

THE FUTURE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT & THE CZMA

Moderated by Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director, Coastal States Organization

Speakers:

Reauthorization of the CZMA: Fact or Fiction?

Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director

Coastal States Organization

kfletcher@coastalstates.org

Realizing the Vision for the Future of Coastal Management

John H. Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator

Ocean Services and Coastal Management

NOAA

jack.dunnigan@noaa.gov

Alternative Energy and the Future of Coastal Management

Jack Sterne, Principal

Rising Tide Strategies

jacksterne@mac.com

Coastal Management in the Era of Climate Change

Chad English, Director of Science Policy Outreach (invited)

COMPASS

cenglish@compassonline.org

The nation faces serious coastal challenges as a result of increasing coastal populations, climate change, and expanding coastal energy production. Managed well, our coasts at their full potential can house resilient communities with healthy natural ecosystems that provide the economic, energy, and ecological foundation for our way of life. A revitalized Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) can provide the necessary tools to tackle the threats to roads, infrastructure, and economies, and to coastal resources. Yet, even in the absence of new legislation, improvements to coastal management in the interim are essential to the nation.

The release of landmark recommendations for improving ocean and coastal management by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission generated important discussions within the coastal management community on ways to improve NOAA's Coastal Management Program. In 2007, the Coastal States Organization (CSO) and NOAA partnered on a nationwide stakeholder process to envision the future of coastal management. This year-long process helped to identify a set of principles and options to be considered for reauthorization of the CZMA including improved federal agency coordination, strengthened federal consistency provisions, and support for regional coordination.

Even in the absence of legislation, stakeholders identified many areas where coastal management could be improved including exploration of best practices, identification of linkages to other issues, and development of implementation strategies on topics such as ecosystem-based management, energy siting, climate change, and leadership in the coastal community. This panel will share with stakeholders the legislative status of the CZMA and thoughts on the future of coastal zone management, with or without legislation, in the context of alternative energy and climate change on the coasts. Attendees will participate in a discussion with speakers after brief presentations.