



The National Coastal Zone Management Program

Measuring Performance: Coordination and Public Involvement



The National Coastal Zone Management Program

The National Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is a voluntary partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and 34 coastal states and territories. Established under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1972, the program seeks to protect, restore, and responsibly develop our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources.

The Importance of Coordination and Public Involvement

Coastal issues are often complex and controversial. They involve agencies across multiple levels of government and affect diverse stakeholders. Addressing these issues requires significant coordination among government agencies and other stakeholders to effectively leverage resources and expertise, streamline processes, and improve cost-effectiveness. Members of the general public are often knowledgeable and passionate about coastal resources and uses that are important to them. Therefore, engaging them in decision making can improve decisions, transparency, and support.

Improving Coordination and Public Involvement

The National CZM Program makes projects better for the coast and improves decision making by bringing together diverse stakeholders to tackle complex coastal issues, such as ocean planning, and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to participate. The program developed several metrics to track and assess its performance in achieving the coordination and public involvement goals of the CZMA. In addition to the program's role in coordination and public involvement, the metrics also focus on its role educating people about coastal issues, policies, and decision-making processes and how they can be involved.

Putting It into Context...

160 million people

Number of people that lived along the U.S. coast in 2010 (52% of the U.S. population)

15 million people

Expected increase in U.S. coastal population between 2010 and 2020 (a 9% increase)

\$8.3 trillion

Contribution to GDP of the coastal watershed counties, over half of U.S. GDP in 2010

66 million jobs

Total number of jobs in U.S. coastal watershed counties in 2010

Source: NOAA's State of the Coast. www.stateofthecoast.noaa.gov.

Coordination and Public Involvement

Between 2008 and 2011

Goals:

- Improve coordination and decision making on projects affecting the coastal zone
- Improve public knowledge of coastal issues and engagement to strengthen government decision making

Getting Results

The National CZM Program:



organized:

1,500 events, coordinating more than 15,000 stakeholder groups to tackle coastal management issues and streamline government processes¹



gained:

87,000 net acres of coastal habitat

through regulatory review



improved:

5,000 federal actions affecting coastal resources and uses to ensure consistency with coastal policies



Increasing Capability



educated:

44,000 people about coastal management programs and how to participate in the decision-making process



=100 events

=10,000 acres

=1,000 federal actions

=1,000 people

=\$10 million

Putting Funding to Work



trained:

16,000 coastal decision makers about coastal management programs and decision-making processes to improve coordination



invested:

\$117M

(federal+match) in coordination and public involvement activities

Leveraging an additional

\$12M

¹ Note: # of coordination events/stakeholders was not reported in 2008

Spotlight: National CZM Program Undertakes Ocean Planning in Rhode Island

The interest in offshore wind production in Rhode Island has surged. While the state encourages this new use, its ocean waters are also vital pathways for commerce, popular boating destinations, support robust fishing industries, and include valuable cultural, historical, and ecological resources. To ensure a balanced approach for development and protection of the state's ocean waters and uses, Rhode Island, as part of the National CZM Program, worked with several partners to lead a comprehensive research and planning process for nearly 1,500 square miles of offshore waters.

Stakeholder engagement and public involvement was an essential part of plan development. The Rhode Island Coastal Management Program and its partners engaged

over 15 state, federal, tribal, and local agencies, more than 70 other interested parties, and hundreds of Rhode Islanders through technical and scientific advisory committees and numerous public meetings.

Shaped and strengthened by the knowledge and views stakeholders and the public shared, the resulting Ocean Special Area Management Plan identifies areas suitable for offshore wind while protecting current ocean uses and sensitive environmental areas. It also provides a more transparent, streamlined, and coordinated approach for permitting offshore wind facilities.



"Through leadership and innovation, the [Rhode Island Coastal Management Program] has worked to balance the interests of varied constituencies to protect precious ecosystems and achieve the development we need to grow."

—Senator Sheldon Whitehouse