



The New Jersey

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Fact Sheet 1 September 2001

The New Jersey Coastal Program Looks to the Future

Overview

As we enter the 21st century, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is looking back over 20 years of participation in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program and assessing the challenges ahead.

Each year, New Jersey receives federal funding to support planning, regulatory and enforcement programs aimed at protecting the state's coastal resources, controlling the impacts of development on the coastal ecosystem, and enhancing public access opportunities along the shoreline.

Since the inception of the New Jersey Coastal Management Program (NJCMP) in 1978, much has been accomplished. For example, coastal land use regulation has been strengthened to protect coastal wetlands, a comprehensive urban public access initiative is underway along the Hudson River, and marine water quality has improved. At the same time, development pressures in the coastal area continue to intensify, new ocean management issues are emerging and the preservation or restoration of high-value wildlife habitat is a key concern.

A results-based management framework being implemented Department-wide presents new opportunities to refine the state's coastal management strategy with clear measures of progress. We need to set priorities, establish new partnerships and explore innovative ways of doing business. We are calling on the entire coastal community—the public, user-groups, environmental organizations, regulated parties, and other state agencies—to work with us to set the stage for the next generation of coastal zone management in New Jersey.

Comments or Questions? Contact us at czupdate@dep.state.nj.us

The Coastal Zone in New Jersey

In all their diversity, coastal resources are key to the state's economy and quality of life. New Jersey's coastal zone spans intensely developed urban waterfronts and industrial port areas, a rapidly growing suburban coastline and the rural Delaware Bay shoreline.

The NJCMP defines the coastal zone management boundary as encompassing those areas under the jurisdiction of the

program's key regulatory authorities: the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA), the Wetlands Act of 1970, and the Waterfront Development Law. In addition to these three statutes, the Hackensack Meadowlands Reclamation and Development Act of 1968 provides the regulatory authority associated with proposed development in the Hackensack Meadowlands District of Hudson and Bergen Counties.

A Federal-State Partnership

The federal Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP), authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, is a unique federal-state partnership that provides a framework for states to develop management strategies to protect, restore and responsibly develop the nation's diverse coastal communities and resources. Administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the law recognizes a national interest in our coastal and ocean areas, but allows each state to determine how best to balance

conservation of the coastal environment with human practices that depend on coastal resources.

Each of the thirty-three states and territories with federally-approved Coastal Management Programs has tailored an approach that reflects their particular management concerns, regulatory structures and coastal resources— yet all are organized around the federal coastal program's three major themes of *Sustaining Coastal Communities*,

Sustaining Coastal Ecosystems, and Improving Government Efficiency.

New Jersey was one of the first states in the nation to join this federal-state partnership, receiving initial federal approval in 1978 followed by full state program approval in 1980. Each year federally approved state coastal programs receive funding for program implementation based on a spending plan articulated in an annual grant application. In FY 2001, NOAA supported the NJCMP with an allocation of \$2,894,000.

The New Jersey Coastal Zone Management Program

The Office of Coastal Planning within the NJDEP administers the state's coastal program. Federal CZMA grant monies support the staffing of coastal permitting, regulatory and enforcement efforts in the Department's Land Use Regulation Program and supply grants to fund community-based initiatives. This spending plan reflects the *net-worked structure* of the New Jersey program: the Office of Coastal Planning supports the efforts of a number of programs which, taken together, comprise the federally approved *coastal program*. In addition to managing the federal grant, Office of Coastal Planning staff provide technical expertise in specific areas such as coastal hazards and public access, play an active role in the coastal rule-making process and offer training for coastal decision-makers.

Join Us in Looking Ahead...

The Office of Coastal Planning and Program Coordination has contracted with the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) of the University of Massachusetts Boston to assist in an effort to assess and update the NJCMP. The goals of this initiative are: 1) to develop a results-based coastal management framework that will set clear goals for coastal management priorities; 2) to propose strategies to better integrate coastal planning, policy, regulatory, research and technical assistance components within the Department; and 3) to identify opportunities to more effectively leverage the resources of the federal CZMP.

The assessment process will include an extensive outreach program to coastal

stakeholders—including government agencies, environmental advocacy groups, the regulated community and the general public—to gather opinion on the effectiveness of the current coastal program, ideas for improvement and priorities for the future. The outreach strategy is under development and will include individual interviews, public meetings and issues-oriented focus groups. This initiative will result in the preparation of an updated New Jersey Coastal Management Plan for public comment and approval by NOAA.

We hope you will join us in this exciting opportunity to retool New Jersey's approach to coastal stewardship. For more information, please contact the Department's Office of Coastal Planning.

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