

21st International Conference of The Coastal Society

Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping: Providing Solutions to Coastal Challenges

Captain Roger Parsons, NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (Ret.)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will host a roundtable discussion addressing the challenges facing coastal states, communities and others in need of ocean and coastal mapping data and products and ways to address these challenges. NOAA defines Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM) as the practice of acquiring, integrating and disseminating ocean and coastal geospatial data in such a manner that permits these data and their derivative products to be easily accessed and used by and for the greatest range of users and purposes. IOCM requires intra- and inter-agency coordination and collaboration with a focus on streamlining operations, reducing redundancies, improving efficiencies, developing common standards, and stimulating innovation and technological development. The 2004 National Research Council assessment of national needs for coastal mapping and charting concluded that the users of ocean and coastal geospatial data had several common requirements that were not being met by Federal mapping agencies, including the need for a consistent spatial framework for coastal data that allows a seamless transition from onshore to offshore; increased collection and availability of data including land cover, shallow-water bathymetry, seafloor imagery, habitat distribution and classification standards; national standards and transformation protocols that allow easy data exchange; and easy access to up-to-date digital, geospatial data, imagery and mapping products. The U.S. Ocean Action Plan has since directed Federal mapping agencies to coordinate their ocean and coastal mapping activities and leverage data collection and mapping resources across the Federal sector as well as with State, industry, academic and non-governmental mapping interests. A panel representing diverse mapping interests and perspectives will review the challenges they are facing and discuss the benefits to decision makers of implementing an IOCM approach to mapping our ocean and coastal zones. The panel will consist of: Sheila Semans, Manger, California Seafloor Mapping Program, California Coastal Conservancy; Dr. Gary Greene, Director, Tombola Habitat Institute; John Haines, Coastal and Marine Geology Program Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey; Roger L. Parsons, Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordinator, NOAA; Representative Deborah Boone, Chair, Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Ocean Policy, Oregon House of Representatives; Bruce Carlisle, Assistant Director, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Captain Roger Parsons
NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (Ret.)
Roger.L.Parsons@noaa.gov