



**Energy & Water Appropriations FY19 Testimony for the Record.**

**Derek Brockbank**  
**Executive Director**  
**American Shore & Beach Preservation Association**

[Derek.Brockbank@asbpa.org](mailto:Derek.Brockbank@asbpa.org)  
202-827-4246

This testimony is for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Civil Works budget.

**Since 1926, the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), a 501(c)3 non-profit, has been dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy. Our members are industry, local government officials, academics and residents of coastal districts; we are advocates for healthy coastlines.**

As the House Energy and Water Appropriations sub-committee crafts legislation for Fiscal Year 2019, we respectfully request you to include the following:

- 1) Provide at least \$75 million in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works (USACE-CW) construction account for shore protection.***

Coastal shoreline counties contribute \$6.9 trillion to our GDP<sup>1</sup>. Coastal habitats including beaches, wetlands, mangroves and estuarine systems are some of the most ecologically productive and economically important on earth<sup>2</sup>. But perhaps most importantly to communities that live along a coast, **a healthy coastline provides protection of life and property from the hazards of living by the water** – storm surge, waves, and sea level rise.

With this in mind, we ask you to **support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' shore protection budget in the FY19 budget**. While the administration's budget proposal has consistently left shore protection unfunded, Congress has reliably added funding for this critical mission of the USACE. **The FY18 House Energy & Water Appropriations bill included \$75 million**, but the FY18 Omnibus only included \$50 million. We request that amount is increased back to the FY18 House Energy & Water Appropriations level in FY19. The current USACE

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<sup>1</sup> NOAA, State of the Coast, 2012. <http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> Barbier, Et al, "The value of estuarine and coastal ecosystem services", Ecological Monographs, 2011. <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1890/10-1510.1>

capacity for shore protection construction exceeds \$150 million, so \$75 million is less than half of what USACE could accomplish. **Please provide \$75 million in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works (USACE-CW) construction account for shore protection.**

- 2) ***Fund Regional Sediment Management and the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material:***
  - a. ***Provide \$4.5 million for USACE-CW Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Remaining Item, “Regional Sediment Management (RSM)” in FY19.***
  - b. ***Provide \$2 million for CAP204 “Beneficial Use of Dredged Material in FY19.***

The WIIN Act authorized a Beneficial Use of Dredged Material pilot project (Sec. 1122), which would allow for beneficial placement of dredged material at federal expense (“notwithstanding the federal standard”). This program is finally being implemented and is expected receive far more applications than the required ten projects. While we anticipate many projects could be implemented with overall cost-savings through efficiencies, and others will have minimal costs which can be born across budget lines, increasing appropriations to the line-items most directly associated with this program will ensure there is funding to implement all the pilot projects.

- 3) ***Maintain or increase funding levels for coastal data collection including:***
  - a. ***O&M item, “Coastal Ocean Data System,” (CODS) a minimum of \$6 million;***
  - b. ***O&M item, “National Coastal Mapping Program,” a minimum of \$6.3 million;***
  - c. ***O&M item, “Coastal Inlet Research Program,” a minimum of \$2.975 million;***
  - d. ***Investigations item, “Coastal Field Data Collection Program,” of \$1 million***

The CODS maintains wave buoys on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts that provide data such as wave height, direction and sea surface temperatures. This data is critical to engineering coastal projects, and can provide essential information about long term coastal trends. **Please support the CODS at the amount of \$6 million.** The Coastal Mapping Program is essential to measure shoreline change across the nation; **please support Coastal Mapping at the amount of \$6.3 million.** Coastal Inlet Research Program provide research and analysis on the interaction of navigable inlets and coastlines, benefiting USACE’ navigation and coastal storm damage risk reduction missions; **please support Coastal Inlet Research at the amount of \$2.975 million.** Coastal Field Data Collection supports the work of the USACE Field Research Facility in Duck, NC, which provides coastal data and research support to all federal agencies. This data is critical to engineering coastal projects, and can provide essential information about long-term coastal trends; **please support coastal field data collection at the amount of \$1 million.**

**ASBPA is grateful to your sub-committee and Congress for making sure the critical missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in particular that of coastal flood risk reduction and shore protection, are funded,** even when the administration doesn’t see fit to support them. Of course, shore protection, RSM and the USACE Coastal Research and Data programs are only a few small pieces of a much larger investment needed in preparing our coastal communities for increasingly intense and frequent coastal storms and hazards. Improving the resilience of coastal communities will take coordination across multiple federal agencies working together with state and local authorities. It will also take a large scale dedicated investment in coastal infrastructure. However a good first step in protecting coastal communities

is ensuring shore protection, regional sediment management, and coastal data acquisition are appropriately funded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Brockbank". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Derek" being more prominent than the last name "Brockbank".

Derek Brockbank  
Executive Director