Alison Bates 2012 Marine Policy Seminar September 13, 2012

## Marine Spatial Planning: Framework for Ocean Planning at a Local, National, and International Scale

Conservation and stewardship of the oceans has received a great deal of attention on a global, national, and local scale. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is both a process and a tool that can be used to aid decision-making for present and future uses of ocean and coasts. The high demand for ocean space can generate spatial conflicts, especially as new activities are proposed that require ocean space. Offshore wind development is among these new uses, prompting many countries and regions to implement MSP, engaging stakeholders to discuss priority areas, assemble current ocean uses, and set goals for the future. A broad overview of MSP will be discussed in this seminar, with examples from several countries and US states, emphasizing the US National Ocean Policy that provides a national MSP framework. Furthermore, the results of an ocean mapping project completed this year by students and faculty at the University of Delaware will be highlighted, as a tool to aid MSP efforts in the mid-Atlantic and advise the planning of offshore wind development off the coast of Delaware.