"The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre"

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The Energy Policy Act of 2005. Section 388 amended the OCS Lands Act and authorized the Dept. of the Interior new authority to regulate Federal offshore renewable energy and alternate uses of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and as the lead agency to establish an OCS Mapping Initiative to assist in decision making related to alternative energy uses on the OCS.
Mr. Fulmer then reviewed the OCS Mapping Initiative. Multiple agencies are involved under a Marine Boundary Working Group – to maximize public resources and avoid duplication of effort. They develop data content standards and standardized methodologies. They are working to bring a digital web map viewer into being (coordinating this with other agencies).

What exactly is the Marine Cadastre? It is a legal framework to tie positions between features on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). It is also an information system, for rights/roles on the OCS.

Why build this new map? Importantly, it provides an overall infrastructure for the public to view rights/responsibilities in this geographic environment. It helps decision-makers make best decision, good ocean governance. It will provide information on OCS federal, permitted activities; obstructions; undersea cables; offshore aquaculture; and information about safety, security, and conservation areas.

It provides a view of who owns what, and the rights associated with ownership. Mapping the shoreline more significant today due to pressures; many lines are ambulatory.

The map basis is the UTM grid. Data themes incorporated are the Submerged Lands Act, OCS boundaries, and more. Supporting themes – such as anything affecting others on the OCS (like alternative energy devices) – are also incorporated.

Why is it so important? It is the one place that ties all this information together!

Dave then reviewed the process to build the map, noting that it:

- Integrates with existing systems; Geospatial One Stop
- Open standards
- Simple, clean interface
- Data must reside with AOR (Agency of Responsibility) and kept up to date
- Uses legislative atlas, existing template
- Geospatial One Stop (GOS)
    - Uses metadata
    - Has marketplace for planned acquisitions
    - Communities of interest
        - Very functional for choosing and printing, and report generation
    - Takes data from many sources, put on their server and push out through Arc IMS Web

He noted the importance of keeping data up to date; they will harvest data out of other agencies. Other issues to be aware of: it uses a geographic coordinate system; it is a graphical view of the data (not data itself); there will be compliancy issues (due to sensitive nature of data); the format of the original data differs sometimes – challenging construction; and working in 3 and 4 dimensions is challenging their budget.

Future development issues: who will host it, maintain it, add web features, etcetera. Also, have the potential to incorporate other data sets: utilities, alternative energy, conservation areas, human uses.