

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

Environmental Management System
Implementation
August 2005



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Environmental Management Systems (EMS) were established to manage the environmental components of operations effectively and efficiently

- **In the early 1990's many organizations recognized that environmental issues were becoming a critical component of their operations and established risk-based business systems to manage these issues**
- **In 1995 the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) developed a standard, ISO 14001, that describes a standardized set of elements that comprise an environmental management system**
- **In 2000 the Presidential Executive Order (EO) 13148 Required Federal Agencies to implement Environmental Management Systems at appropriate facilities by December 31, 2005**
- **In 2005 NCCOS established an Environmental Policy confirming its commitment to implement an EMS for NCCOS as a single organization allowing flexibility for each facility**

The EMS ties together an organization's environmental programs into a single integrated system that can be leveraged to drive improvement



Increase Efficiency –

- Reduce Costs
- Free up personnel
- Compress Schedules
- Increase Capacity

Increase Control Over Risks –

- Avoid breaks in operational continuity
- Accurately pinpoint weaknesses & future failures
- Efficiently focus resources on weaknesses

Improve Performance –

- Reduce environmental impacts
- Avoid environmental costs
- Improve stakeholder perceptions

NCCOS is establishing its EMS in 2005, next year it will start using the system to support NOAA's mission through improved management of environmental issues

Step 1: Implement the System

Design the Process for -

- Identifying Risks
- Managing/Controlling Risks
- Assessing Performance
- Integrating Improvements

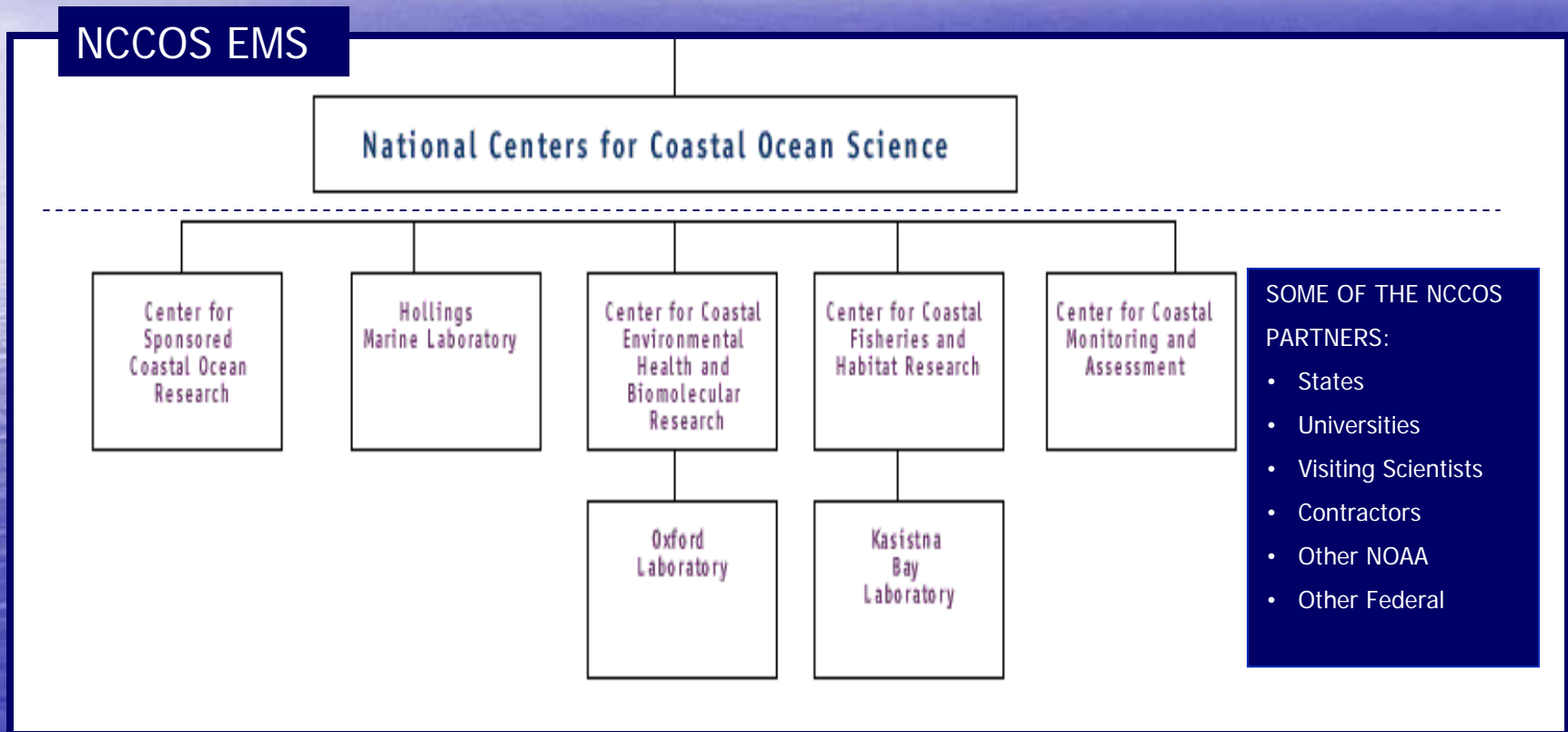
Develop Procedures for -

- Communication
- Training
- Contracting
- Procurement
- Recordkeeping
- Assessing, etc

Step 2: Start Using the System



The NCCOS EMS applies to the whole organization and includes partners who utilize NCCOS facilities



The NCOSS EMS Team has made significant progress to date and has set aggressive targets to meet the EO 13148 December 2005 deadline

EMS Implementation Elements	Status
POLICY & LEADERSHIP	
1. Identify Primary EMS Contact	Complete
2. Issue a local EMS policy document or commitment letter	Complete
PLANNING	
3. Identify significant environmental aspects and impacts	Complete
4. Identify EMS objectives and targets	Partially Complete
IMPLEMENTATION & OPERATION	
5. Specify EMS operational controls	Partially Complete
6. Assign EMS responsibilities	Partially Complete
7. Identify EMS procedures	Partially Complete
MONITORING PERFORMANCE	
8. Establish an internal EMS self-audit program and conduct audit	Target Set for Nov. 2005
CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT	
9. Establish a management review process	Target Set for Nov. 2005
10. Complete the self-declaration process (or external certification)	Target Set for Dec. 2005

EMS Team has recommended three areas of Focus for the EMS in support of the NCCOS Strategic Plan

EMS Objective FY2005-2009

Possible EMS Targets FY2006

1. Manage the use of Natural Resources so as to support NCCOS's mission and balance society's environmental, social, and economic goals

- Baseline number of chemicals used by NCCOS Labs
- Baseline core waste streams from NCCOS Labs
- Develop list of substitute materials

2. Build capacity internally and in the private, local, state, and tribal sectors through education, technical assistance, and technology for effective natural resource and environmental management

- Identify environmental management education needs within NCCOS
- Develop education programs for key NCCOS groups (managers, HR, etc.)
- Identify stewardship programs based on lab practices

3. Ensure that environmental requirements of NCCOS operations are appropriately considered in the allocation of resources and development of policy

- Baseline cradle to grave lab environmental costs
- Determine Agency benchmark for resource allocation practices

Although a lot has been achieved, a final effort is needed to meet the Executive Order Deadline

