

We make America's ocean and Great Lakes coastal communities and ecosystems safer, healthier, and more resilient.



2011-12

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management





In 1972, Congress recognized the importance of America's ocean and coastal resources by passing the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) to preserve, protect, enhance and wisely develop our nation's coasts.

For 40 years the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has consistently provided excellent service and value to the American people by administering this mandate while seeing its more than \$1 billion in federal funds almost doubled through matching funds from the 35 coastal states that voluntarily participate in this national program.

In the following pages of this report, you will see examples of the tremendous contributions our people and partners have made during FY 2011-2012 to enhance ocean and coastal resource management and the lives of the American people. You can also visit our website to learn more, www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov.

As a result of this investment and the ongoing work done by OCRM through its CZMA federal-state partnership, millions of people now have better access to waterways and beaches; states and territories have a direct say in managing their own waterfront development and conservation projects that create jobs and help coastal communities grow and prosper; thousands of miles of coastal waterways are safer, healthier and more resilient; more than 1.3 million acres of critical coastal habitats are now preserved for research, education and the enjoyment of all Americans who swim, fish and kayak in coastal waters; and thousands of miles of special marine protected areas and coral reef habitats are monitored and protected for future generations to enjoy.

However, our work in coastal resource management has taken on more importance with the continued population growth along our coasts and the added pressures of human and natural impacts to our ocean and coastal resources.



One of the most damaging threats to our coasts and our nation's economic and ecological health and safety is a changing climate. Our research and recent experience with Superstorm Sandy indicates that we need to plan and adapt to this threat as it changes the way we live and conduct business along the coasts and in America's heartland.

This work cannot be accomplished without continued Congressional support and the strong and enduring partnerships between NOAA, America's coastal states and territories, tribes, and the non-profit community. It also takes strong partnerships across federal and local governments to effectively deal with the current and growing challenges facing our coastal communities. It is the key to our success now and in the future.

Today, we are working harder to improve and maximize our coastal management efforts at NOAA through the planned integration of the OCRM with NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC), which will help improve efficiencies and provide the best scientific tools and services for coastal managers, state, territorial and tribal partners, and local decision makers. The FY13 President's Budget proposed the merger of these two offices; an approach that was also supported by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. In preparation for the proposed merger, the OCRM and CSC are currently undertaking a series of internal assessments that will inform options for the integration of these two offices. We are also soliciting input from stakeholders on the key goals and priorities that we should focus on to refine and further the effectiveness of coastal management within NOAA and with partners.

The OCRM is also playing a lead role in efforts across NOAA to focus our combined resources and expertise to address climate change and habitat protection throughout the nation.

We believe that a healthy and resilient coast makes America stronger. Continued investment in our coastal management programs and services will provide long-term gains for the nation.



Margaret A. Davidson

Acting Director, NOAA Office of Ocean and
Coastal Resource Management



40 year timeline ▶

This 40 year timeline of the Coastal Zone Management Act represents the year coastal programs and research reserves were authorized along with other key milestones.

National Coastal Zone Management Program

Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) Made an Impact

The OCRM awarded \$131 million to 34 coastal states and territories to implement their federally-approved state coastal management programs. These Federal investments leveraged \$111 million in state and local matching funds as well as more than \$45 million in additional funding. The National CZM Program is a partnership between the OCRM and coastal states to balance development and natural resource protection along the coast. Through the National CZM Program, the OCRM works with state programs to protect and restore habitats, mitigate coastal hazards, adapt to climate change, protect water quality, enhance public access to coastal areas, and undertake comprehensive planning, including ocean planning, to ensure our coastal lands and waters are used in a balanced way that promotes water dependent uses and industries. Among its many achievements reported in FY11 and FY12, the Federal-state partnership established more than 250 new and enhanced public recreational access sites to the coast, enhanced an additional 700 sites, restored over 36,000 acres of coastal habitat, and protected nearly 13,000 acres by acquisition or easement. The program also educated over 500,000 people about coastal issues and trained over 18,000 coastal decision makers, providing them with knowledge and skills to make more informed decisions.

Illinois National Coastal Zone Management Program Approved

On January 31, 2012, NOAA approved the Illinois Coastal Management Program. The OCRM staff worked closely with Illinois for nearly eight years to develop a program that meets the requirements of the CZMA. With the Illinois approval, 34 of the 35 eligible coastal states and territories now participate in the National CZM Program.

Through the National CZM Program partnership, NOAA and Illinois will be able to effectively leverage each other's expertise and resources to address critical coastal management issues of national and state importance along the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline.



Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and NOAA Assistant Administrator for NOS David M. Kennedy at the Illinois Coastal Management Program signing ceremony

1972 CZMA Enacted October 27, 1972

1974 South Slough NERR (Oregon) Becomes 1st Estuarine Sanctuary, now part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)

Released Report on Protecting the Public Interest through Shorefront No-Build Areas

In the face of continued population growth, increasing economic activity along our coasts, more devastating storms, and sea level rise, there is increased interest in how states are managing shorefront development. To help address this need, the OCRM released a new report in May 2012 that summarizes where coastal states and territories employ shorefront no-build areas (e.g., through setbacks and/or zoning) along ocean and Great Lake shorefronts to protect the public interest. The report, *Protecting the Public Interest through the National Coastal Zone Management Program: How Coastal States and Territories Use No-Build Areas Along Ocean and Great Lake Shorefronts*, has already been a useful resource for states and territories that are considering revising their shorefront development laws and regulations, as well as other policy makers, researchers, and the media.

Led Efforts to Coordinate CZMA Review for the Atlantic Wind Connection Project



Interest in offshore wind energy production in the United States is increasing as we look for ways to diversify our energy sources and decrease our carbon footprint. As the administrator of the CZMA, the OCRM plays an important role in coordinating the CZMA review of offshore energy projects. For example, in June 2012, OCRM brought together five states, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and a project applicant to agree on developing a coordinated CZMA review process for a 790-mile subsea transmission system. The system, proposed for state and Federal waters off five Mid-Atlantic states from New York to Virginia, would enable multiple offshore wind farms to connect to the onshore electricity grid. Although BOEM has the principle Federal authorization for the project, the CZMA enables the five states to review the project for consistency with their coastal policies. States traditionally conduct their CZMA reviews independently of one another. Given the scale of the proposed project, the OCRM's work to facilitate a coordinated CZMA review among the five states will create a more efficient review process for the applicant. A coordinated review will also ensure that offshore waters are used in a balanced way to avoid use conflicts, protect natural resources, and support our national energy needs.

Supported Regional Ocean Planning and Climate Change Adaptation through New Competitive Grant Programs

To effectively address important coastal and ocean management issues such as coastal hazards and climate change at a regional rather than state or national level, the OCRM partnered with NOAA's CSC to award approximately \$6 million through a new Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program.

This regional grant program advances President Obama's 2010 National Ocean Policy goals by providing funding to support the development and operation of Regional Ocean Partnerships and

1976

Washington becomes 1st state or territory with a Coastal Management Program

implementation of Regional Ocean Partnership priorities, with a focus on ocean planning activities. Nine regions received funding: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Alaska, South Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, West Coast, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands.

The OCRM also provided approximately \$1 million in competitive funding for “projects of special merit” to enhance a state’s Federally-approved coastal management program. Thirteen state coastal management programs received funding to implement projects that will reduce their risks to coastal hazards, especially in a changing climate, and further their comprehensive coastal planning efforts to reduce use conflicts and sustain natural resources.

Incorporated First Comprehensive Ocean Plan into State CZM Program

In May 2011, the OCRM approved the incorporation of the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP) into Rhode Island’s Federally-approved coastal management program. The new, innovative ocean management plan improves state review processes and policies to facilitate the development of offshore projects that could lead to the creation of hundreds of wind energy jobs and balance energy development with transportation, fishing, recreation and environmental stewardship along the state’s coast and adjacent federal waters. The Ocean SAMP, which also furthers the objectives of President Obama’s 2010 National Ocean Policy, is the first comprehensive ocean plan to be incorporated into a state coastal management program.

NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco joined Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee at a public signing ceremony in Narragansett, Rhode Island, on Friday July 22, 2011, to recognize the pioneering Ocean SAMP. Representatives from the offshore wind industry, fishing industry, conservation field, and Narragansett Tribe also provided remarks.



Success Story

National CZM Program Helps Virginia’s Oyster Harvests Boom

Virginia oyster harvests have increased from 23,000 bushels worth \$575,000 in 2001 to 236,000 bushels worth \$8.26 million in 2011, bringing in new revenue to the state and creating new jobs for Virginia citizens, thanks in part to the innovative Virginia Oyster Heritage Program. The Virginia CZMP, through its partnership with the OCRM, initiated the oyster heritage program in 1999 by providing significant coordination and investing over \$1.5 million to help protect and restore native oyster populations.

The public-private oyster heritage partnership leveraged additional funds, including many more NOAA investments, that led to the construction of more than 80 sanctuary reefs and 1,000 acres of harvest area in Virginia’s coastal waters. The Virginia CZMP’s sustained leadership of the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program, as part of the National Coastal Zone Management Program, helped to create a successful fishery restoration and management system. The payoff for this investment over the past 10 years has been substantial, leading to a tenfold increase in bushels harvested, demonstrating how coordination and comprehensive coastal planning can lead to significant economic benefits.

1977

Sapelo Island NERR (Georgia)
Old Woman Creek NERR (Ohio)

Oregon, California



1978

Massachusetts, Rhode Island,
Hawaii, Maine, Maryland,
Michigan, North Carolina,
Puerto Rico, Wisconsin

Rookery Bay NERR (Florida)

Coral Reef Conservation Program

Collaborated on Monitoring, Mapping and Education Efforts

In 2012, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) addressed climate-related risks to coral reefs by establishing ocean acidification monitoring equipment in two of the six Coral Triangle countries to support the U.S. Agency for International Development's U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative. In addition, the program advanced near-real time satellite monitoring of ocean temperatures to provide higher spatial resolution products to more accurately predict mass coral bleaching events and monitor thermal stress at scales specific to coral reefs.

To further support marine protected area management capacity and address/reduce impacts of land based sources of pollution, the CRCP responded to a request from Puerto Rico's CZMP and partnered with the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, the U.S. Coast Guard, and academia to map Puerto Rico's Northeast Great Reserve, a recently established MPA.



**NOAA
REEF SMART**

The Program also launched the NOAA Reef Smart program in Puerto Rico, an education initiative designed to engage students, stakeholders and policy makers and increase their awareness of NOAA's coral reef ecosystem research. The Reef Smart initiative also helped foster discussions about ways NOAA's existing technology, data and expertise can be leveraged to support the needs of local managers in coral reef priority areas.

Reduced Land-Based Pollution in Pacific Island Coral Reefs

The Pacific Island Watershed Institute (PIWI) was hosted by NOAA's CRCP and tailored for state and territorial staff, officials, watershed leaders, and watershed and storm water professionals in the Pacific Islands.

NOAA engaged 80 participants, including 30 from American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. This is the first Watershed Institute specifically for Pacific Islands (previous institutes have been conducted on the mainland). The workshop was a mix of lectures, group and field exercises and island-specific working sessions. Topics included watershed planning, watershed assessment methods, erosion and sediment control for islands, and storm water best management practices for islands. The training took place June 13-16, 2011, in windward Oahu, Hawaii. The PIWI aims to change the way watershed and storm water practitioners think about island watersheds and to impart new skills and tools to understand and manage challenging island watershed issues. The PIWI was conducted by the Horsley Witten Group, the Center for Watershed Protection, NOAA's CRCP, and guest speakers.

1979

Virgin Islands, Alaska,
Alabama, Delaware,
Guam, New Jersey,
South Carolina

Apalachicola Bay
NERR (Florida)

1980

American Samoa, Connecticut,
Louisiana, Mississippi,
Northern Marianas, Pennsylvania
Elkhorn Slough NERR (California)
Narragansett Bay NERR (Rhode Island)
Padilla Bay NERR (Washington)



1981

Florida

Jobos Bay NERR
(Puerto Rico)

1982

Tijuana River NERR (California)
Hudson River NERR (New York)

New Hampshire
New York

Marine Protected Area Center

Expert Panel Conducted External Review of MPA Center

In January 2012, a panel of independent MPA science and management experts from academic, non-profit and state government institutions conducted the first external review of NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center. The panel was asked to review the MPA Center's activities in order to maximize its effectiveness and transparency and to provide an external assessment of both past accomplishments and future directions. The panel found that the center has been effective in implementing the National System of Marine Protected Areas and providing leadership on MPA issues. It recommended that NOAA and the Department of Interior (DOI) provide consistent, sustained support to the center. They also advised that the center and the MPA Federal Advisory Committee serve as a professional network for MPA managers, expand their engagement with MPA stakeholders, and maintain their autonomy in light of expected organizational changes within NOAA. The review is serving as a guide as the center works with its partners, the MPA Federal Advisory Committee and stakeholders in coastal communities to craft a vision for the future work of the MPA Center in the context of current opportunities and threats to our shared ocean resources.

Worked to Integrate with Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

In order to provide opportunities for new collaboration, efficiencies and leveraging limited resources, the President's FY13 Budget called for the MPA Center to be integrated with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). The MPA Center and the ONMS leadership held a series of strategic planning meetings to lay the groundwork for this integration. Key accomplishments include identifying key focal areas for MPA Center work in FY13 and funding opportunities for supporting that work; establishing a new partnership with the DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and NOAA's CSC to collaborate on ocean use mapping; establishing a new partnership with BOEM and ONMS to collaborate on identifying areas of cultural importance to tribes; and meeting with the MPA Federal Advisory Committee and the federal and state MPA program partners to share the results of the external review and solicit their input on future priorities for the MPA Center and the National System of MPAs.

Led a Participatory Mapping Workshop in Virginia

The MPA Center's Ocean Uses Team assisted the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program by leading a participatory mapping workshop to collect information on recreational ocean uses off Virginia's Atlantic coast. This project captured baseline information on ocean uses to better inform planning efforts undertaken by the Virginia CZMP to help develop a Virginia Ocean Plan and to help Virginia CZMP and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) develop the Seaside Special Area Management Plan. Virginia's Atlantic Coast Recreational Use Mapping Project workshop, held in Melfa, Virginia, on July 11-12th, 2012, was the first in a series of efforts conducted throughout the Mid-Atlantic states to fill data gaps in the regional ocean planning data portal. The MPA Center's Ocean Uses Team, along with staff from CSC, provided mapping and project facilitation support throughout the workshop. The MPA Center also provided a training session for approximately 25 Virginia state staff and other Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) representatives on July 10th to introduce the mapping tools and train participants on how to implement the MPA Center's participatory ocean use mapping methods. Integrating these data into management strategies will help managers plan for reducing use conflicts, maximizing efficiency, and enhancing environmental and economic productivity.

1984 Wells NERRS (Maine)

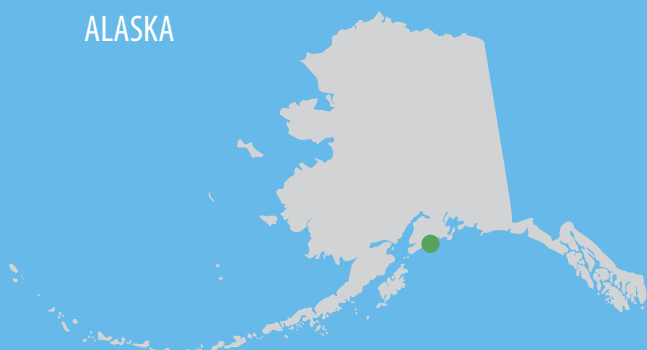
1985 Chesapeake Bay NERR (Maryland)
North Carolina NERR (North Carolina)

NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

- Coastal Zone Management Program (States)
- Estuarine Research Reserve
- Proposed Reserve
- Coral Reef Conservation Program (Projects)



ALASKA



NORTHERN
MARIANA
ISLANDS



GUAM



AMERICAN SAMOA



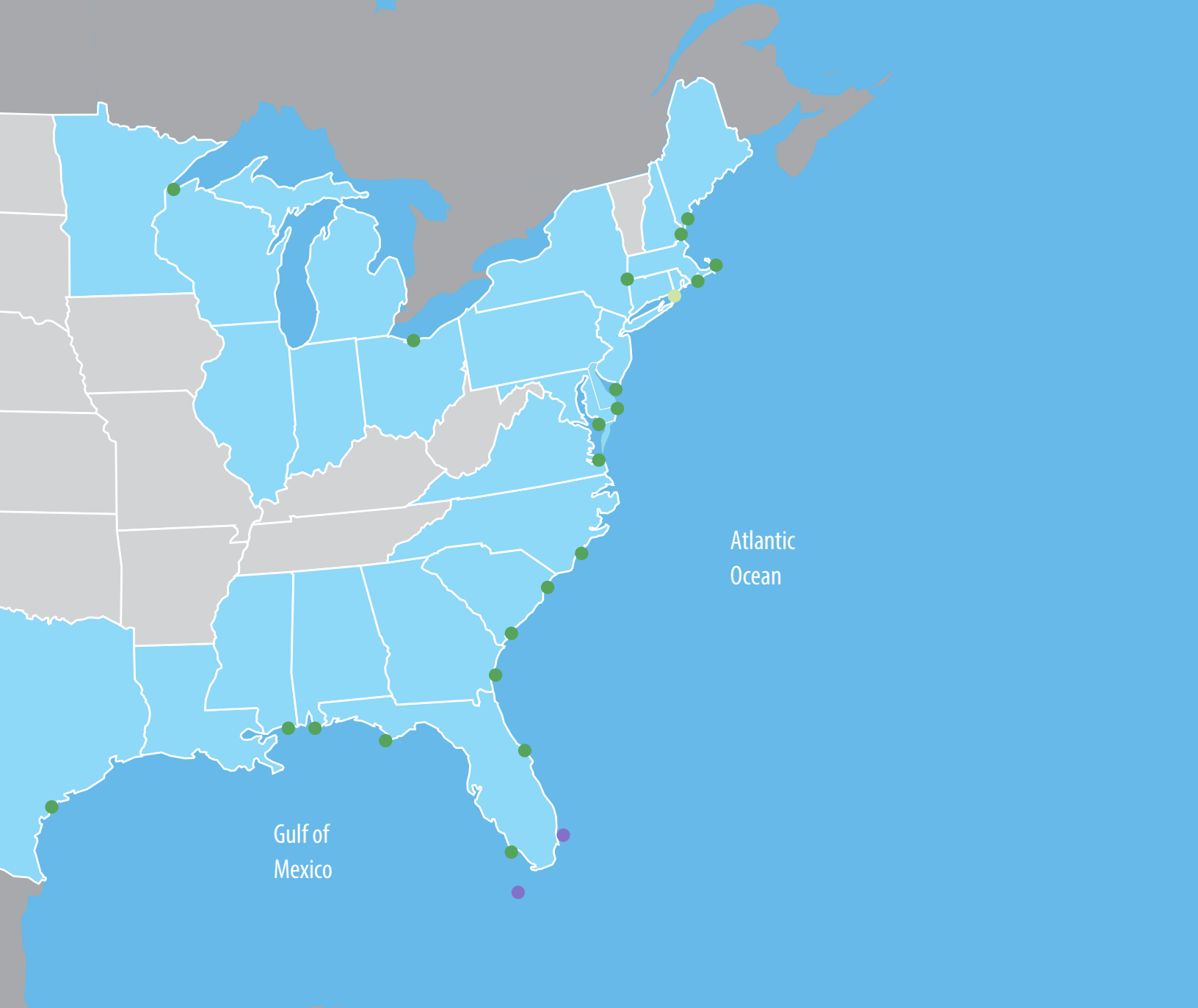
1986

Weeks Bay NERR (Alabama)

Virginia

1988

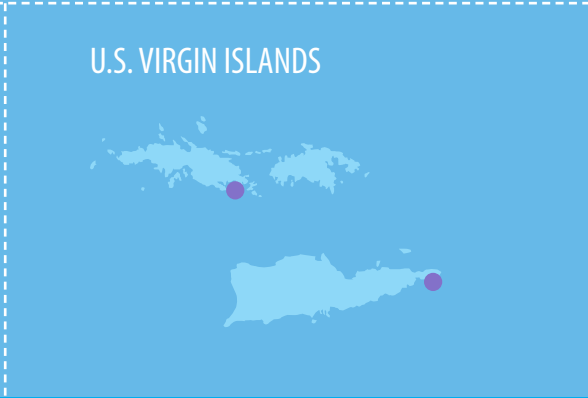
Waquoit Bay NERR
(Massachusetts)



HAWAII



PUERTO RICO



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

1989

Great Bay NERR
(New Hampshire)

1990

Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of 1990
Created Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and
Section 309 Coastal Zone Enhancement Grants



1991

Chesapeake Bay NERR (Virginia)

1992

North Inlet/Winyah Bay NERR (South Carolina)
Ashepoo/Combahee/Edisto (ACE) Basin NERR
(South Carolina)

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Science Collaborative “Gets Things Done”

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System’s (NERRS) Science Collaborative was created in 2010 to put reserve-based science to work for coastal communities coping with the impacts of land use change, pollution, and habitat degradation in the context of a changing climate. While there is widespread support for the integration of science with coastal decision-making to improve resource management, many scientists, coastal decision makers and communities lack the knowledge and skills to work collaboratively. To address this need and build capacity within coastal communities, the NERRS Science Collaborative partnered with the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve’s Coastal Training Program to develop and pilot a new training, “Working Together to Get Things Done.”

In 2012, 200 staff and stakeholders from nine reserves took the training. The training provides a critical model for how to build capacity to work collaboratively to effectively share scientific knowledge and expertise, build effective partnerships, and solve problems in the complex world of natural resource management. Participants used the training as a vehicle to advance understanding and planning on a range of issues and projects, including the bi-national Tijuana River Action Plan, phosphorous and water quality management in the Great Lakes, and the introduction of tidal wetlands into international carbon markets.

Launched New Estuaries Science Curriculum for Middle School Students

Each year over 80,000 students learn the value of estuaries to our nation through field trips or classroom visits offered by the NERRS staff. In an effort to reach an even broader group of future decision makers, an online multi-media science curriculum was launched in 2012. The Estuaries 101 Middle School Curriculum provides teachers and students an opportunity to virtually explore the diverse “living laboratories” that make up the reserves, while offering interactive learning tools that teach fundamental concepts in science and develop scientific thinking skills.

Available free to teachers on-line through the www.estuaries.noaa.gov website, the curriculum offers engaging activities, informative videos clips, estuary visualizations, interactive maps, and access to NERR real-time water quality and weather data. The 15 different activities featured in the curriculum are built around real-world events and promote problem solving interactions for students to help them consider how their actions affect our nation’s coastal resources. The curriculum also supports National Science Education Science standards for grades 5-8 and can be aligned to meet state standards.

1993

Delaware NERR
(Delaware)

1996

Texas

1997

Ohio



1998

Georgia

Jacques Cousteau
NERR (New Jersey)

Using Science to Improve Habitat Conservation and Restoration

In FY 11 and 12, the NERRS added 21,386 acres to the existing 1.3 million acres of protected estuarine lands and waters at 28 reserves around the country. The long-term protection of reserves requires an understanding of the resources and their condition. The reserve system has completed characterization of 93% of the system, including a description of estuarine habitats, environment, biological resources, ecological dynamics, and research and monitoring activities. In addition, five reserves have now completed high resolution maps of their habitats using a common classification scheme. This information provides an important baseline from which to understand how reserve ecosystems are changing because of climate change and other stressors.

To better understand the impacts of sea level change on marsh habitats, reserves are installing and operating a sentinel site monitoring program. This program builds on 15 years of system-wide monitoring done in the NERRS. The program uses NERRS instruments and measurement platforms such as telemetered weather stations, data loggers, and vegetation transects located within a geospatial framework to provide information that can be collected and synthesized by researchers. In 2012, a fifth reserve will become a fully operating sentinel site. As reserves better understand site-specific impacts, they can make science-based decisions about adaptation at their reserves and inform nearby communities about adaptation strategies. Four reserves were trained in how to implement a climate change vulnerability assessment, which is a first step toward designing adaptation actions. Finally, sentinel site information can inform habitat restoration, as it did at Elkhorn Slough NERR in California.

The Elkhorn Slough NERR used sentinel site monitoring data to inform the design and construction of a major American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded water control structure that reduces salt marsh loss and the erosion of soft subtidal habitats in the 460-acre Parsons Slough. The structure was completed in 2011, and ongoing monitoring is informing future salt marsh habitat restoration at the reserve.



NERRS by the Numbers

- *80,000 students educated about the value of estuaries*
- *100,000 volunteer hours donated to research, education and stewardship of reserves*
- *10,000 coastal decision-makers trained*
- *15,500 viewers of NERRS System-Wide Monitoring Program water quality and weather data*

1999

Minnesota

Guana/Tolomato/Matanzas (GTM) NERR (Florida)
Kachemak Bay NERR (Alaska)
Grand Bay NERR (Mississippi)



2002

Indiana

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)
Established; First CELCP project completed with acquisition
of Deer Island in Biloxi, Mississippi

National Policy and Evaluation

Recognized Coastal and Ocean Management Excellence

Given every two years, the Walter B. Jones Awards recognize individuals and organizations for their dedication and outstanding contributions in helping the nation maintain healthy coastal and ocean resources and balance the conservation of these resources with human needs. Winners are selected in three award categories: Coastal Steward of the Year, Excellence in Local Government, and Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study.

The awards were created to honor the late 11-term Congressman Walter B. Jones of North Carolina. As chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Jones was a strong supporter of NOAA and its Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. He provided leadership on numerous legislative initiatives addressing coastal and ocean issues such as commercial shipping, oil spill clean-up and prevention, and flood insurance reform.

The winners of the 2012 Walter B. Jones Awards for Excellence in Coastal and Ocean Management are listed below.

Coastal Steward of the Year:



Peter M. Douglas

The late Peter M. Douglas, longtime executive director of the California Coastal Commission, received the Walter B. Jones Coastal Steward of the Year Award in honor of his many contributions to coastal management in California.

Douglas, considered a pioneer in coastal management, served California for 40 years, including 26 years as executive director of the state's coastal commission. He was a key force in the establishment of both the California Coastal Zone Act and Coastal Commission, as well as in drafting the original regulations implementing the federal act. Douglas passed away on April 1, 2012, and was made aware of the Jones Award honor shortly before he died.

Excellence in Local Government:

Port of Anacortes, Washington
City of Morro Bay, California
City of Naples, Florida
Town of Plymouth, North Carolina

Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study:

Recognizes graduate students whose academic study promises to contribute to the development of new or improved approaches to coastal or ocean management.

Michelle Brodeur, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Michelle Covi, East Carolina University
Jennifer Cudney-Burch, East Carolina University
Timothy Ellis, North Carolina State University
Rachel Kelley Gittman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Melissa Keyword, University of Virginia
Katie Laakkonen, Florida Gulf Coast University
Matthew McCarthy, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Katherine Sherman, Oregon State University



2006

Mission-Aransas NERR (Texas)

Provided New Coastal and Waterfront Smart Growth Web Resources

During FY 11-12, the OCRM, CSC, and Sea Grant developed the Coastal and Waterfront Smart Growth website, focusing on providing expanded resources, tools and techniques for policy makers, planners and coastal decision makers, and demonstrating how to get started in implementing coastal smart growth in coastal communities. The expanded resources have been completed for smart growth elements related to preserving open space and natural resources, revitalizing waterfronts, fostering compact community design, and providing housing opportunities and choices. The additional resources are a combination of “how to” guides, successful case studies, and other websites with helpful smart growth tools. For more information, visit <http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/gettingstarted/welcome.html>

Celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act

The OCRM National Policy and Evaluation Division led efforts to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. Established by Congress on October 27, 1972, this landmark act has proven to be one of America’s best tools to safeguard our coastal areas and was created to preserve, protect, develop, enhance, and restore the Nation’s coastal resources.

With sponsorship support from the Coastal States Organization (CSO), a limited edition CZMA 40th Anniversary poster was created and widely distributed to stakeholders; a 12-minute educational video about the CZMA was produced and distributed to coastal decision-makers and members of Congress; a special commemorative logo and educational website was created to share information about the history of the CZMA; and special briefing sessions, conferences and meetings highlighting the 40th Anniversary of the CZMA were held on Capitol Hill and around the country. All these activities served to increase awareness about the many contributions made to enhancing coastal communities and protecting critical habitats as a result of this important CZMA legislation.

Used Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Awards to Protect Nearly 4,000 Acres in Seven Coastal States

Thirteen new projects, anticipated to protect nearly 4,000 acres in seven coastal states, were selected in FY 11-12 to receive a total of \$11 million dollars in funding through CELCP and the Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Criteria for selection include a project’s contribution to ecological conservation, recreational opportunities, aesthetic and historical significance, and technical and scientific merit. These new awards will help protect coastal watersheds in Florida, Maine, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The FY 11-12 CELCP projects brought the total number of acres protected to more than 75,000 since the program began in 2002. Helping communities save valuable natural areas contributes to the CZMA’s national policy goal of enhancing community resilience. It also contributes to NOAA’s other habitat-related objectives, such as safeguarding naturally protective habitat features, and protecting essential habitat for fisheries and protected species.

2009

CELCP re-authorized and becomes part of the CZMA

2010

Lake Superior NERR (Wisconsin)



Success Story

CELCP Grant Facilitates Opening of Tribal National Park in Wisconsin

On August 3rd, approximately 100 people gathered to celebrate the opening of “Frog Bay Tribal National Park” in northern Wisconsin. The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will permanently protect the park, thanks to a grant from the CELCP, through funding from the President’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and the generosity of the former land owners. The Wisconsin CMP and the Bayfield Regional Conservancy worked with the Red Cliff Band and others to preserve the land. The 89 acres of Lake Superior transitional boreal forest, which is globally significant, include more than 0.25 mile of pristine shoreline. The new Frog Bay Tribal Nation Park will be open to Tribal members and the general public for recreational and educational purposes. This land acquisition demonstrates the value of the CELCP in preserving important ecological, recreational, and culturally significant coastal land for public benefit.

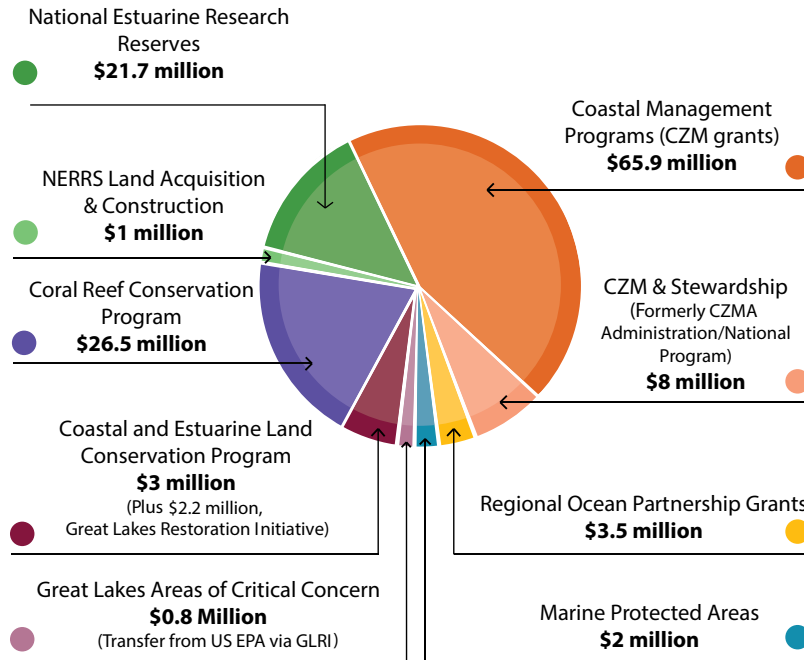
Helping Coastal Managers Prepare for a Changing Climate

The OCRM provides leadership, expertise, and support for climate adaptation initiatives that serve our coastal and ocean management partners at multiple levels. Over the last few years, the OCRM has been engaged in national planning efforts, interagency working groups, and agency-wide initiatives that inform and advance our stewardship responsibilities in a changing climate. For example, the OCRM has provided leadership in the inter-governmental (Federal, state, and tribal) effort to develop the first National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy. Called for by Congress, the purpose of the strategy is to provide a nationwide approach to safeguard the nation’s biodiversity, ecosystem functions and sustainable human uses of our natural resources in a changing climate. This document contains strategies and actions that the coastal and ocean management community can implement to help natural resources become more resilient and adapt to anticipated climate impacts.

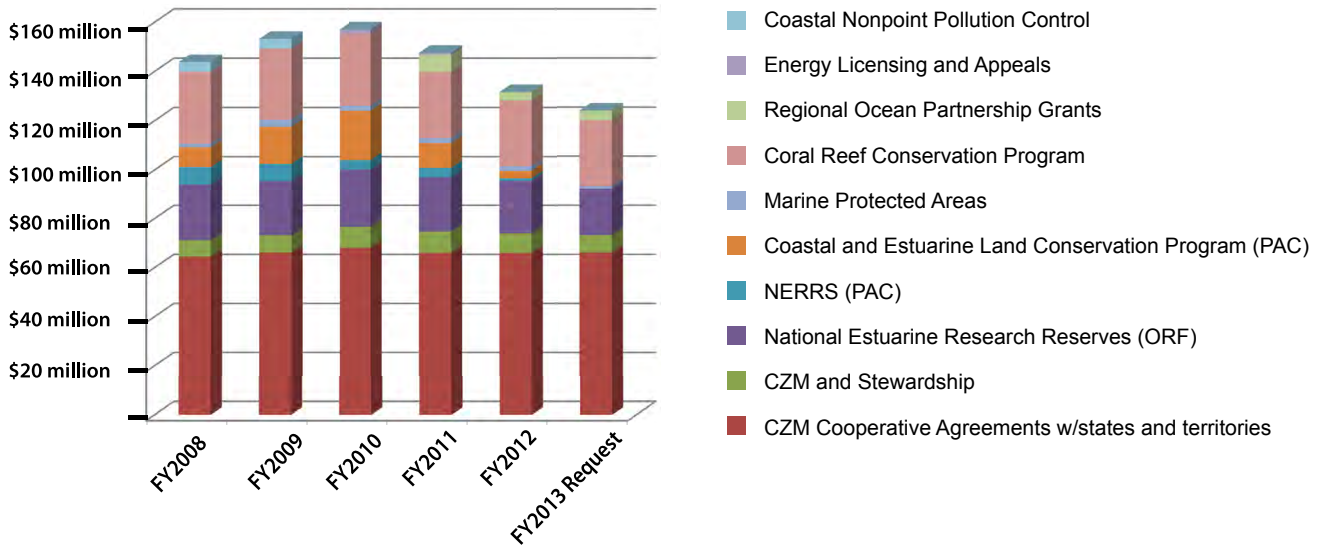
The OCRM has also provided significant staff expertise and support to the National Climate Assessment. As required by the Global Change Research Act of 1990, the National Climate Assessment provides a status report on climate change science and impacts. This assessment also aims to incorporate advances in climate science into social, ecological, and policy systems, and provide integrated analyses of impacts and vulnerability. Staff members served as one of two convening lead authors for the coastal chapter and as the sector coordinator for the report. Engagement in this effort has helped the OCRM build stronger relationships across Federal agencies, with new sectors, and within the regions.

In addition, the OCRM has developed and contributed to a number of documents to help improve our partners’ abilities to plan for climate change. These include: *Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers* and the *Great Lakes Supplement to the Guide*, which help coastal managers develop and implement adaptation plans to reduce the risks associated with climate change impacts; and the *Voluntary Step-by-Step Guide for Considering Potential Climate Change Effects on Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Projects*, to help partners consider potential climate change effects on land acquisition projects and incorporate climate information into their planning efforts. The OCRM also worked with the CSC to develop the Coastal Sea-Level Change Societal Challenge Needs Assessment to guide NOAA’s development of trainings, engagement efforts, decision-support tools, and applications based on current coastal decision makers’ needs related to sea-level change. The OCRM has led and contributed to these and many other activities over the last few years in order to help inform coastal management decisions and strengthen the nation’s coastal communities and resources in a changing climate.

FY 2012 OCRM Budget Allocations by Program



OCRM Funding FY 2008-2013



2012

Illinois
Final eligible state to join the National Coastal
Zone Management Program, January 31, 2012



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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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