National Estuarine Research Reserve System

PART and Performance Measures

March 2007

Update on the CZMA "PART"

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What is PART?

Performance

Assessment

Rating

Tool

Who: Office of Management and Budget

Brief History: CZMA Programs received "Failed to Demonstrate Results" rating in 2004

Actions to Improve Rating

- Articulate 'measurable goals' of the CZMA

- Identify select measures from performance measurement system that reflect CZM and NERR Strategic Plans

- Demonstrate integration with other coastal programs and that CZMA compares favorably with similar programs.

- Continue strong independent evaluations

Progress to date …

- Completed OMB's three original PART recommendations; one more added in 2006.

Progress on Recommendations:

- Complete development of outcome-oriented measures. (Spring 2006)

- President's Budget cut $5M to fund programs that can demonstrate results. (Fall 2004)

- Better integrate NERRS research with NOAA coastal and ocean research programs. (Spring 2006)

- NEW: Redirect a portion of the program funding to competitive grants. (Action taken but not completed)

Progress on Recommendations

- CZM and NERR Strategic Plans updated; NERRS Research and Monitoring Plan developed

- NOAA introduced a new outcome measure for NERRS in Fall 2006 PART Update.

- Ongoing - Other CZM and NERR measures currently under consideration for future PART updates as data becomes available.

Moving toward PART measures...

- Proposed PART measures for NERRS Program

  - # of coastal habitat acres acquired or designated for long-term protection

  - # of participants in NERRS Coastal Training Program

  - % of CTP participants reporting an intent to apply knowledge or skills resulting from training

  - Cost per person that has received NERRS Estuarine science and data (efficiency)

- Still need to set long-term targets for these measures and collect two-years worth of data.

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Next Steps

- Periodic updates on progress addressing OMB recommendations – next update Spring 2007

- Preparing for possible re-PART in Spring 2008
    - Performance and efficiency measures – Select a subset of long-term and annual CZM outcome measures for PART; provide at least two years of data.
    - Setting performance targets – The biggest challenge for grant-based partnership programs.
    - Benchmarking against similar or related programs.

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NERRS Performance Measures Update

March 2007

Progress since October

- Revisions from October draft made by workgroup of managers and ERD sector leads

- Final guidance sent to managers, sectors, and posted to intranet in mid-January

Changes from draft to final

- Two research measures will be collected through Research Database

  - ERD working to make database compatible with reporting requirements
  - Reserve staff responsible for entering data into Research database at least once a year

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Changes from draft to final

- Changes in wording for #37:

  Number of advisory or outreach activities that serve to transfer technical information about Reserve science to estuarine stakeholders

    - Collection sheet revised to show if activities are also collected by CTP
    - This measure came from RCs

Changes from draft to final

- New collection sheet

- Revised definitions and collection guidance

- Clarification of education website and Elive measures

Reporting Responsibilities

- 06 awards: First reporting period if possible, definitely second reporting period

- 07 awards: Both reporting periods

- Research-related measures must be entered into database by late summer

Reporting Responsibilities

- Most reporting should occur in first two reporting periods of each award

- Submit a reporting sheet for any unfinished activities in last 6-month reporting period and/or during an extension of 06 or 07 awards

This year…

- Sectors and sites should be sharing experience on collecting and reporting
- Make notes of measures that are confusing, hard to collect, etc.
- Submit measures with progress reports. Attach reporting sheet as a separate attachment to grantsonline
- ERD will analyze results for discussion next fall and winter

Contextual Indicators

- Collected by OCRM to provide context for performance measures
- Manual created to describe where data comes from and relationship to CZMA
- List of indicators with results, draft manual, additional info at www.coastalmanagement.noaa/success/
- NERRS link to contextual indicators needs to be explored. Volunteers?