

# After Visioning: Achieving Results with the Federal-State Partnership

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# Three Phases of Visioning

- **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.

# Federal Agency & Organization Meetings

NOAA has met with many **federal agencies** including:

- FEMA
- Navy
- EPA
- SIMOR
- USACE
- DOT
- DOI (MMS, USGS, NPS, FWS)
- ORRAP
- NASA
- FERC

CSO and NOAA have met with several **organizations**: NOIA, API, Restore Americas Estuaries, American Waterfront Coalition, TNC, and more...

# Core Principles

An improved CZMA should be:

- **PRIORITIZED & STRATEGIC**

NOAA and the states should set clear and measurable goals and objectives.

- **ACCOUNTABLE**

National and state governments need to be held accountable for results.

- **COORDINATED**

Federal, state, regional, and local-level entities should leverage assets by coordinating priority setting, funding, program implementation, etc.

# NOAA's Concepts for Improved Coastal and Ocean Management

NOAA's National Ocean Service



# Next Steps: Achieving Our Vision

## We need:

- More focus.
- Improved integration of state coastal programs with NOAA's coastal programs
- A better understanding of the State of the Coast provided through integrated coastal ecosystem assessments.

# Achieving Our Vision

- **Better coordination and consistency with other federal agencies by making our programs more transparent and coastal areas more clearly and consistently defined.**

# Clarity of Purpose

**NOW:** The CZMA currently has a very broad objective to “**preserve, protect, develop, and where possible enhance the resources**” of the coastal zone. This lack of specific objectives has made it difficult to measure success.

# Clarity of Purpose

## FUTURE:

We propose that we focus on two distinct national priority areas: **sustaining healthy coastal ecosystems and increasing coastal community resilience.**

# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems

- **Maintaining, restoring, and enhancing habitats and biodiversity;**
- **Conserving critical areas through land acquisition; and**
- **Avoiding, minimizing or mitigating impacts on coastal resources and water quality from development, pollution, nutrient loading, and climate change.**

# Increasing Community Resilience

- **Minimize impacts from hazards and foster adaptation to climate change;**
- **Direct development to suitable lands;**
- **Reduce conflicts among coastal and ocean uses;**
- **Protect water dependent uses**
- **Improve siting of energy and aquaculture**
- **Protect and enhance public access**

# Federal Role

**NOW:** The Federal role in the federal-state partnership is primarily to develop guidance, approve programs, provide funding, and conduct evaluations.

# Federal Role

**FUTURE:** A national **integrated coastal and ocean management program** would be created, will set national objectives, and will work to achieve them through an integrated program of research, science translation, management, and capacity building (including direct technical assistance).

# Achieving Objectives

**NOW:** State **programs** are a collection of enforceable policies developed to achieve the goals of the Act

States are not currently required to have plans with measurable objectives or specific implementation strategies.

# Achieving Objectives

**FUTURE:** Coastal management efforts will be **outcome oriented**.

Plans, at relevant scales and addressing national goals, would be prepared and approved as the **basis for funding** state efforts.

Plans would include **measurable objectives** to help achieve the goals of the Act.

# Federal Cooperation

**NOW:** Each department **may** assist the Secretary in carrying out the purposes of the Act.

Federal consistency requires only that federal agencies **meet minimum criteria for specific activities.**

# Federal Cooperation

**FUTURE: All federal agencies support the national policies of the Act through the implementation of their programs.**

**In other words, the goals of the Act would become part of their mission.**

# State of the Coast

**NOW:** State programs, once approved, are not required to ever again assess the state of the coast that their programs are designed to protect.

# State of the Coast

**FUTURE:** NOAA, working with the states, would lead a **national coastal integrated ecosystem assessment** and a **community resilience assessment**.

These would consider natural, social, cultural, historical, and economic resources of the coastal area and would be updated every five years.

# Program Scope

**NOW:** Under the CZMA, each state defines the boundaries of its coastal zone.

Some states use local government boundaries, some use physical features, and some have designated the entire state as their coastal zone.

# Program Scope

**FUTURE:** NOAA would designate a national coastal planning area that would include watersheds and the territorial sea and would consult with the states about their state planning areas. State assessments and management plans would address this new area.

# Up the Watershed...

- To effectively address water quality impacts from upstream land uses, new techniques and new partners (including non-coastal states) will be required.
- Watershed-wide plans are needed, but implementation must focus on local areas:
  - Upstream and inland communities
  - Property owners
  - Environmental groups
  - Businesses and industries
  - Farmers

# ...and Out to Sea

- **Clear policies are needed at the federal and state levels to resolve conflicts among existing and potential coastal and ocean uses.**
- **Comprehensive planning is needed to**
  - **Guide existing ocean activities**
  - **Resolve conflicts**
  - **Anticipate new uses**

# New Challenges – New Partners

**NOW:** NOAA works in partnership with the states, but new partnerships will be needed to address new issues.

It is difficult for a Federal agency to enter into working partnerships with private industries and NGOs – must have more than just shared interests to be successful.

# New Challenges – New Partners

**FUTURE: A National Coastal and Ocean Management Foundation** is needed to:

- Raise awareness and support
- Establish competitive grant programs to assist state, local, and tribal governments in support of priorities.
- Further national priorities.

# Coordinating Existing Programs

**The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and National Marine Protected Areas Program** would become integrated parts of coastal management program implementation.

State programs would incorporate **CELCP** and **MPA** planning into their state management plans.

# Regional Approaches

Governors would be encouraged to establish **regional coastal and ocean partnerships** to address issues of greater than state concern.

Regional efforts would strive to be issue driven and flexible – not another layer of bureaucracy – and would be eligible for competitive federal funding at the state level.

# Next Steps

- **Draft legislation is in preparation.**

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