

THE • ASBPA • AGENDA

Policy: ASBPA supports

■ **Investing in coastal infrastructure:** Congress should invest **\$5 billion** over 10 years to (re-)build federal, state and local beaches, dunes, wetlands and other coastal risk reduction, erosion control, and habitat infrastructure.

■ **Advancing coastal projects:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) should implement the beneficial use of dredged material pilot program authorized in the WIIN Act. USACE, NMFS, and USFWS should improve regulatory and permitting timeframes.

■ **Regional and state coordination:** The South Atlantic Coastal Study should be funded and implemented.

■ **The Coastal Communities Caucus:** All coastal Members of Congress should join the Caucus.

Science: ASBPA supports

■ **Collaboration:** Nearshore research collaboration between federal agencies and academics to advance coastal research, including resilience and dune management.

■ **Resilience network:** Development of national coastal resilience network of regional and federal partners.

asbpa

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

About ASBPA: Founded in 1926, ASBPA (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit) is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy.

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COASTAL • FACTS

Healthy coasts benefit ALL Americans:

■ **Economics:** Beaches help generate \$225 billion a year for the national economy, contributing about \$25 billion in federal tax revenue.¹

■ **Protection:** Wide beaches and healthy dunes protect communities from storms and wave damage; barrier islands, wetlands and mangroves can reduce storm surge substantially.

■ **Environment:** Beaches are valuable habitat for sea turtles, shore birds and invertebrates; coastal wetlands are nurseries for many of our nation's fisheries.

■ **Recreation:** More than twice as many people visit America's coasts as visit our state and national parks combined; consequently 85%² of all tourism-related revenue in the U.S. is generated in coastal states — where beaches are the leading tourist attraction.

Coasts are threatened:

■ Beach erosion is a chronic problem along most open-ocean shores of the United States,³ and the U.S. loses about 80,000 acres of coastal wetlands annually.⁴

■ Sea levels are expected to rise between 1.5-2.5 feet by 2100.⁵

Coastal restoration & nourishment works:

■ Communities with nourished beaches saw a significant reduction in damage to structures from Hurricane Sandy.⁶

■ Restoration can keep pace with moderate sea level rise even in low-lying areas — in Florida, beach restoration has been able to offset its effects on shoreline position.⁷ in Louisiana restoration can eventually lead to net land accretion.⁸

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1) Houston, J., 2013. "The economic value of beaches — a 2013 update." *Shore & Beach*, 81(1), 3-11.

2) Ibid.

3) <http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/shoreline-change/>

4) Dahl, T.E., and S.-M. Stedman, 2013. "Status and trends of wetlands in the coastal watersheds of the Conterminous United States 2004 to 2009." U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, 46 pp.

5) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "5th Assessment: Climate Change 2013" <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>

6) Griffith, Adam D. Andrew S. Coburn, Katie M. Peek, Robert S. Young, 2015. "Hurricane Sandy: Did Beach Nourishment Save New Jersey?," *Learning from the Impacts of Superstorm Sandy*, pp. 57-68.

7) Houston, J.R., 2015 "Shoreline Response to Sea-Level Rise on the Southwest Coast of Florida." *Journal of Coastal Research*; Volume 31, Issue 4; pp. 777-789.

8) Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 2012: "Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast" p. 32

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