

Terms Commonly Associated with Marine Spatial Planning

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Coined during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, this term describes an adaptive, integrated approach for achieving sustainable resource management in coastal areas (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1993). The European Commission describes integrated coastal zone management as a dynamic, multidisciplinary, and iterative process to promote sustainable management of coastal zones that seeks to balance economic development and use of the coastal region, protection and preservation of coastal areas, minimization of loss of human life and property, and public access to the coastal zone. The European Commission encourages all member states to practice integrated coastal zone management.

Ecosystem-Based Management

Ecosystem-based management aims to protect ecosystem structure, functioning, and processes; recognize the interconnectedness within and among systems; integrate ecological, social, economic, and institutional perspectives; and be place-based or area-based. Some authors refer more generically to ecosystem approaches to management or more narrowly to specific applications such as ecosystem-based fisheries management, but neither of these captures the full value of this concept. The term is widely embraced in the scientific community. Many people believe ecosystem-based management is practical and sufficiently well-defined to be implemented now, while others complain that it is too vague to help managers carry out their day-to-day responsibilities and is not readily understood by the public.

Regional Ocean Governance

The concept of regional ocean governance was embraced by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. The commission's website says "regional ocean governance refers to a governance mechanism established by a coalition of state governments, with participation by the federal government, to address ocean and coastal issues that cross political boundaries. While state and federal governments need to play a strong leadership role, regional ocean governance initiatives must engage participation by the full spectrum of governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders in the region" (www.jointoceancommission.org). Regional governance embraces the principles of ecosystem-based management but focuses on the importance of cooperation between adjacent states and corresponding federal authorities to bring it about.

Marine Spatial Planning

Marine spatial planning is a process for analyzing and allocating ocean space for multiple uses to achieve specified ecological, economic, and social objectives. A stakeholder-driven process results in a comprehensive plan for a marine region. Advocates of marine spatial planning, a term widely adopted in Europe, see it as a real-world solution that embodies the principles of ecosystem-based management. Some scientists think marine spatial planning fails to capture the full complexity of true ecosystem-based management, while some U.S. coastal managers have expressed concern that the term implies some form of centralized control. Unfortunately, this

concept's significance has been diluted by those who use the term to describe any form of spatial management, even when it is focused on a single sector. (For example, papers about siting marine protected area networks and creating closed areas for fishing were included in a recent conference session on marine spatial planning.)

Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning

A term officially adopted by the European Union in its Blue Book on Maritime Policy (Commission of the European Communities 2007), this term combines marine spatial planning with the older concept of integrated coastal zone management to deliver a spatial planning approach that includes onshore, nearshore, and offshore areas.

Ocean Zoning

Similar to the distinction on land between comprehensive master planning and municipal zoning, ocean zoning takes a marine spatial plan to the next step by creating a zoning map for a marine region, with areas allocated for different kinds of uses and corresponding regulations for each use or area. For many years, advocates of marine spatial planning in the U.S. have been warned to avoid "the Z word," on the premise that some people would associate it negatively with unwanted control of private property on land. Others believe the public generally holds positive views about the value of planning and zoning based on local, land-based experiences, and emphasize that private ownership does not exist in the ocean.

Area-Based Management (ABM), Integrated Management (IM), Integrated Multiple Use Ocean Management (IMUOM), Integrated Marine Spatial Planning (i-MSP)

This is a sampling of other coinages in use in different regions or by different writers. These terms generally incorporate some combination of marine spatial planning with ocean zoning, with the goal of achieving ecosystem-based management. The proliferation of terms is evidence of the ongoing effort to find more descriptive and accessible language for a powerful new concept.