

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

MAFAC meeting

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**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
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# Finding the Balance



**Uses:**

- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Alternative Energy
- Military Readiness
- Bioprospecting
- Coastal Development

**Protection of:**

- Ocean Biodiversity
- Protected Species
- Vulnerable Habitats
- Coastal Communities
- Cultural Resources





# What is Marine Spatial Planning?

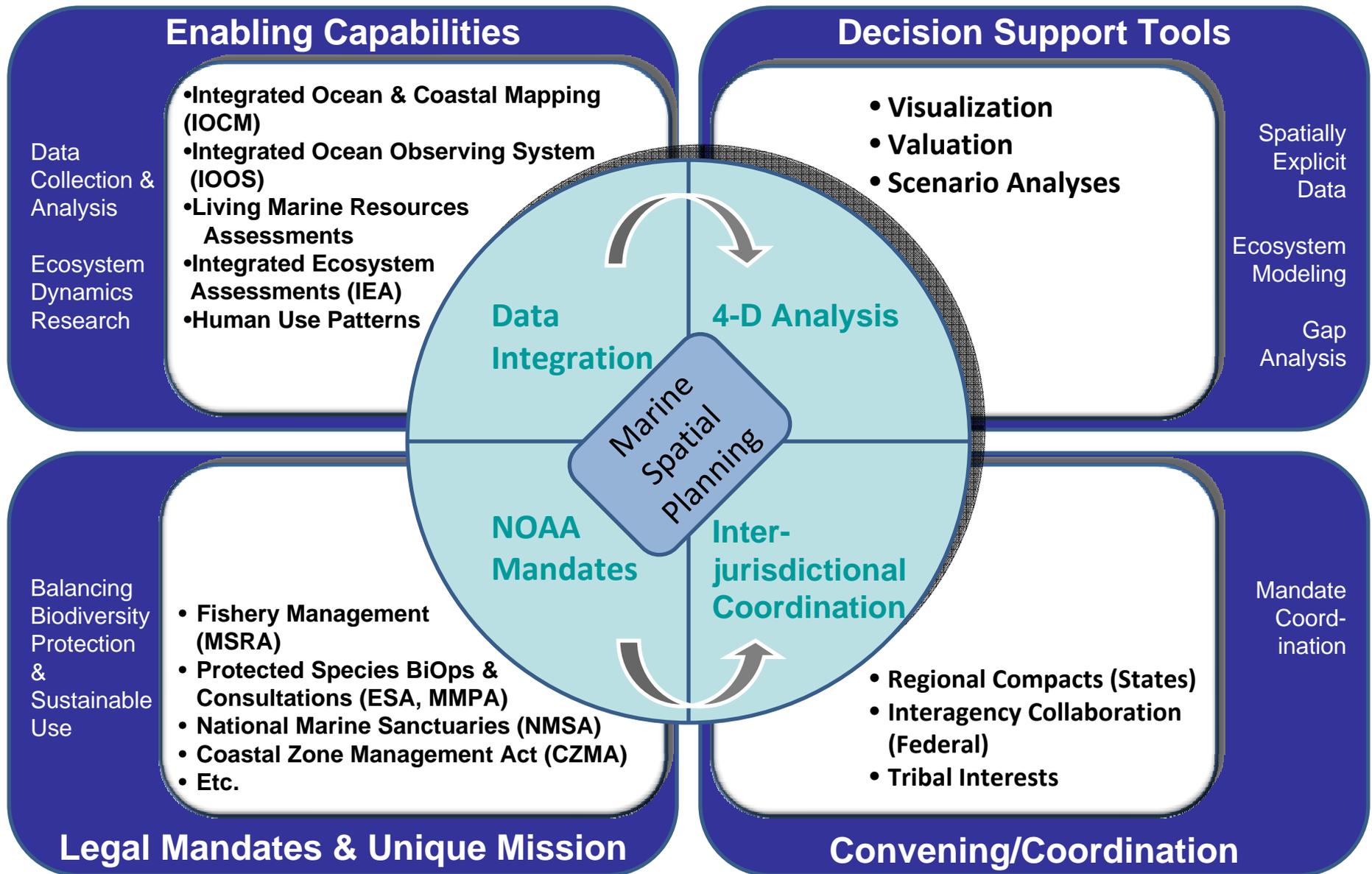
## **MSP is:**

A comprehensive, ecosystem-based process through which compatible human uses are objectively and transparently allocated to appropriate ocean areas to sustain critical ecological, economic and cultural services for future generations.

## **The goals of MSP are:**

To maximize societal benefits of ocean uses, while minimizing impacts on ecologically sensitive areas and species and reducing conflicts between incompatible activities sharing marine locations.

# Critical Capabilities Supporting Marine Spatial Planning

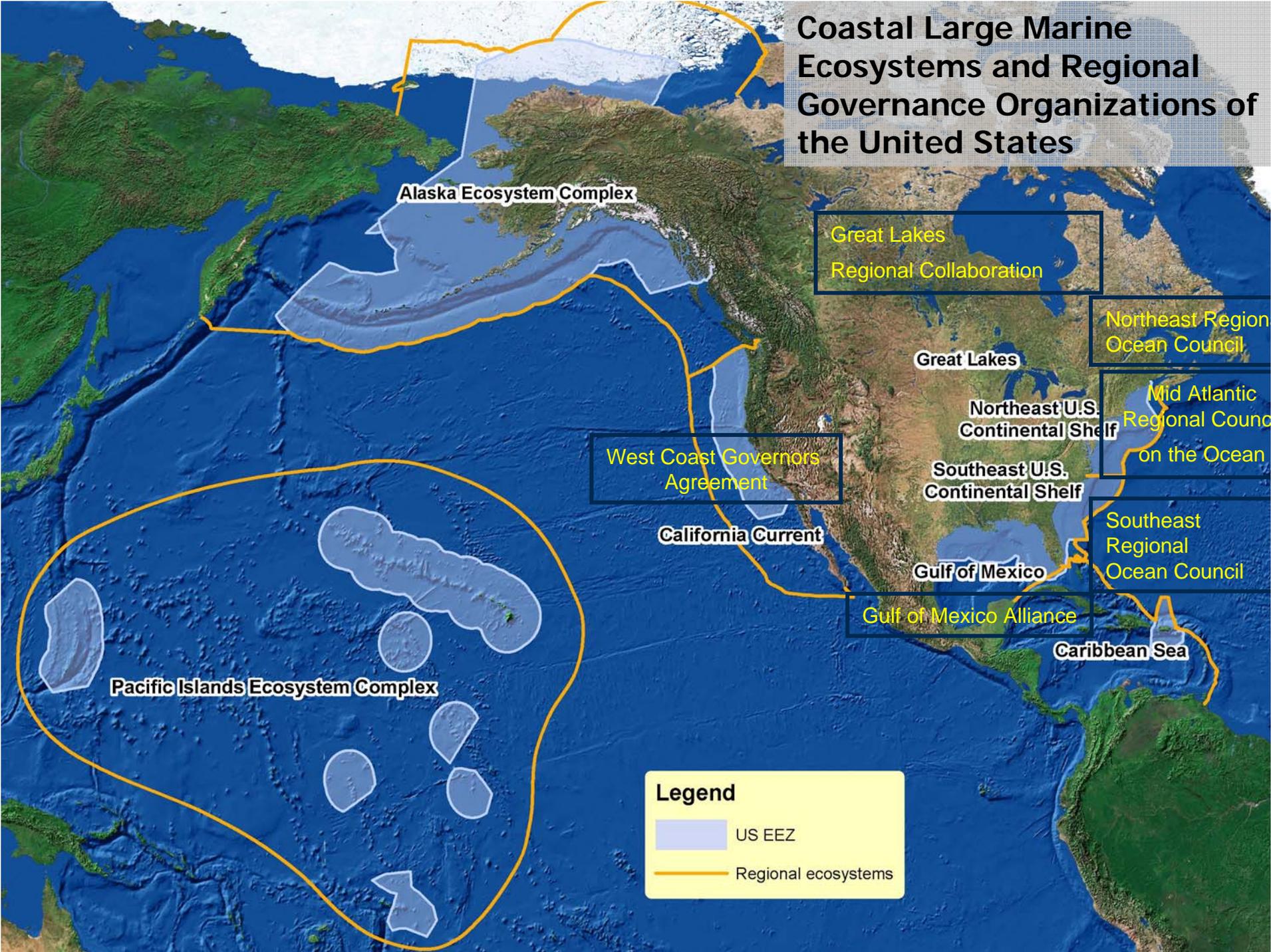




## MSP: Evolving Issues

- Objectives of MSP not yet well articulated
- Coordination and sharing of information
- Governance using multiple sectoral statutes is a difficult multi-agency problem
- “soft” vs. “hard” governance and planning approaches need to be explored
- Conflict resolution
- Important opportunities for “Sector Stacking” (i.e. aquaculture and energy)
- No current venue or models to analyze societal preferences and values
- Sufficient resources/authority to implement, monitor and enforce
- Geographic scale and limits

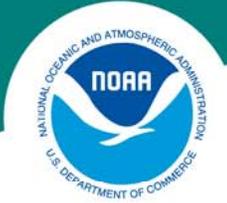
# Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems and Regional Governance Organizations of the United States





## Connecting CMSP to Coastal Communities

- NOAA has nearly 40 year partnerships with coastal states managing competing ocean uses and providing technical and policy assistance to coastal states engaged in CMSP through the CZMA.
- NOAA supports Regional Ocean Councils at the forefront of CMSP
- Coastal Community Task Forces can facilitate regional CMSP as conveners of collaborative planning, as sources of key data and traditional knowledge, and as local forums for dispute resolution
- Task Forces can enhance community resiliency by promoting the application of CMSP to provide local decision makers with improved understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities for mitigation and adaptation.



# Ocean Policy Task Force

On June 12, President Obama created an Ocean Policy Task Force.

The Task Force (chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality) was charged with the following responsibilities:

- Within 90 days, develop recommendations for:
  - a) national policy for oceans, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems;
  - b) a U.S. framework for policy coordination; and
  - c) an implementation strategy that identifies ways to meet the objective of the national policy.
- **Within 180 days, develop a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.**



## Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Report: Categories for Action

- **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the U.S.
- **The Plan should address:**
  - Expansion of the framework developed by the Task Force
  - Specific time frames for implementation
  - Geographic limits, use of best available science, protection of ecosystem integrity, management trade-offs, recognition of uncertainties in decision making, and provisions for adaptive management
  - An approach that balances competing uses, minimizes impacts on ecosystems, ensures sustainable uses, and minimizes costs.



## Key Elements to a MSP Framework

- A Coherent Definition of MSP
- Geographical Extent
- Regional Planning Structure
- Enforceability
- Stakeholder Participation
- National Goals for Plans
- Capacity Building