



9:00 AM	<p>Welcome and Introductions <i>Kathleen Leyden, Maine – State Chair and Mel Coté, EPA – Federal Chair</i></p>
9:15 AM	<p>Quarterly Updates Quarterly updates are intended to provide Council members with information on recent NROC activities, state or federal initiatives of interest, and other items of regional significance. The Council is encouraged to review the updates and come to the meeting with questions, suggestions for NROC action, etc. Approximately 20 minutes will be set aside for discussion of updates at each meeting. <i>Please review items before the meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSP Workshop Description (<i>Submitted by Stephanie Moura</i>) ▪ New England Governors' Conference meeting results (<i>Submitted by Adrienne Harrison</i>) ▪ Gulf of Maine Regional Ocean Science Initiative (<i>Submitted by Judy Pederson</i>)
9:35 AM	<p>NROC Membership <i>Ted Diers, New Hampshire</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Council roster and discuss strategy for recruiting new members and filling inactive seats.
10:00 AM	<p>National ROG Updates Part I: National Ocean Policy <i>Mel Cote, EPA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report out on National Ocean Policy and highlight opportunities for NROC <p>Part II: Emerging ROG Alliance <i>Kathleen Leyden, Maine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss opportunities for states to inform national discussions on ROG (through CSO) and enable state and federal representatives to assist in developing an emerging alliance with other ROCs and to convey collective needs of ROCs in agency discussions.
10:45 AM	<p>A Way Forward for 2010 Part I: Appropriations Lessons Learned & 2011 Strategy <i>David Keeley, The Keeley Group</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn from previous appropriation efforts and review recommendations for FY11 appropriations strategy <p>Part II: NROC 5 Year Strategy <i>Ted Diers, New Hampshire</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss need for developing a broader vision document (such as revised Action Plan)
12:00 PM	<p>Networking Lunch: <i>Bring your own or grab lunch at one of the local eateries.</i></p>
1:15 PM	<p>NROC Annual Work Plan Development Part I: 2009 Accomplishments and Lessons Learned <i>Facilitated by David Keeley, The Keeley Group</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Standing Committee accomplishments, highlighting any lessons learned <p>Part II: Priorities for 2010 and Work Plan Guidance <i>Facilitated by David Keeley, The Keeley Group</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss Council priorities for 2010 and discuss next steps for developing 2010 work plans <p>Part III: Engaging Partners <i>Brian Thompson, Connecticut</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and accept changes to partnership protocol document and building working relationships.
3:30 PM	<p>Closing Business & Adjourn <i>Mel Coté, EPA – Federal Chair and Kathleen Leyden, Maine – State Chair</i></p>

Quarterly Updates

Marine Spatial Planning Workshop

Submitted by Stephanie Moura, Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

The Northeast has become a hotbed for marine spatial planning activity and innovative partnerships that support science-based integrated management approaches and improved ocean use decision making. NROC and NOAA are sponsoring a working session in October for state and federal NROC members to examine the various drivers of marine spatial planning in the state, regional and federal contexts; capitalize on opportunities to leverage existing efforts to meet common science needs; and explore pragmatic options for regulatory efficiencies. Discussions on the session's second day will include invited non-governmental NROC partners and will focus on prospects to match existing science work in the region to support state and federal management needs.

New England Governors' Conference Meeting Results

Submitted by Adrienne Harrison, NOAA

The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers met on September 15th in New Brunswick. Discussions were focused primarily on climate and energy topics, of which NROC could provide value through the coasts and oceans perspective as resolutions and recommendations are implemented over the next year.

A Climate Resolution was passed which specifically included language on climate adaptation framework for the region and holding a regional conference. The NEGC is in the process of updating its Climate Change Action Plan (an updated version will be released in June 2010), including significant enhancements of adaptation language. The NEGC recognized that much of the adaptation focus will be on the coast – sea level rise, invasive species, and coastal communities and economies – and invited NROC to provide comment and input on the adaptation portion of the plan. The NROC Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee will consider how best to engage the NEGC over the next six months.

A Renewable Energy Resolution was passed which specifically included language on coordinating state siting processes and forwarding cost-effective renewable energy options. NEGC is interested in the marine spatial planning discussions and information about costs and efficiencies of offshore wind could be valuable to their interactions with congressional delegates. NEGC released a regional Renewable Energy Blueprint that identifies substantial potential for competitively-priced renewable resources within New England, including 5500 MW of offshore wind in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Note: The NEG/ECP Resolutions are available at <http://www.cap-cpma.ca/>. The Renewable Energy Blueprint is available at http://www.nescoe.com/Economic_Study.html.

Gulf of Maine Regional Ocean Science Initiative

Submitted by Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant

The Gulf of Maine (GOM) Regional Ocean Science Initiative (ROSI) released its Strategic Regional Ocean Science Plan (available on line at <http://seagrant.mit.edu/rosi>). The document will evolve over time and will be revisited and updated annually. The next phase of the planning effort will be to prepare an implementation plan that identifies a few key areas for facilitating research within the Gulf of Maine. To this end, several workshops are focused on identifying key research needs to address management issues. The first workshop was held June 10-11, 2009 in collaboration with NOAA Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research and explored research needs in three areas: Watershed to Estuaries; Biodiversity and Bioinvaders; and Cumulative Stressors. The final report will be available shortly. Three more workshops will be held, two in conjunction with other meetings:

- Gulf of Maine Workshop on Regional Research Priorities in Support of Ecosystem-Based Management in conjunction with the Gulf of Maine Symposium, Oct 9, 2009; St Andrews, New Brunswick
- Workshop on Outreach and Education in Implementing the Research Plan, October 30, 2009, Cambridge, MA, by invitation only
- November 2-4, 2009 Research Needs for Alternative Energy Siting in Nearshore Waters, held in conjunction with the 8th Annual Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium; The Ecology of Marine Wind Farms: Regional Perspectives on Impact Mitigation, Siting, and Future Uses, Newport, RI

Two pilot regional projects (Didemnum as an agent of change and salt marsh die back) are collaborative and address regional projects of concern. In addition, one GOM regional project will be funded by the Northeast Sea Grant Programs during this year's current funding, which also highlight research needs in the region. Looking beyond the implementation plan, the GOM Regional Ocean Science Council (ROSC) supports focusing on regional projects that address national problems. The GOM ROSC is committed to working together as a region and facilitating collaborative efforts to address mutual problem. Contact Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant College Program (jpederso@mit.edu) for more information about the GOM ROSI and workshops.

NROC Membership

The Executive Committee would like to update its membership records and discuss opportunities to engage or fill inactive or vacant seats on the Council.

Maine

Kathleen Leyden (*2009 Chair*), Director, Maine Coastal Program
George LaPointe, Commissioner, Maine Department of Marine Resources
Diedre Gilbert (*Alternate*), Maine Department of Marine Resources

New Hampshire

Ted Diers, Director, New Hampshire Coastal Program
Chris Williams, (*Alternate*), New Hampshire Coastal Program

Massachusetts

Deerin Babb-Brott, Director, Office of Coastal Zone Management
Greg Watson, Division of Energy Resources
Bruce Carlisle (*Ecosystem Co-Chair*), Office of Coastal Zone Management
Julia Knisel (*Hazards Co-Chair*), Office of Coastal Zone Management

Rhode Island

Michael Sullivan, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Ames Colt (*Energy Co-Chair*), Rhode Island Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team

Connecticut

Brian Thompson, Director, Long Island Sound Program

US Environmental Protection Agency

Mel Coté (*2009 Chair; Ecosystem Co-Chair*), Manager, Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit, Region One

Department of Interior – USGS

Dave Russ, Eastern Regional Executive, US Geological Survey
Susan Russell Robinson (*Alternate; Hazards Co-Chair*), US Geological Survey

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Betsy Nicholson, Coordinator, Coastal Services Center, Northeast Region
Nancy Thompson, Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Adrienne Harrison (*EC Staff; Hazards Co-Chair*), Coastal Services Center, Northeast Region

US Army Corps of Engineers

William Hubbard, Evaluation Branch Chief, US Army Corps of Engineers

US Department of Agriculture

Pooh Vongkhamdy, RI State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Andrew Lipsky, RI State Biologist, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Eric Scherer (*Alternate*), RI State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Department of Defense

Ron Beck (*Energy Co-Chair*), Chief of Energy and Facilities, US Coast Guard

National Regional Ocean Governance Update

National Ocean Policy

Submitted by Mel Coté, EPA

The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Report provides proposals for a comprehensive national approach to ocean stewardship and accountability.

A National Policy - The Interim Report proposes a new National Policy that recognizes that America's stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is intrinsically and intimately linked to environmental sustainability, human health and well-being, national prosperity, adaptation to climate and other environmental change, social justice, foreign policy, and national and homeland security.

A Robust Governance Structure - The Interim Report recommends modifications to the existing governance structure, including a stronger mandate and direction, and renewed and sustained high-level engagement. Under the proposal, the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology Policy would lead an interagency National Ocean Council to coordinate ocean-related issues across the Federal Government and the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. Such a governance structure, combined with sustained high-level staff involvement, would ensure that these areas are a priority throughout the Federal Government. The proposal also includes a Governance Advisory Committee of the National Ocean Council to improve coordination and collaboration with State, tribal, and local authorities, and regional governance structures.

Categories for Action - The Interim Report prioritizes nine categories for action, including ecosystem-based management, regional ecosystem protection and restoration, and strengthened and integrated observing systems, that seek to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. These strategies and objectives provide a bridge between the National Policy and action on the ground.

The Interim Report is undergoing a 30-day public review and comment period (www.whitehouse.gov/oceans).

Emerging Regional Ocean Council Alliance

Submitted by Kathleen Leyden, Maine

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) chaired a session at the Coastal Zone 2009 conference on July 21, 2009 to engage practitioners from across the country in a facilitated discussion on regional ocean governance successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The timeliness of this discussion was demonstrated by the level and diversity of participation, with more than 60 representatives from regional ocean councils (NROC, West Coast Governors Agreement (WCGA), Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), South Atlantic Alliance (SAA), and Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC)) and other regional partners.

Results of the facilitated break-out sessions were summarized and submitted to the Ocean Policy Task Force. The summary provides state, federal, NGO, and regional partners with insights on common challenges and potential strategies to support and improve these governance initiatives and their role in addressing issues that require a regional solution. Several of the strategies discussed in this session could inform future NROC activities.

The Coastal States Organization is also developing recommendations for regional ocean council structures.

Note: ROG Café Summary available as attachment.

A Way Forward for 2010

NROC 5 year Strategy

Submitted by Ted Diers, New Hampshire

NROC has exchanged lessons learned and strategies with other ocean councils around the country, especially around increasing visibility of ocean and coastal issues. NROC's current Action Plan describes the region's most pressing ocean and coastal issues, however does not provide the public or decision-makers with information needed to garner funding and support for the region. Ocean councils in other regions have used their Action Plan document to not only set the context, but to also outline specific needs and opportunities for the Council to fulfill address those needs with current or additional resources.

Using lessons and strategies from other regions, NROC will be considering an update to its Action Plan in the form of a 5 year strategy document. Here are a few notes and highlights from other council action plans that NROC may consider in its approach.

West Coast Governors Agreement Action Plan

http://westcoastoceans.gov/docs/WCGA_ActionPlan_low-resolution.pdf

- WCGA developed a table-format summary of 'Actions' and 'Activities' associated with priority issue areas. (page 104)
- Action Plan is linked to Action Team work plans (much like NROC committee work plans) and include tables describing expected accomplishments with existing resources and accomplishments additional resources would facilitate. (http://westcoastoceans.gov/docs/WCGA_Executive_Overview-FINAL.pdf) Note: This is the model discussed at the NROC ROG Café session at CZ09 to be adopted nationally when requesting appropriations.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/pdfs/ap2_final2.pdf

- GOMA is on its second 5 year action plan. Accomplishments from the first action plan are listed in each priority issue section.
- Each priority issue has a set of long term goals and broad actions that the group will take in 5 years and the expected outcomes from each action. Note: This format provides a platform for easier evaluation.

Recognizing that resources are limited for this task, options of various effort will be discussed.

NROC Annual Work Plan Development

Priorities for 2010 Work Plan

Please see Work Plan Updates (separate items below); Detailed work plans are available as attachments.

Work Plan Update: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee

Submitted by Bruce Carlisle, MA CZM and Mel Coté, EPA

Activity #1: Increase the visibility of state-federal work groups.

Deliverables:

- NROC, with assistance from the Nutrient Criteria RTAG, will report on progress toward development of estuarine nutrient criteria and on the NH DES incorporating a numeric nitrogen criterion into the state's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology for determining estuarine water quality impairments.
- NROC, with assistance from the NERDT's Sudbury Group, will disseminate a regional protocol for determining time-of-year (TOY) restrictions on dredging to protect fishery resources.
- The Coastal America NERIT will complete 4-5 multi-agency salt marsh or fish passage restoration projects and NROC will increase the visibility of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership as they work to increase the amount of private funds donated to federally sponsored projects.
- Identification of several pilot habitat restoration projects that showcase habitat types and categories which provide the greatest amount of benefits for multiple fish and wildlife species.

Activity #2: Convene ocean ecosystem health workshop.

Deliverables: A regional consensus statement among policymakers, managers, and scientists that:

- Defines ecosystem health
- Identifies measurable, legal standards for inclusion in state/provincial policy

Activity #3: Conduct regional ecosystem-based marine spatial planning working session.

Deliverables:

- Workshop for policy-makers, managers and scientists
- "Next steps" document on how this approach could be used on a regional basis

Activity #4: Support regional coastal and ocean observing networks and work with regional groups that promote data sharing and interoperability to work collaboratively, share resources, avoid duplicative work, and provide requested support. (Note: This Activity could be amplified to get at more NERACOOS coordination (and MACOORA) or break that part out and make new? Keep this one more data discoverability?)

Deliverables:

- A network of regional data providers with metadata registered in a national directory (GCMD, FGDC, GeoConnections, or Google) with robust, searchable discovery metadata that can be accessed through the GCMD Gulf of Maine portal or other discovery metadata portals or services.

Activity #5: Accelerate research on priority coastal and ocean issues. (Note: ROSI, NOAA and other partners will work to refine this task e.g., milestones, outcomes, actions, etc.)

Deliverables:

- Annual progress reports and requests for assistance from these initiatives

Activity #6: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health reporting initiatives: increasing awareness.

Deliverables:

- New England perspective on coastal and ocean ecosystem health
- Forums for state legislators, agency decision-makers and the region's Governors
- Whitepaper on the value and costs of a "Ocean's Return on Investment" report

Activity #7: Promote existing regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health initiatives: work with Governors' on a regional invasive species proclamation. (Note: Awaiting comments from NEANS Panel on role for NROC. Could shift the focus/deliverable away from Govs' Proclamation to coordination with NEANS, and states/feds on Early Detection and Rapid Response (which include the coastal Rapid Assessment Surveys), several outreach efforts, including posters and other materials, and the MIMIC program to train and coordinate volunteer monitoring)

Deliverables:

- Approval of a Governors' invasive species proclamation

Note: Work plan details available as attachment – EcosystemHealth WorkPlan (v9-16-09).pdf

Committee Membership:

Bruce Carlisle, Co-Chair, MA Mel Coté, Co-Chair, EPA Paul Currier, NH DES Christopher Deacutis, NB NEP	Mike Fogarty, NOAA Christian Khraforst, MA Kathleen Leyden, ME SPO Kate Killerlain Morrison, TNC	Tom Ouellette, CT DEP Joe Payne, Casco Bay BayKeepers Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant Paul Stacey, CT DEP Sally Yozell, TNC
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Work Plan Update: Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee

Submitted by Julia Knisel, MA; Susan Russell-Robinson, USGS; and Adrienne Harrison, NOAA

Activity #1: Promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise.

Deliverables:

- **Bimonthly webinar series** (once in two months) to share information on hazards resilience and climate adaptation tools and resources available to the region. Initial topics requested include Storm Surge Database developed by Connecticut, MA StormSmart Coasts storm observation database, and NOAA CSC Coastal Inundation Toolkit.
- **Adaptation workshop**, delivered in collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, NOAA Coastal Services Center, and other partners.
- **NROC Resilience Web Portal** populated with information on key adaptation and resilience programs, initiatives, and pilot projects in the region. Create web calendar to track resilience and adaptation related meetings and events and RSS feed for stakeholder updates.
- **Storm Smart Coasts Network** website for New England, with state and region specific information and strategies for improving hazards resilience.
- **Northeast Climate Adaptation Framework**, in collaboration with NESCAUM, focused on interstate and interagency coordination of adaptation policies.
- **Regional proposals** for climate adaptation and hazards resilience related projects.

Activity #2: Act on data acquisition priorities and user-friendly tools needed to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.

Deliverables:

- **New England LiDAR Workshop Proceedings** available on NROC website.
- **Annual meeting** of a regional digital elevation team and coordinate 2010 data collection plans.
- **Recommendations** for single system for recording federal and state data acquisition plans.
- **Seafloor Mapping Workshop** to coordinate regional data collection.
- **Southern New England Mapping Initiative** created to complement and support the work of the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative.

Activity #3: Partner with academia, industry and public agencies to develop a plan for an Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) that supports storm, storm surge and inundation, and sea level rise forecasting and response.

Deliverables:

- **Recommendations** for aligning NROC and NERACOOS Hazards Resilience Committees.
- **Management Requirements** for ocean observations to support hazard resilience.

Activity #4: Pilot Project – Methodology for Unified Coastline Data Layer.

Deliverables:

- **Methodology** for developing a unified coastline data layer.
- **Pilot data layer** for Southern Maine.

Note: Work plan details available as attachment – HazardsResilience WorkPlan (v9-21-09).pdf

Committee Membership:

Julia Knisel, Co-Chair, MA CZM Adrienne Harrison, Co-Chair, NOAA Susan Russell-Robinson, Co-Chair, USGS Stephen Dickson, ME SPO	Ed Fratto, Northeast States Emergency Consortium Janet Freedman, RI CRMC Sherry Godlewski, NH DES Mike Goetz, FEMA	Kevin O'Brien, CT (Note: Also acts as NERACOOS Hazards Resilience Committee Chair) Jenn Pagach, CT DEP Peter Slovinsky, ME Geologic Survey
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Work Plan Update: Ocean Energy Planning and Management Committee

Submitted by Ames Colt, RI and Ron Beck, USCG

Activity #1: Identify the types and sources of contextual and baseline data and knowledge essential for ocean energy facility development, impact mitigation, and operations.

Deliverables:

- Synthesis of managers' contextual and baseline information requirements.
- A strategy to obtain priority data requirements and methods to streamline the permitting process (e.g., require similar data, similar data acquisition processes, centralized filing, etc.).

Activity #2: Communicate results of key state ocean energy planning initiatives.

Deliverables:

- Routine exchange of information among the New England states (and other states around the country)

Activity #3: Maintain an inventory of projects devoted to renewable ocean energy resource development and maritime transportation and handling of fossil fuel supplies.

Deliverables:

- Current database of ocean energy projects

Activity #4: Propose voluntary guidelines for assessing and mitigating the environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns related to renewable ocean energy development. (Note: Council needs to discuss how this concept fits with current state energy planning efforts and if visual, web-based tools for planning and policy purposes are a priority)

Deliverables:

- Voluntary guidelines for assessing environmental and economic impacts, use conflicts, and safety concerns when siting and designing coastal and ocean energy facilities.
- Strategy to disseminate guidelines within the region and elsewhere.

Activity #5: Promote communications among public, non-profit and private sector interests. (Note: The Council needs to bundle together NROC communication efforts. The Council should also specifically engage MMS to learn of their capacity to assist in this effort.)

Deliverables:

- Report that documents and assesses current mechanisms;
- Prepare and release regional strategy

Note: Work plan details available as attachment – Energy WorkPlan (v9-16-09).pdf

Committee Membership:

Ames Colt, Co-Chair, RI DEM Ron Beck, Co-Chair, USCG Todd Burrowes, ME SPO John Duff, UMass Boston	Grover Fugate, RI CRMC David Kaiser, NOAA John Moskal, EPA Betsy Nicholson, NOAA	Tom Ouellette, CT DEP Greg Watson, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Chris Williams, NH DES
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Closing Business

2010 NROC Meeting Dates

Submitted by NROC Executive Committee

- January 13, 2010 (snow date 1/14)
- April 14, 2010 (snow date 4/15)
- July 14, 2010
- October 13, 2010

2010 Co-Chairs

Submitted by NROC Executive Committee

Ted Diers of New Hampshire will serve as the state chair and Betsy Nicholson of NOAA will serve as the federal chair for 2010.

The Executive Committee members will include present, past, and future chairs:

- Ted Diers, NH; Kathleen Leyden, ME; 2011 state chair
- Betsy Nicholson, NOAA; Mel Cote, EPA; 2011 federal chair