

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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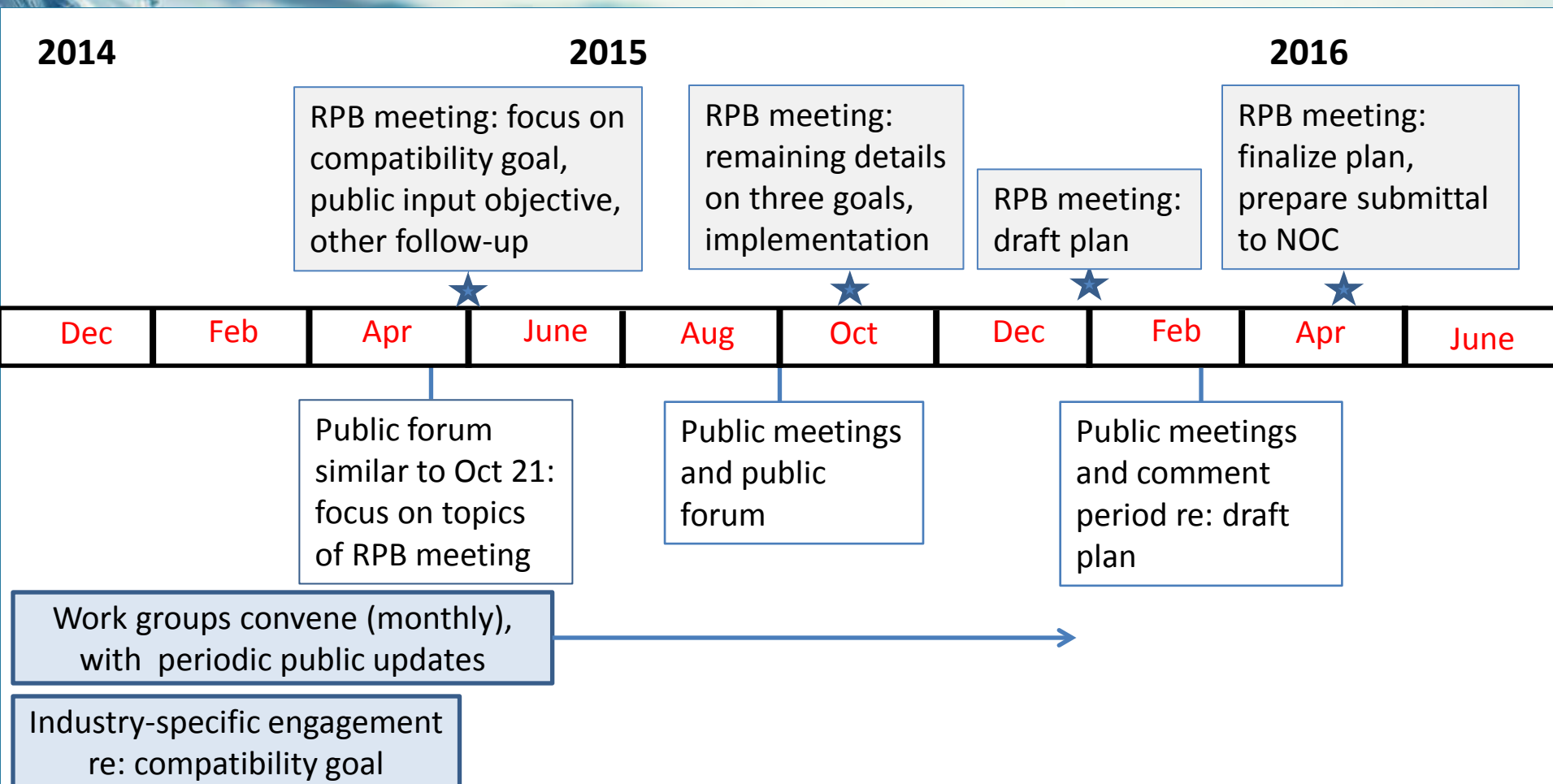
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Appendix B:

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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



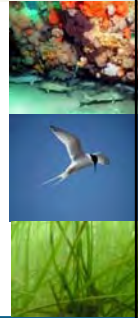
Ocean Plan Outline

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



Purpose

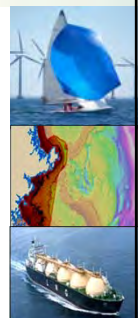
- High level cut at how elements of projects and plan fit together
- Some very important pieces will be discussed at this meeting (indicated in red text)
- Outline may shift as we make decisions and work progresses



Ocean 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



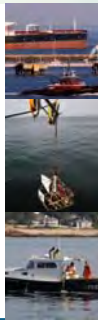
Ocean Plan Outline

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



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



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



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



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.



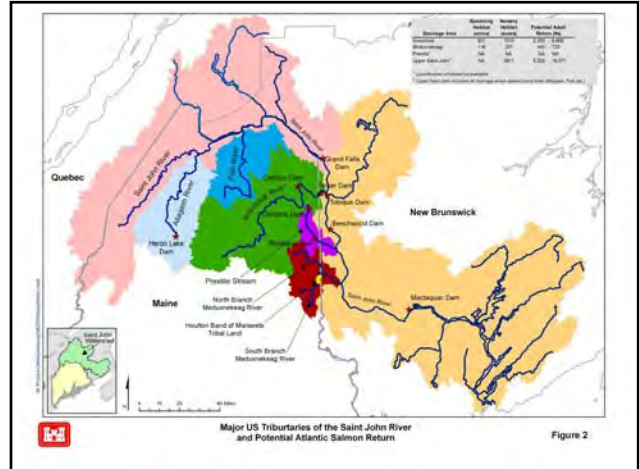
Restoration and Conservation Projects

- 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.



Project Criteria (tab 5.4E)

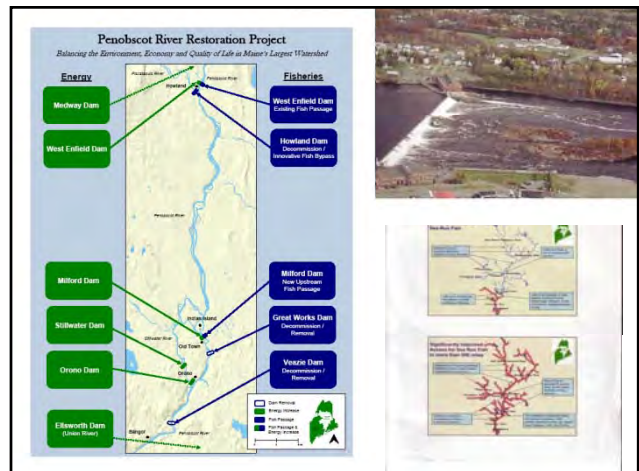
- Endorsed by an RPB member organization
- Improve Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health
- Have a public or NGO proponent identified
- Incorporate climate change considerations
- Provide for long-term benefits for fish and wildlife habitat
- Identify uncertainties for major components of proposed projects (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



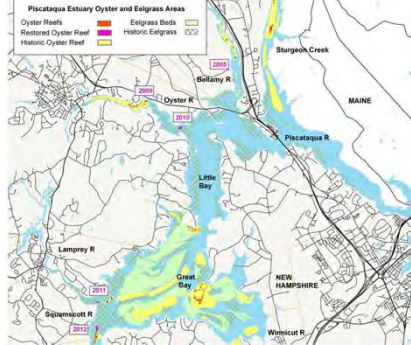
Requested

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.

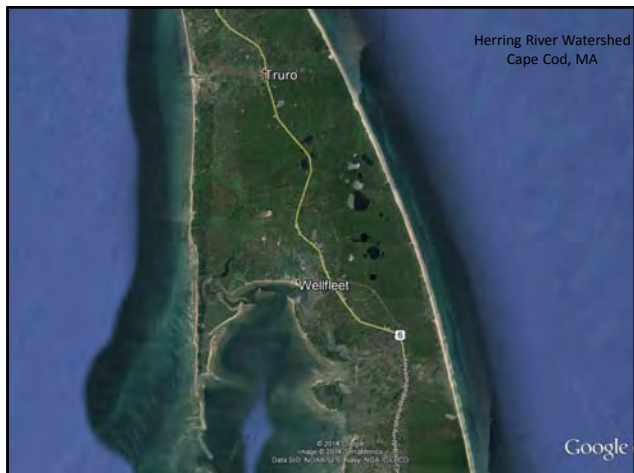
Action:



Great Bay Watershed NH Oyster/Eelgrass Restoration and Dam Removals



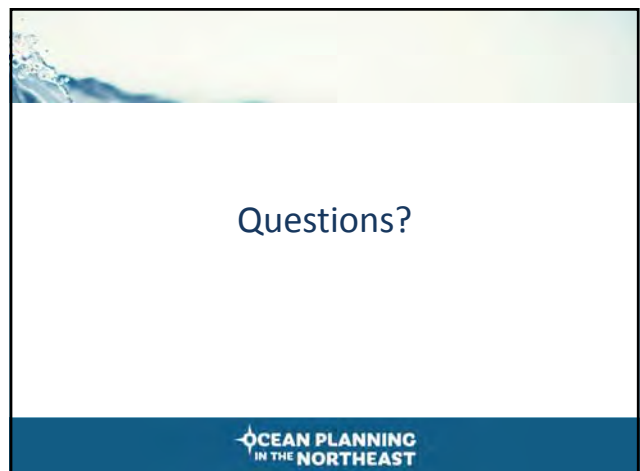
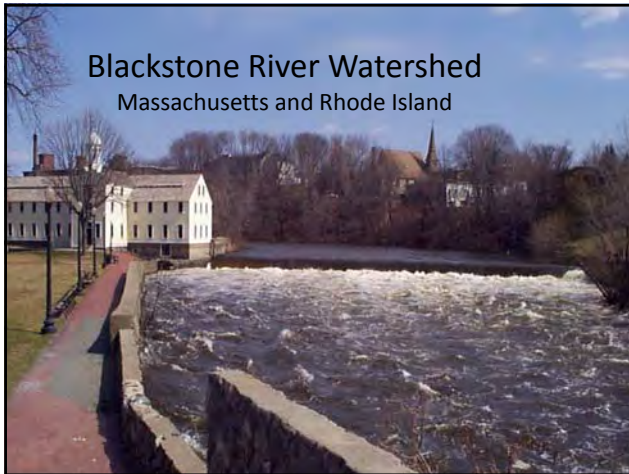
Bird Island – Roseate Tern Nesting



Bird Island Restoration Project

Distribution
and
Abundance
vs.
Vulnerability
(habitat)









Marine Life Characterization

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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

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Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University

Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT) Principal Investigator

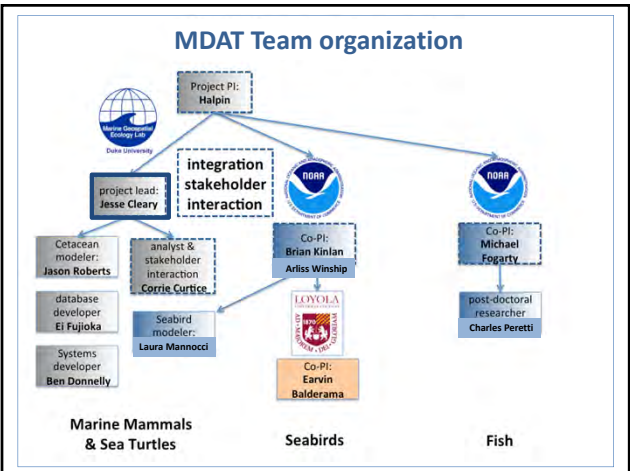
Brian Kinlan (Co-I), Earvin Balderama (Co-I), Mike Fogarty (Co-I)

Jason Roberts, Arliss Winship, Corrie Curtice, Jesse Cleary

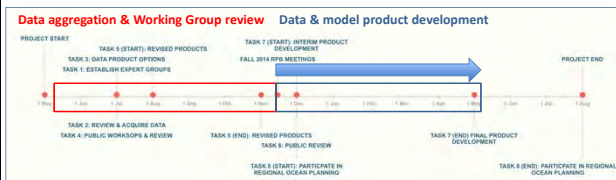
Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Regional Planning Body

November 14, 2014



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

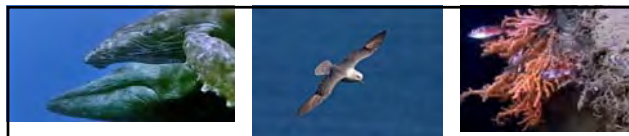
Call 1: August 12

Public webinar: August 27

Call 2: September 19

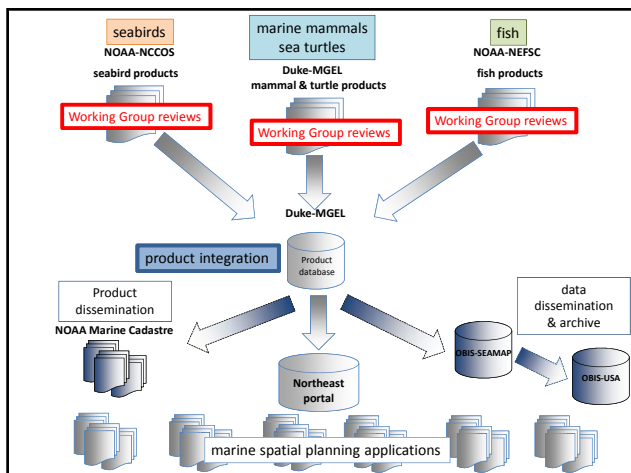
Call 2: September 24

Call 2: October 22

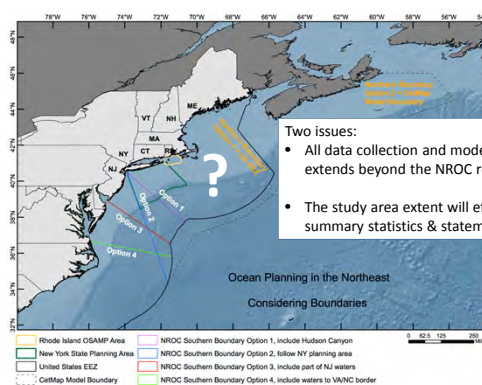


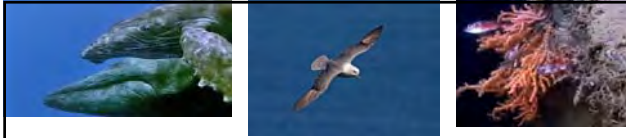
Overview

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



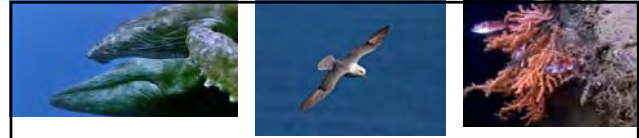
Study Area options





Overview

- Team and Timeline
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- Important Ecological Areas
- Next Steps



Overview

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources • Geographic scope • How to integrate survey methods? • How to integrate expert knowledge?
TEMPORAL EXTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many decades of data to include? • Monthly, seasonal, annual summaries
TREATMENT OF DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize by species, guilds, functional groups • Incorporate migration routes? • Which environmental covariates?
SPATIAL PRODUCTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier I spatial products (observations) • Tier II spatial products (observations + habitat)
USES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



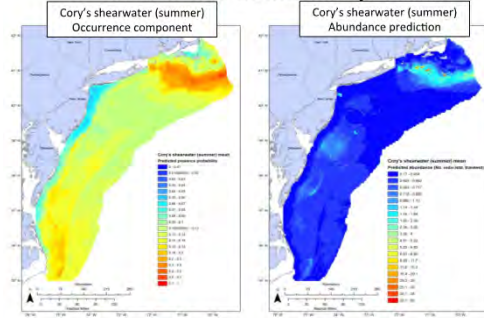
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	Other regional priorities		Northeast priorities		State Ocean Plan	SHARP Species
	FWS BCR 31 (Florida) Priority	FWS SAMBI BCR-23 (Maine) Priority	FWS BCR-14 (Gulf of Maine) Priority	FWS BCR30 (New England/Mid-Atlantic) Priority		
1- PRIORITY SPECIES WE CAN MODEL					State E, T, SC	
Herring gull		Nuisance	High			NY
Northern gannet		Nuisance	High	High		NY
Great black-backed gull		Nuisance	High			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-leg Kittiwake			Moderate			NY
Northern fulmar						NY
Red-throated loon	High	High	Moderate	Highest		MA (SSU); RI ADP
Common eider			Highest	High		MA (SSU); RI ADP
Surf Scoter			Moderate	Moderate		MA (SSU); RI ADP
Cory's shearwater		High				NY
Laughing gull		Nuisance	High		NY (SC)	NY
Boobybird		High	High	Moderate		MA (SSU); RI ADP
White-winged scoter		High	High	High		MA (SSU); RI ADP
Common tern	High	Highest	High	Moderate	NH, NY (T), ME, MA, CT, RI (SC)	MA (SSU); NY ADP
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	High			NY
Pomarine jaeger		High				NY
Double-crested cormorant	Moderate	Nuisance				MA (SSU)
Atlantic puffin			Moderate	High		MA (E)
Bonaparte	Highest	High	High	High	ME, NH, MA, CT, NY (E)	MA (SSU)
Least tern		High	High		ME, NH (E), RI, CT, NY (T)	MA (SSU)
Acric tern			High		ME (E), NH, MA, MA (SC)	MA (SSU)
Horned grebe	High	High	Moderate	High		
Lesser scaup	High	Highest		High		

	Other regional priorities				Northwest priorities			State Ocean Plans	Shrimp Species
	FWS BCR-11 (Florida) Priority	FWS SARMI BCR-27 (Southwest) Priority	FWS BCR-14 (Gulf of Mexico) Priority	FWS BCR-14 (Southeast/Alaska) Priority	State E, F, 7, SC				
1. NON-PRIORITY SPECIES THAT MAY BE MODELLED									
Swamp sparrow	Moderate	Moderate			ME (SC)				
Red phalarope		High	High		Moderate				
Royal tern	Moderate	Moderate			Moderate				
Mourning dove		High			Moderate				
Red-necked phalarope			Highest		Moderate	ME (SC)			
Red-breasted nuthatch					Moderate				
Common murre						ME (SC)			
Black guillemot			High						
4. NON-PRIORITY SPECIES THAT WILL NOT BE MODELLED OR PRESENTED									
Spotted sandpiper					Moderate				
Hooded murrelet					Moderate	IN (SC)			
Spotted least tern					Moderate	CT (SC)			
Northwestern gull					Moderate	MA (T)			
Blackpoll warbler						MA (SC)			
Osprey						IN, IL, NY (SC)			
California tern									
Gull-billed tern									
Least sandpiper					Moderate				
American osprey					Moderate				
Song sparrow					Moderate				
Western sandpiper					Moderate				
Lesser yellowlegs					Moderate	ME (SC)			
Ruddy duck					Moderate				
Common goldeneye					Moderate				
Little gull					Moderate				
Common loon					Moderate				
Grasshopper sparrow					Moderate	MA (T)			
Red-tail sparrow					Moderate	ME, NH (SC)			X
Song sparrow					Moderate	ME, CT, NY (SC)			X
Mourning warbler						MA (SC)			
Thayer's gull									
Mourning dove						MA (T)			

Product Example – NCCOS Model

Predictive maps of long-term occurrence and abundance patterns



Overview

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

Model product example: Loyola/NCSU Model

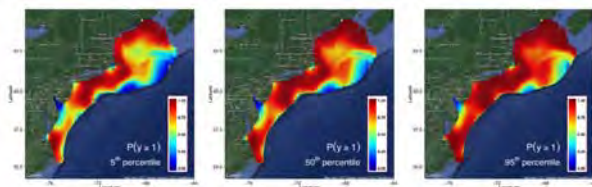


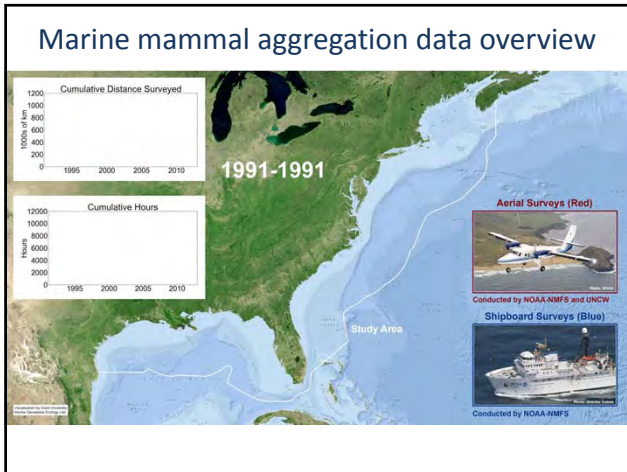
Figure 2: Northern Gannet: Risk maps of the probability of observing at least one individual during the year. The median estimate is presented along with the 5th and 95th percentiles to show uncertainty in parameter estimates.

From Balderama, Gardner and Reich, in prep.



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

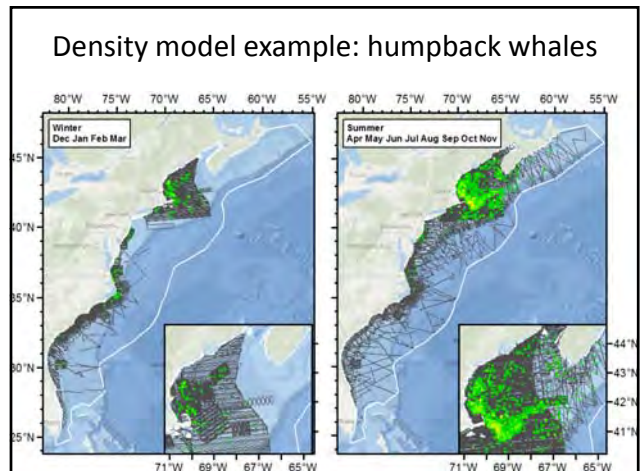
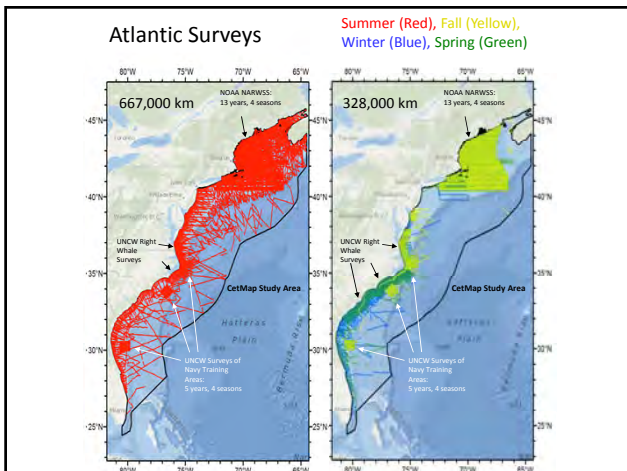
- Discussed additional line transect surveys and data sets we should incorporate.
- Discussed summarizing models into multi-species summaries (e.g. all baleen whales)?
- Discussed situations where density modeling is not possible, e.g.
 - Rare species
 - Near-shore / estuarine areas
- Discussed model 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.



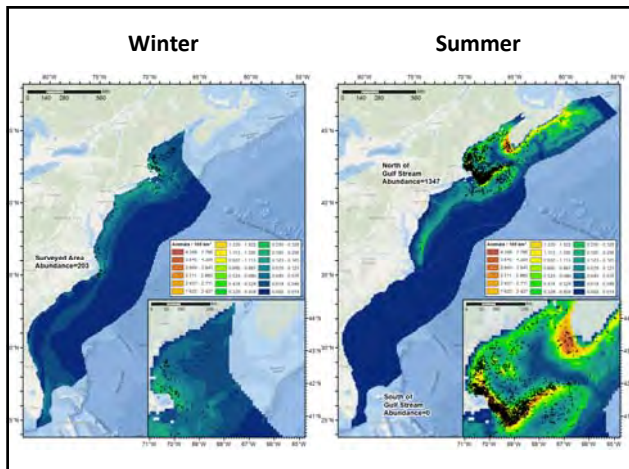
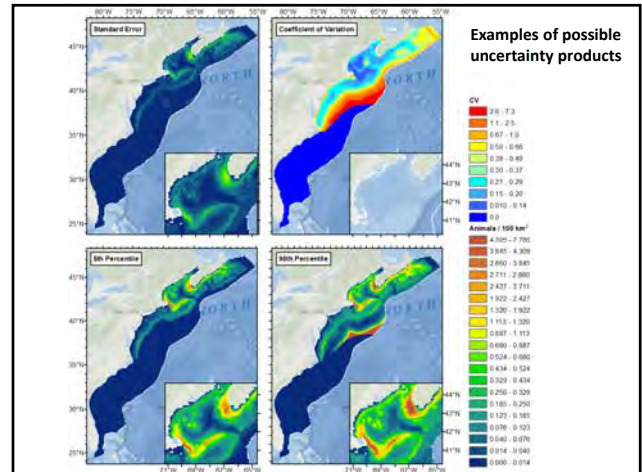
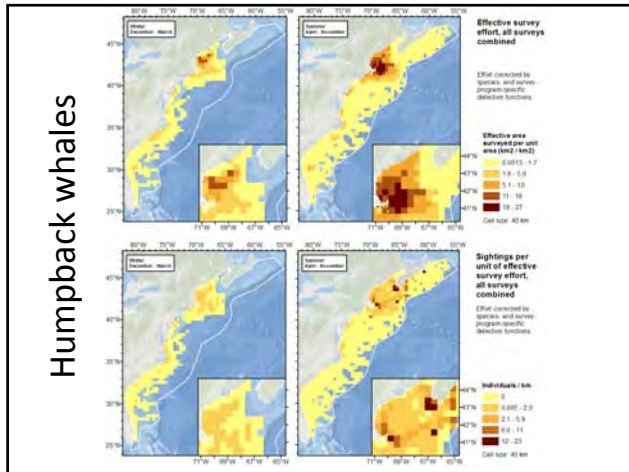
Marine mammal and sea turtle sightings

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Sightings	Model Status
Cetaceans	<i>Balaenoptera acronotata</i>	Minke whale	1513	
	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale	1481	
	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	7	Not modeled
	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale	1730	
	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common dolphin	863	
	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	North Atlantic right whale	1595	
	<i>Griseofelis</i>	Unidentified pilot whale	670	Pilot whales group
	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	514	
	<i>Hyperodon ampullatus</i>	Northern bottlenose whale	8	Not modeled
	<i>Isurus</i>	Unidentified small sperm whale	3	Not modeled
	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Dwarf sperm whale	2	Not modeled
	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	1677	
	<i>Lagenorhynchus albidirostris</i>	White-beaked dolphin	12	Not modeled
	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	2700	
	<i>Mesoplodon</i>	Unidentified beaked whale	62	Beaked whales group
Pinnipeds	<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Savanna's beaked whale	8	Beaked whales group
	<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	Blainville's beaked whale	2	Beaked whales group
	<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>	Tufts' beaked whale	2	Beaked whales group
	<i>Ommystes</i>	Killer whale	4	Not modeled
	<i>Phocaena</i>	Harbor porpoise	2781	
	<i>Phocoena phocaenoides</i>	Sperm whale	241	
	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Peterson's spotted dolphin	4	Not modeled
	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Striped dolphin	84	
	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>	Atlantic spotted dolphin	7	
	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	Spinner dolphin	1	Not modeled
	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	677	
	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Unidentified beaked whale	21	Beaked whales group
	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cover's beaked whale	21	Beaked whales group
	<i>California</i>	Unidentified seal	309	Seals group
	<i>Hachima</i>	Gray seal	24	Seals group
Turtles	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Harbor seal	250	Seals group
	<i>Caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle	430	
	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	3	Not modeled
	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback turtle	232	
	<i>Kemp's ridley turtle</i>	19		

Table 2: Cetaceans, pinnipeds, and turtle sightings from the available datasets that occurred between Delaware Bay and the Bay of Fundy (39°45'N, 64°35'W) and are suitable for density modeling. Species with insufficient sightings will not be modeled. Specific species marked with a * 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 dolphins, this will allow models to still be built for the NRECC region despite the few sightings that occur there.



Humpback whales



Overview

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

- 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

[illegible]

Sampling trawls all years

2013 survey strata & trawl locations

Images ©2014 TerraMetrics

2013 Spring Bottom Trawl Survey

NEFSC Fall Bottom Trawl Survey
2007 - 2011
Atlantic herring

Abundance

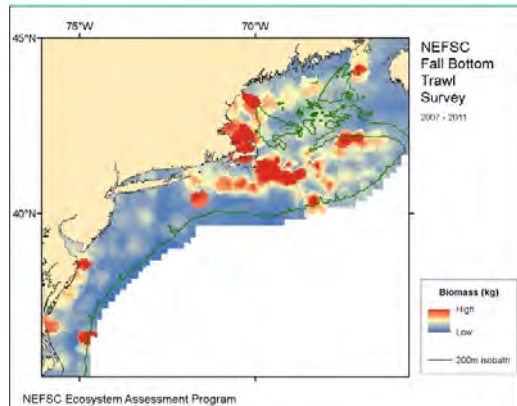
- < 100
- 100 - 250
- 250 - 500
- 500 - 1,000
- > 1,000

— 200m isobath

NEFSC Ecosystem Assessment Program

Forage fish –potential prey indicator;

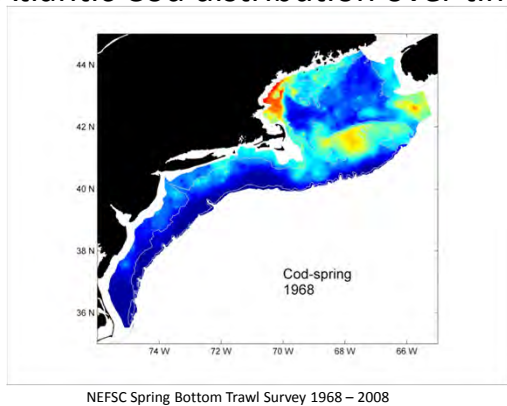
Total biomass



Overview

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Atlantic Cod distribution over time



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

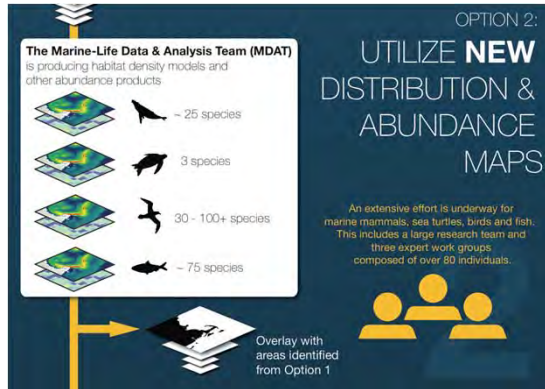
Where are the critical areas for these species? (data = multi-species use "hotspots", critical feeding/breeding areas, BIAs...)

Vulnerability

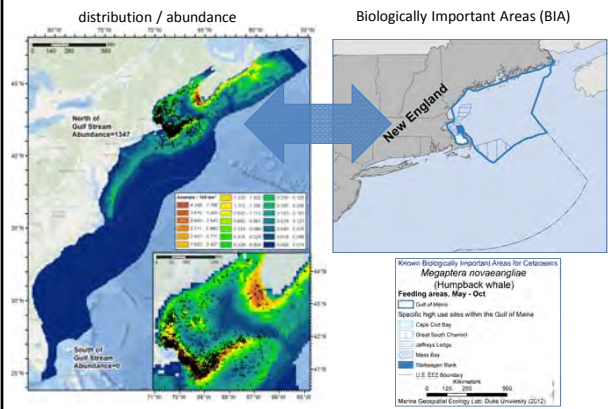
What are the potential stresses on these areas? (data = current or potential uses, habitat degradation...)

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

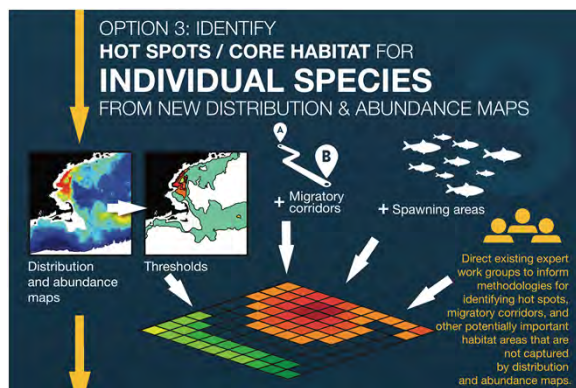
Important Ecological Areas



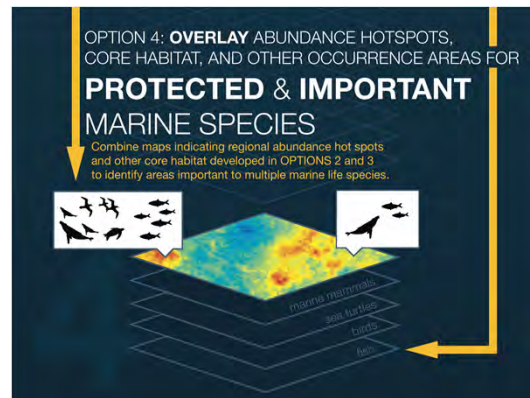
Important Ecological Areas



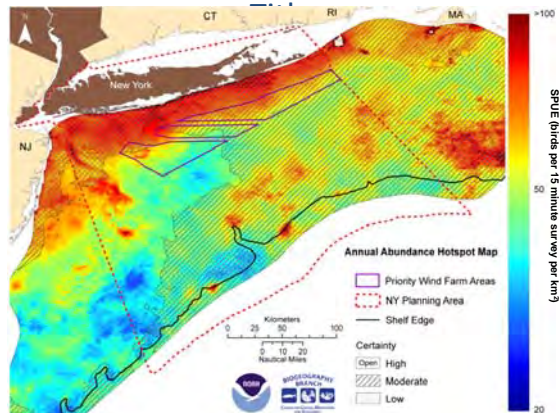
Important Ecological Areas



Important Ecological Areas



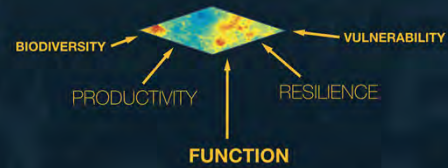
Synthetic map products: abundance hotspots



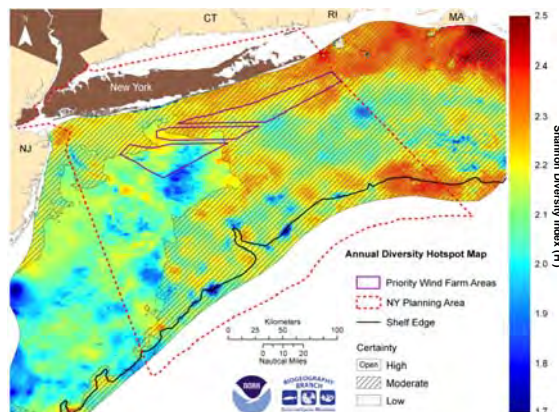
Important Ecological Areas

OPTION 5: EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR ADVANCING AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING ECOLOGICALLY-IMPORTANT AREAS

What is ecological importance?



Synthetic map products: diversity hotspots



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Ongoing Input

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

Integrated Data & Model Products	Map products
Data richness and density	Marine life data richness
Areas of expected data gaps (space & time)	Seasonal data gaps
Areas of high species diversity (hot spots)	Seasonal / annual
Areas of management concern and human use	Per activity
Key species	As available



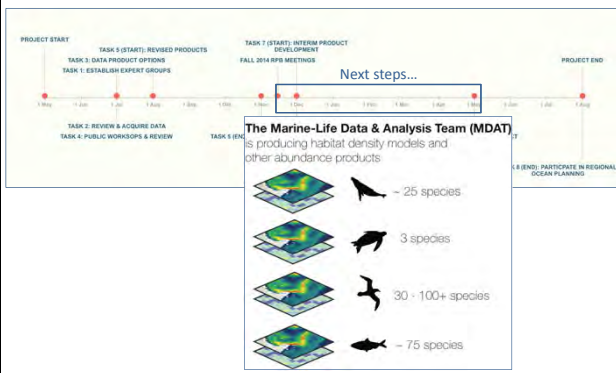
Questions

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

Vessel Speed Separation

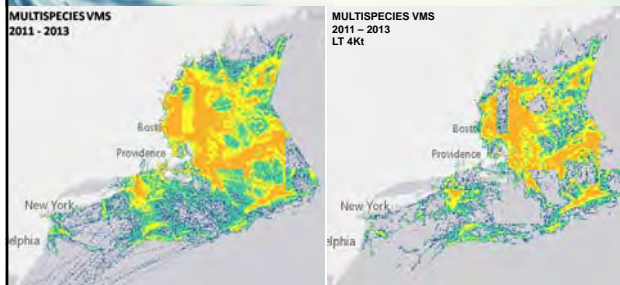
- Phase I maps showed all VMS activity
- Input from fishermen, managers said that separation of fishing from transit was important for planning efforts to understand
- Talked to fishermen and managers about which speeds to use for different fisheries

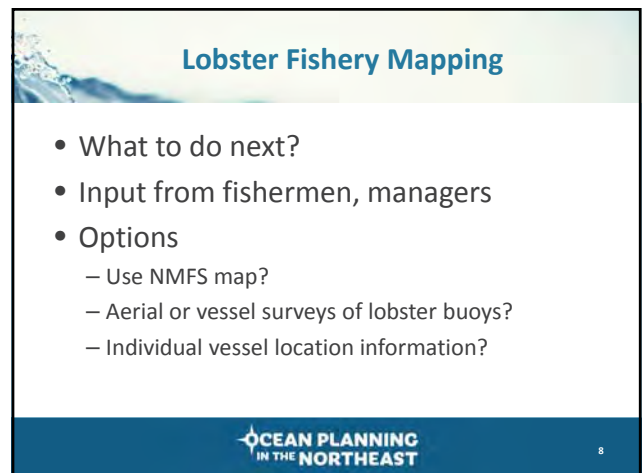
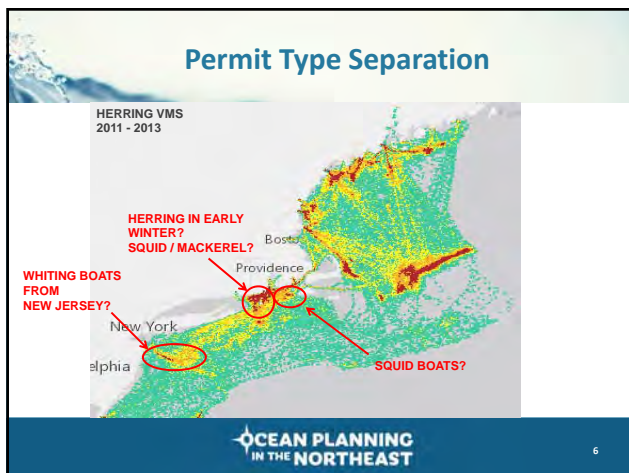
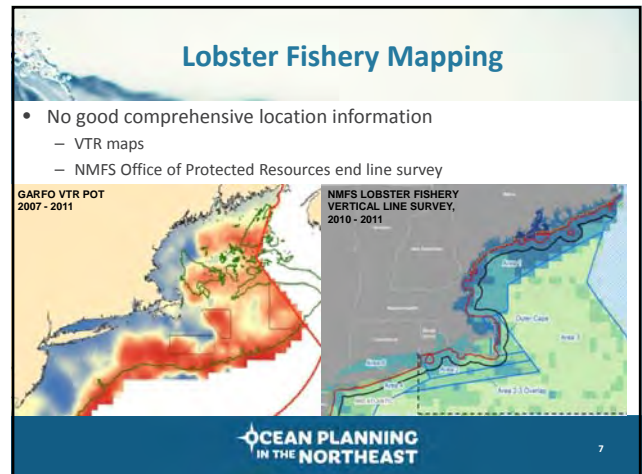
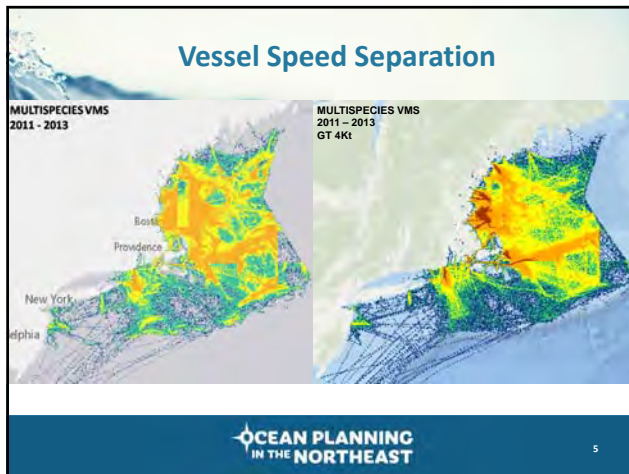
Overview

- Phase I¹
 - 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>

Vessel Speed Separation





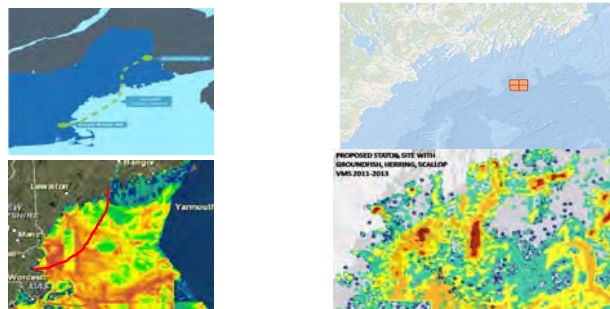
Party / Charter Mapping

- 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?

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

How can map data be used?



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



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



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



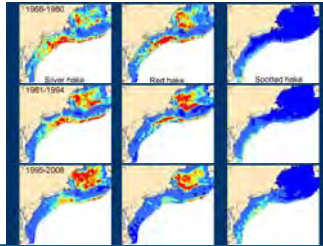
Purpose and Objectives

- 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



Scope and Content

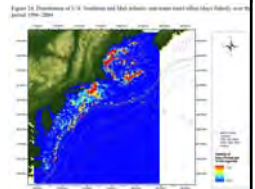
- Natural resources
 - Biological populations, habitats, etc.



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
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OCEAN PLANNING
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 - Jobs, wages, contribution to GDP
- 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, etc.
 - Jobs, wages, contribution to GDP
- Ecosystem service value
 - Food production, climate regulation, etc.
- Mapping resources & infrastructure to value

	Commercial Fishing	Recreation	Marine Industries	Marine Transportation	Marine Resources	Marine Infrastructure	Marine Ecosystems	Marine Cultural Resources	Marine Geology	Marine Seismicity	Marine Climate Change	Marine Air Quality	Marine Water Quality	Marine Sediment Quality	Marine Biological Resources	Marine Cultural Resources	Marine Geology	Marine Seismicity	Marine Climate Change	Marine Air Quality	Marine Water Quality	Marine Sediment Quality	Marine Biological Resources
Resources & Infrastructure																							
Economic Activity & Value																							



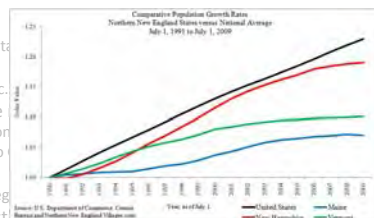
Document Outline

- **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



Scope and Content

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



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/>



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)



Next Steps

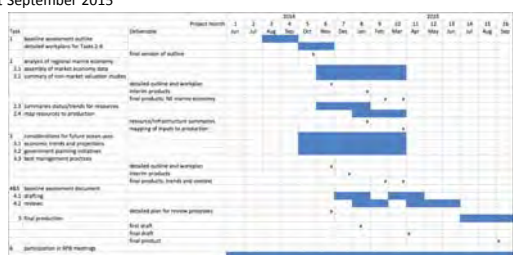
- Ocean Economy/Market Data Assembly
 - Initial review with RPB in January 2015
- Ecosystem Services Data Assembly
 - Initial review with RPB in February 2015
- Mapping of Marine Resources to Economic Value
 - Initial review with RPB in March 2015



Project Schedule

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

Opportunities for review and comment in
Spring/Summer 2015.



Thank you!

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Recreational
Characterization

Andy Lipsky

SeaPlan

Coastal and Marine Recreational Study for New England

Point 97, Surfrider and SeaPlan



Project Oversight and Leadership

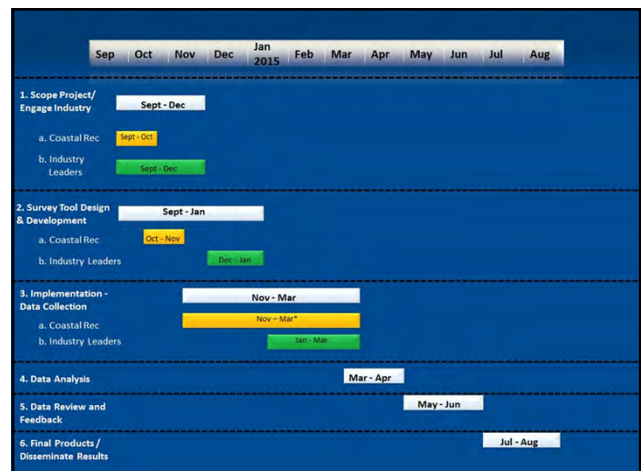


Project Purpose

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



Coastal and Marine Recreation User Survey



Northeast Coastal and Ocean Use Survey

We are conducting a survey of recreational activities in the coastal and ocean areas of Maryland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. This survey is being conducted to help inform coastal planning in the U.S. Northeast region. We want to thank you now if you have not visited the coast recently.

Please enter your email below and we will send you an information packet to get started. We will not use your email for anything except the survey.

Surfrider | POINT 97 | SeaPlace

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

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

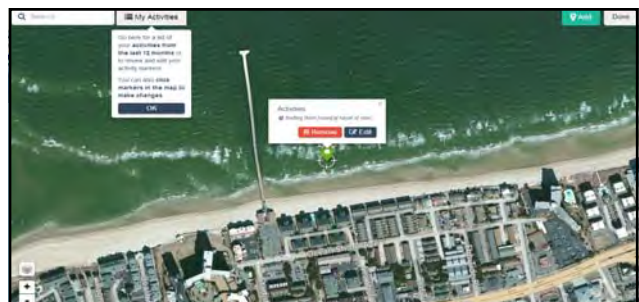
Data Collection

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

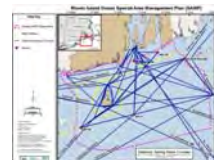
- Data Collection
- Engaging the public in regional ocean planning through the survey
- Working with RPB and stakeholders to disseminate opportunities to engage



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



Industry Leader Engagement

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



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



Status and Next Steps

Completed:

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

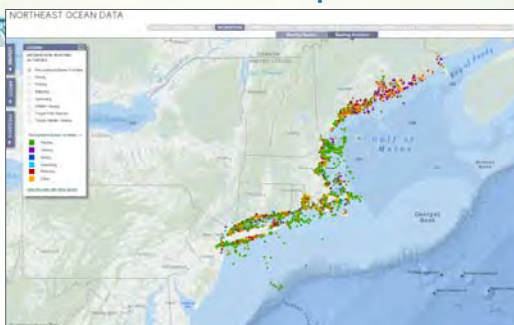
Current work:

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

Implement methodology – early 2015



Future Steps



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



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

Some examples of existing areas

- Endangered Species Act (1973)
Critical Habitat
- Magnuson-Stevens Act (1976)
Essential Fish Habitat
- Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan (2009)
Special, Sensitive or Unique areas
- Rhode Island Ocean
Special Area Management Plan (2010)
Areas Designated for Preservation
& Areas of Particular Concern

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



x 48 species

x 3 **x 11** **x 22**

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

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.

Overlay with areas identified from Option 1



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

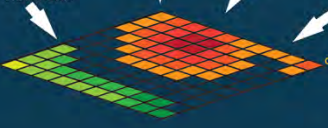
Distribution and abundance maps

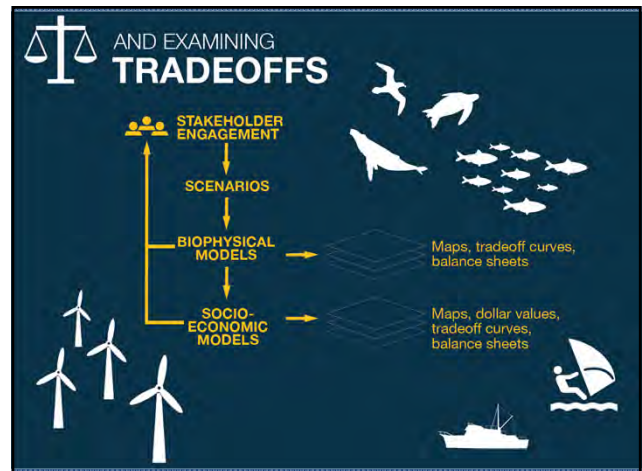
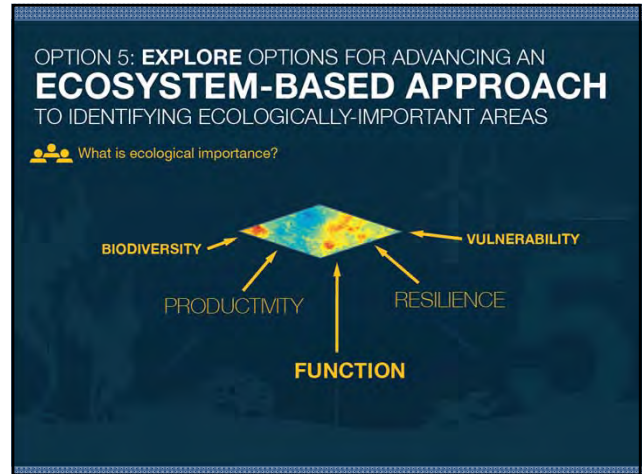
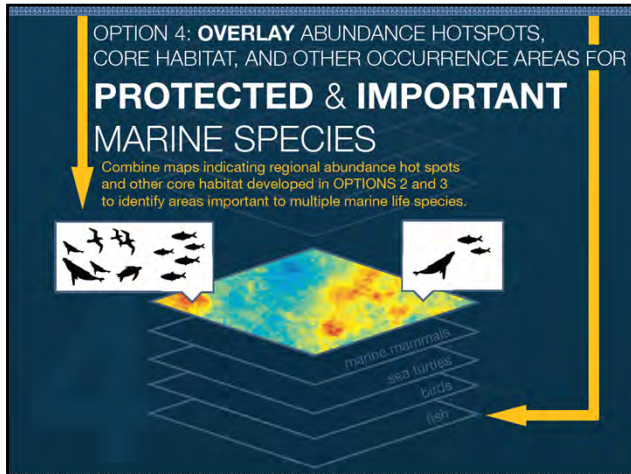
Thresholds

+ 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.





Tribal Consultation: Best
Practices Guidelines

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

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.



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



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

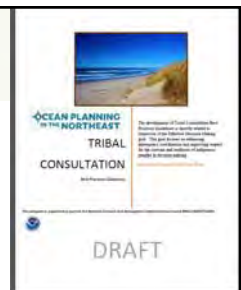


Examples (tab 4.2)

- 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



Options: Effective Decision

Making Goal

Deerin Babb-Brott

SeaPlan



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

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



We can advance effective decision making through



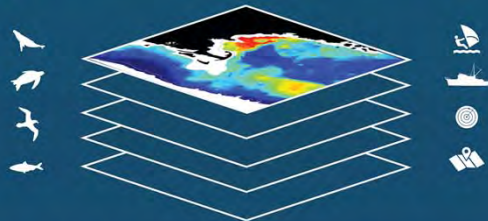
Use of data AND



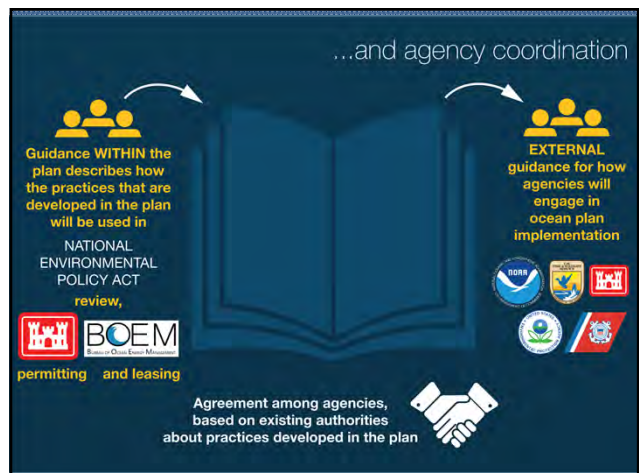
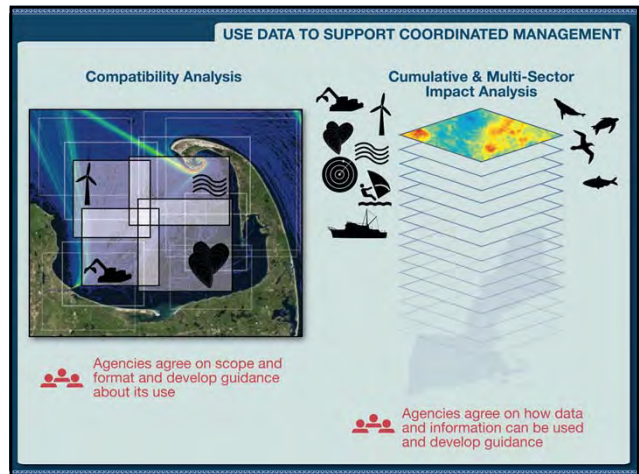
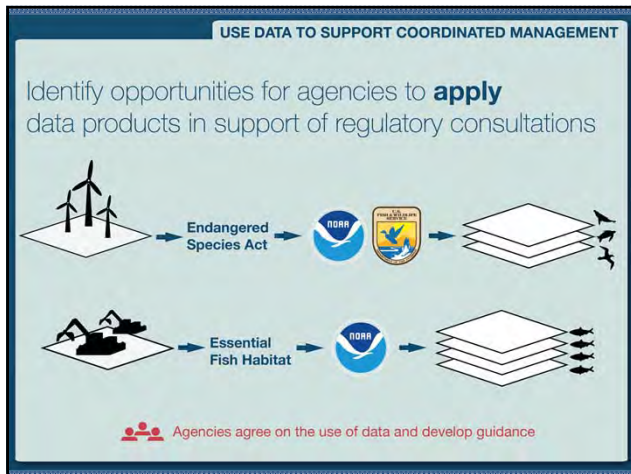
Enhanced agency
coordination

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



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

Agencies agree on consistent approach and develop guidance



questions/discussion