

# 1.0 CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

The original Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Coastal Management Plan (CMP) plan was approved locally in 1979. It was forwarded to and then adopted by the State in the spring of 1980, followed by Assembly adoption in January 1981. The CMP was subsequently amended in June 1987. The CMP is a policy document, directing issues of local concern and the development needs of residents, businesses, and landowners within the Anchorage coastal zone boundary.

Changes in Alaska state law, enacted in 2004, required that the MOA amend its CMP. This 2006 Plan Amendment has been prepared to comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Act (ACMA), as amended by the Alaska State Legislature in 2003, and the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) regulations adopted in 2004. The MOA CMP includes two designations based on historic use patterns, plans, and scientific evidence that link natural features and geography with important habitat and coastal waters.

## 1.1 PLAN ORGANIZATION

Volume One of the MOA CMP includes the following chapters. Throughout the document, abbreviations and acronyms are used, and the meanings are described in Appendix C, Abbreviations and Acronyms. The terms used in the CMP are defined in Appendix D, Definitions.

- Chapter One. Introduction and Organization of the CMP. This chapter introduces the plan and describes how the plan is organized.
- Chapter Two. MOA Coastal Zone Boundary and Designation. This includes a description of the MOA coastal zone boundary, the Designated Recreation Use Area, and Designated Important Habitat Area.
- Chapter Three. Issues of Local Concern, Goals, and Objectives. This is a description of the issues of local concern, goals for balanced management of coastal resources, and objectives for how the management is to occur. This chapter is to be used to support enforceable policies applicable to the land and water uses subject to the MOA CMP.
- Chapter Four. Resource Inventory and Analysis. This is a description of the coastal resources and an analysis of the impacts from uses and activities. Results from the Anchorage Sensitivity Index Decision Support System (ASIDESS) model of the *Anchorage Coastal Atlas* form the basis for the resource analysis and the Designated Recreation Use Area and Designated Important Habitat Area.
- Chapter Five. Enforceable Policies Applicable within the Designated Areas. This chapter describes the enforceable policies that are to be used to implement the goals and objectives, and provide the standards for uses and activities within the designated areas.
- Chapter Six. Implementation. This is a description of the land and water uses and activities subject to the MOA CMP and how the plan is implemented by local, state, and federal agencies.

- Appendices. The following appendices are provided:

Appendix A	Enforceable Policies
Appendix B	Enforceable Policy Cross Reference Table
Appendix C	Abbreviations and Acronyms
Appendix D	Definitions
Appendix E	References
Appendix F	Description of ASIDSS Model
Appendix G	Public Participation

- Maps describing the coastal zone boundary and designations:

Map A: Anchorage Bowl

Map B: Chugiak-Eagle River

Map C: Turnagain Arm

## **2.0 CHAPTER TWO BOUNDARY AND DESIGNATION**

### **2.1 ANCHORAGE COASTAL ZONE BOUNDARY**

No official changes to the Anchorage coastal zone boundary, as of December 22, 2003, as described by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), are proposed.

The coastal zone boundary is described by ADNR as follows:

“The inland coastal boundary of the Municipality of Anchorage along with the coast between the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Potter Creek, includes all lands and waters within: (1) a zone extending 1,320 feet inland, measured horizontally, from the extent of the 100-year coastal flood; (2) the 100-year floodplain or 200 feet from the center (whichever is greater) of each river and stream intersected by the 1,320-foot zone up to the 1,000-foot elevation contour; and (3) other areas as delineated on the Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska, ACMP, June 1988 (Map #94). The inland boundary in watersheds of the upper Knik River and south of Potter Creek includes all lands and waters within the 1,000-foot elevation contour. Reference to 1:25,000 or 1:63,360 USGS topographic maps, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate maps (FIRM), or the Anchorage Coastal management Program, may be necessary to determine if the above criteria apply and whether the use or activity lie within the coastal zone (Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska, Alaska Coastal Zone Management Program, 1988).”

#### **2.1.1 Boundary Clarification**

The original coastal zone boundary followed the 100-year floodplain of known and mapped streams in a parallel line to the 1,320-foot contour. The original coastal zone boundary creek delineations were made following U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps, and other sources, that depicted official stream channels. Since the original boundary was mapped, there have been a number of improvements in delineation of MOA streams, mapping, and field verification, via Global Positioning System (GPS) instrumentation. Several new stream sections, tributaries, and channels have been subsequently delineated and the Plan revision boundary reflects these technical adjustments.

Extensive development along, and channelization of, numerous creek corridors has occurred since the original mapping. As development has occurred, the MOA has updated its mapping, parcel, and environmental features databases, which has resulted in a number of minor technical adjustments to the coastal zone boundary. The new CMP maps reflect these minor technical adjustments. The adjustments are linear and represent additions or extensions to the stream channels as mapped in the original plan.

#### **2.1.2 Designation**

The MOA has designated its entire coastal zone boundary as a Recreation Use Area. According to the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), 11 AAC 114.250, the following subject areas can be established as “designated areas”: important habitat, recreational use, tourism use, natural hazards, major energy facilities, commercial fishing and seafood processing facilities, and history and archaeology.

There are resources within the designation that have important physical, biological, and cultural attributes upon which existing recreation uses and potential recreation uses depend.

Within the Designated Recreation Use Area, there is a sub-area that has been delineated as a Designated Important Habitat Area. This area was designated because it has been demonstrated to have a high sensitivity to development using the ASIDDSS Model.

Maps A, B, and C delineate the coastal zone boundary and the designated areas.

## **2.2 FEDERAL LANDS BOUNDARY DEFINITION**

Excluded from Alaska's coastal zone boundaries are "those lands owned, leased, held in trust or whose use is otherwise by law subject solely to the discretion of the federal government, its officers or agents...." (15 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 923.33)

In accordance with federal law, the MOA coastal zone excludes all federal lands and waters within its boundaries. However, the federal government is not exempt from the ACMP or the MOA CMP. Federal law requires "federal agencies, whenever legally permissible, to consider State management programs as supplemental requirements to be adhered to in addition to existing agency mandates" per 15 CFR 930.32(a).

All uses and activities on excluded federal lands that directly affect the coastal area must be consistent to the maximum extent practical with the ACMP and are subject to the consistency provisions of Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

## **2.3 SEAWARD COASTAL ZONE BOUNDARY DEFINITION**

The statewide seaward coastal zone boundary is the "outer limit of the United States territorial sea" (15 CFR 923.32), which is the "three geographic mile line" (43 CFR 3301.1). The depicted statewide seaward coastal zone boundary was extracted from the Outer Continental Shelf Protraction Diagram map series (Bureau of Land Management).

## **2.4 AREAS MERITING SPECIAL ATTENTION**

The original MOA CMP included ten Areas Meriting Special Attention (AMSAs). The resource data and values for each AMSA is incorporated into the Resource Inventory and Analysis, Chapter Five. The location of the AMSAs is depicted on the resource maps included in Volume II, Resource Maps.

- (1) Andesitic Dike at Potter Marsh on the Old Seward Highway
- (2) Bird Creek Regional Park
- (3) Eagle River Valley Lowlands
- (4) Fish Creek Estuary
- (5) Old Girdwood Townsite, south of the Seward Highway
- (6) Point Campbell Dunes and Delta
- (7) Point Campbell-Point Woronzof Coastal Wetlands
- (8) Point Woronzof Bluffs
- (9) Port of Anchorage
- (10) Seward Highway and Turnagain Arm scenic corridor