

DATE: March 28, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Coastal Program Managers

FROM: John R. King /s/
Chief, Coastal Programs Division

SUBJECT: Final 2005 Section 309 Guidance

Attached is final guidance for Section 309 Assessments and Strategies. Note that the schedule has been revised to allow states more flexibility and to coordinate with the National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System (NCMPMS) process. Please direct any questions to Diana Olinger (Phone: 301/713-3155 ext. 149, or e-mail (Diana.Olinger@noaa.gov)).

The current guidance is based on previous guidance with some streamlining and clarification. Revisions were made to include indicators from the NCMPMS, where appropriate. Since the timeline to implement the NCMPMS does not coincide with the 309 schedule, state and territory programs are not required to include indicator data in their Assessment. OCRM will continue to work with states and territories to integrate the NCMPMS across all aspects of the coastal program, specifically, CZMA Sections 309 and 312 and progress reporting requirements.

Attachments

Section 309 Guidance

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I. OVERVIEW

Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), as amended in 1990 and 1996, establishes a voluntary coastal zone enhancement grants program to encourage states and territories to develop program changes in one or more of the following nine coastal zone enhancement areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. Under this program, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to make awards to states and territories to develop and submit for federal approval program changes that support attainment of the objectives of one or more of the enhancement areas. Section 309 further requires the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) to identify, in close cooperation with each state and territory, that state's or territory's priority management needs for improvement and to evaluate and rank state and territory funding proposals.

This document provides updated guidance to states and territories on the types of activities eligible for section 309 funding, the process and content for the next round of Assessments and Strategies, and OCRM's process and criteria for reviewing the Assessments and reviewing and ranking the Strategies. States and territories must update their Assessment and successfully complete a new Strategy to be eligible for Section 309 funding in FY 2006 and beyond. States and territories will update their Assessments based on a set of questions that was developed by OCRM in consultation with states and territories (Attachment A). Strategies will be based on the priority needs and priority enhancement areas identified in the Assessment and will cover the five year period from FY 2006 - FY 2010. States should consider the development and use of indicators from the National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System (NCMPMS) in their Assessments and Strategies.

OCRM recognizes that states and territories need to undertake grant projects over the next two to three years to implement both the Section 309 Assessment and Strategy and the National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System (NCMPMS). States and territories should consider including NCMPMS indicators in their 309 Assessments and Strategies to identify priorities and trends and to monitor effectiveness of their 309 activities over the 5 year cycle. While Section 309 funds must be used to develop revised Assessments and Strategies over the next year, 309 funds can be used for NCMPMS development and implementation over the next three years. In the short term, development of the NCMPMS should complement the development of new Assessments and Strategies, and in the longer term such systems will aid in monitoring the effectiveness of program changes through the 309 process.

This guidance supersedes the guidance documents issued May 31, 1991; June 24, 1996; and July 24, 2000.

II. ELIGIBLE SECTION 309 ACTIVITIES

The following activities are eligible for section 309 funding:

A. Assessments and Strategies

States may fund activities necessary to develop section 309 Assessments and Strategies with section 309 funds, including the development, collection, and analysis of performance management objectives and performance indicators.

B. Program Changes

Program changes are, as the term indicates, changes to federally-approved CZM programs as opposed to changes in the manner states and territories implement their programs. Program changes clearly include changes to state and territory enforceable policies and authorities. The definition of program change also includes new or revised state and territory coastal land acquisition and management programs as may be necessary to fully meet state and territory needs in such enhancement areas as public access and wetland habitat restoration. Program change, for the purposes of 309, means "routine program change" as defined in section 923.84 and "amendment" as defined in section 923.80, and includes the following activities that will enhance a state's or territory's ability to achieve one or more of the coastal zone enhancement objectives:

1. A change to coastal zone boundaries;
2. New or revised authorities, including statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, administrative decisions, executive orders, and memoranda of agreement/understanding;
3. New or revised local coastal programs and implementing ordinances;
4. New or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs;
5. 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,
6. 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.

C. Program Implementation

Section 309 funds may be used to support selected implementation activities for section 309 program changes for up to two years. Program implementation activities should be described in the Strategy and must meet the following general requirements:

1. must relate to one or more 309 program changes;
2. must be a component of the activity that measures, within two years, how it will improve effectiveness of the program; and,
3. must be cost effective.

Within these general requirements, eligible program implementation activities include:

- o 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 indicators;
- o equipment purchases related to the program change; and
- o allowable costs as determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87: Cost Principles for State and Local Governments.

Please note that eligible section 309 implementation activities do not include 306A type projects such as acquisition and construction projects.

III. DISTRIBUTION OF 309 FUNDS: FORMULA AND PSM

Section 309 funds may be awarded in two ways: (1) formula; and (2) individual evaluation and ranking of Projects of Special Merit (PSMs). Over the past five years, all 309 funding has been distributed via formula. The decision on whether to conduct a PSM round will continue to be made on an annual basis as part of the allotment guidance development process. A primary consideration in determining the split between formula and PSM funding will be maintaining adequate and predictable formula funding.

A. Formula Activities

The purpose of the formula funding allocation is to provide a predictable multi-year level of funding to support states and territories in undertaking projects in compliance with their Strategies. Formula projects are those that are critical to meeting the work plan in the Strategy. Because funding for formula tasks is more predictable than that for PSMs, basic functions necessary to achieve the objectives of the Strategy, such as hiring staff, should be included in formula projects. Projects proposed for the formula funding category must meet the following requirements:

1. Projects are consistent with the state's or territory's approved Assessment and Strategy and advance the objectives/program changes of the Strategy;
2. Project costs are reasonable and necessary to achieve the objectives of both the project and the Strategy. Allowable costs will be determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87: "Cost Principles for State and Local Governments;"
3. The projects are technically sound;
4. The state or territory has an effective plan to ensure proper and efficient administration of the projects; and,
5. The state or territory has submitted the required project information as described in Section IV.B.2.

B. Projects of Special Merit

OCRM may award a portion of section 309 funds to states and territories based on an annual evaluation and ranking of PSMs. The purpose of PSMs is to offer states and territories that are particularly innovative and have performed in an exemplary fashion under the formula program an opportunity to obtain additional funds. As PSM funds will be awarded competitively, these projects should further the objectives of a state's or territory's Strategy, but may not be essential to meeting specific elements of the work plan. PSM projects should not be dependent on long-term levels of funding to succeed. States and territories may submit multi-year PSM proposals; however, all proposals will be evaluated for single-year funding. In reviewing proposals for out-

year funding for multi-year PSMs, OCRM will recognize prior funding commitments; however, OCRM does not guarantee that funds will be awarded for subsequent years. In any case, only the highest ranked PSM projects will be funded.

OCRM will establish a maximum amount of PSM funds a state or territory may be awarded annually, which may vary depending on the total section 309 funds available. PSM proposals must meet the same criteria as the standard formula projects, listed above. In addition, they will be evaluated and ranked using the following criteria:

1. Merit (90 points). OCRM will review each proposal to determine the following:
 - o Degree to which the project significantly advances the program improvements and leads to a program change or implementation activity identified in the state's or territory's Strategy;
 - o Degree to which the project will result in improved management of coastal resources or uses;
 - o Overall benefit of the proposal to the public relative to the proposal's cost;
 - o Innovativeness of the proposal;
 - o Transferability of the results to problems in other coastal states; and
 - o The state's or territory's past performance under section 309.
2. Fiscal needs (5 points). OCRM will review each proposal to determine the "fiscal needs" of a state or territory.
3. Technical needs (5 points). OCRM will review each proposal to determine the technical needs of a state or territory.

IV. ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

This section covers the following items: purpose of the Assessment and Strategy, guidance on content and format for the Assessment and Strategy, the process for determining priority enhancement areas, and public review requirements. OCRM encourages states and territories to combine the Assessment and Strategy into one document. If the Assessment and Strategy are combined, the Strategy for addressing a priority enhancement area may either be included directly after the Assessment of that priority enhancement area, or as part of a separate Strategy section. The length of the Assessment/Strategy document should be limited to 60 pages (or, if produced separately, 35 pages for the Assessment and 25 - 30 pages for the Strategy). States and territories must submit the Assessment/Strategy electronically, as well as in hard copy.

A. Assessments and Priority Enhancement Areas

1. Purpose

The revised Assessment will build on the last Assessment and serve many of the same purposes, including:

- a. identifying changes that have taken place within each of the nine section 309 enhancement areas, including problems that have been addressed, new issues that have arisen, and changes in the status of the resources;
- b. describing the nature of problems, changes in the status of resources, or new issues, including the extent to which they are being addressed and their relative importance; states should consider the development and use of performance indicators when determining changes in the status of resources or issues;
- c. providing the basis for determining the priority needs for improvement of state and territorial coastal management programs; and,
- d. providing the public with an opportunity to learn more about accomplishments under section 309 and to comment on the state's or territory's identification and justification of current priority needs, as well as the possible means that the state or territory is considering to address the identified needs.

2. General Content and Format

The revised Assessment is structured to: (1) simplify the process for completing the Assessment; (2) provide information in a consistent format that can be useful in developing national products such as reports and databases; and, (3) summarize section 309 accomplishments. The Assessment will essentially be a combination of responses to questions and directives which have been provided in Attachment A, and will consist of three major sections: Introduction; Summary of Past 309 Efforts; and Enhancement Area Analysis. States that will be undertaking their first Assessment may need to expand upon the question and answer format to provide adequate background information.

- a. **Introduction:** The introduction should briefly summarize the state's or territory's section 309 program and the state's or territory's proposed priority enhancement areas (1-2 pages). If the Strategy is being included in the same document, the introduction should describe the format being followed and summarize the program changes being pursued.
- b. **Summary of Past Section 309 Efforts:** The state or territory should include a brief summary of past efforts under the section 309 program since the last Assessment update. This section should describe completed program changes and other major accomplishments under 309 since the last Assessment, including those planned or unplanned. If the state or territory is including implementation activities in its Strategy for a particular enhancement area, it may want to use the summary of past efforts to demonstrate the need to undertake implementation activities.
- c. **Enhancement Area Analysis:** This section should address the questions, directives and charts for each of the nine priority enhancement areas. The purpose of these questions, directives and charts is to determine the status of each enhancement area since the previous Assessment and to clearly identify priority needs. States should consider the development and use of performance indicators consistent with the indicators in the final NCMPMS Report in this part of their Assessments. It is expected that this section will make up the bulk of the Assessment. Answers should be succinct, but include a context for the response. Bullets are acceptable, as long as sufficient relevant information is provided. Additional documentation may be attached as appendices. States and territories should rely on existing data and information when possible.

In developing the revised Assessment, states and territories should keep in mind that the document will be undergoing public review (discussed further below), and therefore should be concise and focused. We are also considering posting the updated and approved Assessments on the OCRM website. To provide adequate background information, states and territories should also make the previous Assessment available to the public during the public notice and comment period.

3. Determining Priority Enhancement Areas

States and territories will continue to rank enhancement areas as high, medium and low priority, based on the Assessment. While developing the Assessment, states and territories should review the priorities identified in the previous Assessment and consider the objectives and sub-objectives for each of the nine enhancement areas. The priorities should also reflect the suitability of Section 309, with its emphasis on program changes, for addressing the underlying issues.

States and territories should work closely with the program specialist and team leader in the Coastal Programs Division to review the state's or territory's existing priorities and make a preliminary determination during development of the Assessment on whether these priorities should be revised. This preliminary determination will help guide the formulation of the revised Assessment since it is anticipated that high priority areas, and changes in priorities, will require more detailed answers to the Assessment questions discussed above.

Pursuant to section 309(d)(1), the final determination of each state's or territory's priority needs rests with OCRM. However, this determination will be made in full consultation with each state or territory both during the development of the Assessment and with due consideration of public comment once the Assessment has been submitted to OCRM for review and approval.

B. Strategy

1. General Content

The principal purpose of the Strategy is to describe projects the state or territory will undertake to meet the priority enhancement area needs identified in the updated Assessment. In FY 2006, each participating state and territory will submit a Strategy (either separately or combined with the Assessment), to be evaluated and ranked by OCRM. Strategies must be based on the needs and priority enhancement areas identified in the Assessments, and should cover the 5-year period from FY 2006 - FY 2010. The Strategy must adhere to the outline described below. The Strategy should include enough information for OCRM to determine whether: (1) the proposed program change or implementation activity adequately addresses the needs identified in a state's or territory's Assessment; and, (2) the state's or territory's general work program to achieve the program change is appropriate and cost-effective. The Strategy should, up front, summarize the program changes under each priority area that the state or territory will pursue.

The Strategy should identify program changes and implementation activities and include general outlines demonstrating the approach the state or territory is proposing to accomplish these efforts. The Strategy must include estimated costs, a schedule, and a general work plan listing necessary steps for achieving the program changes and implementation activities. Detailed information on annual work programs, budgets, benchmarks, and work products, previously required in the Strategy itself, will now be determined through the annual award negotiation process. It is not necessary for states and territories to differentiate between weighted formula projects and PSMs in the Strategy. However, states and territories should keep in mind the differing criteria for weighted formula projects and PSMs in developing their Strategy and in out-years when submitting projects for PSM funding.

2. Format

States and territories should use the following format in writing their draft and final Strategy. State and territory Strategies should reflect the specific criteria that OCRM will use to evaluate

and rank Strategies (pages 12-14). For each priority enhancement area that will be addressed in the Strategy, states and territories must include the following:

- a. Information for each priority enhancement area addressed in the Strategy including a brief summary of the coastal management problem identified in the state's or territory's Assessment (1-2 paragraphs). Please note that this summary is not necessary if the state or territory is producing a combined Assessment/Strategy document.
- b. Identification of proposed program changes and/or implementation activities including a description of the program changes or implementation activities as defined on page 2 of this guidance.
- c. For implementation activities, the state or territory should briefly describe the program change that has already been adopted, and how the proposed activities will further that program change.
- d. Discussion of the anticipated effect of the program changes or implementation activities including a clear articulation of scope and value in improved coastal management and resource protection. States are encouraged to develop measurable management objectives and performance indicators to better assess effectiveness of the program changes.
- e. Explanation as to why the proposed program changes or implementation activities are the most appropriate means to address the priority need. This discussion should reference the key findings of the Assessment and explain how the Strategy addresses those findings.
- f. A general work plan that identifies the major steps necessary for achieving the program changes or implementation, and a general schedule for completing the work plan.
- g. A summary of estimated costs.
- h. Discussion of the likelihood of attaining the proposed program changes and implementation activities, including: the nature and degree of support for pursuing the Strategy and the proposed changes; and, the specific actions the state or territory will undertake to maintain or build future support for achieving and implementing program changes, including education and outreach activities.

3. Fiscal and Technical Needs:

The Strategy should document fiscal and technical needs; such documentation should include:

- a. For fiscal needs, information on the current state or territory budget (surplus or deficit), the budget of the applying agency (increase or decrease over previous fiscal year), future budget projections, and what efforts have been made by the applying agency, if any, to secure additional state funds from the legislature and/or from off-budget sources such as user fees; and

- b. For technical needs, identification of the technical knowledge, skills and equipment that are needed to carry out proposed projects and that are not available to the applying agency, and what efforts the applying agency has made, if any, to obtain the trained personnel and equipment it needs (for example, through agreements with other state agencies).

C. Public Review

Because the CZMA places a strong emphasis on public participation, states and territories should provide opportunities for public review and comment on the revised Assessment. Since OCRM is encouraging a combined Assessment/Strategy document, states and territories may choose to present either the entire document for public review, or only the Assessment portion. The public review process does not necessarily require formal public hearings. Public review may occur through a variety of means, e.g., advisory committees, Commission meetings, or informal public workshops. At a minimum, states and territories should provide adequate public notice, document availability, and a minimum 30-day public comment period. As indicated in the attached schedule, OCRM will review the draft Assessment concurrently with public review. A summary of public comments and responses should be included with the final Assessment/Strategy document.

D. Threatened and Endangered Species Considerations

An increasing number of species found in the coastal zone have been identified as endangered or threatened, both at the state and federal levels, with the loss or modification of habitat being identified as a concern. Consequently it has become increasingly important to look at how CZM activities might affect threatened and endangered species. Most states, particularly those with numerous ESA listed species, already address threatened and endangered species as part of planning and permitting activities. Considering these issues in the Assessments and Strategies can help states plan for projects that address these needs through Section 309 funding in future years. States should consider the following when preparing Assessments and Strategies:

1. Examine potential endangered and threatened species issues in each of the appropriate enhancement areas, including their implications for identifying priority enhancement areas.
2. Identify opportunities for program changes and/or habitat conservation and restoration as a component of the Strategies to address these issues.
3. Consider whether other proposed program changes in the Strategies could have negative effects on endangered and threatened species, and whether there are ways to lessen or eliminate these potential effects.

E. Relationship to Marine Protected Areas and Coral Reef Protection Activities

President Clinton issued an Executive Order on the protection of Coral Reefs on June 11, 1998, and subsequently on May 27, 2000, an Executive Order on Marine Protected Areas. Both Executive Orders provide an important opportunity for states to enhance protection and management of marine and other special coastal land and water areas.

Section 309 provides several opportunities for addressing coral reefs and other types of possible marine protected areas as “special areas”. First, there is a specific enhancement area (section 309(6)) that calls for preparing and implementing special area management plans for important coastal areas. Second, there are opportunities to address specific issues within special management areas through the other enhancement areas such as coastal hazards, public access, wetlands, and planning for ocean and Great Lakes’ resources.

Because of the continuing recognition of the importance of special marine and coastal areas, and the coastal management programs to address these issues, we encourage states to consider how they can improve management of their special marine and Great Lakes’ areas as they update their section 309 Assessments and Strategies.

V. OCRM REVIEW AND RESPONSE TO THE ASSESSMENT/STRATEGY

OCRM will review the state and territory Assessments/Strategies to determine (1) whether the Assessment has been successfully updated; (2) priority enhancement areas; and (3) if the Strategy is acceptable and therefore eligible for funding. States and territories that receive an acceptable ranking will receive funding based the standard allocation formula described at 15 C.F.R. 927.1(c). A state or territory whose Strategy receives a ranking of not acceptable will not receive section 309 funding but will have the opportunity to submit a revised Strategy for approval during the following fiscal year.

A. Review of Assessments

States are required to update Assessments as described above. OCRM will review the Assessments for compliance with the requirements and the identification of priority enhancement areas. We expect that the approval of this forth round of section 309 Assessments and Strategies will be streamlined since they update and build upon previous, approved Assessments.

B. Criteria for Review and Ranking of Strategies

As with the last Section 309 round, OCRM will apply two ranking levels to the Strategies: acceptable and not acceptable. OCRM will evaluate each state's and territory's Strategy individually, using the four criteria identified below. This evaluation will occur solely within the context of each state's and territory's coastal resource management needs, its existing coastal management program and its governmental structure. Listed below are the criteria that will be applied when evaluating and ranking the Strategies:

1. Scope and Value

In evaluating the scope and value of a proposed program change or implementation activity, OCRM will consider the following factors:

- a. The scope of the proposed change in terms of quantifiable improvements in coastal resource management. Examples are: relative number of acres of wetlands protected or percentage of wetlands restored; number of public access ways improved, etc.
- b. The qualitative magnitude of the proposed change in terms of improved management of coastal resource(s) of local, state, or national significance, including state or federally listed endangered and threatened species.

- c. The threat to the resource or the need for improved management. Will the opportunity to protect the resource or address the issue be lost in the short term if the proposed change is not made?

In applying these factors, OCRM recognizes that it may be difficult to determine the quantitative and qualitative values of some program changes or implementation activities, particularly in cases where broad institutional improvements are proposed. States and territories should, however, provide the best possible estimates of the impacts of the proposed activities.

If a state or territory cannot identify a specific program change or implementation activity to address a priority enhancement area, it may identify a range of possible options it will pursue. In this case, the state or territory must still specify the basic scope and direction of the enhancement grant work.

2. Technical Merit

In reviewing the work plan component of state and territory Strategies, OCRM will consider the following questions:

- a. Is the program change or implementation activity an appropriate means for addressing the "priority need?" Is the state or territory addressing the most appropriate objective with the appropriate tools or mechanisms (planning, regulation, management) at the right level of government (state, regional, local), or are there more effective and/or efficient ways of addressing the need?
- b. Is the work plan comprehensive in overall design, personnel, schedule and sequencing? Are data collection, synthesis, concept development, and public involvement tasks appropriate? Does the work program include sufficient information to gauge progress toward attaining the proposed activity?
- c. Does the work plan schedule reflect the most effective and logical approach to enacting the proposed program change or implementation?
- d. Is the work plan cost-effective? Are the costs of developing the program change or implementation activity commensurate with the value of the proposed improvement in coastal management?

3. Likelihood of Success

In evaluating the likelihood of attaining the proposed change(s) or implementation steps, OCRM will consider the following factors:

- a. The nature and degree of existing support for the Strategy and its objectives.
- b. The strength of the state's or territory's Strategy to maintain and build future support and consensus regarding the objectives of the Strategy.
- c. Past performance of the state or territory under Section 309.

4. Technical and Fiscal Needs

OCRM will consider the technical and fiscal needs of each state and territory as described in its Strategy.

VI. SCHEDULE

December 15, 2004	Draft Assessment and Strategy guidance issued.
March 31, 2005	Final Assessment and Strategy approval guidance issued.
Spring 2005	States and territories begin work on Assessments and Strategies.
July/October 2005	OCRM begins awarding section 309 funds to develop new Strategies.
Fall 2005	States and territories communicate preliminary enhancement area priorities.
January 1, 2006	Draft Assessments and Strategies due to CPD.
March 1, 2006	Comments to states due from CPD.
May/June 2006	States and Territories will include generic 309 task description and Special Award Condition in FY06 awards to the effect that states and territories will use 309 funding to implement tasks consistent with NOAA approved Assessments and Strategies.
July 1, 2006	Final Assessments and Strategies due to CPD, including public comments and responses. OCRM begins awarding section 309 funds to implement new Strategies.

Section 309
Assessment Questions
(Attachment A)
March 2005

* Question/category is included in the NCMPMS.

Public Access

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Improve public access through regulatory, statutory, and legal systems.
- II. Acquire, improve, and maintain public access sites to meet current and future demand through the use of innovative funding and acquisition techniques.
- II. Develop or enhance a Coastal Public Access Management Plan which takes into account the provision of public access to all users of coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural value.
- IV. Minimize potential adverse impacts of public access on coastal resources and private property rights through appropriate protection measures.

Resource Characterization

Extent and Trends in Providing Public Access (publicly owned or accessible):

1. Provide a qualitative and quantitative description of the current status of public access in your jurisdiction. Also, identify any ongoing or planned efforts to develop quantitative measures to assess your progress in managing this issue area.
2. Briefly characterize the demand for coastal public access within the coastal zone, and the process for periodically assessing public demand.*
3. Identify any significant impediments to providing adequate access, including conflicts with other resource management objectives.
4. Please explain any deficiencies or limitations in data.

Access Type	Current Number(s)	Change Since Last Assessment
State/County/Local Parks (# and acres)		
Beach/Shoreline Access Sites (#)*		
Recreational Boat (power		

Access Type	Current Number(s)	Change Since Last Assessment
or non-power) Access Sites (#)		
Designated Scenic Vistas or Overlook Points (#)		
State or Locally Designated Perpendicular Rights-of-Way (i.e. street ends, easements) (#)		
Fishing Points (i.e. piers, jetties) (#)		
Coastal Trails/Boardwalks (# and miles)		
ADA Compliant Access (%)		
Dune Walkovers (#)		
Public Beaches with Water Quality Monitoring and Public Notice (% of total beach miles) and Number Closed due to Water Quality Concerns (# of beach mile days) Number of Existing Public Access Sites that have been Enhanced (i.e. parking, restrooms, signage - #)*		

5. Does the state have a Public Access Guide or website? How current is the publication or how frequently is the website updated?

Management Characterization

For each of the management categories below, identify significant changes since the last assessment.

For categories with changes:

- B Summarize the change
- B Specify whether it was a 309, 306A, or other CZM driven change and specify funding source
- B Characterize the effect of the changes in terms of both program outputs and outcomes

Categories:

1. Statutory, regulatory, or legal system changes that affect public access
2. Acquisition programs or techniques
3. Comprehensive access management planning (including development of GIS data layers or databases)
4. Operation and maintenance programs
5. Funding sources or techniques
6. Education and outreach (access guide or website, outreach initiative delivered at access sites, other education materials such as pamphlets)
7. Beach water quality monitoring and/or pollution source identification and remediation programs

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 strategy and allocating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High ___
Medium ___
Low ___

This Assessment

High
Medium
Low

Coastal Hazards

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. 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 and Great Lakes level rise.
- II. Preserve and restore the protective functions of natural shoreline features such as beaches, dunes, and wetlands.
- III. Prevent or minimize threats to existing populations and property from both episodic and chronic coastal hazards.

Coastal Hazards Characterization

1. Characterize the general level of risk in your state from the following coastal hazards:

- B Hurricanes/typhoons
- B Storm surge*
- B Flooding*
- B Shoreline erosion (episodic or chronic)*
- B Sea level rise*
- B Great Lakes level fluctuation*
- B Subsidence*
- B Geological hazards (including earthquakes and tsunamis)*
- B Other (specify)

2. If the level of risk or state of knowledge about any of these hazards has changed since the last assessment, please explain. Also, identify any ongoing or planned efforts to develop quantitative measures for this issue area.

3. Summarize the risks from inappropriate development in the state, e.g., life and property at risk, publicly funded infrastructure at risk, resources at risk.

Management Characterization

1. Indicate significant changes to the State= hazards protection programs since the last assessment:

- B Building setbacks/restrictions*
- B Methodologies for determining setbacks
- B Repair/rebuilding restrictions

- B Restriction of hard shoreline protection structures
- B Promotion of alternative shoreline stabilization methodologies
- B Renovation of shoreline protection structures
- B Beach/dune protection
- B Permit compliance
- B Inlet management plans
- B Special Area Management Plans
- B Local hazards mitigation planning
- B Local post-disaster redevelopment plans
- B Real estate sales disclosure requirements
- B Restrictions on publicly funded infrastructure
- B Public education and outreach
- B Mapping/GIS/tracking of hazard areas*

2. For categories with changes:

- B Summarize the change
- B Specify whether it was a 309 or other CZM driven change and specify funding source
- B Characterize the effect of the changes in terms of both program outputs and outcomes

3. Discuss significant impediments to meeting the 309 programmatic objectives (e.g., lack of data, lack of technology, lack of funding, legally indefensible, inadequate policies, etc.)

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High _____

Medium _____

Low _____

This Assessment

High

Medium

Low

Ocean/Great Lakes Resources

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Develop and enhance regulatory, planning, and intra-governmental coordination mechanisms to provide meaningful state participation in ocean and Great Lakes resource management and decision-making processes.
- II. Where necessary and appropriate, develop a comprehensive ocean and Great Lakes resource management plan that provides for the balanced use and development of ocean and Great Lakes resources, coordination of existing authorities, and minimization of use conflicts. These plans should consider, where appropriate, the effects of activities and uses on threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats. The designation of specific marine protected areas should be considered.

Resource Characterization

1. In the table below characterize ocean and/or Great Lakes resources and uses of state concern, and specify existing and future threats or use conflicts.

Resource or Use	Threat or Conflict	Degree of Threat (high/medium/low)	Anticipated Threat or Conflict

2. Describe any changes in the resources or relative threat to the resources since the last assessment.

Management Characterization

1. Identify significant state ocean and/or Great Lakes management programs and initiatives developed since the last assessment:

- B Statewide comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management statute
- B Statewide comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes management plan or system of Marine Protected Areas
- B Single purpose statutes related to ocean/Great Lakes resources
- B Statewide ocean/Great Lakes resources planning/working groups
- B Regional ocean/Great Lakes resources planning efforts
- B Ocean/Great Lakes resources mapping or information system
- B Dredged material management planning
- B Habitat research, assessment, monitoring
- B Public education and outreach efforts
- B Other

2. For categories with changes:

- Summarize the change
- Specify whether it was a 309 or other CZM driven change and specify funding source
- Characterize the effect of the changes in terms of both program outputs and outcomes

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High _____

Medium _____

Low _____

This Assessment

High

Medium

Low

Wetlands

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Protect and preserve existing levels of wetlands, as measured by acreage and functions, from direct, indirect and cumulative adverse impacts, by developing or improving regulatory programs.
- II. Increase acres and associated functions (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, water quality protection, flood protection) of restored wetlands, including restoration and monitoring of habitat for threatened and endangered species.
- III. Utilize non-regulatory and innovative techniques to provide for the protection, restoration, and acquisition of coastal wetlands.
- IV. Develop and improve wetlands creation programs.

Resource Characterization

1. Extent of coastal wetlands

Wetlands Type*	Extent (acres & year of data)*	Trends (3 acres/year)*
Tidal		
Non-Tidal/Freshwater		
Publicly Acquired Wetlands		
Restored Wetlands		
Created Wetlands		
Other		

2. If information is not available to fill in the above table, provide a qualitative description of wetlands status and trends based on the best available information.

Also, identify any ongoing or planned efforts to develop quantitative measures for this issue area. Provide explanation for trends.

3. Characterize direct and indirect threats to coastal wetlands, both natural and man-made. For threats identified, provide the following information: scope of threat, recent trends, and impediments to addressing the threat.

- B Development/fill
- B Alteration of hydrology
- B Erosion
- B Pollution
- B Channelization
- B Nuisance or exotic species
- B Freshwater input
- B Sea/Lake level rise
- B Other

Management Characterization

1. Within each of the management categories below, identify significant changes since the last assessment:

- B Regulatory program
- B Wetlands protection policies and standards
- B Assessment methodologies (health, function, extent)
- B Impact analysis
- B Restoration/enhancement programs
- B Special Area Management Plans
- B Education/outreach
- B Wetlands creation programs
- B Mitigation banking
- B Mapping/GIS/tracking systems
- B Acquisition programs
- B Publicly funded infrastructure restrictions

2. For categories with changes provide the following information for each change:

- B Characterize the scope of the change
- B Describe recent trends
- B Identify impediments to addressing the change

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.
2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 Strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High ____
Medium ____
Low ____

This Assessment

High
Medium
Low

Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Develop, revise or enhance procedures or policies to provide cumulative and secondary impact controls.

Resource Characterization

1. Identify areas in the coastal zone where rapid growth or changes in land use require improved management of cumulative and secondary impacts (CSI). Provide the following information for each area:

- B Type of growth or change in land use (e.g., residential, industrial, etc.)
- B Rate of growth or change in land use
- B Types of cumulative and secondary impacts

2. Identify areas in the coastal zone, by type or location, which possess sensitive coastal resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, fish and wildlife habitats, threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats) and require a greater degree of protection from the cumulative or secondary impacts of growth and development.

Area	CSI Threats/Sensitive Coastal Resources

Management Characterization

1. Identify significant changes in the state's ability to address CSI since the last assessment (e.g., new regulations, guidance, manuals, etc.). Provide the following information for each change:

- B Characterize the scope of the change
- B Describe recent trends
- B Identify impediments to addressing the change
- B Identify successes in improved management

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy (i.e, inadequate authority, data gaps, inadequate analytical methods, lack of public acceptance, etc.).
2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High ___
Medium ___
Low ___

This Assessment

High
Medium
Low

Marine Debris

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Develop or revise programs that reduce the amount of marine and/or lake debris in the coastal zone.

Marine/Lake Debris Characterization

1. In the table below, characterize the extent of marine/lake debris and its impact on the coastal zone.

Source	Impact (significant/moderate/ insignificant)	Type of Impact (aesthetic, resource damage, etc.)

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2. If any of the sources above or their impacts have changed since the last Assessment, please explain.

3. Do you have beach clean-up data? If so, how do you use this information?

Management Characterization

1. For the categories below, identify significant state ocean/Great Lakes management programs and initiatives developed since the last Assessment:

- B State/local program requiring recycling
- B State/local program to reduce littering
- B State/local program to reduce wasteful packaging
- B State/local program managing fishing gear
- B Marine debris concerns incorporated into harbor, port, marina, and coastal solid waste management plans
- B Education and outreach programs

2. For the changes identified above provide a brief description of the change:

- B Characterize the scope of the change
- B Describe recent trends
- B Identify impediments to addressing the change
- B Identify successes

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 Strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment
High ___

This Assessment
High

Medium ____
Low ____

Medium
Low

Special Area Management Planning

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Develop and implement special area management planning in coastal areas applying the following criteria:
 - B Areas with significant coastal resources (e.g., threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats, wetlands, waterbodies, fish and wildlife habitat) that are being severely affected by cumulative or secondary impacts;
 - B Areas where a multiplicity of local, state, and federal authorities hinder effective coordination and cooperation in addressing coastal development on an ecosystem basis;
 - B Areas with a history of long-standing disputes between various levels of government over coastal resources that has resulted in protracted negotiations over the acceptability of proposed uses;
 - B There is a strong commitment at all levels of government to enter into a collaborative planning process to produce enforceable plans;
 - B A strong state or regional entity exists which is willing and able to sponsor the planning program.

Resource Characterization

1. Using of the criteria listed above, identify areas of the coast subject to use conflicts that can be addressed through special area management planning (SAMP).

Area	Major conflicts

Management Characterization

1. Identify areas of the coast that have or are being addressed by a special area plan since the last Assessment:

2. Identify any significant changes in the state's SAMP programs since the last Assessment (i.e., new regulations, guidance, Memorandums of Understanding, completed SAMPs, implementation activities, etc.). Provide the following information for each change:
 - B Characterize the scope of the change
 - B Describe recent trends
 - B Identify impediments to addressing the change
 - B Identify successes

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 Strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High _____

Medium _____

Low _____

This Assessment

High

Medium

Low

Energy & Government Facility Siting

Section 309 Programmatic Objectives (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Enhance existing procedures and long range planning processes for considering the needs of energy-related and government facilities and activities of greater than local significance.
- II. Improve program policies and standards which affect the subject uses and activities so as to facilitate siting while maintaining current levels of coastal resource protection.

Management Characterization

1. Identify significant changes in the state's ability to address the siting of energy and government facilities since the last Assessment (e.g., new regulations, guidance, manuals, etc.). Provide the following information for each change:

- B Characterize the scope of the change
- B Describe recent trends
- B Identify impediments to addressing the change
- B Identify successes

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 Strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High ___
Medium ___
Low ___

This Assessment

High
Medium
Low

Aquaculture

Section 309 Programmatic Objective (see Attachment B for more detailed discussion)

- I. Enhance existing procedures and long range planning processes for considering the siting of public and private marine aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone.
- II. Improve program policies and standards which affect aquaculture activities and uses so as to facilitate siting while ensuring the protection of coastal resources and waters.

Resource Characterization

1. Briefly describe the state-s aquaculture activities (e.g., existing procedures, plans, program policies and standards).
2. Briefly describe environmental concerns (e.g., water quality, protected areas, impacts on native stock and shell fish resources). Also, describe any use conflicts (e.g., navigational, aesthetic, incompatible uses, public access, recreation, and future threats (e.g., shoreline defense works, introduced species)).

Management Characterization

1. Identify significant changes in the state-s ability to address the planning for and siting of aquaculture facilities since the last Assessment (new regulations, guidance, manuals, etc.). Provide the following information for each change:
 - B Characterize the scope of the change
 - B Describe recent trends
 - B Identify impediments to addressing the change
 - B Identify successes

Conclusion

1. Identify priority needs or major gaps in addressing the programmatic objectives for this enhancement area that could be addressed through a 309 Strategy.

2. What priority was this area previously and what priority is it now for developing a 309 Strategy and designating 309 funding and why?

Last Assessment

High ____

Medium ____

Low ____

This Assessment

High

Medium

Low

Detailed Enhancement Grant Objectives
(Attachment B)
March 2005

WETLANDS

Legislative Objective

' 309(a)(1) Protection, restoration or enhancement of the existing coastal wetlands base or creation of new coastal wetlands.

Assessment Characterization

Characterize the status of coastal wetlands, their extent (by type, e.g. tidal or non-tidal), trends (rate of gain/loss), and threats (direct and indirect) to those wetlands.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Protect and preserve existing levels of wetlands, as measured by acreage and functions, from direct, indirect and cumulative adverse impacts, by developing or improving regulatory programs.

Sub-objectives

- a. Avoid or minimize any direct adverse impacts of activities that otherwise destroy or impair wetlands through:
 - Sequenced mitigation decision making, which provides first for avoiding impacts, then minimizing impacts, and finally, providing appropriate compensatory mitigation. This process also includes practical alternatives analysis;
 - Cumulative impacts and secondary effects analysis;
 - Exemptions only for those activities with negligible impacts;
 - A comprehensive mitigation policy and program;
 - Adequate enforcement, surveillance and monitoring programs, which include measuring gains and losses of wetlands acreage and function; and
 - Developing biological, water quality and hydrological criteria for wetlands functions maintenance.
- b. Minimize significant adverse impacts on wetlands from upland activities or water uses by:
 - Requiring the retention of natural systems or land use practices that reduce or prevent indirect adverse impacts (e.g., vegetated buffers and setbacks).
 - Establishing performance standards for existing activities that are known to cause adverse impacts.
 - Requiring development siting away from wetlands or away from critical areas where development is likely to lead to significant indirect impacts to wetlands.

II. Increase levels of wetland sustainable acreage and functions within formerly existing or degraded wetlands:

Sub-objectives

- a. Develop and enhance public wetland restoration* programs.
 - identify degraded wetlands sites.
 - establish and implement best available enhancement and restoration measures.
 - prohibit future site degradation.
 - Identify sites where restoration projects have the greatest likelihood for success.
- b. Encourage restoration and monitoring of wetlands in areas likely to achieve the greatest NPS benefits.
- c. Encourage restoration which does not maximize one function at the expense of another.
- d. Encourage acceptable wetlands restoration by private landowners only if technical assistance and monitoring can be provided.

III. Utilize nonregulatory and innovative techniques to provide for the protection and acquisition of coastal wetlands.

- Promote or encourage fee simple or less than fee simple acquisition of coastal wetlands.
- Provide incentives to landowners to sell or donate wetlands to states or local government.
- Provide disincentives to development in or near wetlands through restricted capital expenditures, taxes, etc.
- Provide public education and information programs that describe the importance of coastal wetlands functions and values as part of a larger effort to develop program changes in this area.
- Promote and encourage planning and coordination between Federal, state and local government which lead to plans and programs to protect, restore and create wetlands in specific areas and basinwide (i.e., special area management plans, EPA, Army Corps, advance identification programs, growth management, mitigation banks, state comprehensive wetlands plans, etc.).

IV. Develop and improve artificial wetlands creation programs as the lowest priority.

- Develop procedures for evaluating and selecting candidate sites from an ecological systems as well as an economic perspective.
- Develop an appropriate monitoring program to evaluate the success of any efforts to create artificial wetlands.

* Restoration is defined to include the restoration of areas which were previously wetlands, and the enhancement or rehabilitation of degraded wetlands.

COASTAL HAZARDS

Legislative Objectives

' 309(a)(2) 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.

Assessment Characterization

Characterize the extent to which the coastal zone is at risk from the following coastal hazards: hurricanes, flooding, storm surge, episodic and chronic erosion, sea and Great Lakes level rise, subsidence, earthquakes, tsunamis, and any other significant coastal hazards.

Programmatic Grant Objectives

- I. 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 and Grant Lakes level rise.

Sub-objectives

- a. Develop or enhance programs that identify and restrict development in areas that are unsuitable for development or redevelopment, including programs that:
 - Establish state and local policies that eliminate development and redevelopment in high hazard areas and manage development in other hazardous areas either directly or indirectly.
 - Establish or improve programs/policies for the siting of structures away from hazardous areas after a storm.
 - Restrict the use of public funds for infrastructure or other projects that would allow or encourage development in high hazard or hazardous areas.
- II. Preserve and restore the protective functions of natural shoreline features such as beaches, dunes and wetlands.

Sub-objectives

- a. Minimize the degradation or destruction of natural shoreline protective features.
 - Conserve natural protective features through acquisition, condemnation, and other means.
 - Regulate public and private activities that impair the function of natural protective features, including restrictions on erosion control structures; building setbacks from beaches, dunes, and wetlands; and other protective features.

- Control development adjacent to natural protective features to minimize the adverse effects of such development and the processes that enhance those features.
- b. Enhance the protective functions of natural shoreline features.
- Reduce impediments to natural sediment transport.
 - Encourage plantings, dune fencing, and other efforts to stabilize features.
 - Provide for comprehensive renourishment of the beach and dune where appropriate.
 - Develop and implement state-wide renourishment planning, including developing long-term and predictable funding mechanisms and methods to establish project priorities.
- III. Prevent or minimize threats to existing populations and property from both episodic and chronic coastal hazards.
- Develop annual erosion rate-based retreat policies and implementation mechanisms to limit redevelopment in high hazard areas (FEMA V-zones) and in areas vulnerable to inundation from sea level rise over time.
 - Institute mechanisms to control development density in coastal communities to help prevent significant increases in evacuation times for populations threatened by coastal hazards. Develop means of educating shoreline property owners and local officials about episodic and chronic coastal hazards.
 - Develop post-event redevelopment plans that:
 - B Limit development densities,
 - B Restrict redevelopment in high hazard areas,
 - B Provide for relocation of structures out of high hazard areas,
 - B Restrict erosion control devices, such as seawalls, revetments, and groins.
 - Develop programs for building retrofit to meet building codes designed for high hazard areas.
 - Develop programs to protect important coastal habitats and other public resources from loss due to sea and Great Lakes level rise.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Legislative Objectives

' 309(a)(3) 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.

Assessment Characterization

Characterize the adequacy of existing public access sites, site improvements and maintenance programs.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Improve public access through regulatory, statutory, and legal systems.
 - Develop and revise state and local statutes and regulations to better provide public access, including utilization of permit conditions.
 - Assist and encourage 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.
 - Increase the use of federal consistency as a tool to require public access.
- II. Acquire, improve, and maintain public access sites to meet current and future demand through the use of innovative funding and acquisition techniques.

Sub-Objectives

- a. Develop and enhance a unified state process for funding acquisition, improvement, and maintenance of coastal public access sites.
 - Assess impact fees and utilize special assessments, bond issues, and other techniques.
 - Assess user fees and other techniques, where appropriate.
- b. Coordinate with other state and federal agencies that provide funds related to the provision of public access to ensure that highest priority sites are acquired, improved, and maintained.
- c. Coordinate with other public and private entities that own or manage shoreline areas in order to meet the needs for shoreline public access.
 - Encourage cooperative efforts between land trust organizations and government agencies providing funds for acquisition of public access sites.
 - Coordinate with the National Flood Insurance Program to acquire property that has been damaged by natural hazards and is unsuitable for rebuilding.

- Encourage the utilization of surplus public properties, abandoned railroad corridors, and other opportunities to help meet needs for shoreline public access.
- d. Develop or enhance programs to encourage landowners to dedicate property and easements for public access.

III. Develop or enhance a Coastal Public Access Management Plan which takes into account the provision of public access to all users of coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural value. The plan should have adequate implementation mechanisms and include sections that:

- Develop or update public access inventory, maps of and guide to all existing and potential public access sites.
- Identify site selection and design criteria, management, and maintenance issues for each type of public access.
- Access current and future demand for public access.
- Incorporate pertinent sections of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan into the Coastal Public Access Management Plan.
- Update and/or designate public access sites as Areas of Particular Concern, Areas for Preservation or Restoration, or special management areas.
- Ensure that signage is provided for all public access sites.
- Ensure that all users of the coast, including handicapped individuals, are afforded the same public access opportunities.
- Increase community support and cooperation through public education and involvement.
- Incorporate existing public access policies.

IV. Minimize potential adverse impacts of public access on coastal resources and private property rights through appropriate protection measures.

Sub-Objectives

- a. Balance the provision of public access in meeting current and future demand with the protection of environmentally-sensitive areas and other natural resources.
 - Develop a system to evaluate the environmental sensitivity and amount of use of existing and proposed access sites.
 - Provide for periodic site inspections to assess the impact of public access use on the surrounding ecosystem.
 - Provide for alternatives such as visual access to protect sensitive coastal areas.
- b. Safeguard the rights of private property owners who dedicate property for public use, and those of adjacent property owners.
 - Encourage the adoption of a limited liability provision for property owners who donate property or easements.
 - Provide for the security and maintenance of public accessways on or adjacent to private property.

MARINE DEBRIS

Legislative Objective

' 309(a)(4) Reducing marine debris entering the Nation's coastal and ocean environment by managing uses and activities that contribute to the entry of such debris.

Assessment Characterization

Identify the impact of marine debris on the coastal zone and the primary sources responsible.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Develop or revise programs which reduce the amount of marine debris in the coastal zone.
 - 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.
 - Develop or enhance programs within the state which educate the marine community about debris, and state and local reduction requirements.

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS

Legislative Objectives

' 309(a)(5) 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.

Assessment Characterization

Characterize the nature, type and extent of secondary and cumulative impacts in the coastal zone.

- Identify areas in the coastal zone where rapid growth requires improved management of potential cumulative and secondary impacts.
- Identify areas in the coastal zone which possess sensitive coastal resources (wetlands, water bodies, fish and wildlife habitats), and require a greater degree of protection and understanding of the cumulative and secondary impacts related to growth and development.
- Assess the adequacy of existing institutional, legal and policy mechanisms (e.g; coastal development permits, local land use plans and ordinances, water quality reviews, infrastructure funding policies) that address cumulative and secondary impacts on coastal resources.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Develop, revise or enhance procedures or polices to provide cumulative and secondary impact controls.

Sub-Objectives

- a. Establish or improve coastal planning processes which address the cumulative and secondary impacts of future growth by identifying areas of rapid growth and which contain sensitive coastal resources, assessing anticipated cumulative and secondary impacts and establishing appropriate land use controls and mitigation measures to protect valuable coastal resources.
- b. Establish or improve procedures for the consideration of cumulative and secondary effects in project/permit review decisions and infrastructure and land acquisition programs.

SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Legislative Objectives

' 309(a)(6) Preparing and implementing special area management plans for important coastal areas.

Assessment Characterization

Identify areas of the coastal zone subject to use conflicts that can be addressed through special area management planning. Selection criteria should include these characteristics:

- The area includes significant coastal resources that are being severely affected by cumulative or secondary impacts from coastal growth.
- There is a multiplicity of local, state and federal authorities, which prevents effective coordination and cooperation in addressing coastal development on an ecosystem basis.
- There is a history of long-standing disputes between local, state or federal agencies over certain coastal resources that 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 that is willing and able to sponsor the planning program.

Programmatic Objective

- I. Develop and implement special area management planning in coastal areas selected by the above criteria.

OCEAN/GREAT LAKES RESOURCES

Legislative Objective

' 309(a)(7) Planning for the use of ocean/Great Lakes resources.

Assessment Characterization

Characterize current and prospective ocean/Great Lakes resources and uses of state concern, and specify existing and future use conflicts.

- Inventory ocean/Great Lakes resources that are important to the state.
- Identify current and probable near-term and long-term ocean/Great Lakes uses. Describe the intensity of those uses and the extent and severity of conflicts (both current and anticipated) among the various activities.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Develop and enhance regulatory, planning and intra-governmental coordination mechanisms to provide meaningful state participation in ocean/Great Lakes resources management and decision-making processes.
 - Analyze existing laws, regulations, and programs affecting the management of ocean/Great Lakes resources.
 - Develop or enhance mechanisms to ensure full state participation in existing planning and management programs, including coordination with federal agencies.
- II . Where necessary and appropriate, develop a comprehensive ocean/Great Lakes resource management plan that provides for the balanced uses and development of ocean/Great Lakes resources, coordination of existing authorities, and minimization of use conflicts.

ENERGY AND GOVERNMENT FACILITY SITING AND ACTIVITIES

Legislative Objectives

' 309(a)(8) 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.

Assessment Characteristics

Assess existing planning and regulatory procedures and policies that affect the siting of subject facilities and activities.

- Evaluate the adequacy of existing state and local planning processes to address the siting of facilities with needs of greater than local significance.
- Examine the role played by interested and affected public and private parties during the planning process.
- Evaluate enforceable policies, authorities and techniques used in managing and regulating energy-related and government facilities/activities and their impacts.
- Evaluate existing project review and permitting procedures to minimize duplication and enhance communication between permitting authorities and those requesting permits.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Enhance existing procedures and long range planning processes for considering the needs of energy-related and government facilities and activities of greater than local significance.
 - Enhance existing administrative procedures and decision points where the need for activities and facilities of greater than local significance are considered during the planning and permitting processes.
 - Develop strategies designed to address systemic gaps in the states' ability to identify and consider needs of greater than local significance.
 - Enhance procedures for periodic coordination and communication with federal, state and local agencies with regard to energy-related and government facilities siting issues.
 - Enhance procedures for coordination and monitoring of energy-related and government facilities during planning, construction, operation, and disposal and re-use phases.
 - Coordinate and synchronize regulatory programs and procedures at all levels of government.
- II. Improve program policies and standards that affect the subject uses and activities so as to facilitate siting while maintaining current levels of coastal resource protection.

- Enhance policies for assessing the acceptability of sites for energy and government facilities (e.g., policies pertaining to the analysis of alternative sites or identification of the least damaging alternative site).
- Enhance policies for assessing the acceptability of alternative technologies and operational procedures used in meeting the needs of energy and government facilities.
- Enhance the methods by which the coastal management agency and local government provide policy input into energy-related or government facilities/activities planning and development processes, including a process for anticipating, limiting, and mitigating the impacts which result from such facilities.

AQUACULTURE

Legislative Objectives

' 309(a)(9) 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/coastal aquaculture.

Assessment Characteristics

Assess existing planning and regulatory procedures and policies that affect the siting of aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone.

- Evaluate the adequacy of existing state and local planning processes to address aquaculture siting needs of greater than local significance.
- Examine the role played by interested and affected public and private parties during the planning process.
- Evaluate enforceable policies, authorities and techniques used in managing and regulating aquaculture facilities/activities and their impacts.
- Evaluate existing project review and permitting procedures to minimize duplication and enhance communication between permitting authorities and those requesting permits.

Programmatic Objectives

- I. Enhance existing procedures and long range planning processes for considering the siting of public and private marine aquaculture facilities in the coastal zone.
- II. Improve program policies and standards which affect aquaculture activities and uses so as to facilitate siting while ensuring the protection of coastal resources and waters.