Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management Southern and Caribbean Regional Meeting

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Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management

Project Purpose:

To engage stakeholders in developing a vision for an improved Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and to identify methods for improving program implementation at the state and national levels. Partners: NOAA and CSO

Outcome:

A set of *core principles* and *specific ideas* for CZMA reauthorization and suggestions for improved policy implementation at the federal and state levels.

What We Heard

The CZMA should improve coastal governance:

PRIORITIZED & STRATEGIC

NOAA and the states should set clear and measurable goals and objectives.

• ACCOUNTABLE

National and state governments need to be held accountable for results.

• COORDINATED

Federal, state, regional, and local-level entities should leverage assets by coordinating priority setting, funding, program implementation, etc.

National Program Concepts

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA



October 11, 2007

CZMA Priorities and Objectives

NOW:

The CZMA sets a policy to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible restore and enhance" resources of the coastal zone.

FUTURE:

Focus on three broad goals:

- Maintain ecosystem function
- Strengthen coastal communities
- Integrate and target science and capacity building
- Set measurable national objectives with assistance of a national advisory council.

Ecosystem Function

National goal: Ensure the continued productivity and biodiversity of coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystem.

Priorities:

- Maintain or enhance critical habitats
- Conserve critical habitats through acquisition
- Minimize or mitigate impacts on coastal resources and water quality from development and climate change

Coastal Communities

National goal: Ensure coastal communities are vibrant and resilient to coastal hazards and impacts from climate change.

Priorities:

- Manage growth and development to minimize impacts from hazards and climate change
- Protect and enhance public access to beaches and other coastal resources
- Improve efficiency of marine commerce; increase redevelopment of waterfronts and brownfields; protect water dependent uses; and improve the siting of energy facilities.

Integrate and Target Science and Capacity Building

National goal: Integrate capabilities of NOAA and coordinate with other federal agencies to provide the best possible natural and social science.

Priorities:

- Conduct and translate science based on needs of coastal and marine resource managers.
- Build capacity of resources managers through the development of tools and technologies.
- Educate and develop awareness of coastal and marine resource managers and the public.
- Establish a system of sentinel sites to monitor impacts to ecosystems and changes due to climate change.

Integrated NOAA Coastal Science

- Codify NOAA Coastal Programs (e.g. CSC, NCCOS, CICEET) within the CZMA and define roles of these and other programs (e.g. Sea Grant, Sanctuaries, and Navigation Services)
- Establish mechanisms and support for coordination and integration of NOAA research, science translation, and tools to address national priorities.

Partnerships

NOW:

Coastal zone management is accomplished primarily through partnerships with the states.

FUTURE:

The CZMA will:

- Authorize an organization to coordinate efforts with NGOs and the private sector (similar to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation).
- Establish regional cooperative institutes through a competitive process.

Interagency Coordination

NOW:

The CZMA does not formally support coordination of federal agencies to meet mutual goals and objectives for the coasts.

- Ad hoc issue-specific workgroups.
- Permanent regional task forces of state and federal managers.

Special Areas

NOW:

The CZMA supports the designation of NERRs and development of Special Area Management Plans, but does not include CELCP.

- Develop regional initiatives that would incorporate place-based management into a broader context.
- Develop a coordinated national network of protected areas (incl. CELCP, NERRS, Wildlife Refuges, Parks and Seashores)
- Make CELCP an integrated part of coastal management.

State Program Concepts

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA



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Assessment and Planning

NOW:

The CZMA does not require state CZM plans with measurable outcomes.

- Federal-State partnership develops robust comprehensive resource assessments.
- States and reserves develop plans with strategies and measurable objectives.
- States and reserves are evaluated on progress toward objectives.

Competitive Funding

NOW:

Funds are allocated among states through a formula based on coastal population and shoreline mileage.

- Provide three types of funding:
- base funding for core competencies,
- Funding for plan development
- Competitive funding for projects and program implementation (based on anticipated impact of project and program performance).

Managing at Ecosystem Scales

NOW:

States delineated the geographic boundaries of their coastal programs on whatever basis they chose, leading to inconsistency and ineffectiveness.

- Require revision of coastal zone boundaries for planning purposes and, at a minimum, require inclusion of coastal watersheds and state territorial waters.
- Support and encourage ad hoc regional processes to address issues at various scales.

Local Governments

NOW:

The CZMA does not provide for federal-local collaboration, nor does it direct state programs to develop state-local partnerships.

FUTURE:

-Require local government input in state and reserve plan development.

-Provide dedicated, competitively allocated funding for local demonstration projects.

-Provide better and more integrated technical assistance.

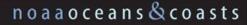
Ongoing Process

- The Final Report identifies Cornerstones and Core Principles for the next generation of coastal management (available online)
- NOS is developing a legislative proposal (fall-winter 2007)
- Administration bill for Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization introduced (early 2008?)

Your Feedback

 Initial reactions to National and State Program concepts.

Suggestions for improving our legislative package.



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