

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Objective

Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) and management in the United States.

Why Do This?

Human uses of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are expanding at a rate that challenges our ability to plan and manage them under the current sector-by-sector approach. Regionally-driven CMSP which fully incorporates the principles of adaptive, integrated, comprehensive, and ecosystem-based management (EBM) will provide a much more effective and cost-efficient means to objectively and transparently guide and balance allocation and stewardship decisions for the use and protection of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and resources.

Potential Actions and Expected Outcomes

- **Establish 9 Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) to undertake CMSP and develop initial CMS plans for sustainable use and long-term stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes** - A regionally-based framework to implement CMSP will allow for the variability of economic, environmental, and social aspects among the different areas of the United States.
- **By 2015, applicable non-confidential and other non-classified Federal data identified for inclusion into the National Information Management System and Data Portal** - Availability of data and information through a National Information Management System and Data Portal to the RPBs, other decision-makers, ocean users, stakeholders, and the public will directly support successful CMSP efforts.
- **Preserve and enhance opportunities for sustainable and beneficial ocean use through the promotion of regulatory efficiency, consistency, and transparency as well as improved coordination across Federal agencies** - Improving regulatory efficiency and coordination across Federal agencies will minimize the burdens of regulatory delays, increased scrutiny, costly litigation, and economic constraints.
- **Reduce cumulative negative impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and habitats** - Defining and analyzing existing conditions and forecasting future conditions of distinct areas as part the CMSP process *before* any particular activity is considered will help decision-makers minimize or avoid negative cumulative impacts to marine ecosystems, while promoting compatible sustainable uses of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.