

For Immediate Release

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## **Coastal Society Conference Considers Coastal/Marine Planning**

The concept of “Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning,” or CSMP, is of increasing relevance to North Carolina and other states because of potential conflicts among various user groups, such as offshore energy development, commercial and recreational fishing industries, military training requirements, and ocean commerce.

CSMP and other ocean policy issues will be the focus of the opening session of The Coastal Society’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference, to be held in Wilmington on Monday, June 14. Speakers during the session at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside will include experts from North Carolina and beyond. Conference attendees will continue the discussion during the week as various panels and presentations will focus on CSMP and ocean policy. The session will be led by Dr. Mike Orbach of Duke University and include from North Carolina and from as far away as Poland.

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Division of Coastal Management released a report last year discussing emerging ocean policy issues facing North Carolina, “Developing a Management Strategy North Carolina’s Coastal Ocean”. A statewide committee, led by the N.C. Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center, identified benefits and challenges associated with CMSP issues in North Carolina.

Advocates of CMSP describe it as a valuable tool that will allow states, to move away from single-sector management of our coastal and ocean resources, and instead work towards an integrated and adaptive spatial planning process that facilitates the development of compatible uses and reduces conflicts.

CMSP also has national attention as one of the nine priority objectives proposed in the Interim Report of the U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, issued in September 2009. The Interim Report articulates national goals and guiding principles of CMSP, and includes provisions that would significantly overhaul the federal approach to coastal and marine planning. CMSP is intended to build upon and significantly improve existing regional decision-making and planning processes by allowing for a comprehensive look at demands from multiple sectors.

*NOTE TO MEDIA: Reporters interested in covering the meeting should contact Lisa Schiavinato at 919.515.1895 through June 11. Starting June 12, contact Ms. Schiavinato at 919.450.8803. Advance interviews with presenters also will be available by contacting Ms. Schiavinato.*