

## **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP): A new paradigm in ocean resource management**

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) is one of the nine priority objectives in the National Ocean Policy initiative. Guided by such principles as precautionary approach and Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), and informed by the best available information, CMSP is a comprehensive spatial planning process for analyzing current and anticipated ocean uses. CMS plans will be developed at the regional level based on input from various stakeholders. The plans will identify and map existing human uses, as well as physical and biological resources. It is anticipated that regional CMS plans will enhance regulatory certainty, minimize conflicts among competing resource users, and achieve optimal site selection for such space intensive resources as offshore wind power. A comprehensive CMSP initiative will be kick-started this summer with a national workshop and simulation exercise in Washington DC. This presentation aims to discuss the concept of CMSP and implementation in the context of the National Ocean Policy. I will also discuss the engagement of DOI agencies in this initiative.