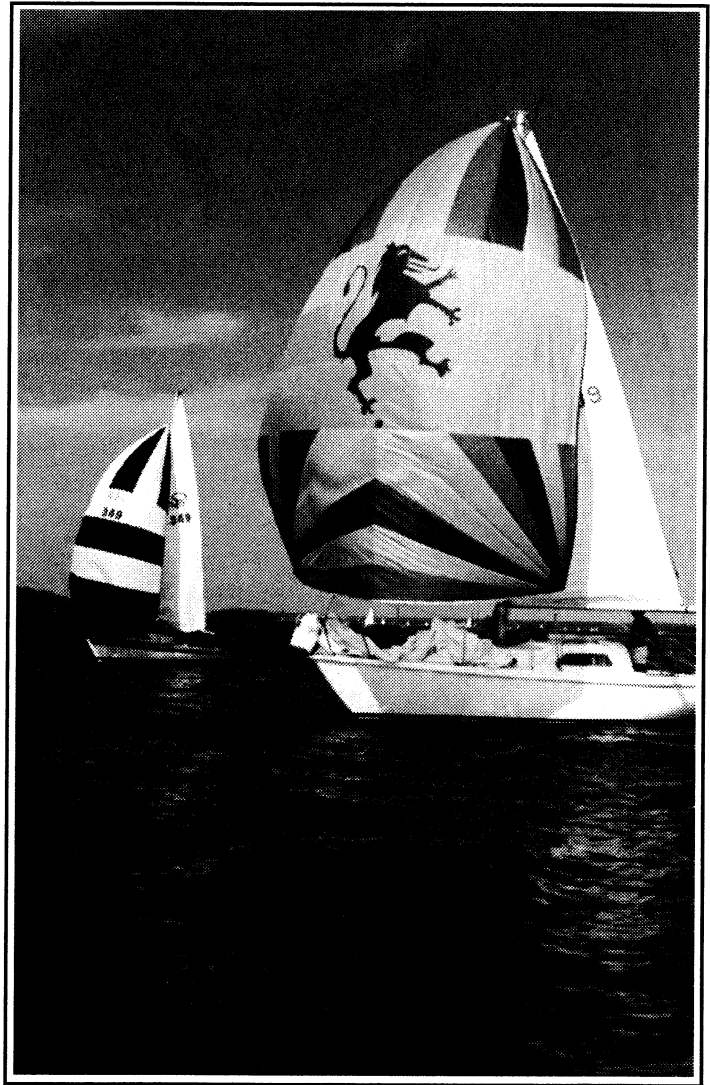


CHAPTER THREE:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



When there is no dream, the people perish.
Proverbs 29:18



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This chapter describes the mission, goals, and objectives of the Georgia Coastal Management Program. Goals and objectives of the Program are categorized as either Program Goals or Resource Goals. Program Goals were developed by the Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division with the concurrence of the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee. Resource Goals were developed by the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee.

When developing goals, the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee recognized a number of common threads in their discussions. Despite differing viewpoints on coastal issues, all committee members agreed on the following points. A coastal management program for Georgia should: provide a mechanism for conflict resolution; promote and enhance educational programs that increase the awareness and understanding of the value of our resources; promote and enhance information links to the citizenry and user groups; recognize the complexities of private property rights; improve and enhance coastal resource related tourism; address cumulative impacts; result in better enforcement and monitoring of existing regulations; and provide and enhance managed public access to the resources; and provide a simplified and efficient process for permitting, that allows for ample and early review of significant projects.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Georgia Coastal Management Program to balance economic development in Georgia's coastal area with preservation of natural, environmental, historic, archaeological, and recreational resources for the benefit of Georgia's present and future generations.

PROGRAM GOALS

Goal: Develop and implement a management program that balances sustainable economic development and natural resource conservation in coastal Georgia.

Objectives:

1. Encourage and assist natural and social scientific research in coastal Georgia, in order to develop a comprehensive database of the area.

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2. Promote increased recreational opportunities in coastal areas and increased public access to tidal waters in a manner that protects coastal resource quality, public health, and public safety.
3. Develop and institute a comprehensive erosion policy that identifies critical erosion areas, evaluates the long-term costs and benefits of erosion control techniques, seeks to minimize the effects on natural systems (both biological and physical), and avoids damage to life and property.
4. Encourage new coastal development to locate in existing developed areas capable of accommodating additional growth, and in areas determined to be more environmentally and economically suitable for development.
5. Resolve conflicts and minimize potential conflicts among activities through improved coastal management that reflects the public's desires, the capacity of natural resources, and expected costs and benefits.
6. Encourage new facilities to locate in areas where adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts can be minimized, and encourage planning that prioritizes water-dependent uses along shoreline areas.
7. Promote the use of impact assessments which incorporate energy-saving benefits, economic effects, and social and environmental factors as the basis for decisions on development of energy facilities; and ensure that affected local governments obtain sufficient financial and technical assistance to cope with these impacts.
8. Support the wise commercial development of harbors, rivers, and waterways for trade and commerce in locations and using methods that maintain the environmental integrity of the coastal region.
9. Protect and, where possible, restore or enhance the resources of the State's coastal area for this and succeeding generations.
10. Develop a coastal program with flexibility for revision and improvement as knowledge and experience in managing coastal resources evolves.

Goal: Simplify the permitting system for activities in the coastal area in a manner that implements the goals and objectives of the Management Program and promotes the public interest.

Objectives:

1. Simplify the permitting system for activities in the coastal area in a manner that maintains the integrity and purpose of the Management Program.
2. Ensure that permits approved for coastal area activities are designed to minimize negative impacts on water quality, marine productivity, beach and shoreline stability, and other environmental aspects.
3. Give full consideration to the Rules and Regulations for permitting, with thorough and comprehensive reviews of all permit applications.
4. Provide guidance on environmentally suitable methods of design, construction, and development in the coastal area, and assist permit applicants to incorporate these environmentally suitable alternatives in their proposals where feasible.

Goal: Promote intergovernmental coordination and public participation in the development and implementation of the Georgia Coastal Management Program.

Objectives:

1. Provide full opportunity for participation by federal, State, and local government agencies, concerned organizations, and the general public in developing, implementing, and improving the Georgia Coastal Management Program.
2. Increase public awareness and encourage public participation during development of and decisions made pursuant to the Georgia Coastal Management Program.
3. Strengthen the planning and decision-making capabilities of cities and counties in the coastal area by providing financial, technical, and other assistance; and provide for coordination of local comprehensive plans and ordinances with the policies of the Georgia Coastal Management Program.
4. Promote coordination and use of existing State programs to minimize duplication of efforts, conflicting actions, and permit processing delays, and achieve coastal management objectives and policies.
5. Provide adequate representation of the interests of the State of Georgia in federal agency decisions and actions affecting the coastal area.

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RESOURCE GOALS

Goal: Protect and sustain the unique character of life on the Georgia coast that is reflected in its cultural, historical, archeological, and aesthetic values by providing management of its resources.

Objectives:

Fisheries

1. Provide a coastal zone with finfish, crustaceans, and shellfish populations that will support commercial and sport fisheries on a sustainable basis.

Wildlife

2. Provide a coastal zone that maintains diverse indigenous wildlife populations at viable and sustainable levels.
3. Provide a coastal zone in which wildlife species listed as special concern, threatened, or endangered are recovered to healthy, viable populations.
4. Provide a coastal zone that attracts and sustains historic migratory bird populations.

Plants

5. Provide a coastal zone in which diverse indigenous plant populations are maintained at viable and ecologically balanced levels.

Historic and Archeological

6. Provide a coastal zone in which all significant archeological and historic sites and artifacts are preserved.

Cultural

7. Provide a coastal zone in which the unique cultural entities are recognized and protected.

Scenic Vistas

8. Provide a coastal zone in which marsh, river, and other natural scenic vistas, such as highway and river corridors, are free of visual obstructions and blight.

Minerals

9. Provide a coastal zone in which extraction and utilization of mineral resources will not detrimentally impact other coastal resources.

Surface Water

10. Provide a coastal zone in which surface waters of the State meet or exceed recreation-use water quality standards.

Groundwater

11. Provide a coastal zone in which the water supply aquifers are managed at levels needed to provide adequate, potable drinking water in perpetuity.
12. Provide a coastal zone in which the groundwater is managed to meet demands other than drinking water on a sustainable basis, while achieving some restoration of the resource.

Tidal, Marsh, and Submerged Lands

13. Provide a coastal zone in which the scenic quality and biological productivity of tidal resources is maintained.

Freshwater Wetlands

14. Provide a coastal zone in which the area and functional integrity of wetlands that impact the coastal region of Georgia are maintained.

Barrier Islands

15. Provide a coastal zone in which the natural systems of barrier islands are preserved and protected.

Beaches

16. Provide a coastal zone in which the integrity and functioning of the sand-sharing system is maintained.

Farmlands and Woodlands

17. Provide a coastal zone in which the productivity of woodlands and farmlands is maintained, with management practices that preserve water quality and biodiversity.

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