

## ***Northeast Regional Planning Body Work Session | November 13, 2013***

On November 13, members of the Northeast Regional Planning Body discussed the following topics in preparation for their January 22-23 meeting:

1. Review revised agenda for January RPB meeting
2. Update on draft Objectives and Actions document
3. Overview of Draft Work Plan and RPB discussion
4. Next steps leading to Jan 22-23 RPB meeting

### **1. Review revised agenda for RPB meeting**

RPB members expressed a general comfort level with the organization and flow of the January 22-23 meeting and approved posting a public version of the agenda online. Prior to this meeting, materials including draft Objectives and Actions and draft Work Plan will also be posted online. These documents should be considered draft up until the January meeting.

### **2. Update on draft Objectives and Actions document**

The following activity has happened/is being planned for receiving input on draft Objectives and Actions:

- Meetings in states as follows:
  - Maine - initial advisors group meeting on 10/15 with a second meeting planned in early January.
  - New Hampshire - Port Advisory Council meeting on 12/18.
  - Massachusetts - MA Ocean Advisory Commission and Science Advisory Council met on 10/30.
  - Rhode Island - workshop in late December
  - Connecticut – initial discussion with Long Island Sound stakeholders on a 10/31 call and upcoming presentation at CT Maritime Commission meeting on 12/18.
- Federal RPB members had a call on 10/31.
- Tribal RPB members having a series of conference calls in October and November.
- The draft of this document is now posted on the RPB meeting page for public comment.

### **3. Overview of draft Work Plan and RPB discussion**

RPB members heard an overview of the draft work plan's timeline, structure and relationship to objectives and actions. It was noted that the work plan will evolve over time as the RPB makes decisions and through public input.

#### ***Timeline Comments and Discussion:***

- Timeline provides a overview of key ocean planning milestones and decision points through 2015, with 3 general phases:
  - Phase 1* – focus on gathering baseline data, continued stakeholder engagement, and identification of planning options for each goal by the end of 2014.
  - Phase 2* - RPB makes decisions about products and planning options for each goal.
  - Phase 3* - RPB implements decisions and identifies its role beyond 2015.
- Milestones reference planning products – these products need to be identified as outcomes.
- 2014 June meeting needs RPB focus on approach of having products for each goal or a cohesive plan.

- 2016 should include submittal of products to National Ocean Council as a final step.

***General Comments on Work Plan:***

- Identify outcomes and user groups that would benefit from them. RPB will get more robust public comment if people understand project outcomes. Put options on the table for discussion as early as next spring to help people consider and understand possibilities.
- Identify specific regulatory processes, actions, or decisions making that projects can feed into.
- “In-kind” should also identify external partner work to show how actions integrate with other activities.
- Summarize grants to illustrate their connection to the work plan; clearly identify what products can be covered by grant funding and what work lacks existing funds. If projects lacking funding are a priority, identify sources that could be targeted and actively seek additional investments.
- Summarize somewhere (may not need to be in the work plan) who is working on other topics of potential interest (e.g. invasive species). This could help identify issues that are being addressed already and that may be beyond the scope of the regional ocean planning effort.
- Include a couple sentence overview before list of projects under each goal. Something as simple as putting under Goal 1 header: “Projects under this goal focus on interagency coordination, ways to improve public understanding, and the use of data portal and data in regulatory processes”.
- Think of other agency staff (beyond RPB members) that need to be brought into work plan review.
- Identify activities throughout the work plan that overlap with agency commitments reflected in the National Ocean Policy’s Implementation Plan.

***Specific Comments on Work Plan Organized by Goal:***

Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

- Work with states and tribes to make sure existing activities and capacities are captured. For example, include state resource mapping projects beyond ones listed (e.g. avian data, eelgrass mapping, state fisheries resources mapping in MA) and NERACOOS sentinel mapping.
- Indicate ecosystem mapping and modeling efforts where possible.
- Strengthen language about importance of identifying gaps in baseline data including where there are gaps through 2015 and beyond.

Compatibility Among Past, Current, and Future Ocean Uses

- Note that information gathered in previous goals/projects will feed into much of the project work under this goal.

**4. Next steps**

- Consider modifying January meeting agenda to include DOE in the offshore wind discussion.
- Explore the possibility of having a local official provide meeting welcome.
- Post January meeting agenda online.

- Summarize comment received on draft Objectives and Actions prior to Jan RPB meeting.
- RPB members provide feedback on the draft Work Plan in advance of their Jan meeting.

**RPB members in attendance:**

Kathleen Leyden and Meredith Mendelson (Maine)  
Tom Burack, Glenn Normandeau (New Hampshire)  
Bruce Carlisle (Massachusetts)  
Grover Fugate (Rhode Island)  
Brian Thompson (Connecticut)  
Doug Grout (NEFMC)  
Rick Getchell (Micmac Tribe)  
Sharri Venno (Maliseet Tribe)  
Chris Tompsett (Department of Defense/Navy)  
Meghan Massaua (Department of Energy)  
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)  
Chris Clarke (Department of Agriculture)  
Jeff Flumignan (Department of Transportation)  
Mel Cote (Environmental Protection Agency)

**Staff on the call:**

Chris Williams (NH), Bob Ballou (RI), Mike Fogarty, Eric Goldstein (NOAA), Mary Kruger (NPS), Leann Bullin (BOEM), Bill Hubbard (USACE), Michele DesAutels (USCG), Ingrid Irigoyen, Laura Cantral (Meridian), Katie Lund, John Weber, Nick Napoli (NE regional ocean planning staff)