Agenda • May 31, 2012 • Portsmouth, NH

Directions to meeting location: http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/about-dir.htm
Meeting materials available at http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc

9:15 AM	**Arrive & Networking**
9:30 AM	**Welcome & Introductions** *Bruce Carlisle, MA and Bob LaBelle, DOI-BOEM* ▪ Introduce new NROC staff
9:45 AM	**NROC & Partner Updates** *Bruce Carlisle, MA – State Chair* The Chair will facilitate the review of updates submitted by NROC Committees, partners, and others. *Please review items before the meeting.* Content: ▪ **Committee Update:** Executive Committee ▪ **Committee Update:** Northeast LiDAR & Sea Level Rise Impacts Workshop Update ▪ **Partner Update:** NERACOOS ▪ **Partner Update:** Sea Grant Consortium ▪ **Partner Update:** Gulf of Maine Council ▪ **Update:** New England Federal Partners ▪ **Update:** North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative ▪ **Audience updates:** Meeting attendees provide updates
10:30 AM	**Regional Priorities Discussion** ▪ Results of NROC assessment (strengths, successes, and opportunities) ▪ Discussion of NROC emerging priorities ▪ Partners discuss regional commonalities and collaborative partnerships to inform work plan development *Materials: Work plan status update (page 4); Regional collaboration progress report (page 7)*
12:00 PM	**Networking Lunch** – local Portsmouth eateries

1:30 PM	**Ocean Planning Update**
	John Weber and Nick Napoli, NROC;
	Grover Fugate (RI) and Betsy Nicholson (NOAA), Co-chairs
	
	▪ Regional Ocean Planning Workshop results (J Weber – 10 minutes)
	▪ Work Plan Project Updates and Timeline (J Weber, N Napoli – 1 hour)
	  ▪ Commercial Fishing
	  ▪ Industry Engagement
	  ▪ Recreational Boating Survey
	  ▪ NE Ocean Data Portal Work Plan
	  ▪ Habitat Classification
	  ▪ Ecological/Biological Characterization
	▪ Regional Planning Body (B Nicholson – 20 minutes)
	  ▪ Relationship with NROC
	  ▪ Formation update
	  ▪ New hire
	▪ Partner discussion and feedback opportunity (G Fugate – 30 min)

3:30 PM	**Closing Business** ▪ Discuss fall meeting dates and topics
3:45 PM	**Adjourn**

NROC & Partner Updates

Committee Update – Executive Committee:

NROC Staff Introductions
NROC is pleased to announce two important additions to the NROC team:

- Nick Napoli has joined NROC as the Ocean Planning Project Manager. Nick was most recently the Director of Marine Planning for SeaPlan (formerly the Massachusetts Ocean Partnership) where he managed programs that support northeast regional ocean planning and the development and implementation of the MA Ocean Management Plan. Nick, along with Ocean Planning Director John Weber, is working to forward the ocean planning initiative. Nick's email is nnapoli@northeastoceancouncil.org.

- Dani Carter joined NROC as the Coordinator. Dani recently relocated back to Maine after several years in Hawaii, where she most recently worked as State co-manager for the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument. Dani's email is dcarter@northeastoceancouncil.org.

Committee Update – Coastal Hazards Resilience:
Northeast LiDAR & Sea Level Rise Impacts Workshop Update – July 10-11 in Portland, Maine: The workshop will provide an opportunity for New England's coastal resource and data managers to explore uses of LiDAR data for sea level rise. The first day of the workshop will focus on presentation by experienced LiDAR users to describe methodologies to assess tide levels, storm surges, coastal change and wetland migration. The second day of the workshop will provide an opportunity for small group discussion of the applications of LiDAR for sea level rise, vulnerability assessment, and habitat change. The second day will also feature hands-on training experience with relevant software, models, and data viewers.

StormSmart Coasts New England Webinar Series: Four webinars have been sponsored by NROC's Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee and the StormSmart Coasts Network, including:

- Storm Damage Assessment and the Storm Reporter Tool
- Using Freeboard to Increase Protection from Storms
- Resilience of Natural Ecosystems
- Building Resilience through Improved Post-Storm Redevelopment Practices

There are two webinars scheduled, including:

- July 25, 2012: Estimating Storm Surge Inundation and Planning for Evacuation
- September 26, 2012: Communicating Climate Change Impacts and Gaining Support for Action

Please join the StormSmart Coasts New England Network site to get webinar reminders. http://stormsmart.org/groups/new-england/home.

NROC & GOMA Coastal Resilience Grants Program
The pilots awarded through the New England Municipal Coastal Resilience Grants Program are making progress.

Ogunquit, Maine: The Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and Ogunquit Sewer District have contracted with Woodard and Curran (Portland, Maine) to develop strategies to protect the Ogunquit treatment plant from sea level rise and storm surge related flooding. This work will serve as a model for other coastal communities facing flood impacts to their sewage treatment plants.

Portsmouth, NH: The City of Portsmouth received funds to assess and increase the City's resiliency to climate change and extreme weather events. The City issued a Request for Proposals for an experienced consultant to work on a vulnerability analysis and developing recommendations to improve resiliency that can be easily integrated into the Master Plan update process, the building code, and the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The consultant has not yet been announced, however is expected to begin this summer.

Marshfield-Scituate-Duxbury, MA: The three towns of Marshfield, Scituate, and Duxbury have partnered to take a regional approach to minimize impacts from sea level rise and storm surge to

infrastructure, private property and natural resources. The towns are working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission to map and assess vulnerable public infrastructure and natural resources. This information will be used to build public awareness of climate change and support for coastal hazards adaptation options.

New Shoreham, RI: The island community of New Shoreham (Block Island) has used future flood maps for sea level rise and storm surge scenarios to identify vulnerable infrastructure, including the ferry terminal. The town has contracted with an engineering firm to develop a structural concept and a contingency plan to respond to these flood scenarios.

Greenwich, CT: The town of Greenwich is concerned about homes and infrastructure in the flood zones and has made progress creating flood maps at the 2ft contour to assess vulnerable properties and infrastructure. The town identified Base Flood Elevations of each property and is looking at how changes in BFE can affect vulnerability in the flood zone.

Guilford, CT: This project will begin in September 2012. The town of Guilford will be working with The Nature Conservancy and Yale University to conduct a risk and vulnerability assessment.

The goal of the resilience technical grants program is to advance efforts in New England's coastal municipalities to adapt land use, infrastructure, policies, and programs to changing environmental conditions. A pilot project was funded in each of the five coastal New England states. NROC and the Gulf of Maine Council are jointly responsible for managing the grant program and reporting on progress. The projects are expected to be completed by October 2013.

Partner Update – NERACOOS:

NERACOOS FY12 activities (June 2011-May 2012)
The US Integrated Ocean Observing System® office has awarded approximately $2M in FY12 funds to NERACOOS. The NERACOOS Strategic Planning and Implementation (SPI) team updated the scope of work for this FY12 award. The funding will support the following activities during the funding period of June 2012-May 2013:

- Coordinated regional management, outreach, education and communications by the NERACOOS office
- Operations and maintenance of 11 oceanographic buoys and 1 coastal monitoring station in the region including 8 buoys in the Gulf of Maine and 3 in Long Island Sound. One of the Gulf of Maine buoys will have special sensors for measuring ocean acidification.
- Operations and maintenance of 3 High Frequency Radar (HF Radar) stations along the Northeast Coast
- Operations and maintenance of the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System and the regional wave forecast system
- Operations and maintenance of the NERACOOS data management and communications system including the NERACOOS website (www.neracoos.org)
- Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) monitoring and satellite detection effort in the Bay of Fundy
- In situ nutrient sensor testing and development and real-time telemetry for Narragansett Bay Fixed-Site Water Quality Monitoring Network
- Monitoring of nutrients through the Atlantic Zonal Monitoring Program

More details can be found at www.neracoos.org

NERACOOS Highlights
NERACOOS is participating in federal, industry, academic collaboration to test new hi-tech ocean observing technologies in the Northeast. On May 3, a team from Liquid Robotics, Sonardyne, and the University of Maine School for Marine Sciences deployed a Wave Glider and two fetch nodes off the coast of Maine. You can learn more about this project and follow the Wave Glider at http://neracoos.org/glider_mission.

The NERACOOS products team is developing meteorological and oceanographic climatology data products from buoy data that have been collected over the past decade in the Gulf of Maine and Long Island Sound. Prototype climatology data products will tested over this summer. For more information contact Tom Shyka (tom@neracoos.org)

The NERACOOS Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System (NeCOFS) team has implemented the Scituate inundation forecast system, which is a prototype inundation forecast system for emergency managers. The NeCOFS team is currently working with the NWS and the state of NH on a similar system for the Hamptons area of NH. NeCOFS and the Scituate forecast are available at: http://neracoos.org/datatools/forecast/oceanforecasts.

For the second year, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) has deployed a Harmful Algal Bloom detection sensor off the New Hampshire Coast. NERACOOS and WHOI collaborated in obtaining one of these sensors to help support regional HAB detection.

NERACOOS is in the process of re-populating its Strategic Planning and Implementation team. If you are interested in participating on this team please contact the SPI team chairman, Dr. Al Hanson (akhanson@gso.uri.edu). NERACOOS is also working with NROC to merge its Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health and Coastal Hazards working groups.

NERACOOS is helping to support the New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC) Ocean literacy summit, which will be held from November 1–2 at the University of Rhode Island. To learn more about the Ocean Literacy Summit contact Cassie Durette (cassie.durette@neracoos.org).

The Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC) has announced an upcoming Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Summit being held at the Hyatt Dulles November 13-16, 2012. The Summit is titled “A New Decade for a Sustained and Integrated Ocean Observing System.” The community is strongly encouraged to participate in a variety of different ways. For more information about the event and how to get involved, please visit http://www.iooc.us/summit/ioos-summit/.

Update – New England Federal Partners:
TBD

Regional Priorities Discussion

2010-2011 Work Plan Progress Report – Update

Ocean and Ecosystem Health Work Plan Progress Report	Status
Action 1.1 (and Ocean Planning Action 3): Develop regional data portal and network to serve as a single portal and distributed network for regional coastal and marine spatial data.	Complete
Action 1.2: Work with the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), the New England-Canadian Maritime Collaboration and Planning Initiative, and other organizations to develop key data/ mapping products.	Resources
Action 2.1: Report on current indicator programs (e.g., Gulf of Maine Council Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (GOMC ESIP), National Estuary Programs (NEPs), National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs)).	Resources
Action 2.2: Workshop convening policymakers, managers and scientists to develop a consensus statement on definition of ecosystem health and to strengthen coordination and integration of regional indicator initiatives in New England.	Complete
Action 2.3: Report with workshop results and “next steps” to NROC and other New England decision-makers.	Complete
Action 2.4: Compile annotated bibliography of existing (and current) research on the effects of climate change effects on ocean and coastal ecosystem health as well as cumulative and secondary impacts from existing and future uses of the ocean.	Resources
Action 2.5: Support ESIP as regional portal for ecosystem status and trends data for the Gulf of Maine sub-region, and explore expansion to rest of the New England region.	Ongoing
Action 2.6: Support expansion of Long Island Sound Study (LISS) “Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change” throughout the region; identify opportunities for workshop.	Ongoing
Action 2.7 (and Coastal Hazards Action 2): Regional symposium on seafloor and marine habitat mapping status and technologies, marine habitat classification frameworks, and related info exchange.	Resources

Action 3.1: Collaborative, pilot demonstration project to integrate state Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) plans, Wildlife Action Plans, climate plans and others.	Ongoing
Action 3.2: Regional conservation priorities to incorporate climate change adaptation and wildlife habitat protection strategies into active land conservation programs.	Ongoing
Action 3.3: Inventory and analysis (maps, data, text) of priority ecosystems, natural resources, and coastal environments vulnerable to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.	Ongoing/ Planned
Action 3.4: Regional assessment criteria for identifying the highest priority conservation areas to achieve protection of regionally significant resources.	Complete
Action 3.5: Coordination and collaboration with complementary conservation programs and efforts such as US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) North Atlantic LCC, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and GOMC.	Ongoing
Action 3.6: Stakeholder connection, input and dialogue.	Resources
Action 4.1: NROC will support and promote the numerous existing state-federal partnerships in New England that are working to restore and protect ocean and coastal ecosystem health.	Ongoing
Action 5.1: Enhanced coordination with NERACOOS through implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding; promotion of shared representation between organizations on respective work groups; and collaboration of annual work plans through a series of workshops.	Complete/ Ongoing
Action 5.2: Work jointly with regional partners and the New England-Canadian Maritime Collaboration and Planning Initiative to identify needs and priorities for enhanced data management and applications to improve decision making on environmental issues.	Complete
Action 5.3: Work with NERACOOS and Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership (NeCODP) to help identify the data and product needs of NROC and its partners, develop the common schema and application to environmental management.	Unknown

Coastal Hazards Work Plan Progress Report	**Status**
Action 1.1 Bimonthly webinar series to share information on hazards resilience and climate adaptation tools and resources available to the region as well as specific case studies or pilot projects from New England.	Ongoing (4 of 6 complete)
Action 1.2: Climate Adaptation workshop, delivered in collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Council Climate Change Network, NOAA Coastal Services Center, and other partners. • 2010 Climate Adaptation Training, Narragansett, RI	Complete
Action 1.3: Storm Smart Coasts Network website for New England, with state and region specific information and strategies for improving hazards resilience. • New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island complete • Maine and Connecticut in progress	Ongoing
Action 1.4: StormSmart Coasts Network Communication and Outreach with media.	Ongoing/ Planned
Action 1.5: Northeast Climate Adaptation Framework, in collaboration with NESCAUM and other partners, focused on interstate and interagency coordination of adaptation policies.	Unknown
Action 1.6: Regional proposals for climate adaptation and hazards resilience related projects.	Complete
Action 2.1: Digital Elevation Meeting to coordinate 2011-2012 LiDAR data collection plans.	Complete
Action 2.2: Mapping Product Recommendations for priority regional tools such as flood elevation maps and sea level inundation visualizations.	Ongoing/ Planned
Action 2.3 (and Ocean and Ecosystem Health Action 2.7): Regional symposium on seafloor and marine habitat mapping status and technologies, marine habitat classification frameworks, and related info exchange.	Resources
Action 2.4: Southern New England Mapping Initiative created to extend the work of GOMMI to Long Island Sound. (See also Ecosystem Health activity #2)	Resources
Action 2.5: Inundation Visualization Tools for storm surge, sea level rise, and economic impacts.	Ongoing/ Planned

• 2012 Sea Level Rise Mapping Workshop (July 10-11, 2012)	
Action 3.1: Recommendations for further aligning NROC and NERACOOS Hazards Resilience Committees.	Complete
Action 3.2: Development of hazards resilience requirements for ocean observations (in partnership with NERACOOS)	Complete
Action 4.1: Methodology for developing a unified coastline data layer.	Complete
Action 4.2: Highlight results of pilot work on NROC website and New England StormSmart Coasts Network. (planned 2012-2013)	Ongoing/ Planned

Ocean Energy Planning and Management Work Plan Progress Report	**Status**
Action 1.1 Coordinate with CMSP Strategy Team to develop recommendations and an acquisition strategy for priority ocean energy planning data needs.	Ongoing
Action 1.2: Work with ocean energy stakeholders to identify the types and sources of contextual and baseline data and knowledge essential for ocean energy facility development, impact mitigation, and operations.	Ocean Planning Committee
Action 1.3: Facilitate discussion among relevant resource agencies (e.g., FWS, NMFS, state agencies) and the state- and Federal-authorizers (e.g., BOEMRE, Army Corps, RI CRMC) to identify New England's regional biological survey needs.	Ocean Planning Committee
Action 1.4: Coordinate with the Northeast Data Portal to develop a regional data viewer.	Ongoing
Action 1.5: Continue to update the US Coast Guard inventory and GIS database of NE ocean energy projects	Ongoing
Action 2.1: Assess regional ocean energy planning needs that complement CMSP and Task Force processes.	Unknown
Action 2.2: Routine exchange of information among the New England states (and other states around the country) through a combination of webinars and committee conference calls.	Ocean Planning Committee
Action 2.3: Use MMS Task Force meetings in RI, MA and ME to identify additional communication needs.	Unknown
Action 2.4: Maintain communication with the Atlantic Governors Consortium on Wind Energy.	Unknown
Action 2.5: Identify state, regional, and national conferences that NROC can organize and facilitate sessions or panels focused on sharing information and perspectives on ocean energy planning initiatives.	Unknown
Action 2.6: A robust sub-page on the NROC web site devoted to status updates on New England's ocean energy planning initiatives (e.g., RI SAMP and MA Ocean Plan websites) as well as basic descriptions and contact information for each.	Ongoing

Ocean Planning Work Plan Progress Report	**Status**
Action 1.1: Create document that inventories state, federal and partner progress (in product form) on CMSP in New England.	Complete
Action 1.2: Serve as the forum for regional and sub-regional discussions.	Ongoing
Action 2.1: Framework reflecting input from states and federal agencies on NROC and partners.	Complete
Action 2.2: Identification of partner contributions to framework (expertise, resources that can be applied to various parts of framework)	Ongoing
Action 2.3: Facilitated discussion of Governance Structure to advance CMSP in New England.	Complete
Action 2.4: Schematic and narrative that describe the relationship between NROC and the New England CMSP Regional Planning Body.	Ongoing
Action 2.5: Develop a proposal for a regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan based on NROC's draft framework.	Complete
Action 3.1: Maintain communication between NROC and Northeast Data Portal project, including periodic briefings with NROC members to align management needs with plan for regional data portal	Ongoing
Action 3.2: Provide demonstration of Northeast Data Portal to NROC at key milestones.	Complete
Action 3.3: Data inventory focused on key data themes that support CMSP applications and products.	Complete
Action 3.4: Develop a proposal for full regional data portal project.	Complete

Initiative Purposes

- *Jointly identify and cooperatively implement projects so as to accelerate the pace of coastal and marine stewardship;*
- *Strengthen inter-organizational collaboration and leverage limited resources*

Progress Report – July 2011

October 27, 2010 Priority Projects (2-3 page narratives are available for each project)	Progress
• Produce high-resolution maps of the ocean floor spanning the region's highest priority geographic areas	X
• Create an atlas (e.g., database or spatial data layers) of the spatial extent and intensity of consumptive and non-consumptive human uses of the ocean	X
• Develop protocols for environmental assessment, monitoring and mitigation	X
• Develop and test a New England/Maritimes methodology that describes the economic value of ecosystem goods and services	
• Conduct research to enhance our understanding of regional climate change impacts	
• Develop regional ecosystem management plan	X
• Create a data management distributed portal/network	
• Regional nutrient loading to coastal waters from land and air sources	X
• Bio-regional (web-based indicators)/Ecosystem States tool (BEST)	
• Coordinated ecosystem health communication strategy for New England/Maritimes	X
• Develop a northeast Coastal hazards directory	X
• Coordinated coastal hazards messaging, training and outreach	X
• Coastal storm impact forecasting	
Inter-organizational Collaboration	X

Produce high-resolution maps of the ocean floor spanning the region's highest priority geographic areas

Project description: Regional scale high resolution seafloor mapping products (e.g., multi-beam, side scan, sea bed, etc.) are needed (as well as site specific maps) to guide the siting of alternative energy projects and manage protected areas, support planning level analysis of in-water development, and evaluate anthropogenic impacts to marine habitats including oil spills, sewage outfalls, boating and fishing practices, dredging, and disposal.
Tasks: A seven step process was developed by the Partners that would produce a strategy to prepare mapping products that meet end-user needs (e.g., set the protocols for data quality and data dissemination) and release map products including on-line discovery of metadata).
Progress: Two follow-up conference calls were organized to support planning for a summer 2011 workshop. (NOAA/CSC has offered funding and in-kind support is being explored by the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team, ME Coastal Program, NERACOOS, URI and USGS.) A steering committee is being formed and consists of state, NROC, academic and federal representatives.

Create an atlas (e.g., database or spatial data layers) of the spatial extent and intensity of consumptive and non-consumptive human uses of the ocean

Description: Prepare and disseminate an on-line database, information management system or data layers that describe the spatial extent and intensity of consumptive and non-consumptive human uses of the ocean (e.g., location of shipping lanes, concentrations of commercial fishing activity, aquaculture sites, spatial patterns of recreational use protected areas, marine archeology, etc.) to promote an understanding cross-sectoral impacts.
Tasks: Five priority actions were identified that would lead to the development of a regional information management system, acquisition of new data and assess user satisfaction with the information products.
Progress: NROC, in partnership with Third Sector New England, has secured the resources and hired John Weber for 12-months to serve as the NROC Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Managing Director. John has four

primary duties including "… develop a process to enable NROC and partners to define and represent ecologically significant areas and human use areas in the Northeast ….". The Maine Coastal Program is also contracting with the Island Institute to gather and present human use data for coastal Maine.

Develop protocols for environmental assessment, monitoring and mitigation

Description: Develop and test standardized protocols for baseline studies and monitoring for the collection and comparison of scientifically valid and comparable data for specific offshore renewable energy issues that seamlessly integrate with a newly designed conceptual framework and approach cumulative environmental impact evaluation of offshore renewable energy development.
Tasks: Describe anticipated impacts and risks (based on experiences elsewhere); identify regional data requirements; create consistent data collection procedures (including management, access, ability to aggregate); develop a method for public & private pooling of funds to pay for data collection; develop a method to assess impacts of new uses, existing uses and their interaction; create consistent monitoring protocols; create method to record "lessons-learned" and adapt management strategies; develop strategy to integrate into decision-making process
Progress: The National Ocean Partnership/BOEMRE is funding a two-year project to perform the following: 1) Develop and test standardized protocols for baseline studies and monitoring for the collection and comparison of scientifically valid and comparable data for specific offshore renewable energy issues that are developed in coordination with and ultimately supported by scientists, regulators, and industry; and 2) Develop a conceptual framework and approach for cumulative environmental impact evaluation of offshore renewable energy development, as part of a larger framework for a site evaluation tool for decision makers. The project manager is Jennifer McCann, URI Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant.

Create a data management distributed portal/network

Description: An integrated, regional data management network that is robust with searchable metadata; interoperable with existing state, provincial, federal and non-profit data management investments; and is user friendly.
Tasks: Develop data needs for supporting CMSP by interviewing regional managers; Develop data profiles (scoping documents) for needed data themes; Develop an information management system and the data layers needed; Develop data viewer; Develop data discovery mechanisms; and Develop a communication strategy
Progress: The Northeast Regional Data Portal Working Group, which includes MOP, NERACOOS, TNC, NOAA CSC, and GMRI has raised $500,000 in cash and in-kind support. They have worked on: stakeholder identification of eighteen regional CMSP data priorities (e.g., vessel traffic, channels, energy infrastructure, VTR data, shipwrecks, etc.), production of data profiles which describe cost and next steps needed for high priority regional data products, initiation of regional data product development, and implementing a prototype web site for data access, viewing and collaboration. (Note: these priorities mesh well with the human use atlas task described above.)

Bio-regional (web-based indicators)/Ecosystem States tool (BEST)

Project Description: This effort would track the condition of the region's ecosystem status and trends; and publicize and disseminate information through communication programs that serve all user interests.
Tasks: Identify priority audience(s) and needs; build on and expand ESIP and other indicator efforts (e.g., Maritimes/NE coverage to NY Bight); build interoperable data management into this regional effort; conduct an inventory of data and indicators; develop and implement communications strategy; etc.
Progress: In late March MOP, COMPASS, UMass Boston, NROC, NERACOOS and other regional partners raised approximately $75,000 and convened 80 representatives of the region's indicator, monitoring, and management communities at a two-day workshop on the Boston waterfront. The objectives were to: Improve familiarity with the indicator programs in attendance; Share indicator programs' communication methods and communication challenges; Explore management applications, indicator selection, funding and partnership challenges; Explore

strategies for improved short and long-term indicator program collaboration; and Define a series of next steps towards improved coordination and collaboration and develop an implementation strategy (e.g., who could take the lead, funding, etc.). The result of the conference was agreement to create a New England community of practice that furthers the objectives described above. A steering committee is being formed.
In April, 2011 NERACOOS, the Gulf of Maine Council/Ecosystem Indicator Partnership and USGS convened 30 plus practitioners from throughout New England to discuss: the strengths and weaknesses of the indicator suites selected for the Gulf of Maine and how they would apply to southern New England waters; the usability of the Monitoring Map Tool to find adjacent data collection sites; the graphing and product output capabilities of the Indicator Reporting Tool; and discuss an implementation plan for building out a New England Indicator Portal. A New England "indicators community of practice" is being formed to address some of the April recommendations.

Coastal Hazards Directory

Project Description: Create a web-based searchable database that would function as a directory of coastal hazards materials including documents, tools, data and pilot projects.
Tasks: Identify the content of the directory, and create the database and the input forms and dynamic web pages to view the content.
Progress: The New England States are in the process of creating their individual Storm Smart Coast pages, which facilitate the identification of directory content that would not duplicate existing products. In the interim it has been suggested that the directory focus on coastal hazards tools. Last year, NERACOOS developed a directory of coastal hazards observation tools (http://coastalhazards.uconn.edu/saltmarsh/). The NERACOOS Projects Team will be reviewing the format of this page to recommend a final format so that the pages can be revised and made accessible through the NERACOOS website. Absent a database, a directory of other coastal hazards tools will be developed as a series of html pages. The host site for these might be the New England Storm Smart Coast Regional page.

Coordinated coastal hazards messaging, training and outreach

Project Description: Convene a series of webinars for coastal hazard and emergency managers and planners.
Tasks: Identify webinar topics, presenters and establish a schedule. Develop outreach products.
Progress: NROC Coastal Hazards Standing Committee is the lead for the webinar series. A draft schedule has been developed. To maximize audience access, states are in the process of identifying potential video conferencing hubs.

Last fall, NERACOOS shared project suggestions with regional partners for an internal funding opportunity known as the NOAA Preserve America Initiative. The team decided to submit a proposal to develop a video of David Vallee's (NWS) presentation about New England Hurricanes. This project was not selected for funding.

Coastal Storm Impact Forecasting

Project Description: Complete the development of the Massachusetts Storm Reporter Database and expand the geographic area to include coastal New England. The purpose of this browser accessible database is to compile post-storm damage information that can be used to improve storm impact forecasting. This is a high priority product for the National Weather Service.
Tasks: The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management developed the database in 2010 and had generated the online form for data entry. The forms and searching capability to view the data could not be completed with available funding. NERACOOS agreed to provide funding via their planning grant to complete this regional database.
Progress: Significant progress has been made toward completing the database. Testing and viewing will begin in early May and the project will be completed by May 30, 2011.

Inter-organizational Collaboration

Project Description: In New England and the Maritimes there are a wide variety of government, non-government and government/non-government organizations engaged in ocean and coastal stewardship activities. Equally diverse is their legal basis (e.g., some created in federal or state statute, gubernatorial agreements, etc.), their longevity (e.g., several are a few years old while others have decades of experience), geography (e.g., spanning from the Canadian Maritimes to the NY Bight), membership composition, scope of interest (e.g., communications, resource management, research, education, policy, etc.) and financial capacity (e.g., dues driven, grants, federal appropriations, etc.) to name but a few distinguishing characteristics.

Tasks: A few organizations describe and assess differences and commonalities, describe shared agreement on vision or goal for collaboration (shared values) – "common ground", create a well-defined purpose that is real, practical and shared by the group

Progress: NERACOOS (May 10th), NROC (May 19th), and GOMC (June 15th) have agreed they want to explore these issues in greater detail. They have designated delegates to represent their interests in preliminary discussions and to report-back with options in September 2011. Funding for a neutral facilitator is secured and a scope of work is being prepared.

Ocean Planning Update

Welcome to Nick Napoli as new NROC Ocean Planning Project Manager.

Proceedings from the recent ***Northeast Workshop on Regional Ocean Planning*** can be found on the NROC website http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc/default.aspx.

NROC **commercial fishing mapping project is underway**. NROC is contracting with a team led by URI Coastal Resources Center and including George LaPointe Consulting and the Island Institute on this important work over the next 6 months or so. Initial meetings have been held in Maine and New Hampshire to scope out the work and identify specific avenues and contacts for engaging the commercial fishing industry. Additionally, NROC staff are coordinating with the data processing side of the house to develop draft products re: VMS. Members of the data portal team—particularly Jenn Greene and Eric Howard—have worked long and hard on the Vessel Trip Report data set, and thanks for their efforts. John and Nick will be meeting with the URI CRC team in a couple of weeks to discuss potential products (maps) to develop, to convene an advisory group, and to continue to identify specific contacts. Engagement with the fishing industry is anticipated to gear up in late summer/early fall and continue through the remainder of 2012, recognizing the timing issues.

Similarly, the NROC effort to **engage marine transportation, energy, and aquaculture industries** is gearing up. NROC staff had a kickoff meeting with a team led by the Consensus Building Institute to hammer out details and a general schedule. The general approach is to immediately begin engaging members of those economic sectors to help the contracting team develop a "white paper" for each topic—a summary of the current status of each sector plus identification of future trends and/or topics worth further exploration. This white paper will be prepared in time for a series of engagements with members of each sectors in likely an early fall timeframe.

The **Northeast Recreational Boater Survey** is currently underway. In mid-May, 68,000 saltwater recreational boaters in coastal counties from New York to Maine received a mailing from SeaPlan inviting them to participate in a season long survey (May through October) where they will be asked to provide information on their spending and map their routes and activities from a recent recreational boating trip. The survey will produce estimates of the importance of recreational boating to each state's economy and the regional economy. The survey will also document recreational boating routes and map boating-based recreational activities (fishing, diving, etc.). The survey is being conducted by SeaPlan, NROC, The University of Massachusetts and Ecotrust, with significant input from state coastal program staff and recreational boating industry representatives. The survey is being broadly supported by the industry, including sponsorships and prize donations from a range of marine businesses and associations, and it was recently featured by numerous national and local media outlets.

NROC recently approved the work plan and budget for the **Northeast Ocean Data Portal** for the period from May 2012 through October 2013. The focus of the work plan is to continue working with data providers to develop and disseminate data for use in ocean planning, with a particular focus on datasets identified as a priority by NROC. The Northeast Ocean Data Portal Working Group will also maintain and enhance the current map viewer, develop new functionality and tools to support the evolving ocean planning process, and will revise the website to more directly present and describe key ocean planning datasets. Data development will be conducted using existing capacity and staff from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Applied Science Associates (ASA), and the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC). In addition, SeaPlan will hire a Senior GIS Analyst to support the development of data products and the management of the portal. ASA will support tool and functionality development and NERACOOS will host the data and provide system administration for the portal. Waterview Consulting will support portal communications

and website development. All activities will be overseen by a Steering Committee composed of senior staff from NROC, TNC, SeaPlan, NOAA CSC, NERACOOS, and ASA.

NROC is preparing for its **habitat work**. In a separate grant, states received funding from NOAA for a regional assessment of ongoing habitat classification/modeling projects, with an eye toward identifying common elements among those efforts. NROC funding will specifically go toward:

a. Enabling states to specify their intended use(s) of and goals for such habitat work
b. A comparison of various efforts underway in New England
c. A workshop to bring the results of a and b together and identify common elements and needs going forward, resulting in the development of specific action items to pursue

NROC will be issuing an RFP for the comparison of approaches work in the next month or so.

Regional Planning Body update (Betsy)

- National Ocean Council has received letters nominating state RPB members from ME, NH, MA, RI and VT. Still waiting on CT. Only 1 out of 10 federally recognized tribes have responded to NOC invitation to join RPB. NOC and Federal co-lead following up with tribal members.
- Per obligation as federal co-lead of RPB, NOAA Coastal Services Center has hired a 1-year contractor to serve as the RPB Executive Secretariat to stand up this new body and assist with communications and advisory committee work that integrates NROC work plan into RPB activities. Katie Lund, formerly serving as MA CZM Program staff, Gulf of Maine Council Habitat Committee co-chair and CSC Fellow, will start with NOAA on July 9.
- NOC has set expectations for the CMSP Handbook to be completed by the end of June, containing all compiled guidance for the RPBs. In NE, we anticipate the first RPB meeting to be held by the end of the summer, following this guidance.

NROC Closing Business

Fall NROC meeting proposed date: Thursday, September 13