

FAQ: CNMI 2016 – 2020

Assessment and Strategy Report

The Coastal Zone Enhancement Program encourages state and territorial coastal management programs to strengthen and improve their federally approved coastal management programs in one or more of nine areas. These “enhancement areas” include wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean and Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. This enhancement program was established under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), as amended.

Every five years, states and territories are encouraged to conduct self-assessments of their coastal management programs to determine problems and enhancement opportunities within each of the nine enhancement areas—and to assess the effectiveness of existing management efforts to address identified problems.

2016 – 2020 Section 309
Assessment and Strategy Report

Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands

May, 2016



The Division of Coastal Resource Management’s five-year strategy is focused on:

- *Identifying and Promoting Better Building Practices in Permitting, and*
- *Reducing Risks of Coastal Hazards in CNMI.*

In this planning process, each coastal management program identifies high priority management issues as well as important needs and information gaps the program must fill to address these issues. Following this self-assessment, NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) works closely with each coastal management program to further identify the high priority needs for improvement within one or more of the nine areas and develop strategies.

These strategies provide a stepwise approach to reach a stated goal and lead to enhancement in the state’s or territory’s federally approved coastal management program. OCRM reviews and approves the Section 309 “assessment and strategy” document for each state and territory and, after approval, provides funding under Section 309 to help them carry out those strategies. Once approved, Section 309 funding can be used to carry out strategies that are designed to lead to a “program change” as defined in [15 CFR 923.123](#).

Outreach, education, and information gathering for the next 309 Strategy and Report cycle will begin in 2019 – please keep an eye out on the website for updates and community engagement opportunities!

*This planning cycle, DCRM’s
Priority Enhancement Areas
are:*

- *Coastal Hazards*
- *Cumulative and
Secondary Impacts*
- *Ocean Resources, and*
- *Wetlands*

Division of Coastal Resources
Management (DCRM)
P.O. Box 501304
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 664-8300
<http://crm.gov.mp/>