



*Coop Jul 94*

**COASTAL AMERICA**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**  
**FOR A COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION**  
**TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND MAINTAIN**  
**THE NATION'S COASTAL LIVING RESOURCES**

*POC: Dr. Klesch*

**Background:** In response to the need to protect, preserve and restore our coastal heritage the Coastal America Partnership was established by a memorandum of understanding in 1992. This partnership for action is comprised of those Federal agencies with statutory responsibilities for coastal resources or whose operational activities affect the coastal environment. The partners are committed to a national effort which is guided by the concepts of ecosystem management and sustainable development in addressing primary coastal concerns, including habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. The Partnership focuses on regional activities that provide direct local and watershed action.

**Purpose:** The purpose of Coastal America is to: (1) protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems through existing Federal capabilities and authorities; (2) collaborate and cooperate in the stewardship of coastal living resources by working together and in partnership with other Federal programs, and by integrating Federal actions with state, local, tribal government, and non-governmental efforts; and (3) provide a framework for action that effectively focuses expertise and resources on jointly identified problems to produce demonstrable environmental and programmatic results that may serve as models for effective management of coastal living resources.

**Statutory Basis:** This interagency partnership operates within existing authorities and serves to link many Federal statutes that affect coastal living resources including but not limited to: Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, Water Resources Development Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. This Memorandum of Understanding does not amend or abridge any existing statutory authorities.

**General Scope:** Coastal America provides a forum for interagency collaborative action and a mechanism to facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. Partnership efforts will continue to emphasize the shared coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. Other priority issues will be addressed as appropriate. To facilitate program activities, the partners have established a Principals Group, a National Implementation Team (NIT), Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), and a Coastal America office. The partners ensure their organization's adequate regional and national representation and participation in these endeavors.

**Responsibilities:** The Principals establish overall policy for the Coastal America partnership. The Principals are senior policy representatives of the partnership agencies at the sub-cabinet level. The Chair of the Principals Group is designated by the Partnership. The group meets semiannually at a minimum.

The NIT members represent their respective agencies at national coordinating meetings, provide advice to the Coastal America office, represent Coastal America in various forums, participate on special workgroups as necessary and explore and facilitate coordination of national, inter-regional and other large-scale projects. The members are senior national-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The NIT is chaired by the Director of the Coastal America office. The team meets monthly at a minimum.

The RITs are the primary operating units for Coastal America and provide forums for interagency consultation and action. The RIT members identify or develop regional strategies for joint action and facilitate mechanisms for their implementation. The members are senior regional-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The RIT chairs are elected on a rotating basis by the respective teams. The teams meet quarterly at a minimum.

The Coastal America office serves to coordinate the activities related to the purpose of the partnership mission. The office provides the external point of contact for the partnership and facilitates the activities of the Principals, NIT and RITs. In addition, the office is a catalyst for development and facilitation of national projects and products, and education and training activities.

**Funding:** Each fiscal year, the partners identify those authorities under which multi-agency, intergovernmental projects can be funded. Projects meeting Coastal America criteria are afforded priority within each partner's program, as appropriate.

**Reports and Documentation:** On an annual basis the Coastal America office prepares and submits a progress report to the Principals which identifies management actions undertaken and evaluates the effectiveness of program activities.

*D. James Baker* (2 July 1994)  
 D. James Baker, Chair (Date)  
 Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
 Department of Commerce

*James Lyons* 7/15/94  
 James Lyons (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Natural Resources and Environment  
 Department of Agriculture

*Andrew Cuomo* 7/14/94  
 Andrew Cuomo (Date)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 for Community Planning and Development  
 Department of Housing and Urban Development

*[Signature]* 7/14/94

*[Signature]* 7/13/94

Department of Agriculture

Rodney A. Coleman 7/12/94  
(Date)

Assistant Secretary  
for Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment  
Department of the Air Force

John H. Zirachky 7/12/94  
(Date)

Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
Department of the Army

Douglas K. Hall 7/15/94  
(Date)

Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Department of Commerce

Susan F. Tierney 7/15/94  
(Date)

Assistant Secretary for Policy  
Department of Energy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Bonnie Cohen 7/12/94  
(Date)

Assistant Secretary  
for Policy, Management and Budget  
Department of the Interior

Robert B. Piric, Jr. 7/12/94  
(Date)

Assistant Secretary  
for Installations and Environment  
Department of the Navy

Frank Krusel 7/12/94  
(Date)

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy  
Department of Transportation

Robert Perciasepe 7/12/94  
(Date)

Assistant Administrator for Water  
Environmental Protection Agency

Sheri Wasserman Goodman 7/18/94  
(Date)

Deputy Under Secretary for Environmental Security  
Department of Defense