

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

### **Marine Spatial Planning – International and National Perspectives**

**Speaker:** Andrea Geiger

**Abstract:** With the rise of new place-based activities in the ocean, such as LNG terminals, wind farms, and aquaculture, conflicts amongst new and existing users in this three dimensional space are increasing. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) seeks to reduce this conflict and improve decision-making by analyzing and allocating parts of the ocean to specific uses, in order to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. MSP can provide a comprehensive approach to long-term ecosystem-based management. Internationally, Australia and several countries in the European Union have taken a lead on implementing MSP, with the U.S. beginning to hold discussions in various forums. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center (CSC) seeks to build capacity for MSP, by developing products, best management practices, and partnerships to support the effort. CSC participates with other federal agencies in the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Marine Boundary Working Group, where they have worked to integrate approaches to marine boundaries and initiate the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre.

**Speaker Information:** Andrea Geiger serves as a Coastal Policy Specialist for Perot Systems at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center. Andrea manages and participates in projects focused on advancing regional ocean governance, including marine spatial planning and the Digital Coast: Legislative Atlas. Prior to working at the Coastal Services Center, Andrea was a Legislative Program Manager for The Ocean Conservancy where she advocated for effective ocean governance reform in Congress. Andrea began her policy career at the Coastal States Organization (CSO). At CSO, Andrea represented the Governors of the coastal states on issues that affected islands and addressed governance, land use, and habitat conservation. Andrea graduated with a Masters in Marine Policy from the University of Delaware and has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Michigan.