

NOAA's Concepts for Improved Coastal and Ocean Management

Ralph Cantral
NOAA's National Ocean Service
November 14, 2008



Structure of National Program

- **Coastal Zone Management Act**
 - 34 State Coastal Management Programs
 - 27 National Estuarine Research Reserves
- **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program**
- **Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program**
- **National Marine Protected Areas Center**
 - Established in 2001 under EO 13158

Policy Objectives of CZMA

- To preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations;

- **To encourage and assist States to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone through the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone;**

- **To encourage the participation and cooperation of the public, State, and local governments, and interstate and other regional agencies, as well as of the Federal agencies having programs affecting the coastal zone, in carrying out the purposes of this title.**

Comprehensive Approach

- Coastal natural resource protection
- Coastal water quality
- Public access to waters/shorelines
- Coastal hazards – natural and man-made
- Community development
- Coastal dependent uses

Working Waterfronts

- **Special Area Management Planning**
 - **Waterfronts Florida**
 - Environmental Protection
 - Hazard Mitigation
 - Public Access
 - Economic revitalization
 - **New York's Waterfronts Program**
 - 69 Communities with Waterfront Plans

Portfields

- **Interagency partnership to address brownfields in port communities**
 - NOAA / EPA / US Army COE / EDA
 - Bellingham, New Bedford, Tampa
- **To expedite the redevelopment of port communities to:**
 - Enhance port infrastructure
 - Protect human health
 - Protect and restore critical habitat
 - Provide economic opportunity

HR 3223 (Allen Bill)

- **Keep Our Waterfronts Working Act of 2007**
 - Establishes a grant program to ensure coastal access for commercial and recreational fishermen
 - States would develop working waterfront plans –
 - Areas with existing use conflicts
 - Areas with potential for development
 - Existing accesses with need for improvement

Smart Growth

- **Waterfront and Coastal Smart Growth Elements** – NOS, Sea Grant, EPA, ICMA
 - Focus on mixed uses, including water-dependent uses
 - Protect waterfront access
 - Preserve a sense of place based on the waterfront's heritage
 - Provide land and water-based transportation alternatives

Envisioning the Future of CZM

- **An 18 month process established by NOAA and the Coastal States Organization to enlist stakeholders in discussions about existing programs, future challenges, and new solutions.**
- **Included:**
 - **An initial white paper**
 - **Interviews with State CZ and NERR Managers**
 - **National and regional stakeholder meetings**
 - **Discussions with federal agencies and NGOs**

Major Findings

- **Issues identified most often:**
 - Controlling development
 - Improving water quality
 - Protecting habitat
 - Making coastal communities more resilient
- **Emerging issue:**
 - Helping state and local governments adapt to climate change

Major Needs for Legislation

Coastal Zone Management should be:

- **PERFORMANCE BASED**
- **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.

Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems

- **Maintaining, restoring, and enhancing habitats and biodiversity;**
- **Conserving critical areas through land acquisition; and**
- **Avoiding, minimizing or mitigating impacts on coastal resources and water quality from development, pollution, nutrient loading, and climate change.**

Increasing Community Resilience

- Minimizing impacts from hazards and fostering adaptation to climate change;
- Directing development to suitable lands;
- **Reducing conflicts among coastal and ocean uses;**
- **Protecting and enhancing working waterfronts and water dependent uses**
- Improving siting of energy and aquaculture
- Preserving and improving public access

Need to Look Up the Watershed...

- To effectively plan for and address impacts from upstream land uses, **new techniques and new partners** (including non-coastal states) will be crucial to achieve success.
- Watershed-wide plans are needed, **but implementation must focus on local areas:**
 - Upstream and inland communities
 - Property owners
 - Environmental groups
 - Businesses and industries
 - Farmers

...and Out to Sea

- **Clear policies are needed at the federal and state levels** to resolve conflicts among existing and potential coastal and ocean uses.
- **Comprehensive resource use planning is needed to:**
 - Guide existing ocean and Great Lakes activities
 - Resolve conflicts among users
 - Anticipate new uses

Achieving Local Participation

- **Local governments are a crucial partner** to achieving real results “on the ground”.
 - Most land use decisions are made at the local level.
 - Local governments better reflect the needs of their residents for specialized efforts such as redeveloping waterfronts.

Providing Better Assistance

- We need to develop an integrated national program of
 - research
 - synthesis and translation
 - direct technical and financial assistance
 - capacity buildingto help states and locals improve coastal resource management.

Next Steps

- **Draft legislation is currently being prepared by both the Coastal States Organization and NOAA.**
- **NOAA hopes to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act early in 2009.**

For more information contact:



Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov

Web site: www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov