

**An Organizational Framework for Strengthened Links Between Science and Policy
in Coastal Zone Management**

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South Carolina provides one example of how a state coastal agency attempts to integrate coastal science, policy-making and management through a newly created division within its own agency. SCDHEC-OCRM's Science and Policy Division has proven to be a valuable component of the state's Coastal Zone Management Program in fostering linkages between science and coastal management. The mission of this one-year old division is to ensure the utilization of the best available science for SCDHEC-OCRM in short-term decision-making and long-term policy development. This includes providing support to the Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Divisions of the agency. The Science and Policy Division advises SCDHEC-OCRM on permitting and enforcement actions, develops science priorities, develops State of Knowledge (SOK) Reports on various coastal issues, and evaluates policy alternatives. Division Staff also partner with outside researchers on grant proposals, coordinate workshops that bring together coastal scientists and managers, advise graduate students, present seminars, and attend scientific meetings. Examples of topics addressed include monitoring associated with marinas, dredging, wetland restoration and development impacts; dredging (coordinating with other state and federal agencies re: Sediment Analysis Plans); policy analysis (including review of other coastal state policies); data and information synthesis; review of research proposals; and evaluation of new technologies. The Science and Policy Division has developed formal procedures for coordination with the other agency divisions and has created a database to track information requests and monitor reports associated with permits, enforcement actions, certifications and/or consent orders.

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