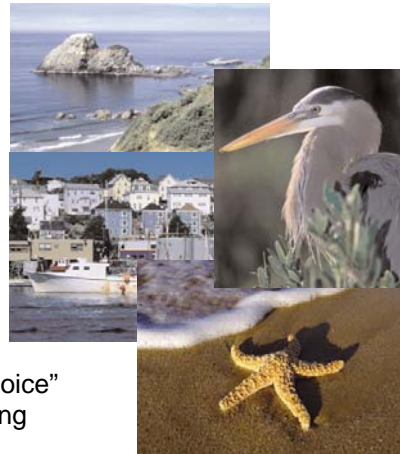




Supporting Healthy Coasts & Strong Coastal Communities

A Voice for the States

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) was established in 1970 to represent the Governors of the nation's thirty-five coastal states, commonwealths and territories on legislative and policy issues relating to sound coastal, Great Lakes and ocean resource management, protection and development. Economically, socially and geographically the states are as diverse as their individual coastlines, yet their commitment to common objectives in coastal and ocean management is what shapes CSO's unique character. By speaking with "one voice" through CSO, states can be much more influential than by acting individually.



Serving the States

Helping states to maintain their leadership role in the development and implementation of national coastal and ocean policy is among CSO's most important functions. CSO works with Congress to shape legislation, comment on proposed regulations, and arrange for the presentation of state testimony. CSO advocates for increased federal funding and support for state-based coastal and ocean programs, as well as responsiveness of federal agency program administration and policies to state concerns.

CSO provides informational updates and alerts that keep states attuned to developments in Washington, DC which enables states to respond to legislative and regulatory developments as they occur.

CSO serves as an important professional network for state coastal and ocean managers. CSO policy groups focus on coastal zone management, ocean governance, climate change, coastal habitat and island affairs. CSO also supports a state Legal Council.

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