Northeast Federal Partners

Meeting Packet • February 17, 2010 • EPA, Boston

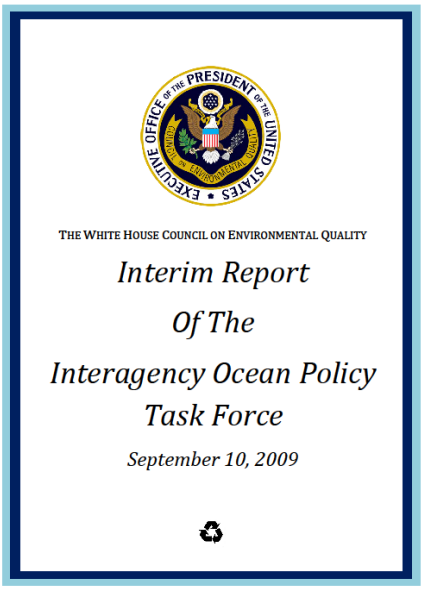
Directions to meeting location www.epa.gov/NE/directions/index.html
Meeting materials available at http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc

8:30 AM	**Arrive:** *Coffee and networking before the meeting (Go Green – Bring Your Own Mug)*
9:00 AM	**Welcome and Introductions** *Mel Coté, EPA*
9:15 AM	**Regional Discussion of the Ocean Policy Task Force & CMSP Framework** *Susan Russell-Robinson, DOI and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA* ▪ Overview of Interim Ocean Policy and draft CMSP Framework, share any new intel ▪ Regional implications of Policy and Framework: Federal Coordination ▪ Federal resources for framework implementation Outcome: Better define anticipated federal role in leading response to framework and what investments (in-kind, new money) we can expect to help lead effort. Identify challenges and best options for success. Materials: Interim Ocean Policy, Interim CMSP Framework [See page 2]
11:00 AM	**MARCO Update** *Donna Wieting, NOAA and David Russ, DOI* ▪ Agency representation in MARCO, future direction, anticipated federal investment, major differences from NROC
11:30 AM	**Structure for Regional Federal Coordination** *Bill Hubbard, ACOE, Ellen Mecray, NOAA, and Tim Gleason, EPA* ▪ Review of expanded issues for this group from October meeting ▪ Future of NE Federal Partners – review draft statement of common purpose ▪ 2010 chair rotation Outcome: Reach consensus on charge, membership, working groups, and interaction with Mid-Atlantic Materials: Discussion results from 9-30-09, draft statement of common purpose (handed out separately) [See page 3]
12:30 PM	**Networking Lunch:** *Bring your own or order lunch at the meeting.*
1:30 PM	**Regional Discussion on Climate: Establishing a Framework and Objectives** *Ellen Mecray, NOAA and Norm Willard, EPA* ▪ Pending policy changes for Federal coordination: MOU updates, legislation including role for OSTP ▪ Regional implications of a Climate Service ▪ Upcoming meeting for Fed Partners, states, and NGO's: Regional Priorities and Pilots (June 29-30) ▪ Potential climate collaboration project: Cape Cod Interagency Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change Pilot Project Outcome: Maintain momentum on interagency collaboration, plan together for June meeting to discuss priorities, pilots, and implementation resources Materials: Agency updates (emailed separately), Cape Cod Interagency Pilot Project [See page 5]
2:30 PM	**Federal Priorities** *Mel Coté, EPA* ▪ Discuss agency priorities for FY10 and FY11 ▪ Opportunities to match federal resources to regional priorities identified by NROC, NERACOOS, GOMC, and others ▪ Review NROC appropriations request and discuss opportunities to support internally Materials: NROC FY11 Appropriations request [See page 8]
3:30 PM	**Closing Business** *Mel Coté, EPA* ▪ Agree on future meeting date: June/July

3:45 PM	**Adjourn**

Federal Partner Meeting Materials (9:15)
Regional Discussion of the Ocean Policy Task Force and CMSP Framework

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.


THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

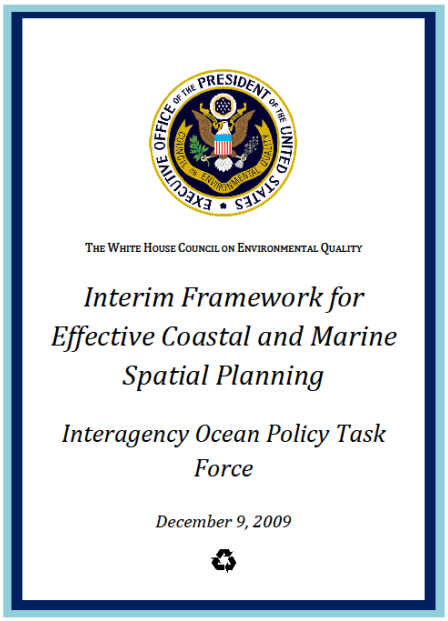
Interim Report

Of The

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

September 10, 2009

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.


THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

December 9, 2009

1. Discussion Results: Opportunities for Broadening Federal Partners Role and Support

Group Accomplishments and Value - what does this group want to have as its accomplishments; what is the value of bringing this group together; and how can we organize to increase value and achieve goals and accomplishments of interest.

- Value of bringing this group together –
  - Information sharing between and among key managers and leaders in NE
  - Building trust through face-to-face meetings and personal relationships
  - Improved communication and understanding of agency missions
  - Unified federal voice to deliver interagency response or perspective
  - Opportunities to leverage resources and research
  - Discover efficiencies and avoid duplication or surprises
  - Brings resource mission and regulatory agencies together
  - Future looking – can address emerging issues
  - Networking for out-of-box solutions and problem-solving
  - Coordinated responses to national requests
  - Better support for constituents

- Ways to increase value –
  - Float pre-pre applications for energy projects – find showstoppers – weigh in early – this could apply to many topics
  - Address emerging issues demanding regional response
  - Regional CMSP plans
  - Cross-cutting state issues i.e. offshore renewable
  - Climate change – adaptation
  - Regional water quality (coastal)
  - Invasive species/biodiversity
  - Water quality and quantity

Audience and Outlets - what are the primary groups or stakeholders that this group should engage and serve; do we need to expand this group to better engage/serve them; and how should we structure the group and meetings to do this

- Primary groups/stakeholders to engage/serve –
  - Regional councils (NROC, GOMC, MARCO, etc)
  - Championing existing regional groups
  - Engage emergency responders

- Structure needed to better engage/serve audience –
  - Know about assistance programs of NE feds – use ourselves, let our partners know
  - Federal guidance on regional scale – messaging on issues like climate
  - Technical coordination of data needs/standards/requirements
  - Avoid duplication of data collection
  - Data and information transfer mission through workshops
  - Model standards
  - Tie in transportation issues – pathways for invasives
  - Shared priorities

- Expand participation –
  - FEMA
  - HUD
  - DOD - Navy
  - DOT
  - FERC
  - NOAA Fisheries

- Other –
  - How to sustain NE federal partners
  - How to organize in workable sizes

1. Cape Cod Interagency Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change Pilot Project - Draft Scoping Document (January 7, 2010)

Overview

Proposed by members of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change, the Cape Cod Interagency Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change Pilot Project is a pilot project designed to bring together multiple federal agencies and local stakeholders to work towards a shared and practical future development strategy that reduces the region's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and accounts for climate change impacts in transportation and land use decision-making. The Cape Cod region was selected as the location for this pilot project due to its gateway communities; existing partnerships; presence of and special area of concern for several federal agencies;[1] myriad yet geographically-bounded transportation, land use, and economic development issues; coastal location; vulnerability to climate change; and interest in sustainability.

Project Goals

The goals of this pilot project are threefold:

1. Reduce future GHG emissions from the transportation sector
2. Estimate the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure, habitat, and various species
3. Develop a transportation-focused development strategy for climate change that accounts for both the estimated impacts of climate change and the goal to reduce future GHG emissions

Methodology

In light of these goals, a scenario planning process is believed to be the best approach for this pilot project. Since this project is a pilot, the project team will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using a scenario planning approach to attain the above goals. The following steps are proposed to be completed with the assistance of the Volpe Center, as directed by the planning group:

1. Bring all interested agencies together to form a planning group for this project. The planning group will help guide the project and will help identify local stakeholders that should be involved in the project. These stakeholders will be contacted early on in the project to solicit their input and involvement in subsequent project tasks. The project team will work with the planning group and stakeholders to obtain their commitment to implementing the results of this project.

2. Develop a GIS-based database for the region. This database will include all relevant base layers as well as layers for climate change impacts on infrastructure in terms of sea level rise (SLR) and estimated climate change impacts on various species (i.e., decrease or increase of extent of habitat) based on estimated SLR and seasonal temperature changes. With regard to this last layer(s), if this information does not currently exist, spatial analyses will need to be conducted.

3. Develop three to five future development scenarios. These scenarios will be based on regional demographic assumptions and projections. While the scenarios will focus on future

[1] These agencies include the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Defense (Otis Air National Guard Base).

transportation infrastructure and characteristics (i.e., number of projected trips, including tourism traffic), the project team will also identify areas slated for future development (i.e., the construction of buildings). The scenarios should include a base case scenario with the status quo projected forward, an aggressive development scenario, and a development scenario that focuses on sustainability and livability. Stakeholders will be asked to provide input in the development of these scenarios, likely in a group workshop setting.

4. Select a scenario planning tool to model the various development scenarios. Scenario planning tools include CommunityViz, MetroQuest, and INDEX Software. The planning group will provide input on whether multiple climate change scenarios or one “average” or “most likely” climate change scenario should be modeled vis-à-vis the development scenarios.

5. Run the development scenarios through the scenario planning tool and analyze the results. Each development scenario will perform differently given the climate change assumptions/estimates that are used as inputs in the scenario planning tool. The project team will compare results among the development scenarios in line with criteria that will be developed based on input provided and prioritized by the planning group. At a minimum, this criteria should include change in GHG emissions, change in extent of habitat, and vulnerability of transportation infrastructure to SLR. Other criteria may include energy, air pollution, water, and waste reduction targets; sustainability, livability, and economic development measures; and order of magnitude costs.

6. Present the results of the analysis to the planning group and stakeholders. Based on their input, the project team will determine if it is necessary to combine or alter any of the development scenarios to maximize the feasibility and benefits of the final recommended development strategy. If necessary, the project team will run the analysis again on the altered development scenario(s).

7. Work with the planning group to identify concrete next steps based on the final development scenario. These next steps will involve how to best incorporate the project results and final development scenario into each agency’s project proposals and short- and long-range development plans. This last step of the project will help ensure the final development scenario will ultimately be implemented.

Deliverables

- Formation of planning group
- GIS-based maps showing climate change impacts on future development scenarios
- Stakeholder workshop(s)
- Scenario planning analysis results
- Report summarizing the project, methodology, and results, and recommendations
- Memo summarizing lessons learned from the development and implementation of the pilot and recommendations for future pilots/phases

Role of Planning Group

Task	Role
General	Guide the project
1	Identify local stakeholders that should be involved in the project
	Obtain necessary level of commitment to pursuing and implementing project outcomes
2	Provide relevant GIS data/layers
3	Participate in workshop to define future development scenarios
4	Assist in selecting a scenario planning tool
5	Provide input on whether multiple climate change scenarios or one “average” or “most likely” climate change scenario should be modeled
	Assist in developing and prioritizing criteria to be used in analyzing results of the scenario planning process
6	Determine if it is necessary to combine or alter any of the development scenarios and run the analysis again
	Agree to scenario to be used for identifying commitments and next steps
7	Identify concrete next steps based on the final development scenario
	Work with state and local stakeholders to implement agreed upon commitments
Deliverables	Review and provide input on draft report and memo

1. FY11 NROC Appropriations Request

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.