



National Shoreline Management Study

Eroding U.S. Shorelines - A Call for Resilience Planning

The congressionally-authorized National Shoreline Management Study (NSMS) is the first undertaking in nearly a half-century to document the physical, economic, environmental, and social impacts of shoreline change across each region of the U.S. Under the leadership of the *Institute for Water Resources* of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NSMS provides coastal scientists, government policymakers, and stakeholders with information about the coastal regions most in need of resilience planning.

National Overview

Continual erosion of the U.S. shoreline presents a considerable financial and safety risk to coastal infrastructure, economies, and populations. Individual regions face unique challenges and require solutions reflective of that. Federal leadership is critical to facilitate and support regional and local efforts to identify shoreline management issues and develop shoreline management plans as a basis for action. **Resilience planning to address potential future risks allows for a fundamental shift away from costly and near-sighted disaster-driven responses.**

As facilitators with technical expertise, **the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal agencies can assist states and local governments to form regional collaborations** that involve key stakeholder groups, as well as academia and the private sector. The lessons learned from NSMS show that tackling the dual problems of shoreline erosion and sediment buildup in channels and inlets is best done regionally and proactively. Similarly, **it is through such alliances that existing funding efficiencies can be achieved and alternative sources of funding pursued.**

National Totals	Shoreline Counties	% of U.S. Total
Population	119.32 million	37 %
GDP	\$6,843.3 billion	43 %
Employment	51.19 million	38 %

Source: National Oceans Economic Program (NOEP) National Report 2016

Great Lakes

Shoreline management issues, including erosion and sediment buildup, are directly tied to water levels in the Great Lakes. Water levels are the key to the ecology of the Great Lakes and the economic and social welfare of the people who live and work along their shores.

Each Great Lake is different, and 58 percent of all the region's shorelines are subject to erosion, with many beaches and bluffs receding by dozens of feet per year. Infrastructure and residential/commercial properties are also at risk from damages, and property devaluation.

Many federally engineered shoreline protection structures in the Great Lakes were built 50 to 200 years ago and half are at risk of failure. The lack of federal funds to rebuild or maintain these structures properly results in higher risks for local communities.

Threats to the commercial shipping and fishing industries in the Great Lakes include lower lake levels and channels changes. As such, there is an ever-increasing need to dredge marina channels for lake access.

Great Lakes Totals	Shoreline Counties	% of U.S. Total
Population	19.21 million	6 %
GDP	\$965.7 billion	6 %
Employment	8.39m million	6 %

Source: National Oceans Economic Program (NOEP) National Report 2016