



COASTAL MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE ADAPTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL TOOL DEVELOPERS



www.coastalstates.org

Citation:

COASTAL MANAGEMENT
2019, VOL. 47, NO. 3, 1 - 16

*HELPING COMMUNITIES ADAPT &
PLAN FOR COASTAL HAZARDS:
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR NATIONAL TOOL
DEVELOPERS*

KRISTIN RAUB &
BRIDGET COTTI-RAUSCH

ISSUE OVERVIEW

National support for climate adaptation and mitigation planning must be directly linked to, and aligned with, the needs of local communities. We explored the utility of available tools for on-the-ground adaptation planning and implementation and generated a distilled set of principles that can be used by national organizations to improve the usability of future tools. State and territory Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Programs serve as bridges between national groups and end-users, therefore we focused on understanding community needs from their perspective.

FINDINGS

CZM PROGRAMS REPORTED **THREE KEY CHALLENGES**:

- Finding tools that suit the needs of the user to address a specific problem.
- Intended users lack trust in tools and toolkits.
- Tools are rarely available at sufficiently high resolution for decision-making.

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES

RECOMMENDATION 1.

TOOLS, TOOLKITS, AND SEARCH PORTALS ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCOMMODATE THE DIVERSE VOCABULARY USED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO DESCRIBE THE ISSUE.

RECOMMENDATION 2.

TOOLS EXPLICITLY STATE THEIR ASSUMPTIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS.

RECOMMENDATION 3.

TOOL DEVELOPERS IDENTIFY AND UTILIZE TRUSTED INFORMATION HUBS WITHIN THE NETWORK OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES TO COLLECT FEEDBACK AND SHARE THEIR TOOLS.

RECOMMENDATION 4.

THOSE SEEKING TO DEVELOP NEW COASTAL TOOLS OR TOOLKITS CONSULT WITH END-USERS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT.

RECOMMENDATION 5.

TOOL DEVELOPERS REGULARLY OFFER END-USER TRAINING AND TUTORIALS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMUNITY-TRUSTED PROGRAMS.

RECOMMENDATION 6.

WHEN POSSIBLE, TOOLS ARE DESIGNED TO BE CUSTOMIZABLE AT DIFFERENT SPATIAL SCALES AND RELEVANT FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS.

RECOMMENDATION 7.

END-USERS ARE APPROPRIATED FUNDING AND/OR GIVEN IN-KIND SUPPORT TO CREATE TOOLS SPECIFIC TO THE NEEDS OF ON-THE-GROUND ADAPTATION PROJECTS.

FINAL THOUGHTS

National tools can be part of the solution for communities addressing challenges associated with a changing coastline and developers should leverage state CZM Program resources, expertise, and relationships to build a Community of Practice that helps local decision-makers address current and future resource needs.