



CZMA Section 309 Enhancement Grant Program

- Overview of process
 - Timeline for new Assessments/Strategies
- Proposed changes to Assessment and Strategy Guidance
- Competitive Funding: Projects of Special Merit
 - GAO Findings
 - How competition could work



Proposed Timeline

March 31, 2009

OCRM issues draft guidance

May 15, 2009

State comments due

June 30, 2009

OCRM issues Final guidance

July 1, 2010

Draft Assessment and Strategy Due

September 3, 2010

OCRM provides comments

November 1, 2010

Final Assessment and Strategy Due

January 31, 2011

OCRM approves Final Assessment
and Strategy



Proposed Changes to Assessment and Strategy

- Contextual Performance Measures integrated with Assessment Questions
- Standardized Assessments/Strategies
 - Consistent questions and format
 - Template for Strategy
 - Clearer identification of program changes
- Priority Rankings
 - 309 vs. broader state needs?



Competition - GAO Findings

- NOAA is not using competitive process for awarding CZMA §309 grants
- Current pass/fail system
 - “...deviates somewhat” from regulations
 - Weighted Formula strategy ranking or Projects of Special Merit
 - “...is not the position NOAA took when it issued the regulations, and we believe that this ranking process does not establish a relative ranking of states in relation to one another.”



Proposed Competitive Process

(assumes \$10M for 309 per year)

- Alternatives:
 - Rank entire Strategy (weighted formula)
 - Projects of Special Merit
- Preferred Alternative: Projects of Special Merit
 - FY11: all \$10M in weighted formula
 - “pass/fail” ranking of Strategies as now
 - FY12-15
 - 80-90% (\$8-9M) in weighted formula
 - 10-20% (\$1-2M) in competitive Projects of Special Merit



Projects of Special Merit

- PSM competition announced in NOAA omnibus Federal Funding Announcement June 2011
- PSM funds begin FY12 for 4 years
- 10-20% (\$1-2M/yr) available for PSMs
 - Annual competition
 - 12 to 18 month project period
 - PSMs must support approved strategy



Projects of Special Merit

- States can apply for 2 projects up to \$200K each
 - Focus on highest priority enhancement areas
 - Wetlands
 - Hazards
 - Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
 - Energy Facility Siting
 - All states compete equally (not formula-based)
 - Regional projects possible
 - Merit reviews (like CELCP competition)
 - 10-20 projects selected annually
- Unawarded PSM funds returned to weighted formula allocation



Proposed PSM Timeline

November 1, 2010	States submit Final A/S without PSMs
January 28, 2011	OCRM approves Final A/S without PSMs
June 2011	PSM info published in NOAA Omnibus Federal Funding Opportunity
July/October 2011	Work begins on new Strategies without PSMs
October 2011	States submit PSM applications
January 2012	OCRM selects PSMs
March-June 2012	PSM work plans included in FY12 award applications
July/October 2012	Work begins on PSMs and 2 nd year of Strategies



Questions?