The mission of the Coastal Committee is to develop and promote education, policies, and activities aimed at reducing the costs and impacts of coastal flooding, and protecting and preserving the natural and beneficial functions of coastal floodplains and associated coastal environments.

The objectives of the Coastal Policy Committee are to:

- Foster communication and dialogue and strengthen working relationships among the various professionals (e.g., floodplain managers, coastal zone managers, other government officials, interest groups) engaged in managing and/or protecting coastal floodplains and resources.
- Help provide coastal floodplain managers with access to information and resources that will enable them to enhance their knowledge, develop skills, and meet their professional responsibilities vis a vis floodplain management; and
- Identify and, where possible, aid in the resolution of technical and policy-related issues concerning coastal floodplain management.

A. Ongoing Work Items: Progress Made During 2009-2010

Task 1: General Coordination and Reporting

Annual Reports and Committee work plans

- 2010 Coastal Policy Committee work plan under construction
- 2010 Coastal Policy Committee report complete

Task 2: Intra-committee Communication and Coordination

This year the Coastal Committee coordinated with members of the mapping and NAI committees through the Digital Coast project (see below). Goals for 2011 include further intra-committee coordination, including CNAI review.

Task 3: Policy Review & Development

Committee members follow the legislative updates released by the EO; a full update will be presented at the committee meeting in Louisville.
B. 2010-2011 Work Items

Task 1: Strengthening Coastal Committee Work Group

Committee Work Groups
Work to identify and restructure committee work groups continued, in conjunction with revision of the committee Work Plan. Focus in the 2010-2011 year was on assessing current committee make-up, identifying priority issues (including connections to ASFPM Goals and Objectives), and outlining a new committee structure that better aligns them. In the coming year (2011-2012), the committee co-chairs will work with membership to refine and implement this new structure.

Task 2: RiskMAP Support

Coastal RiskMAP Elements
The Coastal Committee, in coordination with the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee, has tracked progress being made in new coastal flood studies underway through the RiskMAP program. As issues have been raised by members, the Committee has sought clarification on key topics through the quarterly Operating Partners meetings among FEMA, ASFPM, and other partners. Issues addressed include technical questions concerning treatment of beach nourishment in flood hazard modeling/mapping, and FEMA’s progress in developing sea-level rise (SLR) mapping pilots (the latter being an ‘enhanced’ rather than ‘standard’ RiskMAP product). This activity will increase in 2011-2012 as FEMA begins to develop additional ‘enhanced’ coastal RiskMAP products, and as regional coastal flood studies continue and communities begin to receive preliminary DFIRMs.

Digital FIRM Survey
Alan Lulloff and Jeff Stone of the EO have worked with Map Mod as technical support for a survey of selected members regarding their ability to adopt and use digital FIRMs. The summary of the project will include impacts when FEMA reduces its distribution of paper maps.

WI Project (Ongoing)
Web Mapping Outreach – Disaster Recovery: ASFPM worked with the University of Wisconsin to develop a web mapping application to support recovery efforts on the Gulf Coast. The initial rollout focused on Hurricane Katrina and included: levee boundaries and breaches after Katrina, Advisory Base Flood Elevations and boundaries, existing BFEs and boundaries, extent of inundation and Katrina high water marks. The application was recently modified to include the area impacted by Hurricane Ike. The URL is: http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/asfpm

Additional Initiatives:

- Coastal RiskMAP – The Committee continues to track and then communicate to members the latest developments in coastal flood studies under RiskMAP. The Committee expects to solicit member input on ‘enhanced’ products that FEMA is currently developing, and to continue to serve as a mechanism to elevate and resolve technical and programmatic issues concerning ‘standard’ products.
- Great Lakes Shoreline Oblique Photography and Analysis of Changes - ASFPM provides additional GIS technical support and web-mapping assistance associated with a project funded by the WI Coastal Management Program. A professor of geology at the University of Wisconsin is utilizing oblique photography to evaluate coastal erosion hazards and inventory
shore protection structures on Lake Superior. In addition to improving our understanding of coastal hazards, the project enhances our professional relationship with the University of Wisconsin.

- **Great Lakes Flood Hazard Mapping** - FEMA is updating the Great Lakes Coastal Methodology and will be revising the FIRMs for the Great Lakes coastline. FEMA has asked ASFPM (Alan Lulloff) to serve on the Executive Committee and provide outreach for this FEMA mapping. The project will enhance our understanding coastal hazard analysis and mapping and will help ensure State and local governments are informed and involved throughout the mapping process.

**Task 3: Support and Participate in Key Coastal Coalitions, Programs and Initiatives**

**Partnering with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

In its recent Next Generation Strategic Plan, NOAA adopted a vision for the future that the agency is working to realize through its policies and programs: *Healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change.* Not surprisingly, many of NOAA’s initiatives and programs are aimed at increasing the resilience of coastal communities to stressors that are of concern to coastal floodplain managers, including coastal storms, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and climate impacts (e.g., sea-level rise).

The Coastal Committee has continued to work with NOAA to help ensure that agency products address coastal floodplain manager needs for scientifically credible products to support risk identification, communication, and hazard mitigation. In 2010-2011, these efforts included:

- Promoting understanding of the myriad NOAA programs, activities, and products that support community and state work on public safety, health, environmental, economic vitality and resilience;
- Through ASFPM leadership and legislative liaisons, building awareness among elected officials at all levels of the impacts of coastal weather and climate hazards on coastal communities and our Nation’s economy, and encouraging actions and investments that reduce vulnerability and increase resilience over the long term;
- Encouraging further collaboration between NOAA and FEMA on areas of mutual interest, including initiatives and products related to identification and management of coastal inundation from all critical sources (i.e., storm-related flooding, tsunamis, sea-level rise, and other regionally relevant sources);
- Continuing partnership in Digital Coast (see Task 4 below); and
- Expanding technical assistance available to members to include Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risks (see Task 5 below).

**Community Rating System (CRS) Task Force – Coastal Elements**

The CRS is guided by a Task Force that provides advice and assistance to FEMA. It is made up of a variety of partners, including Federal, state, and local governments, and industry representatives. The CRS Task Force is the focal point for all discussions about the CRS and the primary advisor to FEMA on the program. The Task Force's Coastal Evaluation Committee leads analysis and development of coastal elements of the CRS program. Al Goodman of Mississippi represents ASFPM on the Task Force, and participates with ASFPM Coastal Committee Co-Chair Maria Honeycutt and member Pam Pogue on the Coastal Evaluation Committee.
During 2010-2011, the Coastal Evaluation Committee explored changes to the program's coastal credits in a number of topical areas. Continuing work from the 2009-2010 year, the Committee developed interim recommendations for changes to credits for mapping and regulation of Coastal A Zones. This work is drawing from experience in coastal counties where the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) has been provided by FEMA on new DFIRMs. The Committee adopted an interim standard, approved by FEMA and currently in effect, which offers up to 250 CRS points to local governments that enforce all NFIP V-Zone standards in the Coastal A Zone. The CRS offers more credit to local governments that extend V-Zone construction standards landward of the LiMWA. The interim standard will be re-examined and possibly amended pending review of FEMA’s study on Coastal A Zone and Primary Frontal Dune hazard identification and mapping.

The Committee has also drafted an initial set of recommendations for creditable climate change-related actions, which include integrated planning, improved scientific data and mapping, risk communication, and open space preservation. Further work to refine these recommendations is expected in the coming year; the proposed credits may need to be adjusted based on the findings published in FEMA's study of the impacts of climate change on the NFIP. The Committee is also in the early stages of developing recommendations for including coastal wetlands as part of the Special Flood Hazard Area for CRS purposes, to encourage communities to develop their own wetlands protection programs rather than relying on the U.S Army Corps of Engineers; work on this will continue in 2011.

Coastal States Organization
The Coastal States Organization (CSO) was established in 1970 to represent the Governors of the nation’s thirty-five coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to the sound management of coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resources. By speaking with “one voice” through CSO, states are more influential than by acting individually. CSO …

- ...works with Congress to shape legislation, comment on proposed regulations, and arrange for state testimony.
- ...advocates for increased federal funding and support for state-based coastal and ocean programs, as well as responsiveness of federal agency program administration and policies to state concerns.
- ...provides information, updates and alerts that keep states attuned to developments in Washington, DC which enables states to respond to legislative, regulatory and policy developments as they occur.
- ...serves as an important professional network for state coastal and ocean managers.
- ...has Policy Committees that focus on coastal water quality, coastal hazards, coastal zone management, ocean policy and island affairs. CSO also supports a state Legal Council.

During 2010, the Committee has had the most involvement with the CSO through the Digital Coast project (see below).

Riskwise Communities/Flood Risk Perception
Risk-Wise is a multi-sector consortium that is developing a common playbook to be used to communicate weather-related risk information to the public. Members of this consortium share the same objective: making sure coastal community members are aware of climate and hazard-related risks and have the information they need to act responsibly. The partners worked to identify what is most important for the public to know, how best to relay this information, and
understanding what barriers must be removed for change to occur. Armed with this knowledge, the efforts of the collective and the individual programs will be greatly strengthened.

The current focus is on building the Risk-Wise partnership. This is being accomplished through workshops, conference calls, a “community of practice” website, and developing a partnership strategic plan. On June 24 and 25, 2009, NOAA’s CSC and the Northern Gulf Institute held a “Risk Communication and Riskwise Behavior Workshop” that Allison Hardin, Co-Chair, and Sam Riley Medlock attended on behalf of the Coastal Committee. The results of that workshop are in a two-part report available here: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/publications.html.

RiskWise Partners include Public Sector resources (FEMA, NOAA, Office of Coastal Resource Management, Sea Grant, Climate Programs office, National Weather Service, USDA, and Cooperative Extension Service) as well as Associations & Non-Profits (ASFPM, American Meteorological Service, American Planning Association, Coastal States Organization, FLASH, Institute Business & Home Safety, National Association Counties, and The Nature Conservancy). NOAA has created a web page to highlight the RiskWise program: http://resilientamerica.us/

Additionally, both Coastal Committee co-chairs attended the second Gilbert White symposium on “Flood Risk Perception, Communication, and Behavior” held in November 2009.

Coastal Erosion Project
Phase I – The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program contracted with ASFPM to conduct an evaluation of State regulations related to coastal erosion and recommend actions needed for WI to effectively address buildings at risk due to coastal erosion. Summary of State regulations available at: http://www.Floods.org/Files/ASFPM_Prj_State_Coastal_Erosion_Setbacks_Summary.doc

Phase II – Alan Lulloff and Jeff Stone conducted an evaluation of state coastal erosion regulations and recommended actions needed to limit infrastructure and development exposure to this hazard in a changing climate.

Task 4: The Digital Coast Project

The Digital Coast represents two things: a website and a partnership. The website focuses on the tools, data, and information needed by those organizations charged with managing coastal resources. The partnership focuses on bringing new groups together to lead the website development and address common coastal issues.

The original partnership group includes ASFPM, Coastal States Organization (CSO), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). A new partner, the American Planning Association (APA), joined in April 2010. We are thrilled to add this group of 48,000+ professional planners to the partnership and look forward to many useful interactions.

The website (www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/) has been functional for three years. Updates have been made in response to user and partner input. Users can go to this site to download data; find tools to help with decision-making, data handling and viewing; sign up for in-depth training from Intro to GIS to more advanced remote sensing to coastal inundation mapping; and can view a map showing the various resources in their area. New tools, training, and data are updated regularly. The interface it was revamped in 2010 to better address users. Additional search
functionality was implemented, as well as multiple tools from multiple sources. More links to other NOAA data sets were also added.

In 2010, the partnership group completed a Digital Coast demonstration project called the “Coastal Inundation Toolkit.” Building on the success of this project, others were added in late 2010/early 2011. Now called “Approaches,” the site includes tutorials on offshore energy planning and conserving wetlands for sea level rise. These projects showcase the power of the Digital Coast and address a common need. The Coastal Issues committee has identified a case study to work on for 2011, and continues to search for others to contribute to the site.

The launch of the web site has prompted members of the NAI committee and the Coastal Issues committee to work together on training that integrates the strengths of the Digital Coast with the NAI message. EO staff and committee volunteers are discussing ways to integrate Coastal NAI, NOAA’s Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk, and the Digital Coast into a cohesive presentation to be used to promote wise coastal planning and conservation. Additionally, the Digital Coast message and tools have been integrated into current Coastal NAI courses, taught on demand by EO staff and volunteers.

**Task 5: Expand Application of NAI Principles and Enhance Training**

**Coastal NAI Trainings 2010-2011**

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**Coastal NAI Workbook**

ASFPM has developed a Coastal No Adverse Impact Handbook (funded by NOAA) and materials for one-day Coastal No Adverse Impact workshops. In addition to requests from ASFPM Chapters, these workshops have been well received by NOAA’s National Estuarine Research Reserves. NERRs assisted with development of a mapping exercise that has become a core component of the workshops. The Coastal No Adverse Impact Handbook has also provided opportunities to partner with organizations with similar interests. Since the CNAI Handbook was completed in 2006, ASFPM has conducted multiple one-day workshops.

NOAA’s Coastal Services Center provided funding for an ASFPM project to develop a Coastal No Adverse Impact Handbook for the U.S. and a Spanish language Coastal No Adverse Impact Handbook for Latin America. Currently, committee members from the Coastal Issues and NAI committees are working together with EO staff and NOAA to look for ways to combine coastal NAI principles into NOAA’s Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk training program.