

DBW Coastal Erosion Control Programs: Background, accomplishments, and current projects
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Inception of DBW coastal erosion programs:

DBW manages two grant programs for coastal issues. The Shoreline Erosion Control Program and the Public Beach Restoration Program.

The state's **Shoreline Erosion Control Program** began in 1943 under the former Department of Natural Resources. The program was moved to various departments, ultimately landing at DBW in 1970. As authorized in Harbors and Navigation Code, the Shoreline Erosion Control program can help government agencies study shoreline erosion problems and plan and construct projects to address those problems. Projects can be both "hard solutions" like seawalls and jetties and "soft solutions" like sand replenishment and dune restoration.

The state's **Public Beach Restoration Program** was assigned to DBW upon the Program's creation in 1999 because DBW was already responsible for statewide beach erosion control. This program can assist government agencies with the engineered placement of sand on the beach or in the nearshore environment when DBW determines this is necessary. Cost-matching requirements for DBW's grantees are lower under this program than the Shoreline Erosion Control program. Many projects under this program are led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and are authorized in federal law for 50 years of renourishments after initial construction. However, the State's funding of one phase of a project does not obligate the State to fund future phases. Each phase is considered by the legislature for potential funding.

Why are the programs at DBW? DBW tradition is that the erosion programs were placed at DBW because of the disruptions to beaches that harbors and breakwaters create, but this tradition cannot be confirmed in law or program documentation we've been able to find. When DBW was the Department of Navigation and Ocean Development (DNOD) in 1969, the Governor proposed to reorganize several agencies and make the DNOD more ocean-oriented rather than boating-oriented. In addition, erosion control was one aspect of broad-scale responsibility the Governor wanted DBW to take on for coordinating statewide ocean resource planning, stating "An integrated part of ocean resource planning is the control of beach erosion." The full reorganization ultimately failed but this program was moved to the DNOD in 1970. In 1971 the state's Auditor General reported that assigning coastal erosion control responsibility to DBW created an apparent conflict of interest, since DBW-sponsored coastal construction can cause erosion. The same report noted the HWRF was not originally meant to be used for coastal erosion control. Regardless of these various efforts and conflicts, the programs remain with DBW.

Statutory authority for DBW coastal erosion control programs:

- Beach erosion control statutes: HNC sec. 65-67.4.
- Public Beach Restoration Act: HNC sec. 69.5-69.9.

Programs' historic accomplishments:

- Local assistance planning and construction grants: Since fiscal year 1969/1970, the state has authorized over \$120 million in local assistance grants for projects at over 50 sites statewide.
- Coastal erosion studies. DBW has funded studies to analyze erosion issues statewide, measure the economic benefits of beaches, and assess environmental conditions at state shorelines.

- Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW): DBW co-chairs this working group of federal and state experts that assists local governments in strategic sediment management.
- Regional sediment management plans: Under the auspices of the CSMW, DBW has helped local and regional governments fund regional sediment management planning for most of the coast.

Programs' historical state funding sources:

Shoreline Erosion Control Program, all sources since 1969:

- HWRF, General Fund, Special Account for Capital Outlay, Environmental License Plate Fund, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Fund, Resource Account/ Energy and Resources Fund, Resource Account/ Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax, Federal Trust Fund.

Public Beach Restoration Program, all sources since 1999:

- Transfers to Public Beach Restoration Fund from HWRF and General Fund. (PBRF has no dedicated funding source.)
- State Park and Recreation Fund has funded several studies through this program.