



## Meeting Materials • February 3, 2011 • Web Conference

Conference Line: 877-680-1673 & Passcode: 1993954

WebEx Link: <http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=744921075&p=4927573&t=c>

NROC Website: <http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc>

9:00 AM	<b><u>Welcome &amp; Introductions</u></b> <i>Ted Diers, NH and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i>
9:15 AM	<b><u>CMSP Update</u></b> <i>John Weber, MA and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i>  Continue dialogue on national and regional CMSP activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ National Update: National and Regional Workshops, Governance Coordinating Committee, Regional Planning Body formation, Budget</li><li>▪ NE Regional Data Portal Demo, Nick Napoli, MA Ocean Partnership</li><li>▪ Regional Momentum and Next Steps: NROC-RPB relationship, funding opportunities, CMSP Managing Director</li></ul> <i>Materials: NE Regional Data Portal Update [p. 2]; CMSP Managing Director position description [p. 3]</i>
10:30 AM	<b><u>FY12 Appropriations Efforts</u></b> <i>Kathleen Leyden, ME and Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS</i>  Overview of FY12 Appropriations efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ CSO Regional Ocean Partnership request</li><li>▪ Outline NROC funding and resource needs to bring to federal agencies and Congressional representatives</li><li>▪ Discuss outreach to Congressional representatives</li></ul>
11:15 AM	<b><u>NROC Business</u></b> <i>Ted Diers, NH and Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sea Grant Consortium-NROC MOU: Approval request – Ted Diers, NH</li><li>▪ New England Federal Partners Update: Statement of Common Purpose; Tribal engagement update – Betsy Nicholson, NOAA</li><li>▪ Next Meeting: Select timeframe for next meeting; solicit agenda items – Ted Diers, NH</li></ul> <i>Materials: Draft NROC-SG MOU [p. 5]</i>
11:45 AM	<b><u>Partner Dialogue</u></b> Provide partners with opportunity to ask questions and highlight collaboration opportunities.
12:00 PM	<b><u>Adjourn</u></b>

### Northeast Data Portal Update

Submitted by Nick Napoli, Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

The Northeast Ocean Data Portal is being developed through a collaboration between NROC and the Northeast Ocean Data Portal Working Group. This over \$500,000 effort is currently entirely funded by the Working Group, which is composed of the following organizations: Applied Science Associates, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Massachusetts Ocean Partnership, Northeastern [Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems](#), NOAA's Coastal Services Center, and The Nature Conservancy. The Working Group's progress to date includes:

- the identification of regional CMSP data priorities, developed through interviews with NROC membership and a review of recent planning documents;
- the development of draft scoping documents that characterize the availability of information for each CMSP data priority and budget considerations for improving regional CMSP data products;
- the development of a draft web site for access to data, tools, and communications materials; and
- the development of a prototype online viewer to provide simple access to and visualization of regional maps and datasets.

The Working Group also recently briefed The National Ocean Council's CMSP Data Portal Working Group and participated in coordination meetings with similar efforts in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Working Group is currently finalizing a work plan to guide ongoing efforts, including the release and continued development of the web site, data and map viewer, regional data products to support CMSP, and communication materials. This presentation will include an overview of Working Group's efforts to date, key future milestones, and a demonstration of draft products.

## **CMSP Managing Director Update and Position Description**

Submitted by Betsy Nicholson, NOAA

**Update:** Applications were due on January 26, 2011. A selection committee has been created to review applications and interview candidates. The committee anticipates announcing the new managing director by the end of February.

**Position Description:** The director will be tasked with playing a critical support and coordinating role to the NROC/regional planning body to make significant progress on several critical activities. The director will work closely with NROC's Marine Spatial Planning Strategy Team to develop a work plan upon hiring. The availability of federal funds will significantly inform this work plan, which will include scalable elements of the items outlined below. Should federal funding not be awarded for this work, the director's focus will be to maintain significant momentum on advancing the preliminary steps of CMSP in the Northeast.

1. Assist in supporting a NROC-affiliated regional planning body (RPB) to lead CMSP efforts in the Northeast. This will include:
  - a. Assist with formation of the New England RPB (e.g., communication and logistics), including defining the governance and operational relationship between NROC and the RPB; assist in planning and executing the first meeting of the RPB, anticipated in spring 2011.
  - b. Assist NROC/RPB with design and execution of a New England regional workshop per the final recommendations to occur in summer 2011.
  - c. Investigate mechanisms for funding of CMSP planning and implementation. These may include options for implementation priorities whether federal funding is, or is not, awarded to the Northeast, as well as private and alternative funding mechanisms.
  - d. Help represent the Northeast CMSP leadership to the National Ocean Council, federal agencies and other regions (particularly Mid-Atlantic and West Coast) in reporting on and discussing progress.
2. Provide program management oversight for NROC/RPB-led regional CMSP efforts, including development and management of third party contracts administered through the fiscal sponsor.
3. Assist in the design of a stakeholder and "user community" outreach, communications and participation effort, initially to refine and finalize the goals and vision for the NROC CMSP, as drafted in November 2010, and to continue throughout the term of the planning process. The process will include both regional level outreach and efforts in individual states, employing interactive face-to-face meetings and Internet technology to maximize participation. Special emphasis may be placed on outreach to specific user groups deemed critical to the success of this effort (e.g., commercial and recreational fishermen, energy sector) to bring them to the table in a meaningful way.
4. Work with the NROC/RPB to design the process, milestones and metrics necessary to begin work on critical, early elements of the Northeast CMS Plan, such as:
  - a. NE regional data portal: Help serve as a liaison between management, data communities and National Ocean Council contacts to build on existing regional efforts and enable the NE regional data portal group to compile/analyze existing data, implement a data delivery portal and enhance existing data through the creation of new data products that are critical to informing and supporting CMSP.
  - b. Regional Assessment: Mobilize regional experts to assist NROC/RPB in completing a baseline characterization to provide a comprehensive overview of the ecological, social, and economic characteristics of the planning area. Models and tools to examine future use/management scenarios will be investigated for application in the planning area (e.g., MIMES/MIDAS, Invest). Special emphasis will be placed on developing methods to characterize the region's habitats, building upon existing efforts and methodology. It is anticipated that sub-regions or special areas of focus within the larger planning area may emerge as the baseline characterization is vetted with scientific advisors and stakeholders.

- c. Identifying Significant Areas: Develop a process to enable NROC/RPB and partners to eventually define and represent “ecologically significant” areas and “human use areas” in the Northeast. Work with regional experts to investigate existing decision-making tools (MARXAN, Marine Map, etc.), methodology used in other areas, and determine of their utility for use in the Northeast. Once the methodology is defined, a significant stakeholder outreach component will need to ensure that stakeholders understand the approach being considered to identify spatial areas.
- d. Regulatory Context: Organize the legal/governance capacity in the region to consider regulatory and non-regulatory approaches for the eventual implementation of the NROC marine spatial plan.

## NROC-Northeast Sea Grant Consortium MOU

Submitted by NROC Executive Committee

### Memorandum of Understanding

Northeast Regional Ocean Council &  
Northeast Sea Grant Consortium  
January 2011

#### Parties

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) is a state and federal partnership with the goal of engaging in regional protection and balanced use of ocean and coastal resources. NROC's coordinated approach reaches across state boundaries from Maine to Connecticut to find and implement solutions to the region's most pressing ocean and coastal issues.

The Northeast Sea Grant Consortium (NESGC) is a cooperative agreement among the Northeast Sea Grant College Programs (Maine, New Hampshire, MIT, Woods Hole, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York) to coordinate research, education, outreach and diversity programming to address problems, opportunities, and work force development in the Northeast region. It supports regional research from the Gulf of Maine Regional Ocean Science Initiative (GOM ROSI) and the Greater New York Bight Regional Ocean Science Planning Initiative (GNYB ROSPI) as well as other appropriate projects, thereby facilitating and enhancing regional scale efforts. The NESGC works closely with the region's scientists in academia, and in the independent and private sectors, and is committed to supporting focused applied research intended to address timely and relevant management issues.

#### Overview

Our organizations have a shared interest in providing scientific information to support the wise management of coastal and ocean resources for the benefit of current and future generations. We recognize the value of adopting an ecosystem-based management approach to sustain a healthy and resilient Gulf of Maine and Southern New England ecosystems. We share a commitment to facilitating regional collaboration to support scientific, social, and economic studies that address timely societal issues and contribute to the advancement of coastal and marine spatial planning for the region, and to support research and technology development initiatives that directly respond to coastal and ocean management imperatives.

#### Methods of collaboration

In general, our respective organizations understand the similarities in our missions and will work cooperatively to implement them. We commit to substantive and ongoing dialogue. We will be mutually supportive, responsive to requests for assistance and will solicit advice from each other as needed. More specifically, our organizations agree to partner on the following:

1. Coordinated Research Prioritization – As NROC prepares its annual work plan and periodic action plans, it will request that the NESGC propose a set of research priorities in each of the NROC priority areas -- Healthy Ocean Ecosystems, Balanced Ocean Energy Development, Storm-Resilient Coastal Communities and Advancing Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. In addition, each organization in preparing and/or updating its long-range research priorities statements will consult with the other to optimize the use of available resources for research.
2. Committee and Board Activities -- Our organizations have shared priorities in two major program areas -- healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems, and climate change activities (the economic, social and environmental effects of a changing climate). NROC committee co-chairs will reach out to NESGC for members to serve on committees related to these program areas. NROC will help NESGC to identify potential members for its Advisory Board. On an annual basis, the organizations will assess their planned activities in climate change issues and adaptation, ocean ecosystem health, areas related to human health, and coastal and marine spatial

planning in order to identify points of contact for purposes of maintaining communication and sharing information and lessons learned. Further, if needed by NESGC, NROC will assist the Board of Directors in crafting regional requests for Sea Grant funding and provide relevancy review of proposals.

3. Joint Projects – subject to available funding, the NESGC and NROC will jointly support research and outreach projects of shared interest that are identified during the development of each organization’s annual work plans.
4. Progress Reports – The NESGC and NROC will add a section to action plans and annual reports on progress in implementing this MOU and make suggestions for other collaboration opportunities.
5. Fund Development and Management – When appropriate, the NESGC and NROC will work cooperatively on Congressional and other funding requests to ensure an integrated, seamless approach. In addition, the NESGC is willing to assist NROC by receiving, disbursing and accounting for funds that organization receives in support of research projects.

Duration and termination of Agreement

The duration of this MoU will be for one year with automatic renewal unless specifically cancelled. Termination of the agreement may be initiated by either party in writing with a notice period of 30 days.

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Northeast Regional Ocean Council

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Date

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Northeast Sea Grant Consortium

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