

**Background Paper on the National Ocean Policy and
Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
Council Coordination Committee
May 1- 3, 2012**

I. Recent Activity

National Ocean Policy Funding for FY13?

On April 2, 2012, Representative Hastings (R-WA), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee to request language in each FY13 appropriations bill to specifically prohibit the use of funds for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. In his letter, Rep. Hastings states that this request is because the Obama Administration continues to move forward with ocean zoning without requesting funding specifically and without answering questions on how funds are currently being diverted from other missions to fund this initiative. FY11 and FY12 did not include any specific funding appropriations for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy or CMSP; however, NOAA's National Ocean Service continues to administer a grant program to support Regional Ocean Partnerships as well as advancing National Ocean Policy priorities including the national CMSP Framework.

FMCs on Regional Planning Bodies

On February 1, 2012, the National Ocean Council issued a statement that the Regional Fishery Management Councils (FMC) will each have one seat on the CMSP Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs). However, FMC representatives to the RPBs can only be comprised of voting members from Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agencies. The announcement also stated that participation by the FMCs will ensure their valuable expertise is part of the collaborative effort to improve the health and stewardship of our ocean, and further, that the FMCs bring valuable expertise and knowledge about the array of marine fishery resources that are used on a region-specific basis to support local economies. In addition, the NOC determined that RPBs will form a standing technical committee that includes the scientific and technical experts (i.e. Science and Statistical Committees) from the FMCs to ensure their input is incorporated into the spatial planning process.¹

Formation of the Regional Planning Bodies

The National Ocean Council is currently sending letters to federal agencies, state governments, tribes, and the FMCs to nominate representatives for their seats on the Regional Planning Bodies.

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/02/01/another-step-toward-ocean-stewardship>

Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

On January 18, 2012, the National Ocean Council made available its Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan for public comment. The comment period was open until February 27, 2012. Comments received on the draft plan can viewed at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/comments>

The National Ocean Council states on its website that the final plan to be available some time in 2012.

II. NOAA Funding Opportunity for CSMP/Regional Ocean Partnerships (December 2010)

In September 2010, NOAA published an announcement of a federal funding opportunity related to 1) advancing CSMP through achieving priorities identified by existing Regional Ocean Partnerships² and plans and 2) Regional Ocean Partnership development and governance. Funding for this grant program came from NOAA's FY11 budget. The Council supported the two proposals from the Western Pacific Region that were submitted. In January 2012, NOAA announced that these two proposals were funded as described below:

- **Northeast Region – The Association of U.S. Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council**, representing the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), was awarded a total of \$1,545,000 for the development of a first-stage regional ocean plan supporting ecosystem-based management of New England's marine environment and its human uses and to expand partnerships and public participation in NROC activities.
- **Mid-Atlantic Region – The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)** is supported by a total of \$1,569,000, including an award to Monmouth University to enhance MARCO's online Mapping and Planning Portal and an award to the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation to enable MARCO to better implement its actions and reach out to partners and the public.
- **Alaska – The Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science**, representing the Alaska Ocean Observing System, was awarded \$760,000 to develop stakeholder-driven visualization and decision-support tools for Alaska and the U.S. Arctic for a range of coastal and ocean uses.
- **South Atlantic – The South Atlantic Alliance** supported two successful grant applications for its region for a total of \$1,062,431. The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium received both grants to support the South Atlantic Alliance's initiative to provide a multi-state and regional framework for ocean planning in the Southeast U.S., as well as to continue the development and organization of the alliance for the Southeast region.
- **Caribbean – The Nature Conservancy**, representing the Caribbean Region, was awarded \$250,000 to support the development of a new Regional Ocean Partnership in the United States Caribbean region.

² Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council, on the Ocean, South Atlantic Alliance, the Great Lakes Council of Governors, and the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health.

- **Gulf of Mexico – The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)** was awarded \$250,000 to support continued coordination of the GOMA Priority Issue Teams for achieving the specific priority objectives, including those concerning water quality and hazards resilience outlined in the Governors’ Action Plan II.
- **West Coast – The West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health** received \$246,400 to aid its work on regional priority development and work towards better regional data access and delivery in support of those priorities.
- **Hawaii – The State of Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Office of Planning**, representing the Hawai‘i Ocean Resources Management Plan, was awarded \$250,000 to facilitate stakeholder engagement and foster the development of the Hawai‘i Sub-Regional Ocean Partnership (SOP).
- **Pacific Islands – The University of Hawai‘i**, representing the Pacific Islands region, was awarded \$249,000 to support the development of the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP).

NOAA Funding Opportunity for CSMP/Regional Ocean Partnerships (February 2012)

Using FY12 funding, NOAA again is funding grants to support two categories of activities:

- 1) Activities that contribute to achieving the priorities identified by Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) while also advancing NOP priorities including the national CMSP Framework; and
- 2) ROP Development and Governance Support for operations and administration of existing ROPs, and for start-up costs of those regions beginning ROPs.

The deadline for grant applications was April 2, 2012.

III. National CMSP Workshop (June 21-23, 2011)

The National Ocean Council held a National Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Workshop in Washington, DC, on June 21-23, 2011. The first day of the Workshop was a dedicated public and stakeholder session. According to the NOC’s website³, the National Workshop, as called for in the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes, brought together Federal, state, tribal, and regional representatives to develop an understanding of the CMSP process, begin to build a community of future CMSP practitioners, and consider next steps for regional implementation. A report of the workshop can be accessed at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/national_cmstp_workshop_summary_report.pdf

³ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/cmstp-workshop>

IV. Background Information

President Obama issues Executive Order “Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (June 2010)

- a) created National Ocean Policy;
- b) established the National Ocean Council
- c) adopted Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Final Recommendations including “The Framework for Effective Coastal Marine Spatial Planning”

Definition of CSMP

As defined in the Framework, CMSP is a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, ecosystem based, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. CMSP identifies areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives. In practical terms, CMSP provides a public policy process for society to better determine how the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes are sustainably used and protected - now and for future generations.

Development and Implementation of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

CMSP is to be initiated on a Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) level and the Nation is to be split into nine regional planning areas corresponding to the LMEs: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf Coast, West Coast, Alaska, Pacific Islands, Caribbean, and Great Lakes. These areas include the entire U.S. EEZ and Continental Shelf.

According to Framework, the NOC will work with the States (including Territories and Commonwealth) and federally-recognized tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, to create regional planning bodies – coinciding with the regional planning areas – for the development of regional CMS Plans. The membership of each of the nine regional planning bodies will consist of Federal, State, and tribal authorities relevant to CMSP for that region (e.g., resource management, including coastal zone management and fisheries management, science, homeland and national security, transportation, and public health). Members will be of an appropriate level of responsibility within their respective governing body to be able to make decisions and commitments throughout the process. Each regional planning body will identify Federal and non-Federal co-leads. Appropriate State and tribal representation will be determined by applicable States and tribes. Regional planning bodies will develop a mechanism to engage other indigenous community representatives with jurisdictional responsibilities or interests relevant to CMSP, as well as coordinate with appropriate local authorities.