



Agenda • February 14, 2013 • Boston, MA

Meeting location is the US EPA office - 5 Post Office Square in Court Room 6 on the 15th floor.

9:15 AM	<p>Arrive & Networking</p>
9:30 AM	<p>Welcome & Introductions <i>Bruce Carlisle, MA and Bob LaBelle, DOI-BOEM</i></p>
9:45 AM	<p>NROC Updates <i>Bruce Carlisle, MA – State Chair</i></p> <p>The Chair will facilitate the review of updates submitted by NROC Committees. <i>Please review items before the meeting.</i></p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committee Update: Executive Committee ▪ Committee Updates: Coastal Hazards, Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health, and Ocean Planning
10:30 AM	<p>Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Northeast Shelf and Possible Management Applications via NROC <i>Mike Fogarty, NE Fisheries Science Center</i></p> <p>Mike Fogarty will share the NE Fisheries Science Center's recent work in Google Ocean on spatial analysis tools for ecosystem-based management.</p>
11:15 AM	<p>Regional Ocean Partnership Value Assessment <i>Andy Lipsky, SeaPlan</i></p> <p>Andy Lipsky will provide an overview of a current project to assess the economic, environmental, and social benefits of Regional Ocean Partnerships.</p>
11:45 PM	<p>Lunch – local Boston eateries</p>
12:45 PM	<p>Partner and Audience Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner Update: NERACOOS ▪ Partner Update: Sea Grant Consortium ▪ Partner Update: Gulf of Maine Council ▪ Update: New England Federal Partners ▪ Update: North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative ▪ Audience updates and comments: Meeting attendees provide updates
1:30 PM	<p>Super Storm Sandy Response <i>Grover Fugate, RI CRMC</i></p> <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Vallee (NOAA) will put Sandy into context by discussing New England's storm history, potential for future storms, and climate signatures being observed in the Northeast. <p>Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT and RI will provide summaries of state response and lessons learned. • ME, NH and MA will share if/how Sandy has impacted planning or prompted changes in policies. • NOAA, BOEM, EPA, and ACOE will provide summaries of federal response and lessons learned. <p>Discussion and development of regional needs statement in response to issues raised by Sandy</p>
3:30 PM	<p>Closing Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss Spring meeting dates and topics
3:45 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>

NROC Updates

Committee Update - Executive Committee:

Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Proposal

As in 2011 and 2012, NROC is submitting proposals for funding through NOAA's Regional Ocean Partnership Program FY2013 Funding Competition. Proposals were developed for each of the two Focus Areas: (1) Focus Area 1 -- Implementation of activities that address identified regional ocean priorities and advance national priorities, especially marine and Great Lakes planning efforts and (2) Focus Area 2 -- Development and governance support for operations of existing and new ROPs, including development of plans and management of ROP activities.

Objectives of the Focus Area 1 proposal are to:

- Support tribal engagement in regional ocean planning.
- Provide public engagement support.
- Ensure Regional Planning Body capacity.
- Assess changes in environmental conditions and resources in New England marine waters.
- Characterize recreational uses in New England.

Objectives of the Focus Area 2 proposal are to:

- Continue and advance NROC management, organizational, and communication functions. (Including the NROC Coordinator position and communication efforts.)
- Implement coastal hazards resilience priority activities. (Including StormReporter support and expansion, and municipal grants for Community Rating System activities.)
- Implement ocean and coastal ecosystem health priority activities (Including sentinel monitoring, methods and policy for marsh migration, and an environmental events database.)

Proposals are due February 11th, and are for two years of funding (FY13 and FY14) for work beginning October 2013.

Work Plans

Committee co-chairs, with input from committee members, drafted 2-year work plans for the 2013-2014 period. In addition to input and review by committee members, the work plans have been reviewed by the Executive Committee, discussed at full Council meetings, distributed to NROC's mailing list, and posted on the NROC web site for public review and comment. Over 30 comments were received during the review, evaluated by the committees, and committees prepared internal response to comment documents to guide work plan changes where appropriate. The EC and NROC's Committees hope to gain full Council approval and finalize the work plans at the upcoming February meeting.

Website Launch

NROC has a new website! The new site went live on December 11th at www.northeastoceancouncil.org. The website provides information about NROC's initiatives in ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience, and coastal and ocean health. The site also offers the latest NROC news, a calendar of events, and information about the Northeast Regional Planning Body.

Committee Update - Coastal Hazards Resilience:

Northeast LiDAR & Sea Level Rise Impacts Workshop Update

Following a successful workshop held July 10-11 in Portland, Maine, a subset of participants have met on a monthly basis to build a framework for Northeast Coastal National Elevation Data (CoNED) using recently collected high-resolution elevation data associated with USGS contracts funded through ARRA and using recent data collected post- Sandy.

StormSmart Coasts New England Webinar Series

NROC's Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee and the StormSmart Coasts Network, continues to sponsor webinars, every other month, addressing pre, during, and post storm topics.

The following webinars were held during late summer and fall 2012:

- Estimating Storm Surge Inundation and Planning for Evacuation
- Communicating Climate Change Impacts and Gaining Support for Action

Please join the StormSmart Coasts New England Network site to get webinar reminders.

<http://stormsmart.org/groups/new-england/home>.

NROC & GOMA Coastal Resilience Grants Program

Six pilot grants awarded through the New England Municipal Coastal Resilience Grants Program are making satisfactory progress. The projects are expected to be completed by October 2013.

Ogunquit, Maine: The Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and Ogunquit Sewer District with Woodard and Curran (Portland, Maine) are developing strategies to protect the Ogunquit treatment plant from sea level rise and storm surge related flooding.

Portsmouth, NH: The City of Portsmouth is using funds to assess and increase the City's resiliency to climate change and extreme weather events. Work is focused on a vulnerability analysis and developing recommendations to improve resiliency that can be easily integrated into the Master Plan update process, the building code, and the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

Marshfield-Scituate-Duxbury, MA: The three towns of Marshfield, Scituate, and Duxbury have partnered to take a regional approach to minimize impacts from sea level rise and storm surge to infrastructure, private property and natural resources. The towns are working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission to map and assess vulnerable public infrastructure and natural resources.

New Shoreham, RI: The island community of New Shoreham (Block Island) has used future flood maps for sea level rise and storm surge scenarios to identify vulnerable infrastructure, including the ferry terminal. The town has contracted with an engineering firm to develop a structural concept and a contingency plan to respond to these flood scenarios.

Greenwich, CT: The town of Greenwich is concerned about homes and infrastructure in the flood zones and has made progress creating flood maps at the 2ft contour to assess vulnerable properties and infrastructure. The town identified Base Flood Elevations of each property and is looking at how changes in BFE can affect vulnerability in the flood zone.

Guilford, CT: The town of Guilford is with The Nature Conservancy and Yale University to conduct a risk and vulnerability assessment.

Climate Proposal, submitted to NOAA Climate Program

Project Title: Stimulate innovation and increase the pace of municipal responses to a changing climate in the coastal zone of the Northeast and Bay of Fundy

Brief Description: Document municipal adaptation approaches; provide municipal technical assistance and disseminate adaptation/resiliency communications in the northeast.

Geographical area: States of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine. Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Reports - Document municipal adaptation approaches in the northeast:

1. Fifteen State and municipal case studies and Memorandum summarizing the research (Completed June 30, 2012 by Roger Williams University and available upon request)
2. White paper synthesizing resources available on existing internet databases entitled

"An Overview of Online Resources for Climate Adaptation Policies Relating to New England Regional, State and Local Municipalities" (Completed January 15, 2012 by Roger Williams University and available upon request)

3. White paper entitled "Municipal Responses to a Changing Climate in the Coastal Zone of the Northeast and Bay of Fundy" (Completed by Roger Williams University and available upon request).

Municipal technical assistance grantee reports/publications:

1. Greenwich Coastal Resilience Planning Study, Report of Methodology and Findings October 18, 2012 (available upon request)

2. Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission

Please see the "Sea Level Rise Preliminary Study" and the "Ogunquit Sewage Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report: Adaptation Options to Protect the Ogunquit Sewage Treatment Plant against Floods, Storms Surges and Sea Level Rise" at <http://ogunquitsewerdistrict.org/>

Additional reports will be available at completion of project.

Presentations - Document municipal adaptation approaches in the northeast:

1. In November 2012, Julia Knisel presented the current and expected work of the pilot projects at *Shifting Seas: The Law's Response to Changing Ocean Conditions*, the 9th Marine Law Symposium at Roger Williams University School of Law. A link to the Symposium is here:

<http://law.rwu.edu/marine-affairs-institute/symposiaconferences/9th-marine-law-symposium>. A link directly to Julia's presentation is here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3fu93oSwnc&feature=youtu.be>

2. Roger Williams University has an abstract proposal submitted for the first National Adaptation Forum in April, 2013. The title of the abstract is *Coastal Climate Change Adaptation in the Northeast: Lessons Learned*. (Proposal available upon request.)

Disseminate adaptation/resiliency communications:

1. On October 3, Clean Air-Cool Planet (CA-CP) representative Roger Stephenson participated in an evening panel discussion at the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planners Association conference. Slides from the presentation and discussion can be found on the NNECAPA website at <http://nneccapa.org/resources/2012-annual-conference-brunswick-me/> (first link under "Wednesday, October 3.")

Overall Presentation: Plan to present grant project findings at the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment meeting on June 13, 2013.

Leveraged funds: Significant match has been leveraged and will be reported on at close of grant project.

Project beneficiaries: What agencies, organizations, groups or individuals has your project helped? List them here. Thus far outreach has reached a diverse group including journalists, National Estuarine Research Reserves contacts, planners and practitioners through Webinars and distributed documents.

Engagement with Stakeholders: Briefly describe how you are engaging stakeholders in your study area. There has been extensive engagement with stakeholders and has been a primary focus of the Outreach and Communications portion of the project.

Deliverables - Document municipal adaptation approaches in the northeast expected documents:

1. Finalize two papers on transferred development rights/rolling easements as tools for climate change adaptation in the coastal New England states.

2. Finalize two additional case studies for the province of New Brunswick.

Provide municipal technical assistance:

The following four grant projects will be completed by June, 2013:

1. Portsmouth Coastal Resilience Initiative - Portsmouth, New Hampshire

2. Marshfield-Scituate-Duxbury Coastal Resilience Initiative - Marshfield-Scituate-Duxbury, Mass
3. Rhode Island-New Shoreham Coastal Resilience Initiative - New Shoreham
4. Building a Community Coastal Resilience Plan - Guilford, Connecticut

Disseminate adaptation/resiliency communications:

1. CA-CP hosted a workshop on June 5, 2012 with the Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech). This workshop was partly funded through this NOAA grant, as well as through supplemental fundraising.
2. CA-CP developed an outreach strategy for this project, focusing on three high-priority audiences: media, local citizens/elected officials and practitioners. (Available upon request).
3. Prepared local adaptation stories which are posted on CA-CP website and in media room of Storm Smart Coast. Stories are available at http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/adaptation_and_impacts_stories.php and at <http://nh-journalists.stormsmart.org/local-stories/>.
4. Held Webinar and prepared slide deck on adaptation communication for practitioners entitled "Climate Media Relations: Who, Why and How," held November 28, 2012 (please see powerpoint sent as separate document)
5. Media room replicated by other Storm Smart Coasts contacts (RI, ME, MA) have plans to hold another webinar after reaching out to other Storm Smart Coasts contacts via phone and email.
6. Produce climate change materials applicable to local areas ongoing:
Have participated in creation of a simplified Executive Summary of the Great Bay Impacts Assessment. During the remainder of the grant term, CA-CP intends to conduct a review of current literature on climate impacts in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine and work on creating similar summaries for those states.
7. Created an expansive New Hampshire Journalist's Room site: <http://nh-journalists.stormsmart.org/> in coordination with CA-CP (plan to replicate for other states).
8. Created project page specifically for this project ([more information will be added to this page prior to project completion](http://stormsmart.org/gom/climate-change-adaptation.html)): <http://stormsmart.org/gom/climate-change-adaptation.html> .

Additional Webinars and activities will be reported at completion of project.

Influence: Has your project influenced any new work by you or other researchers or institutions?

Evaluation criteria: Did you or someone else evaluate your project? If so, what techniques reviews and what were the results?

Committee Update – Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health:

OCEH - 1.1 Initiate the development of a regional climate change sentinel monitoring strategy
NROC and NERACOOS are working together to promote the development of an integrated sentinel monitoring for climate change strategy for the northeast region, building on related, ongoing efforts from Long Island Sound to the Gulf of Maine. The goal is to measure over time and quantify changes in the marine and estuarine environment. The initial step will be development of a plan that will elaborate a vision that includes identification of key variables, processes and locations for observation. It will also contain a strategy/vision for how data will be managed, synthesized and interpreted, how data will be disseminated to the stakeholders and how the broader public can be engaged. This science plan can then be used by NROC and NERACOOS agencies to develop funding proposals to further develop the strategy and establish a sentinel monitoring network.

A Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the development of the Sentinel Monitoring Plan for Climate Change and a strategy to seek funding for its implementation, including establishing pilot projects. The Steering Committee is composed of about 15 individuals representing government, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. The first meeting of the steering committee is scheduled for February 4, 2013, in Portsmouth, NH. The steering committee's first task will be to establish one or more working groups, develop terms of reference for work group(s), and develop an agenda for an initial workshop in spring/summer 2013.

Additional workshops and meetings will be held throughout 2013 and 2014. Funding for these workshops and meetings has been requested through NOAA's FY13 FFO.

OCEH-2.1 Support the marsh migration pilot project

In December 2012, in response to a request by its member states, the NROC Ocean and Ecosystem Health Committee sponsored a *Marsh Migration Workshop* with regional practitioners who are currently engaged in marsh migration assessment projects. After a day of fruitful discussions, the 40 workshop participants were very vocal about their needs moving forward, which include bridging communication and knowledge transfer between those in attendance (practitioners who use model outputs for policy decisions) and the technical marsh migration modeling community. The next steps based on the workshop participants' needs have been broken down into three products: (1) a Model Comparison Analysis to assess data gaps and various model's utility, sensitivity and functionality; (2) a follow-up larger workshop for both model developers and model users to establish collaborations on regional initiatives; and (3) development of guidance material for decisions makers in agencies, organizations, and municipalities who are continually faced with tough choices regarding assessing the future of their coastal marshes. A funding request for these products has been submitted through NOAA's FY13 FFO.

OCEH-2.2: Promote communication and coordination between ecosystem indicator programs

EPA's ORISE Fellow has been contacting members of the environmental indicators Community of Practice (COP) by phone and e-mail to collect information about the utility and functionality of the COP web site and determine if there are other mechanisms available to share information. The COP steering committee will meet in early February to discuss next steps towards improving the COP.

OCEH-2.3: Develop an environmental events database

The environmental events database is in its early stages. Funding has been requested through NOAA's FY13 FFO. In the meantime, a steering committee will be established to work with a CT DEEP I-RICH Fellow to determine how best to build the database.

Committee Update – Ocean Planning:

Project Updates:

Commercial Fishing Mapping

- Outreach plan being implemented
 - Review draft maps
 - Discuss/identify issues
- Meetings throughout region through February

Marine Industry Engagement

- Meetings held in December
- Meeting summaries, white papers being finalized
- Potential next steps being developed

Recreational Boating Survey

- Survey completed end of 2012 boating season
- Data analysis underway (spatial and economic)
- Outreach plan to rec boating industry underway
 - Webinars with leaders
 - Larger workshops to review data, discuss issues early March

Natural resource/conservation issues

- Technical advisors identified and met Feb 1st; 2-5 people for marine mammals, fish, birds, shellfish
- ENGO outreach in Feb

Data Portal

- Thematic maps developed/refined

- Ongoing: Develop and maintain priority data products; engage states, feds, and regional data providers
- Upcoming webinars, including one to tribes and one to regulatory feds

Communications

- RFP issued week of 1/14
- Proposals reviewed Feb
- Contractor on-board March

Summary-timeline re: existing projects...

- Jan-Feb—continued engagement (fish, e-ngos, rec boating); review products from industry engagement
- Feb—continued engagement; review comms proposals; nat resources technical advisors convene
- March—continued engagement (fish, rec boating); natural resources project technical advisors continue
- Ongoing: What do data products need to include to be used?

...and scoping of upcoming work

- Jan-Feb—Baseline characterization (2-3 RFPs)
 - Birds (stand-alone RFP?)
 - Economic characterization
 - Overall scope of baseline
- Jan-April—Public participation
 - Public meetings after RPB meets
- Jan-Feb—Next steps for industry engagement
- Jan—New NOAA proposal due Feb 11

Northeast Regional Planning Body Update

- For all November 2012 Meeting materials (proceedings, video, public transcript), go to RPB webpage: <http://northeastoceancouncil.org/regional-planning-body/>.
- Spring RPB meeting will be held in April 11-12 in Narragansett, RI at the Village Inn (go to webpage for April meeting logistics and public registration). Spring Meeting Objectives will include:
 - Identify draft goals for regional ocean planning and mechanisms for receiving public input about those draft goals.
 - Discuss and approve a three year timeline for RPB work.
 - Continue discussions about RPB operational considerations, initial products, and engaging stakeholders as the process moves forward.
 - Continue providing context about current activities that lay a foundation for Northeast regional ocean planning.
- In the interim, the Executive Secretariat has developed an activity schedule and delegated tasks (e.g., draft charter, engagement strategy, webinar for tribes, operational options) to be completed prior to April meeting.
- Regional Ocean Planning Goal Setting: In preparation for the April meeting, the Exec. Secretariat has requested that RPB members representing each government sector convene separately over the next 2 months to caucus and develop a short list of draft regional ocean planning goals that will be integrated and presented for discussion in April. Once agreed upon, these draft goals will be presented in a series of public forums around New England in May and June and will be further refined based on public input.

Partner Updates

Partner Update - NERACOOS:

Ocean and Weather Climate Data Display

NERACOOS has launched a new ocean and weather climate display tool. This display delivers information about the average weather and ocean conditions over the past decade. The data in the display comes from NERACOOS supported buoys that are deployed throughout the northeast and have been collecting hourly weather and ocean data for the past 10+ years. Also included in the display are data from the NEFSC eMOLT program, which monitors bottom temperatures throughout the region. The display also includes information about recent and past years ocean and weather conditions so that users can compare them to the average conditions from the past decade. The NERACOOS ocean and weather climate display is available on the NERACOOS website (www.neracoos.org). For more information contact Tom Shyka (tom@neracoos.org)

Tide Gauge Installation and Inundation Prediction System for Seacoast, NH

A new tide gauge has been installed in Hampton Bay, NH as an initial step towards developing an inundation prediction system for the Hampton-Seabrook, NH region. The tide gauge is currently operating and delivering preliminary data. The data from the tide gauge will provide critical information for emergency managers and planners and support the development of an inundation forecast system that is being developed by NERACOOS modeling partners at UMass Dartmouth and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The organizations supporting this collaborative project include: the towns of Hampton and Seabrook, NH, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program, the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP), NextEra Energy Seabrook, the National Weather Service, NERACOOS and its ocean modeling partners at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Coastal Hazards Resiliency Planning

The newly combined NROC-NERACOOS Coastal Hazards Resiliency working group will be developing project plans in preparation for proposal opportunities. The planning activity will look for opportunities to leverage existing efforts like the inundation prediction system described above. For more information about this planning effort please contact Kevin O'Brien (kevin.obrien@ct.gov)

Integrated Sentinel Monitoring

The newly combined NROC-NERACOOS coastal and ecosystem health working group is developing an integrated sentinel monitoring plan for the region. A steering team has been formed for this effort and it met in early February to develop draft goals and to plan for a workshop to be scheduled for early spring. For more information about this effort contact Matt Liebman (liebman.matt@epa.gov)

Improving Ocean Information Delivery

Over the next year, NERACOOS and its partners will be working on several efforts to improve ocean information delivery. These projects include the development of improved access to the historical weather and ocean data collected from NERACOOS buoys and other partners. Also in development are tools for viewing and accessing predictions of ocean and weather conditions throughout the region. In order to support these information delivery tools NERACOOS and the Northeast Coastal Ocean Data Partnership will continue the development of a regional data framework that supports standardized access to regional data collections. For more information contact Tom Shyka (tom@neracoos.org)

Super storm Sandy

Throughout Super storm Sandy NERACOOS provided critical data to weather forecasters, emergency managers, mariners and others. The observations and predictions provided by NERACOOS helped improve the overall forecast of Sandy and gave local forecasters and managers real-time information about the storm, its track and resulting weather and ocean conditions. The NERACOOS website was a critical source of information and experienced an 800 fold increase in traffic during the peak of activity. Most of the NERACOOS observing assets

survived the storm and continued to deliver data throughout the storm. However, some data feeds were impacted by the storm and NERACOOS is in the process of planning backup systems to avoid outages during extreme events like Super Storm sandy. For more information on NERACOOS' efforts during Sandy please contact Ru Morrison (ru.morrison@neracoos.org)

National Ocean Observing Summit

NERACOOS staff and regional partners along with many other representatives of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) community convened in Herndon, VA in November 2012 to develop a strategy for the next decade of US IOOS. Over four days, workshop participants reviewed the progress achieved over the last decade, validated the need for an integrated observing system, and identified opportunities for growth in the coming ten years. The first result of this effort is the US IOOS Summit Declaration. Over 150 Summit attendees have already signed; we invite you to show your continued support of US IOOS by signing the declaration.

Download the US IOOS Summit Declaration at:

<http://www.iooc.us/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/IOOS-Summit-Declaration.pdf>

Support US IOOS by Signing the Summit Declaration at:

<http://www.iooc.us/summit/the-us-ioos-summit-declaration/>

New England Ocean Literacy Summit

NERACOOS co-sponsored the 2012 NEOSEC Ocean Literacy Summit, which was held in November at the University of Rhode Island. The Summit was a great success, highlighting ocean exploration. This event brought together approximately 180 people from around New England that are involved and interested in formal and informal ocean education. The event featured presentations by NOAA Deputy Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan and ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard. The education section of the NERACOOS website has been updated and now includes resources from the summit. Visit www.neracoos.org/OLSummit2012 to download these resources including presentations.

Partner Update - Northeast Sea Grant Consortium (NESGC):

Judith McDowell assumed the chair of NESGC on January 1st and will serve as chair through the end of 2013.

Four ongoing regional projects (decision support for MSP; governance role of local authorities in MSP; climate change adaptation and resilience; and social and economic impacts of fisheries catch share programs) are supported for two years and a first year progress report is expected during early spring 2013.

The NESGC Advisory Board met on November 15th, 2012, at the Alton Jones Campus on URI. One of the tasks discussed was development of the upcoming regional RFP and the inclusion of topics of interest to BOEM in the RFP.

NESGC Regional RFP was released in early January 2013. The focus of the RFP is "Human Dimensions of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems" and specific topic areas include:

- Development of decision-support tools that help stakeholders conceptualize or evaluate the trade-offs of future scenarios in coastal communities.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of current governance institutions and regulatory frameworks and the ability to enforce them in coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Socioeconomic research in support of management decisions which address the balance among economic development, ecosystem protection and sustainability.
- Socioeconomic research on new paradigms in management and governance to improve coastal management.
- Development of indices for ecological services valuation.
- Contribution to a better understanding of ecosystem services through the development of data collection tools, models, valuation indices that provide a framework for decision making aimed at maximizing ecological and economic sustainability of coastal communities.

- Advancing our understanding of the vulnerabilities and resiliency of coastal communities to a changing environment and economy and develops tools for decision makers to better plan and respond to those challenges.

Pre-proposals are due on February 22, 2013 by 5:00pm and should be emailed to seagrant@whoi.edu.

Partner Update - Gulf of Maine Council:

Council Coordination

On February 1, 2013 the Council welcomed on board Joan LeBlanc as the Council Coordinator. Joan is an accomplished environmental leader, writer, and public speaker with extensive experience in community outreach, building consensus, and creating partnerships. The Council is looking forward to working with Joan and having her support to implement the Action Plan.

Fund Development

In January 2012 the Council issued a Request for Responses for a Fund Development Strategy that includes a Funding Needs Assessment that will provide sound and ready-to-go recommendations to the Council moving forward to address its financial needs. The consultant will be working closely with the Council's Ad Hoc Fund Development Group and will develop a plan by end of April.

Gulf of Maine Times

Starting February 2013 the GOM Times will be issued on a monthly e-edition. It will include one feature article as well as some additional information. The first issues will be focused on climate change to cover NOAA Climate Office Grant to the GOMC including project progress, distributing materials generated and serve as an avenue for a media campaign. Also a survey is being conducted for sponsors to seek feedback on maximizing the impact of the Times to better serve communication needs.

Habitat Restoration

Due to substantial funding cuts NOAA is changing its restoration grants from a partnership to a focus on specific projects. With these changes the Habitat Restoration Committee renews its commitment to habitat restoration efforts at the community-level and is working to secure new resources to meet demonstrated and/or documented needs. This includes applying to the FFO issued by NOAA for specific habitat restoration projects.

Coastal Zone Canada 2014

The Council is a bi-national instrument that promotes ecosystem health and community wellbeing in the Gulf of Maine, facilitating knowledge sharing, information exchange, and bringing together science and policy. As the Council seeks to strengthen these roles it has initiated steps to coordinate in the preparations of CZC14 which will be convened in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in June 2014. 2014 also happens to be the Council's 25th anniversary and this will provide the ideal forum for the Council to show case its work and promote its activities in the Gulf of Maine.

State of the Gulf of Maine series

Work continues on the development, publication and rollout of State of the Gulf theme papers. A theme paper on Toxic Contaminants in the Gulf of Maine is under review and should be published shortly.

Partner Update - New England Federal Partners:

New England Federal Partners held its quarterly meeting on January 17, 2013 in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the Volpe Center.

The meeting focused on:

- Updates from NEFP committees
- Selection of new chair

- Successes
- Identification of shifts or changes to regional priorities
- Future directions

(1) Climate Committee Meeting

- a. Working on a share site through max.gov - calendar of events, document sharing, minutes archive, presentation archive
- b. NEclimateUS.org will be launched by May1. – Primarily a document and resource relational database
- c. Who's Who - Assigning points of contact within each Fed agency for high level topics related to Climate
- d. Impressive presentation of DIGITAL COAST sea level rise viewer
<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slviewer/>
Northeast coming early summer 2013.

(2) Ocean Planning Committee

- a. National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan - group reached common understanding of current status of NOP IP, agreed that the re-write does not slow or discourage our continued progress in the NE, and that we will keep each other apprised of developments. We expect a final Implementation Plan by the end of February, according to the NOC.
- b. Regional Planning Body –
 - i. For all November 2012 Meeting materials (proceedings, video, public transcript), go to RPB webpage: <http://northeastoceancouncil.org/regional-planning-body/>.
 - ii. Federal partners provided comments on RPB phased 3-year timeline and activity schedule for progress between meetings.
 - iii. Spring RPB meeting will be held in April 11-12 in Narragansett, RI at the Village Inn. Federal partners confirmed meeting objectives, and discussed federal caucus to draft goals in prep for April meeting.
 - iv. Federal regulatory efficiency: The group re-iterated the need to continue progress on these discussions, and specifically to work towards ensuring that the portal includes information needed for regulatory staff to use as a screening tool and to identify formal mechanisms to incorporate use of the portal into permitting processes. A self-selected steering committee to design next steps includes NOAA (C. Boelke, D Desautels, B Nicholson), USCG (D Hubbard, M Desautels), DOI (M Krueger), EPA (J Moskal) and J Weber. We will also be identifying reg colleagues from BOEM, USACE and FERC to join these discussions. Webinar to be planned in February.
- c. NROC Project Updates were provided by Napoli and Weber with attention to need for federal involvement on natural resources and commercial fishing mapping projects.
- d. Department of Energy provided presentation on all nationally awarded energy demo projects around the U.S., including two in NE (ME state and federal waters). Contact: M Massaua

(3) New England Federal Partners Full Meeting

- a. 2013 Chair: Susan Russell-Robinson – USGS/DOI
- b. Shared stakeholder priorities – see shift away from ocean and toward terrestrial (watersheds, birds, landbased plants and animals, response of communities to sea level rise and increase size/duration of storms) Also heightened awareness of coastal vulnerability due to Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Irene.
- c. Many successes for NEFP to date:
 - i. Grass roots “Statement of Common Purpose”
 - ii. Two effective Committees (Climate and Ocean Planning)
 - iii. Sponsored several forum – 2 briefing w/ CEQ; Interagency Forum on Climate Adaptation
 - iv. FEMA Openhouse

- v. Jumpstart convening entities in Regional Ocean Planning Body
 - vi. Increasing multi-Fed partner participation in data collection and tool development (NEclimateUS.org – NOAA; ARRA Lidar collection – USGS; Federal Regulatory Summit - DOD
 - vii. Heightened awareness of regional activities of 17 member Agencies and Bureaus
 - viii. Strong colleague to colleague network
- d. Future Directions
- i. Improved integration
 - ii. Increased efficiencies through coordinated planning and communication
 - iii. Raise visibility of NEFP with National Ocean Council and US Global Climate Change Program
 - iv. Sponsor webinars and community presentation