

Coastal Zone Management Program—Enhancement Grant Assessments and Strategies

OCEAN AND GREAT LAKES RESOURCES**State Assessment and Strategy Overview**

The Coastal Zone Enhancement Program, authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), encourages states and territories to conduct self-assessments of their Coastal Management Programs and develop strategies to improve management of the following 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. Every five years, states assess their management of all nine areas and develop enhancement strategies for their highest priority issues. The assessments highlight past successes and identify needs that will help improve coastal resource management.

We hope these summaries will be used to generate discussion and new ideas, target existing products and services, guide new project development in NOAA and the states, and promote partnerships and information sharing. Please use the contact information at the end to follow up with any ideas or questions.

Assessment Findings and Recent Trends

A variety of human activities continue to impact ocean and Great Lakes resources. Over the past five years, issues relating to water quality, dredging, and fisheries remained in the forefront, while aquaculture and energy production are emerging issues. The U.S. Commission on

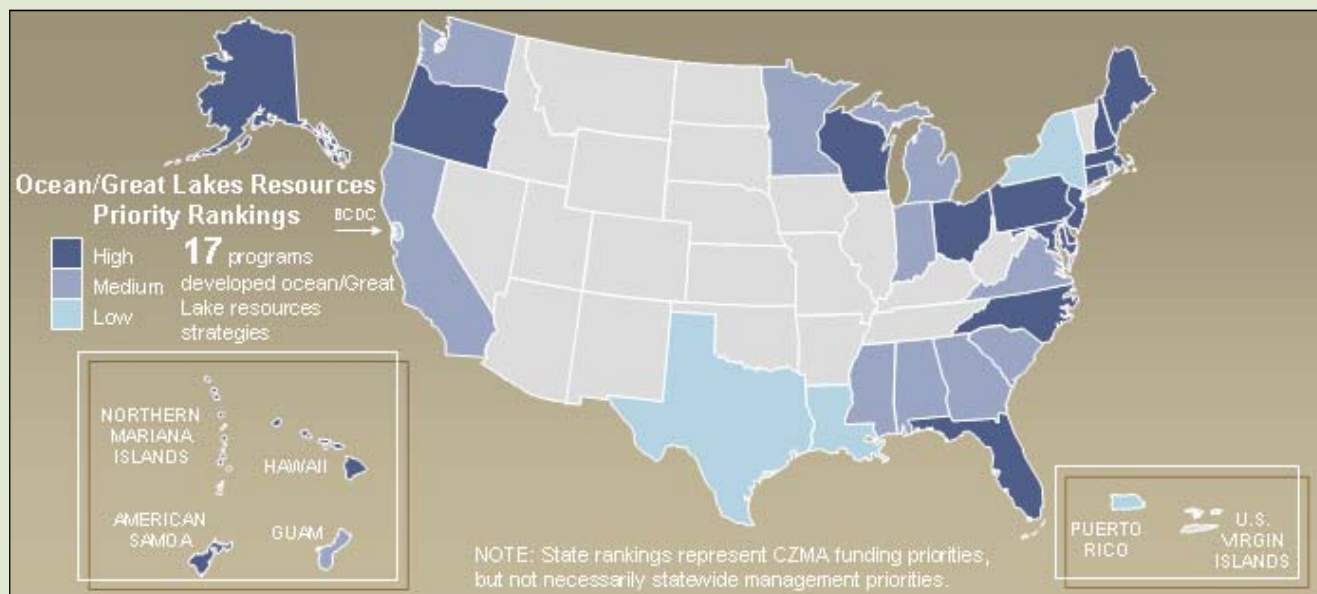
Ocean Policy placed great emphasis on comprehensive ocean and Great Lakes resource management. Many states are responding by focusing on legislation and policies that address these resources broadly. Subsequently, such policies have led many states to direct more resources towards the collection and assessment of ocean and Great Lakes resource baseline data.

Water quality degradation remains a significant concern because of its broad effects on marine and aquatic resources. State coastal programs have spent significant time on managing non-point source pollution, but are also developing ways to target new point sources, such as concentrated animal feeding operations and municipal sewage overflows.

States identified overexploitation, pollution, and habitat destruction as the primary problems affecting coastal fisheries. State coastal programs are also concerned about impacts to fisheries from offshore aquaculture, including pollution, genetic contamination, and user conflicts.

Changing energy demands have forced many coastal states to address new issues associated with coastal and offshore energy production. The primary energy activities affecting ocean and Great Lakes resources are petroleum and wind farm development and the construction of liquefied natural gas terminals.

Additionally, many coastal states have been addressing dredging and sand management, including beneficial reuse and disposing of contaminated sediments.



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Primary Needs and Information Gaps

State Coastal Zone Management Programs were asked to identify their primary needs and information gaps for ocean and Great Lakes resources. The following is a list of the most commonly identified needs:

- Need for **increased coordination**, both regionally and nationally, in planning efforts, management, and data collection
- **Data and Information** needs include: inventories; baseline data; research (impacts of desalinization and energy facilities); monitoring (fisheries, nearshore and estuarine); mapping (general resources, sediment, and benthic); and dredging and renourishment (beneficial use, monitoring of dredged areas and disposal areas, and studies of the impacts of renourishment mining and disposal)
- **Management Planning** needs include: comprehensive ocean management plans; specific plans (invasive species, habitat research, and underwater archaeological resources); new legislation and policies; and new expanded authorities

Recent Successes

For most state coastal management programs, 2005-2006 was the fourth cycle of self assessments and strategy development. Below are a few examples of strategies implemented by the states that demonstrate successes in improving ocean and Great Lakes resource management:

- In the 1990's, the Oregon State Legislature called for a plan to better manage marine resources within the state's three-mile territorial sea. The **Oregon Coastal Program** began a multi-year public planning process and developed the Territorial Sea Plan. This comprehensive plan focuses on integrating ocean management to best conserve ocean resources for current and future generations. The Plan sets up procedures and standards for decision makers to balance competing uses, and prioritizes the protection of renewable marine resources over the development of non-renewable ocean resources.
- **Pennsylvania's Coastal Program** has developed and implemented a new Ocean Resource Policy to prevent, limit, and address the impact of aquatic nuisance species. The Policy establishes state authority, funding, and research to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species. In 2004, Pennsylvania established an Invasive Species Council tasked with developing an invasive species management plan. The Council advises the Governor on implementation of the management plan, and ensures participation from key stakeholders and the public.

- To prioritize dam removal on tributaries to Lakes Michigan and Superior, **Wisconsin's Coastal Management Program** compiled existing natural resource and small dam information into a GIS. The Department of Natural Resources uses this GIS when setting priorities for watersheds or river restoration. Additionally, the non-profit group used the GIS to focus their dam owner outreach efforts, resulting in 21 miles of the Sheboygan River trout stream being reopened.

Promising Strategies for 2006—2010

As part of the State Enhancement Grant Program, state coastal management programs are asked to develop strategies to address their high priority resource management issues identified in the assessment. Below are two examples of strategies proposed for ocean and Great Lakes resources:

- Local citizens concerned with the exploitation of shellfish beds and habitat alterations requested a multi-year ban on dragging in Taunton Bay, Maine. The state legislature responded with a temporary ban and a request for the development of an area-based resource management plan. Through a multi-stakeholder planning process, the **Maine Coastal Program** will ensure that the ecological processes, functions, and values of the bay are sustained.
- Lake Michigan holds many significant underwater archaeological resources. The **Indiana Coastal Program** will conduct an inventory of underwater archaeological resources and develop a management plan to protect and enhance the historic, cultural, economic, and educational value of the resources.



Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan prioritizes the protection of renewable resources, such as fisheries, over non-renewable resources.

Questions, ideas or for more information:
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