



*Global Marine Renewable Energy Conference,*  
Perspectives from the NGO Community:

# Natural Resources Defense Council

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## Background, Natural Resources Defense Council

- *Who we are:* An environmental action group with seven offices in the U.S. & Beijing; 1.2 million members and online activists; 350 lawyers, scientists and other professionals.
  - We have a team of ocean and energy experts working to ensure that sound law and policy guide development of renewable energy & associated transmission lines in our oceans.
  - We work on both state and federal ocean renewable energy issues.
  - We look to international examples of governance for guidance.



# NRDC & Ocean Renewable Energy

- **OUR GOAL:** To realize the potential of clean, new power sources while protecting and improving valuable ocean ecosystems and the services they provide.
- **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)** holds great promise for achieving that end.
  - Defined: MSP is the process of analyzing and allocating ocean space for specific uses to achieve specified ecological, economic and social objectives.
  - We have examined work of UNESCO experts developing guidelines for MSP and international and state-level examples:
    - Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, the UK
    - US: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Oregon, California



# Potential Value of MSP

- MSP can help us achieve the following benefits for ocean renewable energy and our ocean ecosystems:
  - Prevent or minimize negative environmental impacts.
  - More efficient identification of areas of maximum energy potential and minimal environmental impacts.
  - Avoid ocean-sprawl and conflicts among users (including biological and non-consumptive “uses”).
  - Improved regulatory efficiency as a result of coordinated environmental management.
- ***We look forward to early, open and productive dialogue with all stakeholders in ocean renewable energy development.***



# Thank You

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