

OCRM - GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) core activities involve:

- providing national leadership and strategic direction for coastal resource issues
- offering guidance to state and territory coastal programs and estuarine research reserves
- working with state and territory managers to develop a scientifically-based, comprehensive national system of marine protected areas (MPAs)
- supporting effective management and sound science to protect, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems

Our activities are mandated by three pieces of legislation: the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), MPA Executive Order and Coral Reef Conservation Act.

NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) is a network of 27 estuarine areas representing different biogeographic regions of the U.S. These reserves are set aside for long-term research, monitoring, education and resource stewardship. A lead state agency or university manages each reserve with input from local partners. NOAA's Estuarine Reserves Division provides funding, national guidance and technical assistance to each locally managed reserve. Our partnership with coastal states protects more than 1.3 million acres of estuarine land and water, providing essential habitat for wildlife; offering educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public; and serving as platform for research and monitoring.

CICEET

The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) is a partnership between NOAA and the University of New Hampshire. Through partnerships and a national competitive funding program, CICEET translates the priority technology needs of coastal managers into the research objectives of leading scientists. To ensure that these activities yield tools that are innovative, effective and useful,



Photo: NOAA/Elisabeth Morgan

CICEET implements a process that identifies the technical and non-technical barriers to developing solutions to specific coastal management challenges, and creates targeted, strategic funding opportunities.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Through OCRM's National Coastal Zone Management Program, states and territories voluntarily develop comprehensive coastal management programs to balance conservation priorities with multiple use activities. Our Coastal Programs Division helps 34 states and territories advance national coastal management objectives while maintaining and strengthening their management capabilities. We support our state and territory partners through financial assistance, mediation, technical services and participation in state, regional and local forums. We also oversee "federal consistency," a powerful tool within the CZMA, which ensures that federal activities in a state are consistent with state coastal policies.

OCRM also administers the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP - pronounced "kelp"), established in 2002 to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their conservation, recreation, ecologic, historic or aesthetic values.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center works with federal, state and tribal governments and stakeholder groups to develop a national system of marine protected areas. MPAs are special areas in estuarine, marine and Great Lakes waters designated to provide lasting protection to the natural and cultural resources they contain. MPAs are a promising tool for conserving our marine natural and cultural heritage as well as for sustaining marine resources vital to coastal communities. The national system of MPAs will enhance resource management by providing a framework for regional and national coordination among MPAs, allowing for more efficient management to meet shared conservation goals. The MPA Center coordinates within and among all levels of government to develop and implement this framework; provides scientific, technical and analytical support; conducts outreach and education; and oversees the inventory of place-based conservation in U.S. waters.

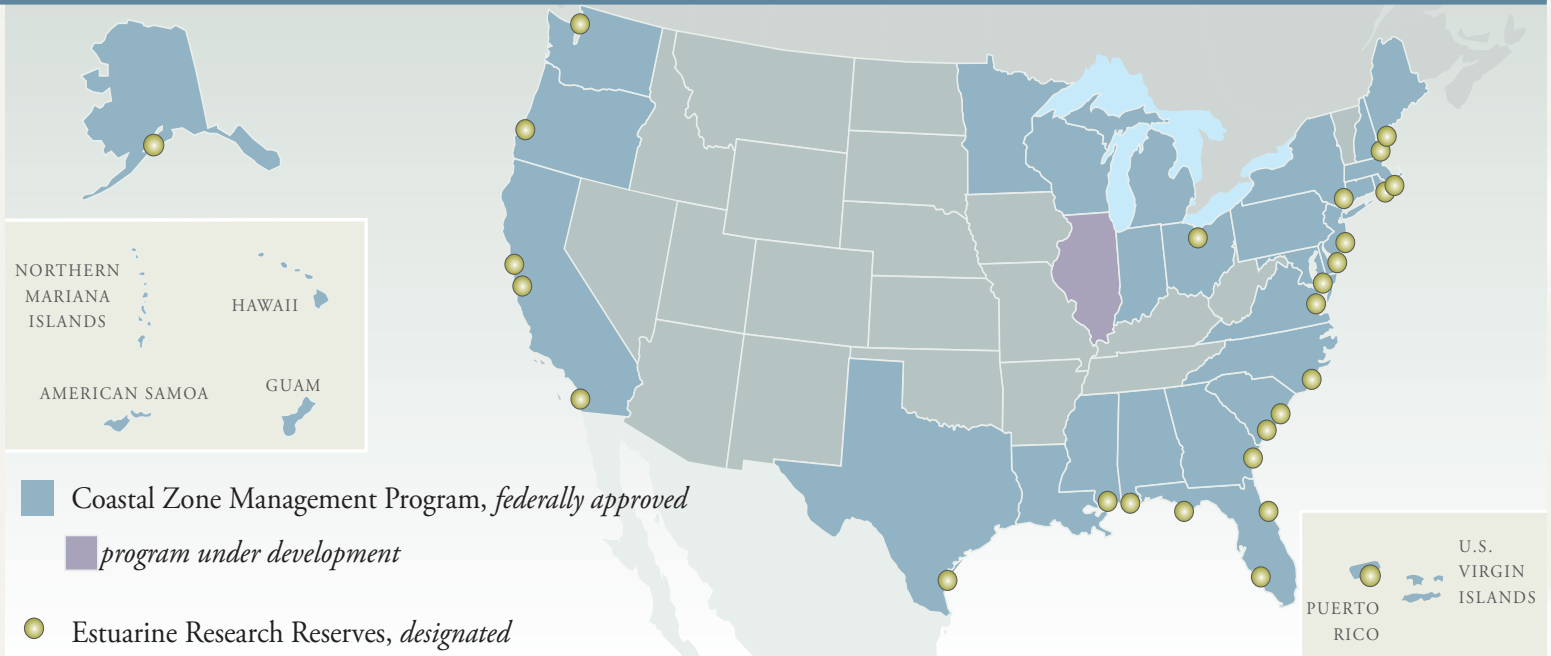


Photo: NOAA/Andy Bruckner

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM

From mapping and monitoring to managing reef resources and removing harmful debris, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) addresses goals and priority actions identified in the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and other mandates. CRCP brings together multidisciplinary expertise from four of NOAA's Line Offices: National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service.

NOAA's CRCP also serves as the secretariat for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, helping coordinate coral reef conservation across 12 federal agencies, seven states and territories in the U.S. Pacific and Atlantic/Caribbean regions, three Freely Associated States and many other partners.



www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov

David M. Kennedy, Director | 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD | 301.713.3155