

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. The resulting **Nearshore Report**:

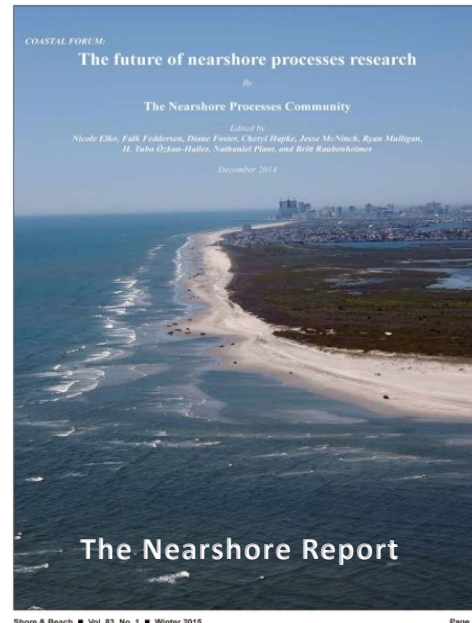
- Identified three broad research themes: (1) long-term coastal evolution, (2) extreme events, and (3) human and ecosystem health; as well as three types of infrastructure which research: (1) observations, (2) modeling, and (3) community.
- Recommended establishing a Nearshore Advisory Council (NAC)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

Inventory and coordinate 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.

SUMMER 2016: The Federal Action Plan was drafted based on results of the March workshop to showcase existing and potential collaborations, as well as identify research gaps. Input from ASBPA, NAC, and other contributing academic researchers was incorporated to create **The National Plan**, which included eleven research and infrastructure investment recommendations.

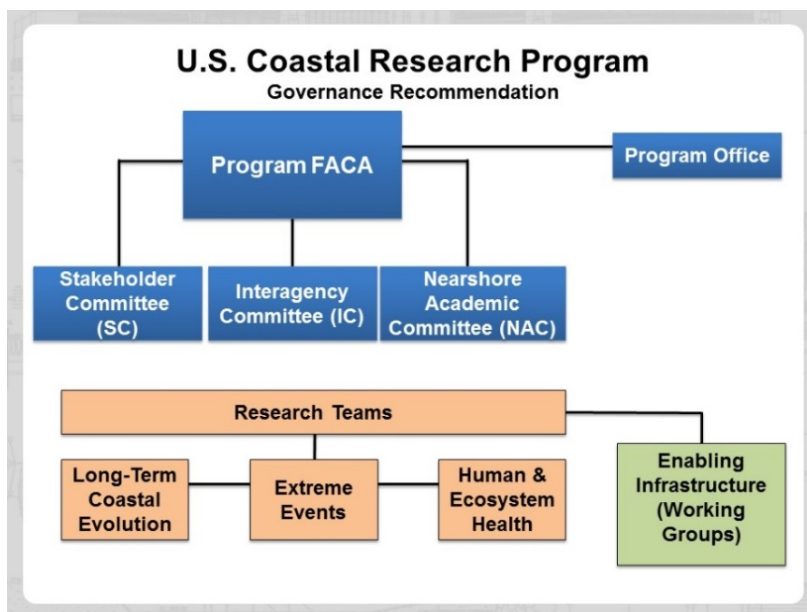


Demonstrate value of collaboration

DEC 2016: At the **1st 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 and engineering.

USCRP Formalized

SUMMER 2017: A **Governance Plan** was established 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 an annual research and development plan, review research progress, and submit regular reports documenting advancements. The USCRP leadership structure includes a leadership council; committees representing stakeholders, Federal agencies, and academia; research teams; and a Program Office.



USCRP Ongoing Activities – Summer 2018

To date, the USCRP has conducted two community workshops and awarded academic grants to pursue high-priority research as identified by coastal communities. In July 2018, the USCRP initiated a quarterly Bulletin. A During Nearshore Event Experiment (DUNEX) is planned to address the 2nd research theme to advance knowledge and predictions of nearshore storm processes. For up-to-date activities, please visit the USCRP website: <http://uscoastalresearch.org>

Contacts: Nicole Elko, ASBPA; Jeff Lillycrop, USACE; Hilary Stockdon, USGS; Leighann Brandt, BOEM