



Coastal Zone Management Act

Overview

A compilation of materials from the CZMA Overview module

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Slide presentation content - Part 1 | |
| Relevance to New Coastal Program Staff..... | 3 |
| How your work relates to the CZMA..... | 4 |
| How your work furthers coastal management goals..... | 5 |
| Your CZMA partners..... | 6 |
| Real world scenario..... | 7 |
| | |
| CZMA History..... | 10 |
| National Coastal Zone Management Program..... | 12 |
| National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS)..... | 13 |
| Coastal Programs and NERRS..... | 14 |
| | |
| CZMA Approaches and Support..... | 15 |
| Partnership - The State Role..... | 20 |
| Partnership - The Federal Role..... | 21 |
| NOAA Office for Coastal Management..... | 22 |
| | |
| Key Points..... | 24 |
| | |
| CZMA Quiz..... | 26 |
| | |
| Slide presentation content - Part 2 | |
| 8 “Good to Know” Sections of the CZMA..... | 34 |
| | |
| Additional CZMA Resources..... | 43 |
| | |
| CZMA Quick References..... | 44 |
| Section-By-Section Descriptions..... | 45 |
| Eight “Good to Know” Sections..... | 48 |

While it may not always be obvious, the federal CZMA is an integral part of all state CZM (coastal zone management) programs.

As a new staff person to the coastal management program, you may be wondering if it really is necessary to know about the CZMA and its regulations and programs.

Do I really need to know about the CZMA and its regulations and programs?

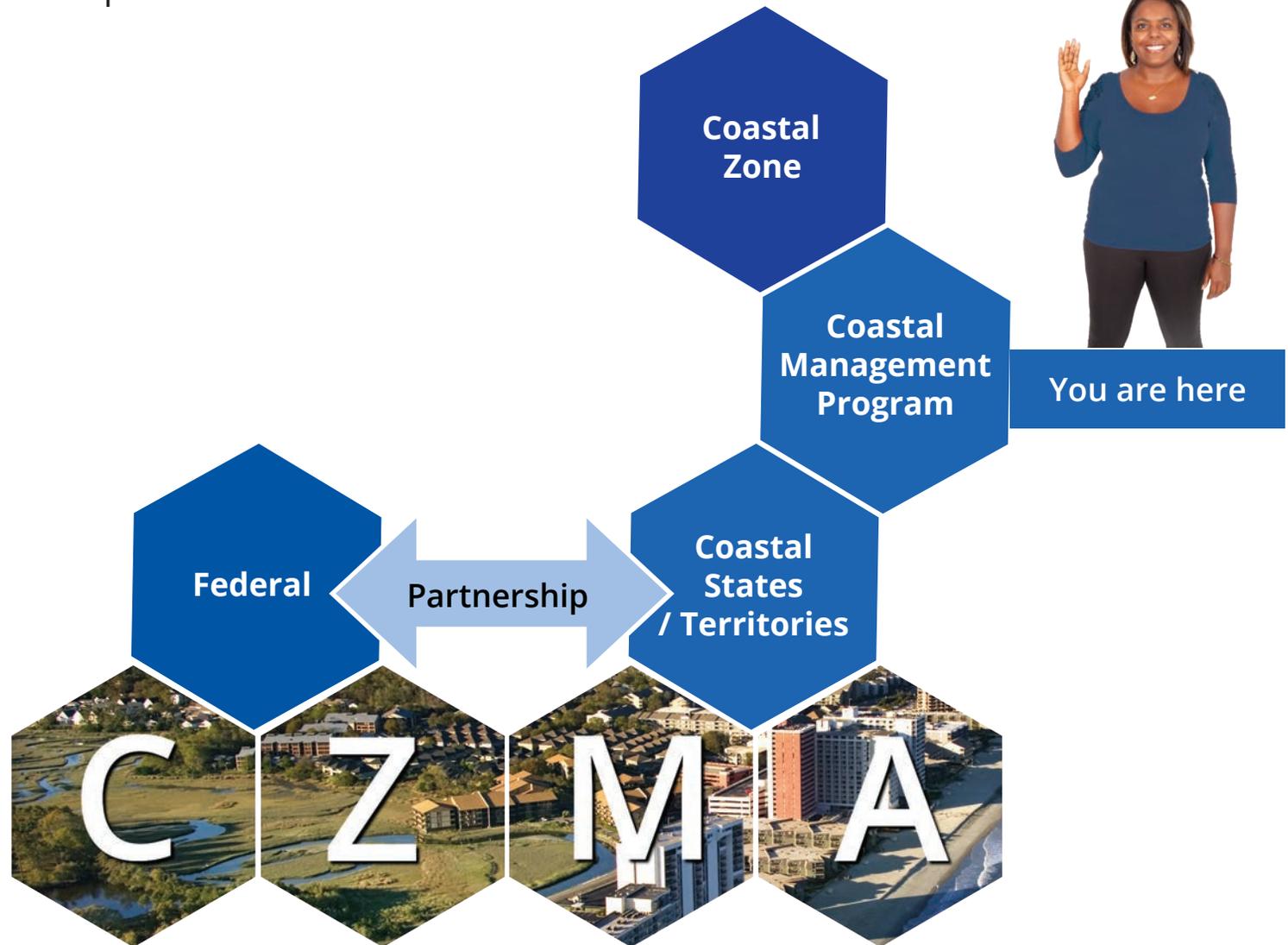
What's the big deal if I don't?



New Coastal Program Staff

How your work relates to the **CZMA**

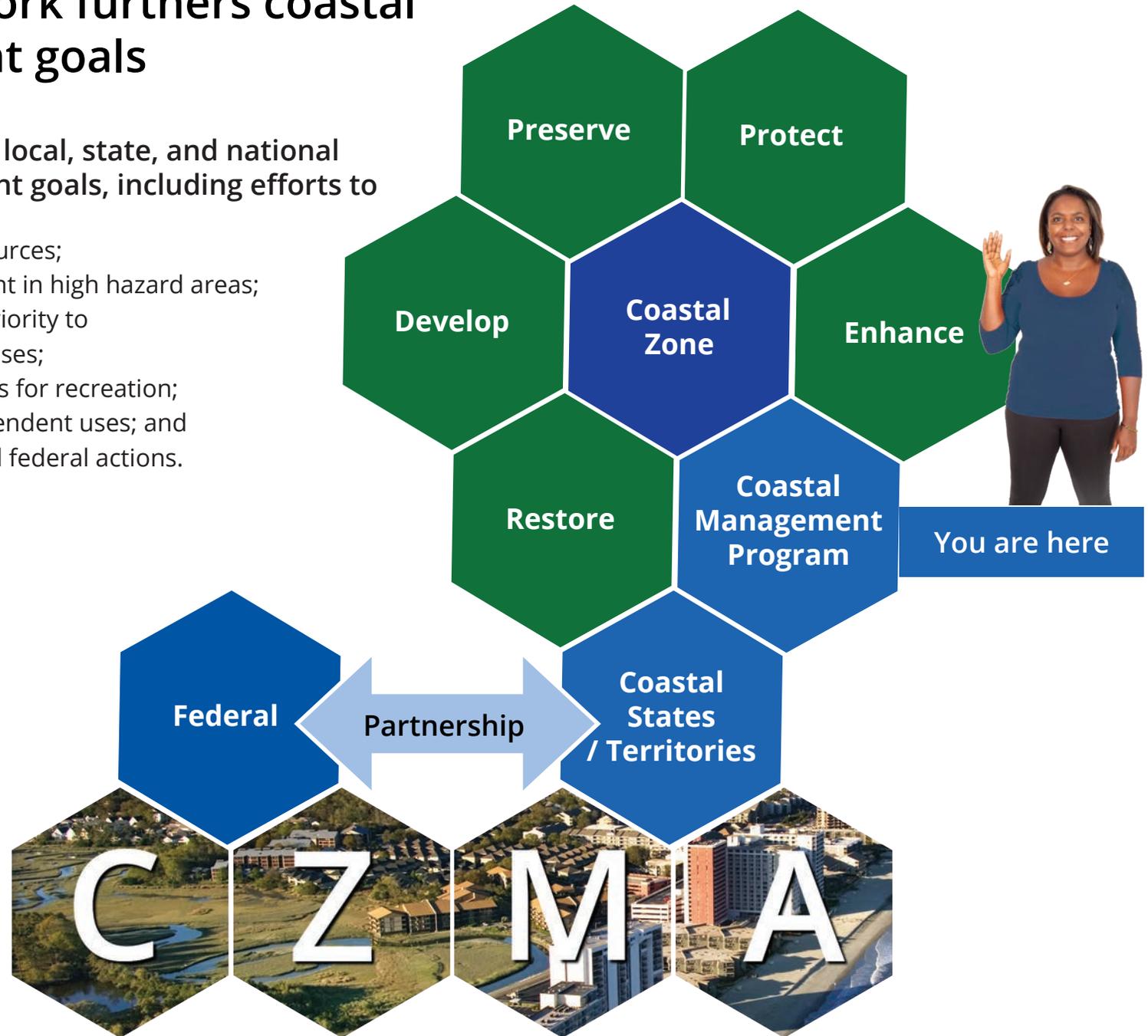
State CZM programs are directly related to and supported by this national legislation and the federal-state partnership it creates.



How your work furthers coastal management goals

Your work furthers local, state, and national coastal management goals, including efforts to

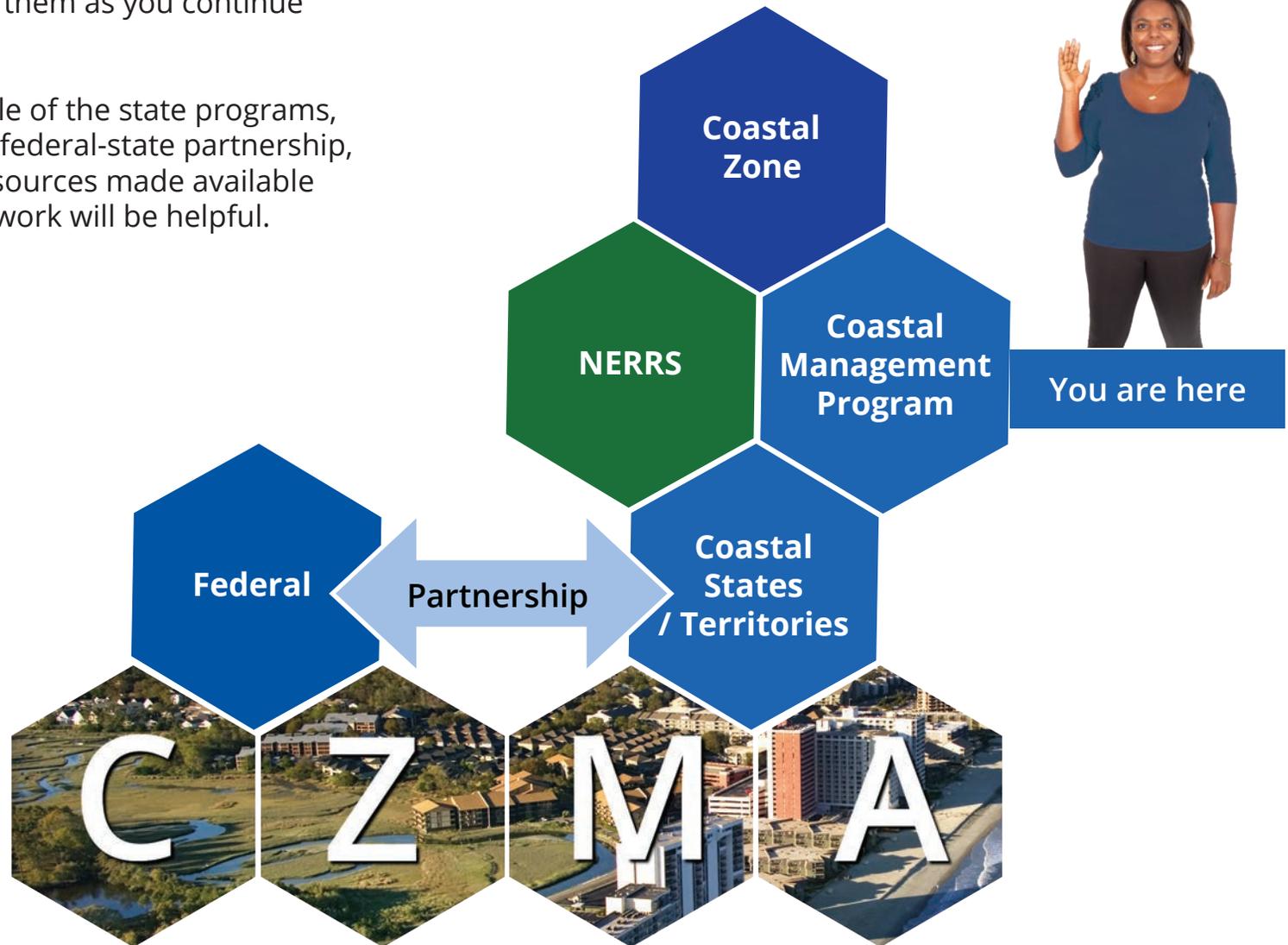
- ◇ protect natural resources;
- ◇ manage development in high hazard areas;
- ◇ give development priority to coastal-dependent uses;
- ◇ provide public access for recreation;
- ◇ prioritize water-dependent uses; and
- ◇ coordinate state and federal actions.



Your CZMA partners

The national legislation also supports a system of estuarine research reserves around the country, often referred to as NERRS (National Estuarine Research Reserve System). You will learn more about them as you continue reading.

Understanding the role of the state programs, the reserves, and the federal-state partnership, and how to access resources made available through this CZM network will be helpful.



Real world scenario

Your coastal management program is considering a **living shorelines policy**.

Staff are determining whether a policy is needed and the effort required to draft one. **You are charged with leading this effort.**

How might knowledge of the CZMA help with this task?



Real world scenario

If you have knowledge of the CZMA:

- ◇ You would know
 - there are 34 other coastal management programs and many of them are working on living shorelines.
 - many reserves conduct research on this topic and provide related training and outreach support.
- ◇ You could reach out to these programs and obtain first-hand knowledge, materials, and lessons learned.
- ◇ You would know a NOAA review and approval must be a part of your process for policies that are incorporated into your approved program.
- ◇ You could reach out to NOAA's Office for Coastal Management for resources and guidance.



Learn about your program

Ask a colleague about a scenario in your program - when might you encounter a situation when you need to know about or reference the CZMA?

Real world scenario

Imagine the consequences of doing your job without knowing about the CZMA.

Understanding the CZMA and the national program will provide savings in terms of time, money, and effort, and will make your work and your program more effective.



State of the Coast 45+ years ago

To understand the Coastal Zone Management Act, it is helpful to understand what the coasts were experiencing back then. In the late 1960s,

- ◇ The coast was under pressure from population growth and economic development.
- ◇ There were increasing and competing demands for using coastal lands and waters.
- ◇ Competing uses included industry, commerce, residential development, recreation, extraction of mineral resources and fossil fuels, transportation and navigation, waste disposal, and commercial fishing.
- ◇ These uses were affecting the marine resources, wildlife, and coastal and estuarine ecosystems. There were challenges balancing the conflicts arising because of the competing demands.

Congress recognized the importance of the coast and the need to address these challenges.



Cleveland Press Collection at Cleveland State University Library

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

In the 1970s proposals for national land use legislation were considered but never adopted. However, Congress felt the coastal zones were so important to the future of the nation that the CZMA was enacted in 1972. Much of it was based on a 1969 presidential blue ribbon “Stratton Commission” report focusing on marine issues.

The Act created two primary programs

- ◇ the National Coastal Zone Management Program, and the
- ◇ National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

State participation in these programs is voluntary, and the emphasis is on a state and federal partnership approach to addressing coastal zone issues.

The following will address the two programs in more detail.



National Coastal Zone Management Program

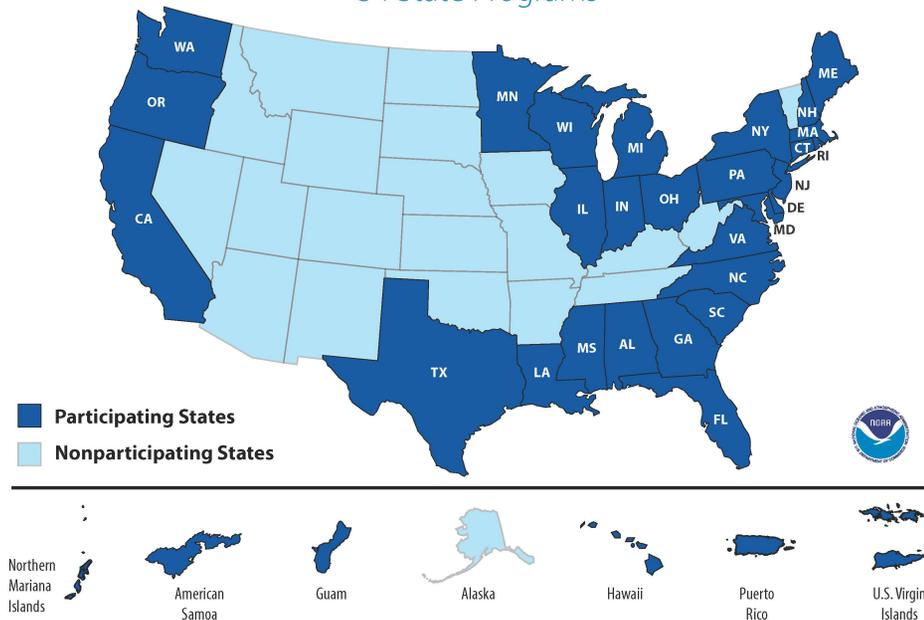
Coastal zone management programs are designed to

- ◇ Preserve, protect, develop, and, where possible, restore and enhance the natural resources found in the coastal zone by
- ◇ developing and implementing comprehensive, coastal land and water use planning and management programs.

Congress believed the most productive approach would be to encourage states to exercise their full authority over coastal lands and waters through state-based land and water use programs for the coastal zone. Since each program is based on requirements found in the CZMA, national priorities are being met, and yet states have the flexibility to design programs that meet each state's specific needs and situations.

National Coastal Zone Management Program

34 State Programs



- ◇ Since the CZMA was adopted, all coastal states, Great Lake states, and U.S. territories and commonwealths, have developed coastal management programs approved by Secretary of Commerce.
- ◇ The first program approved was Washington in 1974 and the most recent state to join was Illinois in 2012.
- ◇ Currently, 34 of the 35 eligible programs are participating. Alaska withdrew from the program in 2011.



Learn about
your program

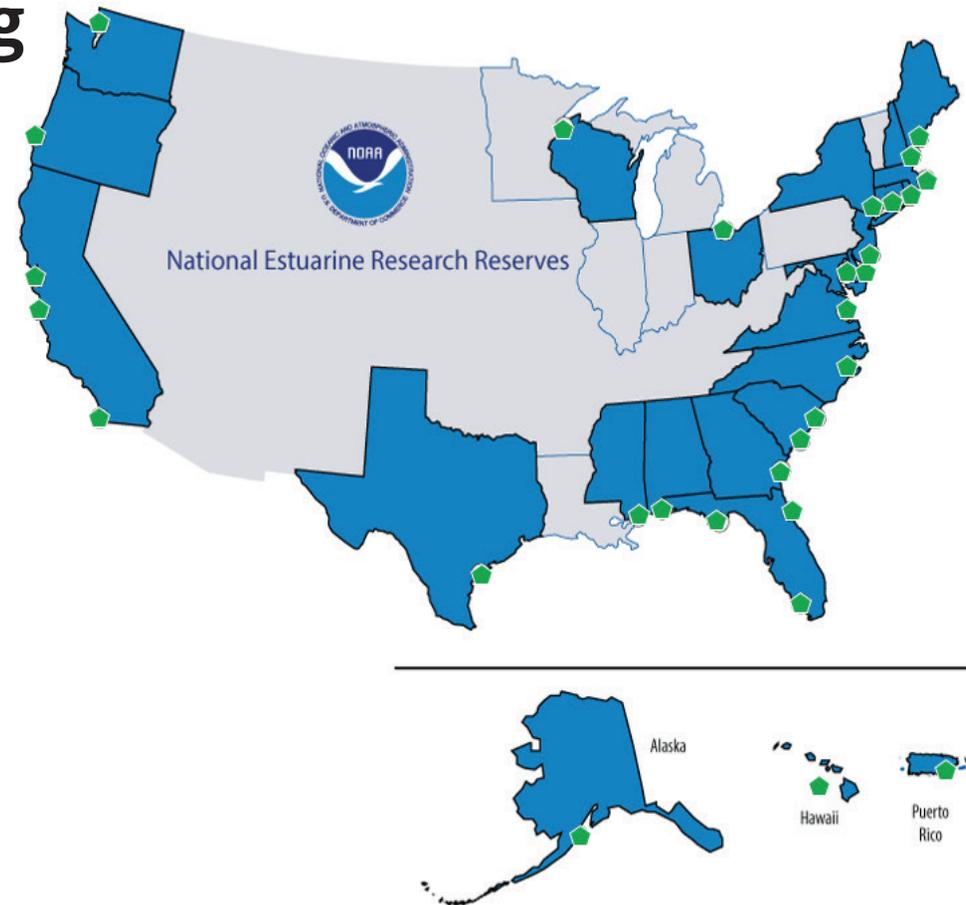
When was your program approved?

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

29 Reserves Participating

The National Estuarine Research Reserves System is a network of 29 coastal sites engaged in long-term research, environmental monitoring, education, and stewardship, all of which are designed to help communities and the nation meet coastal management goals.

- ◇ The first reserve designation was Oregon's South Slough research reserve in 1974.
- ◇ The most recent addition is the He'eia research reserve in Hawaii in 2017.
- ◇ Twenty-three states and Puerto Rico have research reserves.



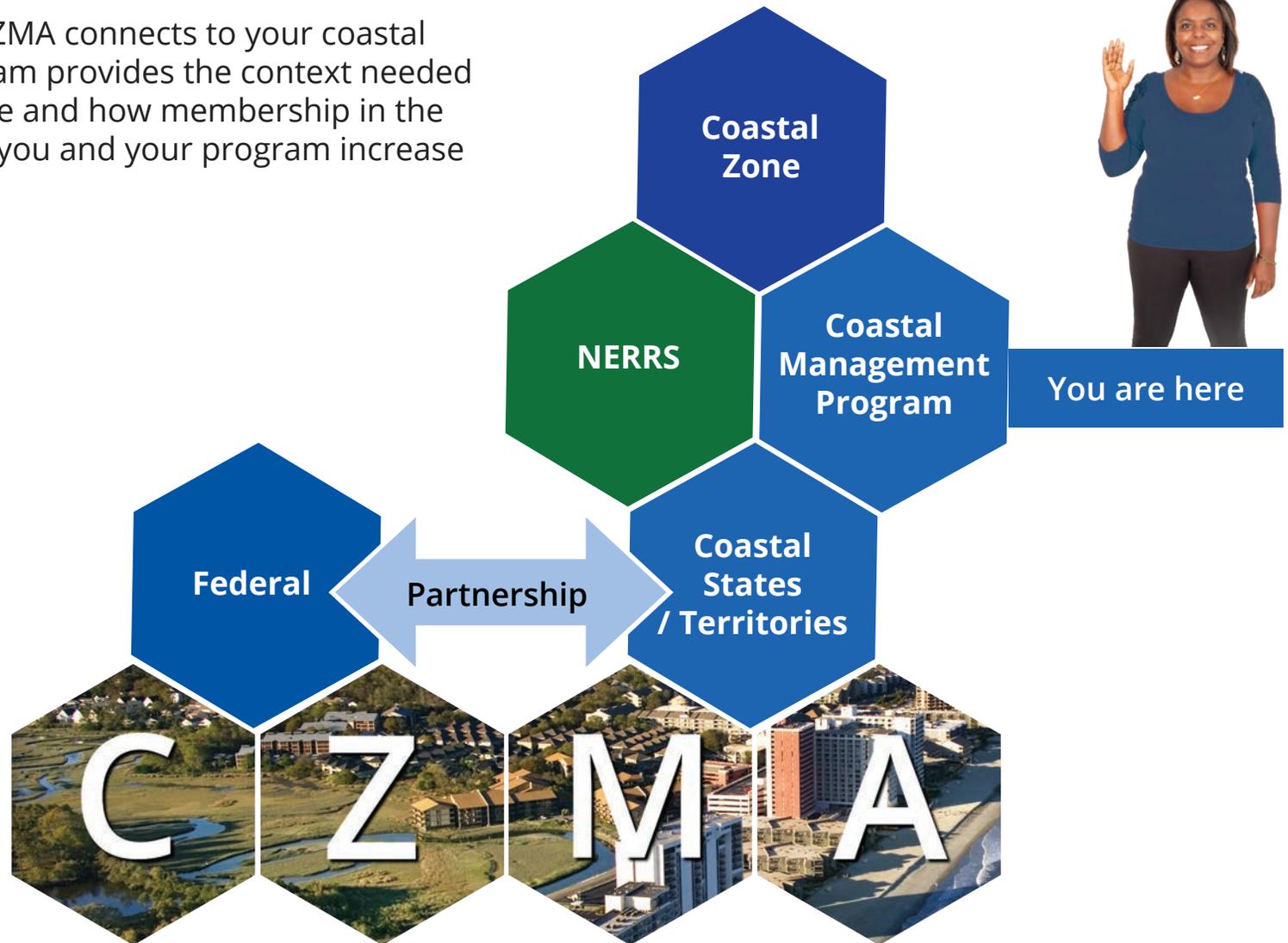
Learn about your program

How many (if any) research reserves are in your state and what are their name(s)?

Coastal Programs and NERRS

Your work as part of a coastal management program contributes to state coastal management goals and national CZMA goals.

Learning how the CZMA connects to your coastal management program provides the context needed to see the big picture and how membership in the CZM network helps you and your program increase effectiveness.



CZMA Approaches and Support

The CZMA provides the operational framework for state coastal management programs. This image shows various approaches the CZMA encourages, as well as types of support the CZMA provides. These topics will be described in more detail.



The CZMA emphasizes an approach that is

- ◆ **Comprehensive**, both in terms of addressing coastal issues and coordinating across stakeholders;
- ◆ **Balanced**, focusing not only on environmental protection, but also on supporting responsible, appropriately-sited development;
- ◆ **Proactive**, addressing both emerging and long-standing coastal management issues; and
- ◆ **Coordinated**, supporting partnerships and coordination at federal, state, and local levels.



The CZMA also outlines a number of common goals for coastal programs to address when managing land and water resources. These may sound familiar.

- ◇ Protecting natural resources
- ◇ Managing development in high hazard areas
- ◇ Giving development priority to coastal-dependent uses
- ◇ Providing public access for recreation
- ◇ Improving coastal water quality
- ◇ Coordinating state and federal actions
- ◇ Involving the public



Learn about your program

- ◇ Does your coastal management program focus on one or more of these areas?
- ◇ What coastal resources exist in your state?
- ◇ What kinds of coastal hazards pose risks to development?
- ◇ Have you visited a beach using a public access point?
- ◇ Does your coastline include urban waterfronts?
- ◇ What are examples of cultural, historic, or visual features in your coastal areas?



The CZMA provides the flexibility states need to design programs that best address local challenges and work within state and local laws and regulations. This approach means state programs can be set up in a variety of ways, as long as the CZMA requirements are met.

These requirements are outlined in Section 306 of the CZMA and include the need to

- ◇ Establish coastal zone boundaries - Each state establishes a coastal zone boundary, which defines the areas where the coastal management program has regulatory and management interest.
- ◇ Define types of land uses and water uses subject to the terms of the program.
- ◇ Identify authorities to manage these uses, including policies that are enforceable.
- ◇ Inventory and designate areas of particular concern in the coastal zone using a science-based process.
- ◇ Incorporate public participation processes and approaches.
- ◇ Consider national interests - States must provide for adequate consideration of activities that are important for regional and national purposes, e.g., defense activities, energy projects, navigation.
- ◇ Ensure implementation and enforcement ability - Having an organizational structure to implement and enforce the state coastal management program.
- ◇ Coordinate with government programs - Establishing a process for continued coordination between the program and governments at all levels.

This covers the basics in terms of program approach, goals, and design.

The CZMA does not require states to create coastal management programs nor does it delegate authority to manage coastal land and water uses. Rather, states participate voluntarily and use their own authorities (sometimes through companion state coastal zone management legislation) to carry out their coastal management programs.

This approach begs the question – why do states participate in the national program? The CZMA provides a number of incentives, including the following.

- ◇ A national framework and federal support for comprehensive statewide coastal management.
- ◇ Funding for program development, program administration and implementation (including small scale construction and land acquisition), and program enhancement efforts.
- ◇ A framework to address emerging issues and long-standing challenges, through the Section 309 Coastal Zone Enhancement Program.
- ◇ The ability to ensure that federal actions (both within and outside a state's coastal zone) that affect state coastal uses or resources are consistent with the state's approved program through the federal consistency provision of the CZMA.
- ◇ Access to helpful products and technical assistance.

Another reason not specifically addressed in the legislation concerns the benefits derived from being part of a national system that allows for peer-to-peer learning. For example, NOAA hosts national and regional meetings annually to encourage interaction among the programs.



Learn about your program

How much federal funding does your state's coastal management program generally receive each year?

Partnership - The State Role

The CZMA relies on a federal-state partnership approach to achieve coastal management goals. The program provides the means by which state and federal expertise, policies, and resources come together. The different roles of the entities (federal and state governments) are used to support one another and get the job done.

The state's role is to implement. States work at the state and local level to implement coastal management programs.

They work with local communities, across state agencies, and in coordination with federal agencies. The focus on a partnership and coordination structure is designed to provide a catalyst for problem solving, partnership building, and on-the-ground changes.

Roles and activities include

- ◇ Develop enforceable programs that meet the requirements of the Act and its regulations.
- ◇ Implement coastal management programs including
 - ▷ Planning
 - ▷ Permitting and enforcement
 - ▷ Federal consistency
 - ▷ Land acquisition
 - ▷ Local and state capacity building
 - ▷ Education and outreach
 - ▷ Public involvement
 - ▷ Government coordination

- ◇ Manage CZMA funding agreements. Each coastal program negotiates and implements an annual cooperative agreement with NOAA to receive program funding.
- ◇ Implement 5-year strategies. Each program works to enhance their programs through 5-year strategies under the CZMA's section 309 enhancement grant program.
- ◇ Semi-annual reporting to cover implementation strategies and results.
- ◇ Partner coordination, with a variety of partners, including the National Estuarine Research Reserves.



Learn about your program

- ◇ What are examples of your program's role in implementing the state's coastal management program?
- ◇ What are examples of how CZMA funding is used in your program?
- ◇ What are examples of the top priority areas and strategies from a current assessment of your program?
- ◇ When did the last on-site evaluation occur in your coastal management program?

Partnership - The Federal Role

The federal role is led by NOAA, who administers the National Coastal Zone Management Program and supports state implementation of the CZMA. (NOAA is under the Department of Commerce.) NOAA's roles include

- ◇ Providing program development technical and financial assistance.
- ◇ Approving programs and subsequent program changes.
- ◇ Providing program implementation funding.
- ◇ Supporting state-federal coordination efforts.
 - ▷ NOAA provides general guidance to states as they implement Section 307 (federal consistency provisions).
 - ▷ NOAA interprets the federal consistency regulations.
 - ▷ NOAA mediates disputes between states and federal agencies on federal consistency matters.
 - ▷ NOAA conducts training on federal consistency.
- ◇ Reviewing five-year, state-conducted assessments and enhancement strategies.
- ◇ Providing technical assistance including management, policy, and conflict resolution.
- ◇ Conducting a "continuing review" to ensure the state is implementing its program as approved, is addressing priority goals of the CZMA, and that CZMA funding is being used in a cost effective manner consistent with funding rules.
- ◇ Adopting all necessary guidance, rules, and regulations.

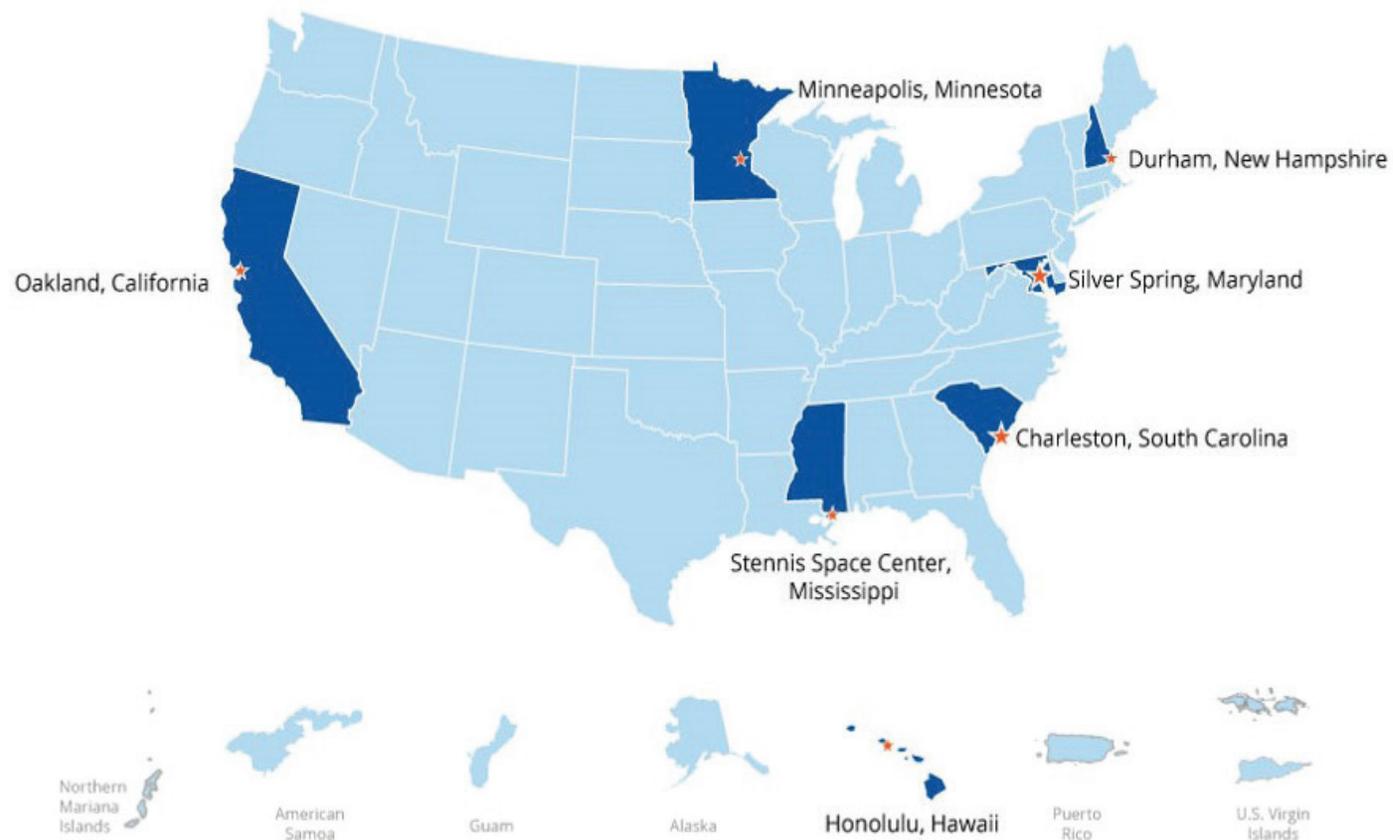


NOAA Office for Coastal Management

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management administers the National Coastal Zone Management Program.

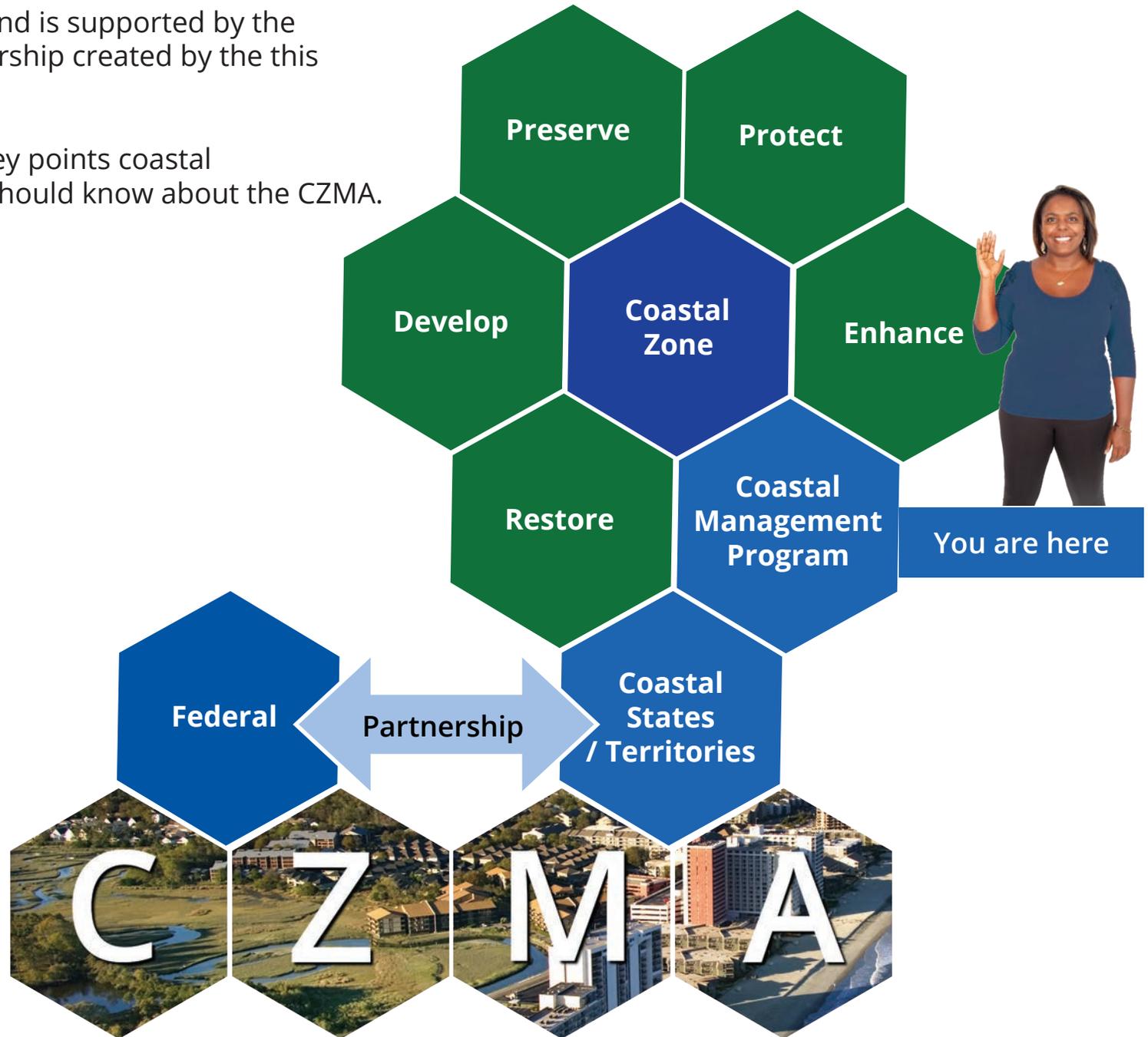
In addition to all of the roles outlined on the previous slide, this NOAA office also provides significant coastal management support including data, tools, and training through the Digital Coast website and staff located around the country.

As a member of a coastal management program, you can reach out to NOAA staff for assistance.



The work you do contributes to the national goals of the CZMA and is supported by the federal-state partnership created by the this legislation.

Let's review some key points coastal management staff should know about the CZMA.



Key Points

The following summarizes the key points needed to have a basic understanding of the CZMA and the coastal management program framework, the federal-state partnership, and the national network of coastal management programs.

- ◇ The CZMA was enacted in 1972 to preserve, protect and develop, and, where possible, to restore and enhance the resources of the coastal zone.
- ◇ The CZMA created a voluntary partnership between NOAA and the states. The product of this partnership is a coastal management program.
- ◇ The CZMA encourages states to develop and implement comprehensive, coastal land and water use planning and management programs.
- ◇ Currently 34 of the 35 eligible states, U.S. territories, and commonwealths are implementing a federally approved coastal management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce.
- ◇ The CZMA establishes a system of estuarine reserves called the National Estuarine Research Reserve System to enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine areas, opportunities for public education, and for research to support the protection of these areas. There are 29 research reserves.
- ◇ The CZMA includes a number of goals for coastal management programs to address. These include
 - ▷ protecting natural resources
 - ▷ managing development in high hazard areas
 - ▷ giving development priority to coastal-dependent uses
 - ▷ providing public access for recreation
 - ▷ improving coastal water quality
 - ▷ coordinating state and federal actions
 - ▷ involving the public
- ◇ Coastal management programs are critical to achieving the national goals of the CZMA and form the foundation of a National Coastal Zone Management Program.

Key Points

The following summarizes the key points needed to have a basic understanding of the CZMA and the coastal management program framework, the federal-state partnership, and the national network of coastal management programs.

- ◇ The CZMA authorizes funding to develop, implement, and enhance state-focused programs.
- ◇ The CZMA provides flexibility to the states to design programs that best address local challenges and work within state and local laws and regulations, while also implementing the legislation's requirements, such as identifying coastal zone boundaries and enforceable policies for managing land and water uses.
- ◇ Under the CZMA states can ensure that federal actions that affect state coastal uses or resources (regardless of the location of the activity) are consistent with their approved program.
- ◇ The CZMA requires an ongoing review of the state program to ensure it is being implemented as approved, is addressing priority goals of the CZMA, and that funding use is consistent with the rules.
- ◇ The Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program ensures that participating states have the necessary tools to prevent and control polluted runoff.
- ◇ The CZMA establishes the Coastal Zone Enhancement Program, providing incentives to enhance the state program in nine areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management planning, ocean and Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture.
- ◇ NOAA's Office for Coastal Management administers the CZMA and provides on-going assistance to the states in regards to program implementation.



Coastal Zone Management Act

A Quiz

CZMA Overview: Quiz on Key Content

1. The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) was enacted in _____.
 - a. 1968
 - b. 1972
 - c. 1982
 - d. 1988

2. There is a _____ partnership between NOAA and the states created by the CZMA. The product of this partnership is a coastal management program.
 - a. voluntary
 - b. mandatory
 - c. legally binding
 - d. none of the above

3. The CZMA encourages states to develop and implement _____, coastal land and water use planning and management programs.
 - a. strategic
 - b. local
 - c. regional
 - d. comprehensive

4. Currently _____ of the 35 eligible states, U.S. Territories and Commonwealths are implementing a federally approved coastal management plan approved by Secretary of Commerce.

- a. 32
- b. 33
- c. 34
- d. 35

5. CZMA created two types of programs to address coastal management challenges. The one called the _____ engages in long-term research, environmental monitoring, education, and stewardship.

- a. National Research Reserve System
- b. National Estuarine Research Reserve System
- c. National Reserves for Estuarine Research
- d. National Estuarine Reserve System

6. The CZMA includes a number of goals for coastal management programs to address. Which of the following are included:

- a. protecting natural resources
- b. managing development in high hazard areas
- c. giving development priority to coastal-dependent uses
- d. providing public access for recreation
- e. improving coastal water quality
- f. coordinating state and federal actions
- g. involving the public
- h. all but c.
- i. all but f.
- j. a. - g.

7. _____ are critical to achieving the national goals of the CZMA and form the foundation of a National Coastal Zone Management Program. Circle all that apply.

- a. NERRS
- b. federal-state partnerships
- c. coastal management programs

8. The CZMA authorizes _____ for coastal management programs to develop, implement, and enhance state-focused programs.

- a. funding
- b. NERRS
- c. evaluations
- d. all the above

9. The CZMA provides _____ to the states to design programs that best address local challenges and work within state and local laws and regulations.

- a. rigid stipulations
- b. authority
- c. federal consistency
- d. flexibility

10. The CZMA provides states with authority to review _____ actions that may affect coastal uses or resources, regardless of the location of the activity, for consistency with their policies.

- a. local
- b. state
- c. federal
- d. international

11. The CZMA requires ongoing review of coastal management programs to ensure that the states are implementing their programs as approved, addressing priority goals of the CZMA, and using CZMA funding in a cost-effective manner consistent with funding rules.

- a. True
- b. False

12. The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA) ensure that participating states have the necessary tools to _____.

- a. address shoreline erosion with natural infrastructure
- b. prevent and control point source pollution in the coastal zone
- c. prevent and control polluted runoff through coastal nonpoint pollution control programs

13. The CZMA establishes the _____ Program, which provides incentives to states to enhance their programs within nine key areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management planning, ocean and Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture.

- a. Coastal Zone Enhancement
- b. National Estuarine Research Reserve
- c. Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control
- d. Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation

14. _____ administers the CZMA and provides ongoing assistance to the states in implementing their approved coastal management programs. The _____ provides financial and technical assistance, as well as data, tools, and training, to support these programs.

- a. EPA/National Estuary Program
- b. NOAA/Office for Coastal Management
- c. NOAA/Office of Habitat Conservation
- d. DOI/Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Extra Credit

15. The CZMA includes the word “develop” in its goal for the coastal zone.

- a. True
- b. False

16. There are ____ designated NERRs.

- a. 11
- b. 29
- c. 34
- d. 35

CZMA - Answer Key

14-16 Excellent – you have a firm grasp of the key CZMA information for new staff to know!
12-13 Great – you learned a lot but you might want to review the e-booklet on the topics you missed.
9-11 Good job – you might want to review the e-booklet on the topics you missed and retake the quiz.
> 9 Pat on the back – perhaps read the ebooklet and retake the quiz.

Number correct:

Compare your score to the list below to decide what to do next.

Your Score

- 1. b. 1972
- 2. a. voluntary
- 3. d. comprehensive
- 4. c. 34
- 5. b. National Estuarine Research Reserve System
- 6. j. a-g.
- 7. b. and c.
- 8. a. funding
- 9. d. flexibility
- 10. c. federal
- 11. a. True
- 12. c. prevent and control polluted runoff through coastal nonpoint pollution control programs.
- 13. a. Coastal Zone Enhancement
- 14. b. NOAA/Office for Coastal Management
- Extra Credit
- 15. a. True
- 16. b. 29

8 “Good to Know” Sections of the CZMA

This section addresses some of the specific parts of the CZMA that play a role in developing and implementing a coastal management program. You'll hear these terms around your office. Some people refer to these components by the corresponding section number in the legislation, others by the types of activities or programs the section focuses on.



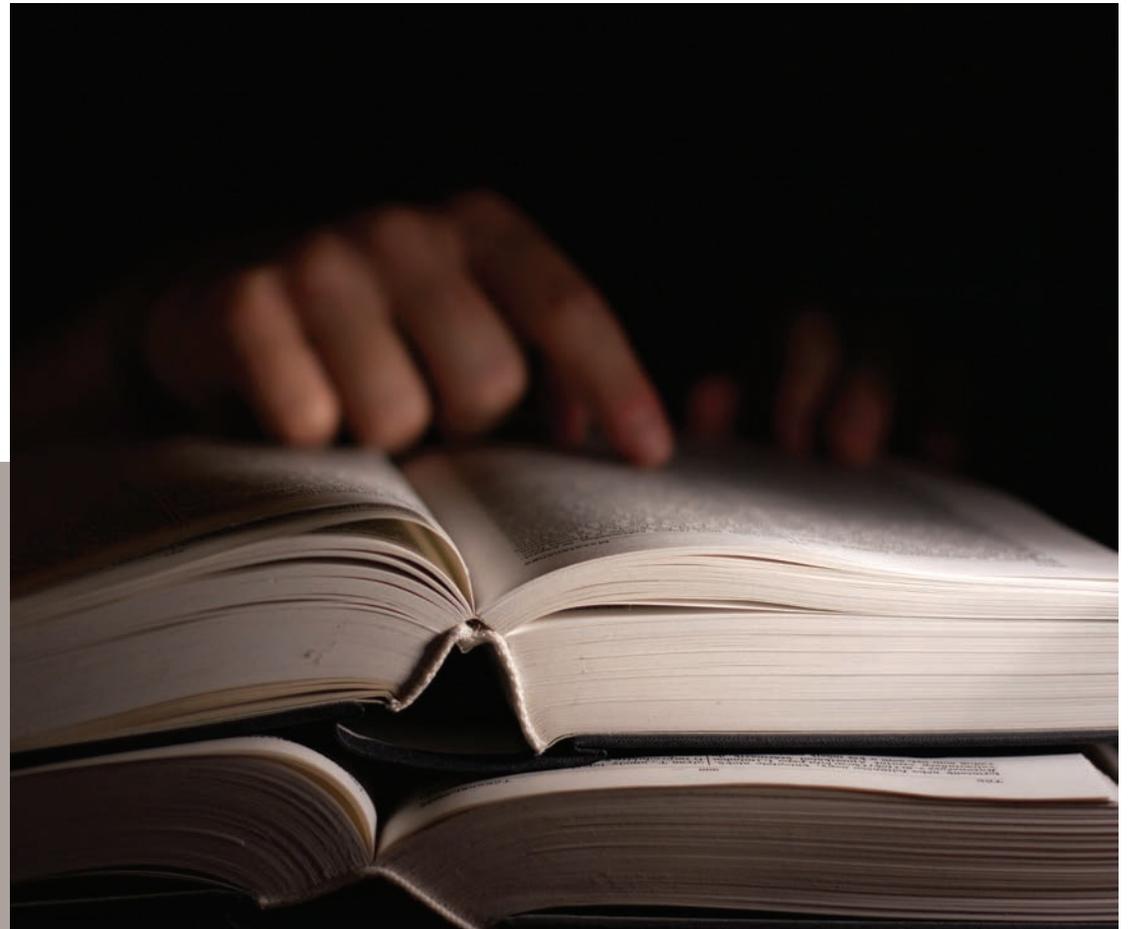
Section 304: Definitions

Section 304 defines important terms used in the CZMA, such as “coastal zone,” “coastal resource of national significance,” “coastal waters,” “coastal state,” “coastal energy activity,” “energy facilities,” and “enforceable policy.”



Good to Know

Section 304 definitions are important because a common understanding of these terms is necessary for the successful development and implementation of a coastal management program.



Section 306: Program Requirements and Implementation

Section 306 outlines requirements to be met for a state program to achieve federally-approved status and receive (and continue to receive) federal funding.

Programs use federal and state funding to support a variety of implementation tools including

- ◇ Planning
- ◇ Permitting and enforcement
- ◇ federal consistency implementation
- ◇ Land acquisition
- ◇ Local and state capacity building
- ◇ Education and outreach
- ◇ Public involvement



Good to Know

Section 306 requirements provide a good overview of the program framework and explain often needed elements, such as coastal zone boundaries and how to implement program changes. This section also explains why programs receive annual CZMA funding support from the federal government.

Section 306A: Coastal Resource Improvement Program

Section 306A authorizes funding for acquisition and construction projects to improve coastal resources including coastal habitat and public access.



Good to know

Section 306A tells you what types of projects are eligible for acquisition and construction project funding.



Section 307: Federal Consistency

Section 307, Coordination and Cooperation - more commonly known as the “federal consistency” provision, requires

- ◇ federal agencies;
- ◇ non-federal entities applying for required federal permits, licenses and other approvals; and
- ◇ state and local government applicants for federal financial assistance

to conduct activities, within and outside the coastal zone, which have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use (land or water) or natural resource of the coastal zone, in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of state coastal management programs.



Good to Know

Section 307, federal consistency, is a unique and powerful tool coastal management programs use to work with federal agencies to manage coastal activities and resources.



Section 309: Coastal Zone Enhancement Grants

Section 309 establishes the Coastal Zone Enhancement Program, which provides funds to coastal states to make improvements in their coastal management programs in nine areas:

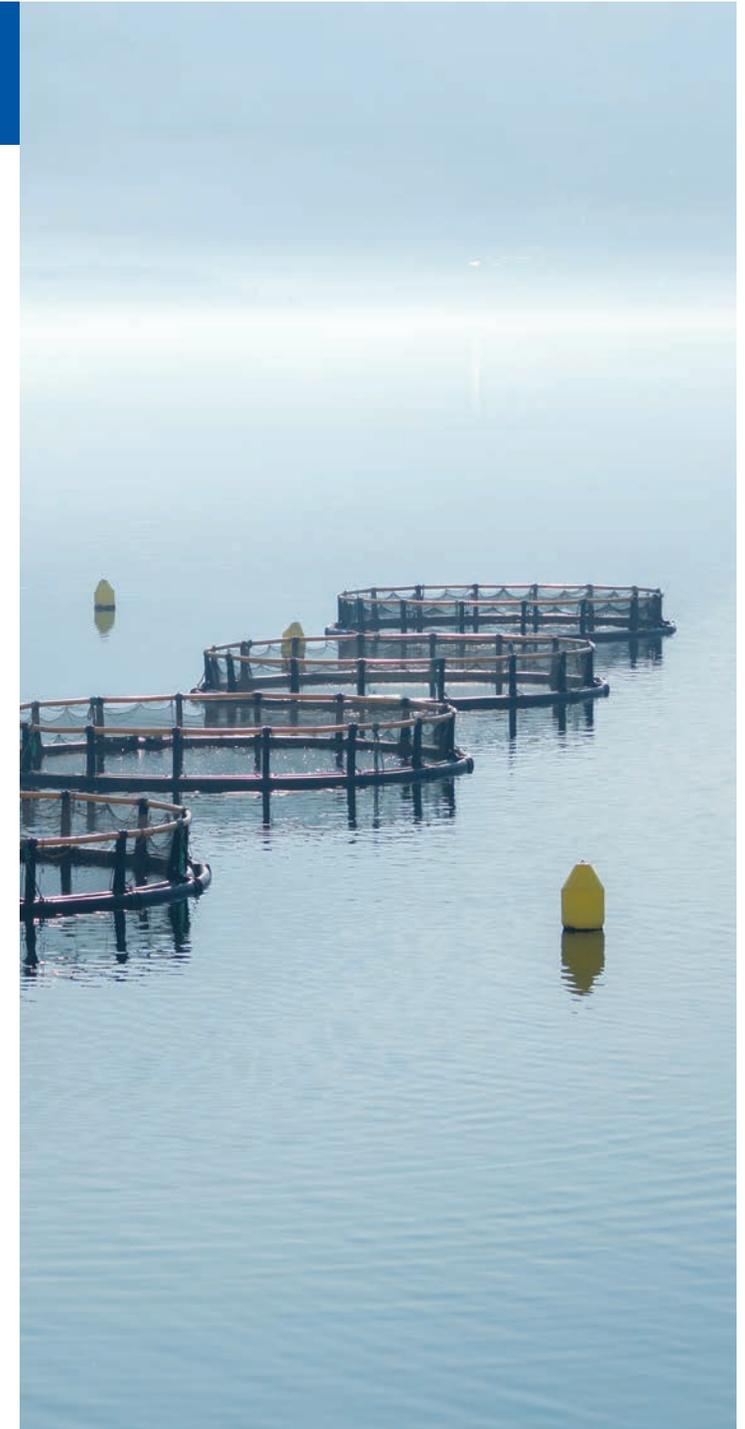
- ◇ Public access
- ◇ Wetlands
- ◇ Hazards
- ◇ Energy facility siting
- ◇ Ocean governance
- ◇ Cumulative and secondary impacts
- ◇ Marine debris
- ◇ Aquaculture
- ◇ SAMPs (special area management plans)

Every 5 years a coastal program assesses these areas and develops new strategies where appropriate that result in changes that enhance program efforts.



Good to Know

Section 309 is used to improve efforts to address critical coastal issues both long-standing and emerging.



Section 312: Review of Performance

Section 312 requires the review of state programs to ensure the state is

- ◇ implementing its program as approved,
- ◇ addressing priority goals of the CZMA, and
- ◇ using CZMA funding in a cost effective manner consistent with funding rules.

NOAA typically conducts these reviews every five to seven years and provides evaluation findings and recommendations.



Good to Know

Section 312 explains the evaluation process. Coastal management programs can use the results for program improvement.

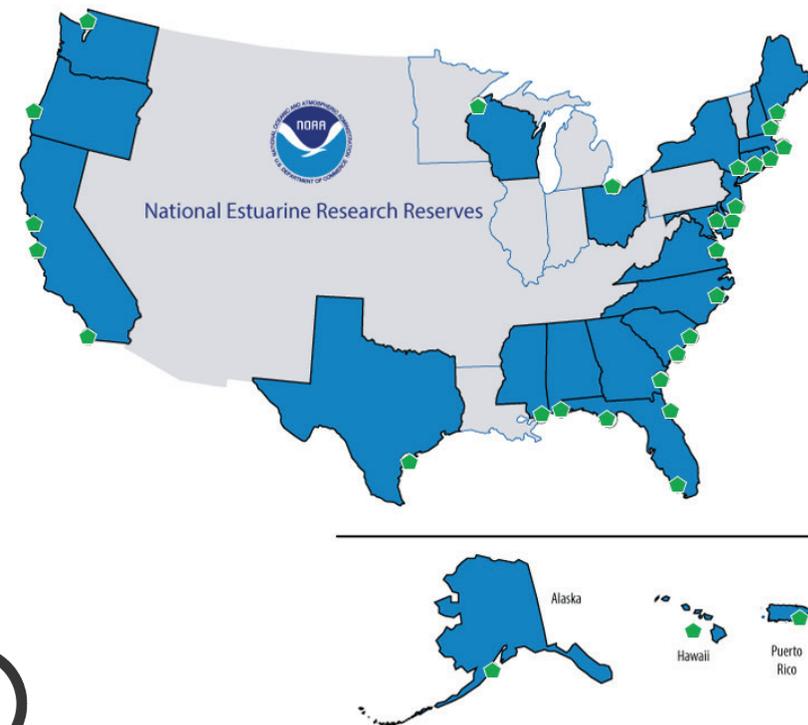


Section 315: National Estuarine Research Reserves

Section 315 established the Estuarine Research Reserve System. This network of 29 coastal sites protects and studies estuarine systems.

The reserves include over 1.3 million acres estuaries and are focused on the following

- ◇ Stewardship. Each site undertakes the initiatives needed to keep estuaries healthy.
- ◇ Research. Reserve-based research and monitoring data are used to aid conservation and management efforts local and national levels.
- ◇ Training. Local and state officials are being equipped to introduce local data into the decision-making process as a result of reserve training efforts.
- ◇ Education. Thousands of children and adults are served through hands-on laboratory and field-based experience. School curriculums are provided online.



Good to Know

Section 315, through the research reserves, provide opportunities to collaborate and to leverage education, training, research, and stewardship resources to support coastal management.

Section 6217: Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA), codified separately from the CZMA, requires states to develop programs and identify best practices to manage the effects of nonpoint pollution to coastal waters. This work is done in collaboration with state water quality, public health, agricultural, forestry, and other agencies and offices responsible for managing activities that can contribute to nonpoint pollution sources.



Good to Know

Section 6217 provides information about one of the tools coastal management programs use to address nonpoint pollution.

Additional CZMA resources can be found on NOAA's:

[Coastal Zone Management Act 101](#)

&

[Digital Coast](#)





Coastal Zone Management Act

Quick References

Section-By-Section Descriptions Of the Coastal Zone Management Act [\(16 U.S.C. §§ 1451 to 1466\)](#)

Introduction

The Coastal Zone Management Act, or CZMA, was passed in 1972 to comprehensively manage uses and resources of the nation’s coastal zone. The act creates a state–federal partnership, where coastal states (seaboard states, including Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and commonwealths) may elect to develop comprehensive coastal management programs that meet federal standards.

The CZMA includes a number of sections relevant to the development, implementation, and funding of these federally approved coastal management programs. You may hear colleagues refer to the Coastal Zone Management Act and specific sections. The following descriptions provide a basic understanding of what each CZMA section addresses. For a short list of commonly referred-to sections, see [Eight "Good to Know" Sections of the Coastal Zone Management Act](#).

Section 302 – Congressional Findings

This section describes the national interest in coastal management, the need for coastal management, the competing uses of the coastal zone, and the natural resources and human development at risk from natural and human-made hazards.

Section 303 – Congressional Declaration of Policy

This section describes the national policy to protect, preserve, develop, and where possible restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone for this and succeeding generations.

Section 304 – Definitions

This section defines important terms used in the CZMA: “coastal zone,” “coastal resource of national significance,” “coastal waters,” “coastal state,” “coastal energy activity,” “energy facilities,” “enforceable policy,” etc.

Section 305 – Management Program Development Grants

This section provides funding authorization for states that are developing coastal management programs and requires developed programs to be submitted for federal approval.

Section 306 – Administrative Grants

Section 306 contains the requirements for coastal management program approval. A state coastal management program must describe the coastal zone boundary, permissible land and water uses, areas of particular concern, the means that the state will use to exert control over the land and water uses, the program’s organizational structure, a planning process for public access, a planning process for energy facilities, and a planning process for assessing the effects of shoreline erosion. Section 306 also contains public participation requirements and requirements for considering the views of federal agencies, as well as allows a state to amend its coastal management program.

This quick reference is a product of the online module, [CZMA Overview](#)

1



The section provides for annual implementation grants to states. Funds are allocated by a formula that is based on shoreline mileage and the population of the coastal area.

Section 306A – Coastal Resource Improvement Program

This section allows states to purchase ecologically sensitive areas and areas needed for recreation, construct low-cost public access facilities, revitalize deteriorating urban waterfronts, restore shellfish beds, and complete other related projects. All acquisition and construction projects are subject to section 306A requirements.

Section 307 – Coordination and Cooperation (or “Federal Consistency”)

This section requires federal agencies; non-federal entities applying for required federal permits, licenses, and other approvals; and state and local government applicants for federal financial assistance to conduct their activities in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of state coastal management programs. The federal activities and the state coastal uses or resources affected can be within and outside the state’s coastal zone.

Section 307a – Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

This section establishes the Coastal and Estuarine Lands Conservation Program (CELCP). CELCP provides matching funds to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements.

Section 308 – Coastal Zone Management Fund

This section creates a fund, based in part on loan repayments from previous Coastal Energy Impact Loans, to be used for a variety of purposes: demonstration projects, emergency grants to coastal states, workshops, development grants under section 305, etc.

Section 309 – Coastal Zone Enhancement Grants

This section provides funds to coastal states to make improvements in their coastal management programs in the areas of wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean management, energy facility siting, and aquaculture.

Section 310 – Technical Assistance

This section enables the secretary of commerce to provide technical assistance and management-oriented research in support of the national and state programs.

Section 311 – Public Hearings

This section contains requirements for the conduct of any public hearing.

Section 312 – Review of Performance

This section requires the secretary of commerce to conduct a continuing review of state coastal management programs to ensure that states are adhering to their federally approved coastal management programs. The secretary may withdraw funds and federal approval if a state is in noncompliance.

This quick reference is a product of the online module, [CZMA Overview](#)

2



Section 313 – Records and Audit

This section contains financial record requirements for CZMA grant recipients.

Section 314 – Walter B. Jones Excellence in Coastal Zone Management Awards

This section provides for annual awards to citizens, local governments, graduate students, and others for excellence in coastal management.

Section 315 – National Estuarine Research Reserve System

This section provides for the designation of estuarine research reserves in states to enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine areas, provide opportunities for public education, and encourage research to support the protection of these areas and a state's coastal management program.

Section 316 – Coastal Zone Management Reports

This section requires the secretary to report to Congress on the implementation of the CZMA on a biennial basis. (Note: This is no longer required under Section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995).

Section 317 – Rules and Regulations

This section requires the secretary of commerce to promulgate CZMA rules.

Section 318 – Authorization of Appropriations

This section authorizes funds to implement the CZMA.

Section 319 – Appeals to the Secretary

This section describes time frames for the secretary's review of appeals under the federal consistency provision, section 307.

Appeals of Energy Projects describes additional appeal procedures for appeals of energy projects (added by the Energy Policy Act of 2005).

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA) (Pub. L. No. 101-508) – the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

This section, codified separately from the CZMA, requires states to develop programs and identify best practices to manage the effects of nonpoint pollution on coastal waters. This work is done in collaboration with state water quality, public health, agricultural, forestry, and other agencies and offices that have responsibility for managing activities that can contribute to nonpoint sources of pollution.

This quick reference is a product of the online module, [CZMA Overview](#)

3



Eight “Good to Know” Sections Of the Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act, or CZMA, was passed in 1972 to comprehensively manage uses and resources of the nation’s coastal zone. The act creates a state–federal partnership, where coastal states (seaboard states, including Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and commonwealths) may elect to develop comprehensive coastal management programs that meet federal standards.

The CZMA includes a number of sections relevant to the development, implementation, and funding of these federally approved coastal management programs. You may hear colleagues refer to the Coastal Zone Management Act and specific sections. Listed below are the more commonly referred-to sections and those that can help you better understand your job. For a complete list of section descriptions, see [Section-by-Section Descriptions of the Coastal Zone Management Act](#).

Section 304 – Definitions

This section defines important terms used in the CZMA, such as “coastal zone,” “coastal resource of national significance,” “coastal waters,” “coastal state,” “coastal energy activity,” “energy facilities,” “enforceable policy.”

Good to know because definitions are important in the development and implementation of a coastal management program.

Section 306 – Administrative Grants

This section contains the requirements for coastal management program approval. It also contains requirements for public participation and for considering the views of federal agencies, as well as allows a state to amend its coastal management program. The section provides for annual implementation grants to states. Funds are allocated by a formula that is based on shoreline mileage and the population of the coastal area.

Good to know because it helps with understanding why coastal management programs include certain elements, such as coastal zone boundaries, and how to change aspects of a program. It also explains why programs receive annual CZMA federal funding support.

Section 306A – Coastal Resource Improvement Program

This section allows states to purchase ecologically sensitive areas and areas needed for recreation, construct low-cost public access facilities, revitalize deteriorating urban waterfronts, restore shellfish beds, and complete other related projects. All acquisition and construction projects are subject to section 306A requirements.

Good to know because it helps with understanding what types of projects are eligible for 306A funding.

Section 307 – Coordination and Cooperation (or “Federal Consistency”)

This section requires federal agencies; non-federal entities applying for required federal permits, licenses, and other approvals; and state and local government applicants for federal financial assistance

This quick reference is a product of the online module, [CZMA Overview](#)

1



to conduct their activities in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of state coastal management programs. The federal activities and the state coastal uses or resources affected can be within and outside the state’s coastal zone.

Good to know because it helps with understanding “federal consistency,” a unique and powerful tool that coastal management programs use to work with federal agencies to manage coastal activities and resources.

Section 309 – Coastal Zone Enhancement Grants

This section provides funds to coastal states to make improvements in their coastal management programs in the areas of wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean management, energy facility siting, and aquaculture.

Good to know because coastal management programs use this resource to address both long-standing and emerging critical coastal issues.

Section 312 – Review of Performance

This section requires the secretary of commerce to conduct a continuing review of state coastal management programs to ensure that states are adhering to their federally approved coastal management programs. The secretary may withdraw funds and federal approval if a state is in noncompliance.

Good to know because it helps with understanding the 312 evaluation process and how coastal management programs can use the results for program improvement.

Section 315 – National Estuarine Research Reserve System

This section provides for the designation of estuarine research reserves in states to enhance public awareness and understanding of estuarine areas, provide opportunities for public education, and encourage research to support the protection of these areas and a state’s coastal management program.

Good to know because reserves provide opportunities to collaborate and to leverage education, training, research, and stewardship resources to support coastal management.

Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA) (Pub. L. No. 101-508) – the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

This section, codified separately from the CZMA, requires states to develop programs and identify best practices to manage the effects of nonpoint pollution on coastal waters. This work is done in collaboration with state water quality, public health, agricultural, forestry, and other agencies and offices that have responsibility for managing activities that can contribute to nonpoint sources of pollution.

Good to know because information about coastal nonpoint program requirements can help with understanding one of the tools coastal management programs use to address nonpoint pollution.

This quick reference is a product of the online module, [CZMA Overview](#)

2

