Summary of Discussions

Northeast Regional Planning Body Meeting

November 13-14, 2014

New Castle, New Hampshire

This document summarizes discussions and presentations at the fifth meeting of the Northeast Regional Planning Body. The meeting took place on November 13-14, 2014 in New Castle, New Hampshire. The summary was produced by Meridian Institute, which provides meeting planning and facilitation services for the Northeast Regional Planning Body.

Contents

Executive Summary

The fifth meeting of the Northeast Regional Planning Body (NE RPB) took place on November 13-14, 2014 at the Wentworth by the Sea in New Castle, New Hampshire. The NE RPB meeting was attended by state, federal, Northeast Fishery Management Council, and tribal NE RPB appointed members or their alternates. Approximately 72 members of the public attended as observers and 13 total public comments were provided during three public comment sessions held over the course of the meeting. A list of NE RPB members and alternates and public participants is included in Appendix A.

Objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss updates on NE RPB activities since the last in-person meeting in June 2014.
- Review options and make decisions about next steps related to *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* and *Effective Decision Making* goals.
- Provide opportunities for public input about the topics being considered by the NE RPB and informal discussion of ideas with NE RPB members.

Meeting materials can be found by clicking here[1] and click here[2] for a summary of public comment from Fall 2014. Additional information about the NE RPB and ocean planning in general is available here[3]. This includes information on past and upcoming NE RPB meetings and opportunities for public comment.

The first day of the meeting, November 13, the NE RPB heard updates on key projects, heard public comments, reviewed options for next steps, and made decisions about next steps towards the *Healthy Oceans and Coastal Ecosystems* goal. The afternoon of the first day and morning of the second day of the meeting, November 14, were focused on hearing updates and reviewing options for next steps related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal.

Key decisions made during the meeting included:

- To continue ongoing work to identify important ecological areas, including summarizing management areas already identified through existing authorities, characterizing marine life distribution and abundance, and considering the scientific feasibility of further defining important ecological areas through additional approaches.
- To continue exploring the potential for development and use of measures of ocean health and establishment of a baseline from which to conduct future assessments.
- To establish an interdisciplinary work group to explore an ecosystem based approach to managing healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems that will include consideration of the suitability of tradeoff analysis as part of the planning process.

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[1] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf
[2] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fall2014PublicMeetingSummary.pdf
[3] http://neoceanplanning.org/

- To continue to develop "Best Available Science" through the NE RPB's existing subject specific work groups and to increase regulatory staff involvement in these group to ensure products can be used in existing decision-making processes.
- For the Regulatory Work Group to consider the application of best available science and specific options for agency coordination through primary permitting and leasing authorities and the National Environmental Policy Act; this will include consideration of best practices for tribal consultations, a pre-application process that includes templates and best practices, and improved internal agency guidance and agreement to utilize ocean plan data and practices.
- To continue investigating opportunities to apply ocean plan data and guidance to inform implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act.
- To establish interagency work groups to consider specific opportunities for additional agency coordination around emerging ocean uses, starting with work groups for offshore aquaculture and sand and gravel.

About This Meeting

The fifth meeting of the Northeast Regional Planning Body (NE RPB) took place on November 13-14, 2014 at the Wentworth by the Sea in New Castle, New Hampshire. The NE RPB meeting was attended by state, federal, Northeast Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and tribal NE NE RPB appointed members or their alternates. Approximately 72 members of the public attended as observers and 13 total public comments were provided during three public comment sessions held over the course of the meeting. A list of NE RPB members and alternates and public participants is included in Appendix A.

The meeting was called by the NE RPB state, federal, and tribal Co-Leads. The state Co-Lead is Grover Fugate, Executive Director, Coastal Resource Management Council, State of Rhode Island; the federal Co-Lead is Betsy Nicholson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); the tribal Co-Lead is Richard Getchell, All Nations Consulting and Former Tribal Chief, Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians. The meeting was organized in collaboration with John Weber, Nick Napoli, and Katie Lund, staff for Northeast regional ocean planning, and Meridian Institute, which provided meeting planning and facilitation services and developed this summary document.

Meeting Objectives

Objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss updates on NE RPB activities since the last in-person meeting in June 2014.
- Review options and make decisions about next steps related to *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* and *Effective Decision Making* goals.
- Provide opportunities for public input about the topics being considered by the NE RPB and informal discussion of ideas with NE RPB members.

Meeting materials can be found by clicking here[4] and click here[5] for a summary of public comment from Fall 2014. Additional information about the NE RPB and ocean planning in general is available here[6].This includes information on past and upcoming NE RPB meetings and opportunities for public comment.

[4] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf
[5] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fall2014PublicMeetingSummary.pdf
[6] http://neoceanplanning.org/

Thursday, November 13, 2014

The first day of the meeting, November 13, the NE RPB heard updates on projects, heard public comments, reviewed options, and made decisions about next steps towards the *Healthy Oceans and Coastal* goal. The NE RPB also heard updates and options related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal, which were continued into the second day.

Tribal Blessing

Mr. Richard Getchell opened the meeting by offering a blessing for meeting participants.

Introduction and Agenda Review

Ms. Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute, facilitated a round of introductions. A list of attending NE RPB members, alternates, and public participants is included in Appendix A. Ms. Cantral explained that the focus of this meeting would be to hear updates on projects related to the *Healthy Oceans and Coastal Ecosystems* and *Effective Decision Making* goals, review options, and make decisions to advance these goals. She informed the group that there would be three opportunities to receive public comment about the topics being considered by the NE RPB, one following the initial discussion of planning options for next steps related to *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* goal, another following the updates on Northeast ocean planning projects and options related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal, and a final session on the second day following discussion about the options and next steps related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal.

Opening Remarks and Overview of NE RPB Progress

Ms. Betsy Nicholson provided an overview of what we want to accomplish at this meeting and a brief review of the NE RPB's origins and progress over the past two years. She showed a slide demonstrating the timeline, which can be found in Appendix B and reflected that the approach continues to be very organic and builds upon a solid foundation of science and data. Looking to the future, the NE RPB will work to institutionalize transparent, well-informed management decisions. This meeting marks a turning point for the NE RPB, as it starts to tie all of the work together into a Northeast ocean plan.

Ms. Nicholson directed attention to a decision document, *Draft Summary of Decision Points for RPB Deliberation*, which was distributed at the meeting and can be found in Appendix C. She explained that the document does not include any new information; rather, it translates some of the previous documents[7] distributed and discussed at the October public meetings into a format conducive for effective decision making during the meeting. She clarified that funding is being

[7] http://neoceanplanning.org/events/

negotiated to support these activities and all the decisions for consideration by the RPB are considered financially feasible.

Ms. Nicholson emphasized the importance of public engagement and providing opportunities for public comment, observing that many of the public comments from previous comment opportunities have been incorporated into the decision document.

Ms. Nicholson concluded her opening remarks by emphasizing that the NE RPB is at a critical point in the planning process. Federal agencies and others need to demonstrate leadership and willingness to take action to move from supporting concepts to implementation. There are many important challenges facing New England oceans and coasts right now and ocean planning is critically important to strengthen the information base for addressing those challenges. Access to integrated, high quality information is central to the long term future of the region. Mr. Grover Fugate added an emphasis that the decisions from this meeting are an important opportunity to advance the NE RPB's mission.

Tying Together Efforts Under the Northeast Regional Ocean Planning Framework Goals

Ms. Nicholson introduced the session and directed participants to the *Preliminary Draft Outline of a Northeast Ocean Plan*, which is document 3.1 in the meeting materials[8] that were circulated in advance of the meeting. She provided an overview of the document, explaining that it provides some initial high level framing for some of the major sections of a plan; this document is an early draft and additional detail will be provided in subsequent versions.

Ms. Nicholson summarized the draft outline's four major sections: an introduction, planning area characterization, plan implementation, and science plan. Power point slides from her presentation are available in Appendix D.

Following the presentation, NE RPB members discussed the draft outline and several participants emphasized the importance of including analysis along with a characterization of the region recognizing this information may influence the structure and format for the plan in the future. Recognizing that discovery is an important part of the process, the Northeast Ocean Plan should be considered an evolving document that will be informed as new information is available.

A NE RPB member emphasized that the section on compatibility requires careful consideration and it was also suggested that, because the baseline assessment is likely to be a very large document that a synopsis be included in the plan, with reference to the full analysis in an

[8] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

appendix or separate volume. Some additional questions were raised about the baseline assessment, but those discussions were postponed until later in the agenda.

Additionally, it is important to be clear about who the intended audience is for the regional Ocean Plan, and particularly in how the planning area is characterized and the baseline assessment is reflected. Ms. Nicholson clarified that the audience is the NE RPB members and their colleagues in the Northeast. Because of its link to the National Ocean Policy, the final document will be delivered to the White House, but the focus audience will be the key actors and managers in the region.

Updates on Northeast Ocean Planning Projects Related to the *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem* Goal

Mr. John Weber, Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), introduced this session. Five updates were provided by teams working on projects related to the *Healthy Oceans and Coastal Ecosystems* goal. Each presenter shared an update on activities and next steps, which was followed by a brief NE RPB discussion. All slides associated with these presentations are available in Appendix E

Regional Restoration Priorities

Mr. William Hubbard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update on work to identify, prioritize, and address regional restoration priorities. This work supports the NE RPB's Framework,[9] specifically *Objective 2: Identify and support existing non-regulatory opportunities to work towards conserving, restoring, and maintaining healthy ecosystems* and *Action 2-1: Identifying existing and potential program that are or would be directly related to conservation, restoration, and maintaining healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems*. As part of this process, a subcommittee was formed several months ago, which is co-lead by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The list of official subcommittee members is in meeting which is document 5.4B in the meeting materials[10] that were circulated in advance of the meeting. The subcommittee developed a regional inventory of restoration and conservation projects goal (see document 5.4C in the meeting materials link above). Mr. Hubbard also provided an overview of work to complete a matrix of federal funding opportunities (see document 5.4D in the meeting materials link above) that will be maintained and updated by the subcommittee. It will eventually be made available to the public on the NE RPB website. The subcommittee drafted criteria that could be used for the NE RPB to endorse restoration and conservation priority projects that relate to ocean planning goals and objectives (see document 5.4E in the meeting materials link above). The subcommittee requested that the NE RPB review

[9] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/NE-Regional-Ocean-Planning-Framework-February-2014.pdf

[10] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

these criteria and consider formal endorsement of them at the next meeting. Mr. Hubbard also provided an overview of some of the restoration projects currently underway in the Northeast region.

NE RPB members provided reactions, questions, and comments. Below is a summary of key topics of discussion:

- It was suggested that a one or two sentence summary of each projects would be helpful in understanding what type of restoration was being conducted.
- A question was raised about the relationship between the ocean system, coastal systems, and in-land watershed projects, such as dam removal and tributary projects. The subcommittee should be careful to articulate the relationship between projects that are terrestrial or watershed based and why they contribute to the health of ocean systems.
- Concerns were shared by some NE RPB members about the appropriateness of the NE RPB endorsing specific projects as a priority for funding. Some NE RPB members suggested that a list of characteristics or criteria that make restoration projects particularly effective could be a useful long-term contribution because it would also provide the agencies tools to prioritize future projects.
- Restoration projects are often very dynamic and quick moving; maintaining an updated list of restoration projects over time may be challenging.
- Vulnerability, multiple habitat types, clear linkages to offshore, biological value are some potential criteria that could be added to the current list.

Marine life characterization

Dr. Pat Halpin, Duke University, provided an overview of research focused on characterizing marine life. He shared information on the team conducting the characterization, which includes NOAA and Loyola University Co-Principal Investigators. The project has formed three expert work groups (i.e., Avian Work Group, Mammal Work Group, and Fish Work Group) that are comprised of over 80 experts who review data and modeling methods. Following the initial acquisition and compilation of data and development of draft products, a public webinar was held on August 27, 2014. Feedback and suggestions from the webinar have been incorporated into revised products. The team is beginning to develop final products, which will be strongly informed by the August 27, 2014 public webinar and the regional ocean planning discussions, including this meeting.

Information from each of the expert work groups was presented, including an overview of progress to date and several example products. Dr. Halpin explained the process of identifying important ecological areas, emphasizing some of the challenges with this type of analysis, which requires long-term data collection, sophisticated analysis, and multi-disciplinary approaches, and shared some options for the geographic scope of the study area. Because the data collection and modeling extends beyond the Northeast region and the study area will affect any summary statistics and statements, they are looking for suggestions on defining the study area. The Work Group has recommended option 1, which extends from the U.S./Canada

Border to the Hudson Canyon. The options are outlined on a slide in the Marine Life Characterization power point presentation in Appendix E.

The NE RPB was asked to provide any feedback or questions for Dr. Halpin on the progress towards marine life characterization.

Several NE RPB members asked about how historical data has been incorporated so that trends can be assessed. Distribution and abundance information provides a snapshot in time. Dr. Halpin indicated that where possible they are incorporating historic data; their mandate is to collect current information, but the groundwork could support forecasting and individual researchers have been work on future predictions.

A NE RPB member inquired about how life stages of species dependent on habitat in non-U.S. coastal areas have been incorporated into the analysis. The Work Groups have been engaging with researchers in Canada to collect information on how this is being done in other areas, which may address some of these concerns.

Fisheries characterization
Mr. George LaPointe, George LaPointe Consulting, shared an update on the NROC's work to date to support commercial fisheries characterization:

- They are building upon the previous work that uses Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data for commercial fishing activity. To better understand fishing patterns, they are separating the fishing and transit data and also separating different permit types based on speed. Information on what speeds are likely associated with specific fishing activities has been collected from discussions with the fishing industry.
- The project team has been challenged to collect comprehensive location information for lobster fishery mapping. They continue to get input from fishermen and managers and are exploring options for collecting this information. One potential option is to use vertical line surveys. They are also working with Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, SeaPlan, and states to test options for adding location capacity to mobile device units.
- He also provided a brief overview of some party charter characterization work that is in the early stages and shared some example maps. He emphasized that although VMS provides very useful baseline data, it does have limitations (e.g., it will not show past fishing patterns, fisheries and permit categories that don't require its use, and locally important fishing data). Therefore, it is being considered in conjunction with other data sources.

NE RPB members were provided an opportunity to react to the presentation. One comment was that the fisheries are constantly changing in response to markets, fish, and regulations and any analysis is being captured as static point-in-time data. Mr. LaPointe clarified that a small

component of the project is looking at multi-species VMS and combining VMS maps with Spring/Fall survey maps that show historic fishing patterns.

Another NE RPB member asked for additional information on how some challenges associated with VMS data would be addressed. Mr. LaPointe explained that the VMS trip declaration data would be helpful in addressing many of the concerns identified during the first phase of the project.

Baseline Assessment

Mr. Hauke Kite-Powell, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Marine Policy Center, shared an update on the baseline assessment, which will compile existing information and conduct a new analysis to characterize the region's ecosystem, economy, and cultural resources. The assessment team includes researchers from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Marine Policy Center, the University of Southern Maine, the University of Massachusetts Boston, and the New England Aquarium. The assessment will include natural resources, infrastructure, economic activity, ecosystem services, trends, and future considerations. Data from the baseline assessment will be made available via the Northeast Ocean Data Portal[11]. A first draft of the baseline assessment is anticipated in January 2015, with the final product being delivered in September 2015. Mr. Kite-Powell's presentation is available in Appendix E.

A member of the NE RPB asked for clarification on how ecosystem services information is being collected. Mr. Kite-Powell clarified that the ecosystem services value information will be accounted for by reviewing existing information for the region, not conducting new research. They will take cautions regarding the issue of scale when incorporating information from outside the region. The baseline assessment will identify key gaps in data and information to consider for future planning, including data on ecosystem services.

Another member asked for additional information on the economic analysis. Mr. Kite-Powell responded that the industry data will be specific to the major economic industry sectors, including fishing, fish processing and maritime transport. It is also geographically specific. It will be supplemented by other relevant measures of economic activity. The assessment team is working to identify data sources that provide the best level of detail. Mr. Kite-Powell also added that data is being collected for one or two time periods in the recent past to support trend analysis.

Recreational characterization

Mr. Andy Lipsky, SeaPlan shared an update on a coastal and marine recreation study being conducted for New England by Point 97, Surfrider Foundation, and SeaPlan. The project will

[11] http://www.northeastoceandata.org/

characterize coastal and marine recreational activity to address data gaps and support the regional planning process. The two parts of the project include a coastal recreation online survey and engagement of industry leaders (e.g. whale watching, diving, marine events). The project is being overseen by a Project Steering Committee, industry experts, and a Recreational Stakeholder Work Group. The coastal and marine recreation survey is an online, opt-in survey of individual recreational users and will be available for five months, starting on November 13, 2014. Industry leaders will be engaged to map and collect data through a variety of methods that could include surveys, participatory geographic information system (GIS), veting collected data, and refining the methodology. This will target marine events, such as sailing regattas, commercial whale watching, and recreational SCUBA diving operations. Mr. Lipsky's presentation is available in Appendix E.

Ms. Nicholson expressed gratitude for these contributions to the planning process and offered NOAA's support for participatory GIS and data analysis.

A concern was expressed that the recreation survey is being administered in the winter and many of the recreation activities being surveyed take place during the summer. Mr. Lipsky and Ms. Melissa Gates, Surfrider Foundation, clarified that the timing of the survey was in response to the NE RPB's timeline and needs, but they are confident that they can collect the necessary data.

Informal NE RPB and Public Discussion About Projects

The public and NE RPB had an opportunity to informally discuss and ask questions of specific project teams during a world café style session. Each of the teams that provided an update during the previous session served as a lead for a table top discussion where they were available to answer additional questions and further discuss. NE RPB members and the public were welcome to move from table to table during these informal discussions.

Discussion about Northeast Ocean Planning Options for Next Steps Related to *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* Goal

Mr. Nick Napoli, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, provided a brief description of the options related to the *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* goal, including summarizing some of the public input on these options, which were provided in writing and during public meetings held in each State in recent months. An average of 25-30 participants attended each public meeting, including participants from government, industry, non-government organizations (NGOs) and academia. Click here[12] for a summary of public comment from Fall 2014. The options are summarized below, along with highlights from the public comment and additional detail can be

[12] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fall2014PublicMeetingSummary.pdf

found in Appendix E and document 3.2 in the meeting materials[13] that were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Areas of Ecological Importance (Option 1)
Option 1 being considered under the Areas of Ecological Importance section is to summarize management areas currently designated under existing authorities, such as critical areas under the Endangered Species Act and Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This option is already under way and received the least public comment.

Areas of Ecological Importance (Options 2, 3 and 4)
Options 2, 3, and 4 are related and represent a continuum building upon previous work. Option 2 is to develop distribution and abundance maps for marine life species. Option 3 would identify abundance "hot spots" and other core habitat and occurrences (e.g., migratory corridors, spawning areas, etc.) for individual species. Option 4 would explore options for an ecosystem-based approach to identifying important ecological areas. Work is already underway on option 2, as described in during the updates on Northeast ocean planning projects related to the *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* Goal, including from Dr. Halpin on the marine life characterization efforts. Options 3 and 4 would require additional work.

Mr. Napoli summarized the public comment on these three options. The public recognized that challenge of the task is the number of products and a short timeline. During public meetings and in written comments concerns were raised about data quality for specific species. They also suggested that historic data be incorporated when possible. It was suggested that the products should recognize potential shifts due to climate change and other concerns. The public also raised questions about how these will be used in regulatory processes and how they will be updated and maintained.

Areas of Ecological Importance (Option 5)
Option 5 would be to explore options for an ecosystem-based approach to identifying important ecological areas and Mr. Napoli summarized public comment on this Option. The public suggested that this could be done concurrently but also must be informed by subsequent work under options two through four. The public urged the RPB to look more broadly at ecosystem based approaches and management and support decisions to that effect.

Other Types of Assessment (Options 1 and 2)
Three additional options have been identified for other assessments for consideration by the NE RPB. options 1 and 2 relate to ocean health data; Option 1 would coordinate with existing regional efforts to measure ocean health, such as the Northeast Regional Ecosystem Indicator

[13] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

Partnership, and others, and option 2 would consider customizing the Ocean Health Index for ocean waters in the Northeast.

Mr. Napoli noted that there were not many public comments on the topic of ocean health data, although there was the strong suggestion that this is something the NE RPB should consider. It was recognized that this is a long-term effort.

Other Types of Assessment (Option 3)
Option 3 for other types of assessment would be to revisit the topic of tradeoff analyses. The NE RPB could consider this topic after developing reference data on human activities and natural resources, deciding on whether and how to identify ecological areas or measure ocean health, and determining the uses of ocean plan data and information under existing authorities. There was not extensive discussion on this topic at the public meetings.

Decision Points for NE RPB Deliberation
Mr. Napoli directed the NE RPB members back to the *Draft Summary of Decision Points for RPB Deliberation* (Appendix C). This document packaged the options outlined above into specific decisions for consideration by the NE RPB. The decisions include:

- Decision 1: Important Ecological Area Options 1-4: Identifying Important Ecological Areas for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, Birds, and Fish
- Decision 2: Important Ecological Areas Option 5: Explore Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Identifying Important Ecological Areas
- Decision 3: Measuring Ocean Health
- Decision 4: Tradeoff Analysis

Mr. Weber began by clarifying that the decisions are not mutually exclusive—the NE RPB can decide to proceed with all activities or with none. All of the options that are presented are considered financially and otherwise feasible if there is strong support from the NE RPB, although some may require additional outside resources.

Mr. Fugate welcomed NE RPB discussion on these options and decisions. There was a concern that accomplishing all of this by 2016 will be challenging and NE RPB staff were asked to clarify existing funding. Mr. Napoli clarified that option 1 and 2 are funded; options 3, 4, and 5 require additional funding.

Several members expressed concerns for the time involved in participating in work groups, which rely heavily on the expertise of state and federal scientists, many of whom are already overburdened. Members inquired about the possibility of supporting the work groups by compensating some members for their time. Mr. Napoli responded that it is possible, but would have budgetary impacts.

NE RPB members raised concerns about option 5 and the focus on ecosystem based management. They indicated that although there is value in considering the ecosystem as a whole, it needs to be supported by solid data and clearly linked to effective decision making. Members raised concerns that as they apply the data collected as part of options 1 and 2 to additional options (i.e., 3, 4, and eventually 5) there are increasingly more significant data challenges. There were concerns that option 5's ecosystem based approach would require significant resources and additional data to be done effectively.

However, NE RPB members recognized that ecosystem based management is a way to move away from single species management and is increasingly being incorporated into ocean policy and agency activities, such as the National Ocean Policy. Others expressed that specific agencies are already working to incorporate ecosystem based management into the work they do, such as NOAA, the National Parks Service, and U.S. Geologic Survey.

NE RPB members emphasized the importance of linking the data collected as part of *Healthy Oceans and Coast Ecosystems* goal to decision making. Some felt that ecosystem based management is not necessary to inform decision making, while others felt that it is critical to take management and planning to the next level of complexity. There were also concerns about how the ecosystem based management approach works with existing authorities.

There was a suggestion to further engage the scientists involved in this work to help define and understand some of the additional concepts that are included in option 5, such as function, resilience, and vulnerability.

Several participants suggested that the concept of ecosystem based management should be included in all the options (1-5) being considered. All options are steps towards identifying ecologically important areas, which ecosystem based management offers tools to support.

NE RPB members recognized that there is still a high-level of uncertainty about the feasibility of achieving this option with the current data, but recognized that it is a staged approach and may be revisited once options three and four are underway. It was suggested that the NE RPB proceed with convening an interdisciplinary work group to continue this discussion and move towards ecosystem based management as an eventual long term goal. This sets the bar high for incorporating ecosystem based management and provides an opportunity to further engage as additional research and analysis is conducted.

During discussion, alternative phrasing for decision 2 was suggested, which addresses several of the concerns with option 5. It was suggested that decision 2 be changed to: "Explore options for an adaptive ecosystem based approach to managing healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems."

Public Comments

Ms. Cantral opened the first of three public comments sessions. Six individuals provided comments during this session. Major themes from the comments included:

- Support for option 5 and the goal of ecosystem based approach for identifying important ecological areas. Ecosystem based management is at the core of effective ocean planning and necessary for the people, ocean, and communities that depend on the ecosystem. Ecosystem based management is also at the core of the data collection envisioned for the ocean planning process and what makes it innovative. The NE RPB is uniquely positioned to lead efforts at ecosystem based management by facing some of the challenges, which provides an opportunity for New England to lead the nation and world in this effort.
- Concerns about how non-monetary goals will be incorporated into decision making, such as quality of life, cultural, and spiritual values.
- Additional information on a forthcoming study by The Nature Conservancy provides information on changes to fish species distribution in response to a changing environment. This could be useful for the NE RPB to consider.
- Emphasis that ocean planning is an iterative process and should not avoid working towards ecosystem based management because of data and time constraints.
- Emphasis on protection as an important tool for preserving areas important to recreation and tourism and recognition that non-consumptive uses, such as recreation, should be considered compatible with areas of ecological importance and ecosystem protection.
- Recommendation that specific threats to the ecosystem, such as overfishing, extraction, pollution should be included into data collection.
- Emphasis that maintaining data and quality assurance are important. Suggestion that long-term authority for data maintenance could be delegated to non-agency partners and parameters for defining current data could be developed.
- Recommendation that if a work group is convened to address option 5 it be interdisciplinary and include existing regulatory frameworks.
- Emphasis that the NE RPB needs to maintain the high standards set forth in the National Ocean Policy.

In addition to comment provided during this session, letters sent in advance of the meeting are available here[14].

[14] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fall2014PublicMeetingSummary.pdf

Make Decisions About Next Steps Related to *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* Goal

After hearing public comment, Ms. Cantral asked NE RPB members to react to the public comments and make a consensus decision on each of the five *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* decisions.

Some additional points of discussion were raised by NE RPB members on decision 1 and 2:

- It was emphasized that asking individuals to sit on an additional work group without compensation is problematic.
- It was suggested that the work group proposed as part of decision 2 be truly interdisciplinary and include fishermen, end users, and regulators.
- Members reflected that the way the decision document is structured implies that ecosystem based management is a separate objective, instead of an important component of the work already being done under Objectives 1 and 2.

It was recommended that a small group of NE RPB members draft terms of reference (TOR) for the work group that would support decision 2. The TOR will help flesh out additional details and can clarify who is on the work group, identify additional objectives, and explore options for addressing some of the challenges that have been identified. Kathryn Ford, Joe Atangan, Dan Hubbard, and Bob LaBelle offered to work with Co-Leads and staff to draft the TOR.

It was suggested that the tradeoff analysis, decision 4, could be explored as part of decision 2. It is possible that some components of a tradeoff analysis would be incorporated into decision 2 and this can be explored when the TOR are drafted for the work group.

It was emphasized that it will be critical to communicate decisions and progress on option 5 /decision 2 be transparent and communicated with the public.

Ms. Cantral asked the NE RPB to finalize the decision making for decisions 1, 2 and 4:

- **Decision 1 (Important Ecological Area Options 1-4: Identifying Important Ecological Areas for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, Birds, and Fish):** The NE RPB decided to support decision 1.
- **Decision 2 (Important Ecological Areas Option 5: Explore Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Identifying Important Ecological Areas):** The NE RPB decided to support decision 2 with the following amendments:
    - The language is modified to "Explore options for an adaptive ecosystem based approach to managing healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems."
    - The first step would be to draft TOR that clarify the charge and other details about the work group.
    - The work group will be interdisciplinary and attempt to include fishermen and

end users.

- Further explore the possibility of compensation for work group members.

- **Decision 4 (Tradeoff Analysis):** This decision has been tabled and will be revisited upon completion of the TOR for the work group to address decision 2.

The NE RPB members discussed decision 3: Measuring Ocean Health in more detail including several projects that are already underway and could contribute to measuring ocean health in the Northeast, including the NROC/Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change, the Gulf of Maine Council's Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP), the National Estuary Programs (NEP) and efforts to establish a Biological Condition Gradient framework or assess cumulative impacts. The NROC/NERACOOS Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change is finalizing a draft science and implementation plan in February-March 2015. NE RPB members raised concerns that the NE RPB effort at measuring ocean health needs to be at the right scale; efforts targeted at larger geographies might not scale down to the Northeast and state efforts would need to be replicated in all Northeast states to be effective.

It was suggested that the NE RPB convene a webinar between now and the next meeting to get an update on the Sentinel Monitoring project and other existing programs in the region.

Ms. Cantral asked the NE RPB to make a decision on decision 3:

- **Decision 3 (Measuring Ocean Health):** The NE RPB will convene a webinar between now and the next meeting to learn more about current efforts to measure ocean health that are relevant to the Northeast.

Updates on Northeast Ocean Planning Projects and Options Related to the *Effective Decision Making* Goal

Best practices for tribal consultation

Mr. Getchell provided an update (slides found in Appendix E) and description of efforts to develop best practices for tribal consultation, which is document 4.2 in the meeting materials[15] that were circulated in advance of the meeting. The draft guidelines are in support of *Objective 4: Improve respect for the customs and traditions of indigenous peoples in decision making processes* and *Action 4-1: Identify means by which tribal consultation could be enhanced in existing decision making processes*. The goals for creating the guidelines are: 1) establish clear standards for the consultation process, 2) designate specific personnel responsible for serving as consultation points of contact to promote consistency and 3) establish a management structure that will

[15] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

ensure accountability and transparency. The draft guidelines were developed by a tribal NE RPB member work group and pulled from existing tribal consultation documents. Some of the major components of the draft guidelines include a provision for early scoping, emphasis on the duty that federal agencies have to tribes under the trust responsibility of the federal government, recognition of confidentiality of certain information provided by tribes, and emphasis on the importance of including dispute resolution provisions. The document is a draft and the next steps are to invite agencies to work with tribes on a next draft and to cross-reference additional federal agency consultation plans.

NE RPB members were asked to discuss and ask questions and reflected that it is encouraging to see a tangible document in support of the *Effective Decision Making* goal.

NE RPB members suggested that it would be helpful to further refine the document with information specific to the Northeast region. Mr. Getchell replied that some provisions, such as the trust obligation is broader than the region and will need to be carefully considered. Other parts of the document can be updated to include specific information for both the region and for the regional ocean planning process.

Mr. Getchell emphasized that there is also a need for transparent information sharing between the federal government and the tribes.

A NE RPB member raised a question about how consultation processes relate to the NE RPB and the development of a Northeast ocean plan. Mr. Getchell clarified that consultation is required when an action will have an impact on tribal property. It was suggested that additional information on what triggers a consultation and which tribes should be consulted for specific geographic locations could be helpful.

The draft guidelines are most applicable to federal actions. A NE RPB member suggested that the document include some information on federal-state-tribal relationship, as well as tribal-state relationship.

Options related to Options 1, 2, and 3 under the *Effective Decision Making* goal

Mr. Deerin Babb-Brott, SeaPlan, provided an overview of options being considered to advance work towards the *Effective Decision Making* goal (Appendix E). Specific options are included in document 4.1 in the meeting materials[16] that were circulated in advance of the meeting and the decisions are summarized in the Draft Summary of Decision Points for NE RPB Deliberation in Appendix C, which was circulated at the meeting. Mr. Babb-Brott emphasized that NE RPB decision making is implemented under existing authorities and will not result in any new statutory or regulatory authorities. Mr. Babb-Brott reviewed the major existing regulation and

[16] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

policies most relevant to the NE RPB at this time, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and project permitting under the Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, Essential Fish Habitat, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Historic Preservation Act, and state policies. He also reviewed existing authorities, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, NOAA, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While regional ocean planning must be implemented under existing authorities, he noted that this effort can advance *Effective Decision Making* through enhanced agency coordination and development and use of data. Mr. Babb-Brott's presentation is available in Appendix E.

The data products being developed as part of the *Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems* goal will support agencies, stakeholders, and the public in effective decision making. Work is needed to apply this information in support of regulatory and consultation processes. It could also be possible to use the data to support coordinated management through compatibility analysis and/or cumulative and multi-sector impact analysis. Decision 5 ("Best Available Science" for Use in Decision Making) supports the continued and new development of science that is informed and approved by agencies and within the NE RPB's existing organizational structure.

Decision 6 (Application of Best Available Science and Agency Coordination): is an option to direct the NE RPB's Regulatory Work Group (RWG) to consider the application of best available science and specific options for agency coordination through primary permitting and leasing authorities and NEPA. A best practices template could be developed for pre-application consultations that outlines which agencies should be contacted, which stakeholders need to be engaged, and which data from the Northeast Ocean Data Portal should be reviewed. This could result in agreement among agencies and specific mechanisms such as memoranda of understanding that improve coordination and avoid redundancy in the process (e.g. duplicative public hearings).

Decision 7 (Coastal Zone Management Act): would support the continued investigation of opportunities to apply ocean plan data and guidance to inform implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Decision 8 (Agency Coordination for Emerging Ocean Uses): would establish an interagency work group to consider specific opportunities for additional agency coordination around specific emerging ocean issues, starting with work groups for aquaculture and sand and gravel.

Public Comments

During the second public comment period, three individuals provided comments. Major themes of the comments during this session included:

- Appreciation to the NE RPB for their support of decision 2 and ecosystem based management.
- Concern that the proposed decisions will not significantly change the permitting process or how agencies do business and whether actions will be effective within existing siloed

statutory authorities.

- Concern that as the world shifts to a systems approach there will be significant challenges in incorporating this new approach into the existing statutory frameworks.
- Request for broader public and stakeholder involvement in the NE RPB decision making process. It was suggested that the NE RPB increase community engagement to better understand what the public values and think is important. A reflection was shared that ecosystem based work must be grounded in the public trust doctrine.
- Suggestion that a new work group be established to explore new vehicles for engaging the public.
- Concern that in order for the pre-application process to be effective, careful assurance that data collection and use accurately summarizes what the impacts are likely to be.

Ms. Cantral wrapped up the discussion and provided a brief summary of the agenda for the second day of the meeting.

Friday, November 14, 2014

The second day of the meeting, November 14, was focused on discussions about Northeast ocean planning projects and options for next steps related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal. It included one public comment session.

Welcome Back, Review of Day 1 Outcomes and Review of Day 2 Agenda

Ms. Cantral provided a summary of day one. This included four decisions to guide progress on the *Healthy Oceans and Coastal Ecosystems* goal, as summarized above. She then reviewed the agenda for day two and explained that the morning would begin with a discussion by the NE RPB of options under the *Effective Decision Making* goal, followed by public comment. After lunch, the NE RPB will reflect on the public comments and make decisions about how to proceed with the *Effective Decision Making* goal, along with a review of next steps for the three Northeast Regional Ocean Planning Framework goals.

Discussion about Northeast Ocean Planning Projects and Options for Next Steps Related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal (continued)

Ms. Nicholson framed the discussion on projects and options for next steps related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal by summarizing the decisions outlined in the *Draft Summary of Decision Points for RPB Deliberation* (Appendix C). She reminded the NE RPB that this document is not new material; it is previously discussed options repackaged to facilitate effective discussion, decision making, and implementation. She also acknowledged that there are some capacity limitations and encouraged the federal agencies to offer their assistance, where possible. She also reminded NE RPB members and the public that the discussion on effective decision making is in the context of operating within existing authorities.

Decision 7 (Coastal Zone Management Act)
At the suggestion of Ms. Nicholson, the NE RPB began their discussion on decision 7, Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). She emphasized that the decision is focused on whether to continue discussing potential approaches for making regional progress under the CZMA. Mr. David Kaiser, NOAA, was asked to sit at the public comment table so that he could serve as a resource for the CMZA discussion He provided a brief summary of how NE RPB activities could support improved coordination among state programs and federal activities when implementing certain aspects of the CZMA. For example, this could include a collective decision by the states (or a subset of states) that certain federal activities are consistent with state coastal programs and therefore do not require individual review. It could also involve a change in which information that is part of the regional ocean plan could be used in the states' coastal effects test.

Mr. Weber reviewed the specific opportunities outlined in the bullets included in the decision document. These include:

- Enhancing federal notice procedures to states. As part of the NE RPB's role to enhance interagency coordination, this is an opportunity to develop best practices for early communication to states.
- Applying CZMA federal consistency regulations to minor, routine federal development review actions in federal waters.
- Requesting guidance from NOAA on applications of coastal effects test provisions, in the context of potential spatial data and other information needs that could be met through the regional ocean plan.

Mr. Kaiser added that the CZMA gives unique authority to states. Once a state has a NOAA approved coastal plan under the CZMA they are able to comment on federal actions that occur in coastal areas. If an activity has impact on state resources then the state gets a voice and in many cases has the power to stop federal activity. Ocean planning provides a unique opportunity for the NE RPB to reduce administrative burden associated with this process. Examples of activities that may be worth exploring include Federal Emergency Management Act relief, Coast Guard activities, or military training.

There was a suggestion that a large geographic location description (GLD) could be created for the region. Mr. Kaiser clarified that GLDs are study areas in federal waters. A NE RPB member raised the question about how that would be implemented and what the state's role would be. Mr. Kaiser responded that a large, multi-state GLD would be allowed under existing regulations and individual states could collectively agree to a GLD.

NE RPB members recognized that this is a conversation that involves all states, and each one is handling federal activity related to the CZMA differently. Some members were concerned that states' individual statutes and policies pose a challenge for regional coordination. To address

these concerns, it was recommended that the focus be on state and federal agency relationships and on improving communication. Another suggestion was that states could agree to actions reflected in their existing state statutes and regulations without requiring changes to state law.

Additional NE RPB discussion of this decision included:

- States lack enforceable policies for many new and emerging uses. Most of the current policies were developed in the 80s and 90s and do not take some modern considerations into account.
- The CZMA is a significant tool for states and this process offers an opportunity for continuing discussions that could be very useful.
- If an activity is considered an emergency, there are concerns about communication, timing, and some agencies that address consistency after-the-fact.
- It would be helpful if there was early communication about projects or concepts being developed so that states don't have to monitor the federal register.
- This decision is aligned with other NE RPB activity and promotes improved coordination, collaboration and early engagement.

Decision 5 ("Best Available Science" for Use in Decision Making)
Next, the group discussed decision 5 ("Best Available Science" for Use in Decision Making) and Mr. Chris Boelke, NOAA, and Mr. Bill Hubbard, USACE, were asked to sit at the public comment table to serve as experts. Ms. Nicholson summarized this decision, emphasizing that the focus is on continuing to develop the best available science with a regulatory perspective.

In discussion, NE RPB members indicated that the data portal provides the type of information that would be useful as a screening tool, but is not sufficient for specific siting questions. It is important that the information in the baseline assessment be incorporated into the data portal and be clear on what it can and can't be used for.

It was explained that the Cultural Resources Work Group is in the early stages of development and the focus thus far has been on the National Register of Historic Places and National Parks, but there is a need to bring in tribal information and considerations. Mr. Chuckie Green, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, expressed interest in serving on the Cultural Resources Work Group. There is new information about important cultural sites for Native Americans off the continental shelf, which has implications for cultural resources in the area. Underwater archeology should be included in this work group's discussions. Traditional knowledge will be important in understanding culturally significant places, and local and traditional knowledge should be incorporated into the Northeast Ocean Data Portal[17].

[17] http://www.northeastoceandata.org/

Many federal and state agencies have limited capacity to participate in additional work groups. One suggestion was that the work groups could consider alternative formats for meetings and expert engagement, such as being strategic with work group meetings and keeping them focused on decisions and outcomes. It was also clarified that many of the work groups outlined as part of this decision are already underway.

NE RPB members identified a need for an improved system for staying informed about major projects or activities being proposed in the region. Two potential suggestions were proposed:

- At each NE RPB meeting, members could go around the table and provide brief updates on big projects or activities that are coming up as a way to share information on important issues and projects that may affect the region. Concerns were expressed by some that this could be too time consuming.
- A data layer within the Northeast Ocean Data Portal with information on projects, proposals, and applications could be helpful for those trying to track the federal register in a geographic specific context.

Some other major points of discussion by the NE RPB on decision 5 include:

- It is important to identify any potential gaps in expertise within the work groups. It would be helpful to have the people with regulatory and jurisdictional oversight involved in work group discussions so that the data layers produced would reflect their suggestions and potentially be approved to expedite project specific decision making.
- Work group meeting minutes could be posted online to encourage greater transparency and public engagement.
- The additional topics of hydrodynamics, climate change, ocean acidification, benthic communities, and biodiversity could also be helpful.
- The RWG should define "Best Available Science".

Decision 6 (Application of Best Available Science and Agency Coordination)

Ms. Nicholson provided an overview of decision 6, which relates to work of the RWG to consider the application of best available science and specific options for agency coordination through permitting and leasing authorities and NEPA. These include a summary of the options in document 4.1, *Northeast Regional Ocean Plan: Options for Effective Decision Making Report,* in the meeting materials[18] that were circulated in advance of the meeting and are summarized in Appendix C. She focused on the specific options for consideration by the RWG, including:

- Potential application of the data such as programmatic approaches to consultations
- Best practices for tribal consultation

[18] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

- Templates and best practices for pre-application
- Internal agency guidance and agreement

NE RPB members exchanged views on whether pre-application would be a voluntary or required process. A NE RPB member expressed that it is important to be clear on what is required for pre-application and what is voluntary. During previous public comment opportunities, there was concern about what was perceived as an additional step. Mr. Babb-Brott clarified that the conversations with industry, federal agencies, and others recommended that this is an opportunity to provide information and share best practices about who to engage for consistent information in the early stages of project development. Many of the large, expensive projects are being proposed by applicants with a deep understanding of the permitting process and these are the kinds of projects that tend to have an extensive pre-application planning process. Many of these project proponents would recognize that it is in their own self-interest to have the information available in advance so that they can make an informed early decision. The idea was presented to industry and business councils and it was generally supported. Some NE RPB members expressed that the group should consider opportunities to require pre-application so that decisions are made early, which could result in better decision making and site selection. Some state agencies have existing pre-application processes that are advisory, not required. It is open to everyone but is required for certain projects due to their complexity and scale. That could be a potential approach.

It was suggested that agencies might be reluctant to comment in the pre-application phase because of concerns that such comments could be construed as approval, endorsement, or the full extent of their comments. It will be challenging but important to create an environment in which agencies feel comfortable to comment. One potential solution would be to consider the pre-application a "neutral zone". This could potentially be partnered with requiring federal agencies to participate. It will also be important to manage expectations and be clear about the limits of the pre-approval process in order to avoid unrealistic expectations by developers and ensure they are aware that following existing regulations and permitting processes will still be required.

There is a concern about retention of these ideas and any new and improved processes established within agencies through time and staff turnover. It would be valuable to document the processes that have occurred in New England as an important reference tool going forward. NE RPB members noted that it will be a challenge to reconcile and align what is required by agencies under existing policies and agency requirements into an aligned and integrated set of templates and best practices.

Decision 8 (Agency Coordination for Emerging Ocean Uses)
Ms. Nicholson provided an overview of decision 8, which would establish interagency work groups to consider specific opportunities for additional agency coordination around emerging ocean uses, starting with work groups for aquaculture and sand and gravel.

NE RPB members discussed this decision. Some of the key points of discussion are captured below:

- NE RPB members expressed that increasing agency coordination on these complex challenges is important and can add value.
- This is an opportunity to have the coordination and existing relationships in place in advance of urgent need, such as following a natural disaster. For example, after Superstorm Sandy there was an urgent need for sand. It would have been preferable to have worked through some of the challenges on this issue in advance of major events in order to be thoughtful, rather than reactionary.
- Work group for sand and gravel should be explicit about the complexities of sand and gravel management and potential impacts on fish habitat. One participant requested that we limit the discussion to just sand in consideration of gravel for fish habitat; others felt that the two are inextricably linked and it is important to deal with the impacts and implications of both.
- Regional sediment planning and management could be a useful tool to consider. Areas that are a priority for dredging can be used as sources for sand.
- The aquaculture work group should work to address the conflict between offshore aquaculture and the reduction of vertical lines, specifically in Massachusetts.
- NOAA and EPA expressed an interest in participating in both work groups. It is important to make sure the right participants are represented on these work groups. It was suggested that Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and NEFMC participate. Credible input from the fishing and other industries should be represented. The permits and leases from salmon aquaculture could be a good place to find out who else would be important to engage.

Public comment

Ms. Cantral opened the last of three public comments sessions. Four individuals provided comments during this session. Major themes from the comments included:

- Support for interagency work groups on aquaculture, and sand and gravel.
- Recommendation that the work groups include members of communities impacted by these activities, beyond the federal and state agencies and fishing industry. Incorporating local knowledge into decision making could add value to both these topics.
- Suggestion that both work groups consider the long term impacts. For example, the sand and gravel work group should consider the impacts of long term leasing and the impacts on ocean health, the effects of climate change and storm surges, not just spawning impacts. Some previous projects, such as the Gloucester liquid natural gas project, were fast tracked without fully understanding the natural environment.
- Suggestion that both work groups implement integrated systems thinking. For example,

when incorporating best available science and information it is important to incorporate information about the system as a whole, not just its components.

- Concern that the current economic calculations are not sufficient and do not capture all indicators of a healthy economy, such as good jobs, healthy food, etc. Economic analysis needs to go beyond calculating the value for each sector.
- Concern that the discussion and decisions have not included Objective 2 (public input in decision making).
- Support for the suggestion by Ms. Nicholson that the work group minutes be posted online.
- Suggestion that stakeholders be provided with greater guidance for engagement in the pre-application process.
- Suggestion that an ad hoc stakeholder group be convened to assist with translating complex messages to the general public. This could support more effective public engagement because NE RPB documents could be understood by non-technical audiences. This group could be helpful in making sure the work group documents, meeting summaries, and other documents effectively engage stakeholders.
- Suggestion to engage some of the research and environmental education organizations and networks active in the region. Some of these networks may be helpful in engaging unaligned stakeholders.
- Suggestion that data on stranded marine mammals could be included in the data portal and baseline assessment.
- Support for the direction the NE RPB is moving towards the *Effective Decision Making* goal.
- Support for continued public involvement in the work groups, recognizing that many conversations will be needed between now and finalizing the ocean plan, including conflicts about data and defining "Best Available Science".
- Appreciation for the work the NE RPB has already done thinking about the public role, particularly with respect to work groups and a suggestion that these opportunities continue to be improved upon.
- Suggestion for continued improvements on the public engagement in site specific projects. The NE RPB should recognize that the site specific project review process needs to implement the goals of the ocean plan.
- Suggestion that the NE RPB develop a data layer with information on site specific projects being proposed.
- Suggestion that climate change be incorporated into NE RPB efforts. Impacts of climate change could be an important first step.
- Gratitude for the opportunity to provide public comments to support NE RPB decision making.

Make decisions about next steps related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal

The NE RPB briefly reflected on public comment and made the following decisions about next steps related to the *Effective Decision Making* goal:

- **Decision 7 (Coastal Zone Management Act):** The NE RPB decided to proceed with these discussions.
- **Decision 5 ("Best Available Science" for Use in Decision Making)**: The NE RPB decided to proceed with this work.
- **Decision 6 (Application of Best Available Science and Agency Coordination):** The NE RPB decided to proceed with this work.
- **Decision 8 (Agency Coordination for Emerging Ocean Uses):** The NE RPB decided to proceed with this work.

Summary of Meeting Outcomes and Review of Next Steps

Ms. Cantral summarized the outcomes of the meeting, noting that the NE RPB had made eight decisions at the meeting. Ms. Nicholson reviewed the NE RPB timeline and indicated that the NE RPB Co-Leads and staff will need to determine specific timelines for advancing each decision from the meeting, but the following are some of the anticipated next steps and potential milestones:

- **Decision 1 (Important Ecological Area Options 1-4: Identifying Important Ecological Areas for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, Birds, and Fish)**: Work group will meet in early 2015 and will have a more complete set of draft products by May 2015.
- **Decision 2 (Important Ecological Areas Option 5: Explore Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Identifying Important Ecological Areas)**: The first step is to work with NE RPB member volunteers and Co-Leads to draft the TORs. A January webinar will be used for more involved discussion on this decision.
- **Decision 3 (Measuring Ocean Health)**: A webinar will be held before the May 2014 meeting to discuss ocean health. Then topics can be further discussed at the May RPB meeting.
- **Decision 4 (Tradeoff Analysis)**: This will be discussed in the development of the TORs for Decision 2 and may be reconsidered at a May 2015 NE RPB meeting.
- **Decision 5 ("Best Available Science" For Use in Decision Making)**: The RWG should define Best Available Science at their next meeting. The marine mammal and sea turtles, birds, and fish work groups will meet in January 2015; others will meet as needed. NE RPB staff will work with Mr. Fugate to determine how to engage the states in a webinar or meeting to share draft work products with states, once they are developed.
- **Decision 6 (Application of Best Available Science and Agency Coordination)**: The RWG will meet in late 2014 or early 2015 to discuss detailed next steps and possibly more frequent meetings.
- **Decision 7 (Coastal Zone Management Act):** Mr. Kaiser will draft a document on

options for states to consider on the CZMA.

- **Decision 8 (Agency Coordination for Emerging Ocean Uses)**: The two work groups on emerging ocean uses will be set up, including participation from USCG.

The NE RPB also outlined some additional next steps, not related to specific decisions:

- The draft Best Practices for Tribal Consultations document (document 4.2 in the meeting materials[19] that were circulated in advance of the meeting) will be discussed with agencies and further refined to be specific to the NE RPB scope and geography.
- The NE RPB staff and Co-Leads should continue to explore potential options for sharing information on upcoming projects or major proposals so that the NE RPB can consider how to effectively communicate and provide value.
- The preliminary draft outline of a Northeast ocean plan will be revised with input from this meeting.

Closing remarks

Mr. Fugate, Mr. Getchell, and Ms. Nicholson offered brief closing remarks. Ms. Cantral adjourned the meeting.

[19] http://neoceanplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Nov2014RPBMeetingMaterials.pdf

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Appendix A: Northeast Regional Planning Body Meeting Participant List

November 13-14, 2014 • Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, New Hampshire

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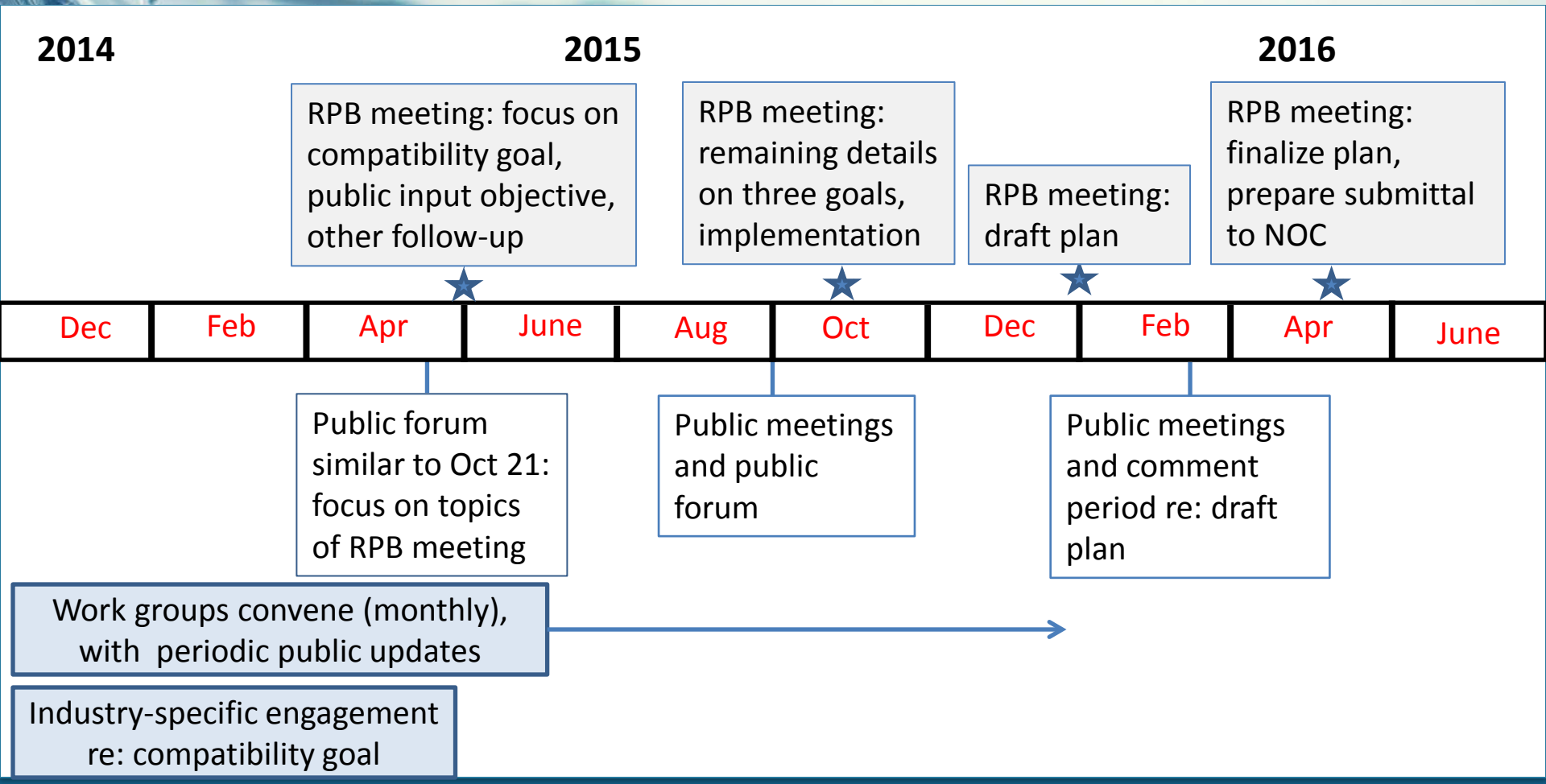
Appendix B:
Timeline: Dec 2014 to June 2016



Appendix C: Northeast Regional Planning Body (RPB)
Draft Summary of Decision Points for RPB Deliberation
November 13-14, 2014

Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems Goal

The RPB and the public have been considering five options for identifying important ecological areas. Options 1-4 primarily focus on characterizing specific taxonomic groups (marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, birds) and include increasingly challenging technical, capacity, and implementation issues. Therefore, these options are being considered together in Decision 1. Option 5 is being considered separately in Decision 2 because it includes RPB deliberation about other approaches to identifying important ecological areas that may go beyond looking at individual species or taxonomic groups.

The RPB and the public have also been considering three additional options for conducting other assessments in support of ocean planning. Two of these three options focus on measuring ocean health and are being considered in Decision 3. Lastly, the RPB has also been considering the use of tradeoff analyses, which will be addressed through Decision 4 below.

Decision 1: Important Ecological Area Options 1-4: Identifying Important Ecological Areas for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, Birds, and Fish

a) Continue ongoing work to summarize management areas already identified through existing authorities (Option 1) and to characterize marine life distribution and abundance (Option 2). These activities will continue to be supported by existing scientific work groups, staff, and contractors. Increase regulatory staff involvement in these work groups to inform and review products.
b) Continue to consider Options 3 and 4 as existing work groups progress and inform the scientific feasibility of further defining important ecological areas for specific species, taxonomic groups or multiple groups. Explore potential regulatory applications for areas identified through these methods. Staff and contractors will report progress to the RPB at its next meeting to inform additional deliberation of these options.

Other considerations:

- Draft products for Options 1 and 2 will be available in Spring 2015
- Further implementation of Options 3 or 4 will require additional in-kind (work group) and contract support. Discussions are underway about potential funding for contract support.

Decision 2: Important Ecological Areas Option 5: Explore Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Identifying Important Ecological Areas

a) Establish an interdisciplinary work group to further define and consider other approaches to identifying important ecological areas.
b) The work group will be led by a RPB agency. The RPB agency lead and RPB co-leads will develop a charge, composition, and timeline for the work group. The work group will include several members

from the RPB's existing expert work groups and other participants, including some possibly from outside New England, who have experience identifying important ecological areas. The charge to the work group will consider looking beyond species specific methods, identifying ecological and physical processes that are important for marine life, determining relationships and linkages to broader ecosystems, and potentially defining and assessing areas in terms of their function, biodiversity, productivity, resilience and vulnerability.

c) The work group will meet publicly, possibly via a public webinar, starting in January 2015 with an initial presentation of the charge, composition, and work plan through 2015. The first meeting will also include a presentation of approaches to identifying ecological areas that have been used within and outside the region.

Other considerations:

- The work group should identify and learn from other approaches within the region, including the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Committee of the New England Fishery Management Council, the RI Special Areas Management Plan, and the MA Ocean Plan
- The RPB will need to continue exploring potential use and application of important ecological areas through existing authorities
- The work group will require additional RPB, staff, and contract support. The RPB should consider supporting industry participation in the work group, including commercial fishing representatives. Discussions are underway about potential funding to support to this work group.

Decision 3: Measuring Ocean Health

a) Continue considering the development and use of measures of ocean health and establishing a baseline from which to conduct future assessments. These activities potentially inform the Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems Goal and could potentially be used inform the RPB's overarching and longer term objective to "Periodically Assess Progress Toward Achieving Regional Ocean Planning Goals." However, more information and time is required to determine whether and how to measure ocean health.

b) Enable the RPB to consider the specific purpose and feasibility of conducting a regional ocean health assessment during its next meeting by completing the following:

- Host a webinar for the RPB on the Ocean Health Index and its application to regional ocean management
- Identify and obtain additional information about other approaches within New England to inform RPB decisions about integrating with existing indicator programs
- Identify potential funding sources, staff and contract support, partners, and a potential RPB lead

Decision 4: Tradeoff Analysis

Reconsider the topic of "tradeoff analyses" as planning progresses and as the public and RPB work groups continue to inform the feasibility and suitability of these analyses for ocean planning.

Effective Decision Making Goal

The RPB and the public have been considering a range of options to improve decision making under existing authorities. These options are being grouped as five separate decisions that consider the organizational framework, agency commitments, and capacity needs going forward.

Decision 5: "Best Available Science" For Use in Decision Making

a) Continue to develop "Best Available Science" that is informed and approved by agencies with relevant subject matter expertise and regulatory responsibility.

b) Develop "Best Available Science" through the RPB's existing organizational structure that includes the subject specific work groups listed below (some will be new). Increase regulatory staff involvement in these work groups to ensure products can be used in existing decision making processes. Consider designating leads or co-leads for each work group to ensure agency involvement and commitment.

- Marine mammals and sea turtles
- Birds
- Fish
- Aquatic vegetation
- Geology and hydrodynamics (new)
- Cultural resources (new)
- Commercial fishing
- Maritime commerce
- Recreation
- Energy
- Aquaculture

Other considerations:

- The RPB's Regulatory Work Group (RWG) will need to develop a definition for "Best Available Science" or another term that better reflects RPB intent.
- The subject specific work groups relate to data themes that are currently on the NE Ocean Data Portal or that are in development.
- Each work group could consider the use of best available data and science to further identify "important areas", much like the current considerations for the marine life work groups.
- Work groups may participate in public outreach informing the characterization of future trends

Decision 6: Application of Best Available Science and Agency Coordination

a) Direct the RPB's Regulatory Work Group (RWG) to consider the application of best available science and specific options for agency coordination through primary permitting and leasing authorities and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This includes USACE permitting under the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act and BOEM leasing under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

b) The RWG will consider the following specific options and report back to the RPB at its next meeting.

- Potential applications of the data such as programmatic approaches to consultations, compatibility considerations and guidance for cumulative impact analyses
- Best practices for tribal consultation
- Templates and best practices for pre-application
- Internal agency guidance and agreements to utilize ocean plan data and practices (such as Memoranda of Agreements)

- External guidance for how agencies will utilize ocean plan data and practices

Other considerations:

- This decision bundles several options previously presented in public documents because they would likely be implemented by the same agency staff that currently participate in the RWG.
- The RPB could consider increased agency leadership and participation in specific RWG discussions. For example, the RWG could be co-led by USACE and BOEM with significant involvement by cooperating agencies, including EPA, USCG, NOAA-NMFS, DOI-USFWS, FERC, and others.

Decision 7: Coastal Zone Management Act

Continue investigating opportunities to apply ocean plan data and guidance to inform implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The New England states, New York and NOAA-OCM will explore opportunities including:

- Enhancing federal notice procedures to states
- Applying CZMA federal consistency regulations to minor, routine federal development review actions in federal waters
- Requesting guidance from NOAA on application of coastal effects test provisions, in the context of potential spatial data and other information needs that could be met through the regional ocean plan
- Other opportunities, as identified

Decision 8: Agency Coordination for Emerging Ocean Uses

a) Establish interagency work groups to consider specific opportunities for additional agency coordination around emerging ocean uses, starting with work groups for aquaculture and sand and gravel.
b) An *interagency work group for aquaculture* would be co-led by USACE and NOAA and include relevant cooperating agencies. The work group would determine priority aquaculture activities (species) that would be the focus of its work and consider opportunities to provide regulatory guidance for siting and permitting processes building on lessons from recent projects and public input. The work group would coordinate with federal policy activities, including the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture.
c) An *interagency work group for sand and gravel* would be co-led by BOEM and USACE and include relevant cooperating agencies. The work group would consider specific regional policy opportunities, potentially including determining beach nourishment needs, informing research on potential sand borrow sites, and informing the prioritization of sand needs.

Other considerations:

- Each work group will consider incorporating data and guidance developed through the ocean planning process (as described in previous decisions in this document) into their deliberations.
- The RPB will communicate to the public about opportunities to inform decisions around these emerging ocean uses.

Appendix D: Preliminary Northeast Ocean Plan Outline

November 20, 2014

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

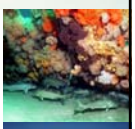
Ocean Plan Outline

I. Introduction: Overview

- Overview of planning process, operations, charter, Framework, including goals, objectives, outcomes

II. Planning Area Characterization

- Baseline assessment
- Non-spatial information
  - Industry trends
  - Compatibility issues for consideration
  - Measures assessing ocean health
- Spatial information
  - Marine life characterization, ecologically important areas
  - Human use characterization
  - Jurisdictions



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Purpose

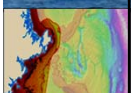
- High level cut at how elements of projects and plan fit together
- Some very important pieces will be discussed at this meeting (indicated in red text)
- Outline may shift as we make decisions and work progresses

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Ocean Plan Outline

III. Plan Implementation

- Agency commitments
  - Pre-application practices
  - Use of plan data
  - Inter-agency coordination through NEPA, etc
  - State CZMA-related commitments
  - Tribal consultations
  - Interagency coordination on specific issues
- Measures to enhance public input
- Restoration and conservation commitments
- Long-term administration of data portal
- Process for plan updates, continued progress
- Monitoring and effectiveness evaluation


OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Ocean Plan Outline

IV. Science Plan

- Future science priorities
- How to build on, leverage existing scientific and data collection efforts
- Approaches to addresses these priorities

Appendix A: Process details (engagement strategy, etc.)
Appendix B: Regulatory context

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Draft Plan Outcomes

- Science-based data, information and products provide context for more informed ocean mgmt decisions
- Enhanced public input and understanding of ocean mgmt decisions achieves greater transparency
- Federal agency commitments towards better coordination, maintenance, and use of plan products are institutionalized and sustained
- Tribal consultation best practices and state commitments to strengthen use of CZMA are pursued and formalized
- Regional compatibility providing intelligence on interaction of uses and with ecosystem are incorporated into ocean mgmt decisions
- Science plan prioritizes future work towards EBM approach to ocean mgmt

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Appendix E
Presentations

Regional Restoration Priorities

William Hubbard
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health

Objective 2 Subcommittee Report

Co-Chairs:
USACE - Bill Hubbard
EPA – Ivy Mlsna

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Objective 2 Products

- Subcommittee team formed
  - Tab 5.4 B
- Regional inventory of restoration and conservation projects
  - Tab 5.4 C
- Spreadsheet of federal funding opportunities
  - Tab 5.4 D
- Project criteria
  - Tab 5.4 E

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Framework

- **Objective 2.** Identify and Support Existing Non-regulatory Opportunities to Work Toward Conserving, Restoring, and Maintaining Healthy Ecosystems
  - **Action 2-1.** Identify existing and potential programs that are or would be directly related to conservation, restoration and maintaining healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems.

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Restoration and Conservation Projects

- The subcommittee has produced and will maintain an updated list of restoration and conservation priority projects that closely relate to ocean planning goals and objectives (Tab 5.4C). This list has been coordinated with the RPB.
- **Requested Action:**
  The subcommittee requests the RPB review this list and at the next RPB meeting, endorse these projects for the NE-RPB plan.
- This endorsement will assist project proponents in obtaining state, federal and NGO funding.

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Project Criteria (tab 5.4E)

- Endorsed by an RPB member organization
- Improve Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health
- Have a public or NGO proponent identified
- Incorporate climate change considerations
- Provide for long-term benefits for fish and wildlife habitat
- Identify uncertainties for major components of proposed projects (e.g. permitting issues, public controversy, etc.)
- Incorporate adaptive management to meet objectives/outcomes
- Must be as maintenance free as possible (post-construction)
- If a project is for a living shoreline, it must provide protection or erosion control for, or otherwise compliment, adjacent habitat

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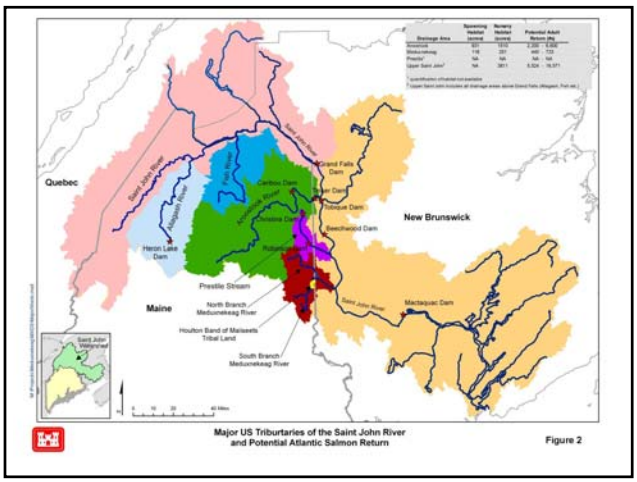
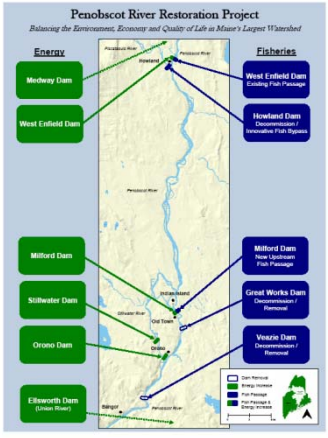
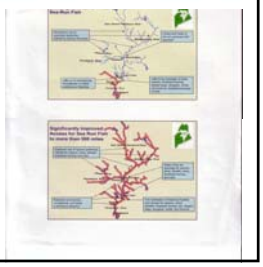


Requested Action:

As a subcommittee of the RPB, we request the RPB review these criteria used to endorse the list of restoration and conservation priority projects. Formal approval will be requested at the next RPB meeting.

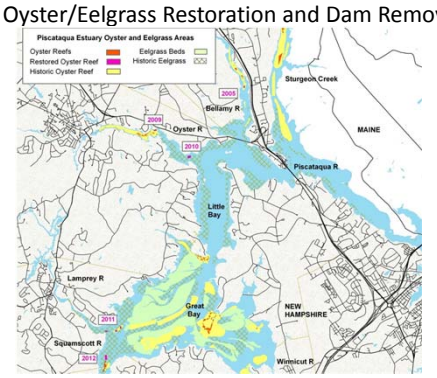
OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST





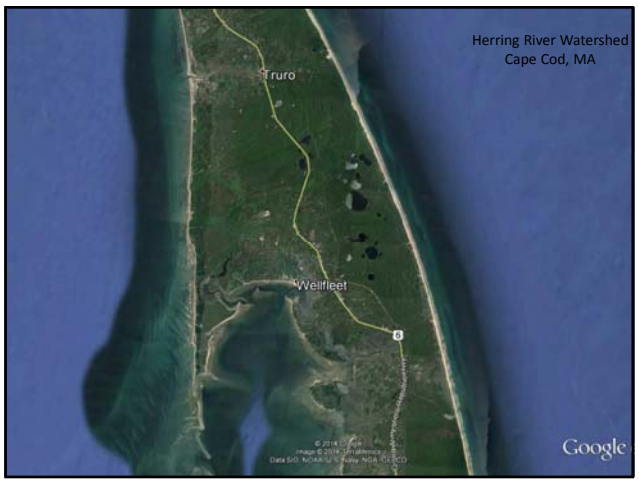
Great Bay Watershed NH

Oyster/Eelgrass Restoration and Dam Removals



Bird Island – Roseate Tern Nesting

Herring River Watershed Cape Cod, MA

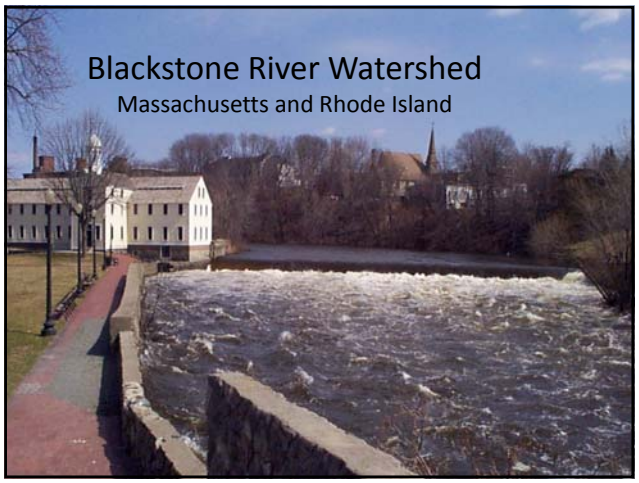


Bird Island Restoration Project

Distribution and Abundance vs. Vulnerability (habitat)

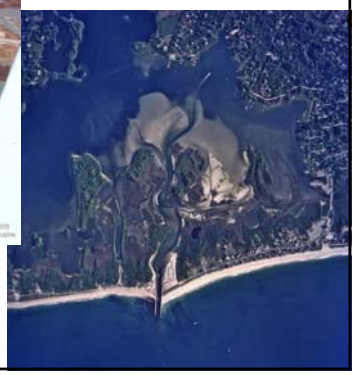
Blackstone River Watershed

Massachusetts and Rhode Island



Mill River
Stamford, CT

Coastal Salt Ponds Restoration



Eelgrass and
Anadromous
Fisheries
Restoration

Questions?

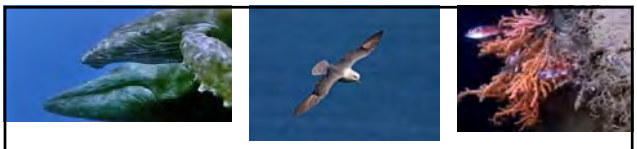
OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Marine Life Characterization

Pat Halpin
Duke University

Patrick N. Halpin
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University
Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT) Principal Investigator
Brian Kinlan (Co-I), Earvin Balderama (Co-I), Mike Fogarty (Co-I)
Jason Roberts, Arliss Winship, Corrie Curtice, Jesse Cleary

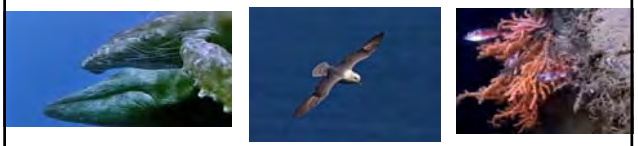
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
Regional Planning Body
November 14, 2014



Overview

- Team and Timeline
- Study Area
- Expert Working Groups
- Important Ecological Areas
- Next Steps

Marine-life Data & Analysis



Patrick N. Halpin
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University
Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT) Principal Investigator
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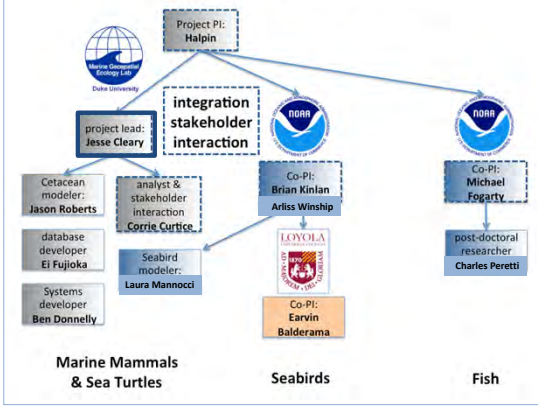
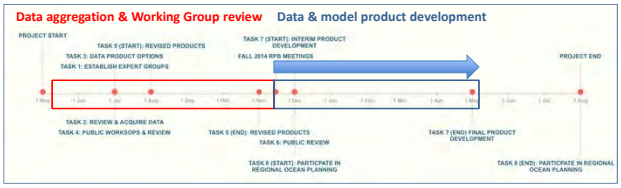
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
Regional Planning Body
November 14, 2014

MDAT Team organization

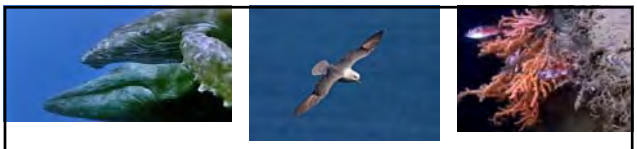


Project timeline



Expert working groups formed (~80 experts) and reviewed data holdings and modeling methods

Avian Working Group:	Mammal Working Group:	Fish Working Group:
Call 1: August 1	**Call 1**: August 7	**Call 1**: August 12
Public webinar: August 27		
Call 2: September 19	**Call 2**: September 24	**Call 2**: October 22



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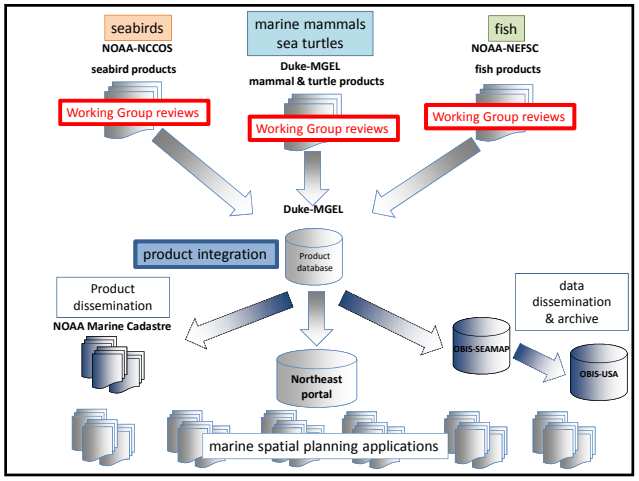
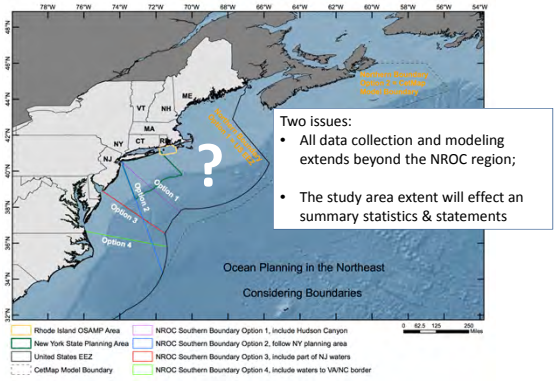
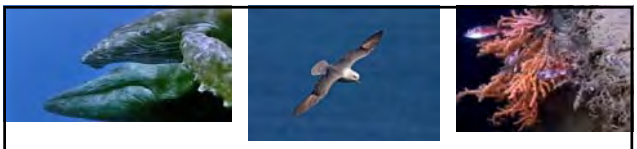


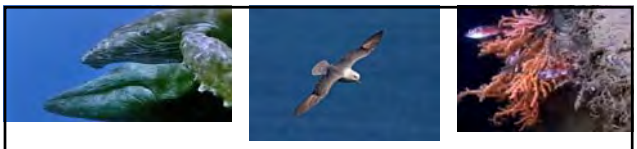
Study Area options





Overview

- Team and Timeline
- Study Area
- Expert Working Groups
- Important Ecological Areas
- Next Steps



Overview

- Team and Timeline
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Note: *We will set up a table with computers during lunch to provide more details and answers questions.*

Expert Work Group discussion: Cross cutting issues

CROSSCUTTING ISSUES	OPTIONS
DATA COLLECTION	• Sources • Geographic scope • How to integrate survey methods? • How to integrate expert knowledge?
TEMPORAL EXTENT	• How many decades of data to include? • Monthly, seasonal, annual summaries
TREATMENT OF DATA	• Summarize by species, guilds, functional groups • Incorporate migration routes? • Which environmental covariates?
SPATIAL PRODUCTS	• Tier I spatial products (observations) • Tier II spatial products (observations + habitat)
USES	• As supporting information • For environmental impact assessment and/or permitting decisions by state or federal regulatory agencies • Assessing compatibility with other uses

Most important outcome: setting expectations for which species and in what time periods is there sufficient observation data to model abundance & density

Avian Working Group 8-1-2014 & 9-19-2014 discussion topics

- How were season definitions decided?
- How is prioritization of species decided, and which species should be modeled?
- Presented and discussed technical details of modeling methodology and predictor variables.
- How could species be grouped, ie: terns?
- What is the right way to interpret model results?
- Nearshore *vs*. at sea species, models
- Post processing options,

  ie: hot spots, diversity spots, persistence measure

At-Sea Avian Survey Effort Summary, as of Aug 1, 2014

Compendium of Avian Occurrence Information in the Atlantic

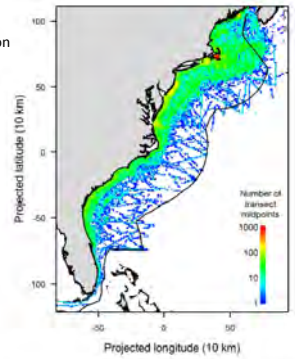


Figure 7. Map of survey effort (number of transect midpoints per 10-km square) across all datasets. The black line indicates the boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Priority Species – Can not model

	Other regional priorities			Northeast priorities			
	FWS BCR-31 (Florida) Priority	FWS SAMBI BCR-27 (Southeast) Priority	FWS BCR-14 (Gulf of Maine) Priority	FWS BCR30 (New England/Mid-Atlantic) Priority	State E, T, SC	State Ocean Plans	SHARP species
2 - PRIORITY SPECIES WE CANNOT MODEL							
American black duck	N/A	Highest	Highest	Highest			X
American golden plover	High	High	High	High			
American oystercatcher	Highest	High	Moderate	Highest	ME, RI, CT (SC)		
Atlantic brant	N/A	Highest	Moderate	Highest			
Black rail	High	High	N/A	Highest	CT, NY (E)		
Black skimmer	Highest	High	N/A				
Black tern					ME, NY (E)		
Black-bellied plover	Moderate	Moderate	High	High			
Bridled tern	N/A	High	N/A	High			
Buff-breasted sandpiper	Highest	Highest	N/A	High			
Bufflehead	N/A	[illegible]	N/A	High			
Canada goose - Atl. Pop	N/A	Highest	High	Highest			
Canvasback	High	Highest	N/A	High			
Clapper rail	High	Moderate	N/A	High	RI (SC)		X
Dunlin	High	High	N/A	High			
Forster's tern	Moderate	N/A	N/A	High			
Golden-winged warbler	N/A	N/A	N/A	Moderate	MA (E)		
Great cormorant	N/A	N/A	Highest		ME (E)		
Greater scaup	[illegible]	[illegible]	Moderate	High	ME (SC)		
Greater yellowlegs	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	High			
Harlequin duck	N/A	N/A	Highest	Moderate	ME (E); RI (SC)	10 ADP	
Henslow's sparrow	Highest	N/A	N/A	High	MA (E); NY (T)		
Hoboomen godwit	N/A	N/A	Moderate	High			
King rail	High	High	N/A	Moderate	CT (E); MA, NY (T); RI (SC)		
Marbled godwit	High	High	N/A	High			
Marsh wren	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	High	RI (SC)		
Pied billed grebe	N/A	N/A	N/A		ME (E)		
Piping plover	Highest	Highest	Highest	Highest	ME, NH, NY (E); MA, RI, CT (T)		
Purple sandpiper	N/A	N/A	Highest	High			
Red knot	High	Highest	High	Highest	ME (SC)		
Ruddy turnstone	High	High	High	Highest			
Saltmarsh (sharp-tailed) sparrow	Highest	Highest	Highest	Highest	ME, NH, CT (SC)		X
Sanderling	High	High	Moderate	Highest			
Sedge wren	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Moderate	ME, NH, MA, CT (E); NY (T)		
Semipalmated sandpiper	High	High	Highest	High	ME (SC)		
Short-billed dowitcher	High	High	High	High			
Short-eared owl	N/A	High	Moderate	Moderate	ME, MA, NY (E); CT (T)		
Tundra swan - eastern	N/A	N/A	N/A	High			
Upland sandpiper	High	High	High	Moderate	MA (E)		
Whimbrel	High	Highest	High	Highest	ME (SC)		
White-rumped sandpiper	N/A	N/A	N/A	High			
Willet	N/A	High	Moderate	High	NH, RI (SC)		X
Wilson's phalarope	[illegible]	N/A	N/A	High			

Priority Species - Model

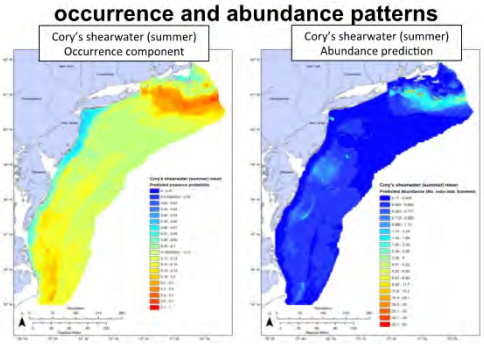
	Other regional priorities			Northeast priorities			
	FWS BCR-31 (Florida) Priority	FWS SAMBI BCR-27 (Southeast) Priority	FWS BCR-14 (Gulf of Maine) Priority	FWS BCR30 (New England/Mid-Atlantic) Priority	State E, T, SC	State Ocean Plans	SHARP species
1 - PRIORITY SPECIES WE CAN MODEL							
Herring gull		Nuisance	High			NY	
Northern gannet	High		High	High		NY	
Great black-backed gull		Nuisance				NY	
Great shearwater		High	Highest	High		NY	
Wilson's storm petrel						NY	
Common loon		High	Moderate		NH (T); MA, CT, NY (SC)	NY	
Long-tailed duck			Moderate	High		MA SSU; RI ADP	
Black-legged kittiwake			Moderate			NY	
Northern fulmar						NY	
Red-throated loon	High	High	Moderate	Highest			
Common eider			Highest	High		MA SSU; RI ADP	
Surf scoter			Moderate	High		MA SSU; RI ADP	
Cory's shearwater		High		Moderate		NY	
Laughing gull		Nuisance			ME (SC)	NY	
Razorbill		High	High	Moderate	ME (E)		
White-winged scoter		High		High		MA SSU; RI ADP	
Common tern	High	Highest	High	Moderate	NH, NY (T); ME, MA, CT (SC)	MA SSU; NY	
Black scoter		Highest	High	High		MA SSU; RI ADP	
Leach's storm petrel			Moderate		MA (E); ME (SC)	MA SSU	
Sooty shearwater	High					NY	
Dovekie						NY	
Audubon's shearwater	Highest	Highest		High			
Pomarine jaeger						NY	
Double-crested cormorant	Moderate	Nuisance				MA SSU	
Atlantic puffin			Moderate		ME (E)		
Roseate tern	Highest	High	High	Highest	ME, NH, MA, CT, NY (E)	MA SSU	
Least tern	High	High		High	ME, NH (E); RI, CT, NY (T)	MA SSU	
Arctic tern			High		ME (E); NH, MA (SC)	MA SSU	
Horned grebe	High	High	Moderate	High			
Lesser scaup	High	Highest		High			

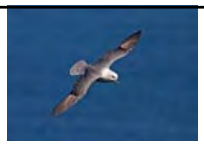
Non-Priority Species

	Other regional priorities			Northeast priorities			
	FWS BCR-31 (Florida) Priority	FWS SAMBI BCR-27 (Southeast) Priority	FWS BCR-14 (Gulf of Maine) Priority	FWS BCR30 (New England/Mid-Atlantic) Priority	State E, T, SC	State Ocean Plans	SHARP species
3 - NON-PRIORITY SPECIES THAT MAY BE MODELED							
Bonaparte's gull	Moderate	Moderate			ME (SC)		
Red phalarope		High	High	Moderate			
Royal tern	Moderate	Moderate		Moderate			
Manx shearwater		High		Moderate			
Red-necked phalarope			Highest	Moderate	ME (SC)		
Red-breasted merganser				Moderate			
Common murre					ME (SC)		
Black guillemot			High				
4 - NON-PRIORITY SPECIES THAT WILL NOT BE MODELED OR PRESENTED							
Northern pintail				Moderate			
Hooded merganser				Moderate	RI (SC)		
Ipswich savannah sparrow				Moderate	CT (SC)		
Northern pintail					MA (T)		
Blackpoll warbler					MA (SC)		
Osprey					NH, RI, NY (SC)		
Caspian tern							
Gull-billed tern							
Least sandpiper				Moderate			
American avocet				Moderate			
Semipalmated plover				Moderate			
Western sandpiper				Moderate			
Lesser yellowlegs				Moderate	ME (SC)		
Ruddy duck				Moderate			
Common goldeneye				Moderate			
Little gull							
Common snipe				Moderate			
Grasshopper sparrow				Moderate	MA (T)		
Nelson's sparrow				Moderate	ME, NH (SC);		X
Seaside sparrow				Moderate	NH, RI, CT, NY (SC)		X
Mourning warbler					MA (SC)		
Thayer's gull							
Vesper sparrow					MA (T)		

Product Example – NCCOS Model

Predictive maps of long-term occurrence and abundance patterns




Overview

- Team and Timeline
- Study Area
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- Next Steps

Model product example: Loyola/NCSU Model

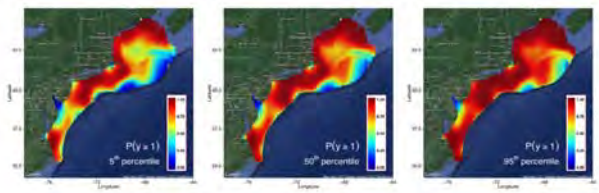


Figure 2: Northern Gannet: Risk maps of the probability of observing at least one individual during the year. The median estimate is presented along with the 5^{th} and 95^{th} percentiles to show uncertainty in parameter estimates.

From Balderama, Gardner and Reich, in prep.

Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Working Group 8-7-2014 & 9-24-2014 discussion topics

- Discussed additional line transect surveys and data sets we should incorporate.
- Discussed summarizing models into multi-species summaries (e.g. all baleen whales)?
- Discussed situations where density modeling is not possible, e.g.
  - Rare species
  - Near-shore / estuarine areas
- Discussed model uncertainty product options.
- Discussed alternative products, other than density models? (e.g. Species Per Unit Effort, Sightings maps)
- Discussed uncertainty products can be produced, and how are they interpreted?
- Study area boundary options and spatial resolution were discussed.

Marine mammal aggregation data overview

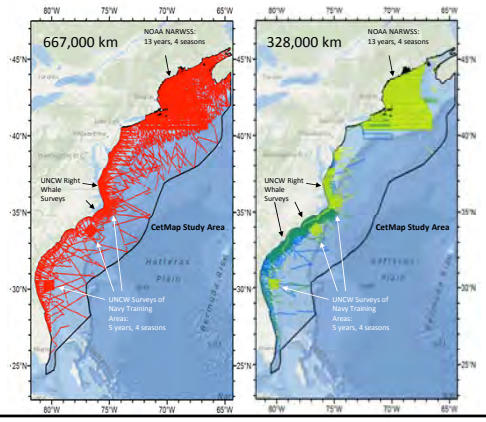
Marine mammal and sea turtle sightings

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Sightings	Model Status
Cetacean	Balaenoptera acutorostrata	Minke whale	1010	
	Balaenoptera borealis	Sei whale	589	
	Balaenoptera musculus	Blue whale	7	Not modeled
	Balaenoptera physalus	Fin whale	1750	
	Delphinus delphis	Common dolphin	803	
	Eubalaena glacialis	North Atlantic right whale	1595	
	Globicephala	Unidentified pilot whale	570	Pilot whales group
	Grampus griseus	Risso's dolphin	514	
	Hyperoodon ampullatus	Northern bottlenose whale	1	Not modeled
	Kogia	Unidentified small sperm whale	1	Not modeled
	Kogia sima	Dwarf sperm whale	1	Not modeled
	Lagenorhynchus acutus	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	1677	
	Lagenorhynchus albirostris	White-beaked dolphin	12	Not modeled
	Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback whale	2700	
	Mesoplodon	Unidentified beaked whale	82	Beaked whales group
	Mesoplodon bidens	Sowerby's beaked whale	8	Beaked whales group
	Mesoplodon densirostris	Blainville's beaked whale	2	Beaked whales group
	Mesoplodon mirus	True's beaked whale	2	Beaked whales group
	Orcinus orca	Killer whale	4	Not modeled
	Phocoena	Harbor porpoise	2781	
	Physeter macrocephalus	Sperm whale	247	
	Stenella attenuata	Pantropical spotted dolphin	4	Not modeled
	Stenella coeruleoalba	Striped dolphin	84	
	Stenella frontalis	Atlantic spotted dolphin	7	
	Stenella longirostris	Spinner dolphin	1	Not modeled
	Tursiops truncatus	Bottlenose dolphin	477	
	Ziphiidae	Unidentified beaked whale	2	Beaked whales group
	Ziphius cavirostris	Cuvier's beaked whale	21	Beaked whales group
Pinnipeds	Cantfornia	Unidentified seal	908	Seals group
	Halichoerus grypus	Gray seal	24	Seals group
	Phoca vitulina	Harbor seal	250	Seals group
Turtles	Caretta	Loggerhead turtle	470	
	Chelonia mydas	Green turtle	3	Not modeled
	Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback turtle	232	
	Lepidochelys kempii	Kemp's ridley turtle	59	

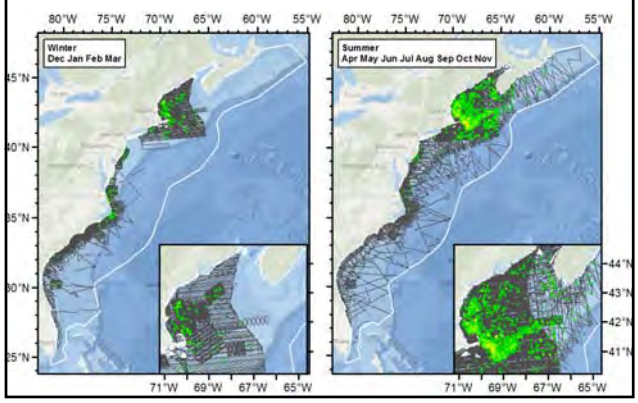
Table 2: Cetacean, pinniped, and turtle sightings from the available datasets that occurred between Delaware Bay and the Bay of Fundy (39-45 °N, 64-75 °W) and are suitable for density modeling. Species with insufficient sightings will not be modeled. Specific species marked will be modeled as the designated group, due to insufficient sightings or ambiguous taxonomic identifications. All models are habitat-based (they predict density from environmental covariates) and will incorporate additional sightings north and south of the focal region, when appropriate. For some species, such as Atlantic spotted dolphin, this will allow models to still be built for the NROC region despite the few sightings that occur there.

Atlantic Surveys

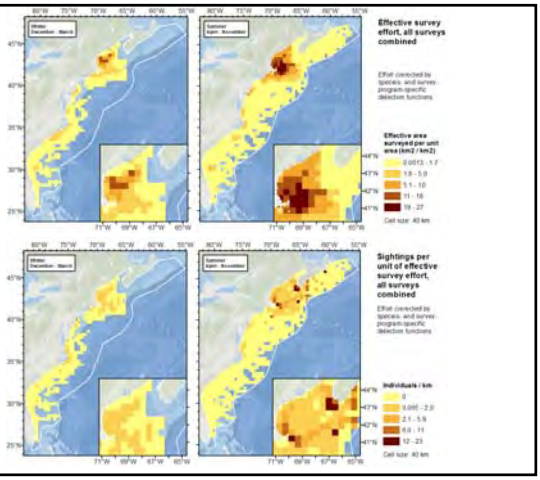
Summer (Red), Fall (Yellow), Winter (Blue), Spring (Green)

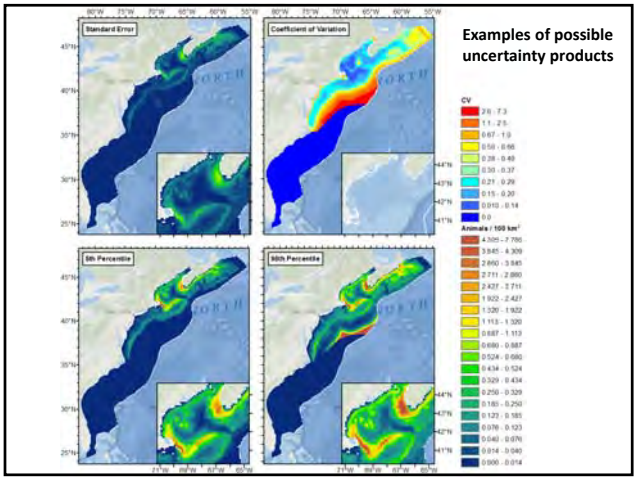


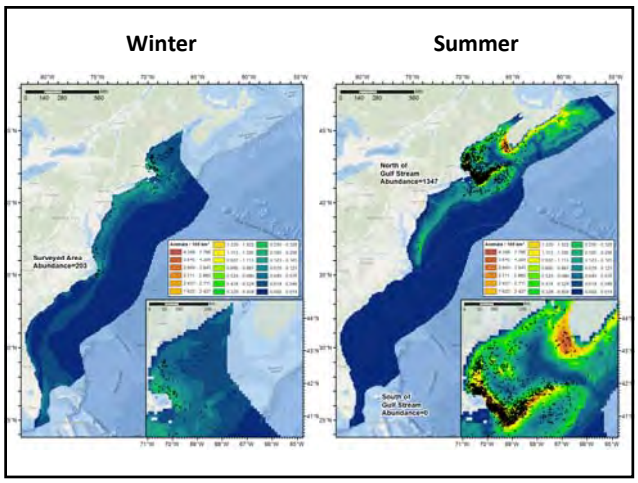
Density model example: humpback whales

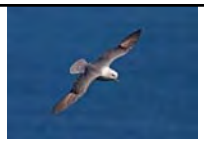


Humpback whales









Overview

- Team and Timeline
- Study Area
- Expert Working Groups - Fish
- Important Ecological Areas
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Fish Working Group 8-12-2014 & 10-22-2014 discussion topics

- Summary of species covered by data sets in-hand
- Regulatory and other considerations of species
- Discussed under-represented species from trawl surveys, and if fisheries-dependent data could be used
- Discussed grouping by functional guild
- Nearshore vs. offshore trawls

- Map and animation data product options, including diversity, total biomass

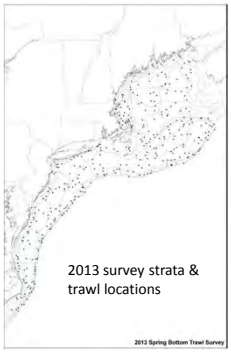
Prioritization and species selection for analysis

NOTES: "Principal trawl data" = NEFSC, NEAMAP and Massachusetts bottom trawl datasets

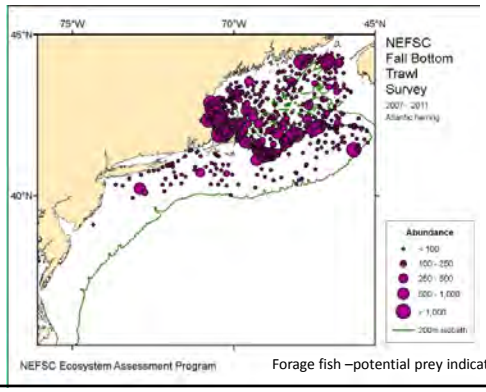
Species - common name	Federal ESA	Federal EFH	State E, T, SC	State Ocean Plans	Other Primary Data Source
Species that can be mapped/modeled 10/22/14					
Acadian redfish					Principal trawl data
Alewife	SC		NH (SC)		Principal trawl data
American lobster					Principal trawl data
American plaice		X			Principal trawl data
American shad			NH (SC)		Principal trawl data
Atlantic cod		X			Principal trawl data
Atlantic herring		X			Principal trawl data
Atlantic mackerel		X			Principal trawl data
Blackbelly rosefish					Principal trawl data
Blueback herring	SC		NH (SC)		Principal trawl data
Bluefish		X			Principal trawl data
Butterfish		X			Principal trawl data
Clearnose skate		X			Principal trawl data
Cunner					Principal trawl data
Cusk	SC				Principal trawl data
Dusky flounder					Principal trawl data
Gulf Stream flounder					Principal trawl data
Haddock		X			Principal trawl data
Little skate		X			Principal trawl data
Longfin squid		X			Principal trawl data
Longhorn sculpin					Principal trawl data
Lumpfish (Goosefish)		X			Principal trawl data
Northern kingfish					Principal trawl data
Northern puffer					Principal trawl data; spring not used
Northern sea robin					Principal trawl data
Ocean pout		X			Principal trawl data
Pollock		X			Principal trawl data
Red drum					Principal trawl data
Species mentioned by WG members					
American eel			ME, NH (SC)		
Atlantic halibut	SC	X			
Atlantic salmon	E	X	ME (E)		
Atlantic sturgeon	E		MA (E), CT (T)		
Atlantic crab					
Barndoor skate		X			Principal trawl data; spring not used
Black sea bass		X			Principal trawl data; spring not used

Species - common name	Federal ESA	Federal EFH	State E, T, SC	State Ocean Plans	Other Primary Data Source
Species that can be mapped/modeled 10/22/14					
Red hake		X			Principal trawl data
Rosette skate		X			Principal trawl data
Sand lance					Principal trawl data
Scup		X			Principal trawl data
Sea raven					Principal trawl data
Sea scallop		X			Principal trawl data
Shortfin squid		X			Principal trawl data
Shortnorn sculpin					Principal trawl data; fall not used
Silver hake (Whiting)		X			Principal trawl data
Smooth dogfish		MMS			Principal trawl data
Smooth skate		X			Principal trawl data
Spiny dogfish		X			Principal trawl data
Spot					Principal trawl data
Striped bass					Principal trawl data
Striped burrfish					Principal trawl data; spring not used
Striped sea robin					Principal trawl data
Summer flounder		X			Principal trawl data
Tautog					Principal trawl data
Thorny skate		X			Principal trawl data
Tilefish		X			Principal trawl data
Weakfish					Principal trawl data
White hake		X			Principal trawl data
Window-pane flounder		X			Principal trawl data
Winter flounder		X			Principal trawl data
Winter skate		X			Principal trawl data
Witch flounder		X			Principal trawl data
Wolffish (Atlantic)	SC	X			Principal trawl data
Yellowtail flounder		X			Principal trawl data

NEFSC Bottom Trawl surveys

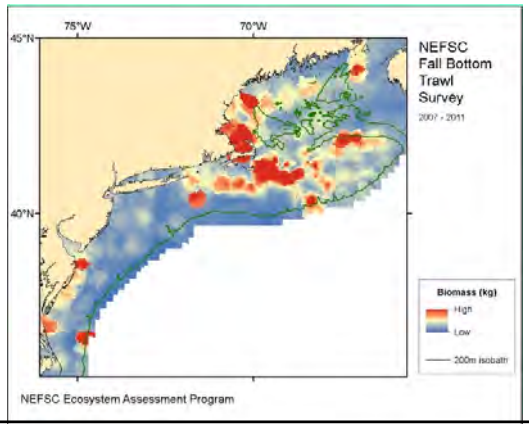


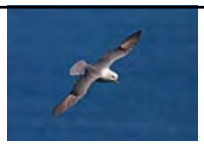
Atlantic herring – keystone species



Forage fish –potential prey indicator;

Total biomass

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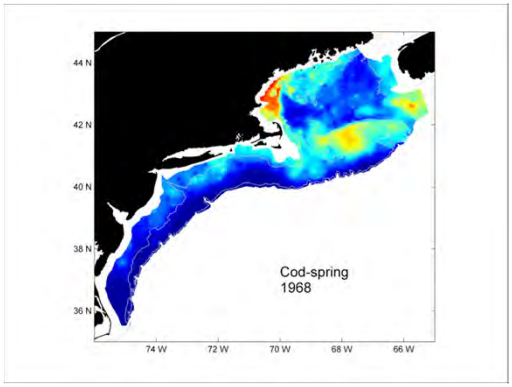
Atlantic Cod distribution over time



NEFSC Spring Bottom Trawl Survey 1968 – 2008

Important Ecological Areas

Levels of analysis

Distribution
Where are these species found? (data = range maps, habitat models…)

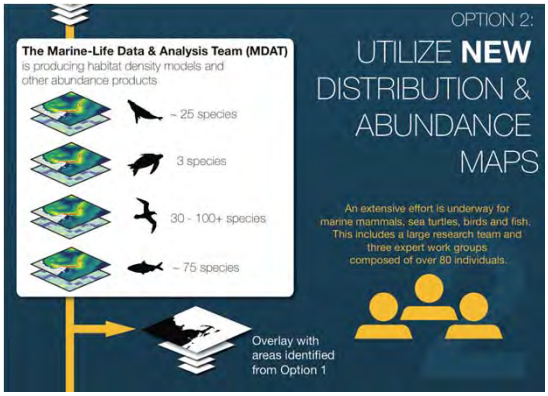
Abundance
How many animals are found in an area? (data = density models…)

Persistent multiple use or critical habitat areas
Where are the critical areas for these species? (data = multi-species use "hotspots", critical feeding/breeding areas, BIAs…)

Vulnerability
What are the potential stresses on these areas? (data = current or potential uses, habitat degradation…)

Increasing requirements for long-term data collection, more sophisticated analysis and multi-disciplinary approaches

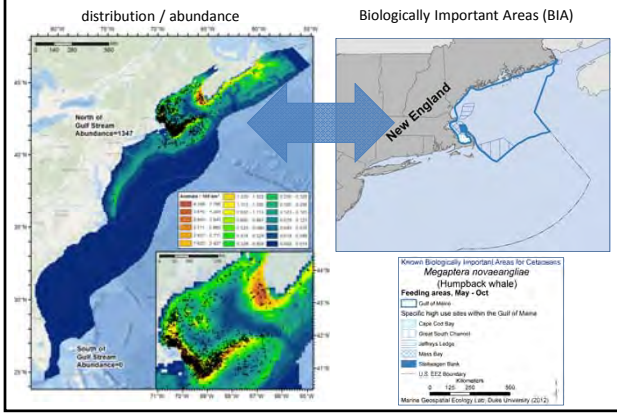
Important Ecological Areas



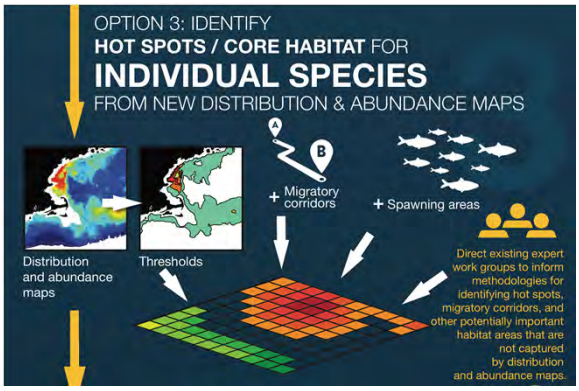
Important Ecological Areas

distribution / abundance

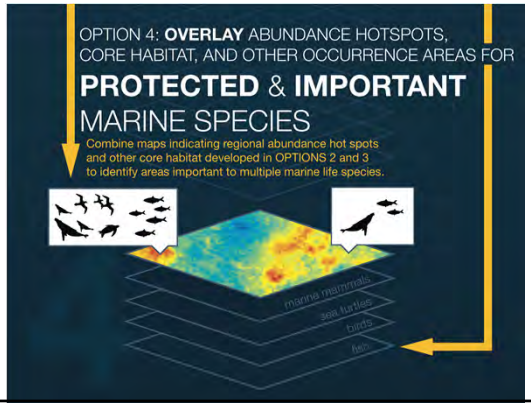
Biologically Important Areas (BIA)



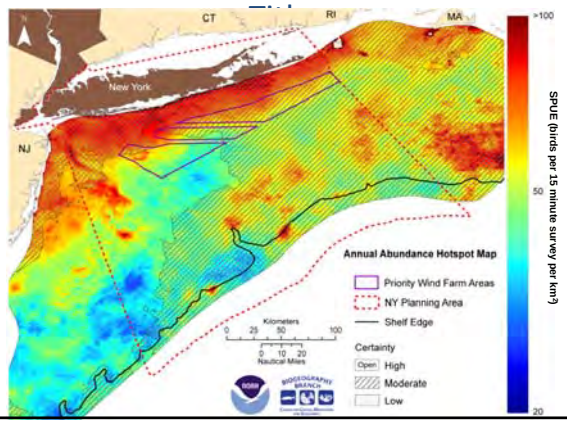
Important Ecological Areas



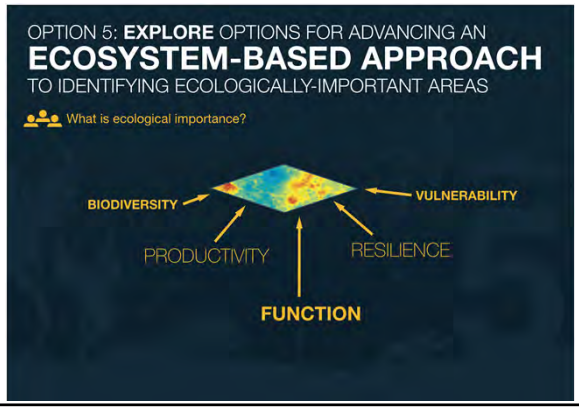
Important Ecological Areas



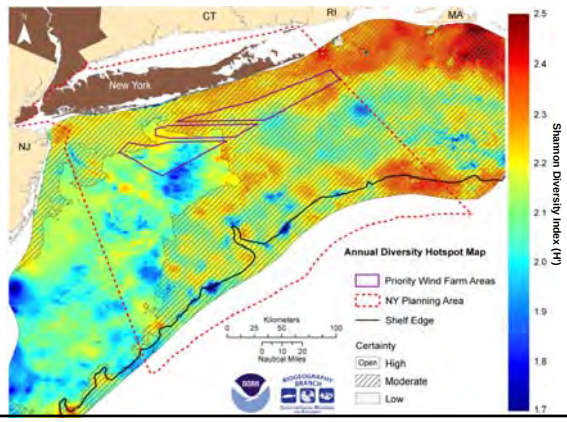
Synthetic map products: abundance hotspots

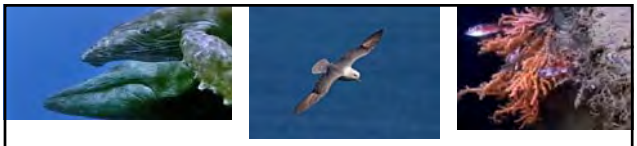


Important Ecological Areas



Synthetic map products: diversity hotspots



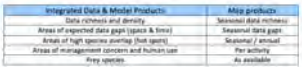


Overview

- Team and Timeline
- Study Area
- Expert Working Groups
- Important Ecological Areas
- Next Steps

Ongoing Input

- **Working group product development review**
  - Re-assess options if needed
- **Future synthesis**
  - Important ecological area development – data support
- **Portal integration**

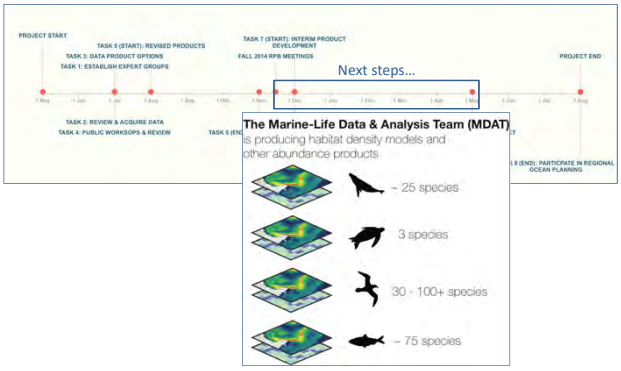


Questions

Contact email:

northeast_marinelife_data@duke.edu

Project timeline



Fisheries Characterization

George LaPointe
George LaPointe Consulting

NROC Commercial Fisheries Characterization, Phase II

November 2014 PRB meeting

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Overview

- Phase I[1]
  - Mapping of commercial fishing activity using VMS, VTR
  - Lobster
  - Other Fisheries
- Phase II
  - VMS
    - Separation of fishing from transit
    - Separation of different permit types
  - Lobster mapping
  - Party / Charter mapping

1 - http://northeastoceancouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Commercial-Fisheries-Spatial-Characterization-Report.pdf

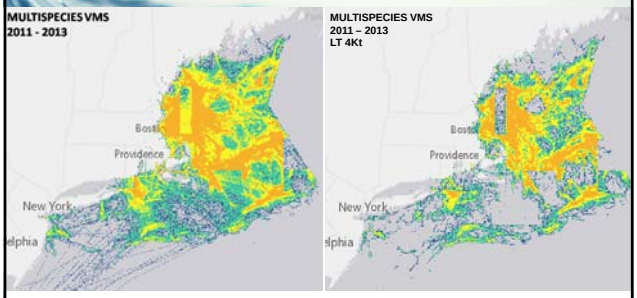
OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Vessel Speed Separation

- Phase I maps showed all VMS activity
- Input from fishermen, managers said that separation of fishing from transit was important for planning efforts to understand
- Talked to fishermen and managers about which speeds to use for different fisheries

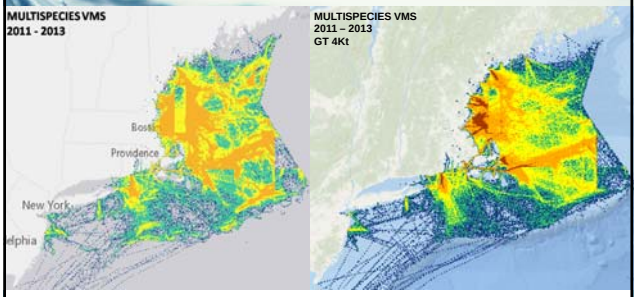
OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Vessel Speed Separation



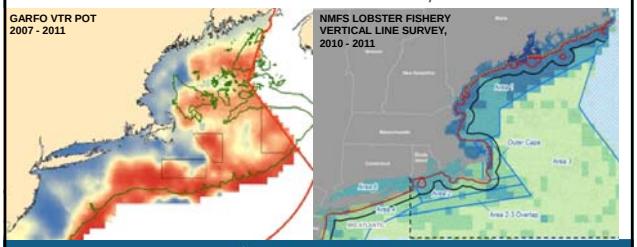
OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Vessel Speed Separation

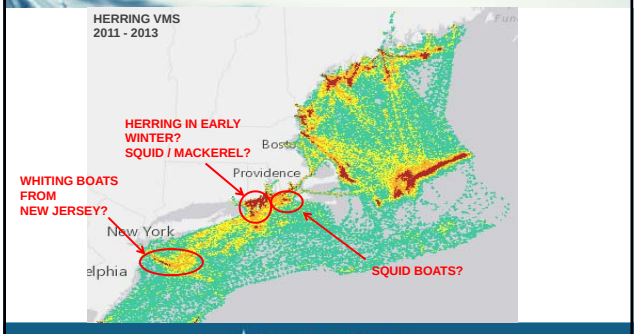


Lobster Fishery Mapping

- No good comprehensive location information
  - VTR maps
  - NMFS Office of Protected Resources end line survey



Permit Type Separation



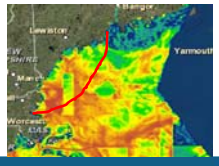
Lobster Fishery Mapping

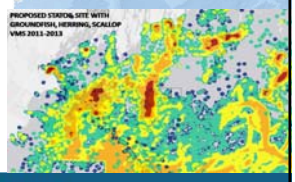
- What to do next?
- Input from fishermen, managers
- Options
  - Use NMFS map?
  - Aerial or vessel surveys of lobster buoys?
  - Individual vessel location information?

Party / Charter Mapping

- Pilot work with Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), SeaPlan, States to add location capability to mobile device units
- Seek volunteers to test units
- Important Issues
  - Getting enough volunteers
  - Sufficient data to mask individual patterns
  - Protection of specific location information
    - Specific location to vicinity mapping ?
    - Other solutions?

How can map data be used?





Cautions

- What the maps don't show
  - Past fishing patterns, pre-VMS
  - Other fisheries without VMS
  - Permit categories that don't require VMS
  - Locally important fishing activity
- Maps provide baseline information, other information sources needed

Next Steps

- Outreach with fishing industry, managers
- Permit separation
- Lobster Fishery characterization work
- Party Charter characterization work

Baseline Assessment for Regional Ocean Planning in the Northeastern United States

Hauke Kite-Powell
Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institution

Baseline Assessment for Regional Ocean Planning in the Northeastern United States

Hauke Kite-Powell
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Northeast RPB Meeting, New Hampshire, 13 Nov. 2014

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

What is the Baseline Assessment?

A written document and supporting data sets that provide:

- A description of present status and trends in
  - marine resources and infrastructure,
  - economic activity (broadly defined), and
  - economic and ecosystem value generated in the Northeastern United States

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Topics

- What is the Baseline Assessment?
- Purposes and objectives
- Scope and content
- Baseline Assessment document outline
- Data availability via Ocean Data Portal
- Project Team
- Schedule and Next Steps

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

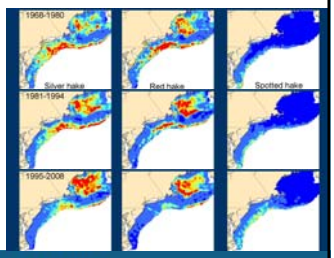
Purpose and Objectives

- To support the regional ocean planning process
- Summarize what is known about the region's marine resources and value derived from these
- Suggest how this information can be used to consider the effect of planning decisions

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Scope and Content

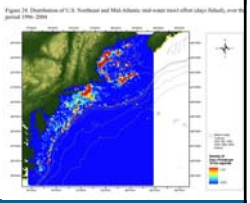
- Natural resources
  - Biological populations, habitats, etc.



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Scope and Content

- Natural resources
  - Biological populations, habitats, etc.
- Infrastructure
  - Ports, marinas, seawalls, etc.
- Economic activity and value measures
  - Marine industries, recreational activity, etc.
  - Jobs, wages, contribution to GDP



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Scope and Content

- Natural resources
  - Biological populations, habitats, etc.
- Infrastructure
  - Ports, marinas, seawalls, etc.

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Scope and Content

- Natural resources
  - Biological populations, habitats,
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- Economic activity and value m
  - Marine industries, recreational a
  - Jobs, wages, contribution to GDI
- Ecosystem service value
  - Food production, climate regulation, etc.

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Scope and Content

- Natural resources
  - Biological populations, habitats, etc.
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  - Ports, marinas, seawalls, etc.
- Economic activity and value measure
  - Marine industries, recreational activity, e
  - Jobs, wages, contribution to GDP
- Ecosystem service value
  - Food production, climate regulation, etc.
- Mapping resources & infrastructure to value

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

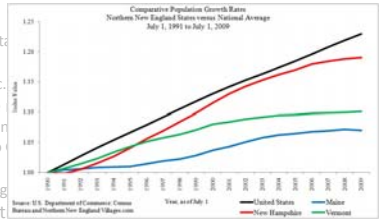
Document Outline

- **Introduction**
  - Purpose and scope of baseline assessment
  - Resources and economic value generation
  - The role of ocean planning in promoting sustainable economic activity
- **Resources and Infrastructure**
  - Marine and coastal natural resources
  - Marine and coastal cultural resources
  - Marine and coastal infrastructure
  - Human resources
- **Coastal and Marine Economy**
  - Definitions and boundaries
  - Sectors (see details on following pages)
  - Geographic regions (states, counties)
  - Links to the regional economy (IMPLAN)
- **Ecosystem Services**
  - Definitions and boundaries
  - Review of non-market value studies
  - Categories (see detail on following pages)
  - Gaps in present knowledge
- **Mapping Resources to Economic Value Generation**
  - Sectors and resources; production functions
  - Opportunities for conflict/role of planning
- **Trends and Future Considerations for Planning**
  - Climate change
  - Socio-economic changes
    - Demographics
    - Macro-economic structure
  - Technological change in marine industries
  - Changes in macro-economic structure
- **Recommendations – Priorities for Future Research**
  - Resources
  - Economic sectors

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Scope and Content

- Natural resources
  - Biological populations, habita
- Infrastructure
  - Ports, marinas, seawalls, etc.
- Economic activity and value
  - Marine industries, recreation
  - Jobs, wages, contribution to
- Ecosystem service value
  - Food production, climate reg
- Mapping resources & infrast
- Trends and future considerations
  - Demographics, climate, technology, etc.

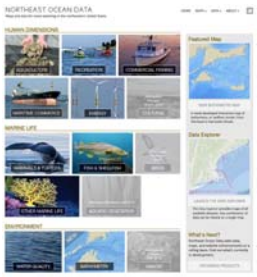


OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Data Accessibility

We expect that data sets supporting the Baseline Assessment will be made available via the Northeast Ocean Data Portal

http://www.northeastoceandata.org/



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Project Team

- WHOI Marine Policy Center
  - Hauke Kite-Powell, Porter Hoagland, Di Jin
- University of Southern Maine
  - Charles Colgan, Vinton Valentine
- New England Aquarium
  - Brooke Wikgren
- John Duff, Univ. of Mass. (Boston)

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Next Steps

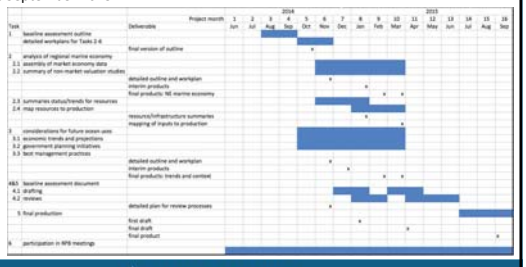
- Ocean Economy/Market Data Assembly
  - Initial review with RPB in January 2015
- Ecosystem Services Data Assembly
  - Initial review with RPB in February 2015
- Mapping of Marine Resources to Economic Value
  - Initial review with RPB in March 2015

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Project Schedule

- First draft January 2015
- Final draft April 2015
- Final product September 2015

Opportunities for review and comment in Spring/Summer 2015.



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Thank you!

Hauke Kite-Powell
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Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA 02543

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OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Recreational Characterization

Andy Lipsky
SeaPlan

Coastal and Marine Recreational Study for New England

Point 97, Surfrider and SeaPlan

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Project Oversight and Leadership

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Project Purpose

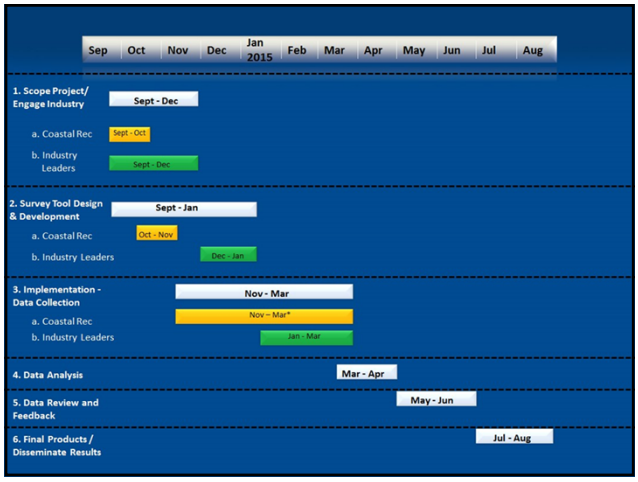
Characterize coastal and marine recreational activity in New England

- Lack of regional spatial data
- Support Northeast regional planning process

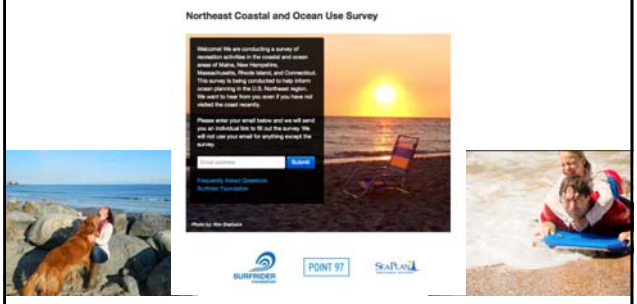
1. Coastal Recreational Online Survey
   - Beach going
   - Wildlife viewing
   - Surfing
   - Kayaking
   - Other forms of non-consumptive ocean recreation use

2. Industry Leader Engagement
   - Sailing regattas
   - Fishing tournaments
   - SCUBA diving
   - Commercial whale watching

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST



Coastal and Marine Recreation User Survey



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Stakeholder Working Group

- Initial SWG formed by invitation to regional recreational users/business owners
- Pre-launch review of survey questions & mapping tool
- Ongoing review of participation strategies
- Review of final data before public release
- Open invitation for recreational users/business owners/agency representatives to join!

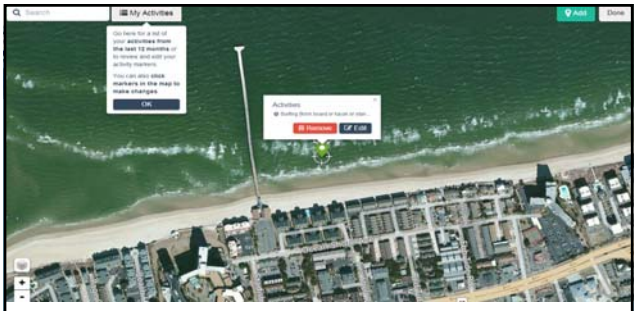
OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Data Collection

Online Opt-in Survey for Individual Recreational Users

- Five months of data collection via online survey
- Registration live this week
- Provides a participatory approach
- Builds stakeholder investment in regional ocean planning
- Compatible with mobile phones, tablets, and desktop/laptops
- Fills vital data gap

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST



- Compatible with mobile phones, tablets, and laptop/ desktop computers
- Search function enabled to zoom to correct location
- Zoom level enforced

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Next Steps

- Data Collection
- Engaging the public in regional ocean planning through the survey
- Working with RPB and stakeholders to disseminate opportunities to engage

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

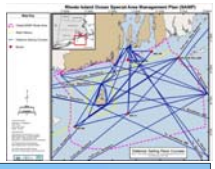
Marine Events – Sailing Regattas & Fishing Tournaments

How?

- Existing datasets
- Engage steering committee & industry leaders to refine methodology
  - Proposed online survey for industry leaders (similar to opt-in survey)
- Map & collect additional data
- Vet collected data

When?

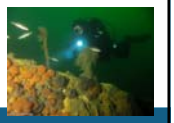
- Late 2014 – Mid 2015



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Industry Leader Engagement

- **Marine Events**
  - Sailing Regattas
  - Fishing Tournaments
- **Commercial Whale Watching**
- **Recreational SCUBA Diving**



OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Commercial Whale Watching & Recreational SCUBA Diving

How?

- Existing datasets
- Engage steering committee & industry leaders to develop methodology
  - Participatory GIS workshops using e-beam or other tool
  - Online survey?
- Map & collect additional data
- Vet collected data

When?

- Late 2014 – Mid 2015

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Status and Next Steps

Completed:

- Conducted background research on existing data
  - OSAMP
  - 2012 NE Survey
  - USCG Study

Current work:

- Engage industry leads and PSC to determine methodology
  - Online survey
  - Participatory GIS workshops

Implement methodology – early 2015

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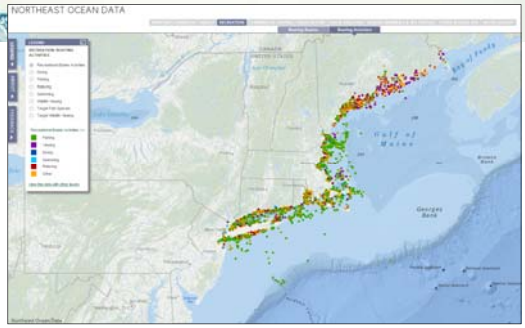
Future Steps



Integration of data into Northeast Ocean Data Recreation Thematic Map in 2015

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

5 Options for Identifying Ecologically-Important Areas in the Northeast Region

Nick Napoli
Northeast Regional Ocean Council

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL PLANNING BODY
IS CONSIDERING **5 OPTIONS**

FOR IDENTIFYING
ECOLOGICALLY-IMPORTANT AREAS
IN THE NORTHEAST REGION

TO SUPPORT **THE HEALTHY OCEAN AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS GOAL**
IN THE **FRAMEWORK FOR OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST U.S.**

OPTION 1: DEFINE AREAS USING
EXISTING MAPS
THROUGH EXISTING AUTHORITIES

The Northeast Ocean Data portal team, with input from relevant agencies, is already compiling areas identified by these authorities and planning efforts.

Some examples of existing areas

Endangered Species Act (1973)
Critical Habitat

Magnuson-Stevens Act (1976)
Essential Fish Habitat

x 48 species

Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan (2009)
Special, Sensitive or Unique areas

x 3 x 11 x 22

Rhode Island Ocean
Special Area Management Plan (2010)
Areas Designated for Preservation
& Areas of Particular Concern

x 5

OPTION 2:
UTILIZE **NEW**
DISTRIBUTION &
ABUNDANCE
MAPS

The Marine-Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT)
is producing habitat density models and other abundance products

~ 25 species
3 species
30 - 100+ species
~ 75 species

Overlay with areas identified from Option 1

An extensive effort is underway for marine mammals, sea turtles, birds and fish. This includes a large research team and three expert work groups composed of over 80 individuals.

OPTION 3: IDENTIFY
HOT SPOTS / CORE HABITAT FOR
INDIVIDUAL SPECIES
FROM NEW DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE MAPS

Distribution and abundance maps

Thresholds

A B
+ Migratory corridors

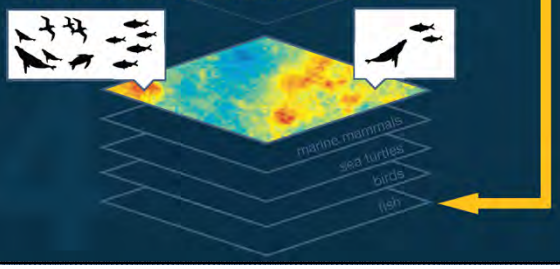
+ Spawning areas

Direct existing expert work groups to inform methodologies for identifying hot spots, migratory corridors, and other potentially important habitat areas that are not captured by distribution and abundance maps.

OPTION 4: **OVERLAY** ABUNDANCE HOTSPOTS, CORE HABITAT, AND OTHER OCCURRENCE AREAS FOR

PROTECTED & IMPORTANT MARINE SPECIES

Combine maps indicating regional abundance hot spots and other core habitat developed in OPTIONS 2 and 3 to identify areas important to multiple marine life species.



OPTION 5: **EXPLORE** OPTIONS FOR ADVANCING AN

ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH

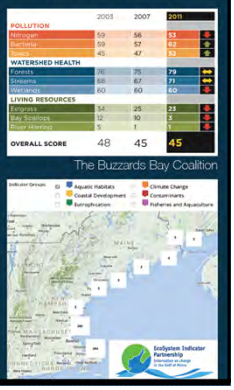
TO IDENTIFYING ECOLOGICALLY-IMPORTANT AREAS

What is ecological importance?

THE RPB IS ALSO CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR

MEASURING OCEAN HEALTH

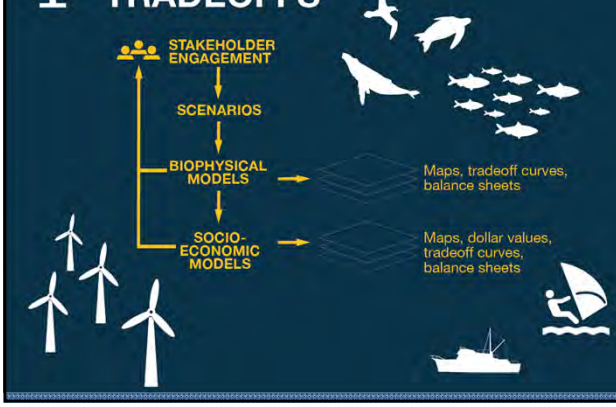
EPA National Coastal Condition



The Buzzards Bay Coalition

AND EXAMINING

TRADEOFFS



Tribal Consultation: Best Practices Guidlines

Rick Getchell
Aroostook Band of Micmacs and Tribal Co-Lead

Tribal Consultation: Best Practices Guidelines

Rick Getchell
Aroostook Band of Micmacs and Tribal Co-Lead

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Effective Decision Making

Objective 4:
Improve respect for the customs and traditions of indigenous peoples in decision making processes.

- **Action 4-1.** Identify means by which tribal consultation could be enhanced in existing decision making processes.

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Goals of Creating Guidelines

1) Establish clear standards for the consultation process - defining the what, when, and how of consultation

2) Designate specific personnel responsible for serving as consultation points of contact to promote consistency

3) Establish a management - oversight and reporting structure that will ensure accountability and transparency

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

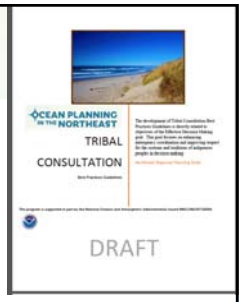
Draft Development

- Formation of tribal RPB member work group for input and review
- Source documents:
  - examples of existing consultation policies provided by tribes
  - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
  - EPA guidance on consultation practices
- NOTE that while EPA guidance primarily used, other agencies have policies in place that need to be researched as a next step
- Document is *DRAFT* and will evolve with further input

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Examples (tab 4.2)

- Provide early scoping
- Duty of federal trust responsibility
- Recognize confidentiality of certain information provided by tribes
- Add dispute provision



Next Steps

1. Invite agencies to work with tribes on next draft
2. Cross reference additional federal agency consultation plans

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

Options: Effective Decision Making Goal

Deerin Babb-Brott

SeaPlan

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL PLANNING BODY
IS CONSIDERING **OPTIONS**

TO ADVANCE WORK TOWARD THE
EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING GOAL
IN THE FRAMEWORK FOR OCEAN PLANNING IN
THE NORTHEAST U.S.

National Environmental Policy Act review

LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY +
Federal and state agencies with resource/use jurisdiction

- Input from public/stakeholders; federal, state, local agencies; Tribes
- Increasingly detailed use of data and information: starts broadly, ends up on the details of a preferred alternative
- Describe existing conditions; identify alternatives; determine environmental, economic, social, cultural impacts; other
- Opportunity to contribute and receive information at siting level

Project Permitting

CLEAN WATER ACT
RIVERS and HARBORS ACT +
Essential Fish Habitat
Endangered Species
Marine Mammals
Historic/cultural resources
State coastal resources and use

- Site-specific analysis of impacts
- Very detailed data and information
- Specific regulatory standards
- Opportunity to contribute and receive information at site-specific level

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Regional ocean planning must be implemented under **existing authorities**

The responsible federal agency depends on
The nature of the proposed activity, resources affected and agency authority

ENERGY · SAND & GRAVEL · DEEP WATER AQUACULTURE · CARBON SEQUESTRATION

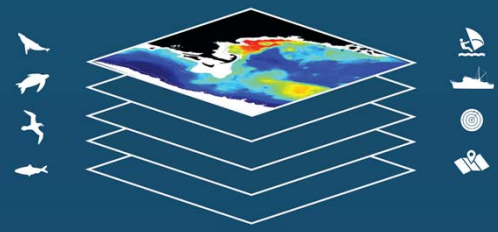
US Army Corps of Engineers · BOEM · NOAA

We can advance effective decision making through

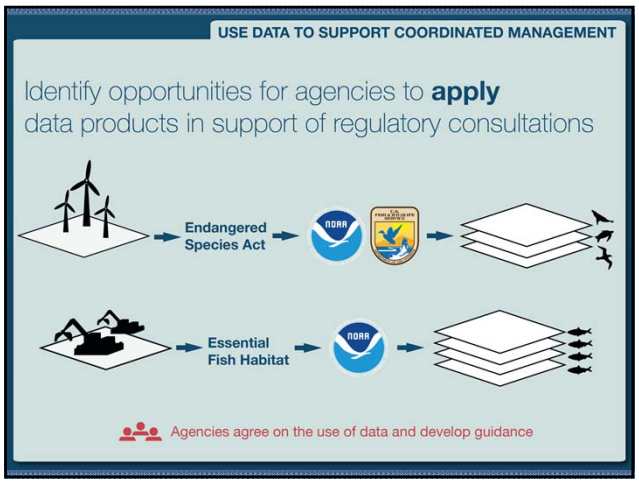
Use of data AND **Enhanced agency coordination**

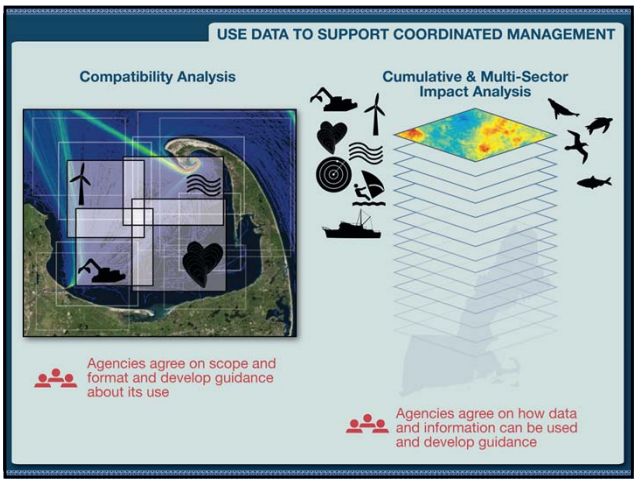
Develop select **data products** and other information that represent the best available science

These data form the foundation of the Northeast Regional Ocean Plan and the Data Portal



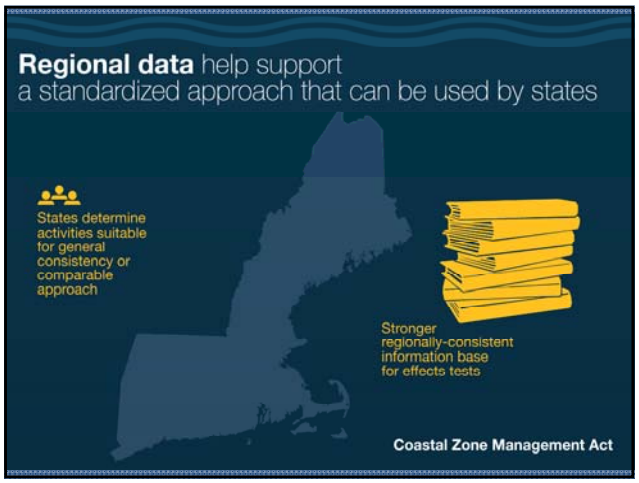
Agencies agree on which data and information is useful for review and permitting and develop guidance

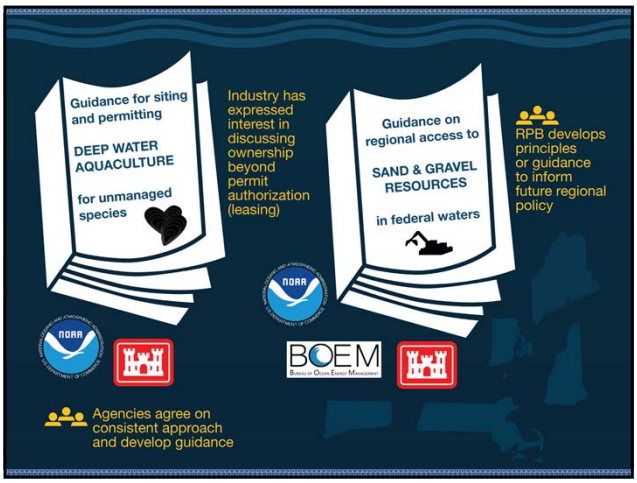

USE DATA TO SUPPORT COORDINATED MANAGEMENT
Identify opportunities for agencies to **apply** data products in support of regulatory consultations
Endangered Species Act
Essential Fish Habitat
Agencies agree on the use of data and develop guidance

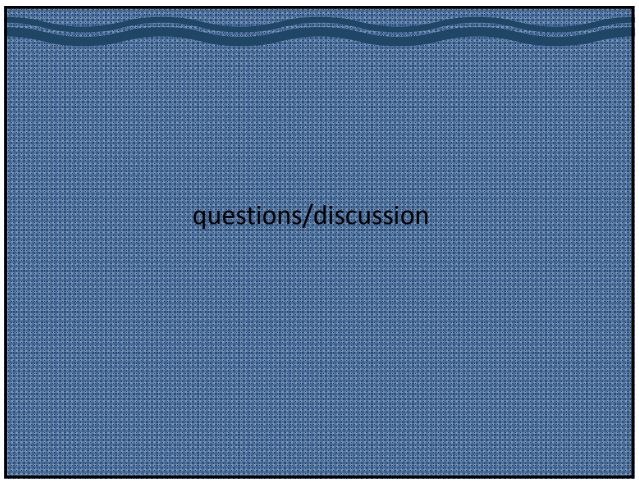

USE DATA TO SUPPORT COORDINATED MANAGEMENT
Compatibility Analysis
Cumulative & Multi-Sector Impact Analysis
Agencies agree on scope and format and develop guidance about its use
Agencies agree on how data and information can be used and develop guidance


New data and information provide the context for the operation of existing authorities which informs options to **improve** the environmental review and permitting process **for specific projects**
Best-practices template for pre-application consultations
Contact these agencies:
Reach out to these stakeholders:
Get these data from www.northeastoceandata.org:
Agencies agree on the substance and process of pre-application
Guidance for best practices in developing Environmental Impact Statements
Agencies agree on ways that the process of developing an EIS can coordinate state,federal and tribal procedures and interests


...and agency coordination
Guidance WITHIN the plan describes how the practices that are developed in the plan will be used in
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
review,
permitting and leasing
EXTERNAL guidance for how agencies will engage in ocean plan implementation
Agreement among agencies, based on existing authorities about practices developed in the plan


Regional data help support
a standardized approach that can be used by states
States determine activities suitable for general consistency or comparable approach
Stronger regionally-consistent information base for effects tests
Coastal Zone Management Act


Guidance for siting and permitting
DEEP WATER AQUACULTURE
for unmanaged species
Industry has expressed interest in discussing ownership beyond permit authorization (leasing)
Guidance on regional access to
SAND & GRAVEL RESOURCES
in federal waters
RPB develops principles or guidance to inform future regional policy
BOEM
Agencies agree on consistent approach and develop guidance


questions/discussion