



Permitting - How Does It Work in My State's Coastal Management Program?

Not every coastal management program operates the same way. For people new to the permitting process, this document is helpful because it contains key questions to ask. Adding answers to this form creates a summary of foundational knowledge useful for any permit analysis.

Note: To complete the worksheet, have on hand the following resources:

- The coastal management program's federally approved final environmental impact statement and program documents
- NOAA's final approval findings for the coastal management program
- Authorities, policies, and standards for the program
- Information on the program's permit application process

Program supervisors, colleagues, and subject matter experts are also helpful resources.

1. Coastal Resource Protection

- a. What kinds of coastal resources are found in your region?
- b. What coastal resources are in high demand?
- c. What coastal hazards occur in your coastal zone? Which shorelines have the highest hazard exposure?
- d. What impacts are your coastal management program most concerned about?

2. Permitting Land and Water Uses

- a. What water uses require a permit under the coastal management program?
- b. What land uses require a permit?

3. Permitting Authorities

- a. Which approach or combination of approaches is used?
- b. What is the agency's responsibility for issuing permits?

4. Permitting Boundaries

- a. Where are the boundaries of the coastal zone in this geography?
- b. Where does the federal government control lands?

5. Policies and Standards

- a. What are our coastal management program's coastal policies and standards, particularly, what are the "enforceable policies"?

6. Areas of Particular Concern

- a. What are the areas of particular concern in our geography?
- b. What are the special values or characteristics of these areas?

7. Public Comment

- a. What are the standards and guidance for the public comment process including notification requirements?
- b. What is the role of public comment in the permit process?