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.
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% 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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2) Ibid.
3) http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/shoreline-change/
8) Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 2012: “Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast” p. 32.