

NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

To ensure the conservation and responsible use of our nation's coastal and ocean resources

In 1972, Congress recognized the need to balance coastal development with resource conservation by passing the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), establishing the National Coastal Zone Management Program. At the Federal level, responsibility for implementing the CZMA rests largely with NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

The National Coastal Zone Management Program is a unique and voluntary federal-state partnership that provides a basis for protecting, restoring and responsibly developing our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources. The Program takes a comprehensive approach to problem solving—balancing the often competing and occasionally conflicting demands of coastal resource use, economic development and conservation.

One critical objective of the National Coastal Zone Management Program is to address national interests. This includes, for instance, giving priority consideration to coastal-dependent uses. It requires establishing an orderly process for siting facilities related to national defense, energy, aquaculture, recreation, ports and transportation. Effectively achieving goals under this objective requires that we work closely with our state and local partners.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The National Coastal Zone Management Program fosters an effective partnership among federal, state and local governments. By leveraging federal and state matching funds, the Program strengthens the capabilities of each partner to address coastal issues. The Program also gives states the flexibility to design a program that accommodates their unique coastal challenges as well as their respective legal frameworks.

Coastal Zone Facts

The coastal zone—11% of the U.S. land mass—is home to more than 53% of our population

In addition, the U.S. Coastal Zone:

- Welcomes 180+ million visitors each year
- Accounts for 80% of all U.S. tourism revenue
- Houses 190 sea ports, handling \$700 billion in merchandise per year
- Supports nursery and spawning grounds for 75% of our nation's fisheries



