

*The following information is intended to provide some general information to assist you in completing the Coastal Area Management Application.*

## **COASTAL RESOURCES (DEFINITIONS)**

- A. Coastal Bluffs and Escarpments: Means naturally eroding shorelands marked by dynamic escarpments of sea cliffs which have slope angles that constitute an intricate adjustment between erosion, substrate, drainage and degree of plant cover.
- B. Rocky Shorefronts: Means shorefront composed of bedrock, boulders and cobbles that are highly erosion-resistant and are on insignificant source of sediments for other coastal landforms.
- C. Beaches and Dunes: Means beach systems including barrier beach spits and tombolos, barrier beaches, pocket beaches, land contact beaches and related dunes and sandflats.
- D. Intertidal Flats: Means very gently sloping or flat areas located between high and low tides composed of muddy, silty and fine sandy sediments and generally devoid of vegetation.
- E. Tidal Wetlands: Means wetland as defined by §22a-29 Connecticut General Statutes (CGS).
- F. Freshwater Wetlands and Watercourses: Means wetlands and watercourses as defined by §22a-38 CGS.
- G. Estuarine Embayments: Means a protected coastal body of water with an open connection to the sea in which saline sea water is measurably diluted by fresh water including tidal rivers, bays, lagoons and coves.
- H. Coastal Hazard Areas: Means those land areas inundated during coastal storm events or subject to erosion induced by such events, including flood hazard areas as defined and determined by the National Flood Insurance Act, as amended (U.S.C. 42 §4101, P.L. 93-234) and all erosion hazard areas as determined by the commissioner.
- I. Developed Shorefront: Means those harbor areas which have been highly engineered and developed resulting in the functional impairment or substantial alteration of their natural physiographic features or systems.
- J. Island: Means land surrounded on all sides by water.
- K. Nearshore Waters: Means the area comprised of those waters and their substrates lying between mean high water and a depth approximated by the ten meter contour.
- L. Offshore Waters: Means the area comprised of those waters and their substrates lying seaward of a depth approximated by the ten meter contour.

- M. Shorelands: Means those not subject to dynamic coastal processes and which are comprised of typical upland features such as bedrock hills, till hills and drumlins.
- N. Shellfish Concentration Areas: Means actual, potential or historic areas in coastal water, in which one or more species of shellfish aggregate.

### **COASTAL USE POLICIES**

- A. To manage uses in the coastal boundary through existing municipal planning, zoning and other local regulatory authorities and through existing state structures, dredging, woodlands, and other state siting and regulatory authorities, giving highest priority and preference to water-dependent uses and facilities in shorefront areas.
- B. To locate and phase sewer and water lines so as to encourage concentrated development in areas which are suitable for development, and to disapprove extension of sewer and water services into developed and undeveloped beaches, barrier beaches and tidal wetlands except that, when necessary to abate existing sources of pollution, sewers that will accommodate existing uses with limited excess capacity may be used.
- C. To promote, through existing state and local planning, development, promotional and regulatory authorities, the development, reuse or redevelopment of existing urban and commercial fishing ports giving highest priority and preference to water dependent uses, including but not limited to commercial and recreational fishing and boating uses, to disallow uses which unreasonably congest navigation channels, or unreasonably preclude boating support facilities elsewhere in a port or harbor; and to minimize the risk of oil and chemical spills at port facilities.
- D. To require that structures in tidal wetlands and coastal waters be designed, constructed and maintained to minimize adverse impacts on coastal resources, circulation and sedimentation patterns, water quality, and flooding and erosion, to reduce to the maximum extent practicable the use of fill, and to reduce conflicts with the riparian rights of adjacent landowners.
- E. To disallow the siting within the coastal boundary of new tank farms and other new fuel and the chemical storage facilities which can reasonably be located inland and to require any new storage tanks which must be located within the coastal boundary to abut existing storage tanks or to be located in urban industrial areas and to be adequately protected against floods and spills.
- F. To make use of rehabilitation, upgrading and improvement of existing

transportation facilities as the primary means of meeting transportation needs in the coastal area.

- G. To encourage increased recreational boating use of coastal water, where feasible by:
1. Providing additional berthing space in existing harbors;
  2. Limiting non-water-dependent land uses that preclude boating support facilities;
  3. Increasing state-owned launching facilities; and
  4. Providing for new boating facilities in natural harbors, new protected water areas and in areas dredged from dry land.
- H. To protect coastal resources by requiring, where feasible, that such boating uses and facilities:
1. Minimize disruption or degradation of natural coastal resources;
  2. Utilize existing altered, developed or redevelopment area;
  3. Are located to assure optimal distribution of state-owned facilities to the statewide boating public; and
  4. utilize ramps and dry storage rather than slips in environmentally sensitive areas.
- J. To require reasonable mitigation measures where development would adversely impact historical, archeological, or paleontological resources that have been designated by the state historic preservation officer.
- I. To protect and where feasible, upgrade facilities serving the commercial fishing and recreational boating industries; to maintain existing authorized commercial fishing and recreational boating harbor space unless the demand for these facilities no longer exists or adequate space has been provided; to design and locate where feasible, proposed recreational boating facilities in a manner which does not interfere with the needs of the commercial fishing industry.

## **COASTAL RESOURCE POLICIES**

The following is the list of Coastal Resources and Related Policy Statements.

1. Bluff & Escarpments
  - A. To manage coastal bluffs and escarpments so as to preserve their slope and toe; to discourage uses which do not permit continued natural rates of erosion and to disapprove uses that accelerate slope erosion and alter essential patterns and supply of sediments to the littoral transport

system.

2. Rocky Shorefronts

- B. To manage rocky shorefronts so as to insure that development proceeds in a manner which does not irreparably reduce the capability of the system to support a healthy intertidal biological community; to provide feed grounds an refuge for shorebirds and finfish, and to dissipate and absorb storm and wave energies.

3. Beaches

- C. To preserve the dynamic form and integrity of natural beach systems in order to provide critical wildlife habitats, a reservoir for sand supply, a buffer for coastal flooding and erosion, and valuable recreational opportunities; to insure the coastal uses are compatible with the capabilities of the system and do not unreasonably interfere with the natural processes of erosion and sedimentation, and to encourage the restoration and enhancement of disturbed or modified beach systems.

4. Intertidal Flats

- D. To manage intertidal flats so as to preserve their value as a nutrient source and reservoir, a healthy shellfish habitat and a valuable feeding area for invertebrates, fish and shorebirds, to encourage the restoration and enhancement of degraded intertidal flats; to allow coastal uses that minimize change in the natural current flows, depth, slope, sedimentation, and nutrient storage functions and to disallow uses that substantially accelerate erosion or lead to significant despoliation of tidal flats.

5. Tidal Wetlands

- E. To preserve tidal wetlands and to prevent the despoliation and destruction there of in order to maintain their vital natural functions to encourage the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded tidal wetlands and where feasible and environmentally acceptable, to encourage the creation of wetlands for the purpose of shellfish and finfish management, habitat creation and dredge spoil disposal.

6. Coastal (flood) Hazards areas

- F. To manage coastal hazard areas so as to insure that development proceeds in such a manner that hazards to life and property are minimized and to promote nonstructural solutions to flood and erosion problems except in those instances where structure alternatives prove unavoidable and necessary to protect existing inhabited structures, infrastructural facilities or water dependent uses.

7. Developed Shorefronts

- G. To promote, through existing state and local planning, development, promotional and regulatory programs, the use of existing developed shorefront areas for marine-related uses, including but not limited to, commercial and recreational fishing, boating and other water-dependent commercial, industrial and recreational uses.

8. Islands

- H. To manage undeveloped islands in order to promote their use as critical habitats for those bird, plant and animal species which are indigenous to such islands or which are increasingly rare on the mainland; to maintain the value of undeveloped island as a major source of recreational open space; and to disallow uses which will have significant adverse impacts on island or their resource components.

9. Shoreland

- I. To regulate shoreland use and development in a manner which minimizes adverse impacts upon adjacent coastal systems and resources.

10. Other (Erosion & Sediment Control)

- J. To maintain the natural relationship between eroding the depositional coastal landforms and to minimize the adverse impacts of erosion and sedimentation on coastal land uses through the promotion of nonstructural mitigation measures. Structural solutions are permissible when necessary and unavoidable for the protection of infrastructural facilities, water-dependent uses, or existing inhabited structures, and where there is no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternative and where all reasonable mitigation measures and techniques have been provided to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

**ADVERSE IMPACTS**

- A. Degrading water quality through the significant introduction into either coastal waters or groundwater supplies of suspended solids, nutrients, toxins, heavy metals or pathogen, or through the significant alteration of temperature, PH, dissolved oxygen or salinity.
- B. Degrading existing circulation patterns of coastal waters through the significant patterns of tidal exchange or flushing rates, freshwater input, or existing basin characteristics and channel contours.
- C. Degrading natural erosion patterns through the significant alteration of littoral transport of sediments in terms of deposition or source reduction.
- D. Degrading natural or existing drainage patterns through the significant alteration of groundwater flow and recharge and volume of runoff.
- E. Increasing the hazard of coastal flooding through significant alteration of shoreline-configurations or bathymetry, particularly within high velocity flood zones.
- F. Degrading visual quality through significant alteration of the natural features of vistas and view points.
- G. Degrading or destroying essential wildlife, finfish or shellfish habitat through significant alteration of the composition, migration patterns distribution, breeding or other population characteristics of the natural species or significant alteration of the natural components of the habitat.
- H. Degrading tidal wetlands, beaches and dunes, rocky shorefronts, and bluffs and escarpments through significant alteration of their natural characteristics or function.

**WATER-DEPENDENT USES**

Means those uses and facilities which require direct access to, or location in, marine or tidal waters and which therefore cannot be located inland, including but not limited to: Marinas, recreational and commercial fishing and boating facilities, finfish and shellfish processing plants, waterfront dock and port facilities, shipyards and boat building facilities, water-based recreational uses, navigation aides, basins and channels, industrial uses dependent upon water-borne transportation or requiring large volumes of cooling or process water which cannot reasonably be located or operated at an inland site and uses which provide general public access to marine or tidal waters.