



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**

**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

July 8, 2024



40

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
 and the Honorable Council  
 State House  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services to **RETROACTIVELY** pay membership dues to the Coastal States Organization (VC #170810-B001), Washington, DC, in the amount of \$8,801, for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the following account.

	<u>FY2025</u>
03-44-44-442010-3642-026-500251	\$8,801
Dept. Environmental Services, Coastal Zone Management, Dues	

**EXPLANATION**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Coastal Program has been a member of the Coastal States Organization (CSO) for over 25 years. CSO is a professional organization formed in 1970 to address a growing need for state coastal program managers to have national representation. Membership provides New Hampshire with an avenue to receive timely information on new developments and to have a voice in the discussion of important issues affecting the State's coastal waters, especially federal funding issues. This request is **RETROACTIVE** as this request wasn't processed until after the start of the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?**  
 The CSO was established in 1970 and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program has been a member of CSO for over 25 years.
  
2. **Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?**  
 No, CSO is unique in that it represents the coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resources.

**3. How is the dues structure established?**

CSO dues structure is based on the same formula used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to determine annual federal funding for New Hampshire's implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Shoreline mileage and population are the primary criteria in the NOAA formula.

**4. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?**

CSO serves as an advocate to assure that the authority and role of the states is recognized and preserved in federal legislation, regulation and policy. CSO's principal activities include:

- a. Keeping Congress informed on key issues related to the coast, including appropriations;
- b. Representing states on the upcoming reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act;
- c. Publications and technical documents on coastal related issues;
- d. Providing expertise in coastal and estuarine law and policy.

**5. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included?**

CSO provides technical training opportunities to the states. The majority of the opportunities are made available as part of regularly scheduled meetings. The cost of these training opportunities is included in the membership.

**6. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? No.**

**7. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? No.**

**8. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization?**

As designated by the Governor, NHDES Commissioner Robert R. Scott is a voting Delegate member and Coastal Program Administrator Steve Couture is an Alternate to the CSO. Either the delegate or alternate has voting privileges, though each state is allocated one vote.

**9. Explain in detail any negative impact to the state if the agency did not belong to this organization.**

Without membership in the CSO, New Hampshire's ability to stay abreast of important coastal issues would be seriously impeded and our opportunity to provide the New Hampshire perspective on national environmental issues and policy would either be drastically reduced or entirely eliminated. The Coastal Program often discovers funding opportunities through its interaction with CSO staff and other state members; benefits that would not be available without membership.

We respectfully request your approval.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

Coastal States Organization  
 50 F St NW Ste 570  
 Washington, DC 20001 US  
 202-800-0580  
 nlonghi@coastalstates.org  
 http://www.coastalstates.org

# Invoice



**BILL TO**

Steven Couture  
 NH Dept Services  
 29 Hazen Dr.  
 Concord, NH 03301

INVOICE #	DATE	TOTAL DUE	DUE DATE	ENCLOSED
FY24 Dues	01/01/2024	\$8,801.00	09/01/2024	

DATE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	<b>CSO dues</b>			
	2024 Dues	1	8,801.00	8,801.00

Effective January 1, 2025, there will be a 5% increase in dues.

**BALANCE DUE**

**\$8,801.00**