

National Ocean Policy Roundtable

Summary

On Thursday, October 28, 2010, The Coastal Society, Restore America's Estuaries, Coastal States Organization, and *Coastal Management* journal presented a National Ocean Policy Roundtable in Washington, DC.

Andy Lipsky

Ocean Policy Advisor, National Ocean Council, [Andrew A. Lipsky@ceq.eop.gov](mailto:Andrew.A.Lipsky@ceq.eop.gov)

Mr. Andy Lipsky provided updates regarding the National Ocean Council (NOC), Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC) and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP). Mr. Lipsky shared background on the September 24 NOC Deputies meeting which included discussion of action items, workgroups and schedules for the NOC. The NOC is currently seeking a Director and Deputy Director. Mr. Lipsky noted that letters were sent to Governors, Tribal and Local government leaders for nominations for the GCC which is planned to be set up and operating by early winter. Priorities for the GCC include providing input to the CMSP workshops, assisting in the development of a dispute resolution mechanism for Regional Planning Bodies, and providing advice to the NOC on research priorities. Mr. Lipsky also discussed the planning effort for the National CMSP workshop which will likely take place in DC in February or March. This workshop will be for federal agencies, states and tribes, will likely include a simulation exercise and will focus on building on the existing expertise of the states.

Teresa Christopher

Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Undersecretary, NOAA, Teresa.Christopher@noaa.gov

Ms. Teresa Christopher provided the NOAA perspective and in particular noted that NOAA's priorities in its Strategic Action Plan are well-coordinated with the priorities in the National Ocean Policy. Ms. Christopher noted that NOAA has a seat on both the Principals level (Dr. Lubchenco) and the Deputies level (Dr. Larry Robinson) of the NOC. In addition, she noted that Jen Lukens is the Director of the CMSP Program which is within NOAA's National Ocean Service. Ms. Christopher encouraged stakeholders to communicate with NOAA and the other federal partners on the NOC, especially regarding ORRAP membership which is currently being reviewed.

Roberta Elias

Senior Program Officer, Marine & Fisheries Policy, World Wildlife Fund, Roberta.Elias@wwfus.org

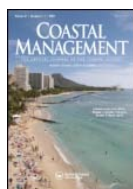
Ms. Roberta Elias presented the perspective of the Environmental Nongovernmental Organization (ENGO) community including areas of priority focus. Ms. Elias noted that the priorities include resiliency in ecosystems, regionally smart approaches to protection and restoration, water quality issues, environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and using CMSP to balance existing uses with foreseeable future uses. She encouraged the broader community to commit to participating in the National Ocean Policy dialogue and to work together to secure funding for ocean and coastal issues.

Discussion The following key themes emerged during the discussion: (1) the need for education and outreach regarding CMSP; (2) the need for a coordinated approach for financial support in FY '12 and beyond; (3) the community taking advantage of stakeholder engagement with all federal agencies represented on the NOC and its staff.

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Key Elements of National Ocean Council Executive Order, June 19, 2010

Relevant documents available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans>

*Generally adopts the recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and directs executive agencies to implement those recommendations under the guidance of a National Ocean Council.

*Establishes a national policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserve our maritime heritage, support sustainable uses and access, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests.

*Provides for the development of coastal and marine spatial plans that build upon and improve existing Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional decision-making and planning processes.

National Ocean Council, Committees & Federal Agencies

Establishes **National Ocean Council** made up of:

CEQ Chair & Director of Office of Science and Technology Policy (co-chairs), the Secretaries of State, Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Energy, and Homeland Security, the Attorney General, EPA Administrator, OMB Director, NOAA Administrator, NASA Administrator, Director of National Intelligence, NSF Director, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Security Advisor, Assistants to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, Domestic Policy, Energy and Climate Change, and Economic Policy, Vice President designee, and others as designated by Co-Chairs. FERC Chairman is invited as relevant.

Function of National Ocean Council is to implement the policy by providing appropriate direction to ensure that executive departments', agencies', or offices' decisions and actions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are guided by the stewardship principles and national priority objectives set forth in the Final Recommendations. The Council shall base its decisions on the consensus of its members.

Directs Federal Agencies to

*Take action to implement the policy and stewardship principles and national priority objectives and participate in the CMSP process and comply with Council certified coastal and marine spatial plans.

*Prepare an annual report including actions taken to implement the order, written comments by persons or organizations regarding the agency's compliance, and the agency's response to comments.

Creates **Governance Coordinating Committee** consisting of 18 officials from State, tribal, and local governments in accordance with the Final Recommendations. The Committee may establish subcommittees chaired by representatives of the GCC which may include additional representatives from State, tribal, and local governments, as appropriate for greater collaboration and diversity of views.

Allows for the creation of **Regional Advisory Committees** established by the lead Federal department/agency for each regional planning body to develop regional coastal and marine spatial plans.

Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning

Defines CMSP as: “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. Coastal and marine spatial planning 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, coastal and marine spatial planning provides a public policy process for society to better determine how the ocean, our coasts, and Great Lakes are sustainably used and protected – now and for future generations.”

Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans are: “the plans that are certified by the National Ocean Council as developed in accordance with the definition, goals, principles, and process described in the Final Recommendations.”