

# ***Northeast Ocean Plan Outline***

## ***October 2015 Summary Draft***

### **1. The New England Offshore Environment and the Need for Ocean Planning**

This chapter will highlight the uniqueness and importance of New England's coast and ocean, summarize related social, economic and environmental conditions and trends (derived from the baseline assessment), and describe important regional issues. It will also briefly describe current planning and management programs and the need for regional ocean planning.

### **2. Ocean Planning in New England**

#### **2.1 Ocean Planning Process**

This will be a summary of the ocean planning process, including science integration, public engagement and other RPB related activities in each phase of the process. It will include references to documents in the appendix and/or [www.neoceanplanning.org](http://www.neoceanplanning.org) for more information.

##### **2.1.1 National Ocean Policy**

##### **2.1.2 Initial Outreach and Establishment of the Northeast Regional Planning Body**

##### **2.1.3 Goal Setting and Work Plan Development**

##### **2.1.4 Draft and Final Plan**

#### **2.2 Ocean Planning Goals and the Ocean Plan**

This section will describe how the Northeast Ocean Plan will address key themes from public input and will advance the three goals of Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems, Effective Decision Making, and Compatibility among Past, Current and Future Ocean Uses by guiding and informing agency decision making. It will also include a brief description of how the rest of the plan is organized and how it will be used.

### **3. The Regulatory Environment and Management Actions**

#### **3.1 Regulatory Context and Primary Legal Authorities**

This section will briefly summarize each of the primary regulatory authorities that are used to manage marine resources and human activities (2-3 sentences for most with a reference to the legal authority). It will provide context for the management actions and interagency coordination by clarifying typical agency roles in the regulatory process.

**3.1.1 National Environmental Policy Act**

**3.1.2 Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10**

**3.1.3 Clean Water Act, Section 404**

**3.1.4 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act**

**3.1.5 Deepwater Port Act**

**3.1.6 Endangered Species Act**

**3.1.7 Marine Mammal Protection Act**

**3.1.8 Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

**3.1.9 National Historic Preservation Act**

**3.1.10 Magnuson-Stevens Act**

**3.1.11 Ports and Waterways Safety Act**

**3.1.12 National Marine Sanctuaries Act**

**3.1.13 Coastal Zone Management Act**

#### **3.2 Natural and Cultural Resources**

This section will describe the management application of ocean plan information and related agency coordination activities that will be implemented under existing authorities to achieve ocean planning goals.

**3.2.1 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles**

**3.2.2 Birds**

**3.2.3 Fish**

**3.2.4 Habitat**

**3.2.5 Restoration**

**3.2.6 Historic and Cultural Resources**

**For each section:**

- A. Overview
- B. Ocean Plan Maps and Data
- C. Description of how relevant agencies intend to use ocean plan data in existing regulatory and management programs
- D. Additional information sources and existing management programs
- E. Long term maintenance of ocean plan maps and data, including brief mention of science priorities to be further detailed in Section 5
- F. Other related RPB agency initiatives and coordination activities

### 3.3 Human Activities

This section will describe the management application of ocean plan information and related agency coordination activities that will be implemented under existing authorities to achieve ocean planning goals.

- 3.3.1 Marine Transportation
- 3.3.2 National Security
- 3.3.3 Commercial Fishing
- 3.3.4 Recreational Fishing
- 3.3.5 Recreation
- 3.3.6 Energy and Infrastructure
- 3.3.7 Aquaculture
- 3.3.8 Sand and Gravel

**For each section:**

- A. Overview
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- D. Additional information sources and existing management programs
- E. Long term maintenance of ocean plan maps and data, including brief mention of science priorities to be further detailed in Section 5
- F. Other related RPB agency initiatives and coordination activities

### 3.4 Ecosystem Based Management

This section will describe progress towards charting an ecosystem based approach to management, including defining and identifying important ecological areas, reviewing analyses and overlays of human use and ecological data, and developing a framework for monitoring and evaluation. It will also describe how the agencies intend to incorporate these analyses and tools into decision making under existing authorities and the actions the agencies will take to advance EBM and related science. *Note: This section, or components of this section, could be moved to other parts of the plan (e.g. implementation, science priorities), depending on progress.*

## **4. Ocean Plan Implementation**

This chapter will describe how the RPB intends to implement the ocean plan, including enhancements to agency practices, other responsibilities and commitments, and plan evaluation.

### **4.1 Intergovernmental Coordination**

This section will describe the specific coordination activities that will be undertaken to implement the ocean plan.

#### **4.1.1 Best Practices for Agency Coordination**

#### **4.1.2 Coastal Zone Management Act**

#### **4.1.3 Tribal Coordination**

### **4.2 Responsibilities and Commitments**

This section will describe RPB organization commitments to implementing the following additional responsibilities for ocean plan implementation.

#### **4.2.1 Forum for Federal, Tribal, and State Coordination**

#### **4.2.2 Plan Updates**

#### **4.2.3 Public Engagement**

#### **4.2.4 Northeast Ocean Data Portal**

#### **4.2.5 Implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Science Priorities**

### **4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **4.3.1 Plan Performance**

#### **4.3.2 Ocean and Ecosystem Health**

## **5. Science and Research Priorities**

This chapter will describe priority data, research, and science necessary to update and advance ocean plan information and analyses. *Note: The organization of this section is likely to change as priorities are refined and earlier plan sections are developed.*

### **5.1 Natural and Cultural Resources**

### **5.2 Human Activities**

### **5.3 Ecosystem Based Management**

### **5.4 Changing Conditions**

## **Appendices**

This section will include information referenced throughout the document, including details about the planning process and final reports from ocean planning projects. This potentially includes:

- National Ocean Policy Documents
- NE RPB Charter
- Framework for Ocean Planning in the Northeast
- RPB Meeting Summaries
- Other Public Meeting and Workshop Summaries
- EBM Work Group Meeting Summaries
- Final Reports from Industry Outreach
- Baseline Assessment