

## “CMTS Organizes MTS Panel for Coastal Zone 2011”



On Tuesday, July 19 2011, an interagency panel representing various member agencies from the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) convened a panel to discuss the importance and relevance of the Marine Transportation System (MTS) in the context of the National Ocean Policy at the Coastal Zone conference in Chicago, Illinois. The implementation of the National Ocean Policy (NOP) was a key theme at the conference, which was attended by over 1,000 participants representing diverse coastal and ocean management, policy, science and technology interests and public and private sectors.

Ms. Janice Weaver (MARAD), Mr. John Oliver (USCG), Ms. Lynn Martin (USACE) and Ms. Ashley Chappell (NOAA) presented on the panel to illustrate the relationships between each agency, the MTS and the NOP. Capt. Eric Vogelbacher, Chief of Planning and Resources, (USCG, D9) moderated the session.

The MTS panel highlighted better stewardship practices and greening the MTS to support a safer, more reliable and efficient economy. They also emphasized the value of interagency collaboration efforts under the CMTS, providing a case study of the Arctic region and impacts of changing coastal and ocean environments.

The conference emphasized four general focus areas incorporating governance and policy, implementation, measuring success and outreach and engagement, and included plenary sessions, technical presentations, special panel discussions, café conversations, poster sessions, field trips and training opportunities.

On behalf of the CMTS member agencies, we would like to thank the panel participants for their work to convey the importance of the MTS in the National Ocean Policy and with coastal issues. For more information on the conference and technical sessions, please see:

<http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

