The National System of MPAs as Part of NOAA's Integrated Coastal Programs

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A Call for Integration

- NOAA seeking to improve integration of its coastal and ocean programs. Initial partners included:
 - Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
 - Coastal Services Center
 - National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science
 - Sea Grant
- Reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act
- Prepare for transition to new Administration

Beginning Steps

- Recent additions to NOAA coastal integration effort:
 - Expanded focus to include MPAs
 - NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation
 - Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
- Analysis of pressures and demands
- Development of coastal priorities and draft outcomes







NOAA's "Coastal Enterprise"

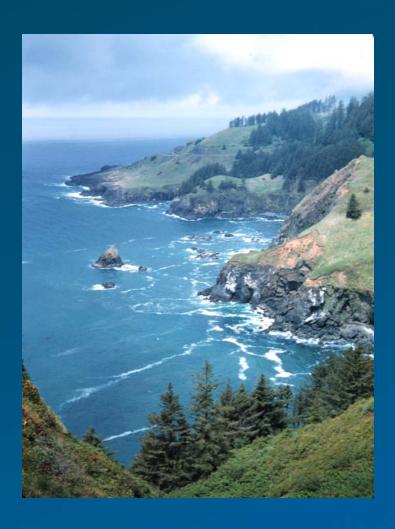
- Internal initiative to integrate NOAA's Coastal Programs
- Recognizes need for coastal leadership
- Focuses on NOAA's mandate and capabilities to:



- Assess needs and deliver relevant science
- Develop tools and build decision-making capacity
- Directly manage and influence others

What is "Coastal" within this Enterprise?

- No specific geographic boundary defined – will vary depending on issue and geography
- Includes both upland watersheds and coastal waters
- Focuses on integration "from the mountains to the sea"



NOAA Coastal Enterprise Priorities







- Reduce vulnerability of coastal communities and ecosystems in the face of change from hazards and climate
- Protect and restore coastal ecosystems and their services
- Promote sustainable use of coasts and balance competing societal needs (e.g., energy, marine transportation, recreation)

A New Coastal Zone Management Act

• Two-year visioning effort with over 400 stakeholders, federal agencies, and non-profits, and coastal experts.

 Developing draft language focusing national priorities and strengthening NOAA's role in national program.

Principles for a New CZMA

An improved CZMA should be:

PRIORITIZED & STRATEGIC

NOAA and the states should set clear and measurable goals and objectives.

ACCOUNTABLE

National and state governments need to be held accountable for results.

COORDINATED

Federal, state, regional, and local-level entities should leverage assets by coordinating priority setting, funding, program implementation, etc.

Clarity of Purpose

NOW: Broad objective to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible enhance resources of the coastal zone".

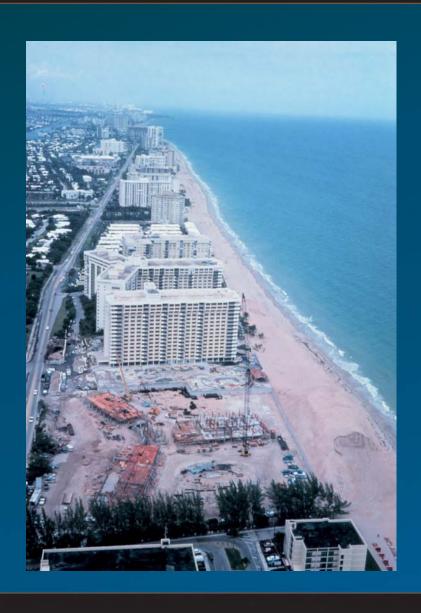
- Difficult to measure success

FUTURE: Two national goals

- Sustain healthy coastal ecosystems
- Increase coastal community resilience



State of the Coast



NOW: Once programs are approved, states are not required to assess the state of their coasts.

FUTURE: NOAA will work with states to conduct assessments, updated every 5 years for:

- Coastal integrated ecosystem assessment
- Community resilience assessment

Program Scope

NOW: Each state defines the boundaries of its coastal zone (e.g., local government, physical features, entire state)

FUTURE: NOAA would designate a *national* coastal planning area that:

- Include watersheds and the territorial sea
- Basis for area in state assessments and management plans

Up the Watershed...

 New techniques and new partners (including non-coastal states) will be required.



 Watershed-wide plans are needed, but implementation must focus on local problems.

...and Out to Sea

- Clear policies are needed at the federal and state levels to resolve conflicts among existing and potential coastal and ocean uses.
- Comprehensive planning is needed to
 - Guide existing ocean activities
 - Resolve conflicts
 - Anticipate new uses



Existing Protection Programs



Incorporate into state programs:

- National Marine Protected Areas Program
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

Regional Approaches

NOW: No mechanism to allow states to receive CZMA funding for multi-state challenges

FUTURE: Encourage governors to establish regional coastal and ocean partnerships

- For issues greater than state concern
- Issue-driven and flexible
- Eligible for competitive CZMA funding at the state level

The National System of MPAs:

A Case Study in Integration

- Across federal agencies
- Across levels of government
- Across diverse goals
 - natural heritage
 - cultural heritage
 - sustainable production
- Across diverse stakeholder groups
- Focusing on achieving comprehensive, efficient conservation of common resources



MPA FAC – Promoting Integration

- Explaining linkages between the national system and an ecosystem approach to management
- Learning lessons from regional governance processes
- Connecting Sanctuaries processes and the national system
- Future work on integration with IOOS, resiliency



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