



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
COASTALGADNR.ORG
912-264-7218

SUSTAIN PROTECT
CONSERVE ENHANCE



To balance coastal development and protection of the coast's natural assets, socio-cultural heritage, and recreational resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

GEORGIA'S COAST IS HOME TO
105 MILES OF SHORE AND
368,000 ACRES OF MARSHLANDS.

This delicate ecosystem attracts more than \$2 billion in tourism-related economic activity annually.¹

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Balancing development and protection of the coast

Fishery management

The Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources ensures that saltwater fishes, crustaceans, and shellfish popular with anglers and commercial fishermen remain abundant, healthy and accessible for present and future generations. We achieve this through surveys, research projects, monitoring water quality and representing Georgia in federal and interstate fishery management processes.

Data collection and surveys

The Division conducts a variety of surveys to collect data for effective fishery management. Our fishery-independent surveys, such as the Ecological Monitoring Trawl Survey conducted aboard the 56-foot Research Vessel Reid W. Harris, and the Coastal Longline Survey, are conducted by CRD biologists to learn about the health of fisheries populations. Fishery-dependent surveys are similarly important, but rely on the public's participation. Dependent surveys include the Cooperative Angler Tagging Project, and the Recreational Angler Survey. CRD shares the data it collects with federal and interstate fishery management bodies.

Protection of marshlands and shores

The vast coastal marshlands, tidal waterways, and barrier island beaches are irreplaceable treasures delivering ecological and human benefits ranging from seafood to hurricane protection. To protect them, the Division administers the Coastal Marshlands and Shore Protection acts, issues revocable licenses for waterbottoms, and coordinates with other state and federal agencies to implement sound regulatory policy. Since 1997, many of these functions have been carried out by the Georgia Coastal Management Program, a partnership with the federal government and a mandate from the state legislature.

Georgia Coastal Management Program

Grants and Funding

Coastal Incentive Grants
Directed projects

Training and Tools

Model ordinances
Coastal mapping/GIS
Green infrastructure
Online digital viewers

Events and Education

CoastFest
Beach Week
Climate Conference

Community Enhancement

Beach advisories
Sustainable development
Public access
Marine debris removal

Research and Monitoring

Living shorelines
Shoreline habitat
Ecosystem Report Card
Sea-level rise monitoring

Government Coordination

Coastal Advisory Committee
Federal consistency
Coastal hazard assistance

Regulatory and Compliance

Permitting and compliance
Shore Protection Act
Coastal Marshlands Protection Act
Shellfish fishery management

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

\$805,941 in Coastal Incentive Grants awarded to competitive applicants in 2022

403 jurisdictional determinations made under CMPA and SPA authority

1,852 water quality samples conducted across six counties

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

\$16 million dockside value in Georgia's shrimping, blue crab and shellfish industries.¹

1,912 jobs in marine fisheries currently supported on the coast.²

\$49 million in labor income and \$45 million in sales generated annually by marine fisheries.¹

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

\$343 million in recreational angling-related sales across the coast annually, supporting 3,811 jobs and \$121 million in income.²

CRD staff collected recreational fishing data from 2,631 anglers in 2022 to aid in management decisions.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

3,322 unique public interactions at multiple events throughout the year

Annual events include Beach Week and Family Fishing Derbies. CoastFest returns in 2023.

Coastal Advisory Committee and Marine Fisheries Advisory Council provide public-input opportunities for management decisions.

Public outreach

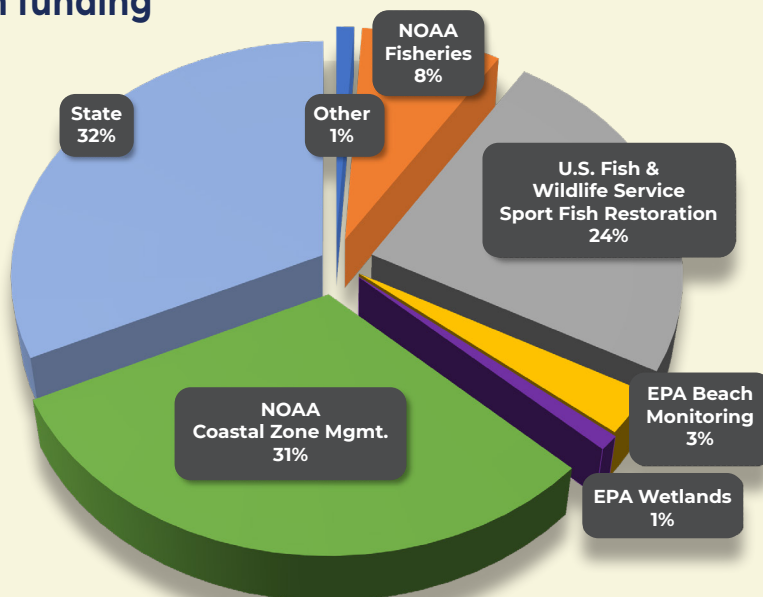
The Division hosts a variety of public events throughout the year. The Coastal Advisory Committee and Marine Fisheries Advisory Council also provide the public with opportunities to make their voices heard in regulatory and management processes. New in 2022 was the reintroduction of "Coastlines Georgia," a CRD magazine previously published in the 1980s and 90s. The newly relaunched Coastlines can be found at CoastalGaDNR.org/Coastlines and is published quarterly.



Marine habitat license plate

The Coastal Resources Division launched the Marine Habitat License plate in 2018. By the end of 2022, the plate has raised nearly \$1 million for essential fish and marine life habitat creation, both inshore and offshore.

Division funding



The Coastal Resources Division's Fiscal Year '22 total budget is \$9.1 million, with 32 percent from state revenues. The remaining funds are from federal sources, as indicated in the graph above.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration is a unique "user-pay, public-benefit" fund source administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and funded by excise taxes paid by the fishing and boating industry. The State of Georgia earns these funds based on the number of licensed anglers. Activities supported are aquatic-resource inventory surveys, fishing and boating access improvements, fish habitat enhancement, and conservation education.

Coastal Zone Management funds are appropriated by Congress to the U. S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The State of Georgia qualifies for these funds by having an approved Georgia Coastal Management Program and providing a mandatory 50 percent match of non-federal funds. Activities supported are technical assistance to local governments, environmental regulation, compliance and enforcement, federal project review, and public outreach.

For a full list of the Program's activities, see the breakout box on page one.



David Cannon photo

SOURCES: University of Georgia (2018). The Value of Georgia's Commercial Fisheries.¹ U.S. Department of Commerce (2018). Fisheries Economics of the United States.²