

**A program within the
Department of
Environmental Protection**

CZMA program approved:
1980

Coastal population in 2000:
2,946,892

Miles of coastline:
140

CZMA funds:
\$2,025,000

CZMA enhancements funds:
\$174,000

CZMA nonpoint funds:
\$280,000

State and other matching
funds:
\$2,305,000

Total:
\$4,784,000

Pennsylvania

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR 2003



Program Goals and Objectives

The Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program (PCZMP) works to enhance the Commonwealth's capacity to manage the natural, recreational, and historic resources of its two geographically distinct Coastal Zones and coastal watersheds. The program operates through a network of federal, state and local partners, coordinating public participation and providing funding and technical support for projects that protect, conserve and enhance coastal resources.

Key Accomplishments

- Providing financial assistance for coastal improvement projects in the Lake Erie and Delaware Estuary coastal zones
- Reviewing and streamlining grant administrative processes, reducing paperwork and increasing program efficiency
- Beginning the integration of Coastal Zone program elements with the broad goals and activities related to updating the State Water Plan
- Supporting public outreach, environmental education, curriculum development, scientific research, and public participation in coastal activities
- Acting as an incubator for projects and programs that apply throughout coastal watersheds and beyond
- Providing support for development of the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program
- Monitoring coastal wetlands, supporting restoration and mitigation measures, and pursuing creation of wetland habitat
- Supporting local administration and enforcement of the Bluff Recession and Setback Act, which provides for regulation of structure setbacks in bluff recession hazard areas
- Conducting an evaluation of the Lake Erie coastal bluffs to determine updated Bluff Recession Hazard Areas
- Evaluating federal, state, and local activities in coastal areas to ensure consistency with coastal program policies
- Preparing a Routine Program Change (RPC) document for final submittal to NOAA in 2004
- Initiating development of a new guidance document to help regional department permitting staff with the evaluation of permit applications for shoreline protection structures along Lake Erie
- Reviewing Section 309 activities and developing an action plan to improve efforts regarding program enhancement objectives
- Working with other states, provinces, and federal agencies on coastal issues of regional, national, and international importance.

OUTCOMES AND PRODUCTS

- Enhanced effective partnerships with local governments, non-profits, and other stakeholders within the two CZ regions.
- Streamlined grant administrative processes, reduced paperwork and increased program efficiency.
- Implemented an internal re-organization that will help develop the foundation for better leveraging Coastal Zone funding as part of a plan to integrate activities with the broader goals of updating the State Water Plan.
- Increased and improved resource monitoring and protection activities via regional CZM field staff.
- Continued improvements to wetlands monitoring, permit compliance and mitigation and restoration within the coastal boundaries.
- Improved data collection, coastal mapping and GIS usage to better manage coastal resources.
- Federal consistency improvements to address boundary changes and interstate consistency provisions.
- Increased 'visibility' and support for the CZM program within the two regions.
- Increased PA Sea Grant full time staff through Section 309 funding.
- Enhanced credibility of the CZM program with other state-level agencies.
- Increased cost accounting improvements by adding new IT technology.
- Increased coordination with NOAA staff through regular, face-to-face conferences.

Outcomes and Products continued on next page

Pennsylvania

OUTCOMES AND PRODUCTS

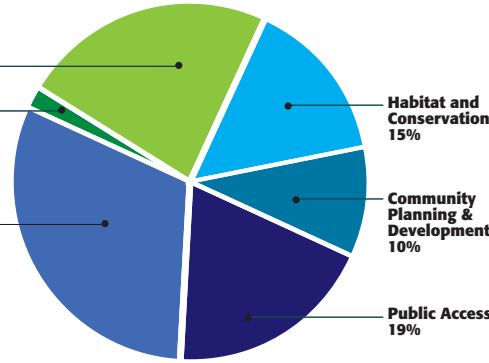
COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: \$1,080,000

- The River Adventure on the Delaware (RAD) Program for grades 4-8 children at the Independence Seaport Museum, focusing on the ecology of the Delaware River;
- Teacher education program supporting the CNPP educational goals;
- Purchase and installation of research equipment at the Presque Isle State Park Center. A consortium of regional colleges, universities and other organizations studying the Great Lakes ecosystems will use this 6,000 square feet research area.
- Providing on-site technical assistance service to Lake Erie property owners affected by shoreline erosion and bluff recession;
- Development of a new guidance document to help regional department permitting staff with evaluating permit applications for shoreline protection structures along Lake Erie.

Coordination and Public Involvement 23%

Coastal Hazards 2%

Water Quality Protection 31%



COASTAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION: \$700,000

- Providing groundwater wells for the state owned fish hatchery supplying Coho Salmon and Steelhead Smolts to the coastal tributaries of Lake Erie;
- Monitoring and tracking the quality of new sediments entering the Presque Isle Bay "Area of Recovery" along Lake Erie;
- Monitoring of coastal wetlands changes for enforcement purposes using annual color infrared aerial photography along with GIS wetland polygon layers and digital transfer technology;
- Invasive species policy development and incorporation into the approved CZM Program.

Habitat and Conservation 15%

Community Planning & Development 10%

Public Access 19%

COASTAL WATER QUALITY PROTECTION: \$1,500,000

- Enhancing public outreach efforts related to urban runoff management measures and public education on water quality impacts of urban runoff for six counties and ten major watersheds of the Delaware River;
- Development of calibrated decision making computer models for municipal use to prioritize nonpoint source pollution BMPs within select watersheds of the Delaware River;
- Implement and track coastal nonpoint source pollution management measures on a sub watershed basis in eight municipalities along the Delaware River;
- Purchase of development rights through an agricultural conservation easement for a rural coastal farm in a prime agricultural area along Lake Erie.

COASTAL HAZARDS: \$110,000

- Oblique digital aerial photography of the frontal bluff profile along Lake Erie to determine changes in the designated coastal bluff recession hazard areas for use in updating the CZM Bluff Setback Regulations and local setback ordinances;
- Develop methods of propagating 20 –30 native plant species for use in stabilizing coastal bluffs and for groups involved in coastal waterways restoration projects;
- Financial support for Lake Erie municipalities to prepare or amend bluff setback ordinances and to administer and implement activities in accordance with the Bluff Recession Setback Act.

PUBLIC ACCESS: \$940,000

- Educational signage along the historic Delaware River Kensington & Tacony Trail;
- Construction of an Excursion Dock for waterborne public access to the historic Bartram's Garden along the Delaware River;
- Purchase of 1.75 acres along Ridley Creek flowing into the Delaware River to provide additional public access for small watercraft such as rowboats and canoes;
- Selected alignment and bridge type for the pedestrian walkway/bike trail bridge over Darby Creek for a segment of the East Coast Greenway.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: \$460,000

- State, regional and local support of CZM Policies and Program initiatives via technical assistance, project administration and overall coordination functions;
- Expedient review of proposed pre-permit development plans by a multi- agency service sponsored by CZM called the Urban Waterfront Action Group;
- Thorough and consistent application of federal consistency reviews;
- Application of interstate consistency to federal activities having reasonable foreseeable adverse affects on PA coastal resources.

PRIORITIES AND NEEDS

The key priorities for the Coastal Program for the next year are the following:

- Develop the *State Water Plan*, with an emphasis on integrating Coastal Zone issues into a comprehensive vision and action agenda based on watershed management and protection of coastal ecosystems.
- Expand existing GIS capabilities into all aspects and functions of the CZM Program, integrating the results into the larger state water planning efforts.
- Complete the Coastal Wetlands Inventory for both Coastal Zones.
- Successfully apply Federal Consistency provisions of the CZMA to a major dredging activity proposed at the federal harbor in Conneaut, Ohio.
- Upgrade the CZM website, with a focus on making information generated grant projects more readily available.
- Increase research on the effects and management of non-native invasive plant and animal species in the two CZ areas.
- Emphasize the CNPP Management Measures with particular attention to stormwater management in the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone.
- Increase support for the 7 County Conservation Districts and the Philadelphia Water Department that operate within Pennsylvania's Coastal Zones.
- Enhance monitoring of coastal hazards and wetlands degradation.

If provided more funding and support, the Coastal Program would seek to accomplish the following:

- More fully support development of the *State Water Plan*, to help both public and private sectors make more informed decisions within the Coastal Zones.
- Take a more proactive role in the development of Delaware Estuary public access areas within former industrial areas, and in Lake Erie public access areas to provide unique physical access to picturesque shoreline areas.
- Provide more technical support and financial assistance to partners working to acquire fee simple title or long-term easements to priority wetlands in both Coastal Zones.
- Complete the construction phase (including monitoring) of prototype step design to facilitate safe access down high coastal bluffs to the shoreline of Lake Erie without the instability factors experienced in past construction.
- Provide stronger support for the re-use of potentially contaminated sites along the Delaware Estuary waterfront for habitat restoration, improvement and public access.

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