

2008 Southern and Caribbean Regional Meeting

*October 29, 2008
Austin, TX*



Agenda

- Personnel
- Budget
- CELCP
- Coastal Strategy and CZMA
- GAO Audit

OCRM Updates

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



Budget

- Continuing Resolution through March, at least

	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 (con.)	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

CELCP Update

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



CELCP Update continued

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



MS Coastal Preserves

CELCP Update continued

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



Robinson Island, AL

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
- Final report released Sept. 30th
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-1045>
- 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
- Next step
 - NOAA submits "Statement of Actions"