

Science, Service, Stewardship



Ocean Policy Task Force and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Sam Rauch
Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Regulatory Programs
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Outline

- **Overview of the Ocean Policy Task Force**
- **Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Report**
- **Draft Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)**
- **CMSP Definition and Goals**
- **Assessment of CMSP Capabilities within NOAA**

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2009

June 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE OCEANS, OUR COASTS,
AND THE GREAT LAKES

The oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities, and play critical roles in our Nation's transportation, economy, and trade, as well as the global mobility of our Armed Forces and the maintenance of international peace and security. We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations.

Yet, the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are subject to substantial pressures and face significant environmental challenges. Challenges include water pollution and degraded coastal water quality caused by industrial and commercial activities both onshore and offshore, habitat loss, fishing impacts, invasive species, disease, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification. Oceans both influence and are affected by climate change. They not only affect climate processes but they are also under stress from the impacts of climate change. Renewable energy, shipping, and aquaculture are also expected to place growing demands on ocean and Great Lakes resources. These resources therefore require protection through the numerous Federal, State, and local authorities with responsibility and jurisdiction over the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, the United States needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the longterm conservation and use of our resources.

In order to better meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, there is established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force), to be led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force shall be composed of senior policy-level officials from the executive departments, agencies, and offices represented on the Committee on Ocean Policy established by section 3 of Executive Order 13366 of December 17, 2004. This Task Force is not meant to duplicate that structure, but rather is intended to be a temporary entity with the following responsibilities:

more

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Ocean Policy Task Force--Overview

- Memo Established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF):
 - Chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality
 - Members are Senior Policy-Level Officials
 - Representation across the Federal Government
 - Terminates once Duties Completed



Ocean Policy Task Force- Overview

OPTF Responsibilities - Within 90 Days:

— National Policy and Recommendations

- Ensure protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources
- Enhance sustainability of ocean and coastal economies
- Preserve maritime heritage
- Provide for adaptive management (linked to climate change)
- Coordinated with national security and foreign policy

— Framework for Policy Coordination

- Ensure integration and coordination across jurisdictional lines in meeting objectives of the national policy

— Implementation Strategy

- Identify and prioritize a set of objectives to meet the objectives of the national policy



Ocean Policy Task Force- Overview

OPTF Responsibilities – Within **180** Days:

—Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

- Comprehensive
- Integrated
- Ecosystem-Based
- Addresses: Conservation, Economic Activity, User Conflict, and Sustainable use of Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Resources



Ocean Policy Task Force- Overview

- **Task Force**
- **Working Committee**
- **Subgroups**
 - Policy
 - Coordination Framework
 - Implementation Strategy
 - Public Engagement
 - CMSP Framework
 - CMSP Legal Authorities
 - CMSP Data Integration
 - CMSP Implementation



Ocean Policy Task Force - Overview

Public Engagement Process

- 24 Expert Roundtables (+14 CMSP)
 - Stakeholders and Interest Groups
 - State, Local, and Tribal Governments
- 6 Regional Public Meetings
 - Anchorage, Alaska - August 21
 - San Francisco, California – September 17
 - Providence, Rhode Island – September 24
 - Honolulu, Hawaii – September 29
 - New Orleans, Louisiana – October 19
 - Cleveland, Ohio – October 29





Ocean Policy Task Force – Interim Report

Document Includes:

- Suggested *National Policy for the Stewardship of the Oceans, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes*
- *Policy Coordination Framework to Improve the Stewardship of the Oceans, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes*
- *Draft Strategy for Implementing the National Ocean Policy*



THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Interim Report
Of The
Interagency Ocean Policy
Task Force*

September 10, 2009





Ocean Policy Task Force – Interim Report

Principles of the National Policy

- Guided by Stewardship
- Ecosystem-based Management
- Manages and Balances Current and Future Uses
- Supports Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Science, Research, Monitoring, Modeling, Forecasting, Exploration, and Assessment for Continual Improvement of Understanding
- Develops Improved Awareness of Changing Environmental Conditions
- Enhances Formal and Informal Education
- Demonstrates International Leadership
- Includes Measureable Benchmarks Supporting Stewardship
- Policies, Programs, and Activities Assessed and Conducted within Integrated and Comprehensive Interagency Planning Framework



Ocean Policy Task Force – Interim Report

Proposed Policy Coordination Framework - Modifications to the existing governance structure, including a stronger mandate and direction, and renewed and sustained high-level engagement.

- CEQ and OSTP would lead an interagency National Ocean Council to coordinate ocean-related issues across the Federal Government and the implementation of the National Ocean Policy
- Creation of a Governance Advisory Committee of the National Ocean Council to improve coordination and collaboration with State, tribal, and local authorities, and regional governance structures



Ocean Policy Task Force – Interim Report

Implementation Strategy - Proposed National Priority Objectives:

How we do business:

1. Ecosystem-Based Management
2. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
3. Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding
4. Coordinate and Support

Areas of Special Emphasis:

1. Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification
2. Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
3. Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land
4. Changing Conditions in the Arctic
5. Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure



Ocean Policy Task Force- Interim CMSP Framework

The Framework

- *Outlines a New Approach to How We Use and Protect the Ocean, Coast, and Great Lakes*
- *Moves us Away From Sector-by-Sector and Statute-by-Statute Decision-Making*
- *Brings Partners Together to Jointly Plan*
- *Places Science-Based Information at the Heart of Decision-Making*
- *Emphasizes Stakeholder and Public Participation*



THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

*Interagency Ocean Policy Task
Force*

December 9, 2009





Ocean Policy Task Force-- Draft CMSP Framework

Definition of CMSP:

—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.

The CMSP Process:

—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.



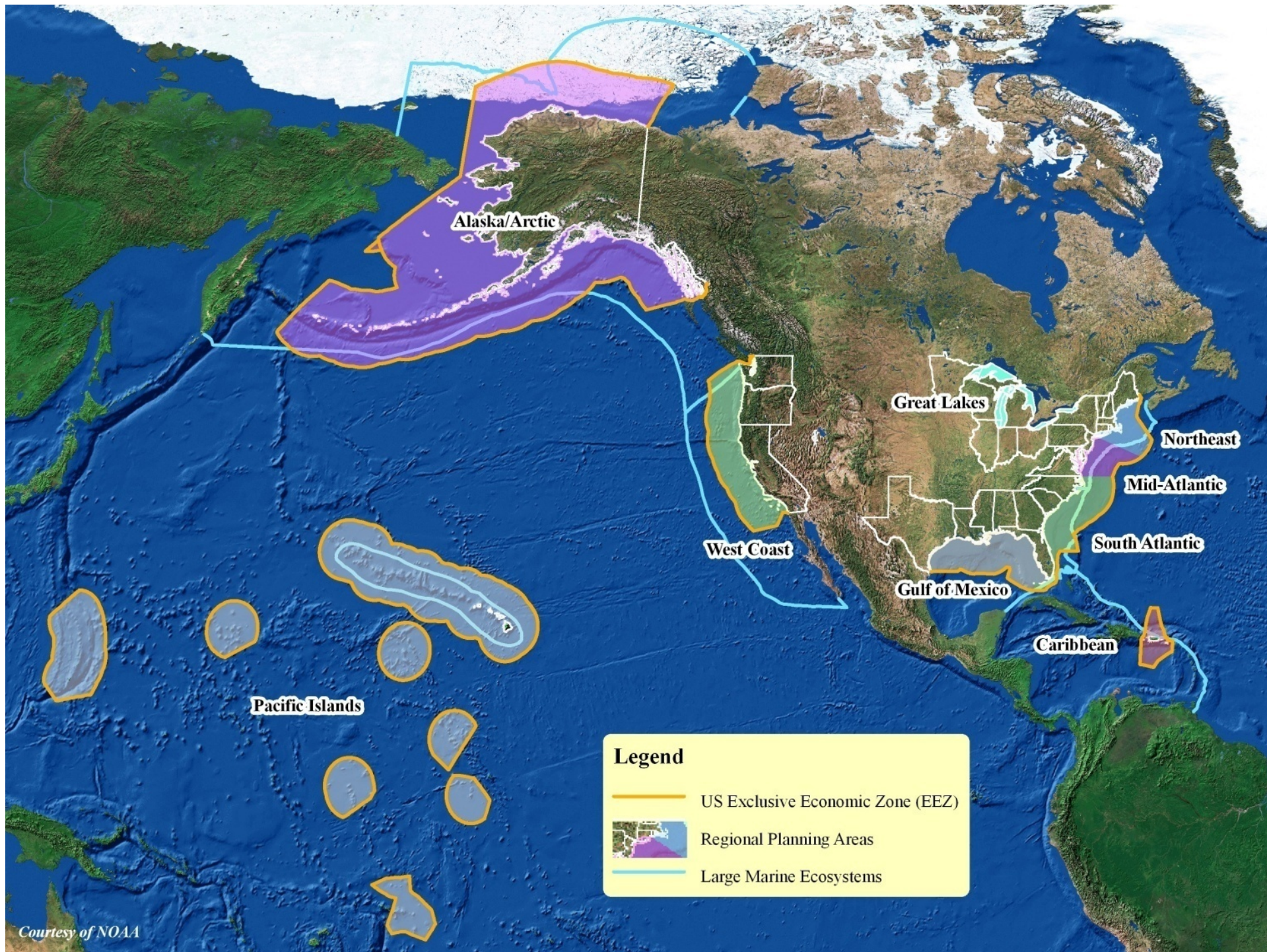
Ocean Policy Task Force-- Draft Framework

Outlines 7 national goals for CMSP that link back to the National Ocean Policy goals with a focus on:

- Promoting compatibility among uses and reducing user conflicts
- Streamlining and improving the rigor and consistency of decision-making and regulatory processes
- Increasing certainty and predictability in planning

Lists 12 Guiding Principles for CMSP that include:

- Ecosystem-based management
- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Informed by best available science
- Precautionary approach
- Flexibility to accommodate changing conditions



Courtesy of NOAA



Ocean Policy Task Force-- Draft Framework

Authority for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:

- Existing federal and state statutes authorize agency planning efforts and provide a legal basis to implement CMS plans within these authorities.

Development Agreement:

- An express commitment signed by agencies to work cooperatively to engage in CMSP and develop CMS plans.

Adherence and Compliance:

- Signatories would be expected to adhere to CMS plans within the limits of their statutory and regulatory authorities. If an agency deviates from the plan, it would need to provide advance notice and justification.



Ocean Policy Task Force-- Draft Framework

Essential Elements of the CMSP Process:

- Identify Regional Objectives
- Identify Existing Efforts that Should Help Shape the Plan throughout the Process
- Engage Stakeholders and the Public at Key Points throughout Process
- Consult Scientists and Other Experts
- Analyze Data, Uses, Services, and Impacts
- Develop and Evaluate Alternative Future Use Scenarios and Tradeoffs
- Prepare and Release a Draft CMS Plan with Supporting Environmental Impact Analysis Documentation for Public Comment
- Create a Final CMS Plan and Submit for NOC Review
- Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Modify the NOC-certified CMS Plan



Ocean Policy Task Force-- Draft Framework

Essential Elements of the CMS Plans:

- Regional Overview and Scope of Planning Area
- Regulatory Context
- Regional Assessment
- Objectives, Strategies, Methods, and Mechanisms for CMSP
- Compliance Mechanisms
- Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms
- Dispute Resolution Process

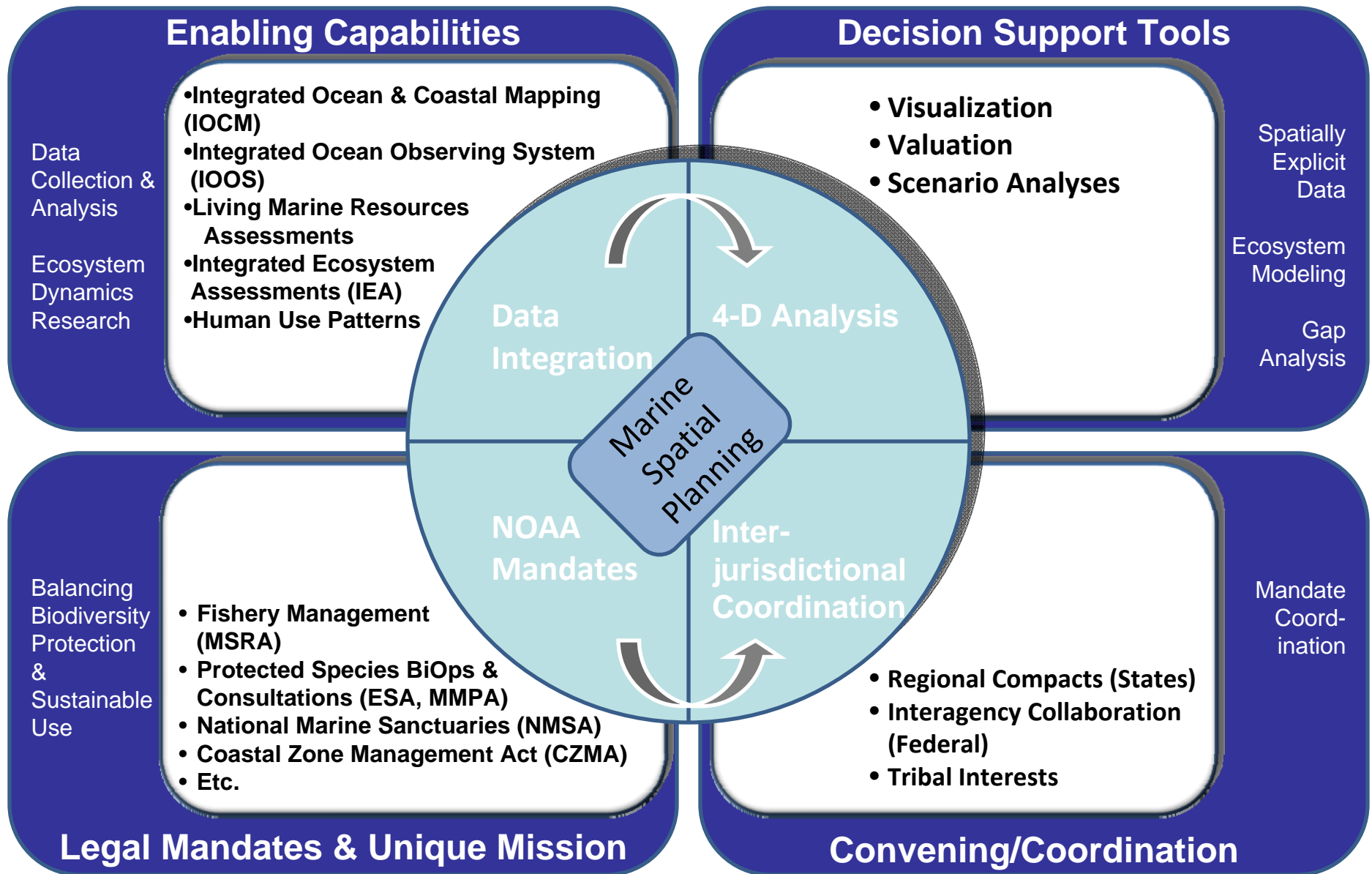


Ocean Policy Task Force-- Draft Framework

Priorities for Financial and Other Support:

1. Hold a national workshop and simulation exercise.
2. Support the development of regional CMSP including the capacity for regional planning bodies.
3. Improve and integrate the data and information used to inform CMSP and identify additional scientific research to support CMSP.
4. Support public outreach and stakeholder engagement.

NOAA Capabilities Supporting Marine Spatial Planning





NOAA Looking Forward

Dr. Lubchenco requested NOAA Ocean Council Executive Committee on CMSP be formed to look at NOAA's role and capabilities

Executive Committee have presented initial findings to NOAA Leadership on CMSP, including;

- NOAA's capabilities, gaps, and priorities
- NOAA structural recommendations for CMSP
- Near-term leadership opportunities

Development of FY 11 and FY 12 NOAA CMSP Budget Initiatives



Next Steps

Interim Report

- 30 Day Public Comment Period
- Closed October 2009

CMSP Framework

- 60 Day Public Comment Period
- Closes Feb 12, 2010

Final Report for Presidential Consideration

