

2008 Great Lakes Regional Meeting

September 23-25, 2008

Buffalo, NY



Agenda

- OCRM Personnel
- Budget
- Federal Consistency and Program Changes
- CELCP
- Coastal Strategy and CZMA
- GAO Audit
- NOAA Regional Collaboration and other projects

OCRM Updates

- Coastal Programs Division staff realignment
- New staff
 - Rina Aviram
 - Roxanne Thomas
 - Christa Rabenold
 - Kacky Andrews
- Issue areas focus



Budget

- Long Continuing Resolution Likely

	FY08	FY09 Pres Request	FY09 Senate Committee	FY09 House Committee
CZM Administration	6,735	8,155	8,155	8,155
CZM grants (sections 306, 306A & 309)	64,423	66,146	70,000	66,146
Coastal Nonpoint Program	3,904	0	4,000	2,500
National Estuarine Research Reserve grants	16,404 + 11,555 (const.)	22,326 + 6,890 (const.)	22,326 + 6,890 (const.)	22,326 + 13,780 (const.)
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program	8,000	15,000	15,000	18,325



Federal Consistency & Program Changes

- Federal Consistency Workshop
 - *Tentative plan*: Chicago early in 2009
- Program Change Rulemaking
 - Comment period for Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) ended Aug. 18
 - Proposed rules will not be out before the new administration



Program Change Rulemaking

- 1. Establish a clearer and more efficient and transparent process for program change review*
- 2. Describe clearer approval/disapproval criteria and how these apply*
- 3. Using the statutory language of the CZMA, including time lines, extensions, and preliminary approval*
- 4. Keeping the "routine" concept to streamline the process for truly routine changes, but do away with "routine program changes (RPCs)" and "Amendments" and replace with just "program changes"*



Program Change Rulemaking

5. *Removing the “substantial” evaluations currently done by states and replace with just describing what the change is to the program.*
6. *Establishing use of NEPA categorical exclusions*
7. *Submitting underline/strikeout documents showing changes to previously approved policies*
8. *Creating a program change checklist that states would submit to ease state and NOAA paperwork burdens and promote consistent submissions and NOAA analyses*



Program Change Rulemaking: Comments

- Received comments from 5 organizations
 - Navy, CSO, Delaware, Oregon, San Francisco BCDC
 - www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/consistency/programchange.html
- General comments:
 - Current process and requirements are unclear, inefficient, inconsistent, cumbersome, burdensome, and time consuming. The result is a backlog of changes.
 - Overall, strong support for revising the program change regulations.
- Navy's comments very detailed; recommendations focused on:
 - Desire to be more informed about proposed program changes (improve notification, transparency and clarity).
 - Need for access to all of the state policies that are in effect.



CELCP Update

- CELCP new staff and regional organization
- FY 2009 Competition
 - 54 proposals
 - 27 states/territories
 - \$79 million in requests
 - 10 from GL states
- FY 2010 Competition
 - December funding notice anticipated



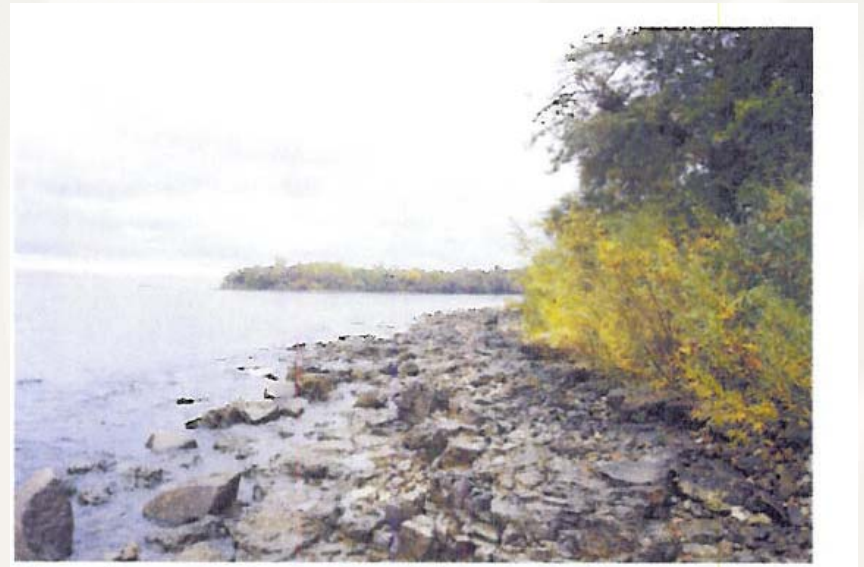
CELCP Update continued

- CELCP Plans
 - Most states have submitted plans
 - NY has an approved plan
- CELCP Projects
 - Numerous GL projects since CELCP began
 - Five ongoing grants



CELCP Update continued

- Legislation update
 - Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act
 - Appropriations
- Guidelines Revision





Coastal Strategy

- OMB told NOAA to better integrate coastal programs
 - OCRM, Coastal Services Center, Sea Grant, NMFS Habitat Office, National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS)
- “Coastal” is one of 6 themes NOAA will present to new administration
 - High visibility for coastal management
- Three priority issues:
 1. Coastal Hazards and Climate Change
 2. Competing Coastal Uses and Habitat Loss
 3. Coastal Pollution and Human Health Effects
- NOAA’s Capabilities: Science, Capacity Building, Education and Extension, and Management

CZMA Reauthorization

- Hope to have a NOAA cleared bill by November
- Will then hold informational Hill briefings





Audit Update

- Gov't Accountability Office (GAO) interviewed many OCRM staff and all state managers
- Report being finalized; OCRM provided comments
- Major recommendations
 - Congress reconsider funding cap
 - NOAA review and revise (as needed) grant regulations and practices
 - NOAA create measurable targets and process for ensuring accurate performance measure data; focus 312 evaluations on progress toward meeting measurable goals