



Federal Partners Agenda • October 28, 2008 • Mariners House, Boston, MA

8:30 AM	Refreshments
8:45 AM	Welcome and Introductions <i>Dave Russ, DOI-USGS, Vice-chair of NROC</i>
8:50 AM	Agency Round Robin Each agency will have 3 minutes to highlight current or upcoming activities that are related to NROC issue areas – Ocean and Ecosystem Health, Ocean Energy Planning, and Coastal Hazards Resilience.
9:45 AM	<p>Federal Coordination around Regional Climate Change <i>Mel Coté, EPA</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations to fill gaps through knowledge acquisition (research and monitoring), mitigation, and adaptation. ▪ Determine need for federal interagency workshop on regional climate coordination (e.g. Southeast meeting) <p><u>Content:</u> The first working session to begin coordinating federal climate activities in the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify what each agency is doing in relation to climate change research and response ▪ Review issues and knowledge gaps that have been identified by NROC ▪ Identify opportunities to fill gaps through knowledge acquisition (research and monitoring), mitigation, and adaptation – emphasis on existing federal programs and initiatives. ▪ Discuss need for additional workshop on federal (and/or state) regional climate coordination (e.g. Southeast meeting) <p><i>Materials: Inventory of Federal Climate Activities in the Northeast [See EXCEL attachment Federal Climate Matrix]; Southeastern Natural Resources Leadership Group Regional Climate Change Meeting Agenda [See PDF attachment SE Natural Resources Leadership]</i></p>
11:15 AM	<p>Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance through the new Administration <i>Dave Russ, DOI-USGS</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List of opportunities for NROC federal partners and state partners to highlight ROG to the next administration <p><u>Content:</u> The purpose of this session is to discuss opportunities and mechanisms for communicating the importance of regional ocean governance efforts such as NROC to the new administration.</p> <p><i>Materials: NROC Letter to New Administration (DRAFT) [Page 3]</i></p>
12:00 PM	Lunch at Mariners House Please feel free to bring your own lunch or \$5 for boxed lunch provided by the Mariners House.



12:45 PM	<p>Massachusetts Oceans Act <i>Leslie-Ann McGee, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i> <i>Greg Watson, MA Office of Energy and Environment Affairs</i> <i>Stephanie Moura, Massachusetts Ocean Partnership Fund</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss opportunities for federal partners to engage <p><u>Content:</u> NROC's Massachusetts representatives will provide an overview of Massachusetts Oceans Act and the associated deliverables and timeline. Additionally, the Massachusetts Ocean Partnership will provide an overview of its role in assisting the state with the Mass Oceans Act.</p> <p><i>Materials: Summary of the Mass Oceans Act [Page 4]; MOP Summary [Page 6]</i></p>
1:30 PM	<p>Farm Bill Update <i>Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, USDA-NRCS</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify common interests between USDA-NRCS and NROC priority actions <p><u>Content:</u> USDA will provide an overview of the focus areas in the farm bill and programs or projects that will result from language in the new bill. Specifically, USDA will discuss regional programs and funding opportunities that align with NROC interests.</p>
2:00 PM	<p>Federal Partner Support for NROC <i>Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reaction to Committee priority actions ▪ Identify opportunities for 2009 federal support including committee membership, existing project/initiative overlap, and funding (inkind and direct) resources <p><u>Content:</u> The purpose of this session is to outline the federal support provided in FY08 and discuss opportunities for federal support in FY09 and FY10. The federal partners will review the priority actions from NROC Committees and discuss state expectations for federal support.</p> <p><i>Materials: Outline of 08 federal support/commitments (distributed at the meeting)</i></p>
3:20PM	<p>Closing Business <i>Dave Russ, DOI – Council Vice-Chair</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review action items and next steps ▪ Meeting preferences and schedule
3:30 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>

Information only items:
NROC Progress Report [Page 7]
StormSmart Coast Network [Page 10]
NROC Climate Statement (DRAFT) [Page 11]



NROC Letter to New Administration (DRAFT)
Submitted by Susan Russell-Robinson

Re: New England regional alliance for ocean and coastal issues

Dear [name]:

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), the U.S. arm of the Ocean Working Committee of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP), is a regional state alliance focused on three mutually-identified areas of concern, namely 1) coastal hazards resilience, 2) ocean and ecosystem health and 3) ocean energy resources. NROC is well positioned to integrate regional activities, foster information sharing, and leverage our partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, US Coast Guard, and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

New England has a long history of using coastal and ocean resources. With declining fisheries, influxes of contaminants and sediments from watersheds to coastal areas, need for new sources of energy, and stressful impacts of sea level rise on our human and ecological communities, planners, decisionmakers, business owners and homeowners are faced with many difficult choices. NROC works to bring to these people the best management practices and the best available science. NROC convenes workshops, fosters integration of state and federal work plans to be cost effective and efficient, and networks with other regional entities, such as The Nature Conservancy, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability. Additionally, members of the NROC team work closely with our Canadian counterparts on transboundary issues.

NROC has set forth an ambitious work plan for 2009. Success depends upon the support NROC receives from both state and federal programs. I would like to meet with you or your representative at your earliest convenience to discuss NROC's accomplishments and plans for future activities. Please contact me at [email address] or call [telephone number].

Sincerely yours.

[name]

Attachment
(1) NROC Action Plan



Mass Oceans Act: Overview and Public Participation Process
Submitted by Leslie-Ann McGee

The Bay State's 1,500-mile coastline and rich ocean waters have shaped our history, economy, and cultural identity. Historically, the ocean has supported recreational activity and tourism, fishing and shellfishing, shipping and trade, scientific research, and many other endeavors. More recent ocean uses in Massachusetts include aquaculture, liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities, and high-speed ferries—and with energy and related environmental challenges facing the state and the nation, we are now looking to the ocean as a source of sustainable energy.

Until recently, management of ocean resources has been piecemeal—not only in Massachusetts, but nationwide. Now the tide is turning. On May 28, 2008, Governor Deval Patrick signed the Oceans Act of 2008, which requires the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop a comprehensive ocean management plan, following a scientific and public stakeholder process that leads to a draft plan by summer of 2009, and the final promulgation of the plan by December 31, 2009. Key elements of the Oceans Act include:

- **Comprehensive management of Massachusetts waters** – For the first time in any state, comprehensive science-based planning will be used to ensure long-term protection and sustainable use of ocean resources;
- **Ocean Advisory Commission and Science Advisory Council** – A 17-member commission will advise the Secretary as the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) develops the ocean plan. The commission includes state legislators, agency heads, commercial fishing, environmental, and renewable energy representatives, and coastal regional planning agencies. A nine-member Science Advisory Council will assist the Secretary in developing environmental, economic and social baseline data, and will help develop a foundation for long-term, science-based ocean management;
- **Appropriately scaled renewable energy** – The Ocean Sanctuaries Act is amended to allow offshore renewable energy facilities of “appropriate scale” in state waters, except for the Cape Cod Ocean Sanctuary (offshore from the Cape Cod National Seashore on the Outer Cape), provided that facilities are consistent with the ocean plan; and
- **Fisheries management jurisdiction** – The Oceans Act directs that commercial and recreational fishing remain allowed uses in state waters, and maintains exclusive jurisdiction over fisheries regulation with the Division of Marine Fisheries.

The Oceans Act requires the plan to have a spatial component: that is, the plan must identify areas suitable for uses, activities, conservation, and protection and related management (regulatory) measures intended to implement the plan. In terms of implementation, state agency actions—including the issuance of permits, licenses, and other regulatory approvals—are required to be consistent with the plan to the maximum extent practicable. The Oceans Act requires that the plan be publicly reviewed at least once every five years.

The Oceans Act sets out fifteen statements of principle for the plan by stating that the plan shall:

1. set forth the Commonwealth's goals, siting priorities and standards for ensuring effective stewardship of its ocean waters held in trust for the benefit of the public;
2. adhere to sound management practices, taking into account the existing natural, social, cultural, historic and economic characteristics of the planning areas;
3. preserve and protect the public trust;
4. reflect the importance of the waters of the Commonwealth to its citizens who derive livelihoods and recreational benefits from fishing;
5. value biodiversity and ecosystem health;
6. identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats;
7. address climate change and sea-level rise;



8. respect the interdependence of ecosystems;
9. coordinate uses that include international, federal, state and local jurisdictions;
10. foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of the ocean;
11. preserve and enhance public access;
12. support the infrastructure necessary to sustain the economy and quality of life for the citizens of the commonwealth;
13. encourage public participation in decision-making;
14. adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the ocean environment; and
15. identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses and facilities allowed in Ocean Sanctuaries.

Such statements of principle frame the goals of the plan and will, as informed by the public input process, help guide development of the plan. What we would like to hear from you is how you think the plan should achieve these goals.

Over the next few months, EEA will be collecting the scientific, public comment, and planning information – the raw materials – needed to begin developing a draft ocean plan. To that end:

- Work groups will acquire and analyze existing data and information regarding ocean resources in subject areas that include habitat, fishery resources, renewable energy, sediment management, recreational, cultural and historic resources, and navigation and infrastructure;
- Public comment meetings will be held in coastal and inland communities;
- The Ocean Advisory Commission will review public comment and draft planning materials developed by EEA; and
- The Science Advisory Council will identify data and assist in developing the short- and long-term science baseline of the ocean plan.

To review the Oceans Act, see more detailed planning materials, submit comments by e-mail, sign up to receive e-mail notices of ongoing planning activities, and view video recordings of each public comment meeting, please go to the following links:

- www.mass.gov/eoeea for the EEA ocean planning home page, background material, public meeting schedule, and other information. This page will be periodically updated.
- http://www.mass.gov/czm/oceanmanagement/oceans_act/index.htm for the text of the Oceans Act and related materials.
- To get on EEA's mailing list for the ocean plan, and for direct notice of public meetings, please email: join-env-oceanplan@listserv.state.ma.us.



Mass Ocean Partnership
Background material adapted from the MOP website

The Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP) is a broadly representative, independent public-private partnership created specifically to advance ecosystem-based integrated multi-use management of the Commonwealth's coastal ocean waters. MOP ultimately aims to promote healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems and thriving, sustainable marine dependent communities, industries and businesses through implementation of the goals and objectives outlined in their five year strategic plan.

MOP has a primary goal to support the development and implementation of an integrated multi-use ocean management plan for MA waters as soon as possible. The three strategies MOP will use to accomplish this goal are:

1. Become a leading-edge and visionary public-private institution with a strong and enduring presence driving the development and implementation of effective integrated multi-use ocean management in Massachusetts.
2. Develop and improve the natural and social scientific understanding necessary to do effective integrated multi-use ocean management, and advance the integration of that science and management decision making processes.
3. Expand stakeholder understanding of integrated multi-use ocean management issues to increase effectiveness and durability of a plan.

MOP will work to accomplish several objectives and actions for each of these three strategies. Those objectives are outlined below. As the partnership transitions from planning into start-up, an important first step will be to develop a detailed work plan that outlines specific time frames and resource requirements for implementation.

Additional information on MOP can be found at www.massoceanpartnership.org.



2008 Work Plan: Progress Report
Submitted by Ron Rozsa

This Progress Report will report on 1) progress on Councils General workplan and 2) the progress report of the individual Standing Committees. The Councils General Workplan contained the following five tasks:

Work Plan Update: Ensure support for NROC

The Executive Committee (state members only) drafted an appropriation request and sent the request to Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the House and Senate requesting one-million dollars to implement the Council's Ocean Action Plan. It was decided to have the request originate from the State EC Chair rather than have the individual Governors sign the letter as was the approach in 2007. Some council members made contact with their state delegates to support this request. Council members offered various opinions on how to approach an appropriations request and so the EC directed the Communications Committee to refine the approach for an appropriation request by October 2008.

Status: Complete.

Work Plan Update: Action Plan Implementation

Guidelines for workplans have been developed. The Council is still evaluating the need for work on Maritime Security. The remaining 3 Standing Committees have met to discuss committee organization and workplan activities. The Committees will make presentation at the Fall 2008 workshop to update the council on committee structure and workplans.

Status: Committees are on schedule to present draft workplans by the fall meeting and be ready to submit workplans and implementation plans to the Council at the January 2009 meeting.

Work Plan Update: Develop and Implement a Communication and Outreach Strategy

The Executive Committee created a Communication and Outreach Committee to work on this task.

Progress: As part of the strategy to brand NROC materials, a new logo was selected from designs submitted by Massachusetts, Connecticut and NOAA.



To facilitate better internal and external communication, the NOAA Coastal Services Center prepared a publicly accessible website. This is a framework on which the Standing Committees can post documents and make links to other organizations and regional events.

<http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc/>

Please use the site and provide comments on features you like, features that should be added, and improvements you suggest.



The Committee was asked by the Executive Committee to draft a transition letter that NROC could send to the new administration or adapt for communication with the Governors. NROC members are asked to review this letter and provide the committee with comments. For the rest of 2008, the Communications Committee will:

- Hold a telecon of the full Communications Team comprised of three Working Groups – by November 7, 2008
- Populate the NROC Web Pages. Provide the Standing Committees with web posting instructions. Continue evaluation of usability of the information architecture of the site. – ongoing
- Finalize a Transition Letter – November 14, 2008.
- Write news releases for the Coastal Hazards Workshop to be held November 19 and 20, 2008.
- Identify a liaison from each of the Standing Committees – November 21, 2008.

Work Plan Update: Scope the need and requirements of an ocean atlas for the northeast.

An ad hoc committee is being lead by NOAA and CT DEP. There will be a conference call before the October council meeting with representatives from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Ecosystems Program, The Nature Conservancy and others to assess the feasibility of developing a Northeast Atlas. The committee expects to have defined the purpose and basic components of an atlas as well as identifying an implementation approach and initial federal and state partners needed to support the initiative.

Progress: The committee expects to make a presentation to the EC before the end of the year and expect that the EC will make its recommendation to the Council at the January 09 meeting.

Standing Committee Update: Coastal Hazards Resilience

This committee had an organizational meeting in January and developed a strawman workplan in April. A terms of reference document has been created and in the summer discussions continued on the workplan and composition of a committee. It is the CHSC's goal to have a representative from each state on the committee to act as a liaison to the key state agencies that should review and contribute to the workplan and products. It is expected that work on individual tasks will be done through the creation of Working Groups. This is a model that has worked well for the NEGC Steering Committees.

The NEGC/ECP had requested through the Climate Change Steering Committee to hold an adaptation workshop in Canada and New England. The New England workshop was held in Boston on May 30th. Julia Knissel from Massachusetts CZM and Ron Rozsa from CT DEP attended the workshop and also provided technical support to ICLEI in the conduct of the pm work session on Coastal Hazards. The CHSC is preparing a summary of this meeting with recommendations to the council.

CT DEP proposed a pilot project consisting of extracting surge data for Connecticut that the Corps of Engineers had compiled for New England (Tidal Flood Profiles). Bill Hubbard had staff scan the documents and maps and CT's coastal fellow entered the surge data from the 1938 and 1954 hurricanes into a GIS coverage and database. The University of Connecticut will be assessing the value of these data for modeling surge. A report will be produced by the end of the year with recommendations as to whether the remaining surge data should be extracted for use by hazard managers and modelers.

Standing Committee Update: Ocean Energy Planning and Management

This committee held two conference calls and one meeting to develop strawman work plan. The committee co-leads solicited participation from state and federal agencies.

The committee also organized a web demonstration of the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, a alternative energy planning tool developed by the Minerals Management Service and NOAA.

Standing Committee Update: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health



This committee held two organizational meetings, one in March and one in August. Four focus areas with Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health were identified by meeting participants:

- Existing nutrient criteria, dredging, and habitat restoration efforts,
- Research and monitoring of climate change, over-enrichment of coastal waters, and cumulative effect of habitat loss and degradation,
- Data collection and dissemination in support of project review and permitting, and
- Ecosystem-based management initiatives

These four areas provided the framework for the draft strawman work plan.



StormSmart Coasts Network Coming to the Northeast *Submitted by Wes Shaw*

WHAT IS THE STORMSMART COASTS NETWORK?

The StormSmart Coasts Network (Network) is a new federal/state/local partnership focused on fostering collaborative efforts to help coastal municipal officials address the challenges arising from storms, flooding, sea level rise, and climate change. To maximize efficiency, the Network follows a five-step approach:

- 1) *Gather* the best available information on community hazard resiliency.
- 2) *Adapt* existing resources to best suit local officials.
- 3) *Create* critical new materials when none exist.
- 4) *Deliver* information to local officials.
- 5) *Enable increased collaboration* between all levels of government and among municipalities.



STORMSMART COASTS STATE AND REGIONAL WEBSITES

We are currently creating a series of regional and state websites that tie into a national network. In addition to housing information on what communities can do before, during and after storm events (with links to the best available materials), these websites will allow active participation by local officials; for example, discussion forums, and submitting and answering of questions. Because it would be impossible for any individual or organization to keep abreast of all the new information available on resiliency, the sites will allow users to post materials, links to websites, and events to ensure that all users may benefit. Users will be able to search not only their state's site, but the entire StormSmart Coasts Network. State and regional partners will continue to work directly with coastal communities to assist them with guidance and technical assistance.

SCOPE

The Network, which builds upon the on-going successes of the Massachusetts StormSmart Coasts program (mass.gov/czm/stormsmart), is currently expanding to the five states along the Gulf of Mexico and the remaining four coastal states of New England. Both of these regions' StormSmart Coasts Networks are targeted to be active by the summer of 2009. If additional funding is secured, the program aims to quickly expand to the remaining US coastal states.

PARTNERS

The Network is currently working closely with the NOAA Coastal Services Center, and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and is hoping to partner with the Northeast Regional Oceans Council. At the state level, we continue to collaborate with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management as well as other Massachusetts agencies, and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the StormSmart Coasts Network, please contact:

Wes Shaw

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NROC Statement on Climate Change (DRAFT)
Submitted by David Russ

Pending

Additional regional climate resources:

[NEG/ECP Climate Change Steering Committee Activities and Work Plan](#), 9/16/2008.

[NEG/ECP Resolution Concerning Climate Change Adaptation](#) (32-5), 9/16/2008