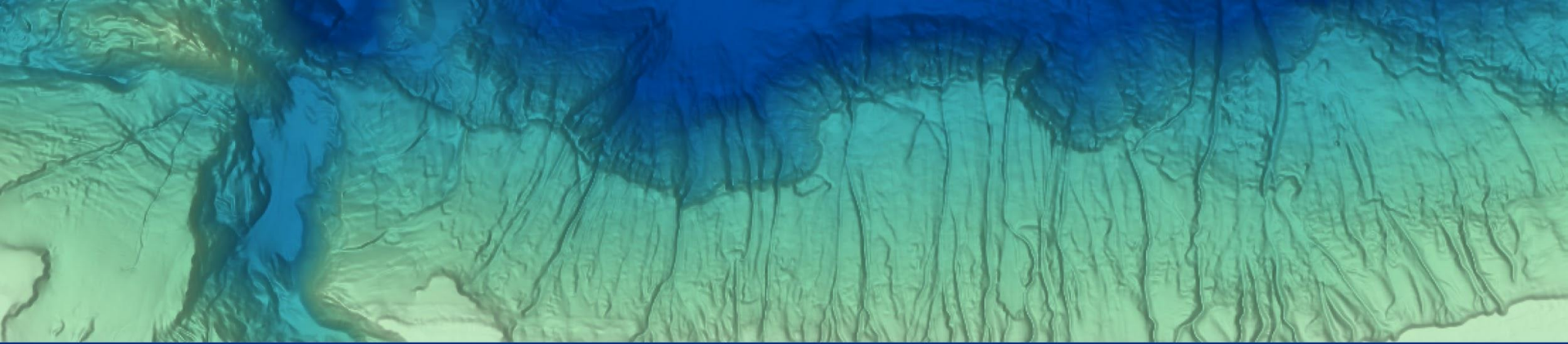




FY28 Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund Informational Webinar

August 13, 2026



NOAA
Coast Survey

Meredith Westington
Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping

Michael Stephens
Hydrographic Surveys Division

- 1 Program Overview**
- 2 Application Process**
- 3 Project Evaluation Considerations**
- 4 Example from Connecticut**
- 5 Timeline**
- 6 Q&A**



Honoring Rear Admiral Richard T. Brennan

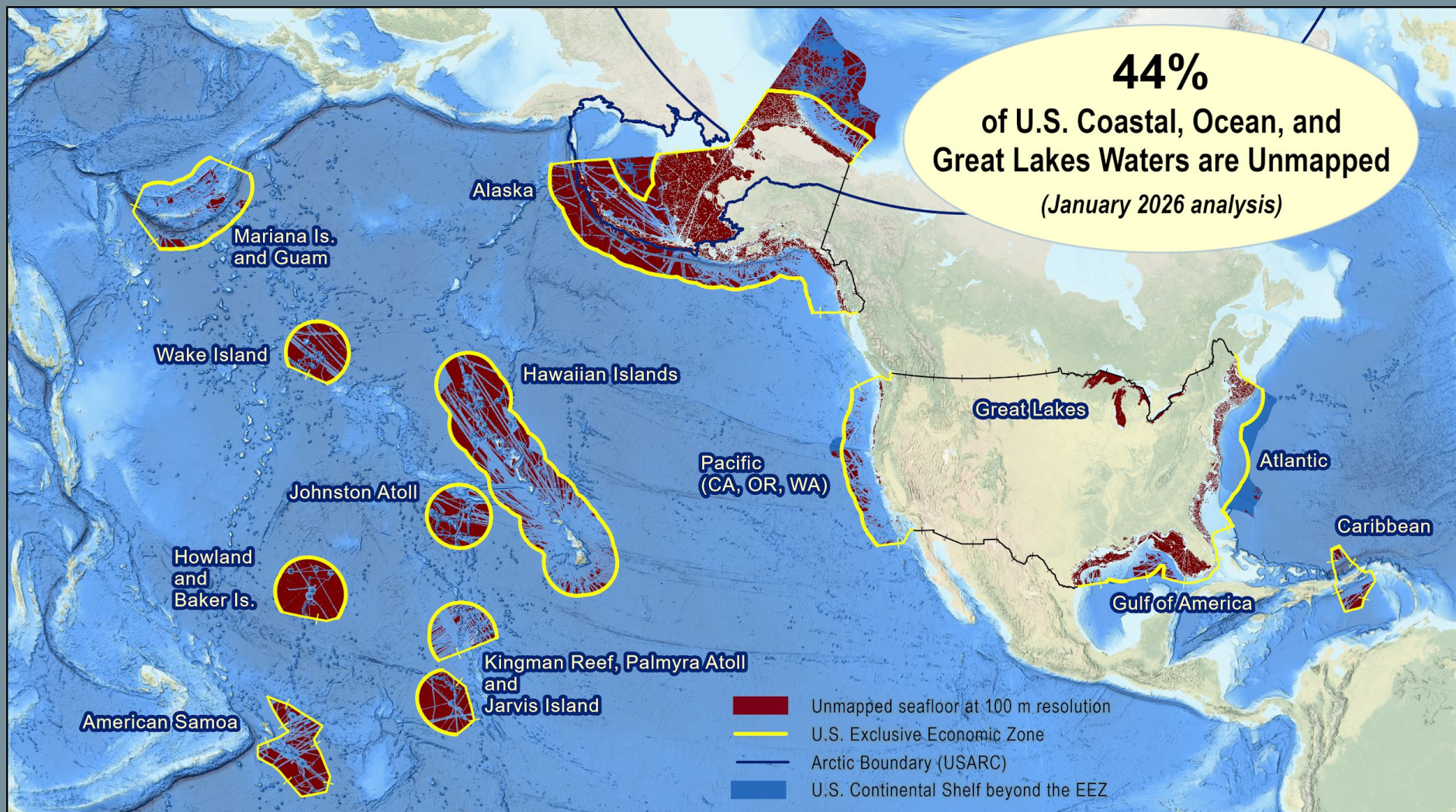
Former Director of the Office of Coast Survey and
President of the Hydrographic Society of America

“Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund” named in his honor in
reauthorization of Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration
Act (2022)

Advocate for collaborative ocean mapping– cost-effective,
cooperative mapping efforts and data sharing to support
many needs for ocean and coastal data

In honor of RDML Richard T.
Brennan

44%
of U.S. Coastal, Ocean, and
Great Lakes Waters are Unmapped
(January 2026 analysis)



Matching Fund Structure and Eligibility

70% **+** **30%** **=** **\$1M*** **2-5**
NOAA Funding Partner Match Project Expected Projects

Examples of Eligible Non-Federal Entities

- State/local governments
- Tribal entities
- Universities/academia
- Private sector
- NGOs/philanthropic organizations
- Coalitions of non-federal entities

Authority to receive funds (33 U.S.C. 883e)

Contract management and oversight

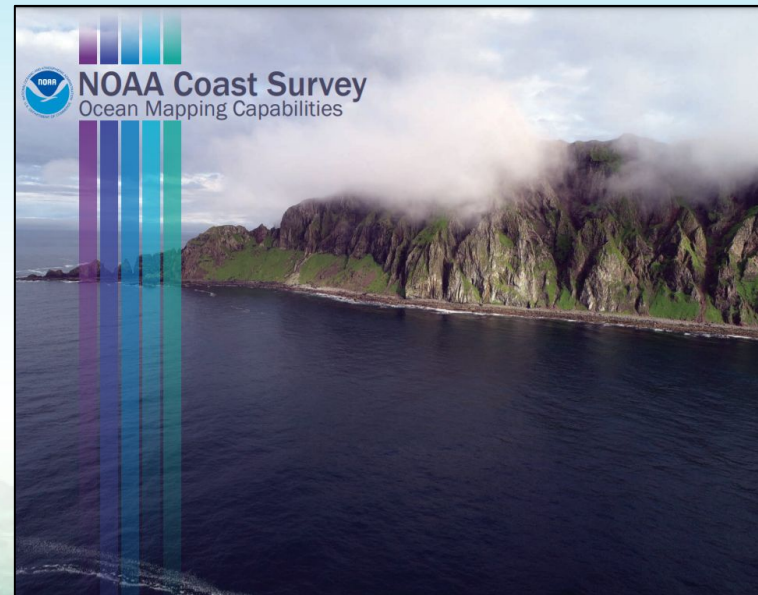
Hydrographic surveying and shoreline mapping expertise

Survey planning

Pre-Qualified vendors

Data processing, quality assessment and review of all acquired survey data

Data management and stewardship from ping to hi-res products to archive at NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information



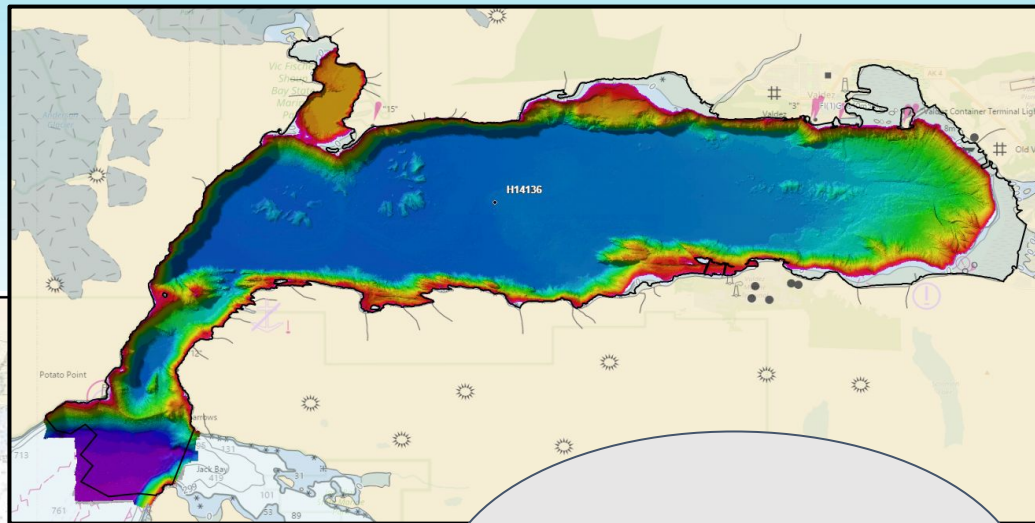
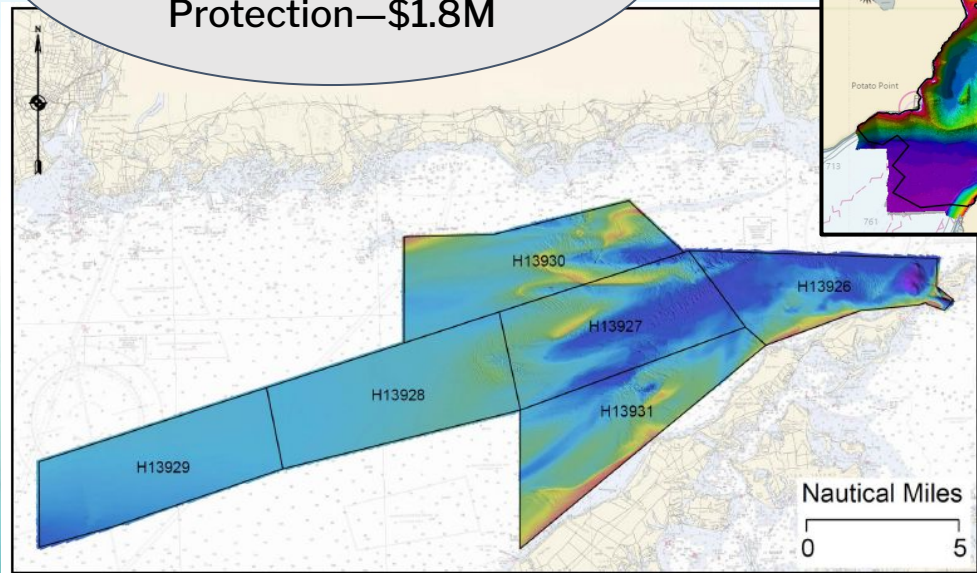
Hydrographic Surveying Services

- Office of Coast Survey manages this contract vehicle
- For hydrographic data, including multibeam echosounder, side scan sonar, acoustic backscatter, processing of the data, quality control, and resulting products

Shoreline Mapping Support Services

- National Geodetic Survey manages this contract vehicle
- For remote-sensing, digital shoreline mapping, surveying, and associated tasks, including collecting geodetic surveys, determining tidal datums, and digital map compilation

FY24: NOAA partnered
with Connecticut Dept of
Energy and
Environmental
Protection—\$1.8M

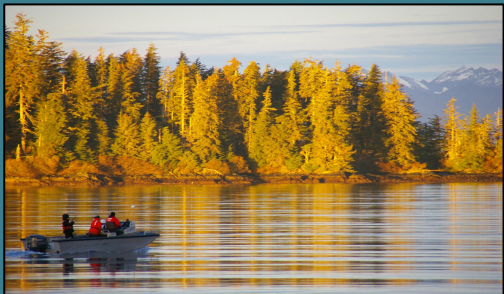


FY25: NOAA
partnered with City
of Valdez—\$425,000



Six (6) total pages (plus optional GIS files of project areas) including the following **three** components:

- 1 Project title and executive summary that includes the names and affiliations of the key personnel (not to exceed 1 page)
- 2 Justification and statement of need outlining the survey area and relevance to the strategic areas of focus (not to exceed 4 pages)
- 3 Project budget that lists the source(s) and amount(s) of funding that the partner would provide as its match to NOAA. Budget must confirm that partner funds can be transferred to NOAA by September 2027 (not to exceed 1 page).



National Strategy

*Map, explore, and characterize
U.S. coasts and oceans*

Goal

All U.S. Waters mapped to
modern standards by 2040



Alaska Focus

*Expand Alaska coastal data
collection*

Goal

Alaska coastal priorities
mapped to modern standards
by 2030



Partnerships

*Collaborate to increase ocean
and coastal mapping*

Goal

Collaborate to increase
ocean and coastal mapping

U.S. Mapping Coordination Site

<https://iocm.noaa.gov/maps/USMappingCoordination/>

Filters

Project Status

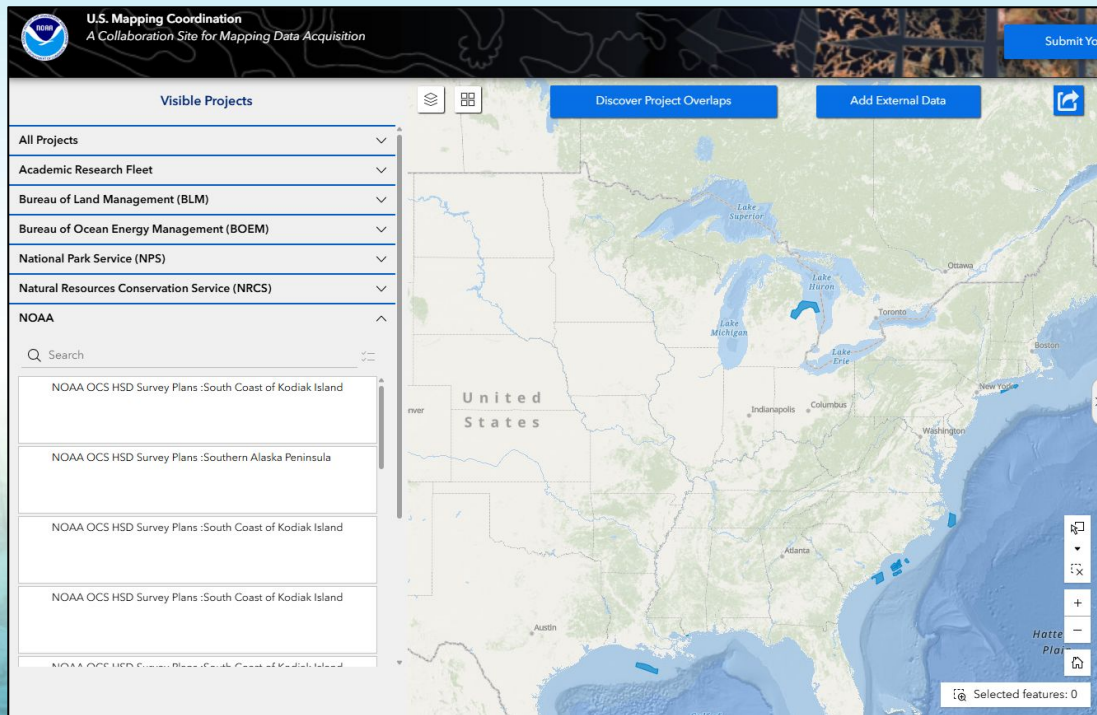
- ★ Proposed
- ★ Planned

Calendar Year

- ★ 2028

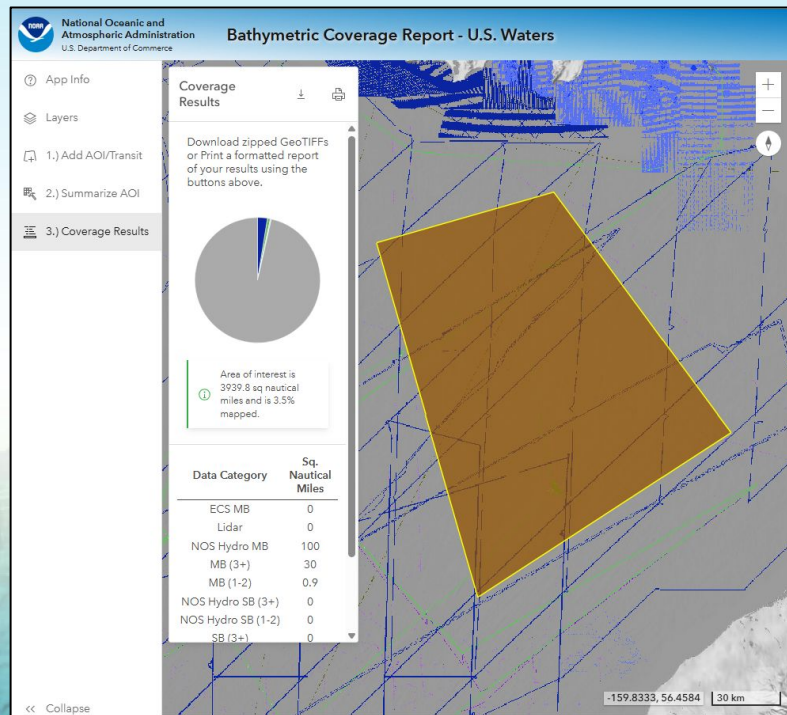
3DEP and 3DHP Priorities

- ★ No



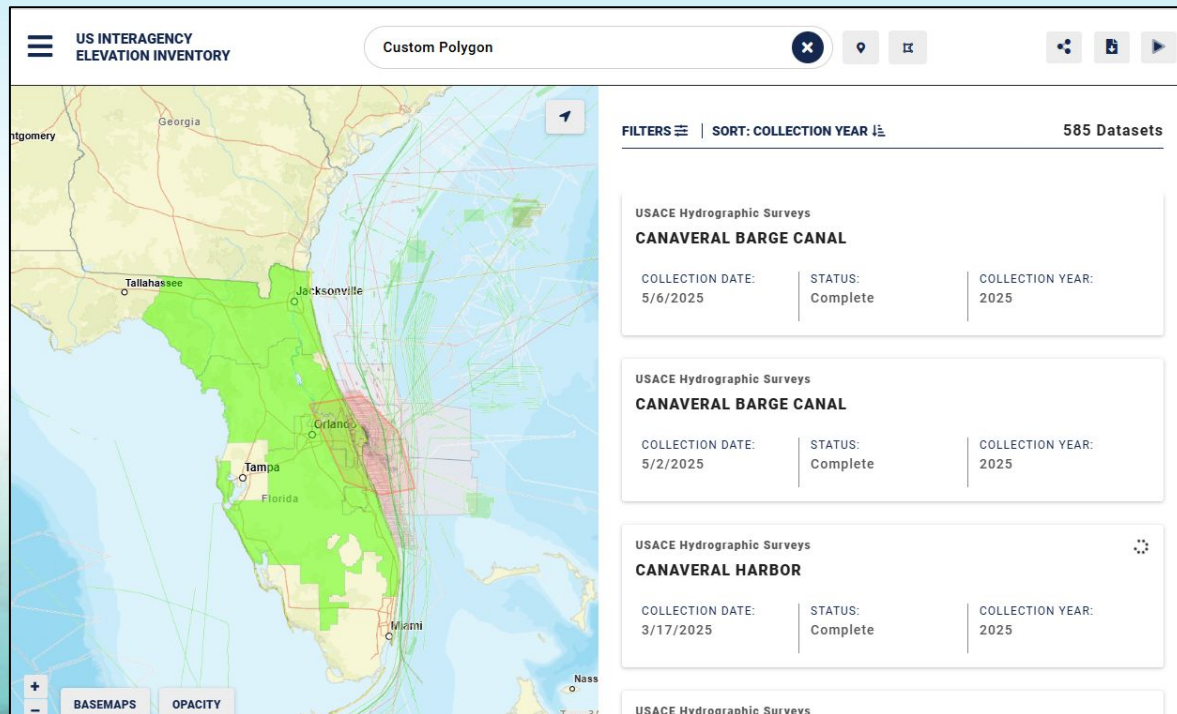
U.S. Bathymetric Gap Analysis and Coverage Report Tool

<https://iocm.noaa.gov/bathymetric-coverage-report-tool.html>



U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory

<https://coast.noaa.gov/inventory/>



United States Interagency Elevation Inventory

- Topographic, Topobathy, Bathymetric Lidar, IfSAR, and other Bathy Surveys.

NOAA

- NOAA Hydrographic Surveys, Non-hydro Multibeam Bathymetry, and Trackline Bathymetry

USACE

- Hydrographic Surveys

USGS

- Inland Bathymetry Surveys

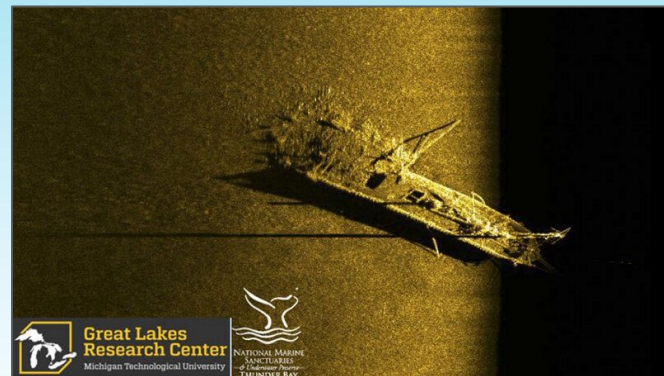
Cost Estimator Worksheet

Email iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov

Rough Order of Magnitude costs for hydrographic/bathymetric surveys and topobathy lidar/imagery

Available upon request





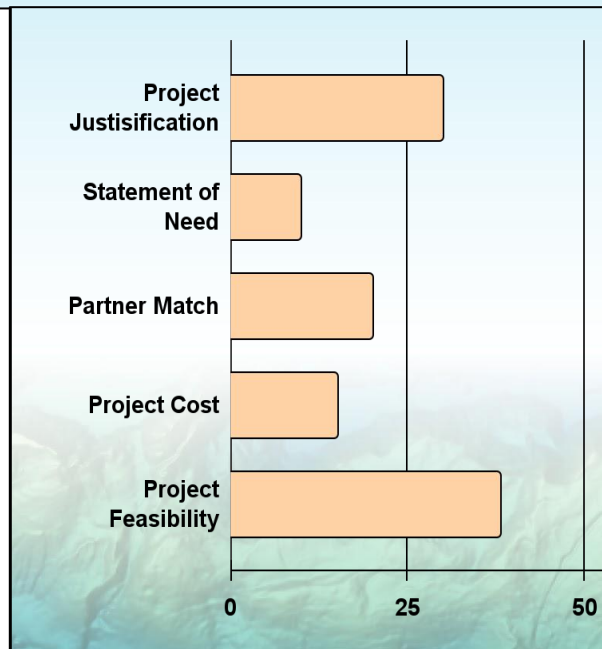
Lidar - shallow water, limited turbidity, cheapest per SNM

Multibeam Sonar - shallow to deep, full point cloud of sea floor. Swath width increases with water depth, so more SNM achievable per dollar in deeper areas

Side Scan Sonar - paired with multibeam in shallow areas to reduce costs, provides image of seafloor without corresponding elevation data

Proposals will be evaluated by the Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund Management Team using five weighted criteria totaling 100 points for comprehensive assessment.

- Project justification demonstrating intrinsic IOCM value and relevance to national priorities (30 points)
- Statement of need assessing clarity of project requirements and public benefit (10 points)
- Specified partner match evaluating funding sources and partnership structure (20 points)
- Project costs determining realistic budget and resource allocation (15 points)
- Project feasibility assessing likelihood of success and environmental compliance (25 points)



Long Island Sound Seafloor Habitat Mapping Initiative
Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund Projects

FY27 Brennan
LISCF AOI

FY24 Brennan
OPR-B342-KR-24

Guest Speaker

DeAva Lambert,
Long Island Sound Cable
Fund Project Manager

Seafloor Mapping

The Long Island Sound Seafloor Habitat Mapping Initiative

Underneath the surface of Long Island Sound exists a wide range of seafloor habitats—from the shallow, sandy bottom in the Narrows near New York City, to the deep and rocky recession in the Race near Fishers Island. Mapping the seafloor provides a framework to better understand and manage the resources dependant on these diverse habitats.

In an effort to better understand, describe, and analyze these seafloor (or “benthic”) environments federal and state agencies, regional organizations, and academic institutions use high resolution underwater acoustic and imaging techniques to characterize and map specific geographic locations.



Scup near Mason Island. Photo by Robert DeGoursey, UConn.

"Why We Map"

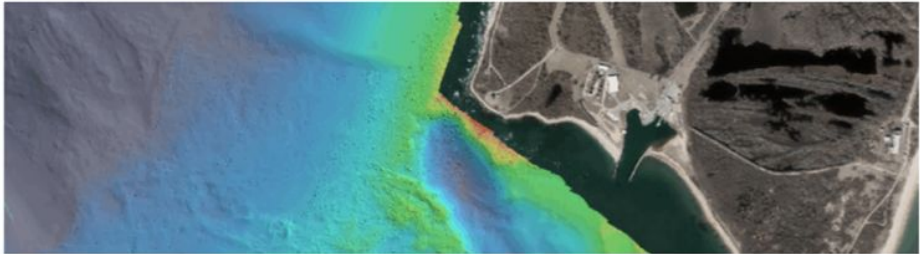


A striped sea robin, *Prionotus evolans*, cruises boulder habitat in search of small crustaceans and other invertebrate prey.

"What lies below this blue horizon remains unseen and therefore largely unknown to most of society. The seafloor habitats of the Sound are as diverse as those on land and similarly harbor a diversity of life that is essential to our well-being."

From "Why We Map," a web page in the UConn Long Island Sound Seafloor Habitat Mapping [website](https://lispartnership.org/research-monitoring/seafloor-mapping).

NOAA releases Long Island Sound survey data to support electric power cable planning

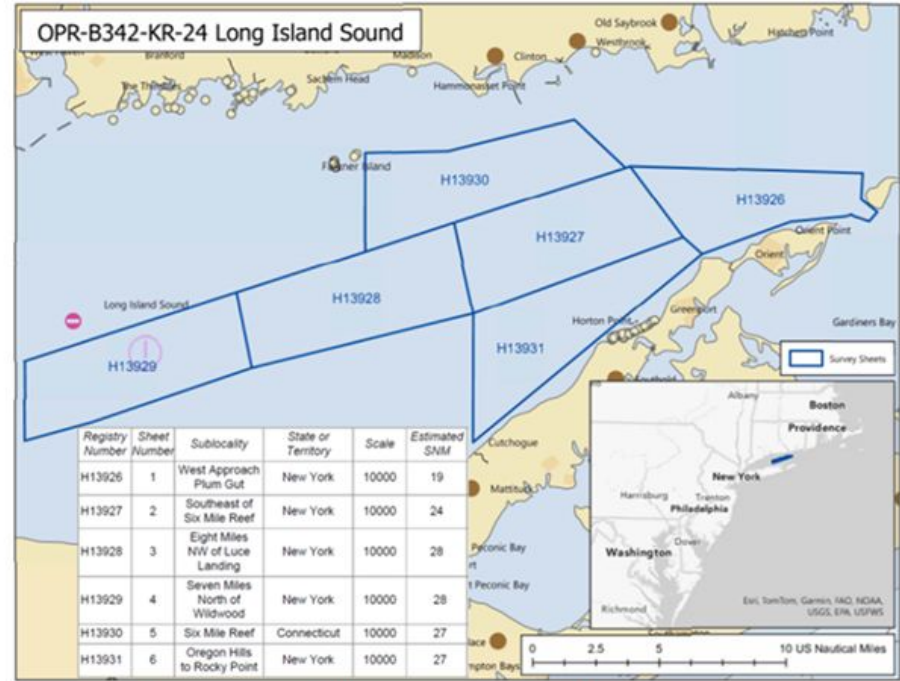


We are pleased to announce the availability of new seafloor mapping data to support energy infrastructure planning in the Long Island Sound!

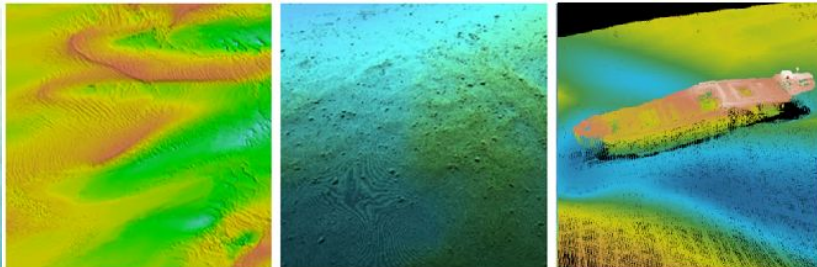
This survey is the result of a Coast Survey partnership with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) through NOAA's Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund opportunity, a program that allows non-federal organizations to co-fund projects of mutual interest utilizing NOAA's contracting and data management expertise. NOAA selected this project in the FY2024 round of the matching fund opportunity.

The Long Island Sound Seafloor Habitat Mapping Initiative, which is managed by CTDEEP and administered by the Long Island Sound Cable Fund Steering Committee, consisting of Federal, state, and academic partners from Connecticut and New York, who will use this data to support domestic energy development and production and the routing of electric transmission cables through Long Island Sound. And in accordance with our *Map Once, Use Many Times* goal, NOAA will use the data to support maritime commerce and other interests by improving nautical charts and other mapping products.

"Updated full coverage, bathymetry and backscatter data collected using advanced high-resolution multibeam sonar systems [will also] support future seafloor habitat studies, decision-making, and policy development," noted CTDEEP. "The data [will] also be integral for supporting future mapping of the surficial geology and ecology of the seafloor."



Area surveyed, cross-referenced with the data available on NCEI here:
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/maps/bathymetry/>



Additional multibeam point cloud imagery from the survey (Credit: Ocean Surveys, Inc.)

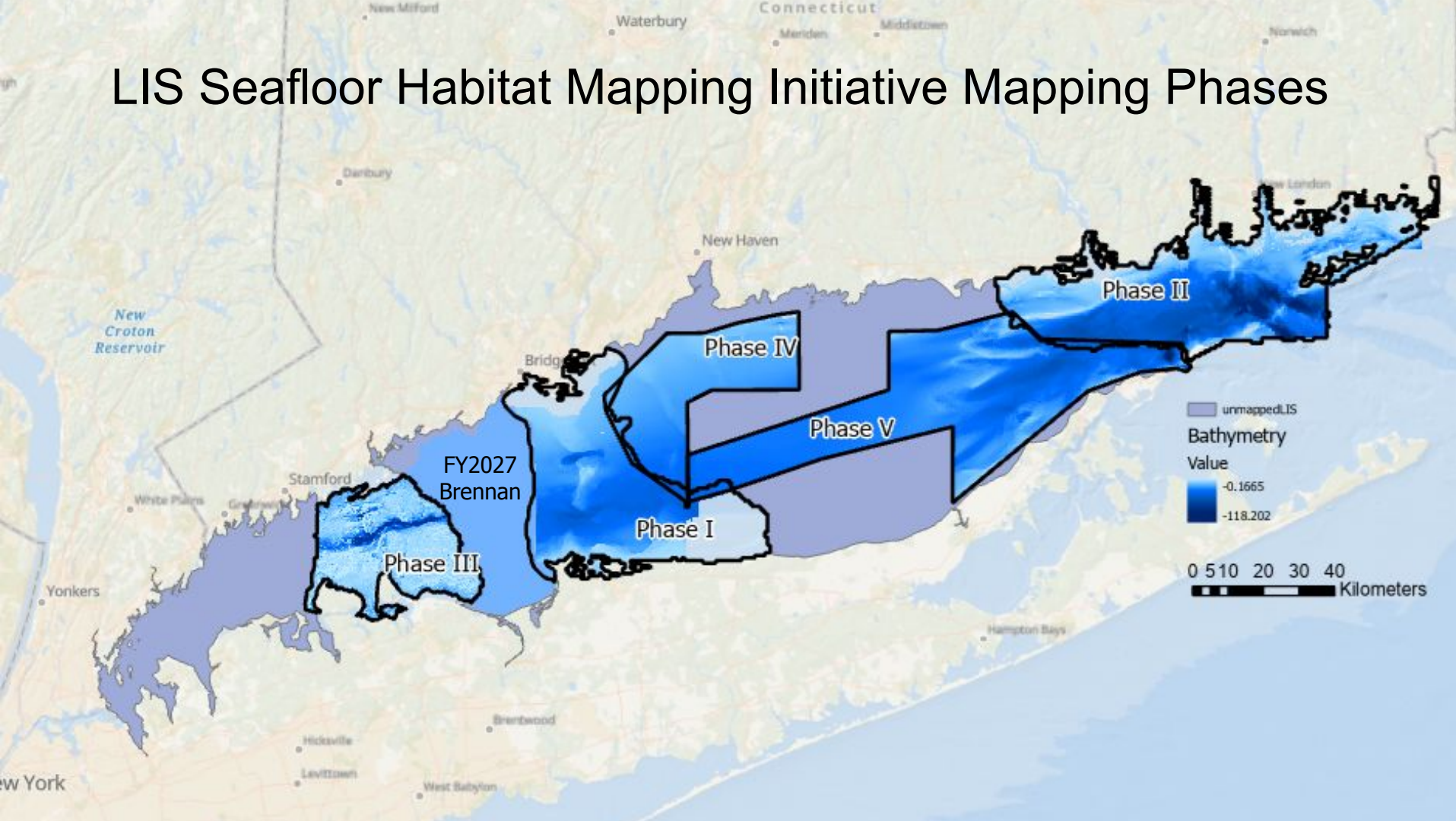


< 20m

20m to 40m

< 20m

LIS Seafloor Habitat Mapping Initiative Mapping Phases





In honor of Rear Adm. Richard T. Brennan

NOAA Rear Admiral Richard T. Brennan Ocean Mapping Matching Fund Program

GOALS

Leverage NOAA and non-Federal partner funds to acquire more ocean and coastal mapping data collected by qualified contract surveyors.

Increase hydrographic surveying and coastal mapping to support:

- ☐ Maritime commerce
- ☐ Hazard mitigation and emergency response
- ☐ Tourism and recreation
- ☐ Domestic energy and seafood production
- ☐ Deeper understanding of natural resources
- ☐ **MANY** other activities

Successful Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund proposals support national priorities as well as strategic mapping goals within three plans:

- **Map U.S. Waters:** National Strategy for Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, Goal 2.
- **Expand Alaska Coastal Data Collection to Deliver the Priority Geospatial Products Stakeholders Require:** Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy, Goal 2.
- **Collaborate to Increase Ocean and Coastal Mapping in U.S. Waters:** Office of Coast Survey Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

V. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund Program Management Team. Submissions will be ranked based on the following selection criteria:

1. *Project justification (30 points)* —This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic IOCM value in the proposed work and/or relevance to national priorities and NOAA's strategic areas of focus (noted in section III), including downstream partner proposals and uses. It is recommended to make use of, and reference to, resources outlined in section III.

2. *Statement of need (10 points)* —This criterion assesses clarity of project need, partner project funding alternatives if not selected, anticipated outcomes, and public benefit.

3. *Specified partner match (20 points)* —This criterion evaluates the partner match, such as the identification of a point of contact for the entity submitting the proposal, as well as any partnering entities; a clear statement on partner matching funds provenance (e.g., State appropriations, NGO funds, or other sources); and timing of funds availability. Proposals with multiple partners that are combining funds for the match will need to identify a central point of contact who will work with the partners to collate the funds and initiate the transfer of funds to NOAA. In-kind contributions do not count toward the funding match, but are welcome to strengthen the proposal.

4. *Project costs (15 points)* —This criterion evaluates whether the proposed budget is realistic and commensurate with the proposed project needs and timeframe.

5. *Project feasibility and flexibility (25 points)* —This criterion assesses the likelihood that the proposal would succeed, using evaluations of survey conditions, project size, location, weather, NOAA analysis of environmental compliance implications, project flexibility and adaptability to existing NOAA plans and schedules, and other factors.

FY27 Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund
Mapping Data Acquisition Cost Estimation Sheet (June 2025)

Listed below are estimates to assist you in developing your project budget. These are Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) costs for hydrographic/bathymetric surveys and topobathy lidar/imagery derived from aggregation of federal data acquisition contract costs as part of the ongoing 3D Nation Elevation Requirements and Benefits Study analysis.

Notes:

- Estimated costs below are averages that cover survey and mapping preparation to product, including project planning, contract administration and management, mobilization, acquisition, demobilization, processing, data review and product creation, and quality assurance.
- Mobilization costs are fixed; therefore smaller project areas will result in a higher cost/snm rate than larger project areas.
- An actual project is scoped at the granular level; NOAA will work with selected project partners to detail requirements, level of effort, products and deliverables, etc. for a more accurate cost estimate. The final cost/square nautical miles (SNM) will be dependent on multiple factors including survey complexity, coverage requirements, expected weather conditions, mobilization effort, and water depth, among others. These factors may significantly impact the final cost estimate by an order of magnitude.
- Shallow water surveys (<20m) are highly variable on cost depending on the location, environmental conditions, and survey approach. If planning to propose a shallow water survey, it is highly recommended that you reach out to the Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund Program Management Team at iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov to ensure estimates are within expected ranges.

Ocean and Coastal Acoustic Data Acquisition -- Multibeam Echosounder ROM costs

All regions <20m : \$25k - \$50k/Square Nautical Miles

All regions 20m to 40m : \$15K - \$25K/Square Nautical Miles

All regions >40m : \$10K - \$20K/Square Nautical Miles

Coastal Topobathy Lidar/Imagery -- Airborne Acquisition ROM costs

Alaska/Pacific Islands : \$5K/Square Miles

East Coast/Great Lakes : \$3K/Square Miles

Gulf/Caribbean : \$3K/Square Miles

3. Project Budget

The project budget for the proposed survey is up to \$1,666,667 with 30% (\$500,000) funded by LISCF. This amount would be transferrable in full to NOAA by September 2026.

The Proposed Survey Area Options shown in Figure 3 represent the largest “Low Cost” area (Option 1) and the largest “High Cost” area (Option 2) presented in Table 1 that \$1,666,667 might sufficiently cover based on the <20 m and 20 to 40 m depth thresholds.

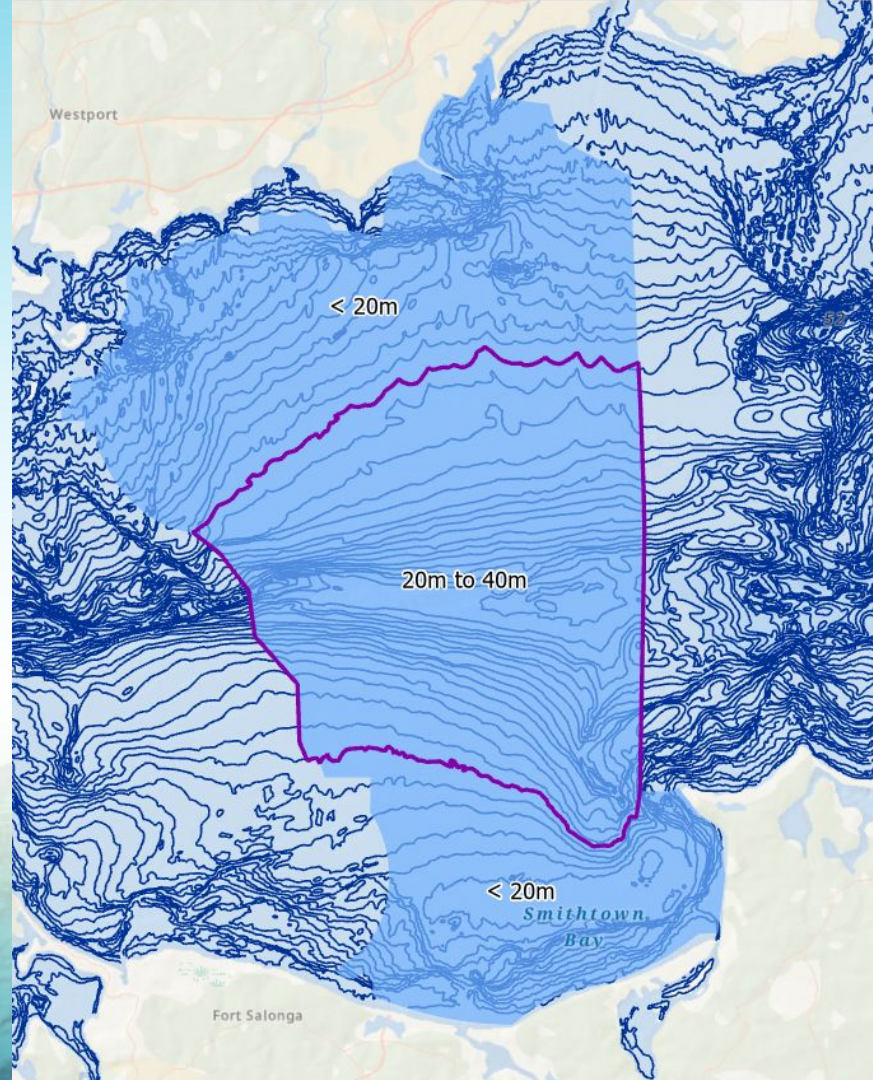
The FY2027 Brennan Matching Fund Mapping Data Acquisition Cost Estimation for Ocean and Coastal Acoustic Data Acquisition – Multibeam Echosounder rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs are reported as:

All regions < 20m depth: \$25K - \$50K/Square Nautical Miles (SNM)

All regions 20m to 40m depth: \$15K - \$25K/SNM

Table 1. ROM Cost Calculation

Option	Depth Range	ROM	Sq. Mi.	SNM	Low Cost	High Cost
1	< 20m	\$25K - \$50K/SNM	38.02	28.71	\$717,741.56	\$1,435,483.12
	< 20m	\$25K - \$50K/SNM	21.01	15.87	\$396,626.78	\$793,253.56
	20m to 40m	\$15K - \$25K/SNM	45.61	34.44	\$516,615.35	\$861,025.58
Total			104.64	79.02	\$1,630,983.69	
			30% of Total		\$489,295.11	
			30% of Option 2			\$258,307.67



Dear Ms. Lambert,

Thank you for submitting your proposal to acquire high-resolution bathymetry and backscatter data for West-Central Long Island Sound to the FY27 NOAA Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund opportunity. This funding opportunity is intended to increase NOAA partnerships with non-Federal entities on jointly funded ocean and coastal mapping projects of mutual interest.

A NOAA team of subject matter experts reviewed your proposal against the Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund criteria and determined that it has merit to move forward to the next stage of the process, pending the next steps that you and I have discussed informally.¹

Refining the project area and confirming your partner match in conjunction with the NOAA contribution are two important steps before we can proceed further. Once we have a good project outline and contributor breakdown, we intend to develop a memorandum of agreement to facilitate the transfer of funds to NOAA for the mapping contract. Finalizing that agreement and receiving the funds ahead of NOAA's October 2026 contracting deadline will be key to getting the work started in Fiscal Year 2027.

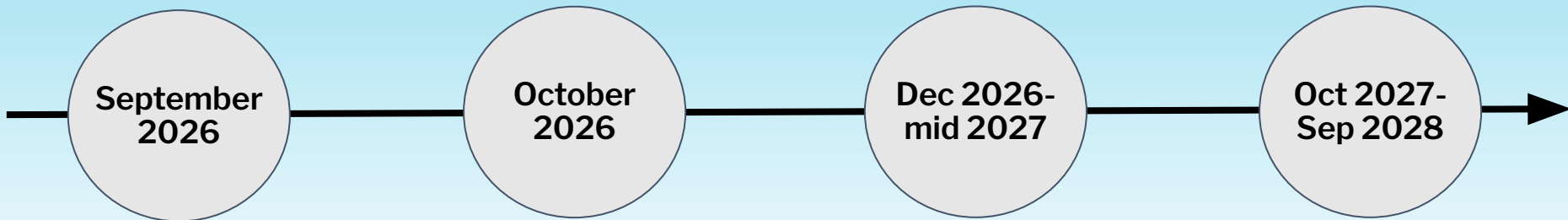
Thank you again for submitting your proposal. I look forward to working with you and your program to acquire more ocean and coastal mapping data together.

Congratulations!

M. A. Westington

Meredith Westington
NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping

¹ Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund Federal Register Notice,
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/17/2025-11107/notice-of-brennan-ocean-mapping-fund-opportunity-for-ocean-and-coastal-mapping-and-request-for>



Virtual Office Hours

September 8, 2026

30-min sessions,
10 AM to 5 PM ET

Email to
iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov
by 11:59 ET
on **September 3**

Proposals Due

October 16, 2026

5 PM ET

Email to
iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov

Project Finalization

December 2026
NOAA decides on
proposals

Jan - Sept 2027
Agreement on project
scope and transfer of
funds to NOAA

Contract Execution

October 1, 2027
Partner funds at
NOAA

Jan - Sept 2028
NOAA refines project
and issues task
orders to contractor

Questions?

Proposals and LOIs must be submitted in PDF format
to iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov
by **5pm ET, October 16, 2026**

One page letter of interest (LOI):
Tell us what your timing hurdles are, where/what you
are interested in, potential partners if more time, etc.

If you have outstanding questions, you can also join us
for **office hours on September 8**
by emailing iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov



NOAA
Coast Survey