Meeting Packet • February 18, 2010 • EPA in Boston, MA

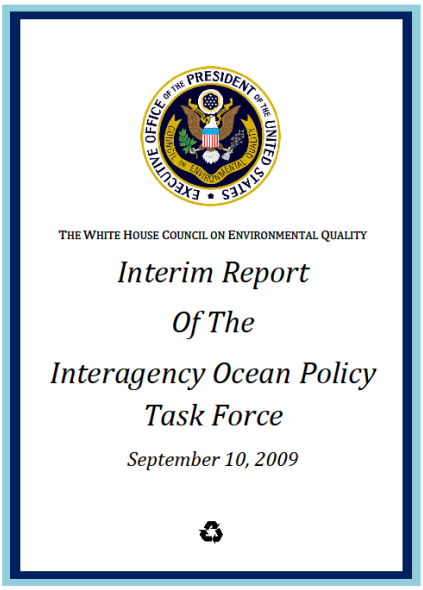
Directions to meeting location www.epa.gov/NE/directions/index.html
Meeting materials available at http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc

8:30 AM	**Arrive:** *Coffee and networking before the meeting (Go Green: Bring your own mug)*
9:00 AM	**Welcome and Introductions** *Kathleen Leyden, Maine – State Chair and Mel Coté, EPA – Federal Chair*
9:15 AM	**NROC's Role in National Ocean Policy and Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning** *Jen Lukens (NOAA), (EPA), and Kathleen Leyden (ME)* ▪ National Policy and CMSP Framework: Review of key concepts and vision for regional scale ▪ Review and discuss NROC comments submitted to CEQ ▪ Discussion with federal leadership *Materials: Interim National Policy, Interim CMSP Framework, Crosswalk, NROC Comments to CEQ – National Ocean Policy and CMSP, MSP Workshop Proceedings* [See pages 3-14]
10:00 AM	**Preparing for a Regional CMSP** *Deerin Babb-Brott, MA* ▪ Build common understanding of a regional plan ▪ Discuss benefits and concerns of a regional plan ▪ Discuss advantages of investing in the New England region
11:30 AM	**Options for Supporting Implementation of the Framework** *Betsy Nicholson, NOAA* ▪ Review implementation process suggested in framework ▪ Discuss how to position the region to advance CMSP in New England
12:20 PM	**Networking Lunch:** *The EPA has arranged to order lunch for participants at a cost of $14/person.* ***Please RSVP for lunch order by Noon, Tuesday, February 16th and bring money to the meeting.***
1:15 PM	**Engaging Partners in CMSP** *Kathleen Leyden, ME, Ru Morrison, NERACOOS, and participating partners* ▪ Partners will be asked to comment on who they are, what capabilities they could bring to a CMSP, and what kind of capacity they have (or seek) to assist NROC.
2:15 PM	**CMSP Wrap Up** *Kathleen Leyden, ME and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA*

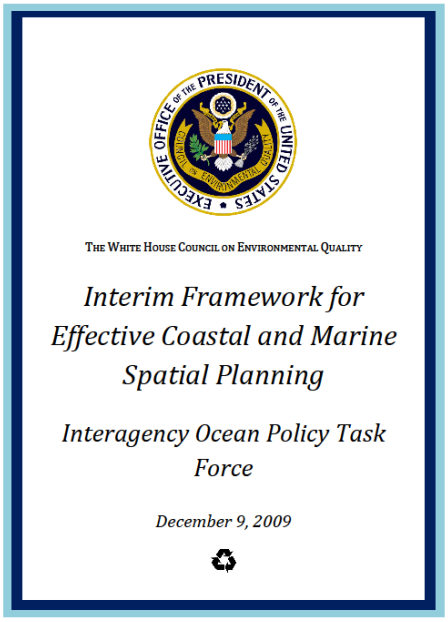
2:30 PM	**NROC Business** *Mel Coté, EPA* ▪ Coordinating with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) *Mike Snyder, NY and Darlene Finch, NOAA (20 minutes)* [See page 15] ▪ FY11 Appropriations Update (including Great Waters Initiative) *Ted Diers, NH (15 minutes)* [See page 16] ▪ NERACOOS and NROC joint work planning *Ru Morrison, NERACOOS (20 minutes)* [See page 18] ▪ Federal Partners Update *Mel Coté, EPA (10 minutes)* *Materials: MARCO Agreement, Appropriations Request, Great Waters Initiative Overview, New England-Canadian Maritimes Regional Planning Prospectus*
3:40 PM	**Quarterly Updates** Quarterly updates are intended to provide Council members with information on recent NROC activities, state or federal initiatives of interest, and other items of regional significance. The Council is encouraged to review the updates and come to the meeting with questions, suggestions for NROC action, etc. ***Note – items will only be discussed if a NROC member specifically requests time during the meeting. There are only 20 minutes total for these items.*** ▪ NEGC Update: Land Conservation Initiative *Submitted by Jim Connors, Maine Coastal Program* [See page 20] ▪ Great Waters Initiative *Submitted by Peter Alexander* [See page 23] ▪ Human Use Studies in New England: Comparison Table *Submitted by Betsy Nicholson, NOAA* [See page 24] ▪ Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Space-Use Conflicts *Submitted by Jack Wiggins, Urban Harbors Institute* [See page 28] ▪ Northeast Climate Activities *Submitted by Ellen Mecray, NOAA* [See page29] ▪ Update on coordination with the NE Fishery Management Council *Submitted by Sarah Thompson, NOAA* [See page 31] ▪ NROC Progress Reports: Executive Committee *Submitted by Adrianne Harrison, NOAA (on behalf of EC)* [See page 32] ▪ NROC Progress Reports: Standing Committees *Submitted by Adrianne Harrison, NOAA (on behalf of EC)* [See page 33]
4:00 PM	**Adjourn**

NROC Session Materials (9:15)
NROC's Role in National Ocean Policy and Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning

1. Access the **Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force** by double-clicking on the cover page below. This will open a .pdf of the report. Alternatively, you may access the report online.



2. Access the **Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning** by double-clicking on the cover page below. This will open a .pdf of the report. Alternatively, you may access the report online.



3. The **Crosswalk** – Comparison of Ocean Policy Task Force Framework and the NROC MSP Workshop Proceedings is inserted below. Alternatively, you may access the document on the NROC website.

Crosswalk – Comparison of Ocean Policy Task Force Framework Goals and Guiding Principles and NROC October Workshop-Generated Ideas and Objectives	
Ocean Policy Task Force CMSP Framework	**NROC October 26-27, 2009, Workshop Proceedings**
Governance Process	
In *Months 4-6*, the NOC would coordinate with states and tribal representatives to establish regional planning bodies and enter into a development agreement. In *Months 9-24*, each regional planning body would develop a formal regional work plan describing agreed-upon process for CMSP and development of CMS plans (including milestones, resources, time frames, etc.), with the flexibility to account for particular circumstances of a given region and ability to focus on issues of highest regional priority (e.g., organize data efforts, develop regional plan objectives, etc.). Each regional planning body would prepare and execute a CMSP Development Agreement to commit to working cooperatively and to identify lead representatives for each of the partners and define ground rules, roles, and responsibilities of partners within the region. Dispute resolution process would be designed in a way to ensure most disputes resolved at regional level. Each regional body should: • Identify regional objectives • Identify existing efforts that should help shape the plan throughout the process	Organic planning preferred over top-down requirements for a regional marine spatial plan.
Regional planning bodies would include, but be limited to: representation for resource management, science, homeland and national security, transportation, and public health. Would also include tribes.	Include additional federal representatives; DOT, DOD, FEMA, FERC. Need to include tribal representatives.
Regional planning body should ensure state representation from all states within a region, through (or part of) existing regional governance structures. Northeast will include VT.	NROC currently includes all New England coastal states, and continues to keep VT informed should they wish to become reengaged.
Recognition that development of plan will be a flexible, iterative process not meant to hinder ongoing state efforts. Identify and incorporate existing state and other regional plans into comprehensive regional plan.	Allowance for continuation of collaborative state/federal ocean planning without being slowed down or prescribed conflicting methods.
Extend landward of the mean high-water line; extend seaward to the EEZ 200-mile boundary; includes inland bays and estuaries. Further inland expansion is determined by regional planning body.	Organic approach in how to define manageable geographic scope of plans.
In *Months 9-18*, regional planning bodies begin to identify key stakeholders, scientific and technical experts, non-governmental organizations, and other partners	Develop communication and outreach plan to define key audiences. Recognize regional stakeholder engagement is critical and resource intensive. Non-governmental partners wish to become involved in

Each regional body should: • Engage stakeholders and the public at key points throughout the process • Consult scientists and technical and other experts	an advisory and project management capacity.
Define local and regional objectives and develop and implement CMSP in a way that is meaningful to regionally specific concerns.	Partners stressed importance of regional marine spatial plan that relies upon a developed value system for the region.
In *Months 4-6*, the NOC would coordinate with states and tribal representatives to establish regional planning bodies for each of the nine regions and enter into a development agreement. These planning bodies would ideally become part of existing regional ocean governance groups.	NROC should take on regional MSP by either creating a MSP committee or a technical subgroup that would handle discussions on regulatory efficiencies and product development toward more effective MSP.
A consistent planning scale with which to initiate CMSP is at the large marine ecosystem scale; i.e., regionally. In Northeast, planning scale would encompass New England.	Regional approach should be in line with how federal agencies manage ecological resources as this would alleviate the overextension of staff and monetary resources when compared to a state-by-state approach.
Regulatory Efficiencies and Coordination	
Achieve regulatory efficiencies, less administrative delay. State and federal regulatory authorities would adhere to the processes for "improved and more efficient permitting, environmental reviews, and other decision-making identified in the CMS Plan to the extent these actions do not conflict with existing legal obligations." For example, agencies could enter into MOUs to coordinate or unify permit reviews and decision-making processes.	States agree that a federal mandate to engage in CMSP would enable enhanced efficiency and better consistency in the regulatory process. Feds are concerned in meeting expectation of engaging earlier in process (being proactive) without changes to existing legislative authorities, which rely on reacting.
State and federal agencies would be expected to formally incorporate relevant components of the CMS Plan into their ongoing operations or activities consistent with existing law.	States propose that state ocean planning efforts be incorporated into federal requirements.
	States requested that federal agencies produce a common and comprehensive list of requirements for required federal statutes.
	States requested that feds develop a standardized expression of how much information is enough and when certain thresholds are satisfied.
Data Needs, Collection, and Standards	
In *Months 1-9*, a robust and accessible national information management system to meet the data requirements of CMSP would begin to be developed (may take up to two years).	States articulated data needs and standards as necessary to inform CMSP at a regional scale and to satisfy federal review requirements.
In *Months 1-9*, a robust and accessible national information management system to meet the data requirements of CMSP with either a central portal or regional portals would begin to be developed (may take up to two years).	States expressed data and baseline assessment priority needs: • Seafloor mapping • Bathymetry • Sediment types • Human uses including VMS • Offshore datasets NROC recognized strong potential role for partners in developing data management system and regional viewer (e.g., NERACOOS).

NOC would ensure that information is publicly available and easy-to-access through computer readable files, etc. that support a variety of user needs. Leverage support from federal government to access CMSP data.	States requested improved accessibility of data to the states and educate users of the utility of data sets (i.e., science translation). States want access to technology/software and trained staff.
Minimum data standards would be adopted for the national information management system and include standards for information quality.	Need standardized protocols for data collection and sharing.
Decision Product Needs	
In *Months 1-9*, begin development of nationally consistent, specialized decision-support tools to provide a framework for regional assessments and alternative future use scenarios. Accessibility of data through CMSP portal(s). Regional planning body should: • Develop and evaluate alternative future use scenarios and tradeoffs	Decision support tools needed, such as: • Scenario analysis • Trade-off and cost-benefit analyses • Habitat characterization model • Cumulative impact analysis • Human use atlas • Decision support for non-energy drivers (e.g., docks, marine trade, dredge disposal, and aquaculture)
Role of NROC and Other Regional Ocean Governance Groups	
Sustain federal participation on regional planning bodies of representatives empowered to make decisions on behalf of respective agencies; helping to integrate and improve decision-making.	NROC would serve as liaison among states and federal agencies to promote consistent guidance on information and regulatory needs.
Leverage, strengthen, and magnify local planning objectives through integration with regional and national planning efforts. In *18 months to 5 years*, regional planning bodies develop a mechanism, through reports, to share lessons learned, best practices, and routine and frequent communication nationally and among the regions.	NROC would serve as forum to share successes/lessons/strategies in CMSP processes and transfer of information among state and federal agencies and across regions.
In *Months 1-9*, NOC to assess resource needs including personnel, financial, and technical CMSP support. Leverage support to build CMSP capacity, and acquire scientific, technical, and financial assistance.	NROC agrees to pursue aspects of CMSP that require a regional approach and seek increased capacity in areas of staff support, funds, and technical ability for data analysis, etc. NROC recognizes the strength of federal-state partnership and level of talent among regional partners.
Each regional body should: • Engage stakeholders and the public at key points throughout the process • Consult scientists and technical and other experts	Agreement that stakeholder engagement is a necessary accompaniment to the science.
Regional planning bodies will provide States with a clearer and easier point of access for all federal agencies, their sustained participation, and representatives that have authority to make decisions.	States request that NROC promote consistent response by federal agencies (“federal perspective”) and continued federal interagency communication.
Proactively minimize use conflicts before they escalate as the regional level.	NROC as place to coordinate all CMSP-related projects getting underway and place to discuss appropriate management of oceans at “pre-planning” phase (identify “no go” areas early).
Federal government to better manage resources or address processes that transcend jurisdictional boundaries.	Explore regional compatibility and edge-matching of data from boundary to boundary (e.g., state boundaries).

In *Months 9-18*, regional planning bodies begin to identify key stakeholders, scientific and technical experts, non-governmental organizations, and other partners.	NROC provide facilitation and communication among scientists and managers.
Goal of CMSP Framework is to move toward comprehensive, integrated, flexible, proactive, ecosystem-based CMSP, this would be implemented over time. Encouraged to have initial plans completed in *three years*; and initial plans certified and implemented by *mid-2015*.	Embraced concept of a coarse-level regional ocean plan within 3-5 years and opportunity to grow into its role as a regional convener.

4. The **NROC Comments to CEQ** on the National Ocean Policy and Framework for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning are inserted below.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

October 16, 2009

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Task Force Chair
Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force
White House Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Chair Sutley,

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) was initiated in 2005 to facilitate a coordinated regional approach for addressing New England's priority coastal and ocean management issues. NROC is pleased with the efforts of the Ocean Policy Task Force and the steps it has taken to include stakeholder input in the development of a National Ocean Policy and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Framework. NROC looks forward to being an active participant in the Governance Advisory Committee as outlined in the Interim Report and appreciates opportunities to provide a regional perspective.

As the current NROC co-chairs, we would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Interim Report and encourage the Task Force to include the following elements in the final report:

- Mechanism for strong federal-state partnerships at the regional scale;
- Financial investment in federal-state coordination of ocean and coastal activities;
- Regional alignment of federal budgets for coast and ocean activities with priority issues identified by regional ocean councils;
- Explicit designation of offshore energy as a coastal and ocean use; and
- Support for international coastal and ocean resource management efforts.

NROC continues to foster regional dialogue on marine spatial planning strategies in New England. NROC will be submitting additional comments to guide the CMSP framework based on the results of a regional marine spatial planning workshop scheduled for October 26 and 27, 2009.

Thank you for the thoughtful progress on the National Ocean Policy and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Framework. NROC members are available to provide additional information based on our state and regional experiences at your request.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Leyden, Maine Coastal Program
2009 State Co-Chair

Mel Cote, EPA Region 1
2009 Federal Co-Chair

5. The **NROC Comments to CEQ** on the Framework for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning are inserted below.

February 10, 2010

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Task Force Chair
Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force
White House Council on Environmental Quality

Dear Chair Sutley,

On behalf of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC), we are pleased to provide comments on the Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (Interim Framework). We applaud the Task Force for developing a thoughtful, coherent template to guide the national coastal marine spatial planning effort. We are also grateful that the Interim Framework incorporates responses to many of the issues we raised in the October 28, 2009 NROC comment letter. The Interim Framework's stated intention to allow flexibility for plans to prioritize issues according to regional considerations is particularly welcome. We appreciate that the effort is organized around, and recognizes the contributions and efficiencies provided by, existing regional ocean councils.

In our October 28 letter, NROC noted that in New England, ocean energy planning is a driving issue behind the region's extensive ocean management efforts. These efforts include ocean plans in two states, an ocean energy task force, a tidal energy task force, technology demonstration sites, and related efforts such as seafloor mapping programs, development of data portals, and continued cross-jurisdictional coordination (state-state, state-federal, and international) through NROC, NERACOOS, GOMC, and other vehicles. The New England region continues to be heavily involved in these ocean planning activities, and we believe that New England can leverage this experience and political momentum to continue to further ocean planning.

While important details remain to be addressed, we believe that the Interim Framework generally describes an appropriate balance between national and regional interests. However, we believe that the Framework would be strengthened with further development of provisions associated with capacity, governance, and incentives to ensure that we can all realistically meet the goals and expectations in President Obama's policy. NROC, NERACOOS and the GOMC have prepared the attached recommendations on these issues with input from state, federal, and other regional organizations.

Thank you for the continued dialogue on the Framework. NROC, NERACOOS, and GOMC members are available to provide additional information based on our state and regional experiences.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Leyden, State Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council

J. Ru Morrison, Ph.D., Executive Director
Northeast Regional Association of Coastal & Ocean Observing Systems

Michael J. Walls, Chair
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

NROC Recommendations for Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

1. Capacity

- Providing for the cost and capacity to develop regional ocean plans are vital considerations to ensuring that plan development and implementation, and thus the goals and expectations of President Obama's policy, can be met. The Interim Framework acknowledges this issue through the proposed "capacity assessment" (page 29) that would be undertaken by regional planning bodies in conjunction with the NOC. We believe that resources, including new funding sources, should be allocated at federal, state, and regional levels to enable and enhance state involvement and capacity for such a large task; to maximize federal involvement in data coordination, inter-agency coordination; and at the regional level, since administration of plan development is envisioned to occur regionally. More specifically, funding should be allocated to:
    - Enhance **federal capacity** for data collection, management and sharing, interagency coordination, and participation in plan development.
    - Ensure **regional capacity** to administer plan development, data management and sharing, conduct stakeholder involvement, coordinate prioritized scientific and data acquisition and delivery, and plan implementation.
    - Provide for **state capacity** for participation in all aspects of plan development (stakeholder involvement; data and science management, acquisition, and delivery; and implementation).

- The experience in ocean planning in New England has demonstrated the importance of the plan development process (the necessity for extensive stakeholder involvement cannot be over-estimated) and structure (e.g., roles of state and federal agencies are different than those of non-governmental organizations). Recognizing that plan development structure and its process will be significant aspects of plan development, efficiencies should be encouraged by allowing regional entities to streamline their organizational structure as appropriate.

- In addition to the flexibility noted in the Interim Framework for enabling regional plans to address priority policy issues in the region, we suggest that regional plans should be able to address priority geographic regions if appropriate. Developing a plan for all of the outer continental shelf (OCS), even at a regional scale, may result in higher priority sub-regions receiving less attention than appropriate because of the enormity of the OCS. Developing plans at a sub-regional scale as appropriate will enable ocean plans to address priority issues with future capacity and will enhance the likelihood of successful implementation. Within the Northeast, the Long Island Sound and Gulf of Maine are distinct sub-regions which are ecologically bounded. Those bounds offer a strong rationale for sub-regional analysis and planning.

2. Governance

- For these plans to succeed, at a minimum states need to have the flexibility to develop and implement their visions for these plans, including specific details on how to enhance decision-making in state waters. However, this should occur within an overall national framework to ensure that core requirements are being addressed to meet President Obama's policy.

Therefore, the proposed development of national objectives by the National Ocean Council will be a critical step following finalization of the Interim Framework. The development of these objectives should be transparent, allowing for public comment, and states and regional entities should be involved during drafting.

- Based on the region's experience with ocean planning, and in consideration of the Interim Framework's acknowledgement that issues will vary regionally, we suggest that the core requirements for regional plans should be kept simple and that the framework should incorporate flexibility through additional discretionary elements that plans should consider. For example, a key tenet of marine spatial planning is trade-offs analysis, and ocean plans would benefit from the development of guidance on how to perform such analyses within a context of allowing regional flexibility.

- To the extent that state plans already exist, the NOC guidance should allow latitude for regional plans to incorporate/tier off such plans as appropriate. This latitude should be reflected in the plan development guidance.

- During the preliminary step of establishing regional planning bodies, the NOC should look to existing regional entities as a starting point, since these bodies are already organized and have their own momentum. The NOC should also recognize that planning efforts that cut across designated regions may be best-suited to addressing particular issues and to avoid dividing ecosystems: for example, Long Island Sound issues would be best addressed through partnered efforts of NY and CT, although NY is not currently part of NROC.

- We recognize that governance measures in regional plans will be developed as appropriate at the federal, state, and tribal levels. At the same time, we also recognize that non-governmental partners can and should play a major role in data management, analysis, and tool development. The Interim Framework, and the NOC in its future guidance development, should reflect these factors in considering the administrative structure for plan development.

- Current Federal statutes, especially the Coastal Zone Management Act, have created successful offshore governance regimes. Any new governance structure must build on that success, not try to replace it. The states have worked for nearly 4 decades to use the CZMA as a tool for integrated planning of coastal resources. The same goals embodied in the MSP Framework are those being practiced in many states. If the MSP Framework weakens the current CZMA in anyway, it will be impossible for states to support.

3. Incentives

- The federal legal analysis proposed in the Interim Framework should include identification of potential regulatory streamlining measures as well as gap analysis and identification of redundancies/overlapping authorities. Identification of potential regulatory efficiencies is logical and appropriate of planning activities, to the extent that planning activities and decision-making would reflect much of the substantive requirements of regulatory decision-making, and should be encouraged as part of plan implementation.

- In part related to the bullet above, it should be clear that plan implementation may not ultimately reflect a "zoning" end point. Other avenues for incentivizing compliance with ocean plans and plan implementation should be allowed to be developed as appropriate.

- Existing specific processes already underway should be honored and allowed to continue. For example, the Special Area Management Plan underway in Rhode Island, the Renewable Energy Task Forces operating in Rhode Island and Massachusetts (with the Minerals Management Service), and the implementation of Maine's Ocean Energy Task Force recommendations are all ongoing efforts. These processes have specific goals, in many ways related to those envisioned in President Obama's policies and the Interim Framework, but just as importantly are expressions of state policy objectives. The Framework should ensure that these related processes/plans can proceed in parallel, data and information is shared, and that appropriate levels of coordination are achieved.

- As the terms for the proposed development agreements are developed, states and regional entities need to be involved in their drafting, since these agreements will provide details for state, federal, and regional responsibilities.

NERACOOS Recommendations for Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

1. **Capacity**

- The Regional Information Coordination Entities or Regional Associations (Ras) of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) are ideally suited to providing and integrating information on regional scales with national consistency through the coordination of IOOS program office. At a national level the Ras are represented by the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA) which is also submitting comments to the Interim Framework. The Ras have a history of engagement on all issues likely to be the focus of regional efforts, are integrated with regional planning efforts, and can provide impartial access to the required information. Leveraging the extensive infrastructure and investment in information management already established would lead to more efficient establishment of CMSP.

- Experience gained in the operation of a nationally coordinated yet regionally distributed system indicates that implementation and management of nationally consistent CMSP portals at regional scales has multiple advantages. These include; flexibility in integrating information sources and ability to more rapidly adapt to changing conditions, ready access to information providers and decision makers, many of which have already been engaged, and the ability to clearly identify information and science gaps. Experience has also shown the importance of communications both from the nation to the regions and from the regions to the nation in developing information standards and tools. Regions often act as the incubators for rapid development of new approaches and a mechanism to transfer these to the national effort is necessary.

- As noted in the Interim Framework, continual monitoring is necessary for the evaluation of CMS plan implementation and to identify where and when changes need to be considered. Ocean observing systems are obviously an integral part of this monitoring after the implementation but are also vitally important in the development of plans providing important information on scales of variability both temporal and spatial. Monitoring conducted before, during, and after the installation of facilities in our coastal waters is vital to understanding their impacts and should be included in the permitting process. All such monitoring information should be freely available. The Ras provide an ideal hub for integration and dissemination of such monitoring data to allow adaptive management and inclusion in subsequent updates of CMS Plans. Effective CMSP will be hard without adequate and sustained funding for observing systems in the nations' coastal ocean and watersheds.

2. Governance

- The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 established the IOOS as a national program with Regional Information Coordination Entities "designed to address regional and national needs for ocean information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data". In the Northeast, NROC and NERACOOS have formally recognized the importance of this capacity to inform regional policy and management decisions with a Memorandum of Understanding. Such effective collaboration between regional scale organizations is essential for the development of CMSP. Regional Associations, such as NERACOOS also provide a direct conduit to the scientific research community providing the 'Scientific understanding and information … central to achieving an integrated and transparent planning process".

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Recommendations for Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

1. Capacity

- Build on the 20-year history of regional collaboration on coastal and ocean management in the Gulf of Maine, by utilizing the organizations and initiatives which are currently working to address priorities identified in the CMSP Framework. U.S., Canadian, state, and provincial agencies, conservation organizations, academic institutions and the private sector have been working together through the Gulf of Maine Council, NERACOOS, and NROC to advance common priorities for coastal and ocean management. Implementation of the CMSP Framework through these organizations will enable more effective and efficient use of resources dedicated to implementation, by tapping into the relationships and commitments that have been established over the past two decades.

- Marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management requires significant improvements in the way that data and information is collected, disseminated, and used. Targeted investment of resources to accelerate integration of information systems and advance technology will significantly strengthen the work that is already underway in the region to improve information management in support of MSP and EBM.

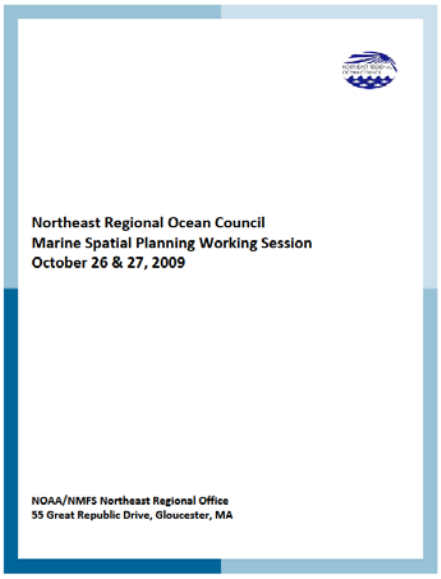
- Canada has made advancements in CMSP governance, science and products over the last several years that should serve as critical lessons learned to this U.S. initiative. Explicit efforts to glean this intelligence from our Canadian counterparts should be made in the early stages of CMS Planning at the regional level, particularly where joint data gathering and decision support products could be shared across our border.

2. Governance

- The Gulf of Maine region is complex, encompassing two countries, three states, two provinces, and hundreds of cities and towns. If implementation of the CMSP Framework is to be successful in this region, this complexity must be acknowledged and management efforts should focus on shared objectives and approaches. The Gulf of Maine Council, NERACOOS and NROC have been working successfully to advance a number of shared objectives and approaches. These include:
    - State of the ocean reporting
    - Habitat conservation and restoration
    - Facilitating ecosystem-based management
    - Public education and outreach

- The GOMC has maintained a unique binational dialog enabling the sharing of ideas, protocols and lessons learned across the U.S.-Canadian border for 20 years. We fully support the placeholder for an ex officio member Canadian member of the regional planning body, and encourage the NOC to allow those credible groups already established at the border, such as the GOMC, to nominate appropriate individuals to serve in this role. Alternatively, as a sub-region, the GOMC could be the designated entity to accomplish the international communication and facilitation for the broader region.

6. Access the **MSP Workshop Proceedings** by double-clicking on the cover page below. This will open a .pdf of the report. Alternatively, you may access the report on the NROC website.


Northeast Regional Ocean Council
Marine Spatial Planning Working Session
October 26 & 27, 2009

NOAA/NMFS Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA

NROC Session Materials (2:30)
NROC Business

1. Coordinating with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

MARCO has developed a summary list of regional coastal and ocean priority actions.

Habitat Protection
1. Secure federal action to protect key habitats and identify emerging threats.
a. Build upon the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to characterize and protect the region's offshore canyons from existing and potential threats. . . Additional inventory and research should be conducted on all of the Mid-Atlantic canyons to further refine and develop enduring conservation measures.
b. Identify and address critical data needs, including identification of critical pathways and timing for migration, overwintering, and foraging for marine mammals, migratory fish, and birds, particularly in areas under consideration for energy and other types of development.
c. By the start of the next legislative session (2010) develop a legislative agenda and prepare joint statements for issue via Congressional delegates.
d. During the current legislative session, or as appropriate, identify and comment on relevant federal legislative initiatives, such as: iv. (Integrated) Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (H.R. 367 / S. 171). . .
e. Promote greater regional involvement in ongoing federal mapping activities, including a potential role under the proposed Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, and pursue designating the Mid-Atlantic as a "pilot" for activities contemplated under the Act.
2. Improve data sharing and management to address critical information gaps and reduce redundancy across data-collection efforts. This activity is part of the broader spatial planning effort and should be coordinated with activities carried out under the Energy priority area, and in coordination with related federal efforts, including the marine spatial planning framework under development through the federal Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force.
3. Secure reliable funding and other resources to sustain regional and federal coordination efforts.

Climate Change
1. Identify opportunities to work with the federal government to promote adaptation and, where appropriate, integrate climate change and sea level rise planning measures into federal policies and programs.
2. Address data gaps for assessing regional vulnerability.
3. Facilitate a climate change and sea level rise information exchange between States.
4. Develop consistent communications and messaging to convey the information on climate change impacts to the public.

Water Quality
1. Call for changes to federal legislation that will provide opportunities to act regionally to improve water quality and to re-engage the federal government in addressing water quality issue.
2. Identify key water quality and ecosystem assessment regional information gaps, and develop strategies to address them. Leverage existing and proposed national and regional organizations (e.g. MACOORA), and water quality collection networks.
3. Develop common background foundational documents and issue messaging that may be consistently drawn upon by the States in discussion with the federal government and other constituencies, including for infrastructure upgrades (ongoing).
4. Identify region-wide efforts to control marine debris and floatables.
5. Explore non-point source pollution as a regional water quality issue needing further coordination through this effort.

Offshore Renewable Energy
1. Remove unnecessary Federal/state barriers to the appropriate development of offshore renewable energy development.
2. Proactively investigate and provide for future needs, funding options, best practices, and innovative research and development.

For a complete copy of *Actions, Timelines, and Leadership to Advance The Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation*, visit http://www.midatlanticocean.org/summary-actions.pdf

2. FY11 Appropriations Update

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

February 2, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Re: Acting on economic and shoreline management issues in the Northeast

Dear Senator Inouye and Representative Obey:

I am writing today to urge your support for a FY 2011 appropriation (see attached overview) to:

- Improve water quality;
- Protect and restore coastal habitats; and
- Implement national ocean policy and the region's ocean governance plans.

The New England Governors created the Northeast Regional Ocean Council as a state-federal partnership to "*facilitate the development of more coordinated and collaborative regional goals and priorities, and to improve responses to regional issues.*" It serves as a regional priority-setting body that helps state and federal agencies and non-governmental entities leverage resources to collaborate on common regional water quality and habitat goals.

The shorelines of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York are vital to human health and the region's economy: millions of people depend on them for food, recreation, transportation, and drinking water. Yet, each day, our streams, lakes, bays, and beaches are damaged by untreated run-off, pollution, invasive species, loss of wildlife habitat, and other human-caused impacts. The problems are serious and many of them have the potential of reaching crisis proportions. There are manageable solutions – some already in various stages of implementation – but if we don't move quickly the problems will only get worse and the solutions more expensive.

The Northeast states, through several regional initiatives, are pursuing a coordinated and collaborative approach to coastal and watershed issues that require an inter-state response. Similar to regional ocean governance efforts around the nation's shores, these state-federal partnerships are guided by consensus-based plans that leverage local and state commitments.

This request will address our most pressing needs for the balanced development and protection of critical shoreline, ocean and coastal resources. Our work implements the nation's water quality and ocean policies, enhances the mission of our federal partners, and leverages other resources in the region. Thank you for your support of these important and timely efforts to improve the sustainable development of our region's treasured fresh and saltwater ecosystems and resources.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Leyden, Chair

cc: New England and New York Congressional Delegations
Chair, White House Committee on Ocean Policy
Ranking Minority Members, Senate & House Appropriations Committee
Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, NOAA
Ms. Lisa Jackson, Administrator, USEPA
Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, USFWS
Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior

OVERVIEW

2011 Request: Conserving and restoring Northeast's water quality and associated habitats

Request: $70 million

$70 million through the Interior, EPA and Related Agencies Appropriations Act as follows:

$20 million to the EPA's Long Island Sound Office
Purpose: Implement the Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.
Examples of Activities – Address hypoxia, toxics, pathogens, floatable debris, land use and development activities that impact the Connecticut and New York shorelines in Long Island Sound.

$20 million to EPA for high priority water quality projects in New England Great Waters Ecosystems (in ME, NH, MA, RI, and VT)
Purpose: Address non-point sources of pollution as described in state coastal water quality plans. Projects will be awarded on a competitive process, evenly distributed between the New England states, and require no state or municipal match.
Examples of activities – Control polluted runoff from six main sources: forestry, agriculture, urban areas, marinas, shoreline and stream channel modification, and wetlands and riparian areas.

$5 million to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in New England Great Waters Ecosystems
Purpose: Address coastal fish and wildlife priorities and invasive species issues. Projects will be awarded on a competitive basis and evenly distributed between the New England states.
Examples of activities – Work in partnership with the states to acquire lands and otherwise protect priority habitats, including the coastal upland buffer zone and seabird islands, restore coastal marsh hydrology and morphology; restore fish passage; and control invasive plant and animal species.

$15 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in New England Great Waters Ecosystems
Purpose: Address habitat restoration and marine debris issues. Projects will be awarded on a competitive basis and evenly distributed between the New England states.
Examples of activities – Work in partnership with the states to remove barriers to prime aquatic habitats that hinder fish restoration efforts, restore coastal marshes, and remove and properly dispose of marine debris.

$10 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in ME, NH, MA, RI and CT)
Purpose: Implement national ocean policy and New England ocean governance plans in collaboration with Northeast Regional Ocean Council.
Examples of activities – Assist coastal municipalities adapt to sea level rise; implement state climate change plans; support state-federal marine spatial planning partnerships throughout the region including the bi-state Long Island Sound; address leading ecosystem health issues through policy changes and communications; enable states to implement national ocean governance standards; etc.

3. Prospectus: New England – Canadian Maritime Collaboration and Planning

Synopsis
Organizations with shared interests in the region's oceans and coasts will collaborate in the identification of the most pressing issues and possible policy, planning, and management responses that the participating organizations will take.

Background
In the northeast there are numerous organizations engaged in planning for the future management and stewardship of the region's coasts and oceans. Of special interest are the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), the Northeastern Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), the regional Sea Grant Association, the Regional Ocean Science Initiative, the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC), the New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC), and the Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership (NeCODP).

Given their shared geography and common interests it is timely to accelerate the pace of collaboration between these and other organizations. The benefits of this collaboration are:

- More thoughtful interaction among organizations with shared interests;
- Efficient use of limited financial resources for planning, outreach and engagement;
- Individuals involved in multiple organizations as well as stakeholders can participate in one vs. multiple planning processes;
- Identification of and consensus on the region's most pressing issues; and
- A deeper understanding of the possible policy, planning and management responses.

Concept
Organizations in the northeast will work cooperatively, through a series of theme-based workshops, to define shared goals and expected outcomes for the next several years that their organizations will then pursue either independently or with others. A critical component of the workshops for NERACOOS is to invite end-users to confirm ocean observing needs and priorities for the development of a 5-year strategic plan in the fall of 2010. These workshops will be convened between March and July 2010. (Possible themes include Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health, Ocean Energy, Coastal Hazards Resiliency, and Maritime Safety and Security.) NERACOOS and NROC will take the lead in organizing and supporting an ad-hoc Steering Committee consisting of representatives from New England's coastal ocean management and stewardship community.

Steering Committee Charge
The Steering Committee will:

- Represent and serve as a two-way liaison with their respective organization;
- Oversee and direct the effort;
- Work with the four ad-hoc workshop committees to develop a common workshop format, set workshop goals, establish timeframes, determine lead-up activities and preparatory materials, pre-workshop consultations (e.g., NEPs, NERR, observing, research, etc.) and select participants (estimated to be 50-60 people/workshop);
- Guide the conduct of the workshops; (These workshops may be convened independently or in association with meetings that are already planned.); and
- Produce workshop summaries

A hallmark of this joint planning and priority setting process will be the development of thoughtful materials and intra-organization consultations in advance of the workshops. For example, public consultations and webinars leading up to the workshops will increase the effectiveness of face-to-face time and allow the focus to be on shared outcomes versus discussions of process and idea creation.

There will also be intra-organization discussions prior to each workshop so that representatives are prepared to speak on the organization's behalf.

The identification of the region's most pressing issues and possible policy, planning and management responses will not bind participating organizations to act in a prescribed manner. Organizations will continue to make individual decisions but will be guided by the materials flowing from this initiative.

Resources
NERACOOS is committed to this effort and will provide approximately $45,000. These funds will support the work with the Steering Committee (e.g., contractors to prepare materials, organize calls, etc.) and the costs associated with the planning and conduct of the workshops. (It is anticipated that other regional organizations may contribute cash and in-kind resources as well.) For budgeting purposes it is assumed that each workshop will cost approximately $10,000 for the planning, development of materials, travel, conduct of the workshop, and preparation of a summary report.

Schedule for 2010

Timing	**Activity**
January	Consultations on the concept are conducted with NEODP, NROC, NEOSEC, GOMC, Sea Grant (completed)
February	Steering Committee formed (representatives designated by the partnering organizations) Committee goals, desired workshop outcomes, stakeholder engagement processes and schedule developed Planning work commences on first workshop
March - April	1st theme workshop organized, consultation processes performed, and materials prepared Workshop convened and results reported Commence planning for workshops 2 and 3
May – June	Convene workshops 2 and 3; report results Organize workshop 4
July – September	Convene workshop four and report on results Steering Committee concludes work and reports share priorities and next steps

NROC Session Materials (3:15)
Quarterly Updates

Quarterly updates are intended to provide Council members with information on recent NROC activities, state or federal initiatives of interest, and other items of regional significance. The Council is encouraged to review the updates and come to the meeting with questions, suggestions for NROC action, etc.

1. NEGC Update: Coastal Land Conservation Initiative

In a September 2009 resolution, the New England Governors directed state coastal program managers to work on an Initiative to Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands that builds on each state's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and Wildlife Action Plans to address joint goals in coastal conservation and land acquisition for climate change adaptation and habitat protection. A regional coastal strategy will be woven together with strategies to Keep Forests as Forests, Keep Farmland in Farming, Connect People to the Outdoors, and Protect Wildlife Habitat into a comprehensive regional landscape conservation initiative, including appropriate authorizing legislation. (See **resolution** below for full text)

To accomplish this directive a coastal conservation workgroup of state CELCP and land acquisition managers was formed to work with the NEGC Commission on Land Conservation to formulate a coastal conservation strategy for inclusion in this integrated regional initiative. (See list of **working group members** below)

The NEGC vision for an integrated, New England landscape-level, collaborative land conservation effort is very timely in the context of the Obama Administration's emerging thinking about partnerships, collaborative efforts, sharing and leveraging resources, and prioritized and targeted outcomes as reflected in the recent Oceans Taskforce Report and related NOAA initiatives such as Ocean Spatial Planning. An opportunity exists to work more closely within existing coastal programs and across the region to advance and support the region's role in fulfilling priority conservation needs and serve as a national model.

A regional coastal conservation strategy will include:

- Identification of joint goals for climate change adaptation and habitat protection;
- Updating of state CELCP program plans and related conservation and land acquisition plans to incorporate climate change actions pertinent to each state;
- Assessment of conservation achievements to date and conservation needs with priorities (on an ecosystem level) going forward;
- More precise and detailed mapping and analysis of sensitive and threatened areas, possibly to the land ownership level;
- Modeling and monitoring of sea level rise and storm damage, potential shoreland changes, and key habitats; and
- Adaptive application of land conservation efforts operated in concert with regulatory and land use planning programs.

Next steps. The coastal conservation work group has met twice via conference call. The group is planning a March 10th working meeting in Littleton MA, including invited guests such as NOAA partners, The Nature Conservancy, and others, in preparation for a draft report to the NEGC Commission on Land Conservation at the end of April.

NEGC Coastal Land Conservation Working Group Members

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A RESOLUTION CONCERNING NEW ENGLAND LAND CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, New England today faces serious challenges to its land resource and related industries from the impacts of climate change, sprawling development, and dramatic economic, fiscal, and demographic change; and

WHEREAS, the New England states share a heritage of leadership in land conservation and a culture closely tied to the land, the working landscape, its natural resources, and the many, irreplaceable benefits these provide to the people of the region and nation; and

WHEREAS, the New England Governors recognize the challenge of maintaining these benefits, their scope, and their impact on New England's quality of life and economy, as did their predecessors a century ago at the first meeting of the New England Governors in 1908, to great and lasting effect; and

WHEREAS, at their meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine, on September 16, 2008, the Governors established a Blue Ribbon Commission to identify today's major issues in New England land conservation and develop recommendations for working together as a region, better to protect and conserve our natural heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governors identify land conservation as a critical issue facing the region; recognize the importance of public-private-philanthropic partnerships to conserve our natural heritage; and commit the New England states to working together to conserve, restore, and advocate for conservation of this heritage for its many benefits to the region, the nation, and generations to come;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors call upon the following officers of the six New England states, within their available resources and in collaboration with appropriate partners, to develop the following New England-wide initiatives and report with recommendations not later than to the 34th NEG/ECP meeting in 2010:

1. The State Foresters – a New England Forest Initiative to *Keep Forests as Forests* that will constitute a new blueprint to protect the region's forest land-base and ensure the sustainability of these lands, as a public policy appropriate to all New England; and identify barriers to and opportunities for sustaining forestlands that are in private ownership and expanding forest product production and consumption;

2. The Chief Agricultural Officers – a New England Farm and Food Security
Initiative to *Keep Farmlands in Farming* that will protect the region's agricultural land base; determine the region's capacity to increase production, utilization, and consumption of New England-grown farm and food products; and identify barriers to and opportunities for expanding regional agricultural production and consumption;

3. The State Liaison Officers to the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund – a New England Outdoor Initiative to *Connect People to the Outdoors* that will establish six-state priorities for outdoor recreation and education; address urban as well as rural needs, and engaging younger generations in land conservation; and identify priority issues and recreation land conservation projects common to two or more states;

4. The Chief Wildlife Officers – a New England Wildlife Habitat Initiative to *Protect Wildlife Habitat* that will make use of each state's Wildlife Action Plan as the foundation for regional work on habitat connectivity and inform land use and public infrastructure investment decisions at the local, state, and federal levels; and

5. The Coastal Program Managers – a New England Coastal Initiative to *Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands* that builds on each state's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and Wildlife Action Plan, and the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers regional Climate Change Action Plan, a regional strategy to address joint goals in coastal conservation and land acquisition for climate change adaptation and habitat protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these several initiatives might serve as the basis for authorizing legislation to advance and support New England's role in fulfilling its own priority needs and serving as a national model for regional landscape conservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors call upon appropriate agencies of the federal government and the New England Congressional Delegation to help maintain and fully fund essential land conservation initiatives. These include the Forest Legacy Program, the Farmland Protection Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the State Wildlife Grants Program, the Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program, and New Markets Tax Credits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors call upon New England's Congressional Delegation and the Obama Administration to develop federal climate change legislation that will provide funding for forest, farm, outdoor recreation and education, wildlife, and coastal conservation initiatives; and, through what are called "offset projects" as well as more traditional programs, to realize the important climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities that landscape-scale conservation in New England promises, and have New England designated a national demonstration area to pursue these opportunities through a coordinated, regional effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors accept and adopt the report of the Commission on Land Conservation dated September 15, 2009, and establish it as a standing Commission of the NEGC to continue its work, implementing its recommendations, coordinating the initiatives cited above, and identifying other opportunities for regional collaboration, to the extent funding allows.

Adopted at the meeting of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in Saint John, New Brunswick, September 15, 2009.

2. Great Waters Initiative

Northeast Great Waters Restoration and Conservation

Revitalizing The Economy By Reversing 200 Years Of Environmental Decline

The region's Governors, state agencies, Intergovernmental Commissions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are united in asking Congress to invest in implementation of regional ecosystem restoration and conservation plans. There are manageable solutions, and delaying will only make the problems worse and the solutions more expensive.

Long Island Sound

Lake Champlain

Gulf of Maine and Cape Cod

Narragansett Bay, Buzzards Bay, and Adjoining Waters

$70 Million in 2011: a Down Payment For Critical Conservation And Ecosystem Restoration

Economic and Other Benefits:

Clean water and healthy ecosystems are good for business! This investment of federal funds will generate thousands of jobs, and reduce the negative economic impacts of beach closings, algae blooms, and fish kills that have plagued the region due to nutrient loading from agricultural, sewage and storm water runoff. It will also restore ecosystem functions and make them more resilient to climate change, benefit the region's fisheries, including shellfish, conserve important lands, increase property values, and bolster tourism and the recreational industries throughout the region.

Long Island Sound ($20 Million):

- Implementation by EPA Long Island Sound Office of high priority projects identified in the Long Island Sound Study.

Gulf of Maine & Cape Cod ($30 million), Lake Champlain ($10 Million), and Coastal Rhode Island ($10 million):

- Improve water quality through high priority projects that are competitively awarded by EPA in consultation with its state partners ($20 million)
- Restore and conserve coastal habitats, combat the spread and mitigate the impacts of invasive species, restore fish passage, and address marine debris by US FWS and NOAA ($20 million)
- Address priority coastal and marine issues including marine spatial planning consistent with the CEQ Framework, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem health activities ($10 million to NOAA to be administered in collaboration with Northeast Regional Ocean Council)

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Northeast Great Waters Alliance

For More Information please contact Peter Alexander at (802) 380-3080 or cristobi@myfairpoint.net or David Keeley at david@thekeeleygroup.com 2/3

3. Human Use Characterization Efforts in New England: Comparison Table

Project Title	**Identification of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Space-Use Conflicts and Analysis of Potential Mitigation Measures**
Project Lead	Primary - Industrial Economics Inc Secondary - Jack Wiggin – Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) Jack.Wiggin@umb.edu (617-287-5570)
Geographic Extent	Atlantic (Maine to east coast of Florida) and Pacific (Washington to California) Offshore Federal waters; likely include state waters usage
Timeframe – Planning and Implementation Phases	24 months – to be completed by the end of 2011; Planning – Winter/early Spring 2010 Implementation – Spring to project termination
Methods	14 large workshops; 7 workshops on each coast; More smaller group meetings and one-on-one meetings may occur to supplement identified data gaps
Classification of Human Uses	All users except for renewable wind energy: Navigation (*e.g.,* ferries, shipping, and recreational boating) Commercial fishing Recreation and Touring (*e.g.,* fishing, whale watching, and ecotourism) Oil and gas production Offshore sand borrow areas Military Areas of special concern (*e.g.,* marine protected areas and sanctuaries) New uses (*e.g.,* aquaculture) Municipal waste disposal Army Corps of Engineers' projects (*e.g.,* Section 10) US Coast Guard's projects (*e.g.,* liquefied natural gas facilities) Native American subsistence and traditional uses
Targeted Sectors	Recreational and commercial fishing Recreational and commercial boating Shipping Water transportation Hydrokinetic energy Tribes
Milestones	Literature review in first few months to document historical use conflicts domestically and internationally and to gather basemaps of activities; Workshops throughout first year and year-and-a-half; One final report; likely interim reports which would be chapters of the larger report
Purpose/Need for Effort	Information on activities outside of Minerals Management Service's jurisdiction on what else is occurring (potentially occurring) in offshore waters for better planning and identification of potential use conflicts up front
Partners	US Department of Interior (DOI)/MMS Industrial Economics, Inc. Massachusetts Institute of Technology SeaGrant Oregon State University California SeaGrant Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Effort Objectives	Identify OCS renewable energy space-use conflicts; Analyze potential mitigation measures for space-use conflicts; Develop a geospatial database; Produce final report; Provide products on public website.
Funding Sources	USDOI/MMS

Project Title	Human Use Characterization and Valuation for Massachusetts (MA) Waters and Adjacent Federal Waters
Project Lead	Nicholas Napoli – Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP) nnapoli@massoceanpartnership.org (617-287-3926)
Geographic Extent	Massachusetts state waters and adjacent Federal waters
Timeframe – Planning and Implementation Phases	12 months – to be completed within 2010; Planning - project scoping occurring now into late winter Implementation – in 2010
Methods	In-depth survey methodologies for the three sectors and possibly workshops in the future for other uses (kayaks, *etc.*)
Classification of Human Uses	N/A
Targeted Sectors	Commercial fishing Recreational fishing Recreational boating
Milestones	Surveys conducted at beginning of boating season (~April) and have completed by October; Methodology description; Final report of results
Purpose/Need for Effort	Information gathering on what activities are occurring, where they are occurring, and when they are occurring
Partners	Industrial Economics, Inc. Office of Coastal Zone Management – MA Division of Marine Fisheries – MA National Marine Fisheries Service
Effort Objectives	Identify priority commercial fishing grounds; Develop spatially explicit data on recreational fishing; Develop more refined spatial data on recreational boating of all types; Gather vessel navigation information (Automated Information System (AIS) and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data sets); Develop methods to value those uses and their linkages to port communities; Provide analysis products on public website.
Funding Sources	Moore Foundation

Project Title	New Hampshire/Southern Maine Ocean Uses Atlas Project
Project Lead	Charlie Wahle and Mimi D'iorio, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminsitration (NOAA) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Center Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov (831-242-2052) Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov (831-645-2703)
Geographic Extent	Small Point on Casco Bay south to New Hampshire/MA border out to 200 miles
Timeframe – Planning and Implementation Phases	Planning – Early winter 2009 Implementation - workshops to occur January 12-14, 2010; Maps to be completed for Spill of National Significance (SONS) drill in March 2010; Analysis of data collected at workshops to be completed in 2010
Methods	Expert participatory mapping workshops where participants based on expertise and are paired with facilitator and GIS specialist; note that "expert" can mean representative for a group of users, such as US Coast Guard officers, National Marine Sanctuary managers, refuge scientists, etc. Start with a blank slate rather than gathered information to curb debate of literature/information mining at beginning of workshops At workshops, ask three main questions of participants:

	1. Where does this use occur at any geographic level? 2. In giant footprint, where does use occur most of the time? and 3. Project into future 10 years and where use would increase or shift (*e.g.,* MPA boundary shift or coastal access infrastructure increase)?
Classification of Human Uses	Three use classifications: 1. Non-consumptive Uses (*e.g.,* swimming, SCUBA, sailing, motorized boating, beach use, surface water sports, paddling, tide pooling, wildlife viewing from charter boats, tribal spiritual/cultural places); 2. Fishing (commercial and recreational); and 3. Industrial/Military Uses
Targeted Sectors	Commercial fishing Recreational fishing Recreational boating Shipping Water transportation Hydrokinetic energy
Milestones	Workshops conducted January 12-14, 2010 at University of New Hampshire (UNH)
Purpose/Need for Effort	To enhance SONS drill response and activities by filling key data gaps regarding the full range of human uses within the area, as there is little to no information regarding non-consumptive uses since they are mostly non-regulated.
Partners	UNH Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) NOAA MPA Center
Effort Objectives	Show applicability of this method on the East Coast for possible expansion (it has been used in California so far); Inform Emergency Response, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, and Coastal Economic Development Aid design of MPAs
Funding Sources	NOAA MPA Center

Project Title	**NW Atlantic Cumulative Impact Model Pilot**
Project Lead	Jennifer Greene – The Nature Conservancy Eastern division Jgreene@tnc.org (617-542-1908) In partnership with: Nicholas Napoli – Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP) nnapoli@massoceanpartnership.org (617-287-3926) Ben Halpern – National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) halpern@nceas.ucsb.edu
Geographic Extent	Long Island Sound to Northern ME – Coast (mean high tide) to continental slope shelf break (state and federal waters)
Timeframe – Planning and Implementation Phases	24 months – anticipate Spring 2010 start
Methods	Work with the Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP), in collaboration with UCSB's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). Build on their initial work in Massachusetts to create the basis for a regional cumulative impacts model. Take their work to a regional scale by merging the habitat types that MOP/NCEAS used in their Massachusetts analysis with the Conservancy's more detailed biologic and physical regional scale habitat classification. Apply their vulnerability analysis to The Nature Conservancy's regionally scaled benthic habitat classification and further compare it to the

	biological data from the Conservancy's NW Atlantic Marine Ecoregional Assessment. This will support the initial steps needed to extend the cumulative impacts model to a regional scale.
Classification of Human Uses	TBD: All users- examples: Shipping Commercial fishing Recreational Fishing Recreation (e.g., whale watching, and ecotourism) Energy • liquefied natural gas facilities • Alternative Energy (wind, wave ,tidal) • Oil and gas production Military Areas of special concern (e.g., marine protected areas and sanctuaries) Aquaculture Municipal waste disposal Dredging (Army Corps of Engineers' projects) Sand & Gravel mining
Targeted Sectors	TBD
Milestones	
Purpose/Need for Effort	As part of implementing the Northwest Atlantic Marine Ecoregional Assessment, the Conservancy and partners have identified the need to develop a cumulative impact model in order to measure and quantify impacts of human uses on marine ecosystems over time. This includes compiling spatially explicit data on human uses in the marine and coastal environment, developing analyses on the sensitivity and vulnerability of these uses on conservations target species and habitats (based on biological and physical data analyzed by the Conservancy) and determining compatibilities and conflicts between human uses and conservation targets.
Partners	MA Ocean Partnership NCEAS State and Federal government Various marine industries
Effort Objectives	Develop a cumulative impact model in order to measure and quantify impacts of human uses on marine ecosystems over time
Funding Sources	Private Foundation

4. Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Space-Use Conflicts and Analysis

The project team, under contract with the Minerals Management Service, is conducting a study to identify space-use conflicts and ways to mitigate the conflicts between renewable energy development and current and potential new uses in coastal and offshore waters of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Tasks include identifying potential space-use conflicts through a literature review and meetings with the full range of ocean users and in-depth interviews with commercial and recreational fishers. Input sought from stakeholder will also include strategies to minimize and mitigate conflicts and the most effective means for maintaining ocean industry-government communication. For the purpose of forecasting where spatial conflict is most likely to arise, a geospatial database and GIS maps will be compiled from available spatial information on ocean usage from existing sources and from the stakeholder process. Continual coordination between this effort and that of the regional ocean councils on both coasts is a priority to ensure cost effectiveness and avoid duplication. The results of this study will be used to inform decision making in the management and development of renewable energy on the Federal waters of the OCS.

Project Team:
Industrial Economics, Inc. (team lead), Dan Hudgens and John Weiss
Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston, Jack Wiggin and Dan Hellin
MIT Sea Grant Program, Madeleine Hall-Arber
Oregon State University, Flaxon Conway, Dawn Wright, Michael Harte
California Sea Grant Program, Carrie Pomeroy
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Thomas Murray
Research Planning Inc., South Carolina

Objectives:
- Identify and characterize potential space and use conflicts that could result from OCS renewable energy activities in the Atlantic and Pacific regions.
- Describe strategies and specific measures for avoiding or resolving these conflicts, including mechanisms for improved communication and cooperation among stakeholders.

Major Tasks and Timeline:
1. Literature review and annotated bibliography. April 2010
2. Development of a geospatial database. Draft April 2010 / Final March 2011
3. Stakeholder engagement meetings (approx. 7 on each coast). April – July 2010
4. Guided conversations with individuals from offshore sectors. Summer 2010
5. Coordination with regional ocean councils. On-going
6. Alignment of activities and information sharing.
7. Final report. September 2011

5. Northeast Climate Activities

Northeast Climate Adaptation Framework:

The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) has been leading an effort to coordinate climate adaptation planning across NE states. Federal and state agencies as well as NGOs have participated in an initial analysis of current adaptation planning processes in the region and have identified a need for more consistent scientific methods and robust datasets to support long-term policy decisions on climate change vulnerability and adaptation planning. The EPA and NESCAUM have partnered on a proposal for a Northeast Climate Change Data Indicators and Science Analysis project to address this need.

This project would collect data from multiple sources, integrate the data into common formats, and assess the data through an expert evaluation process. This information then would be used to develop: (1) standardized regional assumptions for climate change adaptation planning purposes; (2) methodologies that would inform climate change adaptation planning; and (3) a framework for regional and state-based decision-making that can accommodate existing and emergent data sources for adaptation planning processes. This project represents the first broad-based, regional climate data analysis initiative, and builds on New England's strong record of regional cooperation.

The next meeting of this group is scheduled for March 8th in Boston, MA.

New England Adaptation Planning Updates:

Maine – The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will submit its climate adaptation recommendations to the Legislature in February, 2010. In April, 2009, the Maine State Legislature passed a Resolve charging the DEP with establishing and convening a stakeholder group to evaluate the options and actions available to Maine's people and businesses to prepare for and adapt to the most likely impacts of climate change. Working groups were created to develop recommendations based on detailed analysis, technical reports, and other documents for four focus areas –

- Built environment,
- Coastal environment,
- Natural environment, and
- Social environment.

Point of Contact: Malcolm.C.Burson@maine.gov

New Hampshire – In response to the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan, coastal and ocean organizations have initiated a process to create a coastal climate adaptation framework. The Great Bay NERR and Department of Environmental Services are leading this effort. The goal is to create a framework for communities and regional planning entities to use as guidance for adaptation planning efforts. Point of Contact: Sherry.Godlewski@des.nh.gov

Massachusetts – The Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee will present its report and recommendations to the Legislature in Spring 2010. In May 2009, the Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs created the Advisory Committee, under the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008, to study and make recommendations on strategies for adapting to climate change. The Advisory Committee initiated sub-committees to focus on adaptation strategies in five sectors –

- Natural Resources and Habitat
- Local Economy,
- Human Health and Welfare,
- Key Infrastructure, and
- Coastal Zone and Ocean.

Point of Contact: Kathleen.Baskin@state.ma.us

Rhode Island – The Rhode Island Senate recently introduced a bill to create the RI Energy Independence and Climate Solutions Act (S2039) which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide a framework for state agencies to consider climate effects, as well as contributions, in Department of Transportation and Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) permitting and licensing processes. This would complement CRMC's current effort to implement a sea-level rise policy for coastal development. Point of Contact: jfreedman@crmc.ri.gov

Connecticut – The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) has selected Groton, CT as a pilot community for its climate adaptation planning initiative. The CT Department of Environmental Protection is co-leading this effort and is in the process of organizing a series of three workshops that will prepare the City of Groton to develop a climate adaptation plan. Point of Contact: Jennifer.Pagach@ct.gov

NOAA Announces New Climate Service:
The Obama administration proposed a new climate service on Monday, February 8, 2010 that would provide Americans with predictions on how global warming will affect everything from drought to sea levels. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Service, modeled loosely on the 140-year-old National Weather Service, would provide forecasts to farmers, regional water managers and businesses affected by changing climate conditions. The move is essentially a reorganization of NOAA, and would bring the agency's climate research arm together with its more consumer-oriented services.

A Web portal was launched to provide a single entry point to NOAA's climate information, data, products and services. www.climate.gov

6. Update on coordination with the NE Fishery Management Council

The Northeast Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) has expressed interest in participating in NROC activities, especially as they relate to the regional coastal and marine spatial planning efforts. The NEFMC will meet in Mystic, CT April 27-29, in Portland, ME June 22-24, and in Newport, RI September 28-30.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MA FMC) recently passed a resolution of support for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). In response, MARCO recently sent a letter to the MA FMC to outline potential areas for future collaboration, including the protection of habitat. You can access the full letter from MARCO to the MA FMC by double-clicking on first page below.

DAVID A. PATERSON *New York* | JON S. CORZINE *New Jersey* | JACK MARKELL *Delaware* | MARTIN J. O'MALLEY *Maryland* | TIMOTHY M. KAINE *Virginia*

December 23, 2009

Mr. Richard B. Robins, Jr.
Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
300 South new Street
Dover, Delaware 19904-6790

Dear Mr. Robins:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), thank you for the resolution of support from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). Through the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation, our States are committed to maintaining and improving the health of our ocean and coastal resources, and ensuring that they continue to contribute to the high quality of life and economic vitality of our region's communities well into the future.

We appreciate and value the strong role of the Council in managing our region's important fisheries, including the protection of essential fish habitat. Now that we have received input at the MARCO stakeholder meeting held in December, we are ready to move forward on the actions identified by the Governors. The scheduling conflict between our stakeholder meeting and the Council meeting highlights the need for closer coordination to ensure our similar priorities are met and we would welcome the establishment of a liaison to MARCO.

Our States have begun to identify opportunities to initiate, complement and support appropriate ocean habitat conservation efforts across the region, as one of four MARCO priority areas. The offshore canyons are a significant regional resource, and their protection is of special importance.

7. NROC Progress Reports: Executive Committee

MSP Strategy Team:
The Executive Committee created an ad hoc committee to focus attention on the issue of marine spatial planning in New England. Members of the MSP Strategy Team include representatives from the NROC states and NOAA, EPA, and MMS. To date, the Team has developed an MSP statement of need, prepared and submitted comments on the Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, and supported the design of the February 18 NROC meeting. The Team will continue to meet as needed to address MSP-related tasks.

MSP Strategy Team Members:

Kathleen Leyden, ME	Grover Fugate, Rhode Island	Bob LaBelle, MMS
Ted Diers, NH	Brian Thompson, CT	Betsy Nicholson, NOAA
Chris Williams, NH	David Blatt, CT	Sarah Thompson, NOAA
Deerin Babb-Brott, MA	Mel Coté, EPA	

Appropriations:
The EC worked with contractor David Keeley on the design of the FY11 appropriations strategy. EC members have also served the important role of communicating across multiple appropriations efforts for regional ocean partnerships, including a request developed by CSO.

MOUs:
The EC finalized a MOU with NERACOOS this past November. A copy of this MOU is available on the NROC website. The EC is currently working with the Gulf of Maine Council to finalize another MOU which clearly identifies areas for collaboration and better defines connections between the two groups.

2010 Leadership:
In July 2010, NROC leadership will rotate to Ted Diers of New Hampshire and Betsy Nicholson of NOAA. July also marks the transition of Gulf of Maine Council leadership – Kathleen will serve as the Chair of the GOMC.

EC Website:
The EC has recently created a web page to house meeting agendas, minutes, action items, and related documents. The EC will be developing this web page as tool for communication with the rest of NROC about its activities. Please bookmark the new NROC website – http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc. There is now a calendar function to announce Council, EC, and Committee meetings as well as post related agendas and materials. Any feedback on the site is great – please send comments to Adrianne.Harrison@noaa.gov.

8. NROC Progress Reports: Standing Committees

Ecosystem Health Committee:

The Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP) and the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS) co-sponsored a two-day workshop with the NROC Ecosystem Health Committee on the economics of ecosystem-based management (EBM) for marine resource managers from the Northeast region in Boston on February 8 and 9. The goals of the workshop included,

- Advance the practice of EBM in marine spatial planning by enabling managers to incorporate economics successfully, practically, and appropriately into an EBM decision-making framework.
- Provide an introduction to EBM-related economic concepts, analytical approaches, and methods that will help managers ask pertinent questions and understand methods, data and resources available to answer them.
- Introduce managers to a range of economic tools that can be useful in EBM decision-making and policy analysis, particularly those that take advantage of existing data sources.
- Illustrate ways in which economics may be coordinated with other natural and social sciences to provide more comprehensive policy guidance.
- Stimulate conversation among economists and managers about the use of economics to inform EBM decision-making.

Hazards Resilience Committee:

The NROC Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee is creating a Storm Smart Coasts Network for the New England Region and is in the process of designing an interactive webinar series to promote the web resource and its forum function. The webinar series is scheduled to begin in late Spring 2010 and will be linked to monthly Network discussion forums with guest moderators. Additionally, the Committee is working to integrate the Storm Smart Coasts Network into its existing regional hazards resilience portal.

The NROC and NERACOOS Hazards Resilience Committees have met to discuss joint development of observations related web information that can be incorporated into regional websites like NERACOOS, GOMOOS, and Storm Smart Coasts Network.

NROC Background Materials: 2010 Committee Work Plans

2010 Work Plan: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee
Submitted by Bruce Carlisle, MA CZM and Mel Coté, EPA

Activity #1: Increase the visibility of state-federal work groups.
Deliverables:
- NROC, with assistance from the Nutrient Criteria RTAG, will report on progress toward development of estuarine nutrient criteria and on the NH DES incorporating a numeric nitrogen criterion into the state's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology for determining estuarine water quality impairments.
- NROC, with assistance from the NERDT's Sudbury Group, will disseminate a regional protocol for determining time-of-year (TOY) restrictions on dredging to protect fishery resources.
- The Coastal America NERIT will complete 4-5 multi-agency salt marsh or fish passage restoration projects and NROC will increase the visibility of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership as they work to increase the amount of private funds donated to federally sponsored projects.
- Identification of several pilot habitat restoration projects that showcase habitat types and categories which provide the greatest amount of benefits for multiple fish and wildlife species.

Activity #2: Convene ocean ecosystem health workshop.
Deliverables: A regional consensus statement among policymakers, managers, and scientists that:
- Defines ecosystem health
- Identifies measurable, legal standards for inclusion in state/provincial policy

Activity #3: Conduct regional ecosystem-based marine spatial planning working session.
Deliverables:
- Workshop for policy-makers, managers and scientists
- "Next steps" document on how this approach could be used on a regional basis

Activity #4: Support regional coastal and ocean observing networks and work with regional groups that promote data sharing and interoperability to work collaboratively, share resources, avoid duplicative work, and provide requested support. (Note: This Activity could be amplified to get at more NERACOOS coordination (and MACOORA) or break that part out and make new? Keep this one more data discoverability?)
Deliverables:
- A network of regional data providers with metadata registered in a national directory (GCMD, FGDC, GeoConnections, or Google) with robust, searchable discovery metadata that can be accessed through the GCMD Gulf of Maine portal or other discovery metadata portals or services.

Activity #5: Accelerate research on priority coastal and ocean issues. (Note: ROSI, NOAA and other partners will work to refine this task e.g., milestones, outcomes, actions, etc.)
Deliverables:
- Annual progress reports and requests for assistance from these initiatives

Activity #6: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health reporting initiatives: increasing awareness.
Deliverables:
- New England perspective on coastal and ocean ecosystem health
- Forums for state legislators, agency decision-makers and the region's Governors
- Whitepaper on the value and costs of a "Ocean's Return on Investment" report

Activity #7: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health initiatives: work with Governors' on a regional invasive species proclamation. (Note: Awaiting comments from NEANS Panel on role for NROC. Could shift the focus/deliverable away from Govs' Proclamation to coordination with NEANS, and states/feds on Early Detection and Rapid Response (which include the coastal Rapid Assessment Surveys), several outreach efforts, including posters and other materials, and the MIMIC program to train and coordinate volunteer monitoring)
Deliverables:
- Approval of a Governors' invasive species proclamation

Committee Membership:

Bruce Carlisle, Co-Chair, MA	Mike Fogarty, NOAA	Tom Ouellette, CT DEP
Mel Coté, Co-Chair, EPA	Christian Khraforst, MA	Joe Payne, Casco Bay BayKeepers
Paul Currier, NH DES	Kathleen Leyden, ME SPO	Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant
Christopher Deacutis, NB NEP	Kate Killerlain Morrison, TNC	Paul Stacey, CT DEP
		Sally Yozell, TNC

2010 Work Plan: Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee
Submitted by Julia Knisel, MA; Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS; and Adrianne Harrison, NOAA

Activity #1: Promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise.
Deliverables:

- ***Bimonthly webinar series*** (once in two months) to share information on hazards resilience and climate adaptation tools and resources available to the region. Initial topics requested include Storm Surge Database developed by Connecticut, MA StormSmart Coasts storm observation database, and NOAA CSC Coastal Inundation Toolkit.
- ***Adaptation workshop***, delivered in collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, NOAA Coastal Services Center, and other partners.
- ***NROC Resilience Web Portal*** populated with information on key adaptation and resilience programs, initiatives, and pilot projects in the region. Create web calendar to track resilience and adaptation related meetings and events and RSS feed for stakeholder updates.
- ***Storm Smart Coasts Network*** website for New England, with state and region specific information and strategies for improving hazards resilience.
- ***Northeast Climate Adaptation Framework***, in collaboration with NESCAUM, focused on interstate and interagency coordination of adaptation policies.
- ***Regional proposals*** for climate adaptation and hazards resilience related projects.

Activity #2: Act on data acquisition priorities and user-friendly tools needed to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.
Deliverables:

- ***New England LiDAR Workshop Proceedings*** available on NROC website.
- ***Annual meeting*** of a regional digital elevation team and coordinate 2010 data collection plans.
- ***Recommendations*** for single system for recording federal and state data acquisition plans.
- ***Seafloor Mapping Workshop*** to coordinate regional data collection.
- ***Southern New England Mapping Initiative*** created to complement and support the work of the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative.

Activity #3: Partner with academia, industry and public agencies to develop a plan for an Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) that supports storm, storm surge and inundation, and sea level rise forecasting and response.
Deliverables:

- ***Recommendations*** for aligning NROC and NERACOOS Hazards Resilience Committees.
- ***Management Requirements*** for ocean observations to support hazard resilience.

Activity #4: Pilot Project – Methodology for Unified Coastline Data Layer.
Deliverables:

- ***Methodology*** for developing a unified coastline data layer.
- ***Pilot data layer*** for Southern Maine.

Committee Membership:

Julia Knisel, Co-Chair. MA CZM Adrianne Harrison, Co-Chair, NOAA Susan Russell-Robinson, Co-Chair, USGS Stephen Dickson, ME SPO	Ed Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium Janet Freedman, RI CRMC Sherry Godlewski, NH DES Mike Goetz, FEMA	Kevin O'Brien, CT (Note: Also acts as NERACOOS Hazards Resilience Committee Chair) Jenn Pagach, CT DEP Peter Slovinsky, ME Geologic Survey

2010 Work Plan: Ocean Energy Planning and Management Committee
Submitted by Grover Fugate, RI and Erin Trager, MMS

Activity #1: Identify the types and sources of contextual and baseline data and knowledge essential for ocean energy facility development, impact mitigation, and operations.
Deliverables:

- Synthesis of managers' contextual and baseline information requirements.
- A strategy to obtain priority data requirements and methods to streamline the permitting process (e.g., require similar data, similar data acquisition processes, centralized filing, etc.).

Activity #2: Communicate results of key state ocean energy planning initiatives.
Deliverables:

- Routine exchange of information among the New England states (and other states around the country)

Activity #3: Maintain an inventory of projects devoted to renewable ocean energy resource development and maritime transportation and handling of fossil fuel supplies.
Deliverables:

- Current database of ocean energy projects

Activity #4: Propose voluntary guidelines for assessing and mitigating the environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns related to renewable ocean energy development. (Note: Council needs to discuss how this concept fits with current state energy planning efforts and if visual, web-based tools for planning and policy purposes are a priority)
Deliverables:

- Voluntary guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns when siting and designing coastal and ocean energy facilities.
- Strategy to disseminate guidelines within the region and elsewhere.

Activity #5: Promote communications among public, non-profit and private sector interests. (Note: The Council needs to bundle together NROC communication efforts. The Council should also specifically engage MMS to learn of their capacity to assist in this effort.)
Deliverables:

- Report that documents and assesses current mechanisms;
- Prepare and release regional strategy

Committee Membership:

Ames Colt, Co-Chair, RI DEM Ron Beck, Co-Chair, USCG Todd Burrowes, ME SPO John Duff, UMass Boston	Grover Fugate, RI CRMC David Kaiser, NOAA John Moskal, EPA Betsy Nicholson, NOAA	Tom Ouellette, CT DEP Greg Watson, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Chris Williams, NH DES