NCCOS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NOS' **MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING** 1975

MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) IS A DATA-DRIVEN PROCESS FOR ORGANIZING AND MANAGING OCEAN SPACE TO BALANCE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES, MINIMIZE CONFLICTS AND OPTIMIZE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES.

NOAA's Charles Ehler & Dan Basta invent the predecessor of NCCOS' Marine Spatial Ecology Division & develop a vision for "ecosystem atlases".



1980s-1990s

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Division develops enhanced Strategic Assessment Atlases for U.S. coasts to facilitate regional MSP.

1994

Completion of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan. Still considered one of the most complete application of Integrated Coastal Management planning to date.

≥NCCOS ₹ 1999

NCCOS created; SEA Division's Biogeography Branch moved into NCCOS to continue MSP science under the Marine Spatial Ecology Division.



The first Strategic Environmental Assessment Atlas for the U.S. East Coast created using an atlas-based framework. This pioneering MSP effort advanced planning & evaluation of proposed coastal oil refineries in Maine & Virginia.

1990s



GIS software significantly increases NOAA's MSP mapping & geospatial analytical capabilities.

1995



Creation of NCCOS's Biogeography Branch by Dr. Mark Monaco to develop biogeographical assessments for MSP & coastal management.

2001-2008

1st application of NCCOS's digital atlas for CA sanctuaries

results in expanded sanctuary

boundaries & revised configurations.





Dr. James Morris expands NCCOS' MSP program through development of MSP suitability models for siting aquaculture around the U.S.

2014 单

2020



Presidential Executive Order 13921 calls for NOAA to conduct siting analyses for Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs).

2021

AOA atlases published for the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California producing the first regional-scale



spatial suitability models.

2023

First offshore wind leases sited using NCCOS spatial / planning in the Gulf of Mexico.

2022

Stakeholders & BOEM request MSP support for siting offshore wind in the Gulf of Mexico. NCCOS begins developing spatial models for offshore wind around the U.S.

2024

NCCOS MSP for offshore wind expands to all regions of the US.



FUTURE

NCCOS MSP empowers **growth** of the Blue Economy, **development** of renewable energy, and **conservation** of natural resources.