

Northeast Regional Planning Body Work Session | August 7, 2013

On August 7th, members of the Northeast Regional Planning Body discussed the following topics. This call provided updates on recent activities and outlined tasks needed in advance of the next RPB meeting. This summary will be made available to the public.

1. Stakeholder Engagement - Advisory Function

- Options for stakeholder advisory groups were further discussed including options for a state-by-state and regional approach.
 - a) State update:
 - RPB members provided updates on the use of existing/new state-by-state “sounding boards” to further engage individuals in ocean planning activities. Existing state advisory meetings are being scheduled in MA, CT, RI in Sept-Oct. Maine RPB members are setting up a new regional ocean planning group in their state and New Hampshire RPB members will use existing Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee/Port Advisory Council meetings for ocean planning updates and discussion.
 - b) New ideas for a regional gathering:
 - The RPB also discussed creating a new regional forum for input and 2 way dialog. This regional stakeholder gathering would provide high level diverse feedback (not consensus) on NE ocean planning process and products. Staff and co-leads will use input from RPB members on the call to further develop this concept - possibly in conjunction with a fall RPB meeting.

2. Work Group Establishment

- Work groups comprised of RPB members and/or designated staff have formed for maritime commerce, fisheries, communications, and regulatory topics. A summary of initial tasks:

Work Groups	Initial Tasks
Maritime Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review data• Organize next steps re: engagement
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Phase 1 draft report (over last year)• Review draft maps• RFP for Phase 2
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss draft communications strategy• RFP for public engagement support• Review draft communications products
Regulatory	TBD

- Additional topic-specific work groups will be convened as necessary in the coming months, potentially including a natural resource, energy, cultural, and recreational focus.

3. Input on process to revise goals, prioritize actions, draft work plan

- RPB members discussed the need to use products from their April meeting and recent public comment to revise a set of principles, goals, objectives, actions, and outcomes. Examples were given to illustrate the need to get more specific.
- A work plan will be drafted and organized by goals and objectives. The work plan will include:

- Actions (including stakeholder engagement aspects)
- Timeline
- Responsibilities/roles (RPB, staff, work groups, contractors)
- Budget
- Products/outcomes
- Additional stakeholder engagement/communication elements
- Champion implementer beyond planning phase
- To refine/prioritize objectives and actions, filters/criteria will be used and sourced from: principles, public input from May-June public meetings, written comments received in June-July, results of industry engagement (workshops), results of fisheries engagement, etc. Examples of filters include: appropriate niche/driver, regional in scope, practical given available funding, and potential for progress within identified timeframe.

4. Revised Timeline

July-August

- Work group setup/calls as needed
- 2nd RPB work session conference call
- Public comment summary distributed - RPB members review key themes
- NE ocean planning staff works to revise goals, prioritize actions, begin draft work plan

September-October

- RPB calls to review revised goals + actions, draft work plan
- Stakeholder engagement:
 - Existing/new state groups meet
 - RPB progress posted on website
- Work group calls as needed

November

- RPB Meeting – early November in Boston
- FOCUS will be to discuss/agree on revised goals and draft work plan

RPB members in attendance:

Meredith Mendelson (Maine)
 Tom Burack, Glenn Normandeau (New Hampshire)
 Bruce Carlisle (Massachusetts)
 Grover Fugate (Rhode Island)
 Susan Whalen (Connecticut)
 Jean McInnis (Mohegan Tribe)
 Elizabeth Perry (Wompanoag Tribe of Gay Head)
 Joe Atangan (Joint Chiefs of Staff/Navy)
 Betsy Nicholson (Department of Commerce/NOAA)
 Chris Tompsett (Department of Defense/Navy)
 Dan Hubbard (Department of Homeland Security/USCG)
 Mel Cote (Environmental Protection Agency)

Staff on the call:

Chris Williams (NH Coastal Program), Matt Nixon (ME Coastal Program), Michele DesAutels and Tiffany Smythe (USCG), Pete Murdoch (Department of Interior/BOEM), Mary Kruger (US National Park Service), Regina Lyons (EPA), Daniel Martin (NOAA), Tim Goodspeed (NOAA), Nick Napoli (NROC), John Weber (NROC), Katie Lund (NOAA), Ingrid Irigoyen (Meridian), Laura Cantral (Meridian)