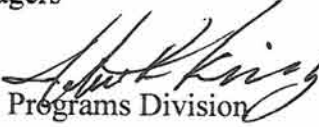




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

DATE: JUL 29 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commonwealth, State, and Territorial Coastal Management Program Managers

FROM: John R. King 
Chief, Coastal Programs Division

SUBJECT: Final Coastal Zone Management Act Section 309 Guidance

Attached is the Final Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 309 Guidance covering CZMA section 309 activities for fiscal years 2011-2015. The new guidance includes the main programmatic guidance and three appendices. The new guidance provides a framework and schedule for the FY2011-2015 Section 309 Program. The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has improved and streamlined both the Assessment (Appendix A) and the Strategy (Appendix B). In addition, Appendix C was added to provide additional guidance on eligible program change activities.

In response to OCRM's publication of the draft guidance on April 1, 2009, we received many comments. We carefully considered all comments, and we addressed many of them.

We did elect to retain the new competitive process of awarding Projects of Special Merit (PSMs) beginning in FY2012. OCRM is instituting this competitive process to respond to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluation of the Coastal Zone Management Program, where the GAO found that OCRM was not following CZMA regulations in awarding funds under Section 309. However, to respond to state concerns about a reduction in "guaranteed" section 309 funds, we decided to lower the amount reserved for PSMs from 15 percent of the total section 309 allocation to ten percent, with the option to revisit this amount each year. Also, please note that competition for PSMs will begin in the FY2012 funding year, so FY10 and 11 section 309 funding will not be affected.

I appreciate your participation in the development of guidance for the FY2011-2015 Section 309 Program. The CPD Coastal Management Specialist liaison to your program can assist you as you begin developing your new Assessment and Strategy. Please direct any further questions or comments about this guidance to me at (301) 71303155 x188 or john.king@noaa.gov.

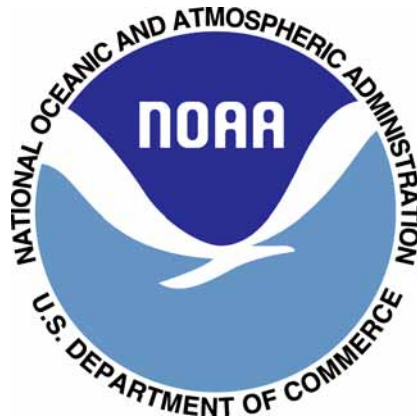
Attachments

Cc: Kristen Fletcher, Coastal States Organization
Coastal Programs Division Staff



Final Coastal Zone Management Act Section 309 Program Guidance

July 2009



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

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Section 309 Program Enhancement Guidance

A. Overview

Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), as amended in 1990 and 1996, establishes a voluntary coastal zone enhancement grants program to encourage State and Territory Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) to develop program changes in one or more of the following nine enhancement 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. Under this program, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to make awards to states and territories to develop and submit for federal approval, program changes that support attainment of one or more of the enhancement area objectives. Section 309 further requires that the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) review, in close cooperation with CMPs, their priority management needs and evaluate proposed strategies.

This guidance supersedes previously issued guidance documents. This document provides updated guidance on the types of activities eligible for Section 309 funding, Section 309 funding allocation methods (including a new competitive program for Projects of Special Merit), the format and content for an Assessment and Strategy, and the process and criteria for approval. It incorporates the state-reported contextual measures from the CZMA Performance Measurement System into the Assessment questions outlined in Appendix A. Contextual measures are indicated by “(CM)” in the Assessment template and are required to be reported as part of the Assessment only. CMPs can use Section 309 funding to complete the Assessment questions, including data collection for the contextual measures. However, effective with FY2009 funding, Section 309 funding cannot be used for data collection for the CZMA performance measures required annually and submitted outside the Section 309 process.

All CMPs must successfully complete an approved Assessment and Strategy to be eligible for Section 309 funding in FY2011-2015. Section 306, 310, or other non-CZMA funds may be used to support development or implementation of Section 309 enhancement area objectives. However, activities must be distinct from those approved under Section 309 funding.

B. Eligible Section 309 Activities

The following activities are eligible for Section 309 funding:

1. Assessment and Strategy Development

CMPs may use CZM funds to develop a Section 309 Assessment and Strategy, including the development, collection, and analysis of assessment related data. The Assessment is a public document, prepared by CMPs and approved by OCRM in accordance with this guidance. It must determine the extent to which problems and opportunities for program enhancement exist;

determine the effectiveness of existing efforts to address those problems for each of the enhancement objectives; and identify priority needs for program enhancement. The Assessment will provide the factual basis for the coastal management program and OCRM to determine priority needs for program enhancement.

The Strategy is a comprehensive, multi-year statement of goals and the methods for their attainment that is prepared by the coastal management program and approved by OCRM in accordance with this guidance and Section 309 regulations. The Strategy should address the priority needs for program enhancement and set forth specific program changes to be sought under one or more of the enhancement objectives. The Strategy must also include a work plan following the template provided in this guidance and Appendix B.

2. Program Change Development

A program change, as defined in 15 CFR 923.123, includes the following:

- A change to coastal zone boundaries that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding, that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs that improve a State's ability to attain one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised Special Area Management Plans or plans for Areas of Particular Concern (APC), including enforceable policies and other necessary implementing mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APC that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised guidelines, procedures, and policy documents which are formally adopted by a State and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM policies to applicants, local governments and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management and that will improve a State's ability to attain one or more of the enhancement objectives.

Upon completion of an enhancement area strategy, CMPs must provide a summary of the program change to OCRM in the semi-annual Performance Progress Report. When appropriate, CMPs should also submit the program change for OCRM's review and approval pursuant to the program change regulations at [15 CFR part 923, subpart H](#).

In response to a recent evaluation of the CZM program by the Government Accountability Office, OCRM is considering how to incorporate state-developed measurable goals, performance measures, and targets into the Section 312 evaluation process. Although specific requirements have not yet been developed, CMPs will have the opportunity to use the Section 309 Program funding to address these recommendations. Specific guidance for improving the 312 evaluation process will come out separately at a later date.

3. Program Change Implementation

Section 309 funds may be used to support implementation activities for Section 309 program changes for up to two grant years from program change completion. After which, implementation activities can be funded under Section 306 or other non-CZM funding sources. Program change implementation activities should be described in the Strategy and must meet the following general requirements:

- advance the objectives of a priority 309 enhancement area;
- relate to at least one 309 program change identified in an approved strategy; and
- demonstrate cost effectiveness and technical soundness.

Within these general requirements, eligible program change implementation activities include:

- administrative actions to carry out and enforce program change policies, authorities, and other management techniques including the development, collection, and analysis of measurable management objectives and performance measures; and
- allowable costs as determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87: “Cost Principles for State and Local Governments”.

Paying personnel costs with CZMA section 309 funds is an allowable cost, provided all personnel time charged to Section 309 is spent on eligible activities that develop a revised Assessment and Strategy, develop a program change, or implement a program change. For personnel costs charged under Section 309, semi-annual performance progress reports must provide sufficient detail related to personnel time to indicate the functions performed for approved program change activities. If personnel time for one individual is divided between Section 306 and 309 tasks, or between more than one Section 309 task, the performance progress reports must carefully account for those distinct activities in the appropriate section(s).

Please note that eligible Section 309 implementation activities should not include projects such as acquisition or low-cost construction.

C. Allocation of Section 309 Funds

OCRM may allocate Section 309 funds in two ways: (1) weighted formula and (2) Projects of Special Merit (PSM). OCRM will use a weighted formula method and will on an annual basis determine whether to allocate funds for PSM. A primary consideration in determining the allocation between weighted formula and PSM will be maintaining adequate and predictable funding to develop and implement program changes identified in the approved Strategy.

1. Weighted Formula Funding

The weighted formula method will use the state base allocation, determined by application of the formula at Sec. 923.110(c), multiplied by a weighting factor derived from OCRM’s evaluation of

the Assessment and Strategy. A weighting factor of zero (0) will be assigned if OCRM determines that the Assessment and Strategy is not acceptable and a weighting factor of one (1) will be assigned for an acceptable Assessment and Strategy. OCRM will determine each program's weighting factor based on the following criteria:

- The scope and value of the proposed program change(s) contained in the Strategy in terms of improved coastal resource management;
- The technical merits of the Strategy in terms of project design and cost effectiveness;
- The likelihood of success in attaining the proposed program change(s), including an evaluation of past performance and support for the Strategy; and
- The fiscal and technical needs of the state.

The purpose of the weighted formula method is to provide a predictable multi-year level of funding to support CMPs in achieving program changes in compliance with their approved Assessment and Strategy. OCRM expects to allocate 100% of Section 309 funds in FY2011 to CMPs with an acceptable Assessment and Strategy. Beginning in FY2012, some Section 309 funds will be set aside for a Projects of Special Merit (PSM) competition. OCRM expects to allocate approximately 10% of Section 309 funds to support PSM for FY2012-2015. The remaining 90% of Section 309 funds will be allocated using the weighted formula method described above. The amount of Section 309 funds allocated to weighted formula and PSMs will be reviewed annually.

However, OCRM recognizes that states with traditionally lower base funding require a minimum allocation to support the goals and requirements of Section 309; therefore reductions for PSM may not be applied equally. OCRM will set a minimum weighted formula base funding of \$75,000. CMPs should develop enhancement area strategies based on the above description of funding allocations.

Because weighted formula funding is more predictable than that for PSM, basic functions necessary to achieve the Strategy, such as hiring staff, should use weighted formula funding. Activities to be supported using the weighted formula funding must be critical to meeting the enhancement area strategies. Activities proposed must meet the following requirements:

- Consistent with the approved Assessment and Strategy and advance a program change;
- Costs are reasonable and necessary to achieve the objectives of both the project and the Strategy. Allowable costs will be determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87: "Cost Principles for State and Local Governments";
- Technically sound;
- Include an effective plan to ensure proper and efficient administration; and
- Provide required information as described in this guidance.

2. Projects of Special Merit

OCRM anticipates awarding a portion of Section 309 funds to CMPs based on an annual evaluation and ranking of Projects of Special Merit (PSM). It is anticipated that approximately 10% of Section 309 funds will be set aside for PSM beginning with FY2012. The intent of the

PSM competition is to offer CMPs the opportunity to develop innovative projects that further approved enhancement area strategies and focus on national coastal priorities. Regional projects can be submitted as PSM, but must support an approved enhancement area strategy for each program involved. PSM will be awarded competitively; therefore, these projects may not by themselves accomplish a program change nor should they be dependent on long-term levels of funding to succeed. PSM should not exceed an 18-month time frame.

Available funding may vary depending on the total Section 309 funds available. OCRM will annually establish a maximum amount to be allocated for PSM. It is estimated that approximately 10-20 PSM will be selected annually. Funds not allocated for PSM will be returned to the weighted formula allocation. CMPs will be able to submit two projects up to \$200,000 each for PSM funding. The projects must focus on the following enhancement areas of national importance:

- Wetlands
- Hazards
- Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
- Ocean and Great Lakes Resources (including planning for offshore energy uses)

Guidance for PSM will be issued by OCRM separately to provide additional information about eligible projects and submission requirements. PSM will be evaluated and ranked equally (not formula based) with a merit review process using the following criteria:

Merit (90 points): OCRM will review each proposal to determine the following:

- Degree to which the project significantly advances approved enhancement area strategies and furthers a program change or implementation activity identified in the FY2011-2015 Strategy;
- Degree to which the project will result in improved management of coastal resources and uses;
- Overall public benefit of the project relative to its cost;
- Level of innovativeness;
- Integration across multiple enhancement area objectives (i.e.: a SAMP designed to address offshore energy issues, recommend energy facility siting and zoning, with consideration for resource and cumulative and secondary impacts);
- Transferability of the results to other coastal states and territories; and
- Past performance under Section 309. OCRM will notify any CMPs of findings of poor past performance that may significantly affect the evaluation of PSM proposals.

Fiscal need (5 points): OCRM will review each proposal to determine fiscal need. Fiscal need means the extent to which a state or territory must rely solely on Federal funds to complete a project under Section 309 because non-federal funds are otherwise not available.

Technical need (5 points): OCRM will review each proposal to determine technical need. Technical need means the extent to which a state or territory lacks trained personnel or equipment or access to trained personnel or equipment to complete a project under Section 309.

OCRM will develop annual guidance for the PSM competition. PSM guidance will provide detailed information on available funds, requirements for projects, submission guidelines, and deadlines.

D. Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

CMPs should submit an Assessment and Strategy electronically to their OCRM Program Specialist. It should be submitted as a single document following the format and templates provided in this guidance. The Assessment and Strategy must be made available for public review and should therefore provide adequate background information for the public while also being concise. CMPs should work closely with their OCRM Program Specialist to review existing program priorities and needs as they begin Assessment and Strategy development.

The Section 309 Assessment should determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to each of the enhancement area objectives and the effectiveness of existing efforts to address those problems. The Assessment should provide the factual basis for OCRM and CMPs to determine priority needs for program improvement. Appendix A provides the template and questions to complete the Assessment.

The Strategy should identify program changes and implementation activities needed to address enhancement area objectives identified as a high or medium priority in the Assessment. The Strategy must be based on the needs identified in the Assessment and should cover the 5-year period from FY2011-FY2015. Appendix B provides the Strategy development template and Appendix C provides examples of Section 309 program changes.

OCRM will review the Assessment and Strategy for compliance with this guidance and apply two ranking levels: “acceptable” and “not acceptable”. CMPs are asked to submit a draft Assessment and Strategy for review and consultation with OCRM. OCRM will consult with CMPs during the review of the draft document to identify any concerns that may result in a ranking of “not acceptable” to allow the program an opportunity to make revisions prior to final submission. CMPs that receive an acceptable ranking will receive funding based the standard allocation formula described at 15 C.F.R. 927.1(c). CMPs that receive a ranking of not acceptable will not receive Section 309 funding, but will have the opportunity to submit a revised Assessment and Strategy for approval during the following fiscal year. OCRM will evaluate each Assessment and Strategy individually, using the criteria identified below. This evaluation will occur solely within the context of each program's coastal resource management needs, its existing coastal management program, and its governmental structure. Below are the evaluation criteria.

1. Scope and Value

In evaluating the scope and value of a proposed program change or implementation activity, OCRM will consider the following factors:

- The scope of the proposed program change in terms of tangible benefits and quantifiable improvements in coastal resource management programs and policies. Examples are: increases in wetland protection and restoration, increases in public access ways and site improvements, etc.
- The qualitative magnitude of the proposed program change in terms of improved management of coastal resource(s) of local, state, or national significance, including state or federally listed endangered and threatened species.
- The threat to the resource or the need for improved management. Will the opportunity to protect the resource or address the issue be lost in the short term if the proposed change is not made?

In applying these criteria, OCRM recognizes that it may be difficult to determine the quantitative and qualitative values of some program changes or program change implementation activities, particularly in cases where broad institutional improvements are proposed. CMPs should provide the best possible descriptions of the benefits of the proposed activities.

2. Technical Merit

In reviewing the Strategy work plan component, OCRM will consider the following questions:

- Is the program change or implementation activity an appropriate means for addressing the priority need? Is the program addressing the most appropriate enhancement area objective with appropriate tools or mechanisms (planning, regulation, management) at the right level of government (state, regional, local), or are there more effective or efficient ways of addressing the need?
- Is the work plan comprehensive in overall design, personnel, funding, and organization? Are there appropriate activities related to data collection and synthesis, issue development, and public involvement? Does the work plan include sufficient information to gauge progress toward attaining the proposed program change?
- Does the work plan schedule reflect the most effective and logical approach to enacting or implementing the program change?
- Is the work plan cost-effective? Are the costs of developing or implementing the program change commensurate with the value of the proposed improvement in coastal resources or management?

3. Likelihood of Success

In evaluating the likelihood of attaining or implementing the program change, OCRM will consider the following factors:

- The nature and degree of existing support for the Assessment and Strategy;
- The strength of the Assessment and Strategy to maintain and build future support and consensus; and
- Past performance under Section 309.

4. Technical and Fiscal Need

OCRM will consider the technical and fiscal needs as described the Assessment and Strategy. When providing information about technical needs, CMPs should describe the extent to which a state lacks trained personnel or equipment to complete a project. CMPs should also adequately describe fiscal needs, including the extent to which a state must rely solely on federal funds to complete a project because state funds are not otherwise available.

E. Public Review

Because the CZMA places a strong emphasis on public participation, CMPs must provide opportunities for public review and comment on the Assessment and Strategy. Since OCRM is encouraging a combined Assessment and Strategy, CMPs may hold the public review period concurrently with OCRM's review of the draft submission. The public review process does not require formal public hearings and may occur through a variety of means, e.g., public comment websites, advisory committees, Commission meetings, or informal public workshops. At a minimum, CMPs should provide adequate public notice, document availability, and a minimum 30-day public comment period. CMPs are encouraged to use the Internet, as feasible, to make the document widely available for public comments. A summary of public comments and responses must be included with the final Assessment and Strategy.

F. Threatened and Endangered Species Considerations

Many species found in the coastal zone have been identified as threatened or endangered, both at the State and Federal levels, with the loss or modification of habitat being identified as a national concern. Consequently it has become increasingly important to look at how CZM activities might affect threatened and endangered species. Most coastal States and Territories, particularly those with numerous species listed under the Endangered Species Act, already address threatened and endangered species as part of planning and permitting activities. Considering these issues in the Assessment and Strategy can help States and Territories plan for projects that address these needs through Section 309 funding in future years. CMPs should consider the following when preparing Assessments and Strategies:

- Examine potential threatened and endangered species issues in each of the enhancement areas, including implications for identifying priority enhancement areas.
- Identify opportunities for program changes related to habitat conservation and restoration.
- Consider potential negative effects on threatened and endangered species when developing proposed program changes and determine ways to eliminate or lessen these potential effects.

G. Marine Protected Areas and Coral Reef Protection Activities

CMPs should consider ways to enhance management programs for special marine and coastal areas when developing an Assessment and Strategy. The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and the Executive Order on Marine Protected Areas provide an important opportunity for CMPs to enhance protection and management of marine and other special coastal land and water areas.

Section 309 also provides several opportunities for addressing estuaries, coral reefs, and other types of possible marine protected areas as “special areas”. The Special Area Management Planning enhancement area calls for preparing and implementing special area management plans for important coastal areas. There are also opportunities to address specific issues within special management areas through the other enhancement areas such as coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, wetlands, and planning for ocean and Great Lakes resources.

H. Assessment and Strategy Format

The Assessment and Strategy should be submitted as a single document and contain the following sections:

I. Introduction

CMPs should provide a brief summary of the Assessment and Strategy development and public review process. This section should include any background information to describe the coastal management and Section 309 program.

II. Summary of Completed Section 309 Efforts

CMPs should provide a brief summary of completed efforts under the Section 309 program since the last Assessment and Strategy. This section should clearly identify and summarize program changes and other major accomplishments completed under the previous Strategy. For program changes formally submitted to OCRM pursuant to the program change regulations at [15 CFR part 923, subpart H](#), note the date that the change was approved by OCRM. If the program intends to submit a formal program change for OCRM’s review and approval, identify the expected submission date.

III. Assessment

This section should address the questions provided in Appendix A for each of the nine enhancement areas. The purpose of these questions is to determine the status of each enhancement area since the previous Assessment. The questions will also help to identify program changes needed to enhance the program’s ability to meet enhancement area objectives. Answers should be succinct and can include the use of bullets as long as sufficient information is provided. Additional documentation, such as reports or studies directly related to an

enhancement area objective, may be attached. CMPs should rely on existing data and information when possible to complete the enhancement area assessment.

Each enhancement area should be ranked as high, medium, or low priority, based on the enhancement area assessment. While developing the assessment, CMPs should review the priorities identified in the previous Assessment and consider the objectives for each of the nine enhancement areas. Enhancement area priority ranking should reflect the suitability of Section 309, with its emphasis on program changes, for addressing the underlying issues. Ranking can also consider the enhancement area's priority for overall management of the coastal zone beyond the use of Section 309 funding. Pursuant to section 309(d)(1), the final determination of each program's priority enhancement areas rests with OCRM. However, this determination will be made in full consultation with CMPs during development of the draft Assessment and with due consideration of public comment.

IV. Strategy

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify program changes and implementation activities to address Section 309 enhancement areas identified as either a high or medium priority in the Assessment. OCRM will evaluate the Strategy using a weighted factor as described in this guidance. CMPs should refer to the specific evaluation criteria described in this guidance document as they develop the Strategy.

CMPs must use the Strategy template provided in Appendix B. The Strategy must be based on the needs identified in the Assessment and should include enhancement area strategies the program plans to pursue during the 5-year period from FY2011-FY2015. Enhancement area strategies should include enough information for OCRM to determine whether: (1) the proposed program change or implementation activity adequately addresses the needs identified in the Assessment; and, (2) the program's work plan to achieve the program change is appropriate and cost-effective. Enhancement area strategies can address more than one enhancement area that has been identified as either a high or medium priority in the Assessment. Use the Strategy template to indicate the enhancement areas that most directly apply.

Enhancement area strategies must include estimated costs, a schedule, and a general work plan listing necessary steps for achieving the program changes and implementation activities. Detailed information on annual tasks, budgets, and work products will be determined through the annual award negotiation process. Detailed descriptions of potential PSM should not be included in enhancement area strategies. However, CMPs should keep in mind the differing criteria for weighted formula projects and PSM in developing their Strategy and when submitting projects for PSM funding.

I. Changes to an Approved Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

CMPs may submit changes to a Section 309 Assessment and Strategy for approval to their OCRM Program Specialist. Any substantive changes to an enhancement area priority ranking, strategies, or work plans to be implemented through annual CZM awards must be submitted for approval prior to the expenditure of Section 309 funds. Substantive changes include a significant change to the final outcomes/products and program change originally proposed in the strategy. Minor changes to projected annual activities, outcomes, or budget would not need to be submitted for approval if the final program change, outcomes and work products will still be achieved. CMPs should consult with their program specialist when the need for a change arises to determine if it is necessary to submit a revised Assessment and Strategy. OCRM will review proposed changes to determine if they continue to meet the needs identified in the Assessment and approval criteria as described in this guidance. Changes to a specific Section 309 task approved in an annual CZM award must be submitted through Grants Online.

J. Schedule

March 31, 2009	OCRM issues draft Section 309 Program Guidance
May 15, 2009	Comments due
June 30, 2009	OCRM issues Final Section 309 Program Guidance
July 1, 2010	Draft Assessment and Strategy Due
September 3, 2010	OCRM provides comments to CMPs
November 1, 2010	Final Assessment and Strategy Due
January 31, 2011	OCRM approves Final Assessment and Strategy

OCRM realizes that CMPs whose annual awards begin October 1 may not be able begin development of the Assessment and Strategy until the start of the FY09 award. To ensure that all CMPs have equal time to complete their draft Assessment and Strategy, CMP with an October 1 awards may notify their CPD program specialist that they will adhere to the schedule below.

October 1, 2010	Draft Assessment and Strategy Due
December 1, 2010	OCRM provides comments to CMPs
February 1, 2011	Final Assessment and Strategy Due
March 31, 2011	OCRM approves Final Assessment and Strategy

Section 309 Program Guidance

Appendix A: Assessment Questions and Template

July 2009

(CM) State-reported Contextual Measure from the CZMA Performance Measurement System.
For more detailed guidance on these measures see the CZMAPMS Guidance Document.

Wetlands

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Protection, restoration, or enhancement of the existing coastal wetlands base, or creation of new coastal wetlands

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Please indicate the extent, status, and trends of wetlands in the coastal zone using the following table:

Wetlands type	Estimated historic extent (acres)	Current extent (acres)	Trends in acres lost since 2006 (Net acres gained & lost)	Acres gained through voluntary mechanisms since 2006	Acres gained through mitigation since 2006	Year and source(s) of Data
Tidal (Great Lakes) vegetated						
Tidal (Great Lakes) non-vegetated						
Non-tidal/freshwater						
Other (please specify)						

2. If information is not available to fill in the above table, provide a qualitative description of information requested, including wetlands status and trends, based on the best available information.
3. Provide a brief explanation for trends.
4. Identify ongoing or planned efforts to develop monitoring programs or quantitative measures for this enhancement area.
5. Use the following table to characterize direct and indirect threats to coastal wetlands, both natural and man-made. If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe threats.

Type of threat	Severity of impacts (H,M,L)	Geographic scope of impacts (extensive or limited)	Irreversibility (H,M,L)
Development/Fill			
Alteration of hydrology			
Erosion			
Pollution			
Channelization			
Nuisance or exotic species			
Freshwater input			
Sea level rise/Great Lake level change			
Other (please specify)			

6. **(CM)** Indicate whether the Coastal Management Program (CMP) has a mapped inventory of the following habitat types in the coastal zone and the approximate time since it was developed or significantly updated

Habitat type	CMP has mapped inventory (Y or N)	Date completed or substantially updated
Tidal (Great Lakes) Wetlands		
Beach and Dune		
Nearshore		
Other (please specify)		

7. **(CM)** Use the table below to report information related coastal habitat restoration and protection. The purpose of this contextual measure is to describe trends in the restoration and protection of coastal habitat conducted by the State using non-CZM funds or non Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funds. If data is not available to report for this contextual measure, please describe below actions the CMP is taking to develop a mechanism to collect the requested data.

Contextual measure	Cumulative acres for 2004-2010
Number of acres of coastal habitat restored using non-CZM or non-Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funds	
Number of acres of coastal habitat protected through acquisition or easement using non-CZM or non-CELCP funds	

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the wetland management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Wetland regulatory program implementation, policies, and standards		
Wetland protection policies and standards		
Wetland assessment methodologies (health, function, extent)		
Wetland restoration or enhancement programs		
Wetland policies related public infrastructure funding		
Wetland mitigation programs and policies		
Wetland creation programs and policies		
Wetland acquisition programs		
Wetland mapping, GIS, and tracking systems		
Special Area Management Plans		
Wetland research and monitoring		
Wetland education and outreach		
Other (please specify)		

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

3. (CM) Indicate whether the CMP has a habitat restoration plan for the following coastal habitats and the approximate time since the plan was developed or significantly updated.

Habitat type	CMP has a restoration plan (Y or N)	Date completed or substantially updated
Tidal (Great Lake) Wetlands		
Beach and Dune		
Nearshore		
Other (please specify)		

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the Coastal Management Program and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Select type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H, M, L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____
 Medium _____
 Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____
 No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Coastal Hazards

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Prevent or significantly reduce threats to life and property by eliminating development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas, managing development in other hazard areas, and anticipating and managing the effects of potential sea level rise and Great Lakes level change

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Characterize the level of risk in the coastal zone from the following coastal hazards:

(Risk is defined as: “the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities and structures in a community; the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage.” *Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses. FEMA 386-2. August 2001*)

Type of hazard	General level of risk (H,M,L)	Geographic Scope of Risk (Coast-wide, Sub-region)
Flooding		
Coastal storms, including associated storm surge		
Geological hazards (e.g., tsunamis, earthquakes)		
Shoreline erosion (including bluff and dune erosion)		
Sea level rise and other climate change impacts		
Great Lake level change and other climate change impacts		
Land subsidence		
Other (please specify)		

2. For hazards identified as a high level of risk, please explain why it is considered a high level risk. For example, has a risk assessment been conducted, either through the State or Territory Hazard Mitigation Plan or elsewhere?
3. If the level of risk or state of knowledge of risk for any of these hazards has changed since the last assessment, please explain.

4. Identify any ongoing or planned efforts to develop quantitative measures of risk for these hazards.

5. **(CM)** Use the table below to identify the number of communities in the coastal zone that have a mapped inventory of areas affected by the following coastal hazards. If data is not available to report for this contextual measure, please describe below actions the CMP is taking to develop a mechanism to collect the requested data.

Type of hazard	Number of communities that have a mapped inventory	Date completed or substantially updated
Flooding		
Storm surge		
Geological hazards (including Earthquakes, tsunamis)		
Shoreline erosion (including bluff and dune erosion)		
Sea level rise		
Great lake level fluctuation		
Land subsidence		
Other (please specify)		

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Building setbacks/ restrictions		
Methodologies for determining setbacks		
Repair/rebuilding restrictions		
Restriction of hard shoreline protection structures		
Promotion of alternative shoreline stabilization methodologies		
Renovation of shoreline protection structures		
Beach/dune protection (other than setbacks)		
Permit compliance		

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Sediment management plans		
Repetitive flood loss policies, (e.g., relocation, buyouts)		
Local hazards mitigation planning		
Local post-disaster redevelopment plans		
Real estate sales disclosure requirements		
Restrictions on publicly funded infrastructure		
Climate change planning and adaptation strategies		
Special Area Management Plans		
Hazards research and monitoring		
Hazards education and outreach		
Other (please specify)		

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

3. **(CM)** Use the appropriate table below to report the number of communities in the coastal zone that use setbacks, buffers, or land use policies to direct development away from areas vulnerable to coastal hazards. If data is not available to report for this contextual measure, please describe below actions the CMP is taking to develop a mechanism to collect the requested data.

For CMPs that use numerically based setback or buffers to direct development away from hazardous areas report the following:

Contextual measure	Number of communities
Number of communities in the coastal zone required by state law or policy to implement setbacks, buffers, or other land use policies to direct develop away from hazardous areas.	
Number of communities in the coastal zone that have setback, buffer, or other land use policies to direct develop away from hazardous areas that are more stringent than state mandated standards or that have policies where no state standards exist.	

For CMPs that do not use state-established numerical setbacks or buffers to direct development away from hazardous areas, report the following:

Contextual measure	Number of communities
Number of communities in the coastal zone that are required to develop and implement land use policies to direct development away from hazardous areas that are approved by the state through local comprehensive management plans.	
Number of communities that have approved state comprehensive management plans that contain land use policies to direct development away from hazardous areas.	

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____
Medium _____
Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____
No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Public Access

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Attain increased opportunities for public access, taking into account current and future public access needs, to coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, or cultural value

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Characterize threats and conflicts to creating and maintaining public access in the coastal zone:

Type of threat or conflict causing loss of access	Degree of threat (H,M,L)	Describe trends or provide other statistics to characterize the threat and impact on access	Type(s) of access affected
Private residential development (including conversion of public facilities to private)			
Non-water dependent commercial/industrial uses of the waterfront (existing or conversion)			
Erosion			
Sea level rise/ Great Lake level change			
Natural disasters			
National security			
Encroachment on public land			
Other			

2. Are there new issues emerging in your state that are starting to affect public access or seem to have the potential to do so in the future?

3. **(CM)** Use the table below to report the percent of the public that feels they have adequate access to the coast for recreation purposes, including the following. If data is not available to report for this contextual measure, please describe below actions the CMP is taking to develop a mechanism to collect the requested data.

Contextual measure	Survey data
Number of people that responded to a survey on recreational access	
Number of people surveyed that responded that public access to the coast for recreation is adequate or better.	
What type of survey was conducted (i.e. phone, mail, personal interview, etc.)?	
What was the geographic coverage of the survey?	
In what year was the survey conducted?	

4. Briefly characterize the demand for coastal public access within the coastal zone, and the process for periodically assessing public demand.
5. Please use the table below to provide data on public access availability. If information is not available, provide a qualitative description based on the best available information. If data is not available to report on the contextual measures, please also describe actions the CMP is taking to develop a mechanism to collect the requested data.

Types of public access	Current number(s)	Changes since last assessment (+/-)	Cite data source
(CM) Number of acres in the coastal zone that are available for public (report both the total number of acres in the coastal zone and acres available for public access)			
(CM) Miles of shoreline available for public access (report both the total miles of shoreline and miles available for public access)			
Number of State/County/Local parks and number of acres			
Number of public beach/shoreline access sites			
Number of recreational boat (power or non-power) access sites			

Types of public access	Current number(s)	Changes since last assessment (+/-)	Cite data source
Number of designated scenic vistas or overlook points			
Number of State or locally designated perpendicular rights-of-way (i.e. street ends, easements)			
Number of fishing access points (i.e. piers, jetties)			
Number and miles of coastal trails/boardwalks			
Number of dune walkovers			
Percent of access sites that are ADA compliant access			
Percent and total miles of public beaches with water quality monitoring and public closure notice programs			
Average number of beach mile days closed due to water quality concerns			

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Statutory, regulatory, or legal system changes that affect public access		
Acquisition programs or policies		
Comprehensive access management planning (including GIS data or database)		
Operation and maintenance programs		
Alternative funding sources or techniques		

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Beach water quality monitoring and pollution source identification and remediation		
Public access within waterfront redevelopment programs		
Public access education and outreach		
Other (please specify)		

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

3. Indicate if your state or territory has a printed public access guide or website. How current is the publication and/or how frequently is the website updated? Please list any regional or statewide public access guides or websites.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____

Medium _____

Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____

No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Marine Debris

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Reducing marine debris entering the Nation's coastal and ocean environment by managing uses and activities that contribute to the entry of such debris

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. In the table below, characterize the significance of marine/Great Lakes debris and its impact on the coastal zone.

Source of marine debris	Extent of source (H,M,L)	Type of impact (aesthetic, resource damage, user conflicts, other)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Land Based – Beach/Shore Litter			
Land Based – Dumping			
Land Based – Storm Drains and Runoff			
Land Based – Fishing Related (e.g. fishing line, gear)			
Ocean Based – Fishing (Derelict Fishing Gear)			
Ocean Based – Derelict Vessels			
Ocean Based – Vessel Based (cruise ship, cargo ship, general vessel)			
Hurricane/Storm			
Other (please specify)			
Other (please specify)			

2. If information is not available to fill in the above table, provide a qualitative description of information requested, based on the best available information.
3. Provide a brief description of any significant changes in the above sources or emerging issues.

3. Do you use beach clean-up data? If so, how do you use this information?

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Employed by local governments (Y, N, Uncertain)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Recycling requirements			
Littering reduction programs			
Wasteful packaging reduction programs			
Fishing gear management programs			
Marine debris concerns in harbor, port, marine, & waste management plans			
Post-storm related debris programs or policies			
Derelict vessel removal programs or policies			
Research and monitoring			
Marine debris education & outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.

- a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
- b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
- c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____
Medium _____
Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____
No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Development and adoption of procedures to assess, consider, and control cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development, including the collective effect on various individual uses or activities on coastal resources, such as coastal wetlands and fishery resources.

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Identify areas in the coastal zone where rapid growth or changes in land use require improved management of cumulative and secondary impacts (CSI) since the last assessment. Provide the following information for each area:

Geographic area	Type of growth or change in land use	Rate of growth or change in land use (% change, average acres converted, H,M,L)	Types of CSI

2. Identify sensitive resources in the coastal zone (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, fish and wildlife habitats, critical habitat for threatened and endangered species) that require a greater degree of protection from the cumulative or secondary impacts of growth and development. If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe threats.

Sensitive resources	CSI threats description	Level of threat (H,M,L)

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management Categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Regulations		
Policies		
Guidance		
Management Plans		
Research, assessment, monitoring		
Mapping		
Education and Outreach		
Other (please specify)		

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____

Medium _____

Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____

No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Special Area Management Planning

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Preparing and implementing special area management plans for important coastal areas

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) defines a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) as “a comprehensive plan providing for natural resource protection and reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth containing a detailed and comprehensive statement of policies; standards and criteria to guide public and private uses of lands and waters; and mechanisms for timely implementation in specific geographic areas within the coastal zone. In addition, SAMPs provide for increased specificity in protecting natural resources, reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth, improved protection of life and property in hazardous areas, including those areas likely to be affected by land subsidence, sea level rise, or fluctuating water levels of the Great Lakes, and improved predictability in governmental decision making.”

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Identify geographic areas in the coastal zone subject to use conflicts that can be addressed through special area management plans (SAMP). Also include areas where SAMP have already been developed, but new issues or conflicts have developed that are not addressed through the current plan. If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below.

Geographic Area	Major conflicts	Is this an emerging or a long-standing conflict?

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. Identify below any special management areas in the coastal zone for which a SAMP is under development or a SAMP has been completed or revised since the last Assessment:

SAMP title	Status (new, revised, or in progress)	Date approved or revised

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment (area covered, issues addressed and major partners);
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy).

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____
Medium _____
Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____

No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Ocean/Great Lakes Resources

Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Planning for the use of ocean resources

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. In the table below characterize ocean and/or Great Lakes resources and uses of state concern, and specify existing and future threats or use conflicts.

Resource or use	Threat or use conflict	Degree of threat (H,M,L)	Anticipated threat or use conflict

2. Describe any changes in the resources or relative threat to the resources since the last assessment.

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management plan or system of Marine Protected Areas		
Regional comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management program		

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Regional sediment or dredge material management plan		
Intra-governmental coordination mechanisms for Ocean/Great Lakes management		
Single-purpose statutes related to ocean/Great Lakes resources		
Comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management statute		
Ocean/Great Lakes resource mapping or information system		
Ocean habitat research, assessment, or monitoring programs		
Public education and outreach efforts		
Other (please specify)		

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need Description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H, M, L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____

Medium _____

Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____

No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Energy & Government Facility Siting

Section 309 Enhancement Objectives

Adoption of procedures and enforceable policies to help facilitate the siting of energy facilities and Government facilities and energy-related activities and Government activities which may be of greater than local significance

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. In the table below, characterize the types of energy facilities in your coastal zone (e.g., oil and gas, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), wind, wave, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), etc.) based on best available data. If available, identify the approximate number of facilities by type.

Type of Energy Facility	Exists in CZ (# or Y/N)	Proposed in CZ (# or Y/N)	Interest in CZ (# or Y/N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Oil and gas facilities				
Pipelines				
Electric transmission cables				
LNG				
Wind				
Wave				
Tidal				
Current (ocean, lake, river)				
OTEC				
Solar				
Other (please specify)				

2. Please describe any significant changes in the types or number of energy facilities sited, or proposed to be sited, in the coastal zone since the previous assessment.
3. Does the state have estimates of existing in-state capacity and demand for natural gas and electric generation? Does the state have projections of future capacity? Please discuss.

4. Does the state have any specific programs for alternative energy development? If yes, please describe including any numerical objectives for the development of alternative energy sources. Please also specify any offshore or coastal components of these programs.
5. If there have been any significant changes in the types or number of government facilities sited in the coastal zone since the previous assessment, please describe.

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. Does the state have enforceable policies specifically related to energy facilities? If yes, please provide a brief summary, including a summary of any energy policies that are applicable to only a certain type of energy facility.
2. Please indicate if the following management categories are employed by the State or Territory and if there have been significant changes since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Statutes or regulations		
Policies		
Program guidance		
Comprehensive siting plan (including SAMPs)		
Mapping or GIS		
Research, assessment or monitoring		
Education and outreach		
Other (please specify)		

3. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM-driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

- High** _____
- Medium** _____
- Low** _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

- Yes** _____
- No** _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Aquaculture

1. Section 309 Enhancement Objective

Adoption of procedures and policies to evaluate and facilitate the siting of public and private aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone, which will enable States to formulate, administer, and implement strategic plans for marine aquaculture

Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine the extent to which problems and opportunities exist with regard to the enhancement objective.

1. Generally characterize the private and public aquaculture facilities currently operating in your state or territory.

Type of existing aquaculture facility	Describe recent trends	Describe associated impacts or use conflicts

Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address those problems described in the above section for the enhancement objective.

1. For each of the management categories below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes have occurred since the last assessment:

Management categories	Employed by state/territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Aquaculture regulations		
Aquaculture policies		
Aquaculture program guidance		
Research, assessment, monitoring		
Mapping		
Aquaculture education & outreach		
Other (please specify)		

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference rather than duplicate the information.
 - a) Characterize significant changes since the last assessment;
 - b) Specify if it was a 309 or other CZM driven change (specify funding source) or if it was driven by non-CZM efforts; and
 - c) Characterize the outcomes and effectiveness of the changes.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the CMP and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H,M,L)

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal zone (including, but not limited to, CZMA funding)?

High _____
Medium _____
Low _____

Briefly explain the level of priority given for this enhancement area.

2. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

Yes _____
No _____

Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Section 309 Program Guidance

Appendix B: Strategy Template

June 2009

Strategy Title

I. Issue Area(s)

The proposed strategy or implementation activities will support the following priority (high or medium) enhancement area(s) (*check all that apply*):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative and Secondary Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Government Facility Siting | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Debris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean/Great Lakes Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Area Management Planning | |

II. Program Change Description

A. The proposed strategy will result in, or implement, the following type(s) of program changes (*check all that apply*):

- A change to coastal zone boundaries;
- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances;
- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs;
- New or revised Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) or plans for Areas of Particular Concern (APC) including enforceable policies and other necessary implementation mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APCs; and,
- New or revised guidelines, procedures and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM program policies to applicants, local government and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.

B. Describe the proposed program change(s) or activities to implement a previously achieved program change. If the strategy will only involve implementation activities, briefly describe the program change that has already been adopted, and how the proposed activities will further that program change. (Note that implementation strategies are not to exceed two years.)

III. Need(s) and Gap(s) Addressed

Identify what priority need the strategy addresses, and explain why the proposed program change or implementation activities are the most appropriate means to address the priority need. This discussion should reference the key findings of the Assessment and explain how the strategy addresses those findings.

IV. Benefit(s) to Coastal Management

Discuss the anticipated effect of the program change or implementation activities including a clear articulation of the scope and value in improved coastal management and resource protection.

V. Likelihood of Success

Discuss the likelihood of attaining the proposed program change and implementation activities. The state or territory should address: 1) the nature and degree of support for pursuing the strategy and the proposed change; and, 2) the specific actions the state or territory will undertake to maintain or build future support for achieving and implementing the program change, including education and outreach activities.

VI. Strategy Work Plan

Using the template below, provide a general work plan that includes the major steps necessary for achieving the program change and/or implementing a previously achieved program change. The plan should identify significant projected milestones/outcomes, a schedule for completing the strategy, and budget estimates. If an activity will span two or more years, it can be combined into one entry (i.e., Years 2-3 rather than Year 2 and then Year 3). While the annual outcomes are a useful guide to ensure the strategy remains on track, OCRM recognizes that these benchmarks may change some over the course of the five-year strategy due to unforeseen circumstances. The same holds true for the annual budget estimates. If the state intends to fund implementation activities for the proposed program change, describe those in the plan as well. Further detailing of annual tasks, budgets, benchmarks, and work products will be determined through the annual award negotiation process.

Total Years:

Total Budget:

Final Outcome(s) and Products:

Year(s):

Description of activities:

Outcome(s):

Budget:

Year(s):

Description of activities:

Outcome(s):

Budget:

Continue to repeat the above template as needed.

VII. Fiscal and Technical Needs

A. Fiscal Needs: If 309 funding is not sufficient to carry out the proposed strategy, identify additional funding needs. Provide a brief description of what efforts the applying agency has made, if any, to secure additional state funds from the legislature and/or other sources to support this strategy.

B. Technical Needs: If the state does not possess the technical knowledge, skills, or equipment to carry out the proposed strategy, identify these needs. Provide a brief description of what

efforts the applying agency has made, if any, to obtain the trained personnel or equipment needed (for example, through agreements with other state agencies).

VIII. Projects of Special Merit (Optional)

If desired, briefly indicate what PSMs the CMP may wish to pursue to augment this strategy. Any activities that are necessary to achieve the program change or that the state intends to support with baseline funding should be included in the strategy above. The information in this section will not be used to evaluate or rank PSMs and is simply meant to provide the CMPs the option to provide additional information if they choose. PSM descriptions should be kept very brief (e.g., undertake benthic mapping to provide additional data for ocean management planning). Do not do provide detailed project descriptions that would be needed for the PSM competition.

5-Year Budget Summary by Strategy

At the end of the Strategy section, please include the following budget table summarizing your anticipated Section 309 expenses by strategy for each year.

Strategy Title	Year 1 Funding	Year 2 Funding	Year 3 Funding	Year 4 Funding	Year 5 Funding	Total Funding
Total Funding						

Section 309 Program Guidance

Appendix C: Example Program Changes

June 2009

Introduction

This Appendix contains examples of program change from previous Section 309 Program cycles to demonstrate eligible activities related to program changes and program change implementation. The example program changes provided do not include complete strategies or work plans. Please refer to the Section 309 Program Guidance and Appendix B for detailed guidance on development, organization, and format of the Strategy.

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify program changes and implementation activities needed to address the Section 309 enhancement objectives identified as either a high or medium priority in the Assessment. A program change, as defined in 15 CFR 923.123, includes the following:

- A change to coastal zone boundaries that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding, that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs that improve a State's ability to attain one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised Special Area Management Plans or plans for Areas of Particular Concern (APC), including enforceable policies and other necessary implementing mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APC that will improve a State's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
- New or revised guidelines, procedures and policy documents which are formally adopted by a State and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM policies to applicants, local governments and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management and that will improve a State's ability to attain one or more of the enhancement objectives.

Section 309 funds may also be used to support implementation activities for Section 309 program changes for up to two grant years from program change completion. Program change implementation activities should be described in the Strategy and must meet the following general requirements:

- advance the objectives of a priority 309 enhancement area;
- relate to at least one 309 program change identified in an approved strategy; and
- demonstrate cost effectiveness and technical soundness.

Within these general requirements, eligible program change implementation activities include:

- administrative actions to carry out and enforce program change policies, authorities, and other management techniques including the development, collection, and analysis of measurable management objectives and performance measures; and

- allowable costs as determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87: Cost Principles for State and Local Governments.

Please note that eligible Section 309 implementation activities should not include projects such as acquisition or low-cost construction.

Status and Trends of Inland Wetlands and Aquatic Habitats

Program Change Categories:

- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs; and
- New or revised guidelines, procedures and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM program policies to applicants, local government and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.

This project builds upon an ongoing, coast-wide effort to study the status and trends of wetlands and aquatic habitats on barrier islands by extending that effort to inland environments on the Texas coast. Inland wetland status and trends data are of particular importance since palustrine or freshwater wetlands are no longer protected by regulations under the CWA. The loss of regulatory protection for these wetlands highlights the need to provide up-to-date information to local, state, and federal restoration and acquisition programs to ensure adequate protection for the resource. This project will provide regional characterizations for inland wetlands that will inform individual program priorities and/or strategies for restoration and acquisition.

Data from this strategy will be used to:

- Update the following required elements of the Texas CELCP plan: a map or description of the geographic extent of coastal and estuarine areas within the state; identification of “project areas” that represent the state’s priority areas for conservation; and a description of existing plans, or elements thereof, that are incorporated into the plan;
- Assess the relative merit of these types of projects nominated for The Coastal Impacts Assistance Program (CIAP) funding over the course of its implementation;
- Prioritize CMP grant program projects proposed in areas of identified need or as specific requests for proposals;
- Update to the Texas Coastwide Erosion Response and Assessment (CEPRA) Program Plan and other state acquisition and restoration programs;
- Update the Resource Management Codes (RMC) for state-owned tracts in bays and estuaries. RMC are assigned by state and federal resource agencies (including the GLO for seismic activities) and represent regulatory guidelines;
- Inform other state agencies with wetland regulatory management programs for potential use, such as a wetland monitoring strategy to inventory surface water quality, the Permit Assistance Group mitigation guidelines; and
- Promote an understanding of the results to city and county officials, relevant state and federal agencies, NGOs, non-profit organizations, universities and other public and private interests.

Coastal managers often lack accurate, up-to-date data from which to base their decisions. This project will not only provide an update of the current status of inland wetlands but will also forecast future changes. It is anticipated that this information will identify those inland wetlands and other aquatic habitats most threatened by erosion, subsidence, development and other processes and will facilitate the adoption of proactive measures, either regulatory or non-

regulatory in nature, by state and local authorities and/or coastal programs to protect, restore and maintain those resources.

Activities:

The following outlines the general tasks for data collection and analysis at each proposed study area. One study area will be undertaken each year in the following order: year 1, Corpus Christi-Coastal Bend; year 2, Beaumont-Port Arthur; year 3, Matagorda Bay; year 4, Brownsville-Harlingen; and year 5, Freeport-San Antonio Bay.

1. Interpret and map wetlands and aquatic habitats on historical and recent aerial photographs, using and revising existing historical data where acceptable;
2. Process habitat delineations and enter into GIS;
3. Field-check mapped wetlands;
4. Conduct detailed quality control analysis of all (historical and current) GIS databases;
5. Analyze wetland trends, determine probable causes, and present write up results; and
6. Complete final manuscript.

The following programs will be updated through guidance and implementation policies:

Restoration and Acquisition Programs:

- Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan
- Coastal Impacts Assistance Program Guidance
- Texas Coastal Management Program Grant Program Guidance
- Coastwide Erosion Response and Assessment Program Plan
- Coastal Bends and Bay Estuary Program

Regulatory Programs:

- Texas Resource Management Codes and Guidelines
- Interagency Permit Assistance Group

Outreach Programs:

- Sea Grant Extension Program
- Council of Applied Coastal Research Community
- Workshops to city and county officials

Adopt Refined NJCMP Coastal Goals

Type of Program Change:

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding.

New Jersey's federally approved Coastal Management Program and the Coastal Zone Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7E were founded on broad coastal goals. These goals, referred to in the current rules as the "eight basic coastal policies," have essentially remained unchanged since the Coastal Zone Management rules were promulgated in 1978.

Based on substantial evidence, there is acute national concern that the health of our oceans is seriously compromised as a result of nonpoint and point source pollution, climate change, overfishing and coastal development. Two national Commissions, the Pew Oceans Commission and the US Commission on Ocean Policy issued similar conclusions in 2003 and 2004 respectively, that our oceans and coastal areas are in crisis and that a national ocean policy is needed. As a result of both the Commissions' conclusions and the Department's 26 years of experience implementing the existing coastal goals through the Coastal Management Program and Coastal Zone Management rules, NJCMP concluded that revision of the eight original coastal policies is warranted. A draft of the refined goals that accurately reflects current conditions and trends relevant to comprehensive coastal management in New Jersey is complete. Shortly, NJDEP plans to propose the refined coastal goals as regulations and adopt the regulations as enforceable policies soon thereafter.

Activities:

- Update and modify the eight basic NJCMP policies as coastal goals with operational policies clearly articulated.
- Propose as regulations.
- Adopt regulations as enforceable policies of the NJCMP.
- Submit refined NJCMP Goals to NOAA as a Program Change.

Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats

Type of Program Change:

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;

Strengthen the State's enforceable policy regarding designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats by completing updates for the south shore of Long Island and Hudson River region, and initiating the updates for the Great Lakes region and the Long Island Sound portion of Westchester County. These Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats were originally designated in 1987. The enforceable policy states that Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats will be protected, preserved, and where practical, restored so as to maintain their viability as habitats.

Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat narratives and boundaries are used by the Coastal Management Program as well as by Department of Environmental Conservation permit reviewers, municipal governments, consultants, educators, and others. Updating the Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat documentation and boundaries for the south shore of Long Island, Hudson River, Great Lakes and Westchester County contributes to wetlands management by ensuring that up-to-date data and impact assessments are used in making management decisions, improving New York's ability to protect listed species, rare communities, and important human uses associated with the state's wetland resources.

Activities:

- Coordinate with Department of Environmental Conservation staff to compile existing biological survey data and review habitat. Revise narratives and boundaries for habitats to include updated and new biological information and impact assessments. As part of this process, consider the need to designate new and repeal existing habitats.
- Revise boundary information in the Division GIS system and produce updated habitat maps.
- Conduct public information hearings and public meetings.
- Submit Routine Program Change.

Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Contribution Fund

Type of Program Change:

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;

According to La. Rev. Stat. 43:214.30, whenever a proposed use or activity requires a CUP for the dredging or disposal of from 25,000 to 500,000 cubic yards of any water bottoms or wetland within the LCZ, the secretary of LDNR may require the beneficial use of the dredge material. Beneficial use of dredge material is required in circumstances where it is deemed economically feasible, but is not required in those cases when it is not economically feasible.

Over the years, many CUPs were issued which did not require that dredged material excavated as a result of the permitted activities be used beneficially. As a result, in order for the state to fulfill its obligation under the public policy provisions of SLCRMA LDNR/CMD is proposing to investigate the cost effectiveness of beneficial placement of dredged material in those cases deemed economically infeasible. The ultimate outcome for those cases where it is not economically feasible to dispose of the dredge material beneficially in the LCZ, is for the CUP applicant to pay into a dedicated fund based on a fair cost. The fund will be used by the State for beneficial use projects (e.g. wetland and habitat restoration) such as the Dedicated Dredge Program.

Based on the results of the study, the LDNR/CMD will propose new legislation/rule making requiring applicants (possibly both state and federal) to pay a fee to the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Mitigation Account in those cases when it is determined not to be cost effective to dispose of dredge material beneficially. The CMD will build a GIS database which will allow for the tracking of contributions made to the fund.

Activities:

- Work with CRD and CED staff to determine the cut-off for cost effectiveness of using dredge material beneficially. As much as possible LDNR/OCRM staff will use already existing information such as Dedicated Dredge Program data. LDNR/CMD staff will determine a fee based on cost/cubic yard of dredge material that will be required in those cases where the beneficial use of dredge material is not cost effective.
- Establish a Division Policy requiring applicants to pay a fee to the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Mitigation Account in those cases when it is determined not to be cost effective to dispose of dredge material beneficially.
- Build a GIS database which will allow for the tracking of contributions made to the fund.
- Propose new legislation/rule making requiring applicants to pay a fee to the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Mitigation Account.

Model Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans

Program Change Categories:

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances;

FDCA-DEM proposes to facilitate the development of post-disaster redevelopment plans (PDRP) state-wide. Model plans will be produced as examples for all coastal communities and a “Best Practices Guide” will be revised to help with PDRP development. FDCA-DEM will also propose legislation to require communities to develop a PDRP as part of the local government comprehensive plan.

Post-disaster redevelopment planning would improve the state’s ability to recover from disasters and guide redevelopment in an appropriate manner. All Florida communities must adopt, regularly evaluate and update their comprehensive growth management plans. The plans prepared by the 197 communities that abut the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico must also include a separate coastal management element. While PDRPs are a recommended component of the coastal management element, few local governments have adopted them. In addition, all Florida communities would benefit from a PDRP, not just the coastal communities. While the required comprehensive plans and coastal management elements have all been adopted, information regarding the number of communities with PDRPs is not available. The best information, a survey conducted as part of the 1995 Hurricane Opal Case Study, indicates that 65 of the 113 communities that responded to the survey believed that they were required to prepare a PDRP. Of those 65 communities, only 27 stated that they had actually prepared the plan. An inspection of the 27 plan documents revealed that 13 of these plans included a separate recovery plan that exceeded the policies that should be included in the coastal management element of the comprehensive plan. Anecdotal information suggests that the situation has not improved since 1995.

Activities:

- Identify communities with current PDRPs and evaluate their effectiveness.
- Complete model PDRPs for four communities.
- Revise Best Practices Guide to aid in the development of PDRPs.
- Propose legislation requiring local governments to adopt PDRPs as part of their local government comprehensive plan.

Metro Bay SAMP Urban Coastal Greenway

Program Change Categories:

- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs; and
- New or revised Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) or plans for Areas of Particular Concern (APC) including enforceable policies and other necessary implementation mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APCs.

The purpose of this program change is to establish a new Urban Coastal Greenway Policy for the Metro Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP). This policy will allow for coastal redevelopment within the Metro Bay Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) region, while also increasing public access to the coast, improving water quality via on-site vegetative stormwater treatment, and preserving and restoring the aesthetic value, including natural habitats, of Rhode Island's urban shoreline.

As part of this program change, CRMC staff will also work with the state legislature to establish an Urban Coastal Greenways Program fund for the Metro Bay Region (currently purposed in Rhode Island senate bill.) Funds collected under the Urban Coastal Greenways Program would be placed into a trust to be used for coastal habitat restoration and/or habitat conservation of a designated high priority restoration or conservation area within the Metro Bay Region.

The state's existing buffer rules are not designed for the specific challenges of urban environments, specifically in the Metro Narragansett Bay Region (Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, and Providence). These original buffer regulations were not designed to accommodate the large-scale, coastal redevelopment that is currently being proposed for the Metro Bay Region. Specifically, the current coastal buffer regulations require that buffer zones be undisturbed and allowed to grow naturally in order to gain the maximum wildlife habitat and water quality benefits possible. While it is still desirable to achieve the maximum habitat and water quality benefits possible within urban areas, the design of vegetative buffers must also acknowledge and cultivate the need for increased public access to the shoreline. In addition, urban buffers require thoughtful design and maintenance if they are to achieve water quality goals in areas dominated by impervious cover.

Activities:

- Complete development of an urban coastal greenway policy; implement the policy; go out to public notice with new policy.
- Develop changes to policy, as needed based on assessments and public comments; undertake rule-making process to incorporate revisions; adopt revised Urban Coastal Green Policy as part of the Metro Bay SAMP.
- Work with Legislature to create an Urban Coastal Greenway fund.

Guidance Document on Coordinated Aquaculture Permitting

Program Change Categories:

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding; and
- New or revised guidelines, procedures and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM program policies to applicants, local government and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.

OLISP intends to develop a guidance document for aquaculture permitting with associated instruction forms and FAQ documents as needed. OLISP will formally propose this guidance document as regulations under CGS §22a-361(c), or as a formal amendment to the Department's published coastal permit application documents.

While OLISP no longer has direct regulatory jurisdiction over many aquaculture activities, efforts at clarifying the several inconsistent and confusing statutes governing aquaculture regulation have been unsuccessful to date. Since the law was first changed in 1999, OLISP has received many applications for aquaculture operations, both large and small, making it a higher priority to develop a means through which to explain the current legal framework as it relates to aquaculture and to clarify the permitting requirements to the regulated community. A guidance document will be necessary to explain the laws and to specify what regulatory procedures apply in what circumstances.

The reissuance of the Corps' PGP allows many aquaculture applicants to obtain an expedited review from the Corps. However, the agencies will need to provide additional guidance to highlight which regulated activities are still subject to the OLISP permitting process (i.e. those activities which do not meet the exemption). The proposed regulations will assist both potential applicants and staff of the various agencies by clarifying the jurisdictional and regulatory requirements for specific types of aquaculture proposals. In addition, the regulations are expected to include siting and design suggestions so as to render aquaculture applications consistent with the relevant enforceable policies of the Connecticut CZM program. Developing this guidance document will also improve effective interagency coordination in regulating aquaculture projects in the state.

Activities:

- Participate interagency workgroup meetings to review current aquaculture policies and application process; develop draft guidance.
- Participate in additional interagency workgroup meetings to finalize Aquaculture Permitting Guidance.
- Formally adopt the guidance either through regulation or amendment to Department's coastal permit application documents.

Implementing Legislative Changes to the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines

Program Change Categories:

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding; and
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances.

The purpose of this strategy is to provide policy and technical assistance to local governments, engaged in development of updated Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). The new Shoreline Master Program Guidelines rule, direct the update of every SMP in the coastal zone over the next decade. Although the new Guidelines rule is now in effect, significant technical and policy issues must still be addressed in order for local governments to properly implement the Guidelines and address the cumulative impacts of anticipated growth. With the on-going presence of endangered species as an issue, technical considerations are even greater than previously expected.

Continuing development of a wide variety of guidance and technical assistance materials will be essential. An on-going program for disseminating such information through outreach and training of local government shoreline planners and others will also be critical to success. Each local government must consider the options and tradeoffs inherent in the program. The Guidelines require local government to inventory the resources and characteristics of their shorelines and address the direct and cumulative impacts of development on the shorelines in a manner that preserves and restores the natural character of the shoreline. For this strategy, approximately 30 local governments will develop and adopt updated local SMPs. The Department of Ecology will review and approve all SMPs. These SMPs, once approved by the federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Management (OCRM), will become an approved part of Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program. Full implementation in the coastal counties will not occur under the legislatively mandated schedule until 2014.

Activities:

- Prepare policy and technical guidance, presentations, and related materials that send a consistent message and establish the foundation for building capacity at all levels.
- Develop “good examples” that we can reference and others may replicate.
- Provide training and outreach to other related interest groups (i.e. realtors, shoreline property owners, general citizenry, other state resource agencies, etc.).
- In the near term, prepare outcome-based, general guidance describing new Guidelines requirements, suggested methods, and steps in developing Guidelines compliant SMPs.
- Use Ecology's web-based guidance as the method for organizing existing and future training materials. The web site will contain a different page for each major step in SMP development: a general description of the topic and what is required; links to statutory and Guidelines rule language; available state level information; and links to good local SMP examples where they exist.

- Host local government coordination meetings on at least a quarterly basis with the dual purpose of:
 - Providing Ecology with a consistent and predictable conduit for presenting the latest information to local grant recipients, and
 - Providing local government planners with a regular Guidelines-specific venue for person-to-person networking as new SMP updates are being developed.
- Organize guidance and outreach using a web-based approach with direct links to available websites addressing:
 - The latest scientific and technical information
 - Contact information for others doing SMP updates
 - Funding opportunities
 - Training opportunities