

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION OVERVIEW



The Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is entrusted by the Governor and General Assembly to manage the state’s marshes, beaches, coastal waters, and marine fisheries. CRD’s service area extends from the inland reach of tidal flow out three miles into the Atlantic Ocean—an area of approximately 1,000 square miles—and includes Brantley, Bryan, Chatham, Camden, Charlton, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Wayne counties. The Division is comprised primarily of two sections, Coastal Management and Marine Fisheries, with separate but complementary functions.



COASTAL MANAGEMENT SECTION

Coastal & Ocean Management • Federal Consistency
Shellfish & Water Quality • Compliance & Enforcement
Marsh & Shore Management

The Coastal Management Section works with local, state, and federal authorities to balance economic development and population growth with protection of coastal natural, historic, and recreational resources.

Administers the Georgia Coastal Management Program

Assists local governments with public access, coastal hazard preparedness, and green growth

Funds local projects and research through grants

Monitors water quality at swimming beaches and shellfish growing areas

Issues and enforces permits for structures and activities in coastal marshlands, public waters, and along the shorelines of barrier islands

MARINE FISHERIES SECTION

Fisheries Statistics • Habitat Enhancement & Access
Research & Surveys • Vessel Support • Program Support

The Marine Fisheries Section provides information to manage Georgia’s diverse coastal fisheries. State, interstate, and federal authorities use this information to make decisions that balance the long-term health of fish populations with the needs and desires of those who fish for commercial and recreational purposes.

Conducts scientific surveys of marine life and their habitats

Participates in interstate and federal fisheries management processes

Performs marine life habitat assessments, restoration, and enhancement

Surveys and collects data from recreational anglers and commercial fishermen

Provides boating and fishing access opportunities

ADMINISTRATION

Budgeting & Grants Management • Human Resources
Communications & Education • Budgeting & Purchasing
Grants Management

Administration is responsible for budgeting, purchasing, and grants management, as well as maintenance of the Department of Natural Resources’ 23-acre campus in Brunswick. Human Resources and Outreach & Education are also encompassed within Administration.

Plans and hosts CRD’s signature outreach event, CoastFest, which draws thousands annually

Hosts fishing clinics and camps for youth and adults

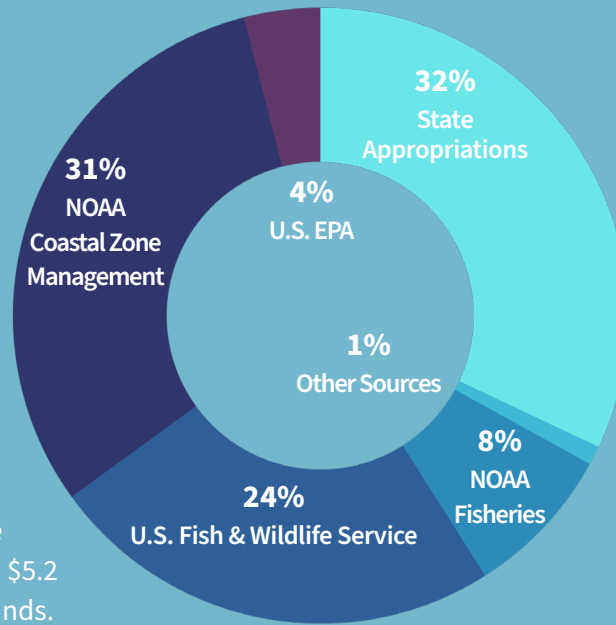
Publishes quarterly division magazine, Coastlines

Manages 18 federal grants and additional state and other fund sources

THE MISSION OF THE COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION IS 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.

DIVISION FUNDING

The Division's fiscal year 2025 budget is \$8.5 million, including \$3.3 million in state appropriations and \$5.2 million in federal funds.



Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration is a unique “user-pay, public benefit” fund sources administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and funded by excise taxes paid by the fishing and boating industry. The State of Georgia earns these funds based a formula involving the number of licensed anglers and Georgia’s landmass. Activities supported include aquatic-resources inventory surveys, fishing and boating access improvements, essential fish habitat enhancement and creation, 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 include technical assistance to local governments, environmental regulation, compliance, and enforcement, federal project review, and public outreach.



CRD’s Support Marine Habitat has raised more than \$1 million for conservation since its launch in 2017. These funds are used to create and enhance essential fish habitat.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

The Division’s largest annual event, CoastFest, will be held March 22, 2025, in Brunswick. CoastFest features live animals, touch tanks, and exhibits from nearly 100 partner organizations. Twice per year on Georgia’s “Free Fishing Days,” the division hosts Kids Fishing Events on Tybee Island and in Brunswick. These activities feature angling education overviews, basic fishing instructions, and bottom fishing from a pier.

CRD also hosts a variety of other events throughout the year, including brownbag lectures, rain barrel workshops, and campus visits and tours. Staff frequently visits coastal schools for programs and is available for gatherings like Rotary clubs or Savannah boat show.



David Cannon photo

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

More than \$700,000 in Coastal Incentive Grants awarded to competitive applications in 2024

405 jurisdictional determinations made under Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection acts authority in 2024

1,728 water quality samples conducted across six counties in 2024

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

\$17.9 million dockside value in Georgia’s shrimping, blue crab, and shellfish industries in calendar year 2023

1,912 jobs in marine fisheries supported on the coast¹

\$49 million in labor income and \$45 million in sales generated annually by marine fisheries¹

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

\$343 million in recreational angling-related sales across the coast annually, supporting 3,811 jobs and \$121 million in income²

CRD staff collected recreational fishing data from 3,392 anglers from Sept. 2023 - Sept. 2024 to aid in management decisions

OUTREACH, EDUCATION, & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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

Coastal Advisory Committee meets quarterly to advise the Georgia Coastal Management Program

Citizen advisory panels for finfish, shellfish, and shrimp inform CRD policy through decision-making processes



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

ONE CONSERVATION WAY
BRUNSWICK, GA 31520

912-264-7218 • COASTALGADNR.ORG