



American Shore and Beach Preservation Association and Coastal States Organization **Joint Beach and Inlet Management Policy**

The U.S. coasts face unprecedented challenges including rising sea and lake levels, increasing storm intensity, coastal erosion, and lack of available sediment. Congress, federal agencies, and states must provide policy, funding, and science to help coastal managers balance the multiple uses and values of our coastal resources, while ensuring those values are maintained or improved for future generations.

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) represents the nation's coastal states, territories, and commonwealths on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues. The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) is dedicated to merging science and policy to preserve, protect, and enhance the beaches, shores, and coastal systems of the United States of America. Together these organizations represent state, local government, industry, and community stakeholder interests in managing and maintaining healthy beaches, dunes, and coastal inlets together with responsible coastal development. CSO and ASBPA strongly support the following five policy positions, and commit to working together to see these objectives fulfilled.

Policy 1: Sediment Management

Beaches and inlets are dynamic features that change based upon the flow of sediment through coastal systems. To protect ecosystem health, economic viability, and coastal resilience, it is essential to properly value and manage sediment by:

- Implementing national policies on regional sediment management and the beneficial use of dredged material;
- Identifying sediment needs and availabilities through regional resilience studies and/or plans;
- Implementing sediment management plans that coordinate optimal use of dredged sediment;
- Ensuring funding and technical assistance for state and local governments to plan, prioritize and implement beneficial use projects and regional sediment management; and
- Ensuring robust stakeholder engagement.

Policy 2: Permitting

Beach and inlet management and restoration rely on strong environmental protections to maintain the health and ecological value of these systems. It is critical to optimize the timeliness, efficiency, and effectiveness of regulatory review for projects occurring along beaches and inlets by:

- Ensuring dedicated and predictable federal funding commensurate with permitting demand;
 - Building efficiencies with states serving as central coordinators for state and federal permitting;
 - Requiring that various permitting reviews needed for state and federal approval are conducted concurrently to the maximum extent practicable; and
 - Ensuring state and federal permitting regulations are based on best available science.
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Policy 3: Funding

As beaches and inlets face greater physical changes in the coming century than in all of human history, it is necessary to establish dedicated and predictable funding for coastal hazard preparedness projects, by:

- Publicly listing all federally authorized coastal projects and their status and developing a 10-year schedule of priorities for these projects;
- Investing in coordinated project planning to support efficient permitting and implementation and project construction and management using systems/watershed-based approaches;
- Authorizing coastal erosion control projects;
- Developing a better cost-share standard that reduces barriers for disadvantaged communities; and
- Planning and developing coastal adaptation projects for long-term (50-200 year) sea level rise and lake level change projections.

Policy 4: Development

Development along the coastlines needs to change. Coastal property and infrastructure are threatened by sea level rise, lake level change, and increasing coastal storm intensity, which also exacerbate on-going challenges of coastal erosion and inundation. The following policies and procedures are needed to ensure beaches and inlets can migrate and adapt to changing coastlines:

- Funding relocation or removal of structures threatened by shoreline erosion and supporting coastal management programs in implementing development standards;
- Better aligning the Community Rating System with successful beach management practices;
- Requiring grant programs for coastal adaptation, relocation, and hazard mitigation to consider beach migration and natural infrastructure solutions;
- Coordinating federal agency actions that regulate, manage, or promote coastal infrastructure; and through a central entity to ensure that public trust rights to the coast are considered.

Policy 5: Research

Beach and inlet management must be based on the best available science. The following policies would ensure coastal managers have essential high quality coastal data, science, modeling, and mapping necessary for timely and risk-informed decision-making:

- Funding and coordination of shoreline mapping, on-going data collection and long-term monitoring of physical coastal conditions, and research and competitive grant programs that support beach and inlet management; and
- Enhance modeling capacity and accuracy with robust and fine scale data collection, funding for localized visualization tools, and incorporation of beach and inlet data into existing data portals.



American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines

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