

American Water Resources Association
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8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

SESSION 56: Panel - Incorporating Ecosystem Based Management Principles into Coastal Zone Management

Moderator- Ralph Cantral

NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, Silver Spring, MD
Problems with Existing CZM Structures and Describe NOAA's Proposed Reauthorization Efforts

Panel Participants

Kathryn Mengerink

Director of Ocean Programs for the Environmental Law Institute, LaJolla, California
The Need for Incorporating EBM Techniques into the CZMA

Susan White

Senior Scientist, NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Charleston, South Carolina
The Difficulties of Implementing EBM Programs

Robert Bailey

Director, Oregon's Coastal and Ocean Management Program, Salem, Oregon
The Problems Faced by States in Implementing EBM Programs

The Coastal Zone Management Act was originally adopted in 1972 in an effort to create a state federal partnership to accomplish a great number of things. The act focused on, among other things, habitat protection, public access, water quality, waterfront revitalization, and coastal hazard reduction. Although 34 of the 35 coastal states have adopted programs under the CZMA, each program has different goals and priorities, and few states have similar criteria for boundaries. To better achieve measurable results at the national level, NOAA is proposing to focus the reauthorization of the CZMA on three distinct goals: providing for sustainable coastal and ocean ecosystems; reducing the impacts of climate change on coastal areas; and ensuring safe, sustainable, and resilient coastal communities and economies. To accomplish these goals, NOAA will need to work closely with the traditional state government partners but also improve the ability to work with local governments and coordinate better with other federal agencies and the states to address some issues at the regional level. New techniques will be especially important when attempting to preserve sustainable ecosystems. One of the desired methods for improving coastal and ocean resource management is to incorporate ecosystem based management (EBM) principles into coastal zone management (CZM). To date, most EBM efforts have attempted to improve knowledge of a particular area and then to apply the knowledge gained to planning and managing focused on the natural environment. CZM efforts, on the other hand, have focused primarily on planning and regulatory structures to control land use to address a broad range of issues. Using EBM effectively at a broad scale throughout the nation's coastal zone will be difficult for a number of reasons, including lack of good information about the current state of the ecosystem at a scale that supports management; lack of a good definition of what the bounds of the coastal area should be, the perceived lack of transferability of ecosystem management tools across ecosystems, and handling the expectations of success from federal and state managers as well as stakeholders.