

**Annotated Agenda  
MAFAC  
November 10-12, 2009  
Silver Spring, MD**

**1. Agenda item Title of Discussion:**      **Ocean Policy Task Force/  
Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)**

**2. Discussion Leader/Presenter:**        **Sam Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regulatory Programs, NMFS**

**Guest Presenters:**                        **Jack Wiggin, Director  
Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts  
Boston**

**Grover Fugate, Executive Director  
Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council**

**3. Objective/Purpose:** The purpose of this session is to discuss the framework being developed by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and how federal, state and regional organizations can work together to implement the framework and identify and prioritize objectives for engagement and actions on the issues of regional governance and marine spatial planning, and to identify the steps or actions needed to attain those goals.

The session will be for nearly two hours and will begin with an overview of the status of the President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force efforts on coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP). Guest speaker Jack Wiggin, Director of the Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston will provide insight into the technical and planning processes undertaken by the State of Massachusetts as they work to finalize the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan. Grover Fugate, Executive Director Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Council will also participate in this session to discuss the Rhode Island experience with special area management and will provide an update on the special session on CMSP recently held by the Northeast Regional Ocean Council.

**4. Background/Synopsis:** CMSP has been the topic of much discussion both inside and outside government, encompassing its broad application for use as a tool for ecosystem-based management and multi-sector planning. It has essentially become a 'given' due to the President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force "shall develop, with appropriate public input, a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning" that is comprehensive, integrated, uses an ecosystem-based approach and "...addresses conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources" within 180 days of the Task Force formation.

Although some states, such as Massachusetts and Rhode Island, are already proactively using CMSP to evaluate and establish specific policy goals and uses for areas of the ocean (in their jurisdiction) beforehand in a comprehensive manner, this is essentially new ground in U.S. Many commenters to

the taskforce have urged that CMSP not be confined to just state waters or just federal waters, but should be integrated to extend at a minimum from shorelines and up-river at the freshwater-saltwater interface out through the EEZ. Additionally, regional planning and management structures are preferred by many commenters for advancing biosphere and ecological considerations (e.g., large marine ecosystems) as well as for collaborating with existing resource management structures (such as Fishery Management Councils). Thus, using existing or planned regional organizations to be the regional planning structure for CMSP may be a likely scenario in the near future.

However, the current level of engagement in CMSP differs amongst regional organizations. The goal of today's discussion is to help identify what specific roles or responsibilities the regional organizations should have with respect to CMSP, and what kinds of mechanisms may be needed to empower or incentivize them to assume these roles.

**5. Options listed from 1 to n:** TBD

**6. Preferred Recommendation:** TBD

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**Record of Decision:**

**Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:**

**Assigned to:**

**Due Date:**