

## APPENDIX R

# SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL INITIATIVES

### SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS

#### **Regional nearshore projects eligible to receive staff and funding support should:**

- **Demonstrate relevancy to state nearshore management goals**

Regional entities may request support for a wide range of activities including capacity building, stewardship activities, the development of action plans, scientific research or data collection, and initiatives designed to identify and meet local needs. Rather than specify activities that would or would not receive support, a group should demonstrate that their approach is consistent with the Coastal Policies Management Act and any subsequent nearshore management goals adopted to implement the Act.

- **Demonstrate adequate stakeholder participation**

Several types of organizations may request assistance from state agencies, including advocacy groups, municipalities, ‘neutral’ organizations, industry groups and those that are newly formed for the purpose of regional coastal management. These entities may contain specific stakeholder groups or a wide range of stakeholders. Rather than specifying what type of group is eligible for support, the entity should demonstrate that it is constituted as needed to tackle the task it is proposing, for example, involvement of two or more municipalities with commitment to implement the initiative (pursuant to an interlocal agreement if necessary); balanced representation of the range of stakeholder interests (if applicable); or the presence of partnerships with other relevant organizations.

- **Demonstrate sufficient capacity to carry out proposed tasks**

Entities carrying out bay management initiatives will have different organizational capacities and relationships with others in their region. While different types of entities may receive support depending on the type of project, guidelines should be established to help evaluate the ability of an entity to carry out its proposed work. These might include:

- appropriate staffing levels;
- matching funds;
- sustainability of effort after state support;
- ability to use scientific information;
- measurable objectives by which the efficacy of the initiative may be assessed.

- **Conduct work on a regional scale**

For the purpose of supporting regional initiatives, we do not see a need to formally divide the coast into new planning units. Rather, entities involved in marine and coastal resource issues should “self-define” their geographic area of focus to correspond to the issues and projects they are working on. While there is no one scale at which regional initiatives should be conducted, the initiative should include or consider a regional perspective. This may take several forms, including:

- Engaging all towns adjacent to water body being discussed;
- Using biophysical rather than political boundaries;
- Developing and using regional-scale data;
- Considering impacts from or to the surrounding region.

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- **Minimize duplication of or conflict with similar efforts**

While the State may support more than one project (activity based) in a region, projects should demonstrate that they are not working at cross purposes. Multiple and similar planning initiatives in any one region may not be eligible for support.

- **Commit to, and be capable of using, best available and appropriate information**

There are many types of data and information that may be appropriate for use in any given project. An initiative will need to document its intention to use or develop information including: appropriate Geographic Information System maps; local knowledge; and available scientific information. Furthermore, any data and products that receive public money must make their products available (except if limited by existing confidentiality agreements).