

FACTS

ABOUT

THE

# *coastal nonpoint*

POLLUTION

CONTROL

PROGRAM

**C**OASTAL WATERS ARE AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE RESOURCE. THEY PROVIDE US WITH FOOD, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, COMMERCE PATHWAYS AND SOLACE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM A GROWING COASTAL POPULATION—HALF THE NATION'S POPULATION LIVES IN COASTAL COUNTIES. MORE POPULATION MEANS MORE PRESSURE ON COASTAL RESOURCES FROM THE WAYS WE DEVELOP, MOVE, RECREATE, AND USE THE LAND.

EACH YEAR, INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TOURISM AND FISHING, LOSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS DUE TO DEGRADED COASTAL RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED POINT SOURCE POLLUTION—POLLUTION DISCHARGED DIRECTLY FROM PIPES, SUCH AS FROM A FACTORY OR A WASTEWATER FACILITY—NEARLY HALF OF OUR COASTAL WATERS ARE STILL DEGRADED, PRIMARILY BY DIFFUSE SOURCES OF RUNOFF FROM LAWNS, ROADWAYS, FARMS, CONSTRUCTION SITES, AND LEAKING SEPTIC TANKS (NONPOINT POLLUTION).

## THE PROGRAM

The Coastal Nonpoint Program was established by Congress in 1990 under Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA).

The Program builds upon existing state coastal zone management and water quality programs by applying a consistent set of economically achievable management measures to prevent and mitigate runoff pollution problems.

State programs incorporate management measures to address land-based sources of runoff from agriculture, forestry, urban development, marinas, hydromodification (e.g., stream channelization), and the loss of wetlands and riparian areas. They also provide accountability through a variety of implementation tools, including rules, ordinances, voluntary approaches, educational campaigns, and financial incentives, all backed by enforceable policies and mechanisms.

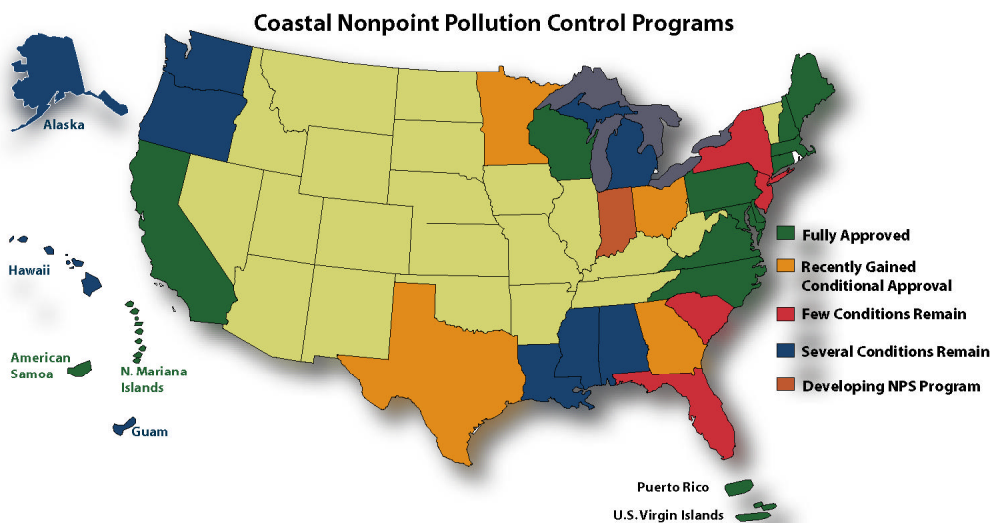
State coastal nonpoint programs represent a comprehensive approach, recognizing that all land-use activities in coastal watersheds can have impacts on estuaries, beaches, marine resources and the ocean.

The Coastal Nonpoint Program is fundamentally about improved coordination and pollution prevention, seeking to build partnerships and networks that facilitate the implementation of appropriate methods to limit runoff pollution before problems occur.



## PROGRESS

Thirty-three of 34 participating coastal states have successfully developed a road map for solving their unique runoff pollution problems. Indiana, as a recent entrant to the Coastal Zone Management Program, is actively developing its program. NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initially issued conditional approval to all state coastal nonpoint programs. Sixteen states have achieved full program approval, meaning they have met all program requirements and are ready to implement



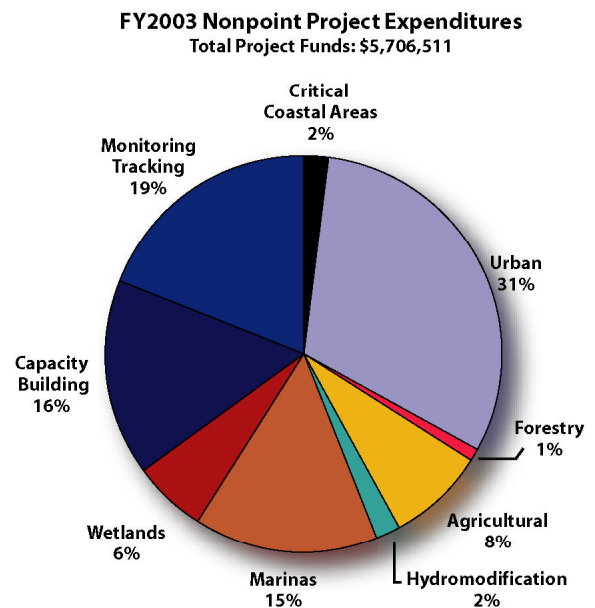
the full range of available coastal runoff solutions. Of the remaining states, several are close to completing the final steps, ensuring they all will have the capabilities they need to meet the coastal nonpoint pollution challenge.

## FUNDING

Over the past three years, Congress has authorized \$30 million for states to implement their programs. Congress also appropriated approximately \$20M for Coastal Nonpoint Program development between FY92 and FY00. In FY03, over 60% of the Coastal Nonpoint Program funds directly supported projects to implement management practices in states' Coastal Nonpoint Programs. The remainder went to support state and other staff to maintain the national network of coastal nonpoint source practitioners and to oversee projects and coordinate state programs.

Examples of projects supported include:

- Auditing and monitoring forestry Best Management Practice programs.
- Educating local officials and governments about the impacts of land use practices on water quality.
- Adopting new and revised state storm water rules.
- Inspecting septic systems and other on-site disposal systems.
- Implementing Clean Marinas Programs.
- Instituting new shoreline erosion control programs that utilize non-structural techniques.
- Developing databases to track and monitor Best Management Practice implementation and evaluate effectiveness.



[www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm/6217](http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm/6217)