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What Happens At the Beach Doesn't Stay At the Beach

"We are not alone!" That was the message conveyed last week to members of the Texas chapter of the American Shore & Beach Preservation (ASBPA). Delivering a call to action for all coastal interests was Howard Marlowe, Director of Government Relations for the national office of ASBPA.



Marlowe urged beach preservation activists band together with port, navigation and environmental interests in order to flex more political muscle in Washington, DC and state capitals. "What happens at the beach doesn't stay at the beach," he said. "What coastal residents do affects their inland neighbors as well as the ocean that lies beyond the shoreline. We have a responsibility to be good coastal stewards and to make sure that Congress and state legislators understand that America's water resources cannot be allowed to deteriorate."

Marlowe called on local coastal governments to "come to Washington so the nation's lawmakers learn firsthand what coastal communities have been doing to plan for the future and what help they need from the Federal government." "I've often wondered why we just don't round up all the chambers of commerce, realtors, hoteliers, restaurateurs, airlines, and others to whom the coastal infrastructure is literally a matter of economic life and death," Marlowe said. We are all in the same boat. If we can work together to fill the tub with more water, then we will all float higher."

"The coast is a network of powerful interests that receives almost \$1 billion of federal funding each year. Amidst the challenges, there are opportunities for ASBPA and its coastal allies to craft a vision for the responsible stewardship of the nation's coastal resources that will take us into the next century and beyond."

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