

NOAA OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PRIORITY ACTION AGENDA (2007-2009)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) provides national leadership and strategic direction to key partnership programs for coastal and ocean management. OCRM partners with various levels of government, regional and international organizations, academic and private organizations, and industries to combine federal expertise and resources with local knowledge and management practices. OCRM programs work collectively to provide a broad range of expertise and assistance to our partners.

OCRM programs include:

- Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM)
- National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)
- National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center
- Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP)
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)
- The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET)

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Based on the OCRM Strategic Plan, this Action Agenda highlights the priority products and services that OCRM will focus on from 2007 to 2009. OCRM will strengthen existing partnerships and foster new collaborations to achieve these priority outcomes to support the following OCRM strategic goals:

Goal 1: Protect and restore coastal and ocean resources to sustain ecological functions, cultural heritage, and economic benefits.

Goal 2: Build resilient coastal communities that value and sustain healthy oceans and coasts.

Goal 3: Improve people's ability and willingness to take actions that benefit coastal communities and ecosystems.

ONGOING CORE ACTIVITIES

OCRM remains dedicated to our partnerships and open to new opportunities to achieve the priority actions while improving our core functions. These core activities include:

- Ensuring accountability for use of federal funds
 - Evaluating national policies that influence coastal and ocean management
 - Establishing partnerships to implement joint programs with other federal agencies
 - Resolving conflicts between state and federal agencies over uses affecting the coastal zone
 - Improving environmental literacy and implementing education programs
 - Training managers and future scientists
 - Supporting coastal and estuarine land conservation
 - Assessing effectiveness through evaluations, performance measures, and program reviews
 - Strengthening programs by updating management plans and reviewing program changes
 - Providing opportunities for public input into decision-making
 - Communicating key messages to stakeholders
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OCRM STRATEGIC GOALS:

- **Healthy Coastal and Ocean Resources**
- **Resilient Coastal Communities**
- **Involved Coastal Citizens**



FY 07-09 PRIORITY ACTIONS:

Strengthen Management Decisions

- Identify CZMA changes through coastal management visioning with stakeholders
- Support bill to reauthorize Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Provide policy and technical guidance to states to improve coastal water quality
- Support comprehensive planning for use and protection of coastal and marine resources
- Provide research analysis and legal support for siting energy facilities
- Support preparedness, restoration/mitigation, and post-event response for hazard and climate impacts
- Provide financial and technical assistance to priority projects for six southern Louisiana ports

Improve Understanding Through Science

- Fund research on MPAs and other ocean uses
- Fund estuarine and coral reef research
- Characterize and monitor NERFS and coral reef systems
- Collect, map, and analyze spatial data to track changes in coral, estuarine, and other coastal habitats
- Develop environmental technologies to support coastal management
- Support socioeconomic research through fellowship programs and data applications

Enhance Capacity and Education

- Deliver hands-on training for coastal and marine managers, including technical transfer and planning assistance
- Provide training to states and federal agencies for reviewing federal actions
- Inventory new and enhanced public access sites
- Increase delivery and use of real-time data and NOAA-generated science
- Create new & expand online education tools for teachers & students
- Raise public awareness through National Estuaries Day, Estuaries Live, Coastweek, and International Year of the Reef

Protect Priority Resources

- Fund competitively-selected projects through CELCP and NERFS to acquire important coastal and estuarine lands
- Designate new reserves in Wisconsin and Connecticut
- Establish Illinois CZM Program
- Develop and begin implementing National MPA System
- Identify West Coast marine conservation priorities
- Identify common coral reef protection goals through Local Action Strategies



OCRM PROGRAMS:

- **Coastal Zone Management Program**
- **National Estuarine Research Reserve System**
- **Marine Protected Areas Center**
- **Coral Reef Conservation Program**
- **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program**
- **The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology**

To discuss partnership opportunities, please contact: David M. Kennedy, Director
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