
Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Coastal States Organization (CSO) developed a set of core principles and options in 2007 that they agreed to each consider as they drafted legislative proposals for the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). These principals and options emerged from a process that included gathering extensive stakeholder input from meetings across the nation.

CBI managed the stakeholder input process in close coordination with NOAA and CSO. We ran day-long meetings for up to 120 people in five different cities for a wide mix of coastal stakeholders including utilities, coastal communities, land use planners, economic development representatives, the fishing community, tourism representatives and many more. We managed scores of breakout sessions on topics ranging from protected areas to land use to energy to emergency preparedness and gathered input from those sessions for NOAA and CSO. We also facilitated several smaller meetings of invited participants to further hone the many innovative ideas generated by the broader public. Finally, we helped NOAA and CSO to develop the final principals and options that both agreed to consider, working intensively with the individuals involved.

Both consistent themes voices by people across different regions and the wealth of innovative solutions generated were exceedingly informative and gave CSO and NOAA a strong sense of what direction many are hoping coastal management will take in the future. The aggressive timeline of the project, coordination of a cadre of volunteer facilitators and logistics in five cities, and working with conveners who care passionately about the topic at hand but from different perspectives made this project both challenging for CBI staff and very rewarding for everyone involved.

For more background information, click [here](#)

For a copy of the final report, click [here](#)

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