

# 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 non-governmental organizations has initiated the development of a 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; develop and implement an annual plan that 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 through the following steps:

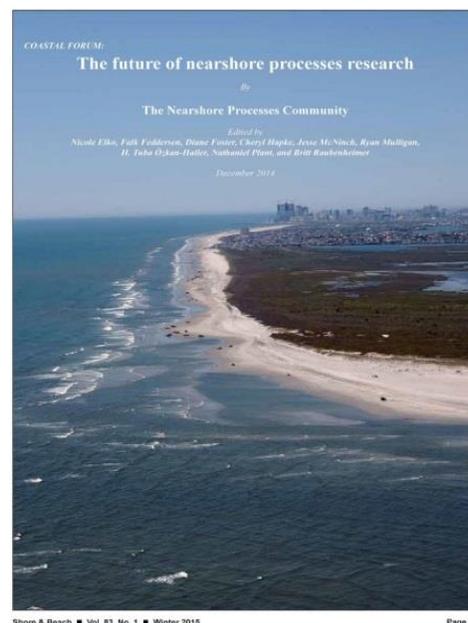
### Identify future directions

**MAR 2014:** Academic and federal coastal science researchers gathered at the Future of Nearshore Processes Workshop to develop a research vision to address societally-relevant coastal science challenges. Outcomes were published in **The Nearshore Report** which:

- Identified three broad research themes: (1) long-term coastal evolution, (2) extreme events, and (3) human and ecosystem health; as well as three types of infrastructure which research: (1) observations, (2) modeling, and (3) community.
- Recommended establishing a Nearshore Advisory Council (NAC) and creating a U.S. Coastal Research Program.

**FALL 2015:** **NAC** was formalized with representatives from academia to provide an organizing structure for university researchers and to help represent them to the public and coastal stakeholders.

**FEB 2016:** A **Leadership Council** composed of nine Federal agencies (BOEM, FEMA, NOAA, NPS, NRC, NSF, ONR, USACE, USGS), NAC, and ASBPA agreed to collaborate to implement recommendations of the Nearshore Report and committed staff to the effort.



**The Nearshore Report**

## Inventory ongoing research

**MAR 2016:** Federal representatives from the Leadership Council met at the **Integrated Research Implementation Plan Workshop** to compile ongoing coastal research projects and to identify gaps, or areas of societal concern where scientific understanding is needed to help address the issue

**AUG 2016:** ASBPA reached out to Non-Federal researchers for an inventory of other projects, including academic research. In total over 260 Federal and non-Federal ongoing coastal research projects were identified, showing the depth and breadth of work in the coastal field as well as identifying many potential areas of collaboration.

## 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. Input from ASBPA, NAC, and other contributing academic researchers was incorporated to create **The National Plan**, which includes eleven research and infrastructure investment recommendations.



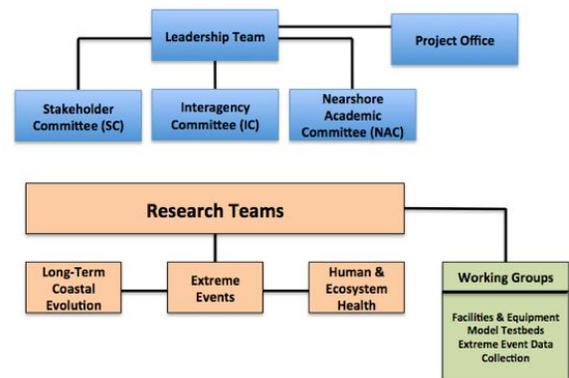
## Demonstrate value of collaboration

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

## Formalize the Program

**SUMMER 2017:** A draft **Governance Recommendation** was proposed to achieve the goals and objectives of the USCRP. The Program will establish new strategic research requirements, develop and maintain a 5-year Strategic Plan, implement a regular research and development plan, review research progress, and submit regular reports to Congress. The USCRP will include leadership structure includes a leadership council; committees representing stakeholders, Federal agencies, and academia; research teams; and a Program Office.

## U.S. Coastal Research Program



For more information, please see [uscoastalresearch.org](http://uscoastalresearch.org).

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