

# Overview of FY25 Coastal Program

## Objective

This document provides a high-level review of the Department of Interior's (DOI) [Coastal Program](#). This program funds projects that restore and protect fish and wildlife habitats on both public and private lands.

## Program Summary

The Coastal Program is a program that provides technical and financial assistance primarily through cooperative agreements to conservation partners and landowners, including state and Tribal agencies. The core mission is to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in coastal ecosystems on both public and private lands. The program focuses on species conservation, habitat connectivity, and building resilient ecosystems. Projects are developed collaboratively by partners and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field staff and must align with the missions of the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Coastal Program. All projects must be based on sound biological principles and the best available science.

The Maryland local Coastal Program point of contact is

» [Caitlin.Whiteleather@Maryland.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Whiteleather@Maryland.gov)

Application Deadline	To be considered for the FY25 funding, applications must be submitted before <b>May 30, 2025</b> through <a href="#">GrantSolutions</a> . Applications are accepted on a rolling basis between January 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025, 11:59 PM ET. Applications received after May 30, 2025, will be considered for the following fiscal year.
Funding Overview	For FY 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Total Funding: \$6,000,000</li><li>» Minimum Award: \$1</li><li>» Maximum Award: \$500,000</li><li>» Expected Number of Awards: 150</li></ul>

Eligible Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Habitat restoration and protection for fish and wildlife</li> <li>» Projects that support species conservation</li> <li>» Projects that improve habitat connectivity</li> <li>» Projects that build resilient ecosystems</li> </ul>
Cost Sharing Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» No cost sharing is required</li> </ul>
Priority Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Projects benefiting Federal trust species</li> <li>» Projects engaging Native American Tribes and/or benefiting Tribal communities</li> <li>» Projects complementing conservation on National Wildlife Refuges and other conserved lands</li> </ul>

### FY2025 Coastal Program NOFO Open

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is open with applications accepted on a rolling basis between January 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025. To be considered for funding in FY25, applications must be submitted before **May 30, 2025**. Applications received after May 30, 2025, may not be awarded until the following fiscal year, subject to fund availability. For more information, visit the [Coastal Program website](#), or email the national point of contact at [chris\\_darnell@fws.gov](mailto:chris_darnell@fws.gov).

### FY24 National-Level Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded \$25.7 million to support 28 projects in 11 coastal states to protect, restore or enhance coastal wetlands, adjacent upland habitats, and streams and shorelines. This program has been used to boost coastal resilience, reduce flood risk, stabilize shorelines and protect natural ecosystems.

Table 1. Local and County-Level Grant Awards

Local/County Recipient	Awarded Funding	Project Description
North Carolina Division of Coastal Management	\$1 M	Acquisition of 147.5 acres of maritime forest and coastal wetland, a coastal barrier island. The tract includes pristine beach, dune, salt flats, maritime shrub and estuarine wetlands that provide habitat for several federally listed species including seabeach amaranth, red knots, piping plovers, green sea turtles and loggerhead sea turtles.
Virginia Department of Wildlife Services	\$1 M	Acquisition and improvement of 621.4 acres of coastal wetlands and buffering uplands in Accomack County, Virginia, on the Delmarva Peninsula. This project will expand a wildlife management area for coastal fish and wildlife, facilitate inland marsh migration, enhance coastal resiliency, expand wildlife-related recreation opportunities and improve habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. This project will also benefit Virginia’s recreational and commercial fishing and shellfishing industries.
Washington State Parks	\$1 M	This project will also restore 175 acres of coastal wetlands and 20 acres of buffers along the Little Hoko River and floodplain on Washington State Park land. The Hoko watershed supports numerous species of birds and fish. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will install 62 large, engineered logjams in the stream to re-establish the river process and contribute large woody debris to improve the in-stream habitat, benefitting Chinook salmon and steelhead during their annual migration.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	\$90,000	Acquisition of a 22-acre parcel of land on Point au Sable, which is the largest coastal wetland complex along the east shore of Green Bay on Lake Michigan. This project supports one of the most productive ecosystems in the Great Lakes with more than 60 species listed as endangered, threatened or species.