



National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Region

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE OF ALASKA AND FEDERAL AGENCIES WILL PROMOTE COASTAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

Officials for the State of Alaska's Coastal Management Program and the Federal Coastal America Program will enter into a partnership agreement to facilitate effective management of the valuable habitats, resources, and uses of the resources in Alaska's coastal zone through education, research, rehabilitation, and management. The signing ceremony will be held at the Watershed Summit session during the Alaska Forum for the Environment on February 9, 2001, during the Joint Watershed Summit/Roundtable at the Egan Center in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Partnership Agreement between the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the Coastal America Program provides a framework to bring resources together so they can be used on projects of mutual interest and benefit.

This agreement provides formal recognition that the issues associated with this effort often can be addressed better through intergovernmental coordination and cooperation than by federal and state agencies working in isolation, said Jim Balsiger, Alaska Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. For example, the initiatives outlined in the agreement can be immediately used by participants at the Watershed Summit to collaborate on innovative approaches to restoring water quality and protecting public health and the environment.

The agreement does not commit resources; it provides a mechanism to sanction projects, research efforts, and educational efforts that derive benefits from cooperation among participants.

With the longest coastline and the smallest population of any state in the U.S., finding new ways to combine funding and other resources is key to maximizing our coastal management efforts," said Patrick Galvin, director of the Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination. "This agreement is timely in that it echoes other work currently being undertaken by the State to coordinate management of our water resources."

The Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) is a network of state and local government representatives and provides stewardship for Alaska's rich and diverse coastal resources through planning and a process for coordinating the State's response for activities in the coastal zone. The Division of Governmental Coordination is designated as lead agency for the ACMP.

The Coastal America partnership provides a forum for federal interagency collaborative action and a mechanism to facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. This partnership for action is comprised of the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, and Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives serve on the Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT) for the Coastal America program in Alaska.

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Editor's Note: The official signing ceremony is scheduled for 9:30am on Friday, February 9, at the Egan Center in Anchorage. Reporters are invited.

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