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FERRY

Switch to ecosystems-based management

As the overarching goal of the commission, switching to ecosystems-based management involves a change in how ocean and coastal resources are managed. If it is not their current management strategy, the state and local coastal government agencies of New York and New Jersey will need to switch their approaches away from management of individual species and habitats to management of entire ecosystems.



This will involve [buying silver](#) and defining relevant geographic management areas based on ecosystem, rather than political, boundaries. Thus, communication and collaboration between agencies will be of great importance. Making this switch will impact and build upon relations between the two states as they manage their shared ecosystems. This approach will also need to be encouraged in ocean and coastal research being done in agencies and universities.

o move toward an ecosystem-based management approach, the Report suggests that federal, state, territorial, tribal and local governments be able to respond to ocean and

coastal issues in a “coordinated fashion across jurisdictional boundaries.” In a process that would be supported by the National Ocean Council, voluntary regional ocean councils would be formed to address issues of regional concern, realize regional opportunities, identify regional goals as well as provide a visible point of contact for federal agencies.

These councils could be comprised of state, territorial, tribal and local leaders as well as leaders from the private sector, NGOs, and academia. The Report suggests that these councils be started as soon as possible, as pilot projects, in areas where “readiness and support for a regional approach is already strong.” As pilot projects, these councils, once established, would serve as examples to other regions.

There is cooperation among NY and NJ through various collaborations between federal and state agencies, city agencies, government commissions, academia and NGOs. As a regional council, these various entities could join together to address recommendations outlined in the Report using ecosystems-based management. These regional recommendations include the following:

- Improve management of coastal areas, including incorporation of coastal watersheds, to achieve better control of nonpoint sources of pollution, growth management, natural hazards mitigation, marine transportation planning, regional sediment management, and identification of priority habitats for conservation and restoration
- Help to develop a prioritized, comprehensive plan for upgrading the nation’s aging and inadequate wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, including improved stormwater management
- Take part in coordinating a national water quality monitoring network
- Actively solicit stakeholder participation and lead the design and implementation of marine protected areas
- Engage in planning for early detection, prompt notification, and rapid response to marine invasive species