

# Coastal

## Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Determination

**What Activities Require a Federal Consistency Determination?** North Carolina's Coastal Management Program is federally approved, therefore a number of federal activities must undergo consistency review by the [Division of Coastal Management \(DCM\)](#).

This authority exists under the federal [Coastal Zone Management Act](#). The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) was enacted by the federal government on Oct. 27, 1972, to encourage coastal states, such as North Carolina, to develop comprehensive programs to manage and balance competing uses of and impacts to coastal resources. Consistency review by DCM applies to any federal action that is within the state's [twenty coastal counties](#) that may have a reasonable foreseeable effect on any coastal resource or any coastal use within the state's coastal zone (even if the activity occurs outside of the coastal zone), if the activity:

- is a federal activity;
- requires a federal license or permit;
- receives federal money; or
- is a plan for exploration, development or production from any area leased under the [Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act](#).

**What Is the Purpose of a Federal Consistency Determination?** The purpose of a consistency determination is to assure that federal projects, federal funded projects, and private projects that require federal approval are consistent with the relevant enforceable policies of the state's certified coastal management program.

**Who Issues a Federal Consistency Certification?** The N.C. Division of Coastal Management's Federal Consistency Coordinator conducts the consistency review.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** There is no cost.

**What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?** Not applicable

**If Paying by Check, who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?** Not applicable

**Where Can I Get the Application for This Permit?** There is no application form; however there is a [suggested format](#) to follow:

**How Long Will It Take to Review My Application?** The time limit for state review of a federal project is 60 days. The time limit for state review of private projects is six months. Other time limits, depending on the type of review, may also apply. Project review, for routine uncomplicated projects, is normally completed within two months.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** DCM Federal Consistency Coordinator, NC Division of Coastal Management, 400 Commerce Avenue, Morehead City, NC 28557-3421; phone (252) 515-5400

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** A consistency concurrence is valid for the life of the project. However, should the proposed action be modified further, a revised consistency determination could be necessary. This might take the form of either a supplemental consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930.46, or a new consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930.36. Likewise, if further project assessments reveal environmental effects not previously considered, a supplemental consistency certification may be required.

**Notes/Comments:** Please see DCM's handouts on making consistency submissions. Click on the appropriate hyperlink for [Federal projects](#) and for [private projects](#).

**Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Determination**

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** This authority exists under the federal [Coastal Zone Management Act](#), and State legislation such as the: state's Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), Chapter 7 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code, the state's Dredge and Fill Law, the local land-use plan applicable to the proposed project, and Executive Order #15 issued by Governor Hunt on Oct. 27, 1977.

**Link:** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/coastal-management-permits/federal-consistency>

**Statewide Contact Information:**

DCM Federal Consistency Coordinator  
NC Division of Coastal Management Headquarters  
400 Commerce Avenue  
Morehead City, NC 28557-3421  
Telephone: (252) 515-5400