## What needs should the Alaska coastal management program meet?

Coastal management serves a variety of purposes in the 34 coastal states and territories. Though initiated by a Congressional Act, coastal management is really a state program.

In many states it means a broader look at the variety of resource use proposals affecting the coasts. Issuing the Federal and state permits for filling a small part of a southern estuary, or building a jetty for erosion control in Lake Michigan seems rather insignificant.

Yet the effect of a hundred such actions may not be so incosequential. Taking a wide perspective in day-to-day management decisions is part of what coastal management means in southern and Great Lake

But what about Alaska? What should coastal management mean here? Like our sister states, tidelands leasing and dredge and fill operations are important.

will become increasingly more important as the pressures on Alaskan resources rise and neighboring towns depend more and more on shared use of resources, like watersheds, airspace, and fishing areas. In Alaska we have other reasons for coordinating our management activities through a coastal management program, and many are unique to our State.

For example, an Alaskan Coastal Management Program should help to guide and

coordinate State agencies and local governments in addressing these questions

What coastal lands should the State select under the Statehood

In turn, what criteria should local governments use in

choosing their lands?

How can State and local governments together provide Alaskans with the opportunity to own or lease parcels of land, and yet protect the rights of everyone in coastal resource allocation?

What standards should apply to

State and local tidelands leasing? How can State and local governments encourage the best type, location, and timing for resource urban development? This could reduce the amount of restrictive actions governments may find necessary to impose in the future to make up for hasty decisions.

What coastal areas should be set aside for specific use priorities: parks for preservation and recreation, critical habitats for wildlife, watershed maintenance areas, and sites for ports and coastal-dependent industrial development?

What should guide the State Federal government in allocating important resources, such as issuing permits for oil development, or timber removal, or mining extraction?

Alaska Coastal Management Program can be designed to meet a variety of needs. It is up to Alaska to determine what those needs should be.

For further information, please call Betsey Hastorf at 465-3576.



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