

# 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**



Shane Anderson

# 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



# For more information:



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