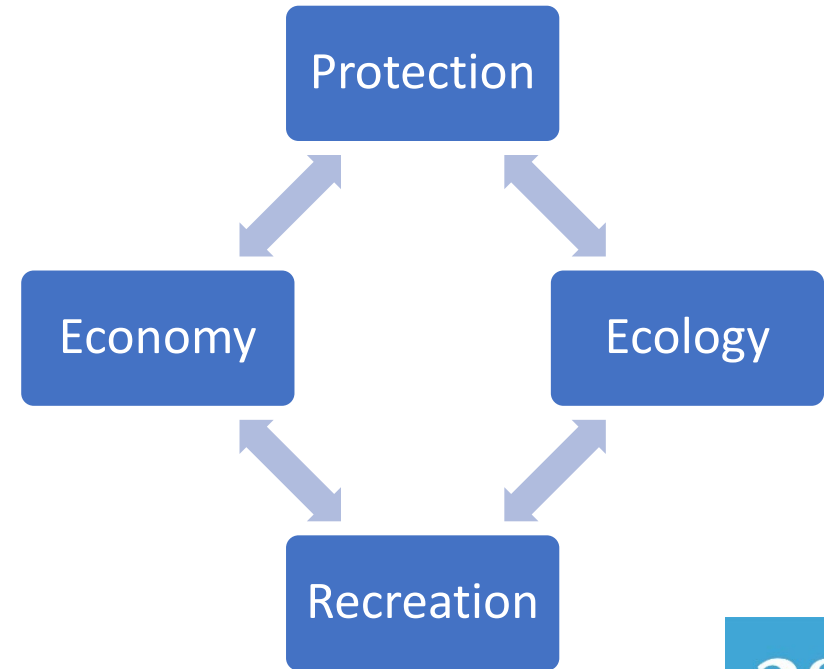
American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

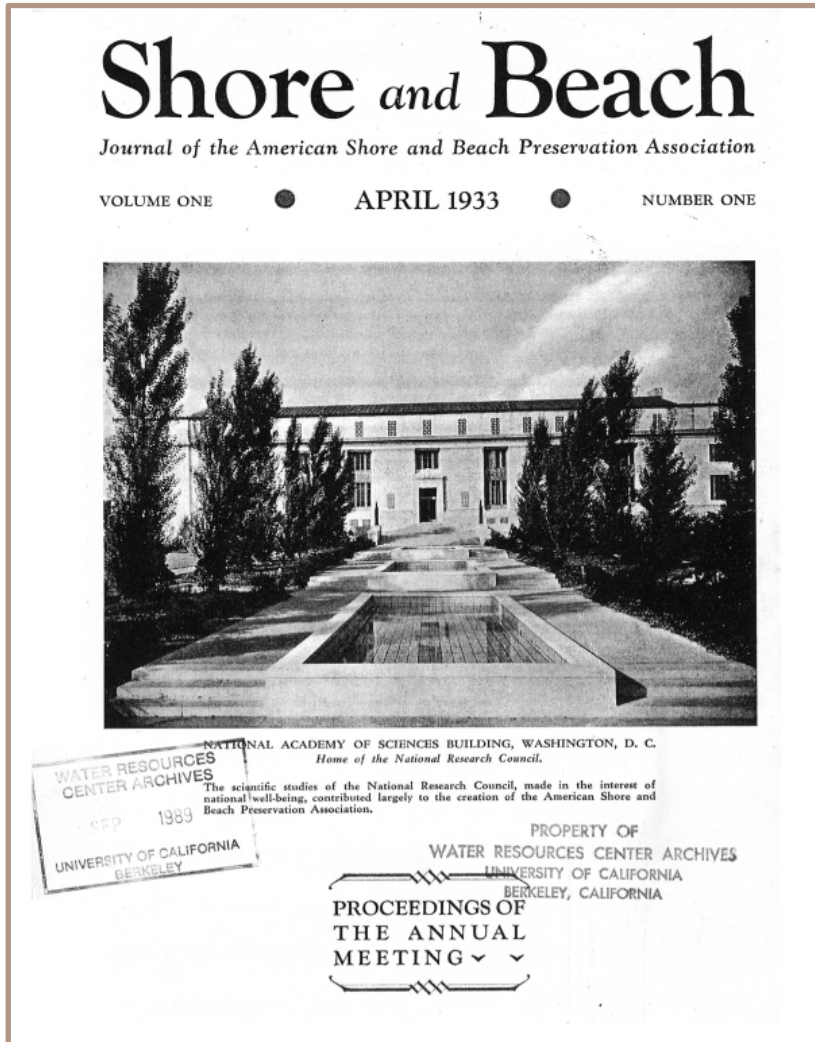
Mission Statement:



ASBPA is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy.



99 Years of Science-Based Advocacy



"The scientific studies of the NRC...contributed largely to the creation of the ASBPA."

Courtesy: Dr. Lesley Ewing



Federal Priorities 2025

- Support sustained funding for coastal programs in the annual appropriations bills
- Maintain the biennial schedule of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- Strengthen support within Congress for coastal priorities
- Advocate for a whole-of-government approach for coastal investments



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ASBPA's 2025 Legislative Agenda

The Fort Smallwood Park Shoreline Enhancement Project in Pasadena, Maryland, a 2024 Best Restored Shore.

Support sustained funding for coastal programs in annual appropriations

Sustained funding for various key coastal programs is needed to strengthen and safeguard coastal communities.

ASBPA will advocate for the continuation of the following:

- 1) Sustained and supplemental USACE funding, including Coastal Investigations, Construction, Operations & Maintenance, and beneficial use of dredged materials.
- 2) NOAA's Coastal Resilience Grants (e.g., NFWF NCRF).
- 3) NOAA's Navigation, Observations, &

Positioning provide critical foundational information to address coastal resilience needs.

4) BOEM's Marine Minerals Program and National Offshore Sand Inventory to build and refine sediment resource management in federal waters.

5) FEMA pre-mitigation grant programs (e.g., BRIC, FMA)

6) DOT Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) Grant

7) USGS Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program to assess and forecast shoreline erosion and extreme weather to protect critical infrastructure.

Maintain biennial schedule of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

WRDAs help ensure the USACE prioritizes coastal communities. ASBPA applauds the passage of WRDA 2024.

ASBPA will:

- 1) Work with committees and USACE on WRDA 2022 and 2024 implementation.
- 2) Advocate for the prioritization of coastal provisions in WRDA guidance, including the National Coastal Mapping Program, easement requirements, updates to SMART planning, and BUDM.
- 3) Support development of WRDA 2026.

Strengthen support in Congress for coastal priorities

Forty percent of the U.S. population lives along the coast, with coastal communities contributing \$9.5 trillion to the national economy. ASBPA appreciates the strong support from coastal Members of Congress for its priorities.

ASBPA will:

- 1) Support coastal legislation such as the Reinvesting In Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act (RISEE) Act, Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act, and the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act.



The Lowman Beach Park Shoreline Restoration in Seattle, Washington, a 2024 Best Restored Shore.

- 2) Build relationships with new Members of Congress locally and in Washington, and non-coastal and Great Lakes Members, to broaden support for coastal legislation and funding by highlighting public economic benefits and property protection offered by well-managed and resilient coasts.

- 3) Help facilitate events with the House Coastal Communities Caucus to reinforce our message with elected officials and staff.

Advocate for a whole-of-government approach for coastal investments

ASBPA will collaborate with the administration to streamline regulations, enhance data collection, and grow the workforce. ASBPA is committed to partnering with federal agencies and local communities to advance and sustain these efforts.

USACE-specific actions include:

- 1) Enhance government efficiency by promoting cross-agency collaboration to permit and implement CSRM project alternatives.
- 2) Clarify and standardize easement requirements for CSRM projects and adjust the perpetual language to match 50-year project lifespans.
- 3) Provide feedback on Principles, Requirements & Guidelines implementation updates.
- 4) Support the U.S. Coastal Research Program's mission of cross-agency collaboration to train the next generation of coastal professionals.
- 5) Advocate for interagency productivity in coastal projects, for example:
 - I) Conduct coastal feasibility studies based on sound science and engineering, rather than arbitrarily constrained timelines and legislative deadlines.
 - II) Inter-programmatic coordination across business lines: navigation (BUDM) and Environment (ecosystem restoration) for comprehensive benefits to CSRM projects.

ASBPA will promote the timely and effective allocation and implementation of BIL, IIJA, and IRA funds for coastal projects.



Above: The Dollar Bay Marsh Restoration in Texas City, Texas, a 2024 Best Restored Shore. Below: The Illinois Beach State Park Shoreline Stabilization in Zion, Illinois, a 2024 Best Restored Beach.

Fast facts:

■ Travel & tourism is the largest employer in the United States, providing 15.8 million jobs in the U.S. (10% of jobs). It is the leading U.S. small-business employer accounting for 1 out of every 4 new jobs in 2022.

■ In 2022, U.S. travel & tourism generated \$2.6 trillion in total (direct, indirect, and induced) economic output.

■ Survey data indicates that beaches are the leading tourist attraction in the U.S., with ~50% of Americans saying it is their favorite vacation destination.

■ Annually, beach tourists generate \$520 billion in economic output, \$240 billion in direct spending, and \$36 billion in taxes to federal, state, and local governments.

■ Beaches are not only magnets for tourism, but they also perform a double duty of protecting land infrastructure during storms.

■ For every \$1 spent on beach nourishment annually, beach tourists generate about \$3,000 in economic output, \$1,400 in direct spending, and \$200 in taxes.

■ A 2022 study found that beach vacations were the most popular trip for families, accounting for 66% of family trips.

Source: Houston, J.R., 2024. "The Economic Value of America's Beaches," *Shore & Beach*, Vol 92(2), 33-43.



Acronym key:

BIL: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

BO: Biological Opinion

BOEM: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BRIC: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

BUDM: Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials

CSRM: Coastal Storm Risk Management

DOT: Department of Transportation

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FMA: Flood Mitigation Assistance

IIJA: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

IRA: Inflation Reduction Act

NBS: Nature-Based Solutions

NCRF: National Coastal Resilience Fund

NFWF: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

USACE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WRDA: Water Resources Development Act

ASBPA Federal Priorities 2025

1. Broaden support for coastal legislation and funding by highlighting public **economic benefits** and property protection offered by well-managed and resilient coasts.
2. Collaborate with the administration to **streamline regulations**, enhance data collection, and grow the workforce.
3. Enhance **government efficiency** by promoting cross-agency collaboration to permit and implement CSRM project alternatives.

ASBPA Federal Priorities 2025

1.Support **Legislation**:

- Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act (RISEE Act)
- Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act
- Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act

2.Help facilitate events with the **House Coastal Communities Caucus** to reinforce our message with elected officials and staff.



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