

## **MAPPING FOR MANAGERS: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN DATA AND INFORMATION**

*Leader: Drew Carey, Ph.D., CoastalVision*

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Efforts to link ocean governance initiatives with rapidly developing habitat mapping technologies are underway in many coastal states. In many cases there is a gap between the data that can be easily collected across wide areas in the coastal zone (bathymetry, LIDAR, sidescan, ocean color, aerial photographs) and the types of information needs of coastal managers and monitoring programs. Classification strategies are employed to translate processed data into hierarchical information based on geological and ecological frameworks. The results of these classification strategies may need further analysis to be useful for specific management decisions. Challenges include the scale and resolution of mapping and ground truth data and ecological significance as well as capturing the dynamic characteristics of ocean habitats (water column, mobile and seasonal organisms) and results of monitoring. Manager's needs may not fit the attributes of either the data or the classification approach and those needs are rapidly changing as ocean governance and planning evolves with new uses of the coastal zone and goals of ecosystem based management. Creating clarity on the spatial information needs of ocean planning and limitations of available data is the goal of this Café Conversation.

This session will bring ocean mappers, classifiers and managers together to identify problems, define gaps between data and information needs and outline potential solutions. Invited participants will represent a range of geography and experience in each of the stages of developing map-based ocean governance tools. The session will be structured to involve the audience and invited participants to define their needs and identify approaches to narrowing the gap between mapping data and information requirements of managers.

Drew A. Carey  
CoastalVision  
215 Eustis Avenue  
Newport, RI 02840  
[coastal.vision@verizon.net](mailto:coastal.vision@verizon.net)  
401 849 9236