**Meeting Agenda • June 24, 2010 • EPA, Boston**

Directions to meeting location www.epa.gov/NE/directions/index.html

Meeting materials available at http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc

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| 8:30 AM | **Arrive:** *Networking opportunity before the meeting* |
| 9:00 AM | **Welcome and Introductions**<br>*Kathleen Leyden, Maine – State Chair and Mel Coté, EPA – Federal Chair* |
| 9:15 AM | **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**<br>▪ MSP Strategy Team Update: Review of progress and events since February NROC meeting (Kathleen Leyden, Maine)<br>▪ NE Regional Data Inventory for CMSP (Daniel Martin, NOAA)<br>▪ Briefing on upcoming NROC sponsored workshop (Adrianne Harrison, NOAA and Stephanie Moura, MOP) |
| 10:15 AM | **Climate Change Adaptation Briefing**<br>*Informational items from states to inform each other and federal partners.* |
| 10:45 AM | **NROC Work Plans and Strategic Direction**<br>*Results from Regional Planning Workshops (Ron Rozsa, NERACOOS)*<br>▪ Present synthesis of ocean observing, hazards, ocean energy and ecosystem health project concepts<br>▪ Describe intersection of project concepts with tasks in proposed committee work plans<br>▪ Identify NROC representatives to participate in late summer Partners' implementation meeting & determine NROC priorities and contributions<br><br>*Results from Work Plan revision process (Committee Co-Chairs)*<br>▪ Highlight progress, accomplishments, and new proposed activities<br>▪ Recommendations for funding |
| 11:45 AM | **Partner Questions & Discussion** |
| 12:00PM | **Lunch: Bring your own or eat at a local sandwich shop** |
| 1:00 PM | **Continued - NROC Work Plans and Strategic Direction**<br>*Results from Work Plan revision process – Continued (Adrianne Harrison, Regina Lyons, and TBD)*<br>▪ Break out discussions by Issue Area (40 minutes)<br>▪ Report out (10 minutes)<br>▪ Review proposal for Action Plan update (10 minutes)<br><br>**Action Requested**: Work plan revisions reviewed by NROC members; Agree to Action Plan product for 2011-2015 |
| 2:00 PM | **Preparing for NOAA's Regional Ocean Partnership Grant Program**<br>▪ Overview of Grant Program Requirements (Adrianne Harrison, NOAA)<br>▪ Report out from NOAA-CSO Meeting (Deerin Babb-Brott, MA)<br>▪ Developing a Process to Guide Development of NROC Grant Proposal<br><br>**Action Requested**: Agree to timeline for public review of NROC work plans; Create an Ad hoc team to develop criteria for outside proposals that are requesting NROC letter of support, generate proposal ideas and grant writing |
| 3:00 PM | **Other Updates**<br>▪ NE Federal Partners (Mel Coté, EPA)<br>▪ Gulf of Maine Council (Kathleen Leyden, ME)<br>▪ LiDAR for New England (Steve Raber, PhotoScience)<br>▪ NEGC (Executive Committee) |
| 3:50 PM | **Closing Business**<br>▪ Passing of the rock (Kathleen Leyden, ME and Mel Coté, EPA) |
| 4:00 PM | **Adjourn** |

(Updated 6.18.10)

**Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**

Results of MSP Strategy Team Calls: The MSP Strategy Team met three times in Spring 2010. Issues covered on the calls included identifying tribal representatives to bring to the NROC table, the Atlantic Wind Energy Consortium, Regional Ocean Partnership grant program; and brainstorming MSP project ideas for NROC work plans. A list of potential regional MSP activities was drafted and include

a. Develop regional characterization of resources and uses as basis for collective system thinking.
b. NGO/consultant to do basic inventory of spatial data for the NROC region and identify gaps. Include an assessment of what data is most useful for CMSP, what data is available and useful at a regional scale, and what are the most important holes to fill. As part of this exercise, NROC should recommend data sets that should be included in a national database. *Note: This activity is being addressed by 'NE Regional Data Inventory for CMSP' described below.
c. Complete set of USCG-NOAA fishing and vessel data for the region. MA and RI data has been processed and still need data for the rest of NROC states.
d. Identify follow up work for the MMS/Industrial Economics study.

In addition to this project list, the Team agreed that NROC still needs to define what CMSP is for the region.

*Point of Contact: Kathleen Leyden, Maine; Kathleen.Leyden@maine.gov*

NE Regional Data Inventory for CMSP: The Massachusetts Ocean Partnership, NERACOOS, The Nature Conservancy, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Applied Science Associates, and NOAA CSC will be conducting a regional data inventory to support coastal and marine spatial planning, and will provide recommendations on the potential incorporation of these datasets into a regional ocean data portal. The project is being funded by MOP and will be guided by MOP, NERACOOS, TNC, and NROC partners. Tom Shyka of GMRI and Daniel Martin of NOAA CSC will be primarily responsible for the execution of the project, but will be assisted by other members of the project team. The data inventory will consist of a rapid review of a variety of state and regional data inventories and planning documents, creating a composite regional CMSP data inventory that identifies marine geospatial data sets for core CMSP themes. In addition, the project team will be contacting NROC representatives to better understand available datasets and gain State and Federal Agency perspectives on datasets that should be prioritized for inclusion in a regional data portal. The team will make recommendations about datasets that are immediately available for inclusion in a data portal as well as develop a long term data sharing and integration strategy for those datasets that are selected as regional priorities. The project is expected to be completed in the early fall of 2010.

*Point of Contact: Nick Napoli, MOP; nnapoli@massoceanpartnership.org*

MMS BAA Update**:** The original solicitation for the BAA on Environmental Protocols and Monitoring - Renewable Energy and Stewardship was posted on December 29, 2009 and it contained eight topics. An amendment with clarifications was posted on February 1, 2010. Proposals for all eight topics were due and were received on February 22, 2010. After this point the topics are in the review and evaluation stage and are all on different timelines.

The NOPP office handles the independent review panels. The eight panels met between the first week in May 2010 and the second week in June 2010. All proposals that are selected for funding in FY2010 will be awarded by the end of the Fiscal Year in September.

*Point of Contact: Bob LaBelle, MMS; (Submitted on 4/23/10)*

**State Climate Change Adaptation Efforts**

Maine: Maine's state-level climate adaptation planning is guided by a legislative resolve in 2009 directing the Department of Environmental Protection to convene stakeholders to "evaluate the options and actions available to Maine people and businesses to prepare for and adapt to the most likely impacts of climate change." Over 75 organizations, agencies, businesses, and public interest groups participated in a 35-member coordinating committee, or on one of four working groups that carried out initial assessments of Maine's vulnerability in the natural, coastal, built, and human/social environments. Baseline information came from a published report, Maine's Climate Future: An Initial Assessment, produced by the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine.

The Department delivered a report on its findings, together with 65+ recommendations, in February of 2010. The Report is not an "adaptation plan" per se; rather, it charts the state's course toward a more comprehensive plan. However, since many of the recommendations can be acted on by state agencies and the academic community, such as developing climate change awareness materials for municipalities, reviewing existing regulatory authorities for climate readiness, or identifying key natural system disruption thresholds for monitoring, the Department is working with its partners to begin implementation of as many as possible within existing resources. At the same time, the stakeholder effort will continue, as the legislature has called for the completion of a state plan by January 2012. This process will include specific economic analysis to set priorities among the existing recommendations, and will probably identity additional, longer-term actions.

*Point of Contact: Malcolm Burson, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Malcolm.C.Burson@maine.gov/207-287-7755*

New Hampshire: An ad-hoc committee, the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup NHCAW, was formed in Dec. 2009. The purpose of NHCAW is to bring together NH coastal stakeholders with interest in or responsibilities for organizational, municipal, or state level coastal adaption planning. The goal is to develop and implement the most effective coastal adaptation strategy in the most efficient way through a collaborative process by 2011. The NHCAW will identify research and legislative needs, provide a recommended approach for municipalities with a framework of options, tools, and workshops.

The committee has been meeting monthly and is currently working on assessing the needs of NH coastal communities, reviewing adaptation plans and strategies from others states and cities, applying for grants to fund projects that include a local climate assessment and a SLR/salt marsh study, drafting policy considerations for plan development, integrating and communicating with adaptation groups including emergency management and mitigation groups, refining a NHCAW logic model, and developing a first workshop that is to be offered in the fall of 2010. The committee is beginning to focus on the framework of options for municipalities.

The group is made up of staff or members from the City of Portsmouth Planning Department, Town of Seabrook Conservation Commission/Planning Board, UNH Cooperative Extension, UNH Institute for the Study of Earth Oceans and Space, Clean Air-Cool Planet, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, NH Coastal Program, Rockingham Planning Commission, NH Sea Grant, NH Department of Environmental Services, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

*Point of Contact: Steve Miller, Great Bay NERR; Steve.Miller@wildlife.nh.gov/603-778-0015 ext305*

Massachusetts: The Global Warming Solutions Act, passed by the Massachusetts legislature in 2008, required that the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs convene an advisory committee who would be responsible for evaluating climate change adaptation strategies and preparing a report. EEA and its agencies

were actively involved in coordinating with the advisory committee and its subcommittees. Several other agencies, including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Transportation, the Division of Insurance, the Office of Travel and Tourism, and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development actively participated in the process. Working in six subcommittees --- Key Infrastructure, Human Health and Welfare, Natural Resources and Habitat, Local Economy and Government, Coastal Zone and Ocean, and Land Use --- the committee reviewed the science to describe "predicted climate change," identified vulnerabilities that could occur with predicted climate change, and evaluated strategies that could address these vulnerabilities. Each committee wrote a report that was to be converted into a chapter of an overall report which will be submitted to the legislature.

*Point of Contact: Kathleen Baskin, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; Kathleen.Baskin@state.ma.us/617-626-1012*

Rhode Island: The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) in January 2008 adopted a new section in the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Plan entitled “Climate Change and Sea Level Rise” that includes findings based on best available science and policies to be implemented within the state coastal zone. Some of the major findings are: (1) the historic rate of sea level rise as measured in Newport, RI is approximately ten inches per century; (2) sea level rise is accelerating; and (3) we expect 3 to 5 feet of sea level rise by the end of this century (2100).

In the interim, the CRMC has undertaken the following activities:

- Adopted shoreline change maps that depict coastal erosion rates over the past 70 years.
- Worked with the State Building Commissioner, the State Floodplain Coordinator, and the University of RI Coastal Resources Center-RI Sea Grant to facilitate the adoption of ASCE 24-05 and the inclusion of Coastal A zones into the RI State Building Code, and to educate the building trade practitioners and municipal officials.
- Adopted a 1-foot freeboard requirement above the FEMA FIRM BFE for construction in all Coastal A and V zones.
- Considering use of ACOE circular 1165-2-211 as a standardized method for evaluating public infrastructure projects located within the coastal zone.
- Engaged RI Sea Grant program to facilitate public education campaign on sea level rise to assist communities, municipal authorities and individuals located in vulnerable coastal areas.
- Partnered with The Nature Conservancy, URI IGERT program and RI Sea Grant on workshop series on climate change impacts to coastal habitat. See: http://www.ci.uri.edu/ciip/projects/c5/
- Completing final edition of “RI Stormsmart Coasts” website with URI Coastal Resources Center & RI Sea Grant. See: http://stormsmartcoasts.org/
- Developing living shoreline policy and standards as an alternative to hardened shorelines in partnership with Save The Bay.
- Continuing to monitor and assess climate change and sea level rise conditions and science; proactively plan for and adapt to these changing conditions; and evaluate risk tolerances for various types of coastal activities.
- Partnered with Northeast Consortium to acquire LiDAR through federal grant award process to assist in development of predictive models for the potential impacts of sea level rise (consortium award $1.4M).
- Collaborating with the Coastal Conservation Working Group in response to the New England Governor’s September 2009 directive to formulate a regional strategy to address joint goals in coastal conservation and land acquisition for climate change adaptation and habitat protection.
- Recent passage of RI legislation “Rhode Island Climate Risk Reduction Act of 2010,” which will require comprehensive community plans to include adaptation provisions for sea level rise and climate change, as well as the creation of a Climate Change Commission.

- Continued development of an Ocean Special Area Management Plan to facilitate the siting of a utility-scale offshore wind farm to mitigate for and offset fossil fuel consumption in the production of electricity.

*Point of Contact: Jim Boyd, RI Coastal Resource Management Council; jboyd@crmc.ri.gov/401-783-3370*

Connecticut: The 3rd Groton Coastal Climate Adaptation workshop is scheduled for June 18th. This last in the series to engage federal, state and local governments in adaptation planning for a community will focus on the next steps for all participants. Next are presentations to entities responsible for implementation, culminating with a final report in the fall on progress, lessons learned and how other communities could engage in this process. DEP/ICLEI through the EPA LISS and CRE has received additional funding to serve up a formal process for other communities, even beyond CT to develop an adaptation plan. We will identify steering committees with resources in focus areas to pull together adaptation planning needs, tools and other resources. DEP has also made multiple presentations at workshops including the Yale Climate Summit, Sierra Club, Rotary Club, NEIWPCC, NERACOOS Coastal Hazards, and CT Conference on Natural Resources.

Internally OLISP has started a climate change group to examine internal policies and procedures and how they will interact with adaptation needs. OLISP staff added climate adaptation strategies to the Governor's Steering Committees' reports and to the State's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Multiple interns have assisted with examining coastal policies and planning, sentinel monitoring for climate change, pulling together climate adaptation information for the CT Climate Change website, and examining coastal hazard issues.
Lastly, Sentinel monitoring for climate change in LIS received technical assistance from ICF to finalize some documents, is finalizing the strategic plan and selecting pilot programs, and secured funding for a data clearinghouse.

*Point of Contact: Jennifer Pagach, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Jennifer.Pagach@ct.gov/860-424-3295*

Climate Adaptation Training Announcement: NOAA, EPA, and NESCAUM have partnered to design and deliver a climate adaptation training this fall, October 18-22, 2010 in Narragansett, RI. NROC will be invited to send representatives from each state, while NESCAUM will be working to invite state representatives from air and climate programs. A total of 3-4 reps from each state, Maine through New Jersey will be invited. Travel support is available on a need basis.

The training is designed for natural resource management professionals, including state and local resource managers, planners, and program administrators. The training is organized in a climate change adaptation framework that targets foundational and process content and skills to support integration of climate adaptation planning in communities and planning processes. The training will cover the following key climate adaptation planning topics:

- An Introduction to Planning Elements
- Climate Science: Comprehending the Science
- Climate Governance: Integrating Climate Adaptation
- Climate Collaboration: Engaging Stakeholders for the Long-term
- Climate Communications: Considering Perceptions and Applying Principles
- Risk Assessment: Understanding Methods and Interpreting Results
- Adaptation Planning: Identifying and Prioritizing Actions
- Adaptation Implementation and Monitoring: Considering Changing Conditions

*Point of Contact: Adrianne Harrison, NOAA; Adrianne.Harrison@noaa.gov/603-862-4272*

## Regional Planning Workshop Results

In the northeast there are numerous organizations engaged in planning for the future management and stewardship of the region's coasts and oceans. Given their shared geography and common interests, 12+ organizations have agreed that the benefits of more formal collaboration are:

- Thoughtful and sustained interaction among organizations with shared interests;
- More 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 and implementation processes; and
- Development of a consensus on the region's most pressing issues and joint policy, planning and management implementation responses will accelerate our progress.

Each of the partnering organizations has identified their desired outcomes and outputs for this initiative. This helps to ensure that the work performed meets the shared needs of the organizations.

**Regional Meetings**:
Four regional meetings were held in spring 2010 in the following theme areas:

- Ocean Observations (four sector areas: marine operations, coastal hazards, ocean & coastal ecosystem health, and ocean energy planning & management) – May 26, 2010
- Coastal Hazards – June 2, 2010
- Ocean Energy Planning & Management – June 11, 2010
- Ocean & Coastal Ecosystem Health – June 15, 2010

**Meeting Purpose**: to engage stakeholders in developing project narratives that the organizations can act on collectively or individually.

Priority project needs were compiled and synthesized from many regional plans, reports and assessments. A short list of priority project needs was then presented to meeting participants. The purposes of the meetings were to affirm that the listed project activities were regional priorities, to modify the list as necessary and to prepare project/products narratives for the regional partners to consider.
Meetings materials are available online at: http://www.neracoos.org/about/documents.html

**Next Steps**:

- Prepare meeting summary reports, project narratives (e.g., goal, description, methodology and key tasks, benefits, potential partners, funding requirements and schedule) and distribute to meeting invitees for review and comment;
- Receive comments and amend project narratives as needed;
- Prepare materials and organize the fall Regional Partners meeting.

**September 2010 Regional Partners Meeting**:
The partner organizations will receive meeting materials for the Partners Meeting in late July. They will be asked to review and identify which of the project narratives they are interested in supporting. Up to three representatives of the partnering organizations will then attend the September partners meeting and represent their organizations/agencies. The goal of the meeting is to identify the projects that can be implemented by collaboration and to set an implementation schedule.

***Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Work Plan Summary***

The importance of ocean and coastal ecosystem health is recognized as critical to the long-term sustainability of our region. All levels of government have access to and utilize comprehensive information to manage ocean and coastal resources. In 2010, the Council will support the following five activities which will effectively advance the 2007 *Action Plan* as well as other current regional priorities that have been identified though regional plans released and workshops held in the past year.

**Goal 1: Enhanced data collection, integration, and dissemination.**

***Action 1.1:*** *Support Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning by improving the discoverability, interoperability, sharing, and utilization of data and mapping products; leveraging and directing resources to natural resource and human use mapping, characterization, and classification; and engaging stakeholders in meaningful and substantive ways.*

- Regional Data Portal and Network to serve as a single portal and distributed network for regional coastal and marine spatial data.
- Regional CMSP goals and outcomes.
- Issue area/topic workshops convened to determine spatial and other data and information needs, data availability, data gaps, and process to fill gaps.
- Assessments and analyses
- Stakeholder connection, input and dialogue

***Partners:*** *NE Federal Partners, NERACOOS, MOP, NeCODP, SeaGrant ROSC, NEFMC, GoMC, NGOs, etc.*
***Timing:*** *TBD*
***Resources available:*** *Limited in-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:*** *Significant resources to support regional CMSP*

***Action 1.2:*** *Support ecosystem-based management by supporting regional ocean and climate change science and research and improving linkages with management and decision-making.*

- Whitepaper that collates and synthesizes definitions of ecosystem health appropriate to the northeast
- Report on current indicator programs
- Workshop convening policymakers, managers and scientists to develop a consensus statement on definitions and metrics
- Report with workshop results and "next steps" to NROC and other New England decision-makers
- Compile annotated bibliography of existing (and current) research on the effects of climate change effects on ocean and coastal ecosystem health as well as cumulative and secondary impacts from existing and future uses of the ocean.

***Partners:*** *Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea, Gulf of Maine Council Ecosystem Indicators Partnership, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, UMass Boston, NOAA, EPA, MRAG, The Nature Conservancy, NEPs, SeaGrant ROSC*
***Timing:*** *Workshop in Spring 2010; Consensus in Summer 2010;*
***Resources available:*** *Potential COMPASS funds; limited in-kind agency support*
***Resources needed:*** *$25,000 to develop climate change research directory*

**Goal 2: Better governance, coordination, and communication.**

***Action 2.1:*** *Contribute to the success of New England coastal conservation efforts in the face of climate change.*

- Collaborative, pilot demonstration project to integrate state CELCP plans, Wildlife Action Plans, Climate Plans and others.
- Regional conservation priorities to incorporate climate change adaptation and wildlife habitat protection strategies into active land conservation programs.
- Inventory and analysis (maps, data, text) of priority ecosystems, natural resources, and coastal environments vulnerable to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.
- Regional assessment criteria for identifying the highest priority conservation areas to achieve protection of regionally significant resources.
- Coordination and collaboration with complimentary conservation programs and efforts such as USF&WS North Atlantic LCC, TNC, and GOM
- Stakeholder connection, input and dialogue

***Partners:*** *Ted Diers, NH and Bruce Carlisle, MA project leads; State Coastal Programs, NEGC Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation, New England Federal partners, NGOs*
***Timing:*** *Launch in Fall of 2010; in place in time for the FY13 CELCP solicitations.*
***Resources available:*** *Limited in-kind agency support*
***Resources needed:*** *$300,000 (estimated)*

***Action 2.2:*** *Support efforts and increase visibility of regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health initiatives and work groups.*

- NROC will periodically engage these groups to ensure there is active participation by the pertinent state and federal agencies.
- NROC will request these initiatives to provide annual progress reports. They will identify obstacles to achieving their mission and describe how NROC can assist them.
- NROC will increase the visibility of these groups by communicating with the Governors and cabinet officials about the results of their efforts.
- The FWS and NRCS leadership in the New England States will meet with the NGO, academic, government and private sector in the spring to discuss opportunities to utilize these existing programs and maximize the resource outcomes in support of and complementing NROC priorities.
- 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.
- NROC will facilitate forums on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management as necessary for state and federal agency coordination to identify areas where regional cooperation in programs and funding could be enhanced (including AIS policies, regulations and education outreach); develop early detection and rapid response capability for new invasions of AIS; prevent introductions of AIS, control or where feasible eradicate established AIS; and minimize introductions of AIS through Ballast Water and other shipping vectors

***Partners:*** *Mel Coté, EPA project lead; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC); EPA; Corps; NOAA/NMFS; USFWS; ASMFC; state water quality, coastal zone management, and fisheries management agencies*
***Timing:*** *Annual Progress Reports- Fall/Winter 2010; Meetings with partners- on-going*
***Resources available:*** *In-kind support by the agencies involved in these initiatives*
***Resources needed:*** *TBD*

**Goal 3: Linking ocean observations and data to management decision-making.**

***Action 3.1:*** *Support regional associations for integrated coastal and ocean observation systems and improve coordinated planning and product usage.*

- Enhanced coordination with NERACOOS through- a) implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between NROC and NERACOOS outlining shared priorities and describing relationship protocols, b) promotion of shared representation between organizations on respective work groups, and c) collaboration of annual work plans through a series of workshops.
- Work jointly with regional partners to determine the scope and develop a white paper that addresses regional and sub-regional needs and presents case studies illustrating the importance of enhanced data management and applications to improve state and federal decision making on environmental issues. Engages national, international, and regional partners.
- Work with NERACOOS and NeCODP to help identify the data and product needs of NROC and its partners, develop the common schema and application to environmental management.

***Partners*** *Bruce Carlisle, MA and Ru Morison, NERACOOS project leads; NERACOOS, MACOORA, NeCODP, FGDC*
***Timing:*** *NERACOOS Collaboration and Planning workshop- June 2010; White Paper- Fall 2010*
***Resources available:*** *In-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:*** *TBD*

Committee Co-chairs: Bruce Carlisle, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management – State Co-chair; Mel Coté and Regina Lyons, EPA – Federal Co-chairs

***Coastal Hazards Resilience Work Plan Summary***

Render New England a "Coastal Hazards Ready" region by providing existing federal, state, and municipal programs with state-of-the-art data and tools to advance planning and response to storms, shoreline erosion, and coastal inundation due to projected sea-level rise from global warming. In 2010, the Council will support the following four activities which will effectively advance the 2007 Action Plan as well as other current regional priorities that have been identified though regional plans released and workshops held in the past year.

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

***Action 1.1*: Convene Resilience Partners***: *NROC's role in convening multiple players from throughout the region was recognized as incredibly important by participants in the Northeast Region Coastal Hazards Resilience Workshop sponsored by NROC in 2008. Participants felt strongly that the opportunity to connect with others who are working on similar issues is critical in advancing coordination, and hence effectiveness, in the future. The following activities address the need for convening the region's resilience partners.*

- ***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 Storm Smart Coasts storm observation database, and NOAA CSC Coastal Inundation Toolkit. Partners on this activity include Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), and federal partners.
- ***Adaptation workshop***, delivered in collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, NOAA Coastal Services Center, National Estuarine Research Reserves Coastal Training Program, and other partners.

***Partners:*** *Storm Smart Coasts, Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, NOAA, USGS*
***Timing:*** *TBD*
***Resources available:*** *Limited in-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:***

***Action 1.2*: Build Information Network:*** *Coastal hazards resilience stakeholders identified the need for an information network that provides a constant opportunity for dialogue. NROC should facilitate the development of, and access to, shared best practices and regulatory principles that are relevant across the geography.*

- ***NROC Resilience Web Portal*** 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. NROC's role in the framework effort includes convening states to share information on the development of sea-level rise planning targets and policies.

***Partners:*** *Storm Smart Coasts, State Coastal Programs, NESCAUM, NOAA, EPA*
***Timing:***
***Resources available:***
***Resources needed:***

***Action 1.3*: Outreach for Increased Funding:*** *NROC membership is well positioned to improve decision makers' understanding of hazards resilience. NROC should coordinate and communicate needs or projects that would benefit the New England region to local, state, and federal decision makers.*

- ***Regional proposals*** for climate adaptation and hazards resilience related projects.

***Partners:*** *Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, NROC CHR Committee*
***Timing:*** *On-going*
***Resources available:*** *Limited in-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:***

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

***Action 2.1*: Advance LiDAR Data Coordination:*** *Recommendations from the 2009 New England LiDAR Workshop suggest NROC continue to support data acquisition coordination and regional planning.*

- ***New England LiDAR Workshop Proceedings*** available on NROC website.
- ***Annual meeting*** of a regional digital elevation team and coordinate 2010 data collection plans.
- ***Recommendations*** and strategy for developing priority LiDAR mapping products for the region.

***Partners:*** *USGS*
***Timing:*** *On-going*
***Resources available:*** *Limited in-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:***

***Action 2.2*: Advance Seafloor Mapping Data Collection:*** *New England data managers have identified a need for seafloor mapping throughout the region.*

- ***Seafloor Mapping Workshop*** to coordinate regional data collection.
- ***Southern New England Mapping Initiative*** created to complement and support the previous work of the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative.

***Partners:*** *USGS, NOAA, Gulf of Maine Council*
***Timing:***
***Resources available:*** *Limited in-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:***

**Goal 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.**

***Action 3.1:*** *Identify components needed for a Coastal Hazards OOS and assist with advocating for resources.*

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

***Partners:*** *Ron Rozsa, NERACOOS, MACOORA*
***Timing:*** *NERACOOS Collaboration and Planning workshop- May 2010; White Paper- Fall 2010*
***Resources available:*** *In-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:*** *TBD*

**Goal 4: Pilot Project – Methodology for Unified Coastline Data Layer.**

***Action 4.1*: Share methodology and lessons learned for** *developing a unified coastline data layer that will show an accurate mean high-water line for the state and can be used in GIS analysis.*

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

***Partners:*** *Pete Slovinsky, ME Geologic Survey*
***Timing:***
***Resources available:*** *In-kind agency resources*
***Resources needed:*** *TBD*

Committee Co-chairs: Julia Knisel, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management – State Co-chair; Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS and Adrianne Harrison, NOAA – Federal Co-chairs

## NROC Committee Updates: Ocean Energy Planning and Management

Goal: The planning, siting, authorization, and operation of coastal and ocean energy generating and distribution facilities should be made in accordance with a regional strategic context via improved coordination, communication and responsible stewardship of the public trust, so that these facilities help to meet the region's energy needs as part of a diverse portfolio of energy sources. (from Action Plan)

Revised Work Plan: To be distributed at the meeting.

Committee Co-chairs: Grover Fugate, RI Coastal Resource Management Council – State Co-chair; Ron Beck, USCG and Erin Trager, MMS – Federal Co-chairs

## NROC Action Plan Proposal

The Executive Committee proposes to create a well designed Action Plan document from the information provided by the committees. This process will not focus on a 5 year strategy or action planning process, but rather updating our existing priorities and creating a streamlined document that clearly identifies NROC's priorities and actions.

## Gulf of Maine Council Update

State of the Environment Report for Gulf of Maine Released: The Gulf of Maine Council released its State of the Gulf of Maine Report on June 9, 2010. The report is a modular, living document made up of a context document and a series of theme or issue papers. The context document, The Gulf of the Maine in Context, provides an introduction to the natural and socio-economic environment of the Gulf of Maine as well as an overview of the Gulf of Maine, particularly for those readers who are not familiar with the region. The theme papers provide a more in-depth look at important issues within the Gulf, based on priority areas identified by the Council. They will be developed incrementally during 2010 and 2011 and after that will be regularly updated at time intervals appropriate to each issue. The theme papers available are on the issues of Climate Change and its Effect on Humans; Climate Change and its Effect on Ecosystems, Habitats and Biota; Marine Invasive Species; and Emerging Issues. Additional theme papers are in progress. For more information, visit http://www.gulfofmaine.org/state-of-the-gulf/.

Action Planning Process: The Gulf of Maine Council has just initiated its 5-year Action Planning process. The working group has assembled a list of priorities for each jurisdiction and federal partners and will be reviewing how these priorities fit within their existing goal areas. The 2012-2017 Action Plan is expected to be complete by December 2011.