



August 19, 2009

Ms. Caitlin Simpson, RISA Program Director  
NOAA's Climate Program Office  
1315 East West Highway, 12th Floor  
Silver Spring MD 20910

Subject: Northeast Regional Ocean Council support for New England RISA

Dear Ms. Simpson,

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) recognizes the value of a Regional Integrated Science and Assessments (RISA) program and strongly encourages the selection of a proposal that considers New England's priority coastal and ocean climate-sensitive issues. Climate impacts to the coastal and ocean ecosystems and the region's economy such as sea-level rise, coastal flooding, and inundation continue to be a focus of both NROC's Coastal Hazards Resilience and Ecosystem Health committees. NROC understands the need to accelerate research on the role of coasts and oceans in mitigating and adapting to these impacts and will look to the RISA to conduct research in support of critical management decisions.

NROC would like to take this opportunity to endorse proposals that advance regional partnerships and have strong linkages between research and management. NROC has identified four key elements for your consideration in the selection of a RISA for New England:

- Commitment to collaborating with regional institutions such as NROC, the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC), and the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) to assess climate needs in the region;
- Commitment to research grounded in priority management needs and applications;
- Research focused on developing coastal adaptation strategies and building regional resilience; and
- Climate impact assessments developed at the regional and watershed-scale to support policy decisions related to sea-level rise and inland or coastal flooding.

As NROC's current state and federal co-chairs, we thank you for this opportunity to articulate the region's request for a RISA program. NROC is a committed partner in the development of regional climate adaptation strategies.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Leyden, 2009 State Chair  
Maine Coastal Program

Mel Coté, 2009 Federal Chair  
US EPA, Region 1