



Meeting Agenda • October 27, 2008 • Mariners House in Boston, MA

9:00 AM	Refreshments
9:15 AM	Welcome & Introductions <i>Brian Thompson, Connecticut & Dave Russ, DOI – Council Chair and Vice-chair</i>
9:20 AM	<p>Consent Agenda <i>Brian Thompson, Connecticut - Chair</i></p> <p>Consent agenda items are intended to provide Council members with updates on NROC activities (information only). The Chair will summarize each item and ask Council members to accept each item 'as is' or remove an item for further discussion. <i>Please review items before the meeting.</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accept or pull for further discussion <p><u>Content:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NROC May 1, 2008 meeting minutes [Page 4] ▪ 2008 Progress Report [Page 10] ▪ NEGC September Meeting update (Information Only) [Page 13] ▪ StormSmart Coasts Network (Information Only) [Page 14] (5 minute presentation) ▪ Summary of regional ocean governance efforts (Information Only) [Page 15]
9:35 AM	<p>Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee Report <i>Leslie-Ann McGee, Massachusetts and Mel Coté, EPA</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approve Committee recommendations for 2009 priority actions. <p><u>Content:</u> The Committee leads will provide an update on progress to date including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft 2009 work plan items including deliverables, partners, and resources ▪ Recommendations for priority actions <p><i>Materials: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee Work Plan [Page 18]</i></p>
10:35 AM	<p>Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee Report <i>Ron Rozsa, Connecticut, Susan Russell Robinson, USGS and Adrienne Harrison, NOAA</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approve Committee recommendations for 2009 priority actions. <p><u>Content:</u> The Committee leads will provide an update on progress to date including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft 2009 work plan items including deliverables, partners, and resources ▪ Recommendations for priority actions <p><i>Materials: Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee Work Plan [Page 26]</i></p>
11:15 AM	<p>Ocean Energy Planning and Management Committee Report <i>Ames Colt, RI and Ron Beck, USCG</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approve Committee recommendations for 2009 priority actions. <p><u>Content:</u> The Committee leads will provide an update on progress to date including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft 2009 work plan items including deliverables, partners, and resources ▪ Recommendations for priority actions <p><i>Materials: Ocean Energy Planning and Management Committee Work Plan [Page 29]</i></p>
12:00 PM	<p>Lunch at Mariners House Please feel free to bring your own lunch or \$5 for boxed lunch provided by the Mariners House.</p>



12:45 PM	<p>Review Priority Actions <i>David Keeley, Contractor</i></p> <p><u>Content:</u> Review and confirm decisions and recommendations from morning sessions. These priority actions will become the basis for NROC's 2009 work plan.</p>
1:00 PM	<p>Communications and Outreach Committee <i>Susan Russell Robinson, USGS</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on NROC website ▪ Approve NROC letter to new administration <p><u>Content:</u> The Communications and Outreach Committee will provide a demonstration of the new website and discuss opportunities for posting information. The Council will be asked to provide feedback on the types of information and documents that they would like the public to have access to. The Communications and Outreach Committee will also provide an overview of their purpose and the anticipated tasks for 2009 including communicating with governors and the new administration.</p> <p><i>Materials: Communications and Outreach Committee Terms of Reference [Page 33], Draft letter to new administration [Page 34]</i></p>
1:20 PM	<p>Appropriations Committee <i>Kathleen Leyden, ME</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approve appropriations request <p><u>Content:</u> The draft appropriations request and strategy for communicating with state delegations.</p> <p><i>Materials: Appropriations update [to be distributed at the meeting]</i></p>
1:45 PM	<p>ROG in the face of the changing Administration <i>Chris Kearny, DOI and SIMOR co-chair</i> <i>Terry Holman, DOI</i></p>
2:00 PM	<p>NROC Activities and Perspectives in Climate Change <i>David Russ, USGS</i></p> <p><u>Desired decision(s) or other outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adopt NROC statement on climate change <p><u>Content:</u> NROC is currently addressing elements of climate change in its existing priority issues. Additionally, many NROC partners are engaged in regional climate change initiatives and efforts. The Executive Committee requests the Council discuss and approve a statement that outlines NROC's efforts to coordinate and advance a regional response to climate change through its existing priority issue area actions. Climate change will serve as an overarching theme for NROC activities.</p> <p><i>Materials: Draft NROC statement on climate change [Page 35]</i></p>
3:10 PM	<p>Massachusetts Oceans Act Update <i>Mass Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs</i></p> <p><u>Content:</u> Overview of Mass Oceans Act and timeline for ocean management plan.</p> <p><i>Materials: Mass Oceans Act Summary [Page 35]</i></p>



3:25 PM	Closing Business <i>Brian Thompson, Connecticut - Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review and confirm decisions and recommendations from afternoon sessions.▪ Next meeting date and location: January, Boston/ Chelmsford, MA
3:30 PM	Adjourn

Dinner: For anyone interested, a group reservation will be made at a North End restaurant – the little Italy of Boston - at 6:00 pm.



Council Meeting Notes (Final Version) – May 1, 2008 – Northborough, MA

Attendees:

Brian Thompson, Chair – CT Department of Environmental Protection
Ron Rozsa – CT Department of Environmental Protection
Tom Ouellette – CT Department of Environmental Protection
Kathleen Leyden – Maine Coastal Program
Ted Diers – NH Department of Environmental Services
Chris Williams – NH Department of Environmental Services
Leslie-Ann McGee – MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Greg Watson – MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Julia Knisel – MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Ames Colt – RI Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team
Catherine Gjessing – VT Department of Natural Resources

Dave Russ, Vice-Chair – Department of Interior, US Geological Survey
Susan Russell-Robinson – Department of Interior, US Geological Survey
Mel Côté – US Environmental Protection Agency
Andrew Lipsky – US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Services
Bill Hubbard – US Army Corps of Engineers
Rich Gonzales – US Coast Guard (for Ron Beck)
Jaime Geiger – Department of Interior – Fish & Wildlife Service
Rick Bennett – Department of Interior – Fish & Wildlife Service
Dave Reynolds – Department of Interior – National Parks Service
Rodney Cluck – Department of Interior – Minerals Management Service
Betsy Nicholson – NOAA, National Ocean Service
Adrienne Harrison – NOAA, National Ocean Service

David Keeley – The Keeley Group
Sally Yozell – The Nature Conservancy

Action Items:

- Discuss how NROC will interact with NERACOOS nominees (EC)
- Discuss NROC and RCOM similarities at NEGC/ECP meeting in September (EC)
- NROC elevator speech (EC)
- Solicit/designate members for Communication and Outreach Committee (EC)
- Solicit/designate members for Resource Atlas (EC)
- Solicit state and federal five year goals, initiatives, and gaps/needs (EC)
- Add date to Annual Progress Report. (EC/Ron Rozsa)
- Post January meeting summary and Annual Progress Report on website. (EC/Adrienne)
- Distribute Annual Report to NROC governors, agencies, and leadership. (All)
- Email description of Chair's initiative to State members. (Kathleen)
- Email recap of other state and regional responses to initiative to State members. (Kathleen)
- State review initiative with agency and adopt/approve by May 30. (States)
- Issue Area Committee leads work with David Keeley on next steps (Leslie-Ann, Mel, Ron Rozsa, Susan, Adrienne, Ron Beck, and Ames)
- Identify potential members or other existing committees to work with on work plan (Leslie-Ann and Mel)
- Energy committee connect with NEGC energy committee (Ames and Ron Beck)
- Encourage New England Governors to participate in Governors Ocean Wind Council (Ames and Greg)
- Post Maritime Security Issue Areas analysis to website for review (Adrienne)
- Confirm maritime security issue area activities that will be absorbed into other committees or removed (David Keeley)
- Email EPA Climate Ready Estuary Program Fact Sheets to Council (Mel)



- Regional Planning Commissions need training in vulnerability assessments and hazards mitigation. NROC Coastal Hazards Committee response. (Ron, Adrienne, Susan)
- Appropriations committee (Kathleen)
- Provide webex and conference lines to encourage out-of-state participation at upcoming climate workshops and conferences. (All)

Consent Agenda Items

NROC January 23, 2008 meeting minutes

Approved.

Accept NERACOOS nominations

Approved. Continue with Canadian nomination process.

NROC 2007 Annual Progress Report

Approved with edits.

Actions:

- Add date to Annual Progress Report. (Ron Rozsa)
- Post January meeting summary and Annual Progress Report on website. (Adrienne)
- Distribute Annual Report to NROC governors, agencies, and leadership. (All)
- Discuss how NROC will interact with NERACOOS nominees (EC)

Integration Update

Gulf of Maine Council sponsored an ocean integration meeting in March 2008 to discuss ocean management efforts with overlapping interests, projects and spending. The purpose of discussing integration is to understand what direction overall management efforts are headed and how to not compete directly with each other for resources and avoid mission creep. Draft proceedings from this meeting are available.

The Gulf of Maine Council will host a follow up meeting in June in Salem, Massachusetts. This meeting will have a broader invite list and will seek participants from NROC and southern New England.

Actions:

- Discuss NROC and RCOM similarities at NEGC/ECP meeting in September.

Sub-region Update: Southern New England

Ron provided an overview of issues facing southern New England including Narragansett Bay and Long Island Sound. Estuarine and ocean management, energy development, loss of wetlands and sudden vegetation dieback, and sea level rise were the major issues of interest to NROC. Ron noted data needs related to each issue area including seafloor mapping, historical data, and LIDAR. Ron also provided an update on the Southern New England and New York Ocean Partnership. This group met in January 2008 to provide input for the southern New England and New York portion of the Legislative Atlas tool. This session was intended to provide an opportunity to improve awareness and understanding of sub-regional interests and differences. This session highlighted a need to use NROC as a venue to better coordinate and communicate planning efforts and agency initiatives.

NROC Interests in Climate Change Discussion

Dave Russ opened this session noting that climate change is not a formal NROC priority issue area but rather an issue that impacts all of NROC's interests. This session was intended to begin a dialogue on NROC's role in climate activities and initiatives and approach to addressing climate change within NROC's issue area committees.

Council members use this opportunity to briefly describe agency and state climate change activities and upcoming workshops or conferences.



Climate Ready Estuaries: This is a new program developed by the National Estuary Program to use NEP sites to model how to prepare for climate change. The Mass Bays NEP and New Hampshire Estuaries Project were two of six sites selected around the country for a climate ready estuary pilot project. For more information contact Mel Coté.

EPA Office of Water Climate Strategy – The EPA Office of Water has a draft climate strategy available for public comment. For additional information visit www.epa.gov/water/climatechange/.

Climate Change in the Northeast: Preparing for the Future – DOI is sponsoring a workshop June 3-5, 2008 in Amherst, Massachusetts help resource managers develop a common understanding of natural and cultural resource issues and to explore management approaches related to climate change in the Northeast United States. This workshop focuses on protected resources including national and state parks and forests, marine protected areas, and wildlife refuges. For more information contact Rick Bennett or visit <http://icat.usgs.gov/neclimate>.

Storm Smart Coasts – The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management has developed a program to assist municipalities plan for flooding associated with coastal storms. For more information contact Leslie-Ann McGee.

NEGC/ECP Climate Change Sub-Committee – At each annual meeting, the NEGC/ECP recommends work items for its sub-committees. In 2007-2008, the climate change sub-committee was tasked with developing a cooperative initiative with regional communities and metropolitan associations work towards a regional climate collaboration. This Municipal Cooperative Climate Protection Initiative is charged with developing a collection of municipal best practice case studies on adaptation strategies for the regional and to hold cooperative workshops to explore strategies and opportunities for regional collaboration. This is a key committee NROC should begin and maintain communication with. For more information contact Ron Rozsa.

ICLEI Municipal Climate Adaptation Workshop – ICLEI was asked by the NEGC/ECP to deliver two workshops for local and state governments. The goal is to provide the most up to date information on forecasted climate impacts and facilitate hands-on training that identifies how to prioritize and begin planning for those impacts. ICLEI has been a guest at two NROC meetings and has invited NROC to attend this upcoming workshop on May 30, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts to further explore opportunities to partner. For more information contact Ron Rozsa.

EPA Climate Forum – EPA will be conducting a climate workshop on June 19, 2008 at the University of New Hampshire. Details about this workshop will be available in the next few weeks. For more information, contact Mel Coté.

National Parks Northeast Transportation Planning – National Parks are planning transportation corridors between parks in the northeast to reduce carbon emissions. For more information contact David Reynolds.

Actions:

- Email EPA Climate Ready Estuary Program Fact Sheets to Council (Mel)
- Regional Planning Commissions need training in vulnerability assessments and hazards mitigation. NROC Coastal Hazards Committee response. (Ron, Adrienne, Susan)
- Provide webex and conference lines to encourage out-of-state participation at upcoming climate workshops and conferences.

Coastal States Organization Chair's Initiative

There are three components to this year's Chair's Initiative – development of a 'Coastal Trust Fund', support for CZMA reauthorization, and funding for coastal states climate adaptation. Kathleen asked the states to review the chair's initiative and sign on to the initiative.



Actions:

- Email description of Chair's initiative to State members. (Kathleen)
- Email recap of other state and regional responses to initiative to State members. (Kathleen)
- State review initiative with agency and adopt/approve by May 30. (States)

Issue Area Committee Updates:

Contractor Support for Committees

The issue area committees requested support for developing the issue specific work plans for the October meeting. DOI responded with a contract for services with The Keeley Group to provide support for the committee leads. Services include organizing, convening and facilitating committee meetings, providing meeting summaries and follow up support, and providing updates to the Council. This support will ensure that committees provide draft work plans at the October NROC meeting.

DOI has also responded with additional administrative support for the contractor and committee leads. Carrie Miller with USGS will be providing support for scheduling meetings, gathering meeting materials and arranging teleconference lines.

Council Committee on Ocean and Ecosystem Health

The Ocean and Ecosystem Health Committee leads held a meeting in March with regional experts to brainstorm work plan ideas. OEH is a big topic so the Committee used the NROC Ocean Congress Report as the starting point to narrow issues to a few collective top priorities. Some of the more immediately doable ideas included getting the region to agree to nutrient loading criteria using the existing EPA process. Larger issues that the Committee could tackle include

The meeting participants did feel the TNC Northwest Atlantic Ecoregional Assessment would be a valuable product for the OEH Committee. This effort will provide a baseline assessment for the Northeast. Sally Yozell from TNC attended the Issue Area Committee update session and was able to provide an update on the Northwest Atlantic Ecoregional Assessment. The final product is expected to be completed in spring 2009 with the database available in fall 2008. Sally stressed that the database is a static, one-time snapshot of habitat. TNC is currently having discussions to develop tools and products that have a broader application including EBM decision support tools.

Update: At its May 2008 meeting the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) recently endorsed supporting the development of the Nature Conservancy's NW Atlantic Ecoregional Marine Assessment (NAM ERA) as a potential baseline of information that may be used to support marine conservation management and decisions in the future. NROC's Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee has decided to include the NAM ERA in its Workplan for potential use as an ecological baseline of information because at this time, the northeast states do not collectively have a comparable data resource.

The committee is not yet formed. The leads will use these initial meeting participants as a starting point for soliciting committee members or try to use other existing committees in the region. Members from stakeholder organizations will be solicited to participate, including TNC. USDA NRCS, USFWS and NOAA requested to be included in future meetings.

Actions:

- Leads work with David Keeley on next steps (Leslie-Ann and Mel)
- Identify potential members or other existing committees to work with on work plan (Leslie-Ann and Mel)

Council Committee on Coastal Hazards Ready New England



The Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee has prepared a draft work plan that contains ideas gathered from committee members and co-leads. The Committee is already making progress on a few of the work plan ideas including historical storm surge data and hindcast in Connecticut, a coastal hazards resilience products and tools workshop, and posting hard to find state hazard mitigation plans to the NROC website. Next steps for this Committee include asking states to weigh in on work plan ideas and exploring opportunities to collaborate with other hazards groups.

Actions:

- Leads work with David Keeley on next steps (Ron, Susan, and Adrienne)

Council Committee on Ocean Energy Management and Planning

The Ocean Energy Committee has been working to develop a work plan that addresses the issues identified in the NROC Ocean Congress Report. At a recent teleconference, the Committee pulled regional energy experts together to review a draft work plan proposal. Attendees included members of the NH Tidal Energy Commission, NOAA OCRM Energy Policy Division, and Minerals Management Service. This Committee identified near term action items that include

- Develop database of pilot and full scale projects underway or in planning.
- Share accomplishments and tools for comprehensive ocean management planning.
- Workshop/education on multiple permitting processes including federal, state, local and inter-jurisdictional.

A longer term action item that was suggested at the meeting is a cumulative impact assessment of ocean energy projects.

The Council discussed drivers of the Ocean Energy issue area. There is continued uncertainty regarding the quality/energy density of renewable ocean resources. The energy potential of sites is a driver for energy development. Another driver is seeking a sustainable strategy for meeting energy needs. Creating a resilient and diverse energy system for New England that can respond to challenges posed by climate change and sea level rise is yet another driver.

Actions:

- Leads work with David Keeley on next steps (Ron Beck and Ames)
- Connect with NEGC energy committee
- Encourage New England Governors to participate in Governors Ocean Wind Council (Greg Watson)

Council Committee on Maritime Security

Ron Beck prepared a summary of existing regional maritime security groups and options for removing the maritime security issue area. There were several roles that NROC could potentially plan in regional maritime security outlined in the NROC Ocean Congress Report. These issues are either being addressed by existing regional efforts (as described by Ron) or would be better addressed by other committees (i.e. regional sediment management covered in Ocean and Ecosystem Health).

Actions:

- Post Ron's analysis to website for review (Adrienne)
- Confirm issue area activities that will be absorbed into other committees or removed (David Keeley)

Participation & Resources:

The primary objective of this session was to get final approval of the 2008 work plan. The work plan was approved with a note of caution that the work plan goes beyond coordinating and providing a forum for discussion and sharing ideas. There are not a lot of resources available so things in the work plan need to be accomplished with primarily in-kind support. The Council generally agreed that data sharing and development, fostering exportable pilot projects,



maintaining communication and coordination between state and federal agencies, and focusing attention on priority issues are the core functions of NROC.

The Council agreed to create three new temporary committees including an appropriations committee that will be led by Kathleen Leyden, a communications and outreach committee, and a committee to investigate existing data and frameworks for a regional resource atlas.

The Council discussed an appropriate funding model NROC should work with if successful in appropriations request. The Council stressed that the process needs to be simple and streamlined. In the near-term, NROC will leverage funds and provide connections to resources to strategically match regional needs. NROC will use connection to federal agencies to increase access to resources and the federal budget. NROC will go through Congress to seek additional support for NROC's member agencies (state and federal).

The Council discussed the need to better understand the goals, initiatives and gaps or needs for next five years for state and federal members. State info can be found in the coastal program updates.

Actions:

- Appropriations committee (Kathleen)
- Solicit/designate members for Communication and Outreach Committee (EC)
- Solicit/designate members for Resource Atlas (EC)
- Solicit state and federal five year goals, initiatives, and gaps/needs (EC)



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. 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 provide the EC with a report and recommendations 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 and hosted by ICLEI. Julia Knisel 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 audience was most interested in the adaptation process that Keene, New Hampshire is pursuing. The afternoon included a series of breakout sessions which commenced with an overview of the issue areas and then the groups worked through the adaptation process on a single issue. The majority of attendees were from Massachusetts (60%). Single meetings such as this as a means to communicate with the New England states are not very effective. The CHSC will be discussing the opportunity for additional regional meetings.

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.



Update on New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Meeting
Submitted by Adrienne Harrison

The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers held their annual meeting on September 16, 2008 in Bar Harbor, ME. Climate and energy were two of the issues discussed by the Governors and Premiers, resulting in a resolution for each outlining the shared commitments and directing the committees to continue work.

The resolution concerning climate change adaptation (32-5) focuses on improving communications, sharing data, establishing long-term monitoring, providing tools to communities for adaptation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The detailed resolution is available at www.negc.org/documents/Res_32-5.pdf.

The resolution concerning energy (32-4) focuses on renewable energy resources and opportunities in the region. The detailed resolution is available at www.negc.org/documents/Res_32-4.pdf.

The Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSC) provided an update on the municipal cooperative climate protection workshops NEG/ECP and ICLEI sponsored. With the assistance of state and local governments, the workshops were organized to provide municipal planning officials with examples and tools for developing local adaptation plans. The format included providing participants with current information on forecasted climate impacts and training on how to prioritize and plan for these impacts. The workshops were attended by over 60 municipal and provincial officials at each site. Based on the success of these workshops, the CCSC will consider additional adaptation capacity building programs in collaboration with ICLEI, including:

- Partnering of municipalities from both regions;
- Development of best practices case studies for distribution;
- On-line interactive lecture series on climate mitigation and adaptation opportunities; and
- Increase funding for training sessions focused on adaptation planning and integration of adaptation and mitigation initiatives.



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

Program Lead, StormSmart Coasts Network | BlueUrchin Consulting

wes@blueurchin.com | 360-639-6954



Summary of Regional Ocean and Coastal Collaborations

Submitted by Betsy Nicholson

Adapted from: 2007 Summary Report on National, Regional and State Ocean Government Developments

Many states have developed alliances in their regions to improve ocean governance on a regional or ecosystem level. The updates that follow may not include all these efforts but are a representative sample of some of the regional governance activities occurring in the U.S.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Because of a shared vision for a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico coast, the Gulf States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, supported by 13 federal agencies, formalized the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The first action taken by the new partnership was the development of the *Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts*, which was released at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit on March 28, 2006.

The *Governors' Action Plan*, supported by the president in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, challenges the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to make tangible progress over the next 36 months on five priority issues:

- Water quality,
- Wetland and coastal restoration,
- Environmental education,
- Characterization of Gulf habitats, and
- Reductions in nutrient inputs.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance continued to build momentum over fiscal year 2007 with a series of events; including priority team issues meetings, federal work group meetings, and the Gulf Alliance Implementation Workshop.

In June, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network (GOMA EEN) and Gulf Coast Ocean Observing System Education and Outreach Council (GCOOS EOC) held their first annual joint meeting to partner in their environmental education efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. The three-day workshop entailed updates on the past year's events of both organizations with a focus on future collaboration and less duplication of efforts. In addition, the GOMA priority task teams updated EEN on their ongoing efforts and successes. Additional breakout sessions focused on better communication and collaboration between EEN and the other priority teams within GOMA to increase environmental education and outreach and meet the needs of all entities within GOMA.

The Alliance Environmental Education Network (EEN) has also leveraged a partnership with the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOICI) to help develop regional messaging for a Gulf-wide public awareness campaign. In addition, EEN is working to partner with the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) / Earth Gauge Initiative to disseminate 365 regional ocean and watershed messages through television weathercasters. To increase regional effectiveness, EEN is closely coordinating education and outreach functions with both GCOOS and the Northern Gulf Institute.

The second annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance Implementation Workshop was held July 10-12 in St. Petersburg, Florida, with over 230 participants. Dr. Bill Walker, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, presented his vision for the future of the alliance—"phase 2." The alliance priority issue teams identified actions in the *Governors' Action Plan* that still need work and developed plans for completing these remaining activities by March 2009. Concurrent technical workshops were held on nutrients criteria development, Gulf-wide water quality monitoring standardization, habitat identification techniques, habitat restoration techniques, and regional sediment management. Additionally, the Gulf Alliance state leadership established a regional working group with expertise in coastal community resilience and hazard mitigation, which met for the first time under the leadership of co-chairs Tina Shumate of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Dr. Rod Emmer of Louisiana Sea Grant. The



charge to this new group includes (1) directing and coordinating the implementation of resilience-related actions in the *Governors' Action Plan*; and (2) identifying and planning for future actions needed to enhance resilience across the Gulf region.

The *Governors' Action Plan* contains an action to advance harmful algal bloom (HAB) detection and remote sensing in the Mexican Gulf state of Veracruz. In late July, National Ocean Service, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services, and National Weather Service representatives participated in a U.S.–Mexico HABs Workshop in New Orleans to focus on implementing EPA-funded C-MAN/Breverbuster station installation, in situ sampling, and microscopy ID training in Veracruz; and extending related capabilities, where appropriate, to all six Mexican Gulf states over the next three years.

In late August, Gulf Alliance state leadership will engage the ICOSRMI representatives on successes in implementing the *Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts*, and a proposal for “phase 2” of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour will host the governors from the other four Gulf states to propose “phase 2” of the Gulf Alliance, and discuss a vision for Gulf state collaboration in the Gulf of Mexico. The five Gulf state governors will discuss goals for the next 20 years and address key questions and challenges. CEQ will make remarks on behalf of all ICOSRMI representatives.

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

On September 18, 2006, Washington Governor Gregoire, Oregon Governor Kulongoski, and California Governor Schwarzenegger signed the West Coast Agreement on Ocean Health, which called the three West Coast states to action on ocean issues of regional concern. The agreement identified four immediate actions to be implemented within six months of signing, all of which have been completed or are well underway. These immediate actions included securing funding to address nonpoint source pollution, opposing oil and gas leasing off the coast, developing a West Coast Sea Grant Regional Research Plan, and requesting and receiving technical assistance from federal agencies to address regional concerns. Beyond the immediate actions, the agreement defined seven priority areas for future collaboration:

- Clean coastal waters and beaches;
- Healthy ocean and coastal habitats;
- Effective ecosystem-based management of ocean and coastal resources;
- Reduced impacts of offshore development;
- Expanded ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring;
- Increased ocean awareness and literacy among the region's citizens; and
- Sustainable economic development of coastal communities.

In March 2007, staff members from the three states released a discussion paper assessing possible actions for implementing the agreement and began accepting public comment through the website and at stakeholder meetings held in every state. The public comment period is now closed and the draft action plan was released. After incorporation of a second round of public feedback, the final action plan was released in June 2008. For more information, please visit www.westcoastoceans.gov.

Great Lakes

In December 2005, the *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes* was formally released. This collaboration was spearheaded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but was established through an interagency task force composed of 10 federal agencies, including the Department of Commerce. Since that time, several key steps have been taken to support the strategy, including adopting an implementation framework in March 2006, reauthorizing the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act with significantly increased funding, and implementing portions of the strategy at all levels of government. Nongovernmental organizations and the region's citizens have also provided leadership to accelerate restoration and protection efforts. In the 110th Congress, federal



legislation was reintroduced to institutionalize the collaboration and to implement several of the priority recommendations (H.R. 1350 and S. 791).

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Executive Committee focused on three joint initiatives that include:

- Wetlands restoration,
- Toxics reduction, and
- Rapid response to invasive species.



Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Standing Committee
2009 DRAFT Work Plan
Submitted by Co-chairs Leslie-Ann McGee and Mel Coté

The New England Governors' Coast and Ocean Action Plan (2007) establishes the following ecosystem goal: 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.

Described below are work plan activities for 2009. The shaded box describes the specific activity proposed by the Governors in their Plan.

Activity #1: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health reporting initiatives: increasing awareness
Description: NROC is in a unique position to promote the use/application of coastal and ocean ecosystem health reporting initiatives within New England by state legislators, agency decision-makers, members of Congress and the region's Governors. Examples of these initiatives include <i>State of the Sounds/Bays</i> efforts conducted by National Estuary Program partners and others, the National Coastal Assessment, the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicator Partnership, NW Atlantic Bioregional Assessment, Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms, ocean observing systems, and Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics.
Partners: National Estuary Program; state coastal zone management agencies; Gulf of Maine Council; The Ocean Conservancy; The Nature Conservancy/NW Atlantic Bioregional Assessment; University of Southern Maine/WHOI; Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea, GOM ROSI, etc.
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New England perspective on coastal and ocean ecosystem health • Forums for state legislators, agency decision-makers and the region's Governors • Whitepaper on the value and costs of a "Ocean's Return on Investment" report
Work task(s): #1 Federal and state partners within NROC will build on existing coastal and ocean ecosystem health reporting initiatives to organize an abbreviated (e.g., 2-4 pages) New England region perspective and the implications of report results on human and ecosystem health as well as the region's economy. #2 Organize forums within each state for state legislators, agency decision-makers, members of Congress and the region's Governors to increase awareness about the implications of changes in coastal and ocean ecosystem health. #3 Explore the benefits with end-users/target audience about producing and communicating the "Ocean's Return on Investment" that frames the economic, environmental and human health benefits of ecosystem services that the region's coasts and oceans produce. It will also address the consequences of degrading ecosystems and the loss/diminishment of those "services". (This initiative will draw on the results of the National Ocean Economic Project and similar efforts.)
Schedule and Resources: Timing: 12-months Resources needed: \$40,000 (contractual time to assemble and prepare "print on demand" materials) Resources available: In-kind support from NROC entities currently producing ocean health materials

Activity #2: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health initiatives: work with Governors' on a regional invasive species proclamation
Description: The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel was formed in 1991 to addresses issues and concerns relative to the freshwater and marine resources of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. It identifies



<p>issues, conducts workshops, brings in specialists and communicates about introduced species issues to the public. It is developing a proclamation for consideration and action by the Premiers/Governors that has two major thrusts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial and state agencies with natural resource management responsibilities will collaborate within the NEANS Panel framework to the extent practicable to address their current and future aquatic invasive species priorities through their annual work plans, budgets, and other mechanisms. They will cooperate with the region's First Nations and tribal authorities, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and individuals to implement these plans where applicable. • Appropriate agencies will work together, to the extent practicable, within their states or provinces, and to coordinate throughout the region to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek those areas where regional cooperation in programs and funding could be enhanced, including AIS policies, regulations and education outreach; 2. Develop early detection and rapid response capability for new invasions of AIS; 3. Prevent introductions of AIS, control or where feasible eradicate established AIS; and, 4. Minimize introductions of AIS through Ballast Water and other shipping vectors.
<p>Partners: Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel, state and federal departments of transportation, U.S. Coast Guard, MIT Sea Grant</p>
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of a Governors' invasive species proclamation
<p>Work task(s): #1 Assist members of the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel make connections with state agencies and Governors Offices.</p>
<p>Schedule and Resources: Timing: Governors' action at 2009 summer meeting of NEGC/ECP Resources needed: NA Resources available: Support from the NEANS Panel</p>

<p>Activity #3: Participate in the development a consensus-based schema and register metadata for regional datasets; work with GOM ODP and NERACOOS to broaden the effort to the rest of New England, including Long Island Sound.</p>
<p>Description: NROC will work to enhance collaboration amongst three complimentary efforts including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing System and Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association are working to expand existing observing and prediction capacities of institutions and agencies throughout the mid-Atlantic, New England and Maritime Canada. 2. The Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership (GoMODP) facilitates discovery, accessibility, and interoperability of physical, biological, chemical, and geologic datasets for the Gulf of Maine watershed. The GoMODP Portal of the Global Change Master Directory provides access to information or metadata for datasets. Publicly available ocean data can be identified through the Portal. Data can then be downloaded or requested from the source agency or group. The Partnership has an EPA grant to develop a regional data exchange with a consensus-based schema. 3. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) is working to address issues pertaining to legal and technical aspects of marine boundaries. They provide a venue for communicating on and coordinating marine boundary activities. The marine cadastre data portal provides users access to digital marine boundary data distributed by various agencies.
<p>Partners: Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership, NERACOOS, MACOORA, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) NASA Global Change Master Directory, GoMOOS, COINAtlantic</p>
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of regional data providers with metadata registered in a national directory



<p>(GCMD, FGDC, or GeoConnections) with robust, searchable discovery metadata that can be accessed through the GCMD Gulf of Maine portal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional, consensus-based schema for data interoperability
<p>Work task(s):</p> <p>#1 Develop a white paper that addresses regional and subregional 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.</p> <p>#2 Convene a workshop to identify keep pilot datasets, develop the common schema and application to environmental management.</p> <p>#3 NROC engages GoMODP and encourages state data providers to participate in registering metadata.</p> <p>#4 NROC monitors progress of NERACOOS in defining data needs and protocols</p> <p>#5 NROC monitors progress of GoMODP Exchange Network project</p>
<p>Schedule and Resources:</p> <p>Timing: White Paper Draft: February 2009 Meeting - April 2009 Strategic Framework – July 2009 Schema implementation (Dec. 2009)</p> <p>Resources needed: Workshop -- Meeting venue, accommodations and travel \$10,000; Contract for portal services and database scientist (\$15K?) Schema development -- NA – in kind work from committee members Resources available: In-kind agency resources</p>

<p>Activity #4: Convene ocean ecosystem health workshop</p>
<p>Description: Organize and convene a workshop that assembles policymakers, managers and scientists to create a regional definition of ecosystem health, identify the key metrics that measure ocean ecosystem health and ensure those metrics are explicit enough for statutory and regulatory applications.</p>
<p>Partners: Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea; Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; NOAA National Marine Fisheries; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; The Nature Conservancy; The Ocean Conservancy; state coastal zone management and fisheries management agencies; RI SAMP, MOP, Sea Grant Programs,</p>
<p>Deliverables: A regional consensus statement among policymakers, managers, and scientists that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines ecosystem health • Identifies measurable, legal standards for inclusion in state/provincial policy
<p>Work task(s):</p> <p>#1 OEH forms workshop steering committee</p> <p>#2 Prepare a whitepaper that collates and synthesizes definitions of ecosystem health appropriate to the northeast and the metrics that can be used to measure it. (This will include a review of existing state and federal laws, policies and programs for definitions and metrics.)</p> <p>#3 Develop a straw-man document on potential definitions and metrics.</p> <p>#4 Convene policymakers, managers and scientists in a two-day event to develop a consensus statement on definitions and metrics</p> <p>#5 Report out results to NROC and other New England decision-makers with a “next steps” document</p>
<p>Schedule and Resources:</p> <p>Timing: Meeting - March 2009 Consensus Statement – June 2009</p> <p>Resources needed: Preparation of whitepaper & straw-man on definitions and metrics \$15,000</p>



Meeting venue, accommodations and travel \$10,000
Resources available: COMPASS could potentially put some funding toward scientist travel and meeting costs

Activity #5: Improve effectiveness of state-federal work groups

Description: There are a number of existing state-federal partnerships in New England that are working to restore and protect ocean and coastal ecosystem health. The following are working on issues of priority to NROC.

- Water Quality Standards Work Group and a Nutrient Criteria Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) – NEIWPCC coordinates the work of these groups on the development and adoption of state nutrient criteria as part of their water quality standards. The effort has been phased, first focusing on lakes and ponds, then rivers and streams, and finally marine and estuarine waters.
- New England Regional Dredging Team (NERDT) – This federal-state partnership is working to improve the dredging process in New England. It consists of three entities:
 - Mid-Level Managers Group – It consists of EPA, the Corps, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service and meets 2-3 times per year to discuss policy issues related to dredging and wetlands management.
 - Sudbury Group -- It is chaired by EPA and the Corps and meets 2-3 times per year to address technical issues associated with dredging and dredged material placement that have regional implications.
 - State Dredging Teams -- Each New England state has formed a state dredging team that deals with both technical and policy issues at the state and project level.
- Coastal America – This federal-state-private partnership promotes collaboration across the federal government on the restoration of coastal habitats and on outreach and education about ocean and coastal issues. The New England Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) is chaired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and includes EPA, NOAA/NMFS, USFWS, Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, and state coastal zone management and fisheries agencies. Several states have established Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnerships through which private companies provide financial and in-kind technical assistance to match federal and state funding for restoration projects.

Partners: New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC); EPA; Corps; NOAA/NMFS; USFWS; state water quality, coastal zone management, and fisheries management agencies

Deliverables:

- Annual progress reports and requests for assistance from these initiatives

Work task(s):

#1 NROC will periodically engage these groups to ensure there is active participation by the pertinent state and federal agencies.

#2 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.

Schedule and Resources:

Timing: Ongoing

Resources needed: NA

Resources available: In-kind support by the agencies involved in these initiatives

Activity #6: Accelerate research on priority coastal and ocean issues

Description: Global climate change has the potential to change the chemistry, hydrology and biology of our oceans and coastal waters. Current research is generally focused on trying to predict the changes in any number of measurable endpoints and extrapolating what these changes may mean to the ocean ecosystem. More recently, the research focus has shifted to management or adaptation strategies.

Over-enrichment of coastal waters has been an area of intensive academic research since the



1970s. Nearly 30 years later, the regulation of nutrients, primarily nitrogen, is still in its infancy. Development of state water quality criteria for nutrients has moved ahead in some of the New England states, but has not made much progress in others.

Coastal development, dredging, fishing, global climate change, and eutrophication all result in habitat degradation and loss. The effect of the cumulative loss of habitats on marine biological communities or even on individual species has not received significant research attention. This issue needs to be addressed on multiple scales, from the individual inlet, cove, and stream to the open-ocean. Most New England states have begun mapping coastal habitats on GIS based systems.

Partners: Sea Grant Programs, MOP, Coastal Zone Programs, National Estuary Programs

Deliverables:

- Annual progress reports and requests for assistance from these initiatives

Work task(s):

- #1 The committee will identify current research initiatives pertinent to this activity.
- #2 NROC will facilitate collaborative research proposals or efforts and regional analysis of data to allow for more efficient use of scarce research funds.

Schedule and Resources:

Timing: Ongoing

Resources needed: NA

Resources available:

Activity #7: Conduct regional ecosystem-based marine spatial planning workshop

Description: Organize and convene a one-day workshop for policy-makers, managers and scientists that educates them about the ability of marine spatial planning to lend structure and a degree of integrated management that has previously been lacking in the marine environment. (A similar workshop was offered to the state of New York recently as is a model from which to plan this workshop.)

Marine Spatial Management (MSM) seeks to organize and regulate patterns of space use for the benefit of users, the environment and society as a whole. A sound understanding of the space use patterns and spatial behaviors of the multiple stakeholders must serve as a basis for the management strategy. MSM is both a framework and a process for more integrated decision making about uses of marine space. Its goal is a fully comprehensive, integrated, plan-led system of management for the sustainable development of marine resources and for the use of contested marine space. There are five basic elements of marine spatial management:

1. Establishing the context within which the management process will be carried out;
2. Analysis and plan preparation;
3. Implementation;
4. Monitoring of plan performance; and
5. Evaluation and adaptation.

The objectives of marine spatial management typically focus on five main themes:

- Sustainable use of resources;
- Marine conservation;
- Optimization of space use;
- Avoidance and resolution of spatial conflicts; and
- Enhancing the living standards and quality of life of coastal communities.

MSM can create an institutional framework in which decisions can be taken not simply for the immediate gain of those directly affected, but also for the longer term benefit of society as a whole. It should facilitate the declaration of agreed strategic objectives to which all stakeholders agree and provide a sense of direction through the ranking of objectives for given areas. Through the assessment of cumulative spatial impacts arising from different forms of activity and development, it can begin to identify options for the mitigation of such effects. And in certain



circumstances, it can establish a sound basis for spatial allocation or zoning of activities.
Partners: NOAA, MA, TNC, MOP, OceanVisions (Ehler and Douvère), state coastal management and fishery agencies, TOC
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop for policy-makers, managers and scientists • “Next steps” document on how this approach could be used on a regional basis
Work task(s): <p>#1 - Form workshop steering committee</p> <p>#2 - Distribute product: Inventory planning frameworks from around the world (MOP is contracting the production of this evaluation in Fall 08 for use in MA Ocean Management Planning effort).</p> <p>#3 - Develop a straw-man workshop goals/objectives statement including draft workshop agenda and invitation list.</p> <p>#4 - Convene policymakers, managers and scientists in a one-day event</p> <p>#5 - Report out results to NROC and other New England decision-makers with a “next steps” document on how this approach could be used on a regional basis</p>
Schedule and Resources: <p>Timing: Meeting – March 2009 & Report - June 2009</p> <p>Resources needed: Meeting Substance Planning (staff or in-kind): \$5,000; Meeting venue, accommodations and travel: \$10,000 (OceanVisions Staff time and travel as well as meeting venue/food, etc)</p> <p>Resources available: MOP will fund inventory of planning frameworks for MA and will be directly used in this workshop (\$50K); Agency/NROC member could absorb meeting substance planning (\$5K)</p>

Activity #8: Develop a vision for spatially explicit regional ocean governance in New England waters

Description: The development of spatial sea use scenarios is a key-step in marine spatial management. There is a need for the northeast region to develop a regional vision that protects the future use of marine space based on a core set of mutually agreed on goals, objectives and assumptions about current conditions and the future. The development of a vision and future scenarios and a vision is both a communication and a planning tool and often a first step to realizing/leveraging cooperative action. This activity assumes that there will be differences within and among each state but that articulating the range of visions will be a helpful activity for informing regional ocean stewardship.

There are various reasons why it is important to develop alternative MSM scenarios:

1. To clarify possibilities and future conditions of the maritime area. In this regard the visual aspect of the development of scenarios is very important. The purpose of this step is to visualize future conditions. Therefore, the development of alternative MSM scenarios is an important communication tool;
2. To clarify the connection between basic assumptions, objectives and future conditions. In each scenario, there is a different emphasis on the basic “key values” of the marine area. This different emphasis leads to a different vision of the future of the marine space. The spatial and temporal consequences of each vision are shown, and alternatives are pointed out. Developing alternative scenarios makes the policy choices explicit;
3. To visualize what will happen if no management interventions are made. It can be useful to develop a ‘trend scenario’, based on current knowledge of the demand for space and extrapolation of trends. This scenario can help to question the current trends and spatial use. This is what can be characterized as the ‘predictable’ future. The spatial planner predicts what the future will look like if present trends continue;
4. To show new possibilities that can be generated from innovative actions and technologies. Alternative scenarios need the spatial planner to be more ‘active’ and creative: in these scenarios it is important to find new ways to optimize current and future activities and to think about innovative forms of current and new activities. To develop these scenarios, the spatial planner is



<p>more 'designer' than 'predictor'.</p>
<p>Partners: NROC, NOAA, COMPASS, MOP, Ocean Visions, state coastal management and fishery agencies, MGS/UMass Boston</p>
<p>Deliverables: Based largely on the Belgian North Sea (GAUFRE) project approach, in year 1, a planning document that describes the process that will be used to address the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Determine the time frame for planning; • Step 2: Define current trends, demands for space and conditions; • Step 3: Define "key values" of the marine area; • Step 4: Define general goals and objectives for the marine area; • Step 5: Develop general "decision rules"; • Step 6: Develop alternative spatial sea use scenarios; • Step 7: Define the significance of each spatial sea use scenario for the different functions and activities in the marine area; and • Step 8: Evaluate each scenario. <p>In year 2, NROC will have facilitated the development of a common vision for sea use in New England via partners in the region.</p>
<p>Work task(s): #1 – Write and submit grant proposal to interested funders and secure funding (Approx \$200K) #2 – Contract out the development of a project management document #3 – Facilitated meetings in each state and at a regional level to work through the steps listed below by convening policymakers, managers and scientists. #4 – Preparation of the graphical representation of each future scenario. Note that developing alternative marine sea use scenarios is not a scientific process but rather a flexible way of dealing with possible futures, based on gathered anecdotal and scientific data. The document should, more than extrapolating the future ("trend scenario"), try to reveal future possibilities and innovative thinking about the future.</p>
<p>Schedule and Resources: Timing: Funding : January – March 2009 Project Management Planning: March – August 2009 Facilitated meetings in each state: September – December 2009 Vision Document Preparation: January – April 2010 Resources needed: Funds for project management planning, facilitation of scenario building and document preparation</p>

<p>Activity #9: Develop a New England social network analysis to better enable effective communication and collaboration.</p>
<p>Description: Social network analysis is used to collect, analyze, and graphically represent data that describe the relationships within and between groups of people or organizations. It can also be used to represent how people interact with specific resources.</p> <p>A typical social network map includes nodes, which represent individuals, organizations, or resources. These nodes are connected with flow indicators, which may represent the flow of information, energy, or money. The strength or importance of particular relationships is often depicted by varying thickness of lines and arrows.</p>
<p>Partners: NOAA/ Coastal Services Center;</p>
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of NE social networks and recommendations to improve communication



and collaboration.
Work task(s): #1 Engage NOAA/CSC to develop a proposal for a NE social network analysis including products, costs and methods to perform the work. #2 Present proposal for NROC consideration
Schedule and Resources: Timing: Resources needed: TBD Resources available: None



**Coastal Hazards Resilience Standing Committee
2009 DRAFT Work Plan**

Submitted by Co-chairs Ron Rozsa, Susan Russell-Robinson, and Adrienne Harrison

The New England Governors' Coast and Ocean Action Plan (2007) establishes the following goal for Coastal Hazards: 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 warming¹. Described below are the major work plan activities for 2009. The Governors' action items are listed in the shaded boxes.

Activity #1: Identify data acquisition priorities and user-friendly tools needed to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.

Description:
To render the region coastal hazards ready, it is necessary to have adequate data, such as detailed elevations to assess inundation and the tools to apply/interpret the data. Many New England states have historic shoreline data which can be used to interpret historic shoreline change. Predicting shoreline change under accelerated sea level rise requires models and shallow, detailed bathymetric maps.

NROC will provide support for the acquisition of data and development of tools that will improve regional planning for coastal hazards resilience. The Committee will collect and synthesize existing needs assessments and engage stakeholders to identify regional data acquisition priorities and user-friendly tools needed to plan for and support responses to coastal hazards. (The coordination of data acquisition amongst the states and federal agencies will minimize the cost and time needed to acquire essential data.) The Committee will prepare a data acquisition strategy that leverages state and federal partnerships.

Partners:
Create a Work Group of State Hazard Management Officers, Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Coastal Management Programs, USGS, NERACOOS, MACOORA, and others.

Deliverables:

- Data acquisition priorities report
- Data and tools inventory report
- Strategic plan to guide the acquisition of data and development of user friendly analytical tools.

Work task(s):

1. Compile a list of regional data and tools needs from existing needs assessments and solicit input from hazard managers in the region. Develop a process to achieve consensus and identify priorities.
2. Determine purpose and scope for an inventory of existing data and describe available tools from government, academia, private sector, etc.
3. Develop a regional strategy to obtain priority data and tools, including recommendations for a federal-state approach to leveraging funding and support.

Schedule and Resources:
Timing:

- Compile priority end-user data needs and develop a methodology for cataloguing existing data – Month 3
- Verify and prioritize list of needs with regional stakeholders –Month 6
- Produce data acquisition strategy – Month 12

Resources Available: In-kind

¹ For the purposes of this work plan NROC confines physical natural hazards to wind, inundation, waves, surge, fire in diked and drained tidal marshes, and seismic activity.



Resources Needed:
Activity #2: 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 forecasting and response
Description: The two Regional Associations for ocean observing in New England have established coastal hazards as a priority. The RAs have conducted aspects of coastal hazard end-user needs assessments. During the coming year, the Committee will work with RAs to identify components needed for a Coastal Hazards OOS and assist with advocating for resources.
Partners: Form a Work Group which will include representatives from MACOORA, NERACOOS, LISICOS and select coastal hazard managers/end users in the region.
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for Coastal Hazards OOS (i.e. products and services)
Work task: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen interaction with the Regional Associations to ensure Coastal Hazards OOS materials meet managers coastal resilience needs Identify and pursue ways for NROC to assist with advocating for resources
Schedule and Resources: Timing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on Regional Association timelines Dependent on Regional Association timelines Resources needed: NA Resources available: Regional Associations have resources for end-user engagement on OOS needs assessments

Activity #3: Methodology and Framework for regional storm surge database
Description: In 2008, CT DEP, UCONN, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) collaborated on the development of a historical storm surge to database and GIS coverage from data compiled by the ACOE for the publication entitled <i>Tidal Flood Profiles of New England</i> . The ACOE has tidal flood profiles and compiled information about the elevation of surge for hurricanes (southern New England) and Nor'easters (Gulf of Maine) for all of New England. The storm data for CT are for the hurricanes of 1938 and 1954. The purpose of this pilot effort is to evaluate the accuracy of new storm surge models being developed by the University of Connecticut of historical storm surge elevation data for CT. In 2009, the Committee will present the methodology for the data collection and hindcasting results as part of a recommendation on how to expand this pilot to the rest of the region.
Partners: CT DEP (Lead), ACOE, USGS, UConn – LISICOS will collaborate on the development of the deliverables and will make a presentation to the Coastal Hazards Standing Committee. The committee will make recommendations to NROC regarding the development of a regional database.
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS coverage for Connecticut (2008) Report to NROC on transferring this approach (e.g., the time and cost of compiling the remaining data for New England and evaluating the value of these data to refine/test inundation models) Methodology and framework for regional database (considering lessons learned from CT pilot)
Work tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Present methodology for data collection and hindcasting results for CT Produce report on transferring to approach to the remainder of NE
Schedule and Resources:



<p>Timing: Months 1-6</p> <p>Resources needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UCONN-LISICOS to present methodology and hindcasting results 2. Work group to create report <p>Resources available: Conn/CSC Coastal Fellow to prepare methodology by year-end; Conn DEP to write the report on transferring to NROC states with in-kind support from Hazards Committee and make presentation to NROC in summer 2009</p>
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Activity #4: Promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise.

Description:
The Committee will coordinate discussions and promote communication among state and federal agencies, regional organizations, and others working to enable better human adaptation responses to sea level rise.

Partners:
NOAA, USGS, FEMA, state agencies, StormSmart Coasts and Regional Associations

Deliverables:

- A coastal hazards resilience workshop for coastal and emergency managers will be held in November (2008) in southern New England that produces an inventory of key programs, initiatives, and pilot projects in the region
- Recommendations on how to connect and coordinate regional sea-level rise initiatives such as EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries, ICLEI, and Regional Climate Change Studies
- Web portal for regional coastal hazards and resilience information

Work tasks:

1. Assist NOAA by serving as the steering committee for a November 20, 2008 workshop in Connecticut that provides state and local coastal managers with information on the impacts of significant historical storms, demonstrates relevant hazard planning and visualization tools, presents information on climate impacts on storm intensity, and proposes methods to increase resilience and storm preparedness efforts in the region. Assess the value in holding at least one more workshop in the Gulf of Maine sub-region.
2. Building off of the federal partners' Climate Change Inventory and information gathered at the coastal hazards workshop, the Committee will compile and post an inventory of the key programs, initiatives, and pilot projects in the region related to coastal hazards resilience and adaptation.
3. Using the inventory, the Committee will identify opportunities to connect regional sea-level rise initiatives. Also, the Committee will identify and advocate for programs that could be expanded to the region such as EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program, U.S. DOT Center for Climate Change and Environmental Forecasting (e.g., transportation-climate vulnerability assessment) and the US Climate Change Science Program.
4. Support a web portal that contains state and federal information on coastal hazards, coastal resiliency, and tools for managers, planners and decision-makers. Conduct user tests to ensure labeling and chunking of content is effective. Frequently update and revise web links and text tags. 'Committee will work with the Storm Smart Coasts Network to develop resilience resource for the Northeast.

Schedule and Resources:

Timing:

1. Organize and convene workshop -- Months 1-3
2. Ongoing
3. Ongoing
4. Ongoing

Resources needed:
In-kind resources to synthesize results from federal climate inventory and hazards workshop

Resources available: NOAA is providing funds for the workshop. CSC is developing a web page, supporting StormSmart Coastal national roll-out & begin work in NE in Jan – March

Ocean Energy Planning and Management Standing Committee



2009 DRAFT Work Plan
Submitted by Co-chairs Ames Colt and Ron Beck

The NROC Governors’ Action Plan: 2008-2009 identifies “Ocean Energy Planning and Management” as a major regional ocean management issue for the northeast U.S. It states that:

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.

NROC established the Committee on Ocean Energy Planning and Management (COEPM) to address these issues. The purpose of COEPM is to create a dynamic forum to exchange information among the states and with the federal government. The COEPM will help to create a shared vision for the region that offers a more complete context for state and federal ocean energy management, planning, and project reviews through the pursuit of four principal, long-term initiatives:

- 1) Identify contextual and baseline information for ocean energy facility development and operations.
- 2) Propose guidelines for developing such information and conducting project assessments.
- 3) Promote communications among public, non-profit and for-profit interests
- 4) Build upon state planning initiatives to help craft a regional ocean energy governance framework.

Thus, to enhance regional ocean energy management and planning in the northeast U.S., COEPM recommends pursuit of the following activities and actions.

Activity #1: Identify contextual and baseline information essential for ocean energy facility development and operations.

Description: While considerable information and experience in assessing renewable ocean energy facility development and design is accumulating through pilot project implementation and full-scale project planning, significant controversies and uncertainties remain regarding scientific assessment and differences in use priorities. The COEPM will develop and communicate guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns when siting and designing coastal and ocean energy facilities, including recommendations for critical data, its collection, archiving, and analysis. Such assessments need to better address the different impacts between offshore renewable electric generation facilities (wave, wind, and tidal), and non-renewable facilities such as liquified natural gas terminals, cables and pipelines, as well as incorporate climate change and sea-level rise considerations.

Identify data and information needs as required in local, state and federal permitting. Key data and information needs pertain to topics that include bathymetry, seafloor geology and biota, current and hydrodynamics, wind patterns, distribution of living and habitat resources, current, historic and potential human uses, vessel track-line data, fish landing data, and other commercial and recreational use statistics.

Partners: (List partners involved and designate leads)

Deliverables:



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of state and federal managers' contextual and baseline information requirements; • A strategy to obtain priority data requirements and methods to streamline the permitting process (e.g., require similar data, similar data acquisition processes, centralized filing, etc.).
<p>Task #1-Identify data and information required in state and federal permitting. (Examples included environmental response, vessel traffic, living marine resources, human use data, engineering, benthic habitats, wind and current data, air quality, risk assessment, etc.). The committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey managers' needs and priorities for contextual and baseline information. • Review existing EIS documents and FERC, MMS, Army Corps, and other state, federal and local agency filing requirements to identify data requirements and information needs for project assessment, planning and management. • Gather this information, via the NOAA Coastal Services Center Marine Cadastre Project and from other sources as appropriate, and make it accessible. • Review how NROC states are assessing and regulating coastal and offshore energy projects and create on-going methods to share those approaches (e.g., comparative matrix, etc.).
<p>Schedule and Resources: Timing: six-months Resources needed: 240 hrs (in-kind or contractual @10 hrs/week) Resources available:</p>

<p>Activity #2: Develop and maintain an inventory of energy projects in the northeast</p>
<p>Description: Create a visual and searchable GIS database containing all energy projects in the northeast, to include: project status, developer, tank capacity, operational date, market served, demand for output, potential for project/facility upgrade, facility lifespan, images and location. Project will allow for quick/easy view and understanding of regional projects and their interconnection to energy infrastructure in the northeast. In addition, project will be beneficial in continuity of operations efforts and response operations.</p>
<p>Partners: First Coast Guard District (POC: LCDR Gonzalez, Mr. Ron Beck)</p>
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Project Report (27-28 October), • Final Project (15 May 09).
<p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ArcGIS Software Request/Justification (01 Sep), • Software delivered/Installed (30 Sep), • Coordinate with other GIS data sources (8 October) • Database Creation and Design (15 October), • Draft Project Report (27-28 October), • First Stage Completion (TBD) – Review and update information/system. • Second Stage Completion (TBD) – Review and update information/system, • Final Project Report (15 May 09) – Project completed and operational.
<p>Schedule and Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as “Work Tasks” above, • Resources: ArgGIS (Editor) Software provided by USCG.

<p>Activity #3: Develop and communicate voluntary guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns</p>
<p>Description: Considerable information and experience in assessing renewable ocean energy facility development and design is accumulating through pilot project implementation and full-scale project planning. However controversies and uncertainties remain regarding how to balance renewable ocean energy resources development with existing and traditional uses of the marine environment. Appropriate and commonly agreed-upon methods for assessing the impacts of</p>



<p>renewable ocean energy resource development upon existing uses will address these uncertainties and controversies.</p> <p>The committee will develop and communicate voluntary guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns when siting and designing coastal and ocean energy facilities, including recommendations for critical data, its collection, archiving, and analysis. These guidelines will address the differences between offshore renewable electric generation facilities (wave, wind, and tidal), and fossil fuel facilities such as liquified natural gas terminals, cables and pipelines, as well as incorporate climate change and sea level rise considerations.</p>
<p>Partners: (List partners involved and designate leads)</p>
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns when siting and designing coastal and ocean energy facilities; • Strategy to disseminate guidelines within the region and elsewhere
<p>Task #1- Solicit and analyze input from the northeast states, federal agencies and other states on their approaches to assessing renewable ocean energy facility development and design. Task #2- Prepare draft voluntary guidelines and convene regional workshop for state and federal coastal and ocean energy project managers to critique guidelines. Amend guidelines accordingly. Task #3- Develop 6-month strategy to disseminate guidelines within the region and elsewhere.</p>
<p>Schedule and Resources:</p> <p>Timing: Solicit input – months 1-3 Produce draft guidelines and convene workshop – months 3-12 Produce dissemination strategy – 2010</p> <p>Resources needed: 1 FTE (\$60,000) plus workshop expenses (\$10,000) Resources available:</p>
<p>Activity #4: Promote communications among public, non-profit and for-profit interests about energy activities</p>
<p>Description: Promote learning and foster mutual understanding among different interests and governmental entities about the planning, siting, authorization, and operation of coastal and ocean energy generating and distribution facilities. Better inter-organizational communications will deepen shared understanding of the environmental impacts, economic impacts, use conflicts, market-creation mechanisms (ITCs, PTCs, feed-in tariffs, etc.), the societal benefits and safety concerns that these facilities will engender.</p>
<p>Partners: NEGC/NICE,</p>
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report that documents and assesses current mechanisms; • Prepare and release regional strategy
<p>Task #1- Document and assess current public, non-profit and private communication mechanisms to share information about the planning, siting, authorization, and operation of coastal and ocean energy generating and distribution facilities. Task #2- Prepare a regional strategy that effectively communicates the environmental impacts, use conflicts, market forces, the tax incentives, the benefits and safety concerns that these facilities will engender.</p>
<p>Schedule and Resources:</p> <p>Timing: Document and assess current mechanisms – months 1-3 Prepare and release regional strategy – months 3-12</p> <p>Resources needed: .5 FTE (\$30,000) Resources available:</p>



Activity #5: Build upon state planning initiatives to make recommendations on crafting a regional ocean energy governance framework.
Description: Current approaches to the siting, construction, and operation of coastal and ocean energy infrastructure are fragmented and contentious in part because there is no shared regional vision for these uses in the coastal and marine environment. A regional assessment and management framework would enable managers and policymakers to address coherently impacted resources, ecosystems, other human uses, energy market conditions and other issues related to both ongoing and future energy development.
Partners: (List partners involved and designate leads)
Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Routine exchange of information between RI and Mass and with the other New England states
Task #1- Rhode Island and Massachusetts will exchange materials to other states developed through Rhode Island's Ocean SAMP process and Massachusetts' comprehensive ocean management planning initiatives via the NROC web site, routine emails to list serves. Task #2- Rhode Island and Massachusetts will promote and facilitate interactions and linkages between their planning initiatives via staff exchanges, workshops and electronic means.
Schedule and Resources: Timing: Ongoing – multi-year Resources needed: Resources available: In-kind contributions by the states, CSC Marine Spatial Planning project team Note: RI expects to complete the SAMP by 2010



Communications Committee Terms of Reference
Submitted by Susan Russell-Robinson

Purpose: The Communications Team will promote 1) the goals and regional issues of the North Eastern Region Ocean Council (NROC), 2) raise the visibility of NROC and its activities to Governors, the New England Governors Conference, state and Federal legislators, and regional organizations that are working on allied efforts, and 3) facilitate distribution of information about NROC through a NROC web site, news media, regional publications, public forums, and special information campaigns.

Responsibilities: The Communications Team provides an overarching information framework for NROC and its committees. The Team will develop a communication plan, clearly articulating annual needs and timetable for deliverables; will promote broad-band sharing of NROC news and information to regional organizations, state agencies, etc.; will foster consistent use of NROC branding; will prepare news releases, announcements, outreach materials, and standard presentation materials; and will develop a publication review policy to ensure consistent delivery of NROC messages. Working in a collaborative environment, the Communication Team will foster strong internal communication.

Participation: The Team will be divided into three working groups: 1) News Media and General Outreach, 2) Website Services, and 3) Alliance Building. Members will be drawn from NROC committee representatives, communication specialists from state and Federal agencies, and NOAA Coastal Services Center web support staff.

Chair/Vice-Chair Responsibilities: The Chair will conduct monthly meeting to monitor progress of the three working groups, to identify needs for additional staff or financial (primarily in-kind) resources, and to evaluate effectiveness of communication efforts. A Vice-Chair will be selected from the Federal membership and will be served as back up support for day-to-day activities of the chair.

Meetings and Evaluation: The Team will hold quarterly telecons and one annual face-to-face meeting. Evaluations of the communication efforts will be made semi-annually and discussed with the NROC Committee.

Priority Actions (begin July 1, 2008):

- (1) News Media and General Outreach
 - Develop Communication Framework.
 - Design a brand for documents, PowerPoint presentations, outreach materials, etc.
 - Prepare an “elevator speech” about NROC and associated handout materials.
 - Develop Publication Review Policy.
- (2) Web Site Services
 - Design and stand up an NROC web site hosted by NOAA Coastal Service Center.
 - Link to regional web sites and request “return” links
- (3) Alliance Building
 - Build stronger working relationships with CSO, as part of Oceans 2100 effort which requests support for regional organizations like NROC.
 - Fortify connection with New England Governors Conference (NECG) and ensure regular communication awareness of NROC activities that are related to NEGC committees such as Energy Committee.
 - Communicate regularly with New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP).

Re: New England regional alliance for ocean and coastal issues



NROC Letter to the Administration or Governors (DRAFT)
Submitted by Susan Russell-Robinson

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



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



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/eoea 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.