

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Presentation on Marine Spatial Planning

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based largely on a presentation offered by

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NOAA Fisheries

Science, Service, Stewardship



Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

MAFAC meeting

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**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Finding the Balance



Uses:

- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Alternative Energy
- Military Readiness
- Bioprospecting
- Coastal Development

Protection of:

- Ocean Biodiversity
- Protected Species
- Vulnerable Habitats
- Coastal Communities
- Cultural Resources





What is Marine Spatial Planning?

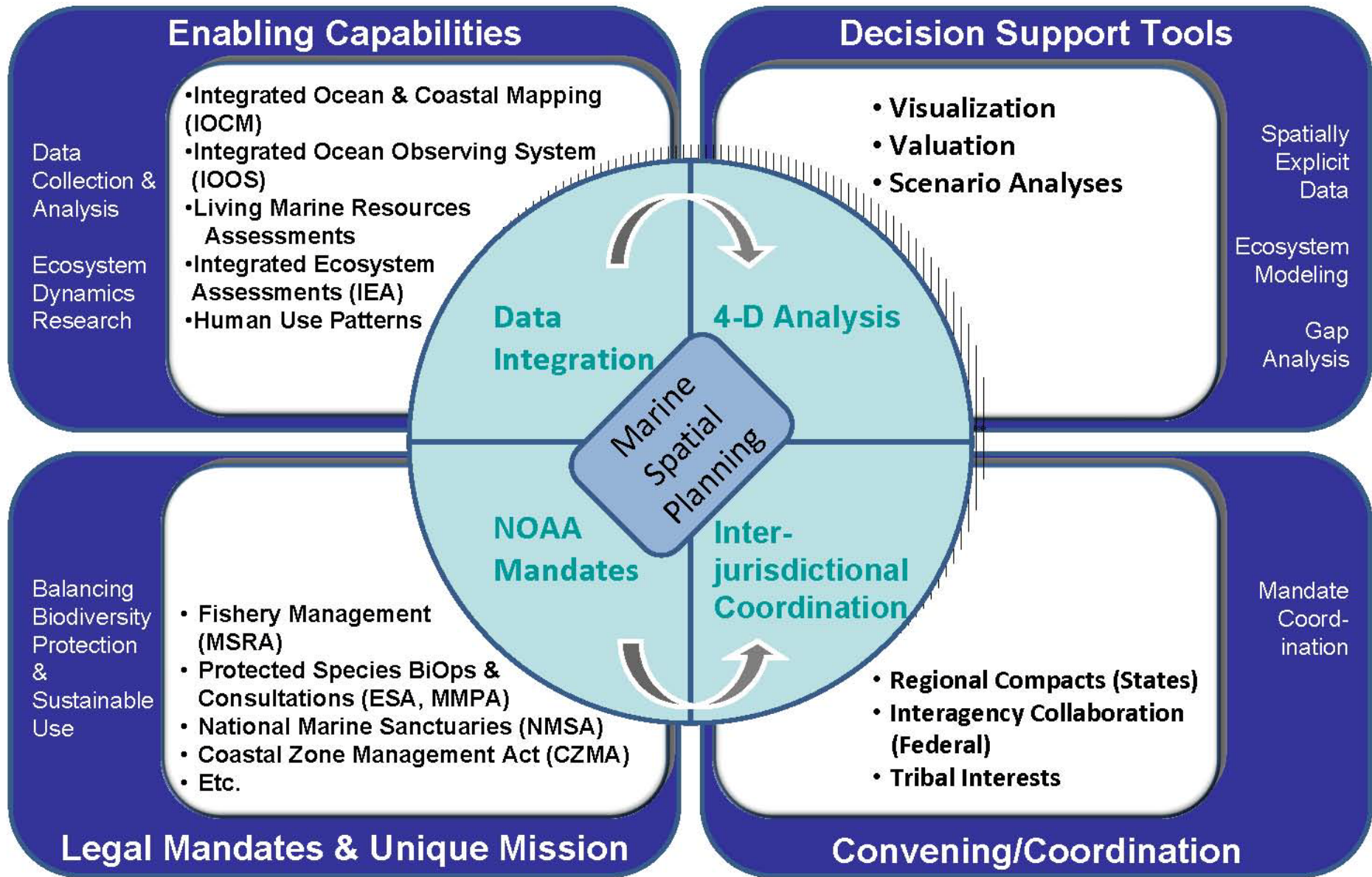
MSP is:

A comprehensive, ecosystem-based process through which compatible human uses are objectively and transparently allocated to appropriate ocean areas to sustain critical ecological, economic and cultural services for future generations.

The goals of MSP are:

To maximize societal benefits of ocean uses, while minimizing impacts on ecologically sensitive areas and species and reducing conflicts between incompatible activities sharing marine locations.

Critical Capabilities Supporting Marine Spatial Planning





Alaska/Arctic

Great Lakes

Northeast

Mid-Atlantic

South Atlantic


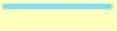
Gulf of Mexico

Caribbean

West Coast

Pacific Islands

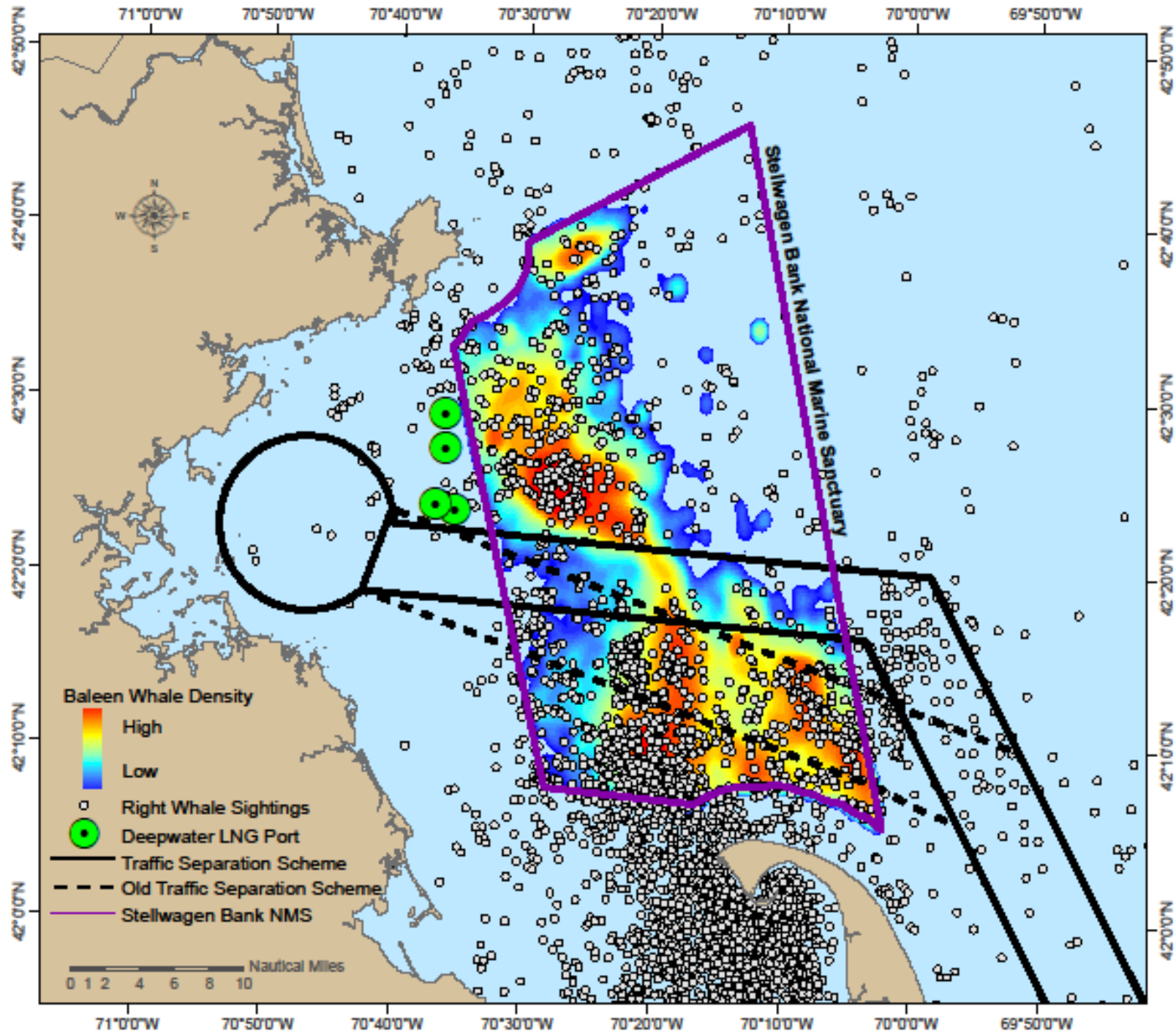
Legend

- US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
-  Regional Planning Areas
-  Large Marine Ecosystems



Key Elements to a MSP Framework

- A Coherent Definition of MSP
- Geographical Extent
- Regional Planning Structure
- Enforceability
- Stakeholder Participation
- National Goals for Plans
- Capacity Building



Data Layers

Study Area

Catch Data

Sightings

Bathymetry

Substrate

Temperature

Life History
Data

Analyses and Products

Species Distributions

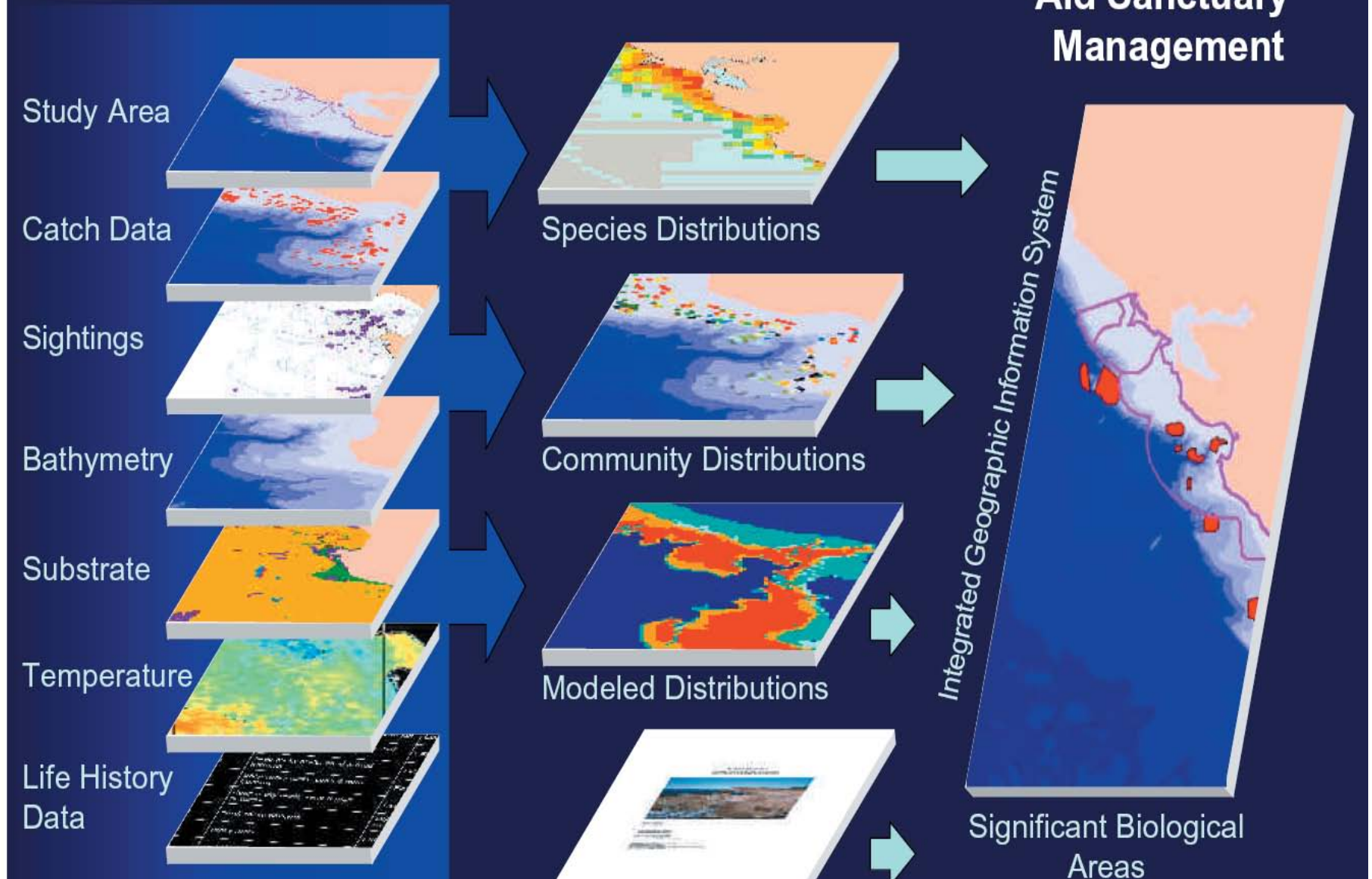
Community Distributions

Modeled Distributions

Integrated Analyses and Products to Aid Sanctuary Management

Integrated Geographic Information System

Significant Biological
Areas





Connecting CMSP to Coastal Communities

- NOAA has nearly 40 year partnerships with coastal states managing competing ocean uses and providing technical and policy assistance to coastal states engaged in CMSP through the CZMA.
- NOAA supports Regional Ocean Councils at the forefront of CMSP
- Coastal Community Task Forces can facilitate regional CMSP as conveners of collaborative planning, as sources of key data and traditional knowledge, and as local forums for dispute resolution
- Task Forces can enhance community resiliency by promoting the application of CMSP to provide local decision makers with improved understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities for mitigation and adaptation.



MSP: Evolving Issues

- Objectives of MSP not yet well articulated
- Coordination and sharing of information
- Governance using multiple sectoral statutes is a difficult multi-agency problem
- “soft” vs. “hard” governance and planning approaches need to be explored
- Conflict resolution
- Important opportunities for “Sector Stacking” (i.e. aquaculture and energy)
- No current venue or models to analyze societal preferences and values
- Sufficient resources/authority to implement, monitor and enforce
- Geographic scale and limits

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE CMSP PROCESS

- **Identify Regional Objectives**
- **Identify Existing Efforts that Should Help Shape the Plan throughout the Process**
- **Engage Stakeholders and the Public at Key Points throughout Process**
- **Consult Scientists and Technical and Other Experts**
- **Analyze Data, Uses, Services, and Impacts**
- **Develop and Evaluate Alternative Future Use Scenarios and Tradeoffs**
- **Prepare and Release a Draft CMS Plan with Supporting Environmental Impact Analysis Documentation for Public Comment**
- **Create a Final CMS Plan and Submit for NOC Review**
- **Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Modify (as needed) the NOC-certified CMS Plan**

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE CMS PLAN

- **Regional Overview and Scope of Planning Area**
- **Regulatory Context**
- **Regional Assessment**
- **Objectives, Strategies, Methods, and Mechanisms for CMSP**
- **Compliance Mechanisms**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms**
- **Dispute Resolution Process**