



WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) works cooperatively with Great Lakes stakeholders in state agencies, tribal and local government, academic institutions, non-profits, and the general public to balance resilient coastal communities to help protect and enhance natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Great Lakes while encouraging equitable public access and responsible economic development.

State Program in Action



- Grants Program: WCMP administers grants to local and tribal governments, state agencies, and non-profit organizations annually through the CZMA of 1972, awarding approximately \$1.5 million .
- Council: WCMP is guided by a 14-member, governor-appointed advisory council of citizens representing state agencies, local and tribal governments, and the general public which assists in awarding annual grant funds and setting policy direction for WCMP.



- J. Philip Keillor Wisconsin Coastal Management and Wisconsin Sea Grant Fellowship: The fellow is involved with diverse efforts to improve preparedness and resilience to coastal hazards while supporting programming for both WCMP and Wisconsin Sea Grant. The fellowship provides new experiences for emerging leaders in the coastal resilience field.
- Wisconsin Communities of Practice (CoP): WCMP facilitates and serves on the leadership team for several coastal hazard CoPs: Coastal Hazards of Superior (CHAOS), Collaborative Action for Lake Michigan (CALM) and the East River Collaborative. These CoPs engage regional partners through regular meetings and site visits to share resources and lessons learned.
- In partnership with Wisconsin Sea Grant, the Wisconsin Coastal Processes Manual continues to be updated according to the latest coastal hazard science. This manual will serve as a technical reference guide for local government staff and coastal land managers to understand water level fluctuations, coastal erosion, resilient management practices, and more.
- WCMP's funding priorities include investments in projects that provide equitable public access, promote Great Lakes awareness and stewardship, and target non-point pollution. Additional efforts include the Wisconsin Clean Marina Program, Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), and Wisconsin Coastal Beaches working group.
- WCMP co-chairs the Great Lakes-St Lawrence Regional Maritime Entity. This binational effort seeks to realize the potential of the system's infrastructure, increase international trade, and reduce the environmental footprint of maritime transportation.



Catalyzing Action to Address Coastal Hazards

WCMP administers grants to leverage recent federal investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to address coastal hazards, habitat loss and public access issues across Wisconsin’s 15 coastal counties. Through the 2021-2025 Wisconsin Coastal Enhancements Needs Assessment and Strategy, WCMP assists agencies and communities in developing and revising coastal hazards policies through outreach and data development and management. WCMP has implemented three successful NOAA Projects of Special Merit in recent years and a NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant. WCMP also facilitates the Coastal Hazards Working Group which includes state agencies, local government representatives, researchers, and emergency managers.

A State-Federal Partnership

WCMP was the lead state agency in the designation of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and provides technical and financial assistance to the ongoing Green Bay NERR designation. WCMP is an active participant in the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, initiated by CSO and led by the USACE. The study is a multi-year comprehensive watershed assessment to identify areas vulnerable to coastal hazards and leverage current and future resiliency efforts. WCMP co-led the establishment of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary (2021), bringing new opportunities for research, preservation, education, recreation, and heritage tourism in partnership with local communities. WCMP has a long standing partnership with the NPS Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Together with the Park’s friends group, WCMP has participated in efforts to increase water and ice safety and park accessibility.



Established in 1978, WCMP promotes the enjoyment and protection of over 800 miles of Great Lakes coastline.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

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