

Delaware Coastal Management Program Interstate Consistency Listing Approved February 2011

Delaware's economy and quality of life is intrinsically linked to the health of its coastal resources. The management of the coastal resources of the Delaware River and Bay and of the Atlantic Ocean in the Mid-Atlantic region is a responsibility shared by Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Projects occurring in one state may well have impacts affecting another and a process for coordinated review is necessary. Interstate consistency provides a means to ensure that federal activities with a potential to impact regional coastal resources are coordinated with affected states early in the process.

The Delaware Coastal Management Program (DCMP) determined that there were three categories of federal activities that warranted consideration through the provisions of interstate consistency: Dredging and dredged material disposal in the Delaware River and Bay in portions of Pennsylvania and New Jersey; offshore alternative energy development projects in state waters of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland; and introduction of Non-native Shellfish in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

The DCMP coordinated with over 20 federal agencies and affected state coastal management programs. The proposed list of activities subject to review and the coastal effects analysis were provided to each agency, a public notice was issued and detailed information was posted on DCMP's website. The majority of the comments received were incorporated. Most notably, the DCMP deleted their initial request to list Air Emission Sources as reviewable actions in response to comments from Pennsylvania and New Jersey Coastal Management Programs and the offshore boundary for Alternative Energy Development projects was modified significantly as a result of coordination with New Jersey CMP and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement.

In February 2011, the DCMP received a letter from John King, Chief of the Coastal Programs Division, that changes proposed to Delaware's program to include Interstate Consistency review had been approved. The letter marked completion of the lengthy federal process to initiate review of activities occurring in other states that affect the coastal resources of Delaware. Thus far, only New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York have completed the interstate review process and amended their CMPs. Delaware is pleased to be joining this short list.