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Coastal Zone Management Act Section 309 Program Guidance

2026 to 2030
Enhancement Cycle

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office for Coastal Management

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Table of Contents

Overview of Section 309 Enhancement Program and Guidance 4

About the Section 309 Enhancement Program 4
About This Guidance 4

1. Timeline for 2026–2030 Program Enhancement Cycle 5

2. Allowable Uses for Section 309 Enhancement Program Funds 5

Eligible Activities 6
Allowable Costs 7
Connections with CZMA Sections 306 and 310 Funding and Other Funding 8

3. National Priorities for Section 309 Enhancement Program 8

4. Allocation of Section 309 Funds 9

Weighted Formula Funding 9
Projects of Special Merit 10
Determining the Annual Set-Aside for Projects of Special Merit 10

5. Assessment and Strategy Development Process 11

Phase I (High-Level) Assessment 11
Phase II (In-Depth) Assessment 12
Strategy 14

6. Stakeholder and Public Engagement 15

Stakeholder Engagement 15
Public Participation 15

7. Section 309 Assessment and Strategy Format 16

Introduction 16
Summary of Recent Section 309 Achievements 16
Assessment 16
Strategy 16
Summary of Stakeholder and Public Comment 17

8. Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act 17

9. Submission and Review of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy 17

Submission of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy 17
Late Submission of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy 18
OCM Review of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy 18

10. Process for Revising Approved Section 309 Assessment and Strategies 20

Appendix A: Phase I Assessment Templates 22

Appendix B: Phase II Assessment Templates 55

Appendix C: Strategy Template 84

Appendix D: Types of Program Changes 88

Wetlands 88
Coastal Hazards 89
Public Access 90
Marine Debris 91
Cumulative and Secondary Impacts 92
Special Area Management Planning 92
Ocean and Great Lakes Resources 93
Energy and Government Facility Siting 93
Aquaculture 94

Appendix E: Example Program Changes 95

Introduction 95
Status and Trends of Inland Wetlands and Aquatic Habitats 95
Adoption of Refined Coastal Goals 96
Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats 97
Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Contribution Fund 98
Model Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plans 98
Metro Bay SAMP Urban Coastal Greenway 99
Guidance Document on Coordinated Aquaculture Permitting 100
Implementing Legislative Changes to the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines 101

Appendix F: Example Stakeholder Questions 103

Overview of Section 309 Enhancement Program and Guidance

About the Section 309 Enhancement Program

The Coastal Zone Enhancement Program encourages state and territorial coastal management programs to strengthen and improve their federally approved coastal management programs in one or more of nine areas. These "enhancement areas" include wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean and Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. The enhancement program was established under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), as amended.

Every five years, states and territories are encouraged to conduct self-assessments of their coastal management programs to determine problems and enhancement opportunities within each of the nine enhancement areas—and to assess the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address identified problems. Each coastal management program identifies high-priority management issues, as well as important needs and information gaps the program must fill to address these issues.

Following this self-assessment, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (OCM), works closely with each coastal management program to further identify the high-priority needs for improvement within one or more of the nine areas. The coastal management program then develops strategies, consulting with OCM, to improve its operations to address these management needs. The strategies provide a stepwise approach to reach a stated goal and lead to enhancement in the state's or territory's federally approved coastal management program.

OCM reviews and approves the Section 309 "assessment and strategy" document for each state and territory and, after approval, provides funding under Section 309 to help them carry out those strategies.

About This Guidance

This document provides guidance to state and territorial coastal management programs about the Section 309 Enhancement Program for the fiscal year (FY) 2026–2030 assessment and strategy cycle and complements the Section 309 regulations (15 CFR § 923, subpart K). The guidance includes information on these areas:

1. **Timeline** for developing the next round of assessment and strategy reports
2. **Activities eligible** for Section 309 funding
3. **National priorities** for the Section 309 Enhancement Program
4. **Allocation of Section 309 funding**
5. **Process, format, and content** for an assessment and strategy report
6. **Public and stakeholder engagement process**
7. **Submission and approval process** for assessments and strategies
8. **Revision process** for approved assessments and strategies

This guidance supersedes previously issued Section 309 Enhancement Program guidance.

1. Timeline for 2026–2030 Program Enhancement Cycle

The table below outlines the schedule used in finalizing this guidance and in carrying out the FY 2026–2030 assessment and strategy process. If circumstances prevent OCM or the coastal management programs from being able to meet any of these deadlines—such as significantly delayed appropriations—OCM will adjust the timeline and send notice.

Timeline for Completion of Section 309 Guidance and Assessment and Strategy Development

Timeline Elements	July 1 States	October 1 States
OCM issues draft Section 309 guidance	Week of February 26, 2024	Week of February 26, 2024
Comments on draft Section 309 guidance due	April 5, 2024	April 5, 2024
OCM issues final Section 309 guidance	On or before June 30, 2024	On or before June 30, 2024
Coastal management programs (CMPs) begin developing their assessment and strategy: ● CMPs engage key stakeholders ● OCM and CMPs work together to identify high-priority enhancement areas and develop strategies	July 1, 2024	October 1, 2024
Draft assessment and strategy due	February 3, 2025	May 1, 2025
OCM provides comments to CMPs on draft assessment and strategy	April 1, 2025	July 1, 2025
Final assessment and strategy due	June 2, 2025	September 1, 2025
OCM approves final assessment and strategy	August 1, 2025	November 3, 2025
OCM issues notice of funding opportunity for FY 2026 Project of Special Merit (PSM) Competition *(tentative)*	Late Summer/Fall 2025	Late Summer/Fall 2025
Proposals for FY 2026 Project of Special Merit Competition due *(tentative)*	Late Fall/Early Winter 2026 (not before November 3, 2025)	Late Fall/Early Winter 2026 (not before November 3, 2025)
CMPs begin carrying out FY 2026–2030 strategies	July 1, 2026	October 1, 2026
OCM issues FY 2026 Project of Special Merit awards	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2026

2. Allowable Uses for Section 309 Enhancement Program Funds

Eligible States

While participation in the Section 309 Enhancement Program is voluntary, OCM strongly encourages all states and territories to develop an assessment and strategy to improve and strengthen their federally approved coastal management program (CMP). Only programs that successfully develop an approved FY 2026–2030 assessment and strategy will be eligible to receive Section 309 funding in FY 2026–2030.

Eligible Activities

The following activities are eligible for Section 309 funding:

1. **Development of the Assessment and Strategy**

   Coastal management programs may use Section 309 funds to develop their Section 309 assessment and strategy. This funding may also be used to revise the assessment and strategy, as needed, during the five-year cycle.

2. **Carrying out Strategies and Development and Submission of Program Changes**

   Coastal management programs may use Section 309 funding to carry out federally approved Section 309 strategies that are designed to lead to a program change. However, the program change does not necessarily need to be achieved during the five-year assessment and strategy cycle because various political and other factors may be outside of the coastal management program's control.

   When appropriate, program changes should be submitted for incorporation into the state's or territory's federally approved coastal management program (in accordance with regulations at 15 CFR part 923, subpart H). Section 309 funding can be used to submit a program change to the Office for Coastal Management for review and approval if the change was achieved through the assessment and strategy process.

   A program change is a change to a state's or territory's federally approved coastal management program. Defined in 15 CFR § 923.123, program changes include the following:

   - A **change to coastal zone boundaries** that will improve a state's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
   - **New or revised authorities**, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement or understanding, that will improve a state's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
   - **New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances** that will improve a state's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
   - **New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs** that improve a state's ability to attain one or more of the enhancement objectives.
   - **New or revised special area management plans or plans for areas of particular concern** (APC), including enforceable policies and other necessary implementing mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APCs that will improve a state's ability to achieve one or more of the enhancement objectives.
   - **New or revised guidelines, procedures, and policy documents that are formally adopted by a state** and provide specific interpretations of enforceable coastal policies to applicants, local governments, and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management and that will improve a state's ability to attain one or more of the enhancement objectives.

   OCM does *not* consider the following types of state or territorial actions to be program changes:

   - Increased staffing or staff reassignments that will not support or result in a program change as defined above.
   - Administrative or organizational changes that do not change or improve the state's coastal management program.

- Educational and outreach materials that are not part of a larger strategy to achieve a program change as defined above.
- Research or mapping efforts that are not part of a larger strategy to achieve a program change as defined above.
- Participation in coordination groups that are not part of a larger strategy to achieve a program change as defined above.
- Technical or financial assistance to local governments that is not part of a focused strategy to develop new or revised local coastal programs or implementing ordinances to achieve a specified enhancement objective.
- Actual land acquisition or low-cost construction projects. (These activities are only eligible for funding under Section 306A.)

Upon completion of an enhancement area strategy, coastal management programs must provide a summary of the accomplishments to OCM in the semiannual performance progress report. They must also report on all program changes achieved under Section B of the performance progress report.

3. Implementation of Program Changes

Section 309 funds can also be used to implement Section 309 program changes for up to two years after the program change was achieved. Implementation activities include administrative actions to carry out and enforce program change policies, authorities, and other management techniques, including the development, collection, and analysis of measurable management objectives and performance measures. After the initial two-year implementation period, CMPs must use Section 306 funding or other funds to support continued implementation of the program change. All implementation activities need to be described in the strategy (see "Strategy Template," Appendix C) and must meet the following general requirements:

- Advance the objectives of a high-priority 309 enhancement area for the CMP
- Relate to at least one 309 program change identified in an approved strategy
- Demonstrate cost effectiveness and technical soundness

Allowable Costs

Section 309 funds can be used for any of the following expenses that support the attainment of a program change and carry out one or more of the eligible Section 309 activities described in the "Eligible Activities" section above:

- Personnel costs
- Supplies and overhead
- Travel
- Equipment (as described in 2 CFR 200)
- Projects, studies, and reports
- Contractual costs, including subcontracts, subawards, personal service contracts with individuals, memorandum of agreement or understanding, and other forms of pass-through funding

As with all CZMA funding, Section 309 funding must adhere to 2 CFR 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards," and all other applicable grant and cooperative agreement guidance that the Department of Commerce, NOAA, or OCM issues.

Task descriptions that continue a previous year's work must describe how the current task is different from and builds on activities funded under the prior year's award so that it is clear that the exact same activities are not being funded two years in a row.

Please note that acquisition and low-cost construction projects *are not* allowable costs for Section 309 funding.

Connections with CZMA Sections 306 and 310 Funding and Other Funding

CZMA Sections 306 and 310 funds, or other non-CZMA funds, may be used to carry out and implement Section 309 strategies. However, activities supported with other funding sources must be distinct from those conducted with Section 309 funding. Task descriptions, milestones, and deliverables must be written clearly to reflect the distinct activities and outcomes that will be achieved under each section of funding in a CMP's annual CZMA cooperative agreement.

3. National Priorities for Section 309 Enhancement Program

While the Section 309 Enhancement Program establishes nine enhancement areas, OCM can choose to designate one or more enhancement areas as "areas of national importance." Doing so helps focus Section 309 funding and demonstrate a national impact for the National Coastal Zone Management Program by aligning resources to address one or more critical coastal management issues across the county. While not required, coastal management programs are strongly encouraged to develop one or more strategies to improve program effectiveness in designated areas of national importance.

For the FY 2026–2030 assessment and strategy cycle, OCM consulted with the Coastal States Organization to designate "coastal hazards" and "wetlands" as two enhancement areas of national importance. Designating "wetlands" as a national importance enhancement for all five years of the assessment and strategy cycle is a change from the previous two cycles, where only "coastal hazards" was initially identified. "Wetlands" was added for this cycle to recognize the important role wetlands play in the overall resilience of the nation's coast.

Competitive "projects of special merit" funding will be focused on projects that further the approved strategies related to either the coastal hazards or wetlands enhancement areas. The annual notice of federal opportunity (or NOFO) for the projects of special merit competition may describe how some or all of this funding would be further focused each year to address one or more specific coastal hazards or wetlands issues, such as supporting hazard resilience planning or developing policies that support the use of wetlands and other nature-based solutions to enhance community resilience.

Designating coastal hazards and wetlands as enhancement areas of national importance align with several objectives contained in the National Coastal Zone Management Program's strategic plan for 2018–2023:

- 1.1 Prepare for and minimize the risks of coastal hazards, changing conditions, and emerging issues;
- 2.1 Preserve, restore, and better understand the services provided by coastal and ocean ecosystems; and
- 2.2 Facilitate the adoption of natural and nature-based coastal infrastructure solutions.

Although the final version of the 2024–2029 strategic plan for the National Coastal Zone Management Program is not anticipated until late 2024, the draft 2024–2029 plan still includes goals and objectives that emphasize the importance of hazard resilience, wetland protection and restoration, and the adoption of nature-based coastal infrastructure.

No other enhancement areas of national importance are designated at this time. However, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management may choose to designate additional enhancement areas during the FY 2026–2030 assessment and strategy cycle to address new or emerging issues that may arise. NOAA will work with the Coastal States Organization and state coastal management programs to reevaluate the designated areas of national importance as needed. Additional enhancement areas may be considered because of feedback from the state programs or the Coastal States Organization, changes in the strategic direction of the Office for Coastal Management or NOAA, or other unforeseen circumstances, including changes in other federal funding programs that may affect the niche that the National Coastal Zone Management Program would like to fill with competitive project of special merit funding. Any new enhancement areas of national importance would be added to the list of eligible enhancement area strategies that this funding could support. Additional areas of national importance would be announced in the annual notice of funding opportunity for the projects of special merit competition.

4. Allocation of Section 309 Funds

As required by statute, OCM must allocate at least 10 percent of the appropriated CZMA Section 306/306A funding to Section 309, although this amount cannot exceed 20 percent of Section 306/306A funding or $10 million, whichever is less. There are two types of Section 309 funding: weighted formula and competitive projects of special merit. Each year, OCM determines how much Section 309 funding will be set aside for projects of special merit.

Weighted Formula Funding

Weighted formula (or base) funding is intended to provide a predictable level of funding over the multi-year strategy period to achieve core milestones. Because weighted formula funding is more predictable than competitively awarded projects of special merit funding, basic functions necessary to achieve the core strategy milestones, such as hiring full-time staff, should use weighted formula funding. Activities supported using weighted formula funding must be critical to meeting the enhancement area strategy milestones and goals and meet the following requirements:

- The project is consistent with the approved assessment and strategy and advances the goals of the strategy;
- Costs are reasonable and necessary to achieve the objectives of both the project and the strategy (see "Allowable Costs" in Section 3);
- The project is technically sound; and
- The CMP has an effective work plan to ensure proper and efficient administration of the project (see "Strategy Template," Appendix C).

OCM allocates weighted formula funding to CMPs according to the size of their coastal population and length of shoreline, and whether they have an approved assessment and strategy. Weighted formula funding is determined by multiplying the CMP's base allocation, determined by the formula at Section 923.110(c), by a weighting factor derived from OCM's evaluation of the quality of the assessment and strategy. OCM will assign a weighting factor of zero (0) to CMPs whose assessment and strategy is not acceptable and a weighting factor of one (1) to CMPs with an acceptable, approved assessment and

strategy. See "OCM Review of Section 309 Assessment and Strategies" in Section 9 for a more detailed discussion on the criteria OCM will use in determining each CMP's weighting factor.

Projects of Special Merit

Funding for projects of special merit is intended to offer CMPs the opportunity to develop innovative projects that will further the approved enhancement area strategies within identified areas of national importance. Funding for projects of special merit funding is awarded competitively and is not dependent on long-term levels of funding to succeed. Projects shall further the objectives of an approved enhancement area strategy but shall not be essential to meeting specific milestones in the strategy; therefore, these projects are not expected to, by themselves, accomplish a program change. The strategy that the project of special merit furthers must be designed primarily to address at least one enhancement area of national importance. A strategy that is primarily designed to address an enhancement area that is not designated an area of national importance is not eligible for project of special merit funding even if it may have some cross-cutting benefits for an enhancement area of national importance.

These projects will be evaluated and ranked using criteria identified within the published notice of funding opportunity. Consistent with the CZMA regulations for the projects of special merit (15 CFR 923.125(b)), projects will be evaluated for merit, fiscal need, and technical need.

Funding for projects of special merit is not intended to exceed 18 months. OCM will issue additional guidance for the projects of special merit competition annually in a notice of funding opportunity announcement. However, OCM generally anticipates the state programs would be eligible to submit two proposals per funding competition and would likely be able to request up to $250,000 per project each year. The notice of funding opportunity will provide more detailed information on the specific amount of funding available, availability of funding, eligible projects, submission guidelines, selection criteria, and deadlines.

Determining the Annual Set-Aside for Projects of Special Merit

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management expects to continually allocate approximately 85 percent (or $1.5 million) of Section 309 funds to weighted formula funding for each year of the FY 2026–2030 assessment and strategy cycle to the competitive projects of special merit. The office will carefully consider the total amount of appropriated CZMA funding when deciding how much to set aside for these projects each year. Preserving as much Section 306 funding and core coastal management program activities as possible remains a high priority for the office. Therefore, if significant cuts to the overall CZMA appropriation occur, maintaining a $1.5 million set-aside for projects of special merit funding will need to be reconsidered.

OCM also recognizes that states with traditionally lower base funding require a minimum allocation to support the goals and requirements of Section 309. That means reductions for projects of special merit may not be applied equally. OCM will set a minimum weighted formula base funding of $75,000.[1]

[1] Note that mandatory across-the-board funding cuts, such as the sequester in FY 2013, may necessitate OCM establishing a minimum weighted formula base funding of less than $75,000.

5. Assessment and Strategy Development Process

The assessment and strategy is a public document, prepared by CMPs, in consultation with OCM and key stakeholders. OCM approves the assessment and strategy in accordance with this guidance.

The **assessment** must (1) determine the extent to which problems and opportunities for program enhancement exist within each of the enhancement area objectives; (2) determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address identified problems; and (3) identify high-priority needs for program enhancement. The assessment provides the facts for the CMP and OCM to determine what program improvements are needed. For this assessment and strategy cycle, the assessment process is being broken down into two phases to enable CMPs to more easily target their assessments to high-priority enhancement areas for the program: Phase I (high-level) and Phase II (in-depth).

The **strategy** is a comprehensive, multi-year statement of goals to address high-priority needs, identified in the assessment, for improving a state's or territory's CMP. In addition to stating clear goals, the strategy also lays out methods for achieving those goals that are designed to lead toward one or more program changes (as defined by 15 CFR § 923.123a – see "Eligible Activities" in Section 3).

The subsections below describe the process CMPs should employ when developing their FY 2026–2030 assessment and strategy (fig. 1).

Phase I (High-Level) Assessment

CMPs will complete a Phase I (or high-level) assessment of their program in all nine enhancement areas using the Phase I assessment templates provided in Appendix A. At the beginning of the assessment development process, CMPs should carefully review the objectives of each enhancement area and how the program assessed and ranked each objective during the previous assessment. The CMP should also sit down with its OCM site liaison to discuss potential issues and priorities for the program, review the basic assessment process, and discuss how the CMP plans to engage stakeholders and the public during the assessment process (see Section 9 for in-depth discussion of stakeholder and public engagement).

The templates provide a variety of resources and tools to help CMPs more easily respond to the assessment questions. A "Recommended Resources" section at the back of each Phase I assessment template includes resources that may be useful to the CMPs when conducting their assessments. In addition, many of the questions point to national-level data sets or tools that provide quantitative information that can help inform the assessments. While these national data provide relevant baseline information, they can also be at a coarser scale or may not reflect the most current information available in a specific state or territory. Therefore, CMPs should feel free to use more recent state- or territory-specific data, if available, to respond to the questions. If CMPs choose to use alternative data, they should cite the source of the data.

Some of the national data sets and tools are not available for all states and territories. If no data are available for a specific state or territory, the CMP can delete the question from the assessment or choose to respond in a more qualitative way using the best-available information. If the data are only available for part of a state or territory, respond to the question using what data are available, but note in the response what areas are (or are not) reflected by the information reported. Each assessment question provides additional instructions on how to respond.

Using their responses to the Phase I assessment questions, key stakeholder input, and their own knowledge of the issue, CMPs shall rank the enhancement area as a high, medium, or low priority for their program. While there is no clear "threshold" for what is deserving of a high, medium, or low ranking, it should be readily justifiable by the program; in other words, does it seem like a reasonable ranking given the known problems and controversial issues, etc. related to that enhancement area? The priority ranking should also reflect the suitability of Section 309, with its emphasis on program changes, for addressing the underlying issues identified for each enhancement area.

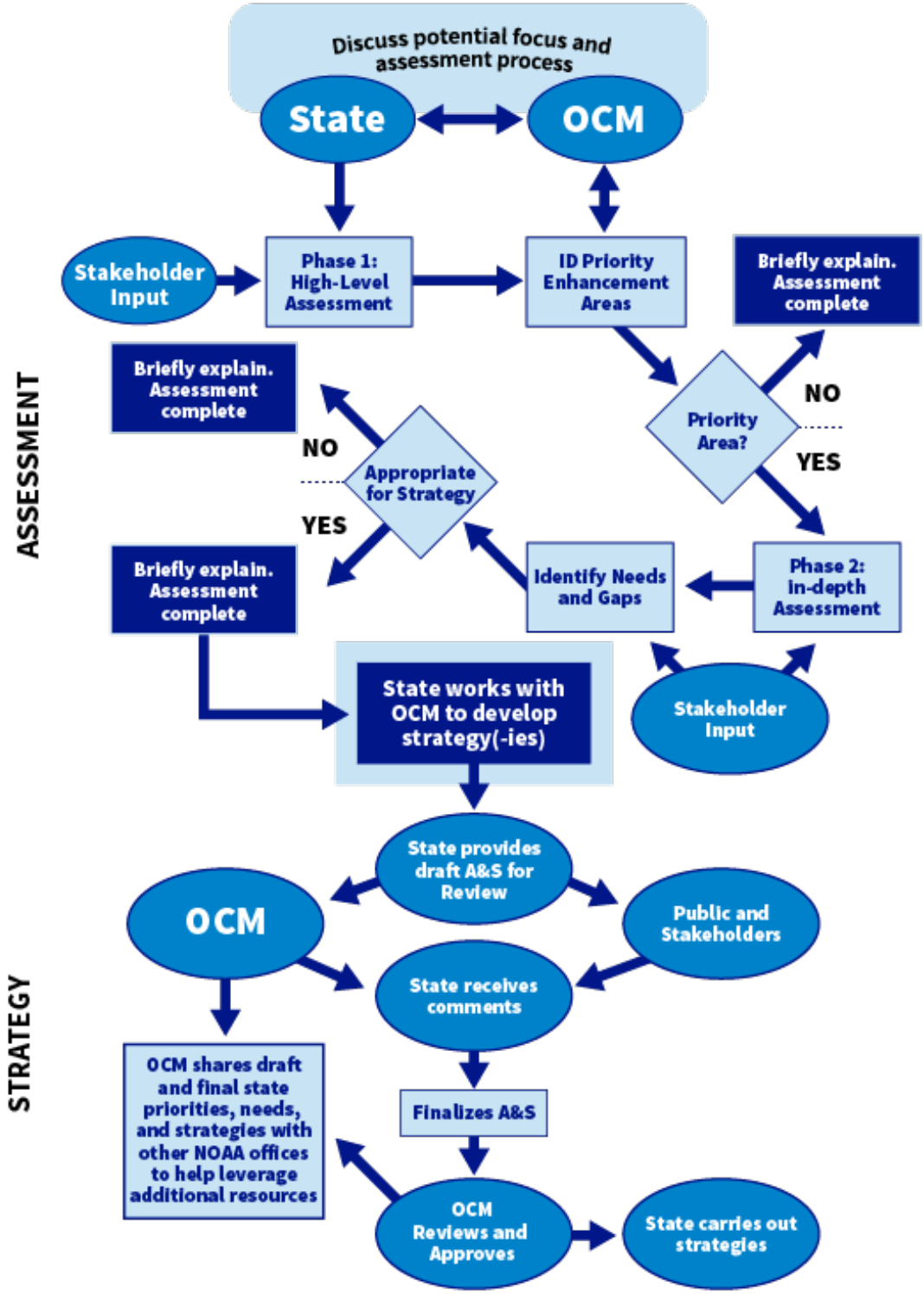
CMPs will work closely with their OCM liaisons to determine the appropriate ranking for each enhancement area. According to section 309(d)(1), the final determination of each program's high-priority enhancement areas rests with OCM. This determination will be made in full consultation with CMPs during development of the draft assessment and with due consideration of stakeholder and public comment.

If the enhancement area is ranked a medium or low priority, the CMP has completed its assessment of this issue. For enhancement areas ranked a high priority, the CMP must continue its assessment by completing an in-depth Phase II assessment.

Phase II (In-Depth) Assessment

For any enhancement areas ranked as a high priority after the Phase I assessment, CMPs shall conduct a Phase II (in-depth) assessment using the appropriate Phase II assessment templates provided in Appendix B to further explore potential problems, opportunities for improvement, and specific needs. OCM recommends that CMPs select two to three enhancement areas for more in-depth assessment. However, CMPs should work closely with their OCM liaison to determine what would be most appropriate for their program given their high-priority needs and available resources. CMPs should keep in mind that the high-priority needs identified in the Phase II assessment will not only be helpful for informing Section 309 strategies but will be used for other purposes as well. OCM relies on the needs identified to inform annual and strategic planning for the office and will also share CMP high-priority needs with other NOAA offices and programs. Therefore, CMPs should be as specific as possible when identifying needs.

Figure 1. Section 309 Assessment and Strategy Development Process



After completing the Phase II assessment questions, the CMP identifies, in consultation with OCM, which enhancement areas it will develop a strategy for. There is no requirement to develop a strategy for every enhancement area that was designated as a high priority. CMPs may choose to further focus their strategies on the greatest opportunity for improvement and likely resources available to achieve the strategy goals.

Strategy

As noted above, the strategy must address high-priority needs for program enhancement within one or more enhancement areas that were identified through the CMP's self-assessment. The strategy establishes clear goals and a pathway and method to reach those goals during the next five years. CMPs shall use the "Strategy Template" provided in Appendix C for developing their strategies to ensure that they include task descriptions, cost estimates, and milestones, as appropriate. Strategies could either address a single high-priority enhancement area or cut across several high-priority enhancement areas. Strategies can also have benefits for enhancement areas that received a lower ranking (L, M) in the assessment but they must primarily be designed to address one or more enhancement areas that were ranked as a high priority. If the strategy will address more than one enhancement area, use the strategy template to indicate the enhancement areas that apply. The strategy template also includes an evaluation component to help assess the overall success of the strategy at achieving its goals.

Strategies must be designed to lead to a program change (see Item 3 in "Eligible Activities" in Section 2 for more in-depth discussion of what constitutes a program change). However, because of various political and other factors that may be outside the CMP's control, the program change does not necessarily need to be achieved during the five-year assessment and strategy cycle. If the program change will likely be achieved outside of the assessment period, the strategy needs to include an alternative goal statement of what will be achieved over the next five years to gauge the strategy's success (See "Strategy Template," Appendix C, for additional clarification on what a suitable alternative goal statement would be). Appendix D provides additional guidance on the types of program changes that could be pursued through a Section 309 strategy, and Appendix E provides examples of past program changes and key steps used to achieve those changes through the Section 309 Enhancement Program.

Enhancement area strategies must include estimated costs, a schedule, and a general work plan listing necessary steps for achieving the strategy goals. Detailed information on annual tasks, budgets, and work products will be determined through the annual award negotiation process. Detailed descriptions of potential projects of special merit should not be included in enhancement area strategies. However, CMPs should keep in mind the differing criteria for weighted formula projects and projects of special merit in developing their strategy and when submitting projects for project of special merit funding.

Generally, CMPs should only develop strategies for activities the state intends to fund and work on given their anticipated level of Section 309 funding. In some circumstances, however, CMPs may wish to use the assessment and strategy development process as a broader strategic planning effort for the CMP. In these cases, the CMP may elect to include additional strategies that exceed the state's anticipated Section 309 funding over the five-year period. If the CMP chooses this approach, it should still clearly indicate which strategies it anticipates to fund with Section 309 funding and which strategies it anticipates to fund through other funding sources.

6. Stakeholder and Public Engagement

The CZMA places a strong emphasis on public participation and encourages participation, coordination, and cooperation with and among appropriate local, state, federal, and regional groups to help carry out the goals of the CZMA. In keeping with the intent of the CZMA, the assessment and strategy is a public document. CMPs should provide opportunities for key stakeholders and the public to be engaged in and help inform the development of the assessment and strategy.

Stakeholder Engagement

At the beginning of the assessment and strategy development process, the CMP should identify key stakeholder groups to engage. Stakeholders should reflect the people and organizations that use the coast to live, work and recreate. The stakeholders should provide feedback on what they feel are the high-priority enhancement areas for the state's or territory's coastal zone, the critical problems related to those priority areas, and the greatest opportunities for the CMP to strengthen and enhance its program to more effectively address those problems. This would ensure that the priorities and needs proposed in the assessment and strategy reflect more than just CMP staff opinions. The CMP knows its stakeholder groups best and knows how to effectively engage them in the assessment and strategy development process, so CMPs have great latitude in how they would like to engage key stakeholders and who those key stakeholders should be. Stakeholder engagement could be done informally through individual conversations or meetings or more formally through a specific questionnaire the CMP sends to stakeholder groups. For example, the CMP could piggyback onto existing meetings with different stakeholder groups to ask partners about coastal management priorities and needs.

Regardless of how the stakeholder input is captured, the CMP must document the groups or individuals they engaged and briefly summarize the relevant feedback received that is useful for informing the development of the assessment and strategy. For example, a brief one-page summary of stakeholder input would be appropriate, noting which stakeholder groups the CMP engaged, how the program engaged them, and any common (or perhaps some divergent) ideas and priorities that emerged. Efforts to engage communities or groups who have not historically been engaged in, or may be underrepresented in the CMP's work should be documented. The CMP can then use the stakeholder feedback to support assessment conclusions, why or why not a particular enhancement area should (or should not) be a priority for the state, and why a particular strategy is needed. It is likely that feedback from different stakeholder groups may conflict with one another or with the CMP's final identification of priority needs and enhancement areas. That is okay. As the assessment templates note, the CMP should simply include an explanation as to why the enhancement area received the priority ranking it did and why the CMP chose (or did not choose) to develop a strategy for any high-priority enhancement areas. (See "Summary of Stakeholder and Public Comment" in Section 7 and assessment templates in Appendixes A and B for additional discussion of how stakeholder feedback should be captured in the assessment document.) Appendix F provides examples of some questions the CMP may wish to ask stakeholders.

Public Participation

General public participation in the assessment and strategy process can take many forms. At a minimum, the public must have an opportunity to review and comment on the document. CMPs need to provide adequate public notice, make the assessment and strategy document publicly available, and ensure that a minimum 30-day public comment period is provided. CMPs may hold the public review period concurrently with OCM's review of the draft submission. The public review process does not

require formal public hearings and may occur in many ways, including public comment websites, advisory committees, commission meetings, or informal public workshops. CMPs are encouraged to publish the draft document online for public comments. A brief (1–2 page) summary of all relevant public comments must be included with the final assessment and strategy. (See also "Summary of Stakeholder and Public Comment" in Section 7.) For example, the CMP could list who provided comments and note some general themes that emerged from the commenters. OCM recognizes that comments received during a public comment period may be wide-ranging and may not always be relevant to the specific focus and goal of the Section 309 assessment and strategy. Therefore, the CMP only needs to include a brief summary of those comments that are relevant to the assessment and strategy development process.

7. Section 309 Assessment and Strategy Format

The assessment and strategy shall be submitted as a single document and contain the following sections.

Introduction

The assessment and strategy is a public document. Therefore, the introduction should include a brief description of the National Coastal Zone Management Program and Section 309 Enhancement Program, including the purpose of the assessment and strategy. It should also summarize how the CMP developed the assessment and strategy, engaged stakeholders, and allowed the public to review and comment.

Summary of Recent Section 309 Achievements

CMPs should provide a list of major achievements under the Section 309 Enhancement Program since the last assessment and strategy. This section should clearly identify and summarize program changes and other major accomplishments completed under previous strategies that may have come to fruition during the past five years. While most accomplishments will likely be from the 2021–2025 assessment cycle, there could be program changes from earlier assessment periods that were finally achieved during the past five years. For program changes that were formally submitted to OCM in accordance with the program change regulations at 15 CFR part 923, subpart H, note the date that the change was approved by OCM. If the program intends to submit a formal program change for OCM's review and approval, identify the expected submission date.

Assessment

The assessment section responds to the Phase I assessment questions for each of the nine enhancement areas and the Phase II assessment questions for the high-priority enhancement areas (see Appendixes A and B and discussion of the assessment development process in Section 5). CMPs should rely on existing data and information, when possible, to complete the enhancement area assessment. Answers should be succinct and can include provided tables, figures, and bulleted text as long as sufficient information is provided to respond to each question. Additional reports or studies that support the responses should be cited and web links included, as appropriate.

Strategy

This section establishes a clear strategy (or strategies) the CMP plans to pursue during the five-year strategy period based on the management needs identified in the assessment for one or more of its high-priority enhancement areas. The CMPs must use the "Strategy Template" provided in Appendix C.

Enhancement area strategies should include enough information for OCM to determine whether (1) the proposed program change or implementation activity adequately addresses the needs identified in the assessment, and (2) the program's work plan to achieve the program change is appropriate and cost-effective.

Summary of Stakeholder and Public Comment

This section provides a list of the stakeholder groups or individuals engaged during the assessment development process and a brief summary of their feedback. It also provides a summary of the public comments received during the public comment period and how the CMP responded to those comments.

8. Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act is a law that requires federal agencies to make their websites (and other content) accessible to everyone.[2] Every document posted on NOAA's website, including approved CMP assessment and strategy documents posted on OCM's Enhancement Program webpage (coast.noaa.gov/czm/enhancement/) must meet the minimum NOAA standards for 508 compliance (*libguides.library.noaa.gov/Section508/QuickStart*).

For the 2026-2030 assessment and strategy cycle, CMPs are encouraged to submit final assessment and strategies to OCM that are Section 508 compliant with a goal that OCM will be able to host all assessments and strategies on its webpage. OCM will provide all programs with an assessment and strategy template in Microsoft Word that is already Section 508 compliant. Little or no additional work by the CMP will be needed to meet these requirements as long as the template is followed and no headings, subheadings, tables, figures, or pictures are added or modified. The font should also be unchanged. If additions or modifications to the template are needed, please contact your site liaison. The site liaison and the CMP can then work with OCM's Section 508 compliance lead to ensure any adjustments to the assessment and strategy template will still be compliant with Section 508.

9. Submission and Review of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

Submission of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

Coastal management programs shall email the assessment and strategy to their OCM site liaison (See Section 1 for submission dates). It should be submitted as a single document using the format and templates provided in this guidance.

While CMPs should be working closely with their site liaisons throughout the development of the assessment and strategy, CMPs are asked to submit a draft assessment and strategy for OCM to review. OCM will recommend how the assessment and strategy could be strengthened and identify any concerns that may result in a ranking of "not acceptable" to allow the program an opportunity to make revisions before final submission.

[2] Additional information on Section 508 compliance can be found on the NOAA library's website at *libguides.library.noaa.gov/Section508.*

Late Submission of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

OCM expects all assessments and strategies to be submitted on time. The office recognizes, however, that under certain limited circumstances, there may be a reason a CMP submits its assessment and strategy after the deadline. This could include receiving a "not acceptable" ranking on their original submission. To be eligible for Section 309 funding in a given fiscal year, a CMP must have an approved assessment and strategy in place before OCM issues the final funding guidance for that fiscal year (usually late winter/early spring). Therefore, to give OCM sufficient time to review an assessment and strategy document, CMPs will need to submit an approvable assessment and strategy to OCM by January 15 of the fiscal year in which they wish to receive Section 309 funding. CMPs that submit an approvable assessment and strategy after the January 15 deadline will be eligible for Section 309 funding the following fiscal year (except where noted below).

If strategies are significantly late (beyond one year), they should be modified to reflect what would be achievable during the remaining five-year strategy period. The strategy(-ies) must still be designed to lead to a program change.

OCM will continue to review and approve, if acceptable, assessments and strategies during the first three years of the assessment and strategy cycle (FY 2028). In other words, CMPs will need to submit an approvable assessment and strategy by January 15, 2028, to be eligible for any Section 309 funding during the 2026–2030 strategy cycle. After FY 2028, too little time remains in the 2026–2030 assessment and strategy cycle for a CMP to effectively carry out a robust multi-year strategy. In addition, CMPs will need to begin preparing for the next assessment and strategy cycle in FY 2029.

OCM Review of Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

OCM will review the final assessment and strategy for compliance with this guidance and rank it as either "acceptable" or "not acceptable." CMPs that receive an acceptable ranking will receive funding under the standard allocation formula described at 15 CFR 927.1(c) and be eligible to compete for additional project of special merit funding. CMPs that receive a ranking of "not acceptable" will not be eligible to receive weighted formula Section 309 funding or compete for project of special merit funding. CMPs that receive a "not acceptable" ranking will have the opportunity to submit a revised assessment and strategy for approval during the following fiscal year. The CMP would be eligible for Section 309 funding once its assessment and strategy is ranked "acceptable." (See "Late Submissions" section above for additional details and limitations of late or revised submissions.)

OCM will evaluate each assessment and strategy individually using the criteria identified below. This evaluation will occur solely within the context of the state's or territory's existing CMP and governance structure, as well as its coastal management needs.

Assessment Evaluation Criteria

- Has a summary of recent Section 309 achievements been included? Does it accurately reflect recent achievements?
- Have Phase I (high-level) assessments been completed for all nine enhancement areas using the templates provided in Appendix A, and have all applicable questions been answered satisfactorily?
- Have one or more high-priority enhancement areas been identified for more in-depth (Phase II) assessments? Are the high-priority enhancement areas warranted according to available

information, including knowledge of the CMP, coastal issues in the state or territory, and stakeholder feedback?
- Have Phase II (in-depth) assessments been completed for all high-priority enhancement areas using the templates provided in Appendix B, and have all applicable questions been answered satisfactorily?
- Has the assessment identified which enhancement areas the CMP will develop a strategy for and provided a reasonable explanation as to why a strategy will or will not be developed?
- Does the assessment and strategy briefly describe the stakeholder groups engaged and provide a summary of key stakeholder and public feedback received?

Strategy Evaluation Criteria

1. Scope and Value

In evaluating the scope and value of a strategy, OCM will consider the following factors:
- Has the strategy identified a clear goal(s)?
- Does the strategy provide tangible benefits and quantifiable improvements to coastal resource management to address priority needs identified in the assessment? Examples are: increases in wetland protection and restoration, increases in public access ways and site improvements, etc.
- Does the strategy provide qualitative coastal resource management improvements to address priority needs identified in the assessment?

In applying these criteria, OCM recognizes that it may be difficult to determine the quantitative and qualitative values of some strategies, particularly in cases where broad institutional improvements are proposed. CMPs should provide the best possible descriptions of the benefits of the proposed activities.

2. Technical Merit

In reviewing the strategy work plan component, OCM will consider the following questions:
- Is the strategy work plan an appropriate means for effectively and efficiently achieving the strategy goals and addressing priority needs identified in the assessment? Are the appropriate tools or mechanisms (planning, regulation, management) being applied at the right level of government (state, regional, local) to address the need?
- Is the work plan comprehensive in overall design, personnel, funding, and organization? Does it include appropriate activities related to data collection and synthesis, issue development, and public involvement? Does the work plan include sufficient information to gauge progress toward attaining the proposed program change and strategy goals?
- Does the work plan schedule reflect an effective and logical approach to enacting or implementing the program change? Does the work plan include suitable milestones and outcomes for assessing progress?
- Is the work plan cost-effective? Are the costs of developing or implementing the strategy commensurate with the value of the proposed improvement in coastal resources or management?

3. Likelihood of Success

In evaluating the likelihood of attaining or implementing the program change and strategy goals, OCM will consider the following factors:
- What is the nature and degree of existing support for the strategy?
- How well does the strategy maintain and build future support and consensus for the proposed program change?
- What is the CMP's past performance under Section 309?

4. Technical and Fiscal Need

OCM will consider the technical and fiscal needs described in the strategy. When providing information about technical needs, CMPs should describe the extent to which a state lacks trained personnel or equipment to complete a project. CMPs should also adequately describe fiscal needs, including the extent to which a state must rely solely on federal funds to complete a project because state funds are not otherwise available.

10. Process for Revising Approved Section 309 Assessment and Strategies

State and territorial CMPs should strive to identify high-priority needs and well-thought-out strategies to address those needs over the next five years. However, OCM recognizes that unforeseen circumstances can arise that may require a CMP to revise its approved Section 309 assessment and strategy. Any change to an enhancement area priority ranking and substantive changes to the strategy, including strategy work plans, must be submitted for OCM approval before Section 309 funds can be used for these revised activities. Substantive changes include:

- A change in the priority ranking of an enhancement area;
- A significant change to the final goal, milestones, products, or program change originally proposed in an existing strategy;[3] or
- An addition of a new strategy.

CMPs should consult with their site liaison when the need for a change arises to determine if it is necessary to submit a revised assessment and strategy. OCM will also determine if the proposed revision(s) changes the original scope of the CMP's strategy sufficiently that public review and comment on the proposed revision(s) is required pursuant to § 923.128. If public review and comment is necessary, the CMP shall follow the guidance provided in Section 6 (Stakeholder and Public Engagement) of this guidance. Minor changes to projected annual activities, outcomes, or budget do not need to be submitted for approval or require public review if the intended program change and final strategy goal will still be achieved. Public review is typically needed if the CMP wants to substantially revise the program change(s) identified in the approved strategy (i.e., identify a new program change that the strategy will lead to) or develop a new strategy that addresses an enhancement area not identified as a high-priority in the original assessment.

If a CMP will not be able to complete a planned strategy (or major milestone within the strategy) because of unforeseen circumstances, the CMP should notify its site liaison as soon as that fact is clear and report the reasons. If the CMP will be able to scale back the strategy to achieve an alternative goal or a subset of the originally proposed milestones or products, the CMP should submit a revised strategy for OCM approval outlining these changes. However, if the CMP will not be able to complete any work on a proposed strategy, it does not need to submit a revised strategy but should notify its site liaison of its inability to work on the strategy.

[3] For example, the ultimate goal or program change of the strategy has changed from developing a new state sea-level-rise policy to working with local governments to develop their own sea-level-rise policies and adaptation plans. In another example, a core element of a strategy originally called for conducting extensive seafloor mapping to inform the development of an ocean plan. However, another group is now undertaking the mapping piece. Therefore, the strategy will undertake more stakeholder engagement work for the new ocean plan instead of the mapping work. Minor changes in a strategy, such as adjusting the length of time or sequence of various steps do not need to be brought in as a formal change but should be discussed with a CMP's site liaison.

If a CMP needs to revise its Section 309 assessment and strategy, it must send an email to its site liaison that includes the following:

- A brief explanation of why the change is needed;
- The revised (or new) strategy template, including updated work plan and budget; and
- A revised assessment (if an adjustment in an enhancement area ranking or priority needs must be made).

OCM will review proposed changes to determine if the CMP continues to meet the needs identified in the assessment and approval criteria as described in this guidance (or if the new ranking and needs identified make sense given the current circumstances). Within a month of receiving the CMP's request to revise its assessment and strategy, OCM will send a letter notifying the CMP whether the change was approved. Any changes to a specific Section 309 task approved in an annual cooperative agreement must be submitted through NOAA's grants management system, eRA.

Appendix A: Phase I Assessment Templates

Phase I assessments, using templates in this appendix, must be completed by all states.

Use these Phase I templates to quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment.

Note: The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Wetlands

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Protection, restoration, or enhancement of the existing coastal wetlands base, or creation of new coastal wetlands. § 309(a)(1)

Note: For the purposes of the Wetlands Assessment, wetlands are "those areas that are inundated or saturated at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions." [33 CFR 328.3(b)]. See also pg. 14 of the CZMA Performance Measurement Guidance[4] for a more in-depth discussion of what should be considered a wetland.

Phase I (High-Level) Assessment: (Must be completed by all states)

Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. Using the tables below as a guide, provide information on the status and trends of coastal wetlands. Be as quantitative as possible using state or national wetland trend data.[5] The tables are information presentation suggestions. Feel free to adjust column and row headings to align with data and time frames available in your state or territory. If quantitative data is not available for your state or territory, provide a brief qualitative narrative describing wetlands status and trends and any significant changes since the last assessment.

   Current state of wetlands in 2024 (acres): _____

Coastal Wetlands Status and Trends

Change in Wetlands	from 1996-2024
Percent net change in total wetlands (% gained or lost)*	
Percent net change in freshwater (palustrine wetlands) (% gained or lost)*	
Percent net change in saltwater (estuarine) wetlands (% gained or lost)*	

[4] coast.noaa.gov/data/czm/media/czmapmsguide.pdf

[5] National data on wetlands status and trends include NOAA's Land Cover Atlas (coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca.html), the U.S. Geological Survey's National Land Cover Database (usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory data (fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory).

How Wetlands Are Changing

Land Cover Type	Area of Wetlands Transformed to Another Type of Land Cover Between 1996 and 2024 (square miles)
Development	
Agriculture	
Barren Land	
Water	

Management Characterization

1. Indicate any significant changes at the state or territory level (positive or negative) since the last assessment that could impact the future protection, restoration, enhancement, or creation of coastal wetlands.

Significant Changes in Wetland Management

Management Category	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpreting these	
Wetlands programs (e.g., regulatory, mitigation, restoration, acquisition)	

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

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Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing wetlands strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

NOAA C-CAP Coastal Land Atlas

Online data viewer provides user-friendly access to regional land cover and land cover change information developed through NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP). The tool summarizes wetland change trends and can highlight specific changes of interest (salt marsh losses to open water, for instance). Users can investigate how land cover changed between 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016. Although data are provided by county, NOAA staff members are able to help states and territories easily aggregate county data into a statewide summary.

Geographic Scope: All coastal states and territories (except Puerto Rico)

Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca.html

NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps

Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps are designed to provide a concise summary of coastal resources at risk in case of an oil spill or other disaster. They characterize coastal and estuarine shorelines for several wetlands classes, and may be useful for resource characterization and assessment. ESI maps are periodically updated on a state-by-state basis and are generally available in multiple formats (pdf maps, GIS layers, etc.).

Geographic Scope: All coastal states and territories

Website: response.restoration.noaa.gov/resources/environmental-sensitivity-index-esi-maps

NOAA High-Resolution C-CAP Data

Nationally standardized database of land cover information (developed using remotely sensed imagery) for the coastal regions of the United States. C-CAP products provide inventories of coastal intertidal areas, wetlands, and adjacent uplands. NOAA is phasing in the next generation of high-resolution land cover data for the nation's coastal areas. The new one-meter products are useful at the local level in ways not previously possible with national-level data. The new data products will be phased in through 2025. Initial data layers will focus on impervious, canopy, and water features. Later work will include up to 20 land cover categories, with regular data refresh schedules anticipated.

Geographic Scope: Most coastal areas nationwide

Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccaphighres.html

NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer, and Lake Level Viewer

The Sea Level Rise Viewer displays potential future sea levels and provides simulations of sea level rise at local landmarks, including modeling potential marsh migration due to sea level rise. The viewer overlays social and economic data onto potential sea level rise and visualizes how tidal flooding will become more frequent with sea level rise. The Lake Level Viewer creates visuals that capture lake level changes ranging from six feet above to six feet below historical long-term average water levels in the Great Lakes. Potential shoreline and coastal impacts are also provided.

Geographic Scope: All coastal states in the contiguous U.S. (excludes HI, AK, and territories)
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html (Sea Level Rise Viewer) or *coast.noaa.gov/llv/* (Lake Level Viewer)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory

The National Wetland Inventory includes geospatial data and status and trend reports for the nation's wetlands and deepwater habitats.

Geographic Scope: All coastal states and territories except for American Samoa
Website: fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory

U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database

National land cover data that can be explored online or downloaded. The database includes map products characterizing land cover and land cover change across nine epochs from 2001 to 2021 (2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2021).

Geographic Scope: All coastal states in the contiguous U.S. (excludes HI, AK, and territories)
Website: usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database

Coastal Hazards

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Prevent or significantly reduce threats to life and property by eliminating development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas, managing development in other hazard areas, and anticipating and managing the effects of potential sea level rise and Great Lakes level change. § 309(a)(2)

Note: For purposes of the Hazards Assessment, coastal hazards include the following traditional hazards and those identified in the CZMA: flooding; coastal storms (including associated storm surge); geological hazards (e.g., tsunamis, earthquakes); shoreline erosion (including bluff and dune erosion); sea level rise; Great Lake level change; land subsidence; and saltwater intrusion.

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states)*

Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization:

1. In the table below, indicate the general level of risk in the coastal zone for each of the coastal hazards. The following resources may help assess the level of risk for each hazard. Your state may also have other state-specific resources and tools to consult. Additional information and links to these resources can be found in the "Resources" section at the end of the Coastal Hazards Phase I Assessment Template:

    - The state's multi-hazard mitigation plan
    - Coastal County Snapshots: Flood Exposure
    - Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper
    - Sea Level Rise Viewer/Great Lakes Lake Level Change Viewer

General Level of Hazard Risk in the Coastal Zone

Type of Hazard	General Level of Risk[6] (H, M, L)
Flooding (e.g., riverine, stormwater)	
Coastal storms (including storm surge)	
Geological hazards (e.g., tsunamis, earthquakes)	
Shoreline erosion	
Sea level rise	
Great Lakes level change	
Land subsidence	
Saltwater intrusion	
Other (please specify)	

2. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional data or reports on the level of risk and vulnerability to coastal hazards within your state since the last assessment. The state's

[6] Risk is defined as "the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities and structures in a community; the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage." *Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses. FEMA 386-2. August 2001*

multi-hazard mitigation plan or risk assessment or plan may be a good resource to help respond to this question.

Management Characterization

1. In the tables below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred that could impact the CMP's ability to prevent or significantly reduce coastal hazards risk since the last assessment.

Significant Changes in Hazards Statutes, Regulations, Policies, or Case Law

Topic Addressed	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Elimination of development/redevelopment in high-hazard areas[7]			
Management of development/redevelopment in other hazard areas			
Sea level rise or Great Lakes level change			

Significant Changes in Hazards Planning Programs or Initiatives

Topic Addressed	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Hazard mitigation			
Sea level rise or Great Lakes level change			

Significant Changes in Hazards Mapping or Modeling Programs or Initiatives

Topic Addressed	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Sea level rise or Great Lakes level change			
Other hazards			

2. Briefly state how "high-hazard areas" are defined in your coastal zone.
3. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

[7] Use the state's definition of high-hazard areas.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?

   High _____
   Medium _____
   Low _____

2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

****

Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing coastal hazards strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

NOAA C-CAP Coastal Land Atlas

Online data viewer provides user-friendly access to regional land cover and land cover change information developed through NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP). The tool summarizes wetland change trends and can highlight specific changes of interest (salt marsh losses to open water, for instance). Users can investigate how land cover changed between 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016. Although data are provided by county, NOAA staff members are able to help states and territories easily aggregate county data into a statewide summary.

Geographic Scope: Contiguous U.S. and Hawaii
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca.html

NOAA Coastal County Snapshots: Sea Level Rise and Special Flood Hazard

Assesses a county's exposure and resilience to flooding. Analyzes a county's dependence on the ocean or Great Lakes for a healthy economy. Examines the benefits a county receives from its wetlands. Compares counties to each other or for regional analysis. Allows users to download a PDF report for the snapshot of their choice.

Geographic Scope: Coastal states and Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/snapshots.html

NOAA Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper

The online visualization tool supports communities that are assessing their coastal hazard risks and vulnerabilities. The tool creates a collection of user-defined maps that show the people, places, and natural resources exposed to coastal flooding. The maps can be saved, downloaded, or shared to communicate flood exposure and potential impacts. In addition, the tool provides guidance for using these maps to engage community members and stakeholders.

Geographic Scope: All coastal states and territories, except for Alaska
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/flood-exposure.html

NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer and Lake Level Viewer

The Sea Level Rise Viewer displays potential future sea levels and provides simulations of sea level rise at local landmarks, including modeling potential marsh migration due to sea level rise.

The viewer overlays social and economic data onto potential sea level rise and visualizes how tidal flooding will become more frequent with sea level rise. The Great Lakes Level Change Viewer creates visuals that capture lake level changes that range from six feet above to six feet below historical long-term average water levels in the Great Lakes. Potential shoreline and coastal impacts are also provided.

Geographic Scope: All coastal states and territories except for Alaska
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html (Sea Level Rise Viewer) or *coast.noaa.gov/llv* (Lake Level Viewer)

Public Access

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Attain increased opportunities for public access, taking into account current and future public access needs, to coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, or cultural value. § 309(a)(3)

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states)*

Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. Use the table below to provide data on public access availability within the coastal zone.

Public Access Status and Trends

Type of Access	Current Number[8]	Changes or Trends Since Last Assessment[9] (↑, ↓, –, unknown)	Cite Data Source
Beach access sites			
Shoreline (other than beach) access sites			
Recreational boat (power or non-motorized) access sites			
Designated scenic vistas or overlook points			

[8] Be as specific as possible. For example, if you have data on many access sites but know it is not an exhaustive list, note "more than" before the number. If information is unknown, note that and use the narrative section below to provide a brief qualitative description based on the best information available.

[9] If you know specific numbers, please provide. However, if specific numbers are unknown but you know that the general trend was increasing or decreasing or relatively stable or unchanged since the last assessment, note that with a ↑ (increased), ↓ (decreased), – (unchanged). If the trend is completely unknown, simply put "unknown."

Type of Access	Current Number[8]	Changes or Trends Since Last Assessment[9] (↑, ↓, –, unknown)	Cite Data Source
Fishing access points (i.e., piers, jetties)			
Coastal trails/ boardwalks *(Please indicate number of trails/boardwalks and mileage)*			
Acres of parkland/open space			
Access sites that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant[10]			
Other (please specify)			

2. Briefly characterize the demand for coastal public access and the process for periodically assessing demand. Include a statement on the projected population increase for your coastal counties. There are several additional sources of statewide information that may help inform this response, such as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan,[11] the National Survey on Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation,[12] and your state's tourism office.
3. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional data or reports on the status or trends for coastal public access since the last assessment.

Management Characterization:

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if there has been any significant state- or territory-level management changes (positive or negative) that could impact the future

[10] For more information on ADA see *ada.gov.*

[11] Most states routinely develop "Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans", or SCROPs, that include an assessment of demand for public recreational opportunities. Although not focused on coastal public access, SCORPs could be useful to get some sense of public outdoor recreation preferences and demand. Download state SCROPs at*.recpro.org/resources--reports/scorp-resources.*

[12] The National Survey on Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation produces state-specific reports on fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreational use for each state. While not focused on coastal areas, the reports do include information on saltwater and Great Lakes fishing, and some coastal wildlife viewing that may be informative and compares 2016 data to 2011, 2006, and 2001 information to understand how usage has changed. The most recent survey was conducted for 2022 but due to a change in methodology, results cannot be compared to previous reports. See *fws.gov/program/national-survey-fishing-hunting-and-wildlife-associated-recreation-fhwar.*

provision of public access to coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, or cultural value.

Significant Changes in Public Access Management

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpreting these			
Operation/maintenance of existing facilities			
Acquisition/enhancement programs			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.
3. Indicate if your state or territory has a publically available public access guide. How current is the publication and how frequently it is updated?[13]

Publicly Available Access Guide

Public Access Guide	Printed	Online	Mobile App
State or territory has? (Y or N)			
Web address (if applicable)			
Date of last update			
Frequency of update			

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

[13] Note some states may have regional or local guides in addition to state public access guides. Unless you want to list all local guides as well, there is no need to list additional guides beyond the state access guide. You may choose to note that the local guides do exist and may provide additional information that expands upon the state guides.

Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing public access strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

National Survey on Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation

The U.S. Census partners with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to present information on individuals involved in fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-associated recreation, such as wildlife observation, photography, and feeding. Data include states in which these activities occurred; number of trips taken; days of participation; and expenditures for food, lodging, transportation, and equipment. While not focused on coastal areas, the reports do include information on saltwater and Great Lakes fishing and some coastal wildlife viewing. The 2016 reports compare 2016 data to 2011, 2006 and 2001 survey results to inform understanding of how usage has changed. The most recent survey was conducted for 2022 but due to a change in methodology, results cannot be compared to previous reports.

Geographic Scope: All states (territories not included)
Website: fws.gov/program/national-survey-fishing-hunting-and-wildlife-associated-recreation-fhwar

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans

Most states regularly develop Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs). While each SCORP varies by state, at a minimum, the plan must (1) identify outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance; (2) evaluate demand, i.e., public outdoor recreation preferences; and (3) evaluate the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities.

Geographic Scope: All states (territories not included)
Website: recpro.org/resources--reports/scorp-resources

Marine Debris

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Reducing marine debris entering the nation's coastal and ocean environment by managing uses and activities that contribute to the entry of such debris. § 309(a)(4)

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states)*
Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. In the table below, characterize the existing status and trends of marine debris in the state's coastal zone based on the best-available data.

Existing Status and Trends of Marine Debris in Coastal Zone

Source of Marine Debris	Significance of Source (H, M, L, unknown)	Type of Impact[14] (aesthetic, resource damage, user conflicts, other)	Change Since Last Assessment (↑, ↓, –, unknown)
Beach/shore litter			
Land-based dumping			
Storm drains and runoff			
Land-based fishing (e.g., fishing line, gear)			
Ocean/Great Lakes-based fishing (e.g., derelict fishing gear)			
Derelict vessels			
Vessel-based (e.g., cruise ship, cargo ship, general vessel)			
Hurricane/storm			
Tsunami			
Other (please specify)			

2. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional state- or territory-specific data or reports on the status and trends or potential impacts from marine debris in the coastal zone since the last assessment.

[14] You can select more than one, if applicable.

Management Characterization

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if there has been any significant state- or territory-level management changes (positive or negative) for how marine debris is managed in the coastal zone.

Significant Changes in Marine Debris Management

Management Category	Employed by State/Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Marine debris statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpreting these			
Marine debris removal programs			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes and likely future outcomes of the changes.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

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Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing marine debris strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

NOAA Marine Debris Program

The NOAA Marine Debris Program supports national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program coordinates and supports marine debris activities within NOAA and with other federal agencies, and uses partnerships to support projects carried out by state and local agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and industry. The program also provides funding opportunities for projects that address marine debris.

Geographic Coverage: National and international
Website: marinedebris.noaa.gov

Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Development and adoption of procedures to assess, consider, and control cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development, including the collective effect on various individual uses or activities on coastal resources, such as coastal wetlands and fishery resources. § 309(a)(5)

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states)*
Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. Using National Ocean Economics Program Data on population and housing,[15] please indicate the change in population and housing units in the state's coastal counties between 2017 and 2021. You may wish to add additional trend comparisons to look at longer time horizons as well (data available back to 1970), but at a minimum, please show change over the most recent five-year period data is available (2017–2021) to approximate current assessment period.

Trends in Coastal Population and Housing Units

	2017	2021	Percent Change (2017–2021)
Number of people			
Number of housing units			

2. Using the tables below as a guide, provide information on land cover changes and development trends. Be as quantitative as possible using state or national land cover data.[16] The tables are a suggestion of how you could present the information. Feel free to adjust column and row headings to align with data and time frames available in your state or territory. If quantitative data on land cover changes and development trends are not available, provide a brief qualitative narrative describing changes in land cover, especially development trends, including significant changes since the last assessment.

[15] *www.oceaneconomics.org/*. Enter "Population and Housing" section and select "Data Search" (near the top of the left sidebar). From the drop-down boxes, select your state. Select the year (2021) then select "coastal zone counties." The default comparison year will be 2017 so no need to select a comparison year.

[16] National data on wetlands status and trends include NOAA's Land Cover Atlas (*coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca.html*) and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Land Cover Database (*usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database)*.

Distribution of Land Cover Types in Coastal Counties

Land Cover Type	Land Area Coverage in 2024 (Acres)	Gain/Loss Since 1996 (Acres)
Developed, High Intensity		
Developed, Low Intensity		
Developed, Open Space		
Grassland		
Scrub/Shrub		
Barren Land		
Open Water		
Agriculture		
Forested		
Woody Wetland		
Emergent Wetland		

Development Status and Trends for Coastal Counties

	1996	2024	Percent Net Change
Percent land area developed			
Percent impervious surface area			

How Land Use Is Changing in Coastal Counties

Land Cover Type	Areas Lost to Development Between 1996 and 2024 (Acres)
Barren Land	
Emergent Wetland	
Woody Wetland	
Open Water	
Agriculture	
Scrub/Shrub	
Grassland	
Forested	

3. Briefly characterize how the coastal shoreline has changed in the past five years due to development, including potential changes to shoreline structures such as groins, bulkheads and other shoreline stabilization structures, and docks and piers. If available, include quantitative data that may be available from permitting databases or other resources about changes in shoreline structures.
4. Briefly summarize the results of any additional state- or territory-specific data or reports on the cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development, such as water quality, shoreline hardening, and habitat fragmentation, since the last assessment.

Management Characterization

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if there have been any significant state-level changes (positive or negative) in the development and adoption of procedures to assess, consider, and control cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development, including the collective effect on various individual uses or activities on coastal resources, such as coastal wetlands and fishery resources, since the last assessment.

Significant Changes in Management of Cumulative and Secondary Impacts of Development

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpreting these			
Guidance documents			
Management plans (including SAMPs)			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

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Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing strategies for cumulative and secondary impacts of development. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

NOAA C-CAP Coastal Land Atlas

The online data viewer provides user-friendly access to regional land cover and land cover change information developed through NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP). The tool summarizes land use change trends. Users can investigate how land cover changed between 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016. Although data are provided by county, NOAA staff members are able to help states easily aggregate county data into statewide summary.

Geographic Scope: Contiguous U.S. and Hawaii
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/lca.html

NOAA Impervious Surface Analysis Tool

The Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT), a custom suite of easy-to-use scripts for ArcGIS, is used to calculate the percentage of impervious surface area within user-selected geographic areas, such as watersheds, municipalities, and subdivisions. ISAT uses imperviousness values to categorize areas as having good, fair, or poor water quality. A correlation between an increase in impervious surfaces and a decrease in water quality has been well established, and ISAT users may find the information derived from ISAT helpful in predicting how different management scenarios might impact local water quality. The tool calculates the percent impervious area and total impervious surface area of each selected polygon, categorizes polygons to represent conditions of good, fair, and poor water quality based on calculated imperviousness, and incorporates land cover change scenarios to examine how changes influence impervious surfaces. Although it requires desktop GIS and some GIS technical skills, NOAA staff members are able to help states analyze data to support wetlands assessment.

Geographic Scope: Appropriate geographic scope should be based upon the resolution and complexity of the data. The tool is built on Esri's ArcGIS, so it will only run as fast as allowed within that software.
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/isat.html

NOAA QNSPECT Data

This GIS-based screening tool helps users assess changes in water quality resulting from different climate and land use management scenarios. Also known as the Nonpoint Source Pollution and Erosion Comparison Tool, QNSPECT is a QGIS plug-in used to estimate nonpoint-source pollution and erosion processes within watersheds, which is useful for comparing pollutant and sediment loads based on different scenarios.

Geographic Scope: Project-based geographies worldwide
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/qnspect.html

U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database

National land cover data that can be explored online or downloaded. The database includes map products characterizing land cover and land cover change across nine epochs from 2001 to 2021 (2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2021).

Geographic Scope: All coastal states in the contiguous U.S. (excludes HI, AK, and territories)
Website: usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database

Special Area Management Planning

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Preparing and implementing special area management plans for important coastal areas. § 309(a)(6)

The Coastal Zone Management Act defines a special area management plan (SAMP) as "a comprehensive plan providing for natural resource protection and reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth containing a detailed and comprehensive statement of policies; standards and criteria to guide public and private uses of lands and waters; and mechanisms for timely implementation in specific geographic areas within the coastal zone. In addition, SAMPs provide for increased specificity in protecting natural resources, reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth, improved protection of life and property in hazardous areas, including those areas likely to be affected by land subsidence, sea level rise, or fluctuating water levels of the Great Lakes, and improved predictability in governmental decision making."

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states and territories)*
Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. In the table below, identify geographic areas in the coastal zone subject to use conflicts that may be able to be addressed through a SAMP. This can include areas that are already covered by a SAMP but where new issues or conflicts have emerged that are not addressed through the current SAMP.

Geographic Area	**Opportunities for New or Updated Special Area Management Plans** Major conflicts/issues

2. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional state- or territory-specific data or reports on the status and trends of SAMPs since the last assessment.

Management Characterization

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if there has been any significant state- or territory-level management changes (positive or negative) that could help prepare and implement SAMPs in the coastal zone.

Significant Changes in Special Area Management Planning

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
SAMP policies, or case law interpreting these			
SAMP plans			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

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Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing SAMP *strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.*

Davis, Braxton. 2004. "Regional Planning in the U.S. Coastal Zone: A Comparative Analysis of 15 Special Area Plans." *Ocean and Coastal Management*. Volume 47, Pages 79 to 94.
Geographic Scope: National
Website: sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964569104000225

Ocean and Great Lakes Resources

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Planning for the use of ocean [and Great Lakes] resources. § 309(a)(7)

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states and territories.)*
Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. Understanding the ocean and Great Lakes economy can help improve management of the resources it depends on. Using Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW),[17] indicate the status of the ocean and Great Lakes economy as of 2021 (the most recent data) in the tables below. Include graphs and figures, as appropriate, to help illustrate the information. Note ENOW data are not available for the territories. The territories can provide alternative data, if available, or a general narrative, to capture the value of their ocean economy.

Status of Ocean and Great Lakes Economy for Coastal Counties (2021)

	All Ocean Sectors	Living Resources	Marine Construction	Ship & Boat Building	Marine Transportation	Offshore Mineral Extraction	Tourism & Recreation
Employment (# of Jobs)							
Establishments (# of Establishments)							
Wages (Millions of Dollars)							
GDP (Millions of Dollars)							

[17] *coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/enow.html*. If you select any coastal county for your state, you are directed to various data displays for that county. In the upper left of the screen, click the "State" box, to the left of the county box so that the state name will be highlighted. Now the data will reflect statewide data for all of the state's coastal counties. Make sure "2021" is selected for the year (top right corner). You can then click through the sector types by selecting the icons along the top and the type of economic data (employment, wages, GDP, etc.), by clicking through the icons on the left.

Change in Ocean and Great Lakes Economy for Coastal Counties (2005–2021)[18]

	All Ocean Sectors	Living Resources	Marine Construction	Ship & Boat Building	Marine Transportation	Offshore Mineral Extraction	Tourism & Recreation
Employment (# of Jobs)							
Establishments (# of Establishments)							
Wages (Millions of Dollars)							
GDP (Millions of Dollars)							

2. Understanding existing uses within ocean and Great Lakes waters can help reduce use conflicts and minimize threats when planning for ocean and Great Lakes resources. Using Ocean Reports,[19] indicate the number of uses within the ocean or Great Lakes waters off of your state. To avoid duplication, energy uses (including pipelines and cables) are reported under "Energy and Government Facility Siting" in the following template. However, feel free to include energy uses in this table as well if listing all uses within ocean and Great Lakes waters in one place is preferred. Add additional lines, as needed, to include additional uses that are important to your state. Note: The Ocean Reports tool does not include data for the Great Lakes states. Great Lakes states should fill in the table as best they can by using other data sources.

Uses within Ocean or Great Lakes Waters

Type of Use	Number of Sites
Federal sand and gravel leases *(Completed)*	
Federal sand and gravel leases *(Active)*	
Federal sand and gravel leases *(Expired)*	
Federal sand and gravel leases *(Proposed)*	
Beach Nourishment Projects	
Ocean Disposal Sites	
Principle Ports *(Number and Total Tonnage)*	
Coastal Maintained Channels	
Designated Anchorage Areas	
Danger Zones and Restricted Areas	
Other (please specify)	

3. In the table below, characterize how the threats to and use conflicts over ocean and Great Lakes resources in the state's or territory's coastal zone have changed since the last assessment.

[18] Trend data is available at the bottom of the page for each sector and type of economic data. Mouse over the data points for 2005 and 2021 to obtain the actual values and determine the change by subtracting 2005 data from 2021.

[19] *coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/ort.html*. Select the "view quick reports" button and enter the name of your state or territory in the search bar. Some larger states may have the "quick reports" for their state waters broken into several different reports. Click on the "state waters" reports to view. Note the Ocean Reports tool also generates "quick reports" for national estuarine research reserve boundaries in your state. These reports are just a subset of the "state waters" report(s) so you can ignore the reserve "quick reports." Use the icons on the left hand side to select different categories: general information, energy and minerals, natural resources and conservation, oceanographic and biophysical, transportation and infrastructure, and economics and commerce. Scroll through each category to find the data needed to complete the table. The top six categories in the table above are in the "energy and minerals" section while the other information to complete the table can be found under the "transportation and infrastructure" section.

Significant Changes to Ocean and Great Lakes Resources and Uses

Resource/Use **Change in the Threat to the Resource or Use Conflict**	**Since Last Assessment** (↑, ↓, –, unknown)
Benthic habitat (including coral reefs)	
Living marine resources (fish, shellfish, marine mammals, birds, etc.)	
Sand/gravel	
Cultural/historic	
Other (please specify)	
Transportation/navigation	
Offshore development[20]	
Energy production	
Fishing (commercial and recreational)	
Recreation/tourism	
Sand/gravel extraction	
Dredge disposal	
Aquaculture	
Other (please specify)	

4. For those ocean and Great Lakes resources and uses in the table above that had an increase in threat to the resource or increased use conflict in the state's or territory's coastal zone since the last assessment, characterize the major contributors to that increase. Place an "X" in the column if the use or phenomenon is a major contributor to the increase.

[20] Offshore development includes underwater cables and pipelines, although any infrastructure specifically associated with the energy industry should be captured under the "energy production" category.

Major Contributors to an Increase in Threat or Use Conflict to Ocean and Great Lakes Resources

	Land-based development	Offshore development	Polluted runoff	Invasive species	Fishing (Commercial and Recreational)	Aquaculture	Recreation	Marine Transportation	Dredging	Sand/Mineral Extraction	Ocean Acidification	Other (Specify)
Example: Living marine resources		*X*	*X*	*X*	*X*	*X*		*X*	*X*			
[Resource or Use from Table 2]												
[Resource or Use from Table 2]												

5. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional state- or territory-specific data or reports on the status and trends of ocean and Great Lakes resources or threats to those resources since the last assessment to augment the national data sets.

Management Characterization

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if any significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) in the management of ocean and Great Lakes resources have occurred since the last assessment?

Significant Changes to Management of Ocean and Great Lakes Resources

Management Category	**Employed by State or Territory** (Y or N)	**CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ** (Y or N)	**Significant Changes Since Last Assessment** (Y or N)
Statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpreting these			
Regional comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management plans			
State comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management plans			
Single-sector management plans			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Indicate if your state or territory has a comprehensive ocean or Great Lakes management plan.

Comprehensive Ocean/Great Lakes Management Plan	State Plan	Regional Plan
Completed plan (Y/N) (If yes, specify year completed)		
Under development (Y/N)		
Web address (if available)		
Area covered by plan		

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
   High _____
   Medium _____
   Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

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Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing strategies for ocean and Great Lakes Resources. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

MarineCadastre.gov Viewer

This data viewer provides the baseline information needed for ocean planning efforts, particularly those that involve finding the best location for renewable energy projects. Users pick the ocean geography of their choosing and quickly see the applicable jurisdictional boundaries, restricted areas, laws, critical habitat locations, and other important features. With the national viewer, potential conflicts can be identified and avoided early in the planning process, and users can visually analyze and explore geospatial data for marine spatial planning activities, and find direct access to authoritative marine cadastral data from federal and state sources.

Geographic Scope: National
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/mmc.html

NOAA Coastal County Snapshots: Total Coastal Economy and Marine Economy

Provides a snapshot of the total economic activity occurring in coastal shoreline counties as well as businesses that are dependent on marina and Great Lakes resources.

Geographic Scope: Coastal states and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/snapshots.html

NOAA Economics: National Ocean Watch Data (ENOW)

The effective management of coastal resources requires an understanding of the ocean and Great Lakes economy. This tool allows users to interact with ENOW data, which describe six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes: living resources; marine construction; marine transportation; offshore mineral resources; ship and boat building; and tourism and recreation. Users can discover which sectors are the largest in various parts of the

county, which sectors are growing and declining, and which account for the most jobs, wages, and gross domestic product. They can view up to four counties, states, or regions to compare trends or economic makeup. The ENOW Explorer's interface is designed to allow users who are familiar with economic data to interact with and view data and trends. The tool provides the highest level of interaction with ENOW data short of downloading the full data set.

Geographic Scope: National and regional

Website: www.coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/enow.html

NOAA Essential Fish Habitat Mapper

The Essential Fish Habitat Mapper is an online tool that displays essential fish habitat, and habitat areas of particular concern, established under provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The tool also includes areas where steps have been taken to minimize the impact that fisheries have on essential fish habitat, including anchoring restrictions, required fishing gear modifications, and bans on certain types of gear. Users can query information from multiple fishery management plans at once to view habitat maps and lists of species for a specific location. The tool displays habitat maps and species lists for specific locations, queries spatial information from multiple fishery management plans at once, and provides links to text descriptions and data inventories, including related fishery management plans, federal regulations, and data and metadata download.

Geographic Scope: National and regional

Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/efhmapper.html

NOAA Ocean Reports

Allows users to draw or select an area and get in-depth quick reports of coastal and marine areas for ocean-facing coastal states and territories. Includes the following information types: energy and minerals, natural resources and conservation, transportation and infrastructure, economics and commerce, and others.

Geographic Scope: Ocean-facing coastal states and territories (not Great Lakes)

Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/ort.html

U.S. Marine Protected Areas Mapping Tool

This online application helps users visualize MPA boundaries and provide access to MPA inventory data from over 1,600 MPAs nationwide, offering easy access to spatial boundaries, conservation-based classification data, and site management information. Provides a detailed picture of the type, abundance, and distribution of MPAs throughout the United States.

Geographic Scope: National and regional

Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/mpaviewer.html

Energy and Government Facility Siting

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Adoption of procedures and enforceable policies to help facilitate the siting of energy facilities and government facilities and energy-related activities and government activities which may be of greater than local significance. § 309(a)(8)[21]

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states and territories)*
Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. In the table below, characterize the status and trends of different types of energy facilities and activities in the state's or territory's coastal zone based on best-available data. If available, identify the approximate number of facilities by type. For ocean-facing states and territories (not Great Lakes states), Ocean Reports[22] includes existing data for many energy facilities and activities.

[21] CZMA § 309(a)(8) is derived from program approval requirements in CZMA § 306(d)(8), which states:

> "The management program provides for adequate consideration of the national interest involved in planning for, and managing the coastal zone, including the siting of facilities such as energy facilities which are of greater than local significance. In the case of energy facilities, the Secretary shall find that the State has given consideration to any applicable national or interstate energy plan or program."

NOAA regulations at 15 C.F.R. § 923.52 further describes what states need to do regarding national interest and consideration of interests that are greater than local interests.

[22] *coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/ort.html.* Select the "view quick reports" button and enter the name of your state or territory in the search bar. Some larger states may have the "quick reports" for their state waters broken into several different reports. Click on the "state waters" reports to view. Note the Ocean Reports tool also generates "quick reports" for national estuarine research reserve boundaries in your state but this is just a subset of the "state waters" report(s) so you can ignore the reserve "quick reports." Click on the wind turbine icon on the left ("energy and minerals") for information on energy production. While outside your coastal zone, you may also want to consider facilities/activities in "federal waters" that may have effects on your coastal zone.

Status and Trends in Energy Facilities and Activities in the Coastal Zone

Type of Energy Facility/Activity	Exists in Coastal Zone (# or Y/N)	Change in Existing Facilities/Activities Since Last Assessment (↑, ↓, –, unknown)	Proposed in Coastal Zone (# or Y/N)	Change in Proposed Facilities/Activities Since Last Assessment (↑, ↓, –, unknown)
Pipelines				
Electrical grid (transmission cables)				
Ports				
Liquid natural gas (LNG)				
Electric Power Facilities (Oil)				
Electric Power Facilities (Gas)				
Electric Power Facilities (Coal)				
Electric Power Facilities (Nuclear)				
Electric Power Facilities (Wave)				
Electric Power Facilities (Tidal)				
Electric Power Facilities (Current.ocean, lake, river)				
Electric Power Facilities (Hydropower)				
Electric Power Facilities (Ocean thermal energy conversion)				
Electric Power Facilities (Solar)				
Electric Power Facilities (Biomass)				
Other (please specify)				

2. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional state- or territory-specific information, data, or reports on the status and trends for energy facilities and activities of greater than local significance in the coastal zone since the last assessment.
3. Briefly characterize the existing status and trends for federal government facilities and activities of greater than local significance[23] in the state's coastal zone since the last assessment.

[23] The CMP should make its own assessment of what government facilities may be considered "greater than local significance" in its coastal zone, but these facilities could include military installations or a significant federal government complex. An individual federal building may not rise to a level worthy of discussion here beyond a very cursory (if any at all) mention).

Management Characterization

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) that could facilitate or impede energy and government facility siting and activities have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes in Energy and Government Facility Management

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpretations			
State comprehensive siting plans or procedures			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

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Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing energy and federal government facilities strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

GSA Lists of Federally Owned and Leased Facilities

The Government Services Agency (GSA) maintains a national list of all federally owned and leased facilities in each state.

Geographic scope: National
Website: gsa.gov/iolp

NOAA Economics: National Ocean Watch Data (ENOW)

The effective management of coastal resources requires an understanding of the ocean and Great Lakes economy. This tool allows users to interact with ENOW data, which describe six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes: living resources; marine

construction; marine transportation; offshore mineral resources; ship and boat building; and tourism and recreation. Users can discover which sectors are the largest in various parts of the county, which sectors are growing and declining, and which account for the most jobs, wages, and gross domestic product. They can view up to four counties, states, or regions to compare trends or the makeup of their ocean and Great Lakes economies. The ENOW Explorer's interface allows users familiar with economic data to get data and trends. The tool provides the highest level of interaction with ENOW data short of downloading the full data set.

Geographic Scope: National and regional
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow

NOAA Ocean Reports

Allows users to draw or select an area and get in-depth quick reports of coastal and marine areas for ocean-facing coastal states and territories. The tool includes the following types of information: energy and minerals, natural resources and conservation, transportation and infrastructure, economics and commerce, and others.

Geographic Scope: Ocean-facing coastal states and territories (not Great Lakes)
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/ort.html

Aquaculture

Section 309 Enhancement Objective: Adoption of procedures and policies to evaluate and facilitate the siting of public and private aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone, which will enable states to formulate, administer, and implement strategic plans for marine aquaculture. § 309(a)(9)

Phase 1 (High-level) Assessment: *(Must be completed by all states and territories.)*
Purpose: To quickly determine whether the enhancement area is a high-priority enhancement objective for the CMP that warrants a more in-depth assessment. The more in-depth assessments of Phase II will help the CMP understand key problems and opportunities that exist for program enhancement and determine the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address those problems.

Resource Characterization

1. In the table below, characterize the existing status and trends of aquaculture facilities in the state's coastal zone based on the best-available data. Your state Sea Grant Program may have information to help with this assessment.[24]

Status and Trends of Aquaculture Facilities and Activities

Type of Facility/Activity	Number of Facilities[25]	Approximate Economic Value	Change Since Last Assessment (↑, ↓, –, unknown)

2. If available, briefly list and summarize the results of any additional state- or territory-specific data or reports on the status and trends or potential impacts from aquaculture activities in the coastal zone since the last assessment.

Management Characterization

1. Indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if there has been any state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) that could facilitate or impede the siting of public or private aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone.

[24] While focused on statewide aquaculture data rather than just within the coastal zone, the *Census of Aquaculture* (*agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Census_of_Aquaculture/)* may help in developing your aquaculture assessment. The census is conducted every 10 years and the last report was released in 2018. The report provides a variety of state-specific aquaculture data to understand current status and recent trends.

[25] Be as specific as possible. For example, if you have specific information of the number of each type of facility or activity, note that. If you only have approximate figures, note "more than" or "approximately" before the number. If information is unknown, note that and use the narrative section below to provide a brief qualitative description based on the best information available.

Significant Changes in Aquaculture Management

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Aquaculture comprehensive siting plans or procedures			
Other aquaculture statutes, regulations, policies, or case law interpreting these			

2. For any management categories with significant changes, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information:
    a. Describe the significance of the changes;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

Enhancement Area Prioritization

1. What level of priority is the enhancement area for the coastal management program?
    High _____
    Medium _____
    Low _____
2. Briefly explain the reason for this level of priority. Include input from stakeholder engagement, including the types of stakeholders engaged.

****

Resources and Tools

Below are a few national resources and tools that may be useful in conducting your assessment or developing aquaculture strategies. States likely have other state-specific resources, tools, and data that would be useful as well.

Coastal Aquaculture Planning Portal

The Coastal Aquaculture Planning Portal is a toolbox of coastal planning tools designed to assist managers, planners, and industry with sustainable aquaculture development.

Geographic Scope: National

Website: coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/coastal-and-marine-planning/coastal-aquaculture-planning-portal-capp/

NOAA Ocean Reports

Allows users to draw or select an area and get in-depth quick reports of coastal and marine areas for ocean-facing coastal states and territories. The tool includes the following types of information: energy and minerals, natural resources and conservation, transportation and infrastructure, economics and commerce, and others. Information on areas covered by various types of permitted aquaculture operations, including finfish, shellfish, and other farming practices (algae, crustacean, or unknown farming) is available under the “Navigation and Infrastructure” section.

Geographic Scope: Ocean-facing coastal states and territories (not Great Lakes)
Website: coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/ort.html

NOAA Office of Aquaculture

The Office of Aquaculture fosters sustainable aquaculture that will create employment and business opportunities in coastal communities; provide safe, sustainable seafood; and complement NOAA's comprehensive strategy for maintaining healthy and productive marine populations, species, and ecosystems and vibrant coastal communities.

Geographic Coverage: National and regional
Website: nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/index.htm

USDA Census of Aquaculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes the Census of Aquaculture. The census provides a variety of state-specific aquaculture data to understand current status and recent trends. The last census was released in 2018.

Geographic Coverage: National
Website: agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Census_of_Aquaculture/

Appendix B: Phase II Assessment Templates

Complete Phase II assessments, using the templates in this section, only for enhancement areas that are identified as high priority for the CMP after the Phase I (high-level) assessments.

Note: Identifying an enhancement area as a high priority does not necessarily mean the CMP would be required to develop a strategy for the enhancement area given other priority enhancement areas and available resources.

Wetlands

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities to improve the CMP's ability to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging physical stressors or threats to wetlands within your coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the stressor (i.e., is it prevalent throughout your coastal zone, or are there specific areas that are most threatened?). Stressors can be development/fill; hydrological alteration/channelization; erosion; pollution; invasive species; freshwater input; sea level rise/Great Lakes level change; or other (please specify).

	Stressor/Threat	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Stressor 1		
Stressor 2		
Stressor 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant stressors or threats to wetlands within your coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the wetlands enhancement objective.

1. For each additional wetland management category below that was not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes in Wetland Management

Management Category	Employed By State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Wetland assessment methodologies			
Wetland mapping and GIS			
Watershed or special area management plans addressing wetlands			
Wetland technical assistance, education, and outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts in protecting, restoring, and enhancing coastal wetlands since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in wetlands and wetland management since the last assessment and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve its ability to more effectively respond to significant wetlands stressors. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	**Need?** (Y or N)	**Brief Explanation of Need/Gap**
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Coastal Hazards

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities to improve the CMP's ability to prevent or significantly reduce coastal hazard risks by eliminating development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas and managing the effects of potential sea level rise and Great Lakes level change.

1. Based on the characterization of coastal hazard risk, what are the three most significant coastal hazards[26] within your coastal zone? Also indicate the geographic scope of the hazard (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are there specific areas most at risk?).

	Type of Hazard	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Hazard 1		
Hazard 2		
Hazard 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant coastal hazards within the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the coastal hazards enhancement objective.

1. For each coastal hazard management category below, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if there has been a significant change since the last assessment.

Significant Changes in Coastal Hazards Statutes, Regulations, and Policies

Management Category	**Employed by State/Territory** (Y or N)	**CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ** (Y or N)	**Significant Change Since the Last Assessment** (Y or N)
Shorefront setbacks/no build areas			
Rolling easements			
Repair/rebuilding restrictions			
Hard shoreline protection structure restrictions			
Promotion of alternative shoreline stabilization methodologies (i.e., living shorelines/green infrastructure)			
Repair/replacement of shore protection structure restrictions			

[26] See list of coastal hazards on p. 27 of this assessment template.

Management Category	Employed by State/Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Change Since the Last Assessment (Y or N)
Inlet management			
Protection of important natural resources for hazard mitigation benefits (e.g., dunes, wetlands, barrier islands, coral reefs) (other than setbacks/no build areas)			
Repetitive flood loss policies (e.g., relocation, buyouts)			
Freeboard requirements			
Real estate sales disclosure requirements			
Restrictions on publicly funded infrastructure			
Infrastructure protection (e.g., considering hazards in siting and design)			
Other (please specify)			

Significant Changes to Coastal Hazard Management Planning Programs or Initiatives

Management Category	Employed by State/Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Change Since the Last Assessment (Y or N)
Hazard mitigation plans			
Sea level rise/Great Lake level change or adaptation plans			
Statewide requirement for local post-disaster recovery planning			
Sediment management plans			
Beach nourishment plans			
Special Area Management Plans (that address hazards issues)			
Managed retreat plans			
Other (please specify)			

Significant Changes to Coastal Hazard Research, Mapping, and Education Programs or Initiatives

Management Category	Employed by State/Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Change Since the Last Assessment (Y or N)
General hazards mapping or modeling			
Sea level rise mapping or modeling			
Hazards monitoring (e.g., erosion rate, shoreline change, high-water marks)			
Hazards education and outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's management efforts in addressing coastal hazards since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in coastal hazard risk and coastal hazard management since the last assessment and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve its ability to more effectively address the most significant hazard risks. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

   Management Priority 1: _____

   Description:

   Management Priority 2: _____

   Description:

   Management Priority 3: _____

   Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has for addressing the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here should not be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	Need? (Y or N)	Brief Explanation of Need/Gap
Research		
Mapping/GIS/modeling		

Priority Needs	Need? (Y or N)	Brief Explanation of Need/Gap
Data and information management		
Training/capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Public Access

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities to improve the CMP's ability to increase and enhance public access opportunities to coastal areas.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging threats or stressors to creating or maintaining public access within your coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the stressor (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are specific areas most threatened?). Stressors can be private development (including conversion of public facilities to private); non-water-dependent commercial or industrial uses of the waterfront; increased demand; erosion; sea level rise or Great Lakes level change; natural disasters; national security; encroachment on public land; or other (please specify).

	Stressor/Threat	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Stressor 1		
Stressor 2		
Stressor 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant stressors or threats to public access within the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the public access enhancement objective.

1. For each additional public access management category below that was not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant changes (positive or negative) have occurred at the state or territory level since the last assessment.

Significant Changes to Public Access Management

Management Category	Employed by State/Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Comprehensive access management planning			
GIS mapping/database of access sites			
Public access technical assistance, education, and outreach (including access point and interpretive signage, etc.)			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's management efforts in providing public access since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in public access and public access management since the last assessment and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve the effectiveness of its management effort to better respond to the most significant public access stressors. *(Approximately 1-3 sentences per management priority.)*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	**Need?** (Y or N)	**Brief Explanation of Need/Gap**
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Marine Debris

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities to improve the CMP's ability to effectively manage marine debris in the coastal zone.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging challenges related to marine debris within your coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the challenge (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are specific areas most threatened?). Challenges can be land- or ocean-based marine debris reduction (e.g., behavior change to reduce waste, increase recycling, or litter less); catastrophic event-related debris; marine debris identification and removal; research and monitoring; education and outreach; or other (please specify).

	Challenges	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Challenge 1		
Challenge 2		
Challenge 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant challenges related to marine debris in the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the marine debris enhancement objective.

1. For each additional marine debris management category below that was not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory, and indicate if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes to Management of Marine Debris

Management Category	**Employed by State or Territory** (Y or N)	**CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ** (Y or N)	**Significant Changes Since Last Assessment** (Y or N)
Marine debris research, assessment, monitoring			
Marine debris GIS mapping/database			
Marine debris technical assistance, education, and outreach			
Marine debris reduction programs (litter control, recycling, etc.)			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a) Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b) Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c) Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts to reduce marine debris since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in marine debris and marine debris management since the last assessment, as well as stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve the effectiveness of its management effort to better respond to the most significant marine debris challenges. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	**Need?** (Y or N)	**Brief Explanation of Need/Gap**
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/capacity building		
Decision-support tools		

Priority Needs	Need? (Y or N)	Brief Explanation of Need/Gap
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities to improve the CMP's ability to address cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging cumulative and secondary stressors or threats within your coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the stressor (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are there specific areas that are most threatened?). Stressors can be coastal development and impervious surfaces; polluted runoff; agriculture activities; forestry activities; shoreline modification; or other (please specify). Coastal resources and uses can be habitat (wetland or shoreline, etc.); water quality; public access; or other (please specify).

	Stressor/Threat	**Coastal Resource(s)/Use(s) Most Threatened**	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Stressor 1			
Stressor 2			
Stressor 3			

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant cumulative and secondary stressors or threats from coastal growth and development within the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the cumulative and secondary impacts (CSI) enhancement objective.

1. For each additional cumulative and secondary impact management category below that is not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes to Management of Cumulative and Secondary Impacts of Development

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Methodologies for determining CSI impacts			
CSI research, assessment, monitoring			
CSI GIS mapping/database			
CSI technical assistance, education and outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts in addressing cumulative and secondary impacts of development since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state and territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in cumulative and secondary impact threats and management since the last assessment and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve the effectiveness of its management effort to better assess, consider, and control the most significant threats from cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	**Need?** (Y or N)	**Brief Explanation of Need/Gap**
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Special Area Management Planning

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities regarding the preparation and implementation of special area management plans for important coastal areas.

1. What are the one to three most significant geographic areas facing existing or emerging challenges that would benefit from a new or revised special area management plan (SAMP) or better implementation of an existing SAMP? For example, are there areas where existing management approaches are not working and could be improved by better coordination across multiple levels of government? What challenges are these areas facing? Challenges can be a need for enhanced natural resource protection; use conflicts; coordinating regulatory processes or review; additional data or information needs; education and outreach regarding SAMP policies; or other (please specify).

	Geographic Scope (Within an existing SAMP area (specify SAMP) or within new geographic area (describe new area))	**Challenges**
Geographic Area 1		
Geographic Area 2		
Geographic Area 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant challenges that may require developing a new SAMP, or revising or improving implementation of an existing SAMP. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the special area management planning enhancement objective.

1. For each additional SAMP management category below that was not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes Related to Special Area Management Planning

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
SAMP research, assessment, monitoring			
SAMP GIS mapping/database			
SAMP technical assistance, education, and outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's special area management planning efforts since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes with coastal resource protection or coastal use conflicts within defined geographic areas, special area management planning activities since the last assessment, and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve their ability to prepare and implement special area management plans to effectively manage important coastal areas. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	**Need?** (Y or N)	**Brief Explanation of Need/Gap**
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/Capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Ocean and Great Lakes Resources

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities to enhance the ability of state CMP to better address ocean and Great Lakes resources.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging stressors or threats to ocean and Great Lakes resources within your coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the stressor (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are specific areas most threatened?). Stressors can be land-based development; offshore development (including pipelines, cables); offshore energy production; polluted runoff; invasive species; fishing (commercial and/or recreational); aquaculture; recreation; marine transportation; dredging; sand or mineral extraction; ocean acidification; or other (please specify).

	Stressor/Threat	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Stressor 1		
Stressor 2		
Stressor 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant stressors or threats to ocean and Great Lakes resources within the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the ocean and Great Lakes resources enhancement objective.

1. For each of the additional ocean and Great Lakes resources management categories below that were not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes in Management of Ocean and Great Lakes Resources

Management Category	**Employed by State or Territory** (Y or N)	**CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ** (Y or N)	**Significant Changes Since Last Assessment** (Y or N)
Ocean and Great Lakes research, assessment, monitoring			
Ocean and Great Lakes GIS mapping/database			

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Ocean and Great Lakes technical assistance, education, and outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts in planning for the use of ocean and Great Lakes resources since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in threats to ocean and Great Lakes resources and management since the last assessment and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve its ability to effectively plan for the use of ocean and Great Lakes resources. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	Need? (Y or N)	Brief Explanation of Need/Gap
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/Capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Energy and Government Facility Siting

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities relating to the siting of energy and government facility siting and other activities that may be of greater than local significance.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging challenges to facilitating energy and government facility siting and activities within your coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the challenge (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are specific areas most threatened?). Challenges can be conflicting uses; coastal resource impacts; coordinating regulatory processes or review; insufficient data; natural disasters; national security; or other (please specify).

	Challenges	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Challenge 1		
Challenge 2		
Challenge 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant challenges to facilitating energy and government facility siting and activities within the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the energy and Government facilities enhancement objective.

1. For each additional energy and government facilities management category below that was not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if the approach is employed by the state or territory and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes to Energy and Government Facility Management

Management Category	**Employed by State or Territory** (Y or N)	**CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ** (Y or N)	**Significant Changes Since Last Assessment** (Y or N)
Energy and government facility/activity research, assessment, monitoring			
Energy and government facility/activity GIS mapping/database			
Energy and government facility siting technical assistance, education, and outreach			

Management Category	Employed by State or Territory (Y or N)	CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ (Y or N)	Significant Changes Since Last Assessment (Y or N)
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.
    a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
    b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
    c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts in facilitating energy and government facility siting and activities since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in energy and government facility siting and activities, the management of these facilities and activities since the last assessment, and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve its ability to facilitate the siting of energy and government facilities and activities to address the most significant energy and government facility siting and activity challenges identified. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

    Management Priority 1: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 2: _____

    Description:

    Management Priority 3: _____

    Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	Need? (Y or N)	Brief Explanation of Need/Gap
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?
   Yes _____
   No _____
2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Aquaculture

In-Depth Resource Characterization

Purpose: To determine key problems and opportunities for facilitating the siting of aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone.

1. What are the three most significant existing or emerging challenges to facilitating the siting of aquaculture facilities within the coastal zone? Indicate the geographic scope of the challenge (i.e., is it prevalent throughout the coastal zone, or are specific areas most threatened?). Challenges can be conflicting uses; coastal resource impacts; coordinating regulatory processes or review; insufficient data; natural disasters; or other (please specify).

	Challenges	**Geographic Scope** (Throughout coastal zone or specific areas most threatened)
Challenge 1		
Challenge 2		
Challenge 3		

2. Briefly explain why these are currently the most significant challenges to facilitating the siting of aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone. Cite stakeholder input and/or existing reports or studies to support this assessment.
3. Are there emerging issues of concern, but which lack sufficient information to evaluate the level of the potential threat? If so, please list. Include additional lines if needed.

Emerging Issue	**Information Needed**

In-Depth Management Characterization

Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of management efforts to address identified problems related to the aquaculture enhancement objective.

1. For each additional aquaculture management category below that was not already discussed as part of the Phase I assessment, indicate if it is employed by the state and if significant state- or territory-level changes (positive or negative) have occurred since the last assessment.

Significant Changes to Aquaculture Management

Management Category	**Employed by the State** (Y or N)	**CMP Provides Assistance to Locals that Employ** (Y or N)	**Significant Changes Since Last Assessment** (Y or N)
Aquaculture research, assessment, monitoring			
Aquaculture GIS mapping/database			
Aquaculture technical assistance, education, and outreach			
Other (please specify)			

2. For management categories with significant changes since the last assessment, briefly provide the information below. If this information is provided under another enhancement area or section of

the document, please provide a reference to the other section rather than duplicate the information.

a. Describe significant changes since the last assessment;
b. Specify if they were 309 or other CZM–driven changes; and
c. Characterize the outcomes or likely future outcomes of the changes.

3. Identify and describe the conclusions of any studies that have been done that illustrate the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts to facilitate the siting of aquaculture facilities since the last assessment. If none, is there any information that you are lacking to assess the effectiveness of the state's or territory's management efforts?

Identification of Priorities

1. Considering changes in aquaculture activities, the management of these activities since the last assessment, and stakeholder input, identify and briefly describe the top one to three management priorities where there is the greatest opportunity for the CMP to improve the effectiveness of its management effort to better respond to the most significant aquaculture challenges. *Approximately 1–3 sentences per management priority.*

   Management Priority 1: _____

   Description:

   Management Priority 2: _____

   Description:

   Management Priority 3: _____

   Description:

2. Identify and briefly explain priority needs and information gaps the CMP has to help it address the management priorities identified above. The needs and gaps identified here do not need to be limited to those items that will be addressed through a Section 309 strategy but should include any items that will be part of a strategy.

Priority Needs	**Need?** (Y or N)	**Brief Explanation of Need/Gap**
Research		
Mapping/GIS		
Data and information management		
Training/Capacity building		
Decision-support tools		
Communication and outreach		
Other (specify)		

Enhancement Area Strategy Development

1. Will the CMP develop one or more strategies for this enhancement area?

   Yes _____

   No _____

2. Briefly explain why a strategy will or will not be developed for this enhancement area.

Appendix C: Strategy Template

[Strategy Title]

I. Issue Area(s)

A. The proposed strategy or implementation activities will *primarily* support the following high-priority enhancement area(s) *(check no more than two):*

- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Energy and Government Facility Siting
- ☐ Coastal Hazards
- ☐ Ocean/Great Lakes Resources
- ☐ Special Area Management Planning
- ☐ Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Marine Debris
- ☐ Public Access

B. The proposed strategy or implementation activities will also support the following enhancement areas *(check all that apply)*:

- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Energy and Government Facility Siting
- ☐ Coastal Hazards
- ☐ Ocean/Great Lakes Resources
- ☐ Special Area Management Planning
- ☐ Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Marine Debris
- ☐ Public Access

II. Strategy Description

A. The proposed strategy will lead to, or implement, the following types of program changes *(check all that apply):*

☐ A change to coastal zone boundaries;

☐ New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;

☐ New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances;

☐ New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs;

☐ New or revised special area management plans (SAMP) or plans for areas of particular concern (APC) including enforceable policies and other necessary implementation mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APCs; and,

☐ New or revised guidelines, procedures, and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable CZM program policies to applicants, local government, and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.

B. ***Strategy Goal:*** _____.

State the goal of the strategy for the five-year assessment period. The goal should be the specific program change to be achieved or be a statement describing the results of the project, with the expectation that achieving the goal would eventually lead to a program change. For strategies that implement an existing program change, the goal should be a specific implementation milestone. For example, work with three communities to develop revised draft comprehensive plans that

consider future sea level rise or, based on research and policy analysis, present proposed legislation on wetland buffers to the state legislature for consideration. Rather than a lofty statement, the goal should be achievable within the time frame of the strategy.

C. Describe the proposed strategy and how the strategy will lead to and/or implement the program changes selected above. If the strategy will only involve implementation activities, briefly describe the program change that has already been adopted, and how the proposed activities will further that program change. (Note that implementation strategies are not to exceed two years.)

III. Needs and Gaps Addressed

Identify what priority needs and gaps the strategy addresses, and explain why the proposed program change or implementation activities are the most appropriate means to address said needs and gaps. This discussion should reference the key findings of the assessment and explain how the strategy addresses those findings.

IV. Benefits to Coastal Management

Discuss the anticipated effect of the strategy, including the scope and value of the strategy, in advancing improvements in the CMP and coastal management, in general.

V. Likelihood of Success

Discuss the likelihood of attaining the strategy goal and program change (if not part of the strategy goal) during the five-year assessment cycle or at a later date. Address the nature and degree of support for pursuing the strategy and the proposed program change, as well as the specific actions the state or territory will undertake to maintain or build future support for achieving and implementing the program change, including education and outreach activities.

VI. Strategy Work Plan

Using the template below, provide a general work plan that includes the major steps that will lead toward or achieve a program change or implement a previously achieved program change. For example, even if the final adoption of the program change is outside of the CMP's control, what steps will be included in the work plan so the CMP ensures the program change is considered, reviewed, and hopefully adopted by the outside entity? Who are the other stakeholders or elected officials that need to be engaged, and how and when during the strategy development process? What is the decision-making or voting process that is involved in the adoption of the program change, and how will the CMP interact with this process to ensure that the proposed program change is considered? If the state intends to fund implementation activities for the proposed program change, describe those in the plan as well. The plan should identify a schedule for completing the strategy and include major projected milestones (key products, deliverables, activities, and decisions) and budget estimates. If an activity will span two or more years, it can be combined into one entry (i.e., Years 2–3 rather than Year 2 and then Year 3). While the annual milestones are a useful guide to ensure the strategy remains on track, OCM recognizes that they may change somewhat over the course of the five-year strategy due to unforeseen circumstances. The same holds true for the annual budget estimates. Further detailing and adjustment of annual activities, milestones, and budgets will be determined through the annual cooperative agreement negotiation process.

Strategy Goal:
Total Years:
Total Budget:

Year(s):
Description of activities:
Major Milestone(s):
Budget:

Year(s):
Description of activities:
Major Milestone(s):
Budget:

Continue to repeat the above template as needed.

VII. Fiscal and Technical Needs

A. Fiscal Needs: If 309 funding is not sufficient to carry out the proposed strategy, identify additional funding needs. Provide a brief description of what efforts the CMP has made, if any, to secure additional state funds from the legislature and/or from other sources to support this strategy.

B. Technical Needs: If the state does not possess the technical knowledge, skills, or equipment to carry out all or part of the proposed strategy, identify these needs. Provide a brief description of what efforts the CMP has made, if any, to obtain the trained personnel or equipment needed (for example, through agreements with other state agencies).

VIII. Projects of Special Merit (Optional)

If desired, briefly state what projects of special merit the CMP may wish to pursue to augment this strategy. (Any activities that are necessary to achieve the program change or that the state intends to support with baseline funding should be included in the strategy above.) The information in this section will not be used to evaluate or rank projects of special merit and is simply meant to give CMPs the option to provide additional information if they choose. Project descriptions should be kept very brief (e.g., undertake benthic mapping to provide additional data for ocean management planning). Do not provide detailed project descriptions that would be needed for the funding competition.

Five-Year Budget Summary by Strategy

At the end of the strategy section, please include the following budget table summarizing your anticipated Section 309 expenses by strategy for each year. Generally, CMPs should only develop strategies for activities that the state intends to fund and work on given their anticipated level of Section 309 funding. However, in some circumstances, CMPs may wish to use the assessment and strategy development process as a broader strategic planning effort for the CMP. In that case, the CMP may elect to include additional strategies that exceed the state's anticipated Section 309 funding over the five-year period. If the CMP chooses this approach, it should still clearly indicate which strategies it anticipates supporting with Section 309 funding and which strategies it anticipates supporting through other funding sources.

Strategy Title	Anticipated Funding Source (309 or Other)	Year 1 Funding	Year 2 Funding	Year 3 Funding	Year 4 Funding	Year 5 Funding	Total Funding
Total Funding							

Appendix D: Types of Program Changes

Examples of some types of program changes that would be appropriate to aim for as the ultimate goal of a Section 309 strategy are provided below. This is not an exhaustive list. There are likely many suitable program changes not listed here, but hopefully the examples provided here spark ideas.

Wetlands

> ***Legislative Objective:*** *Protection, restoration, or enhancement of existing coastal wetlands base or creation of new coastal wetlands. § 309(a)(1)*

Programmatic Objectives

1. ***Develop or improve regulatory programs to protect and preserve existing wetland acreage and function from direct, indirect, and cumulative adverse impacts.***

   Examples include

   - Develop or enhance sequenced mitigation decision-making policies which strive to first avoid wetland impacts, then minimize those impacts, and finally, properly mitigate any impacts that cannot be avoided or minimized.
   - Incorporate a practical alternatives analysis or cumulative and secondary impacts analysis into the regulatory review process for projects impacting wetlands.
   - Develop or enhance a comprehensive wetland mitigation policy and program.
   - Develop or enhance enforcement, surveillance, or monitoring programs for wetland permits to measure gains and losses of wetlands acreage and function.
   - Develop or enhance policies that require siting development away from wetlands or other critical areas where development is likely to lead to indirect impacts to wetlands (e.g., creating of vegetated buffer or setback policies).
   - Develop or enhance a memorandum of understanding or other formal agreement between other state agencies, federal or local governments to create a more streamlined and coordinated wetland permit application and review process.

2. ***Develop or improve programs and policies to protect and restore wetland function.***

   Examples include

   - Develop or enhance public wetland restoration programs to restore degraded wetlands and areas that were previously wetlands. Programs could include the following elements:
     - Identify degraded wetlands sites,
     - Establish and implement best practices for wetland restoration and technical assistance programs,
     - Identify sites where restoration has the greatest likelihood of success,
     - Identify permanent funding sources to support restoration activities such as through a state bond fund or public-private partnership, and
     - Establish programs to monitor restoration sites.
   - Establish fee simple or less than fee simple wetlands acquisition programs.
   - Develop or update wetland restoration or acquisition plans that are formally adopted by the state to identify priority sites for wetland restoration or acquisition.
   - Develop or enhance policies to
     - Promote wetlands restoration and acquisition in areas that are likely to achieve the greatest nonpoint source pollution reduction benefits,

- Promote wetlands restoration and acquisition in areas that are likely to provide greatest community resilience benefits (e.g., where wetlands have room to migrate inland as sea levels rise or provide greatest protection from storm surge and flooding),
- Provide incentives to landowners to sell or donate wetlands to states or local government (e.g., conservation easement tax-incentive programs), or
- Provide disincentives to development in or near wetlands through restricted capital expenditures, taxes, etc.

Coastal Hazards

Legislative Objective: *Preventing or significantly reducing threats to life and destruction of property by eliminating development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas, managing development in other hazard areas, and anticipating and managing the effects of potential sea level rise and Great Lakes level rise [or change]. § 309(a)(2)*

Programmatic Objectives

1. ***Direct future public and private development and redevelopment away from hazardous areas, including the high-hazard areas delineated as FEMA v-zones and areas vulnerable to inundation from sea level rise.***

   Examples include

   - Develop or enhance policies that eliminate development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas and restrict development in other hazardous areas, such as:
     - Prohibit new development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas.
     - Establish or update shoreline-setback lines based on annual erosion rates.
     - Require that future sea level and other related impacts be considered when siting structures and infrastructure. Restrict the use of public funds for infrastructure or other projects that would allow or encourage development in hazardous areas.
     - Revise state or local building codes to require structures be designed to withstand higher winds or more frequent/higher flooding (e.g., require freeboard, require V Zone standards in Coastal A Zones).
     - Develop regulations that would prevent state expenditures for development in Coastal Barrier Resources System areas designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.[27]
   - Develop or enhance programs that eliminate development and redevelopment in high-hazard areas and restrict development in other hazardous areas, such as:
     - Develop land acquisition programs to acquire high-risk parcels.
     - Develop relocation assistance and buy-out programs.
     - Develop transfer or purchase of development rights programs to promote lower development densities in hazardous areas.

2. ***Preserve and restore the protective functions of natural shoreline features such as beaches, dunes, and wetlands.***

   Examples include

   - Develop or enhance policies to minimize the degradation of protective functions of natural shoreline features, such as:

[27] The Audubon Society developed a brochure on how the Section 309 Enhancement Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System could support the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See *audubon.org/cbraguide*.

    - Restrict or prevent the use of hard erosion control structures, such as sea walls and bulkheads that may impact natural shoreline features.
    - Require building setbacks from beaches, dunes, wetlands, and other protective features.
- Develop or enhance policies and permitting processes to facilitate the use of green infrastructure, such as living shorelines, where appropriate, to provide protective functions and other habitat values.
- Develop or enhance programs or plans to protect coastal barriers from further development and leverage the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.[28]
- Develop or enhance programs or plans to preserve and restore the protective functions of natural shorelines, such as:
    - Enhance land acquisition or restoration programs to prioritize lands for acquisition or restoration that would provide greatest hazards protection.
    - Develop a statewide beach renourishment plan, including long-term funding mechanisms and methods, to establish priority projects.
    - Develop a statewide beach monitoring program and use data to identify and prioritize beaches in need of erosion control efforts.

3. ***Prevent or minimize threats to existing populations, property, and infrastructure from both episodic and chronic coastal hazards.***
   Examples include
    - Develop or update hazard mitigation plans.
    - Develop pre-disaster recovery plans to identify how to strategically rebuild after a storm.
    - Develop community resilience plans that include conducting vulnerability assessments and identifying actions to minimize risks or incorporate adaptation into other plans, such as hazard mitigation and natural resource protection plans.
    - Revise land use plans and other management plans to consider sea and lake level change and other changes that will impact hazard resilience.
    - Adopt managed retreat policies or plans.
    - Develop a cost-share or low-interest loan program to help retrofit buildings to improve their hazard resilience.
    - Establish a grants program to support local risk reduction efforts.
    - Establish a technical assistance program to support local risk reduction efforts.

Public Access

> ***Legislative Objective:*** *Attaining increased opportunities for public access, taking into account current and future public access needs to coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, or cultural value. § 306(a)(3)*

Programmatic Objectives

1. ***Improve public access through regulatory, statutory, legal, and financial mechanisms.***
   Examples include
    - Develop and revise state and local statutes and regulations to better provide public access, including ensuring or enhancing public access through permit conditions.

[28] The Audubon Society developed a brochure on how the Section 309 Enhancement Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System could support the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. See *audubon.org/cbraguide.*

- Support local governments in revising local zoning ordinances to provide for additional public access.
- Develop legal strategies based on the public trust doctrine and other public interest doctrines to protect and enhance opportunities for public access, such as establishing a rights-of-way program to ensure established public rights-of-way are maintained and used as public access sites.
- Create a long-term funding mechanism to support public access creation, improvement, and maintenance projects, such as through a specialized license plate fee, special assessments, bond initiatives, or other mechanisms.
- Develop or enhance programs to encourage landowners to dedicate property and easements for public access.

2. ***Provide a strategic approach to providing adequate public access to coastal areas.***
Examples include

- Integrate public access opportunities into land use plans and waterfront redevelopment plans.
- Develop or enhance a coastal Public Access Management Plan which provides public access to all users of coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural value. The plan should have adequate implementation mechanisms and could include sections that:
    - Develop or update public access inventory, including maps of and guide to existing and potential public access sites.
    - Assess current and future demand for public access.
    - Identify site selection and design criteria, management, and maintenance issues for each type of public access.
    - Incorporate pertinent sections of the State Comprehensive outdoor Recreation Plan into the Coastal Public Access Management Plan.
    - Update or designate public access sites as areas of particular concern, areas for preservation or enhancement, or special management areas.
    - Ensure that signage is provided for all public access sites.
    - Ensure that all users of the coast, including handicapped individuals and all socio-economic classes, are afforded the same public access opportunities.
    - Increase community support and cooperation through public education and involvement.
    - Incorporate existing public access policies.

Marine Debris

> ***Legislative Objective:*** *Reduce marine debris entering the Nation's coastal and ocean environment by managing uses and activities that contribute to the entry of such debris. § 309(a)4*

Programmatic Objective:

1. ***Develop or revise programs, policies, and plans to reduce the amount of marine debris in the coastal zone.***
Examples include

- Develop or enhance state and local programs that require recycling and reduce littering and wasteful packaging in the coastal zone.
- Establish state and local regulations consistent with the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 and develop enforcement strategies and programs.
- Incorporate marine debris concerns into harbor, port, marina, and coastal solid waste management plans.

Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Legislative Objective: *Development and adoption of procedures to assess, consider, and control cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development, including the collective effect on various individual uses or activities on coastal resources, such as coastal wetlands and fishery resources, coastal access, or other issues. § 309(a)(5)*

Programmatic Objectives

1. ***Develop or revise procedures and policies to minimize cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal growth and development.***
   Examples include
   - Establish or improve coastal planning processes to address the cumulative and secondary impacts of future growth, for example, by identifying areas of rapid growth which contain sensitive coastal resources or implement coastal uses, assessing anticipated cumulative and secondary impacts, and establishing appropriate land use controls and mitigation measures to protect valuable coastal resources and uses.
   - Establish or improve procedures for the consideration of cumulative and secondary effects in project and permit review decisions and infrastructure and land acquisition programs.
   - Develop defensible methodologies to assess cumulative and secondary impacts, such as visual impact assessments, to use in planning and permitting decisions.
   - Establish impervious surface or building density limits for sensitive areas.
   - Develop management plans or special area management plans that take a comprehensive look at cumulative and secondary impacts within a specific management area and identify actions and policies to minimize impacts.
   - Establish programs or policies to support implementation of the state's Coastal Nonpoint Program, such as regular inspection programs for existing on-site disposal systems.

Special Area Management Planning

Legislative Objective: *Preparing and implementing special area management plans for important coastal areas. § 309(a)(6)*

Programmatic Objective

1. ***Develop or enhance special area management plans (SAMPs) for identified coastal areas subject to use conflicts. The following criteria can be used to help identify where SAMPs may be appropriate:***
   - The need for more geographically specific policies.
   - The area includes significant coastal resources that are being severely affected by cumulative or secondary impacts from coastal growth.
   - There are multiple local, state, and federal authorities that necessitate effective coordination and cooperation to comprehensively address coastal development and use issues on an ecosystem basis.

- There is a history of long-standing disputes between local, state, or federal agencies over certain coastal resources which have resulted in protracted negotiations over the acceptability of proposed uses.
- There is strong commitment at all levels of government to enter into a collaborative planning process to produce definitive regulatory products.
- A strong state or regional entity exists which is willing and able to sponsor the planning program.

Examples include

- Develop a SAMP to establish policies to protect cultural, historic, and aesthetic resources within a specific embayment, such as developing specific standards for residential docks and other uses within the embayment and riparian buffer requirements.
- Develop a SAMP to revitalize an urban waterfront area.
- Develop a SAMP to comprehensively protect habitat and water quality while promoting sustainable aquaculture and eco-tourism within a particular watershed.
- Update an existing SAMP to address new or emerging issues within the SAMP management area, such as sea level rise, invasive species, or increased development.

Ocean and Great Lakes Resources

Legislative Objective: *Planning for the use of ocean resources*. § 309(a)(7)

Programmatic Objective

1. ***Develop and enhance comprehensive or sector-specific ocean resource management plans, policies, and programs, to balance development and protection of ocean resources, coordinate existing authorities, and minimize use conflicts.***
   Examples include:
   - Develop or update comprehensive state or regional ocean management plans and policies.
   - Develop invasive species management plans and policies.
   - Develop new submerged lands leasing programs to assess a fee for the use of public lands for private purposes.
   - Work with federal and state agencies to develop a dredge material disposal plan for the state or a specific region.

Energy and Government Facility Siting

Legislative Objective: *Adoption of procedures and enforceable policies to help facilitate the siting of energy facilities and government facilities and energy-related activities and government activities which may be of greater than local significance. § 309(a)(8)*

Programmatic Objectives

1. ***Develop and improve procedures, policies, and standards to facilitate the siting of energy and government facilities and related activities.***
   Examples include
   - Develop memoranda of understanding or agreement to coordinate and streamline regulatory review programs and procedures for energy or government facility siting and related activities across different levels of government and government agencies.

- Coordinate with federal agencies to use administrative efficiencies in NOAA's federal consistency regulations to facilitate and streamline federal consistency reviews. These administrative efficiencies could include:
    - Creating thresholds for when a federal action would be subject to state CZMA review;
    - Using a "general consistency determination" that would cover multiple occurrences of a federal action, or
    - Eliminating certain federal actions from consistency reviews (beneficial coastal effects, de minimis coastal effects).
- Develop or revise effects-based enforceable policies that address new information on the effects from new or emerging energy technologies.
- Update federal consistency lists to refine which federal actions the coastal management program would like to review or develop a geographic location description for specific federal actions occurring outside of the state's coastal zone, including interstate areas.

2. ***Develop or enhance long-term planning processes or programs to consider the needs of energy and government facilities and activities of greater than local significance.***
   Examples include
    - Develop new or revised existing land use or ocean plans to include policies and standards to facilitate the siting of energy and government facilities while protecting coastal resources and other coastal uses.
    - Develop long-term monitoring programs, including the creation of a finance mechanism, to assess long-term impacts of energy facility siting or government uses in the coastal zone to inform future planning and policy decisions.

Aquaculture

> ***Legislative Objective:*** *Adoption of procedures and policies to evaluate and facilitate the siting of public and private aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone, which will enable states to formulate, administer, and implement strategic plans for marine aquaculture. § 309(a)(9)*

Programmatic Objective

1. ***Develop and improve procedures, policies, and standards for aquaculture in the coastal zone.***
   Examples include
    - Create new policies and standards for the siting and design of aquaculture facilities, such as co-locating aquaculture with other coastal uses, such as offshore energy facilities.
    - Revise the aquaculture permitting review process to streamline and improve coordination among federal, local, and state authorities.

2. ***Develop or enhance planning processes to promote aquaculture and balance aquaculture activities with other uses.***
   Examples include
    - Update land use, ocean management, or other plans, as appropriate, to identify priority areas for aquaculture activities.
    - Assess the vulnerability of shellfish aquaculture to environmental changes, such as ocean acidification, and develop a strategic approach and recommendations to improve the resilience of the industry.

Appendix E: Example Program Changes

Introduction

This appendix contains examples of program changes from previous Section 309 assessment cycles. The examples demonstrate eligible activities coming together into comprehensive strategies that are designed to lead to program changes or implement already-achieved program changes. The example program changes listed here do not include complete strategies or work plans. Please refer to the Section 309 program guidance and Appendix B for detailed guidance on development, organization, and format of the strategy.

Status and Trends of Inland Wetlands and Aquatic Habitats

Program Change Categories

- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs; and
- New or revised guidelines, procedures, and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable coastal management program policies to applicants, local government, and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.

This project builds upon an ongoing, coastwide effort to study the status and trends of wetlands and aquatic habitats on barrier islands by extending that effort to inland environments on the Texas coast. Inland wetland status and trends data are of particular importance since palustrine or freshwater wetlands are no longer protected by regulations under the CWA. The loss of regulatory protection for these wetlands highlights the need to provide up-to-date information to local, state, and federal restoration and acquisition programs to ensure adequate protection for the resource. This project will provide regional characterizations for inland wetlands that will inform individual program priorities and/or strategies for restoration and acquisition.

Data from this strategy will be used to

- Update the following required elements of the Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) plan: a map or description of the geographic extent of coastal and estuarine areas within the state; identification of “project areas” that represent the state’s priority areas for conservation; and a description of existing plans, or elements thereof, that are incorporated into the plan;
- Assess the relative merit of these types of projects nominated for The Coastal Impacts Assistance Program (CIAP) funding over the course of its implementation;
- Prioritize CMP grant program projects proposed in areas of identified need or as specific requests for proposals;
- Update to the Texas Coastwide Erosion Response and Assessment (CEPRA) Program Plan and other state acquisition and restoration programs;
- Update the Resource Management Codes (RMC) for state-owned tracts in bays and estuaries. RMC are assigned by state and federal resource agencies (including the Government Land Office for seismic activities) and represent regulatory guidelines;
- Inform other state agencies with wetland regulatory management programs for potential use, such as a wetland monitoring strategy to inventory surface water quality, the Permit Assistance Group mitigation guidelines; and

- Promote an understanding of the results to city and county officials, relevant state and federal agencies, NGOs, nonprofit organizations, universities and other public and private interests.

Coastal managers often lack accurate, up-to-date data from which to base their decisions. This project will not only provide an update of the current status of inland wetlands but will also forecast future changes. It is anticipated that this information will identify those inland wetlands and other aquatic habitats most threatened by erosion, subsidence, development and other processes and will facilitate the adoption of proactive measures, either regulatory or non-regulatory in nature, by state and local authorities and coastal programs to protect, restore and maintain those resources.

Activities
The following outlines the general tasks for data collection and analysis at each proposed study area. One study area will be undertaken each year in the following order: year 1, Corpus Christi–Coastal Bend; year 2, Beaumont–Port Arthur; year 3, Matagorda Bay; year 4, Brownsville-Harlingen; and year 5, Freeport–San Antonio Bay.

1. Interpret and map wetlands and aquatic habitats on historical and recent aerial photographs, using and revising existing historical data where acceptable;
2. Process habitat delineations and enter into GIS;
3. Field-check mapped wetlands;
4. Conduct detailed quality-control analysis of all (historical and current) GIS databases;
5. Analyze wetland trends, determine probable causes, and present written results; and
6. Complete final manuscript and update the following programs through guidance on the implementation policies:
    - Texas Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan
    - Coastal Impacts Assistance Program Guidance
    - Texas Coastal Management Program Grant Program Guidance
    - Coastwide Erosion Response and Assessment Program Plan
    - Coastal Bends and Bay Estuary Program
    - Texas Resource Management Codes and Guidelines
    - Interagency Permit Assistance Group
    - Sea Grant Extension Program
    - Council of Applied Coastal Research Community
    - Workshops to city and county officials

Adoption of Refined Coastal Goals

Type of Program Change

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement or understanding.

New Jersey's federally approved Coastal Management Program and the Coastal Zone Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7E were founded on broad coastal goals. These goals, referred to in the current rules as the "eight basic coastal policies," have essentially remained unchanged since the Coastal Zone Management rules were promulgated in 1978.

Based on substantial evidence, there is acute national concern that the health of our oceans is seriously compromised as a result of nonpoint and point source pollution, overfishing and coastal development. Two national Commissions, the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

issued similar conclusions in 2003 and 2004 respectively, that our oceans and coastal areas are in crisis and that a national ocean policy is needed. As a result of both the Commissions' conclusions and the Department's 26 years of experience implementing the existing coastal goals through the Coastal Management Program and Coastal Zone Management rules, the New Jersey Coastal Program concluded that revision of the eight original coastal policies is warranted. A draft of the refined goals that accurately reflects current conditions and trends relevant to comprehensive coastal management in New Jersey is complete. Shortly, NJDEP plans to propose the refined coastal goals as regulations and adopt the regulations as enforceable policies soon thereafter.

Activities

- Update and modify the eight basic NJCMP policies as coastal goals with operational policies clearly articulated.
- Propose policies as regulations.
- Adopt regulations as enforceable policies of the NJCMP.
- Submit refined NJCMP Goals to NOAA as a Program Change.

Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats

Type of Program Change

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;

Strengthen the state's enforceable policy regarding designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats by completing updates for the south shore of Long Island and Hudson River region, and initiating the updates for the Great Lakes region and the Long Island Sound portion of Westchester County. These Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats were originally designated in 1987. The enforceable policy states that Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats will be protected, preserved, and where practical, restored so as to maintain their viability as habitats.

Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat narratives and boundaries are used by the Coastal Management Program as well as by Department of Environmental Conservation permit reviewers, municipal governments, consultants, educators, and others. Updating the Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat documentation and boundaries for the south shore of Long Island, Hudson River, Great Lakes and Westchester County contributes to wetlands management by ensuring that up-to-date data and impact assessments are used in making management decisions, improving New York's ability to protect listed species, rare communities, and important human uses associated with the state's wetland resources.

Activities

- Coordinate with Department of Environmental Conservation staff to compile existing biological survey data and review habitat. Revise narratives and boundaries for habitats to include updated and new biological information and impact assessments. As part of this process, consider the need to designate new and repeal existing habitats.
- Revise boundary information in the Division GIS system and produce updated habitat maps.
- Conduct public information hearings and public meetings.
- Submit Routine Program Change.

Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Contribution Fund

Type of Program Change

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement or understanding.

According to La. Rev. Stat. 43:214.30, whenever a proposed use or activity requires a Coastal Use Permit (CUP) for the dredging or disposal of from 25,000 to 500,000 cubic yards of any water bottoms or wetland within the Louisiana Coastal Zone (LCZ), the secretary of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may require the beneficial use of the dredge material. Beneficial use of dredge material is required in circumstances where it is deemed economically feasible, but is not required in those cases when it is not economically feasible.

Over the years, many CUPs were issued which did not require that dredged material excavated as a result of the permitted activities be used beneficially. As a result, in order for the state to fulfill its obligation under the public policy provisions of the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act LDNR Coastal Management Division (CMD) is proposing to investigate the cost effectiveness of beneficial placement of dredged material in those cases deemed economically infeasible. The ultimate outcome for those cases where it is not economically feasible to dispose of the dredge material beneficially in the LCZ, is for the CUP applicant to pay into a dedicated fund based on a fair cost. The fund will be used by the state for beneficial use projects (e.g., wetland and habitat restoration) such as the Dedicated Dredge Program.

Based on the results of the study, the LDNR/CMD will propose new legislation/rule making requiring applicants (possibly both state and federal) to pay a fee to the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Mitigation Account in those cases when it is determined not to be cost-effective to dispose of dredge material beneficially. The CMD will build a GIS database which will allow for the tracking of contributions made to the fund.

Activities

- Work with Coastal Restoration Division (CRD) and Coastal Engineering Division (CED) staff to determine the cut-off for cost effectiveness of using dredge materially beneficially. As much as possible LDNR staff will use already existing information such as Dedicated Dredge Program data. LDNR/CMD staff will determine a fee based on cost/cubic yard of dredge material that will be required in those cases where the beneficial use of dredge material is not cost-effective.
- Establish a Division Policy requiring applicants to pay a fee to the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Mitigation Account in those cases when it is determined not to be cost-effective to dispose of dredge material beneficially.
- Build a GIS database which will allow for the tracking of contributions made to the fund.
- Propose new legislation/rule making requiring applicants to pay a fee to the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Mitigation Account.

Model Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plans

Program Change Categories

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement or understanding.
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances.

FDCA-DEM proposes to facilitate the development of post-disaster redevelopment plans (PDRP) statewide. Model plans will be produced as examples for all coastal communities and a "Best Practices Guide" will be revised to help with PDRP development. FDCA-DEM will also propose legislation to require communities to develop a PDRP as part of the local government comprehensive plan.

Post-disaster redevelopment planning would improve the state's ability to recover from disasters and guide redevelopment in an appropriate manner. All Florida communities must adopt, regularly evaluate and update their comprehensive growth management plans. The plans prepared by the 197 communities that abut the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico must also include a separate coastal management element. While PDRPs are a recommended component of the coastal management element, few local governments have adopted them. In addition, all Florida communities would benefit from a PDRP, not just the coastal communities. While the required comprehensive plans and coastal management elements have all been adopted, information regarding the number of communities with PDRPs is not available. The best information, a survey conducted as part of the 1995 Hurricane Opal Case Study, indicates that 65 of the 113 communities that responded to the survey believed that they were required to prepare a PDRP. Of those 65 communities, only 27 stated that they had actually prepared the plan. An inspection of the 27 plan documents revealed that 13 of these plans included a separate recovery plan that exceeded the policies that should be included in the coastal management element of the comprehensive plan. Anecdotal information suggests that the situation has not improved since 1995.

Activities

- Identify communities with current PDRPs and evaluate their effectiveness.
- Complete model PDRPs for four communities.
- Revise Best Practices Guide to aid in the development of PDRPs.
- Propose legislation requiring local governments to adopt PDRPs as part of their local government comprehensive plan.

Metro Bay SAMP Urban Coastal Greenway

Program Change Categories

- New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs; and
- New or revised special area management plans (SAMP) or plans for areas of particular concern (APC) including enforceable policies and other necessary implementation mechanisms or criteria and procedures for designating and managing APCs.

The purpose of this program change is to establish a new Urban Coastal Greenway Policy for the Metro Bay SAMP. This policy will allow for coastal redevelopment within the Metro Bay SAMP region, while also increasing public access to the coast, improving water quality via on-site vegetative stormwater treatment, and preserving and restoring the aesthetic value, including natural habitats, of Rhode Island's urban shoreline.

As part of this program change, CRMC staff will also work with the state legislature to establish an Urban Coastal Greenways Program fund for the Metro Bay Region (currently purposed in Rhode Island senate bill.) Funds collected under the Urban Coastal Greenways Program would be placed into a trust to be used for coastal habitat restoration and/or habitat conservation of a designated high-priority restoration or conservation area within the Metro Bay Region.

The state's existing buffer rules are not designed for the specific challenges of urban environments, specifically in the Metro Narragansett Bay Region (Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, and Providence). These original buffer regulations were not designed to accommodate the large-scale, coastal redevelopment that is currently being proposed for the Metro Bay Region. Specifically, the current coastal buffer regulations require that buffer zones be undisturbed and allowed to grow naturally in order to gain the maximum wildlife habitat and water quality benefits possible. While it is still desirable to achieve the maximum habitat and water quality benefits possible within urban areas, the design of vegetative buffers must also acknowledge and cultivate the need for increased public access to the shoreline. In addition, urban buffers require thoughtful design and maintenance if they are to achieve water quality goals in areas dominated by impervious cover.

Activities

- Complete development of an urban coastal greenway policy; implement the policy; go out to public notice with new policy.
- Develop changes to policy, as needed based on assessments and public comments; undertake rule-making process to incorporate revisions; adopt revised Urban Coastal Green Policy as part of the Metro Bay SAMP.
- Work with Legislature to create an Urban Coastal Greenway fund.

Guidance Document on Coordinated Aquaculture Permitting

Program Change Categories

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding; and
- New or revised guidelines, procedures and policy documents which are formally adopted by a state or territory and provide specific interpretations of enforceable coastal management program policies to applicants, local government and other agencies that will result in meaningful improvements in coastal resource management.

The Office of Long Island Sound Programs (OLISP) intends to develop a guidance document for aquaculture permitting with associated instruction forms and FAQ documents as needed. OLISP will formally propose this guidance document as regulations under CGS § 22a-361(c), or as a formal amendment to the Department's published coastal permit application documents.

While OLISP no longer has direct regulatory jurisdiction over many aquaculture activities, efforts at clarifying the several inconsistent and confusing statutes governing aquaculture regulation have been unsuccessful to date. Since the law was first changed in 1999, OLISP has received many applications for aquaculture operations, both large and small, making it a higher priority to develop a means through which to explain the current legal framework as it relates to aquaculture and to clarify the permitting requirements to the regulated community. A guidance document will be necessary to explain the laws and to specify what regulatory procedures apply in what circumstances.

The reissuance of the Corps' Programmatic General Permit (PGP) allows many aquaculture applicants to obtain an expedited review from the Corps. However, the agencies will need to provide additional guidance to highlight which regulated actives are still subject to the OLISP permitting process (i.e., those activities which do not meet the exemption). The proposed regulations will assist both potential applicants and staff of the various agencies by clarifying the jurisdictional and regulatory requirements for specific types of aquaculture proposals. In addition, the regulations are expected to include siting

and design suggestions so as to render aquaculture applications consistent with the relevant enforceable policies of the Connecticut Coastal Management Program. Developing this guidance document will also improve effective interagency coordination in regulating aquaculture projects in the state.

Activities

- Participate interagency workgroup meetings to review current aquaculture policies and application process; develop draft guidance.
- Participate in additional interagency workgroup meetings to finalize Aquaculture Permitting Guidance.
- Formally adopt the guidance either through regulation or amendment to Department's coastal permit application documents.

Implementing Legislative Changes to the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines

Program Change Categories

- New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement or understanding; and
- New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances.

The purpose of this strategy is to provide policy and technical assistance to local governments, engaged in development of updated Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). The new Shoreline Master Program Guidelines direct the update of every SMP in the coastal zone over the next decade. Although the new guidelines rule is in effect, significant technical and policy issues must still be addressed before local governments can properly implement the guidelines and address the cumulative impacts of anticipated growth. With the ongoing presence of endangered species as an issue, technical considerations are even greater than previously expected.

Continuing development of a wide variety of guidance and technical assistance materials will be essential. An ongoing program for disseminating such information through outreach and training of local government shoreline planners and others will also be critical to success. Each local government must consider the options and tradeoffs inherent in the program. The guidelines require local governments to inventory the resources and characteristics of their shorelines and address the direct and cumulative impacts of development on the shorelines in a manner that preserves and restores the natural character of the shoreline. For this strategy, approximately 30 local governments will develop and adopt updated local SMPs. The Department of Ecology will review and approve all SMPs. These SMPs, once approved by the federal Office for Coastal Management (OCM), will become an approved part of Washington's Coastal Management Program. Full implementation in the coastal counties will not occur under the legislatively mandated schedule until 2014.

Activities

- Prepare policy and technical guidance, presentations, and related materials that send a consistent message and establish the foundation for building capacity at all levels.
- Develop "good examples" that we can reference and others may replicate.
- Provide training and outreach to other related interest groups (i.e. realtors, shoreline property owners, general citizenry, other state resource agencies, etc.).
- In the near term, prepare outcome-based, general guidance describing new guidelines requirements, suggested methods, and steps in developing guidelines compliant SMPs.

- Use Ecology's web-based guidance as the method for organizing existing and future training materials. The web site will contain a different page for each major step in SMP development: a general description of the topic and what is required; links to statutory and guidelines rule language; available state-level information; and links to good local SMP examples where they exist.
- Host local government coordination meetings on at least a quarterly basis with the dual purpose of:
    - Providing Ecology with a consistent and predictable conduit for presenting the latest information to local grant recipients, and
    - Providing local government planners with a regular guidelines-specific venue for person-to-person networking as new SMP updates are being developed.
- Organize guidance and outreach using a web-based approach with direct links to available websites addressing:
    - The latest scientific and technical information
    - Contact information for others doing SMP updates
    - Funding opportunities
    - Training opportunities

Appendix F: Example Stakeholder Questions

Q1. Which of the nine enhancement areas do you feel are the highest priority for the state's coastal management program? Rank your top three in order of priority. Briefly explain why.

Q2. What do you feel are the greatest problems regarding those priority enhancement areas?

- Enhancement Area A:
- Enhancement Area B:
- Enhancement Area C:

Q3. What are the greatest opportunities for enhancing the state's coastal management program to more effectively address those problems?

- Enhancement Area A:
- Enhancement Area B:
- Enhancement Area C: