

Coastal Zone Management Program—Enhancement Grant Assessments and Strategies

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS**State Assessment and Strategy Overview**

The Coastal Zone Enhancement Program, authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), encourages states and territories to conduct self-assessments of their Coastal Management Programs and develop strategies to improve management of the following areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management planning, ocean/Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. Every five years, states assess their management of all nine areas and develop enhancement strategies for their highest priority issues. The assessments highlight past successes and identify needs that will help improve coastal resource management.

We hope these summaries will be used to generate discussion and new ideas, target existing products and services, guide new project development in NOAA and the states, and promote partnerships and information sharing. Please use the contact information at the end to follow up with any ideas or questions.

Assessment Findings and Recent Trends

Nearly every decision to develop or redevelop land to create the “built environment” results in cumulative and secondary impacts to our coastal natural resources. These impacts, which may be insignificant by themselves, combine to cause significant air and water pollution,

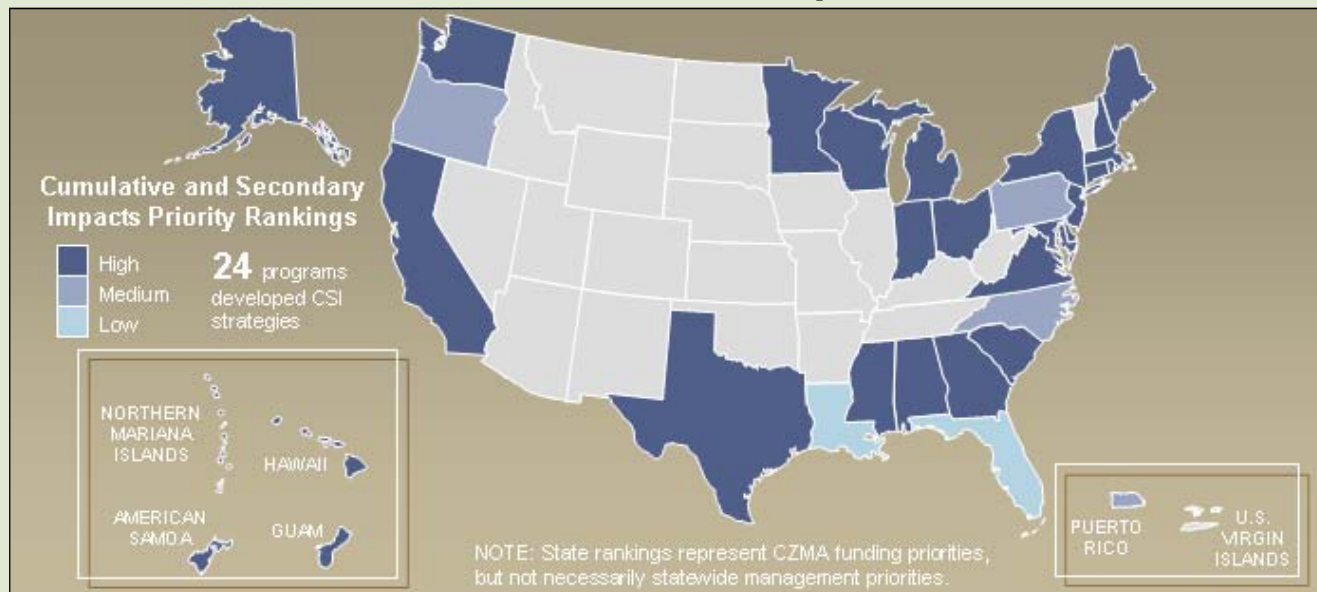
habitat loss, hampered navigation, and loss of public access to coastal areas. Coastal programs cite the expansion of impervious surfaces, sprawl development, NPS pollution, and wetlands losses as the primary threats.

Given the array of activities that can cause cumulative and secondary impacts, it's not surprising that coastal programs implement many different projects and policies to address CSI. Areas where states have made the most significant policy changes include: stormwater management (e.g., Phase II NPDES); education and assistance to local governments (improving local planning and zoning); and in developing new GIS tools. We are also seeing an increasing number of coastal programs promoting smart growth principles and low impact development to address the challenges posed by rapidly increasing new development in the coastal zone.

Primary Needs and Information Gaps

State Coastal Zone Management Programs were asked to identify their primary needs and information gaps for cumulative and secondary impacts. The following is a list of the most commonly identified needs:

- Need to influence local land use through better **planning**
- Need improved **GIS data and mapping tools**, and appropriately train staff to use these tools
- Need to provide enhanced **education and technical**



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assistance to local decision makers that compels more proactive planning, siting, and designing of development

- Need to promote and implement a more **proactive approach to development**

Recent Successes

For most state coastal management programs, 2005-2006 was the fourth cycle of self assessments and strategy development. Below are a few examples of strategies implemented by the states that demonstrate successes in improving management of cumulative and secondary impacts:

- **North Carolina** has developed a new, voluntary stormwater approach designed to supersede all existing requirements. The Universal Stormwater Management Program (USMP), administered by the NC Division of Water Quality, will provide local governments the option of adopting one stormwater program and one set of post-construction requirements to replace all of their existing, overlapping programs. Consisting of two major components (a design standard for stormwater control and a setback requirement), the USMP will provide a significantly enhanced level of protection to threatened and endangered, and other sensitive aquatic species.
- In 2005, **South Carolina** revised the State's Dock and Marina Regulations by amending the Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act to revise the standards for the permitting of docks and marinas in the coastal zone. The amendments changed the defined length of docks and marinas to providing DHEC-OCRM with more incentives to promote the construction of community docks in lieu of multiple private docks. Prior to the change, community docks were considered marinas and needed to meet additional permitting requirements.
- Through the Brownfields Opportunity Program and the Quality Communities Initiative, **New York's Coastal Program** has provided leadership, assistance, and funding for both the redevelopment of brownfield sites and the protection of natural areas at the local level. This approach ties together the fundamental principles of smarter growth by focusing new development in existing developed areas, thereby reducing the pressure for development of greenfield sites.

Promising Strategies for 2006–2010

As part of the State Enhancement Grant Program, state coastal management programs are asked to develop strategies to address their high priority resource management issues identified in the assessment. Below are some examples of strategies proposed for cumulative and secondary impacts:

- **Maryland** plans to continue its successful “coastal Communities Initiative”, a technical assistance program to county and local governments seeking innovative changes to their development codes and ordinances. Projects range from green infrastructure planning to the adoption of architectural guidelines to preserve the character of historic main streets.
- The **Indiana Coastal Program** will enhance the capacity of County Health Departments to ensure the proper functioning of onsite disposal systems by issuing revised guidelines and procedures that reflect the best available technology for the placement, design, and installation septic systems. In addition, GIS mapping will be used in a selected community to support implementation of Indiana's Residential Sewage Disposal provisions.
- The **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** intends to develop a stormwater management master plan for Saipan. The project will provide a general framework for prioritizing expenditure of public money, and for guiding stormwater management improvements by private developers.
- The **American Samoa Coastal Management Program**, with assistance from other agencies, will expand on existing development guidelines to create a habitat management plan, which will be used to identify important habitats that are being degraded and thus are high priority conservation areas. These expanded development guidelines will focus on minimizing paved and impermeable surfaces and improving projects to minimize flooding.



Conventional residential development separates citizens from their work, schools, and other neighborhoods while creating significantly more impervious cover in natural areas or farmland.

Questions, ideas or for more information:
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