



# Ocean Planning Definitions

## Maryland's Chesapeake & Coastal Program

**Algae** – a large, diverse group of primarily aquatic plantlike organisms. They are not true plants because they lack stems, roots and leaves but they do perform photosynthesis much like plants to convert sunlight into energy. Algae range in size from single-celled forms to multi-celled forms like giant kelp, a marine alga.

**Ecosystem** – a community of species and their physical environment .

**Electromagnetic Fields** – a physical field around electrically charged objects such as transmission lines or underwater cables. The higher the voltage, the stronger the field.

**Electrical Transmission** – the process of delivering electricity from the energy source to the customers. For offshore wind the energy would be delivered by underwater cables to land based transmission lines that feed into local electrical substations.

**Habitat** – the place or environment where a plant or animal naturally lives and grows.

**Invertebrates** – are animals with no backbones such as insects, spiders, snails, crabs, worms, crabs, shrimp, etc.

**Lease blocks** – also called Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Blocks, are approximately 3 by 3 nautical miles (2,304 hectares) in size that cover all of the U.S., federal coastal waters. In the ocean, lease blocks are

generated to define small geographic areas that support offshore resource management. The federal government regulates all federal waters and determines what activities occur within their boundaries. The Minerals Management Service (MMS), under the Department of Interior, is responsible for reviewing and approving activities such as offshore wind farms in federal waters.

**Lightering** – is the process of transferring cargo between vessels or ships of different sizes. Lightering is undertaken to reduce a vessel's draft so that it can enter port facilities in shallower waters.

**Marine Spatial Planning** – also called Ocean Planning, is a public process that examines human activities in marine areas over space and time to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives.

**Meteorological Towers or MET Towers** – are used in the early stages of a wind development project. Towers are equipped with instruments to measure wind and weather data at various heights above the ocean.

**Ocean Planning** – sometimes called Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), is a public process that examines human activities in marine areas over space and time to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives.

Balancing human demands with conservation of the resources that make Maryland such a unique place to live, work and play

*Martin O'Malley, Governor*  
*John R. Griffin, Secretary*



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## Coastal Zone

### Counties:

Anne Arundel  
Baltimore  
Calvert  
Caroline  
Charles  
Cecil  
Dorchester  
Harford  
Kent  
Prince George's  
Queen Anne's  
Somerset  
St. Mary's  
Talbot  
Wicomico  
Worcester  
and  
Baltimore City

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## Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

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**Renewable Energy** – is energy that comes from natural resources such as geothermal heat, tides, wind, solar, algae and biomass.

**Renewable Portfolio Standard** – Maryland established standards that require electricity suppliers to include a minimum percentage of electricity produced by renewable or environmentally preferred generation sources in its mix of electricity supplied to retail customers.

**Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)** – is underwater vegetation such as kelp and other forms of algae. SAV serves as important habitat for young fish and other aquatic species.

**Sustainable** – as related to the earth's resources, is a process of using resources for our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Thermal Energy** – is energy created by heat or an increase in temperature. The sun is a source of thermal energy.

**Transmission** – also called electrical transmission, is the process of delivering electricity from the energy source to the customers. For offshore wind the energy would be delivered by underwater cables to land based transmission lines that feed into local electrical substations.

**Wind Turbine or Tower** – these structures convert energy from the wind into electricity as the propeller blades rotate with wind movement. The rotation of the propeller can be converted to electricity we can use to power our homes, offices and factories.

**Wind Farms** – wind farms are made up of many individual wind turbines or towers that are organized in wind rows. The wind turbines capture offshore wind and convert it into a useable energy source.

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