

Water Institute Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series

Dr. Charles (Bud) Ehler
President of Ocean Visions
Paris, France
Thursday, March 3, 2011
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
282 J. Wayne Reitz Union

Title:

Marine Spatial Planning: the U.S. Approach from an International Perspective

Abstract:

When President Obama signed an Executive Order on 19 July 2010 instructing federal agencies to implement the recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, he created a new approach to managing human activities in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone--all 12 million square miles of the marine waters of the U.S. One of the Task Force recommendations proposed a framework for coastal and marine spatial planning that would create spatial plans for nine regions of the EEZ over the next four years--a daunting task given the limits of existing institutional arrangements for marine management, as well as the need for new funding. However, marine spatial planning has been practiced successfully in other countries (Australia, The Netherlands, Germany, and Norway) for over a decade. The seminar will examine the U.S. approach from an international perspective and identify management challenges that will have to be overcome if MSP in the U.S. is to be effective, efficient, and equitable.