

## Northeast Ocean Plan Outline

### Chapter 3 Addendum

#### November 2015 Draft

This addendum to the Northeast Ocean Plan Outline focuses on the topics and data and information categories to be included in Sections 3.2 and 3.3. It provides a framework for describing agency guidance about the use of data and information to manage natural and cultural resources and human activities under existing authorities.

## 3.2 Natural and Cultural Resources

### 3.2.1 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

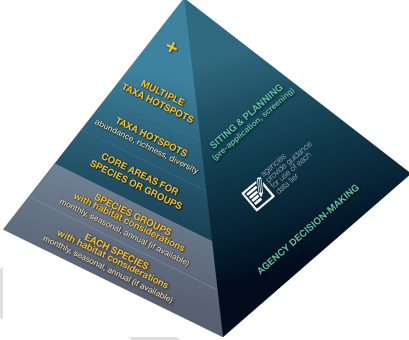
<p>1. <u>Regulatory and Conservation Based Species Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Cetaceans</li> <li>- Endangered Species Act Listed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abundance</li> <li>- Species Richness</li> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Core Area Synthesis</li> </ul>	
<p>2. <u>Ecologically-Based Species Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baleen Whales</li> <li>- Small Delphinoids</li> <li>- Large Delphinoids</li> <li>- Sperm and Beaked Whales</li> <li>- Sound Sensitivity – low, mid, or high frequencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abundance</li> <li>- Species Richness</li> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Core Area Synthesis</li> </ul>	
<p>3. <u>Individual Species and Species Groups (including some species groupings)</u></p>	<p>Predicted monthly, seasonal and/or annual density</p>	

**3.2.2 Birds**

<p>1. <u>Regulatory and Conservation Based Species Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and Federal Endangered Species Act Listed</li> <li>- Atlantic Marine Bird Conservation Cooperative Priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abundance</li> <li>- Species Richness</li> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Core Area Synthesis</li> </ul>	
<p>2. <u>Ecologically-Based Species Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prey, Foraging, or Life History Species Groups</li> <li>- Vulnerability to Offshore Wind Energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abundance</li> <li>- Species Richness</li> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Core Area Synthesis</li> </ul>	
<p>3. <u>Individual Species (including some species groupings)</u></p>	<p>Predicted seasonal and/or annual relative abundance and occurrence</p>	

**3.2.3 Fish**

<p>1. <u>Regulatory and Conservation Based Species Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Essential Fish Habitat Species</li> <li>- NEFMC Multispecies Fishery Management Plan</li> <li>- Other NEFMC and ASFMC FMPs?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biomass</li> <li>- Abundance</li> <li>- Species Richness</li> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Core Area Synthesis</li> </ul>	
<p>2. <u>Ecologically-Based Species Groups (Examples – Final To Be Determined)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flatfish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abundance</li> <li>- Species Richness</li> <li>- Diversity</li> <li>- Core Area</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forage fishes</li> <li>- Gadoids</li> <li>- Elasmobranchs</li> <li>- Diadromous</li> </ul>	<p>Synthesis</p>	
<p>3. <u>Individual Species (including some species groupings)</u></p>	<p>Biomass from Northeast Fishery Science Center, Massachusetts, NEAMAP, and ME/NH trawls for 1970-2014 and 2005-2014 time periods (if available)</p>	

### 3.2.4 Habitat and Important Ecological Areas

#### 1. Regulated Habitat Areas

- Habitats of Particular Concern and Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act)
- Critical Habitat (Endangered Species Act)
- Physical/Biological Aquatic Ecosystem Characteristics and Special Aquatic Sites (Clean Water Act)

#### 2. Important Ecological Areas and Ecosystem Considerations

*The following are **draft** components of Important Ecological Areas as defined and **under review** by the Ecosystem Based Management Work Group (EBM WG) using definitions included in the National Ocean Policy Task Force Recommendations and from similar international efforts. Note that some of these components overlap with the species distributions in Sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2, and 3.2.3 and with the habitat areas identified above – some may be mapped in the short term; many will become longer term science and research priorities (see Sections 5.1, 5.3, 5.4).*

*Each component includes an example to illustrate the concept. The examples are not intended to suggest a final definition for each component or to comprise all the data sources available to map the component. Please refer to EBM WG documents for more information.*

- Areas of High Productivity  
*(such as areas of high primary productivity or zooplankton abundance)*
- Areas of High Biodiversity

*(such as Multi-Taxa Synthetic Product maps of biological diversity and all species richness from MDAT)*

- Habitat Areas and Distribution of Species Critical to Ecosystem Function and Resilience  
*(such as the distribution of Eelgrass)*
- Areas of Functionally Vulnerable Marine Resources  
*(such as coral habitat)*
- Areas of Spawning, Breeding, Feeding, and Migratory Routes  
*(such as critical habitat identified under ESA or Essential Fish Habitat identified under Magnuson-Stevens)*
- Areas of Rare Marine Resources  
*(such as the distribution of ESA-listed species)*

### **3.2.5 Restoration**

*Spatial information will include the location of priority restoration sites identified through a joint subcommittee of the Northeast Regional Planning Body and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council.*

### **3.2.6 Historic and Cultural Resources**

*Spatial information currently includes the locations of properties and districts on the National Register of Historic Places, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, National Parks, and other coastal parks, preserves and historical sites. Marine life populations, habitats, and human activities referenced in other sections will also have cultural importance to tribes, local communities, and to the region.*

## **3.3 Human Activities**

### **3.3.1 Marine Transportation**

1. Navigation and Regulated Marine Transportation Areas
  - Pilot boarding areas
  - Anchorage areas
  - Shipping fairways, separation zones, and maintained channels
  - Danger zones, restricted areas, and safety and security zones

- Ocean disposal sites
  - Aids to Navigation
2. Commercial Traffic Density
    - All vessels (2011, 2012, 2013)
    - Cargo vessels (2011, 2012, 2013)
    - Passenger vessels (2011, 2012, 2013)
    - Tug-Tow vessels (2011, 2012, 2013)
    - Tanker vessels (2011, 2012, 2013)

### **3.3.2 National Security**

*To Be Determined*

### **3.3.3 Commercial Fishing**

#### **1. Commercial Fishing Vessel Activity**

- Multispecies (2006-2010; 2011-2014; 2011-2014 <4knots)
- Monkfish (2006-2010; 2011-2014; 2011-2014 <4knots)
- Herring (2006-2010; 2011-2014; 2011-2014 <4knots)
- Scallop (2006-2010; 2011-2014; 2011-2014 <5knots)
- Surfclam/Ocean Quahog (2006-2010; 2011-2014; 2011-2014 <4knots)
- Squid (2014; 2014 <4 knots)
- Mackerel (2014; 2014 <4 knots)

#### **2. Federal Fishery Management Areas**

- Scallop
- Herring
- Groundfish
- Surfclam/Ocean Quahog
- Lobster

### **3.3.4 Recreational Fishing**

*Spatial information on the location and extent of recreational fishing activities is currently limited. Some information may be inferred from maps of commercial fishing and recreational activities. In addition, a pilot project, currently underway with charter captains in the Northeast, may be extended and could provide additional information to characterize recreational fishing activity.*

### **3.3.5 Recreation**

1. Boating
  - Recreational Boating Density and Routes
  - Distance Sailing Races
2. Whale Watching
3. SCUBA
4. Coastal Recreation Areas

### **3.3.6 Energy and Infrastructure**

1. Existing Infrastructure
  - LNG Terminals
  - Coastal Energy Facilities, Transmission Substations and Lines
  - Submarine Cables and Pipelines
2. Renewable Energy Planning Areas

### **3.3.7 Aquaculture**

1. Existing Aquaculture Sites
2. Shellfish Management Areas

### **3.3.8 Sand and Gravel**

*To Be Determined*