

# Building a U.S. Coastal Research Program

## Motivation and Goal

Recognizing the growing need for a coordinated, National science plan to address societal needs along the coast, a community of researchers from Federal agencies, academia, industry, and NGOs has been developing a sustained and coordinated U.S. Coastal Research Program (USCRP) **to identify research needs, better coordinate Federal activities, enhance funding sources, strengthen academic programs, and build a skilled workforce.**

### Key Objectives

1. Build long-term research partnerships and enhance collaboration between Federal and State agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and industry;
2. Identify research priorities and develop and implement an annual plan to include research and infrastructure investment needs;
3. Enhance funding opportunities for academic research and student programs;
4. Explore fundamental, as well as applied, science and engineering questions;
5. Provide scientific knowledge and useful products for coastal communities and the Nation.

## Approach

*A grassroots effort, initiated by researchers, led to meaningful engagement from the coastal community and swift action to build a National program.*

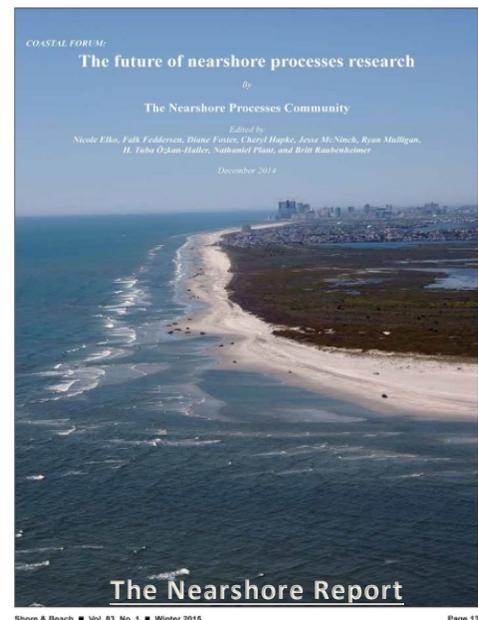
## Identify future directions

**MAR 2014:** Coastal science researchers, academic and Federal, were convened at the Future of Nearshore Processes Workshop to develop a research vision to address societally-relevant coastal science challenges. **The Nearshore Report** included:

- Three broad research themes: (1) long-term coastal evolution, (2) extreme events, and (3) human and ecosystem health; and three types of enabling infrastructure: (1) observations, (2) modeling, and (3) community.
- Community recommendations to build a U.S. Coastal Research Program and establish a Nearshore Advisory Council (NAC)

**FALL 2015:** The **NAC** was formalized with representatives from academia to help structure the research community and represent the research community to the public and coastal stakeholders.

**FEB 2016:** A **Leadership Council** composed of nine Federal agencies, the NAC, and ASBPA agreed that the agencies would collaborate to implement recommendations of the Nearshore Report and committed staff to the effort.



## Inventory ongoing research

**MAR 2016:** Representatives from nine federal agencies met at the **Integrated Research Implementation Plan Workshop** to compile ongoing coastal research projects and to identify gaps, or areas of societal interest where science is needed.

**AUG 2016:** ASBPA reached out to Non-Federal researchers for an inventory of academic and other projects. Over 260 Federal and non-Federal ongoing coastal research projects were identified.

## Develop coordinated National plan for coastal research

**SUMMER 2016:** Federal action plan was drafted based on results of March workshop to showcase existing and potential collaborations, as well as research gaps.

**SEP 2016:** By incorporating input from ASBPA, the NAC and other contributing academic researchers, **The National Plan** was finalized. It includes eleven research and infrastructure investment recommendations.

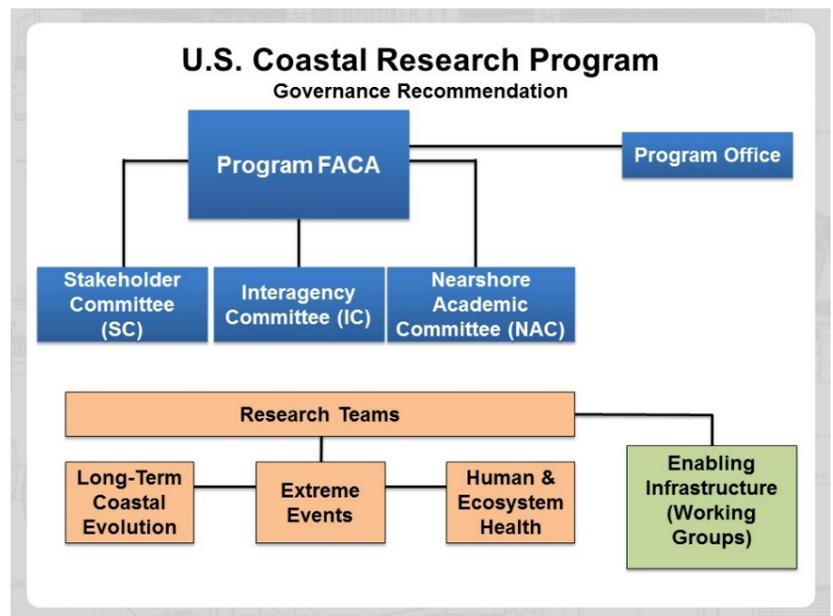


## Demonstrate value of collaboration

**DEC 2016:** At the **1<sup>st</sup> National Nearshore Collaboration Workshop**, 14 multi-agency collaborative projects were conceived based on concepts identified in the National Plan. These projects improve the impact of agency investments, including funding of academic collaborators.

## Formalize the Program

**JUL 2017:** A draft **Governance Recommendation** for the USCRP has been proposed to achieve the goals and objectives. The USCRP will establish new strategic research requirements, develop and maintain a 5-year Strategic Plan, implement an Annual R&D Plan, review research progress, and submit annual reports to Congress. The USCRP will include a Federal Advisory Committee (similar to the Leadership Council which is leading development of the Program); committees representing stakeholders, Federal agencies, and academia (like the NAC); and a Program Office.



For more information, please see [asbpa.org/get-involved/science-technology](http://asbpa.org/get-involved/science-technology).  
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