

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual International Submerged Lands Management Conference

### Mapping Federal Submerged Lands: The OCS Marine Cadastre

**Speaker:** Steve Kopach, Minerals Management Service

**Abstract:** The Department of the Interior has been conducting offshore leasing and associated mapping activities for over 50 years. On January 19, 1982, The Minerals Management Service (MMS) was created with the primary responsibility to manage the nation's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) natural gas, oil, and other mineral resources. Recently, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorized the Department of the Interior to grant leases, easements or rights-of-way on the OCS for the development and support of energy resources from sources other than oil and gas and to allow for alternate uses of existing facilities on the OCS.

In support of these efforts the MMS performs mathematical offshore boundary location computations and prepares Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Maps, OCS Official Protraction Diagrams, and Supplemental Official OCS Block Diagrams depicting OCS block information, the Submerged Lands Act Boundary (Federal/State Boundary), Limit of the "8(g) Zone", related jurisdictional and administrative boundaries, and corresponding area measurements. These boundaries form the foundation of the OCS Marine Cadastre.

MMS is the lead federal agency for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) spatial data themes entitled: Offshore Cadastre, Offshore Minerals and OCS Submerged Lands. This presentation will discuss MMS' current roles and responsibilities.

**Speaker Information:** Steve Kopach is currently the Chief of the Mapping and Boundary Branch of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service, Offshore Energy and Minerals Management, Division of Leasing, located in Herndon, Virginia. The Mapping and Boundary Branch (MBB) <http://www.mms.gov/ld/Maps.htm> develops the marine cadastre which includes the lease block grids and various offshore boundaries for MMS. This information provides the base for nearly all MMS offshore maps and leasing processes, and gives MMS the means to define, describe, analyze, and account for every acre/hectare of Federal Offshore Submerged Lands. Steve is also currently a co-chair of the IWG-OCM as well as co-chair of the FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/>.