

THE • ASBPA • AGENDA

POLICY:

■ **Coastal funding:** Invest in coastal infrastructure to protect communities; provide long-term coastal funding from coastal and offshore development; pass a Water Resources Development Act; use Hazard Mitigation Grants to reduce coastal vulnerability.

■ **Expedited coastal project implementation:** Expedite regulatory and permitting timeframes; advance Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials (BUDM) and Regional Sediment Management (RSM); ensure coastal regulatory processes are collaborative and science-based.

■ **Regional resilience:** Restore the Gulf Coast; advance the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS); begin a South Atlantic Comprehensive Study.

SCIENCE:

■ **U.S. Coastal Research Program:** A national coastal effort to coordinate federal activities, strengthen academic programs and build a skilled workforce.

■ **Coastal information:** A publicly accessible Engineered Beach Database; white papers on RSM, beach profile equilibration and more; the peer-reviewed *Shore & Beach* journal.

asbpa

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

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

Beaches, dunes & wetlands work:

■ During the 2017 hurricanes, communities with well-maintained beaches and dunes sustained less damage than communities without such protective systems in place.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) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 2013. "Hurricane Sandy Coastal Projects Performance Evaluation Study." http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/About/Hurricane_Sandy/CoastalProjectsPerformanceEvaluationStudy.aspx. Accessed 21 October 2014.

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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