

National Coastal Zone Management Program Strategic Plan: Summary of Implementation Efforts and Priorities

Fiscal Year 2019

At the Coastal States Organization (CSO)'s 2018 Fall Meeting, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management (OCM) presented its first progress update on National Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Strategic Plan implementation. At that time, OCM proposed several actions that it would take in partnership with CSO in Fiscal Year 2019 to contribute to strategic plan implementation:

- Increasing the capacity of state and territory coastal programs by delivering CZM-focused training through the Digital Coast Resources for Coastal Managers webinar series (Objective 3.2);
- Enhancing awareness of the National Coastal Zone Management Program by strengthening and aligning our communications efforts (Objective 3.3); and
- Supporting the creation of economic information on the National Coastal Zone Management Program by funding the Economic Assessment Scoping Study (Objective 1.2).

We also set aside some time to talk about implementation priorities for Fiscal Year 2020. Based on that discussion, one implementation priority that rose to the top was diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly as it relates to public access (Objective 2.3).

Fiscal Year 2020

At the 2019 CSO Fall Meeting, OCM expressed its commitment to continuing to support the implementation actions outlined for Fiscal Year 2019, while also focusing more on diversity, equity, and inclusion. One action taken by OCM was to include a public-access focus area, with emphasis on inclusive access, in the Fiscal Year 2019 Projects of Special Merit competition, and one project (from Maryland) was selected for funding under this category. Another action that OCM planned to take during Fiscal Year 2020 was to facilitate a half-day session on diversity, equity, and inclusion at the 2020 Program Managers' Meeting. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person meeting could not go on as planned, and this session wasn't offered.

OCM's priorities have shifted this spring and summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, OCM focused its resources on the development and delivery of virtual training and peer-to-peer exchanges to support the coastal programs as they quickly transitioned to administering their programs remotely. These engagements align with strategic plan Objectives 3.1 and 3.2, which called on OCM, CSO, and the coastal programs to strengthen the national CZM network and grow partnerships through peer-to-peer sharing, and to increase coastal program implementation capacity by enhancing learning opportunities. Examples of these offerings include:

- In April 2020, OCM and CSO co-hosted a virtual, peer-to-peer discussion on permitting and enforcement operations during the COVID-19 era (Objective 3.1).

- In May 2020, OCM and CSO co-hosted two virtual, peer-to-peer discussions on virtual stakeholder engagement (Objective 3.1).
- In May 2020, OCM developed and shared a set of job aids on planning, facilitating, and participating in virtual meetings on the Digital Coast website (Objective 3.2).
- In June 2020, OCM began offering a Virtual Facilitation Technical Assistance Hour training (Objective 3.2).
- Since spring 2020, OCM's Learning Services Division has been working to identify trainings that could be offered virtually, either entirely or partially, and adapt them accordingly. Several of these trainings are of interest to the coastal programs. Courses range from 60-minute interactive sessions to a three-week cohort experience. The full list includes: Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities (under development), A Framework for Ecosystem Services, Community-Based Social Marketing, Diving into the Digital Coast, Estimating the Local Marine Economy (under development), Facilitation Basics (under development, to be piloted in October or November), Nature-Based Solutions, Planning Effective Projects, Social Science Basics, Interviews and Surveys, Three Steps for Risk Communication, Seven Best Practices for Risk Communication, and Using Flood Maps. For more information, visit the [Digital Coast Academy](#) (Objective 3.2).

Fiscal Year 2021

This fall, OCM and CSO will revisit the actions our organizations have taken collectively and independently, and decide whether any specific goals and objectives outlined in the plan are especially timely or warrant additional attention at this time. Advancing our community's understanding of opportunities in the diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion space would be important to revisit this year.