

# Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management

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# Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

The primary tool for *comprehensive management* of our nation's coastal resources.

Offers two key *incentives* for states to develop approved coastal management *programs*:

- *Grants* for program development and implementation
- *Federal consistency* authority

The CZMA is up for *reauthorization*.

# Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management

## Project Purpose:

To develop a vision for an improved Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and identify methods for improving program implementation at the state and national levels. **Partners: NOAA and CSO**

## Outcome:

A report of *core principles* and *specific ideas and solutions* to guide NOAA and CSO in development of CZMA reauthorization proposals and policy changes at the federal and state levels.

# Three Project Phases

- **Phase 1: Discussion Paper** on Challenges and Key Questions
- **Phase 2: Interviews** with State-Level Managers
- **Phase 3: Stakeholder Meetings**  
5 national stakeholder meetings (and 6-state hosted meetings).

Discussions with key federal agencies, private and nonprofit organizations, and experts representing a broad range of interests.

# Manager and Stakeholder Feedback

- Top identified challenges:  
*Growth and land use* and *coastal water quality*
- Other important issues:  
*Coastal habitat, public access and waterfronts, ocean uses, coastal hazards*
- Top emerging issue: *Climate change*
- Keys to better management:  
*Engage local governments* and *improve agency coordination.*

# General Conclusions

A new CZMA must be:

- **PRIORITIZED & STRATEGIC**

Clear and measurable goals and objectives

- **ACCOUNTABLE**

National and state governments

- **COORDINATED**

Federal, state, regional and local entities

# CZMA Priorities and Objectives

## NOW:

The CZMA sets a policy to “preserve, protect, develop, and where possible restore and enhance” resources of the coastal zone.

## ***FUTURE:***

***Focus on a few key goals of national interest and set measurable objectives.***

# Assessment and Planning

## NOW:

The CZMA supports general assessments of threats and requires state coastal management programs to develop annual work plans.

## ***FUTURE:***

- ***State-federal partnership develops robust comprehensive assessments***
- ***States develop plans with measurable objectives.***
- ***States are evaluated on progress toward objectives.***

# Managing at Ecosystem Scales

## NOW:

States delineate the geographic boundaries of their coastal programs on whatever basis they chose, leading to inconsistency and ineffectiveness.

## ***FUTURE:***

***Require re-delineation of coastal zone boundaries using ecological principles with consideration for political boundaries.***

# Interagency Coordination

## NOW:

The CZMA does not formally support coordination of federal agencies to meet mutual goals and objectives for the coasts.

## ***FUTURE:***

- ***A formal mechanism for federal interagency coordination around national goals.***
- ***Incentives for state and regional coordination.***
- ***Competitive development of regional collaborative centers.***

# Local Governments

## NOW:

The CZMA does not provide for federal-local collaboration, nor direct state programs to develop state-local partnerships.

## ***FUTURE:***

***Significantly strengthen the role of local governments. Also, provide them better and more integrated technical assistance.***

# Special Areas

## NOW:

The CZMA supports the designation of NERRs and development of Special Area Management Plans, but does not include CELCP.

## ***FUTURE:***

***Greater focus on acquisition and protection of special areas. Authorize CELCP.***

# Competitive Funding

NOW:

Funds are allocated among states through a formula based on coastal population and shoreline mileage.

***FUTURE:***

***Base funding provided for plan development and core competencies. Implementation funds allocated competitively.***

# Federal Consistency

## NOW:

Federal consistency authority is provided to states to help them protect the coast. It is states' strongest incentive to participate in the program.

## ***FUTURE:***

***Federal consistency authority is retained, and through better state-level planning and assessment, greater clarity is provided to agencies and ocean users.***

# Ongoing Process

- The Final Report will identify **Core Principles** for the next generation of coastal management (September 2007)
- NOAA and CSO will **develop legislative proposals** (fall 2007)
- Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization introduced (early 2008)

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