



“Reaching across jurisdictional boundaries to solve the regions most pressing ocean and coastal problems.”

**Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts
Rhode Island, Connecticut and Vermont**

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council is a dynamic state/federal partnership that is breaking new ground in the management of the region’s coastal and ocean resources. Created by the New England Governors in response to the US Ocean Action Plan, NROC facilitates progress on regional ocean concerns. NROC works directly with the President's Ocean Policy Committee and its Subcommittee on the Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR), focusing the resources of eleven federal agencies on the New England’s ocean and coastal priorities. Guided by its *Coast and Ocean Action Plan*, NROC’s 2009-2010 work plan includes collaborative state and federal projects that support three regional priorities, Healthy Ocean Ecosystems, Balanced Ocean Energy Development and Storm-Resilient Coastal Communities.

Ocean Ecosystem Health

Healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems support New England’s vitally important fishing, maritime trades, tourism, defense and related sectors. The Council’s 2009-2010 work plan focuses on:

- Effective restoration and protection of coastal habitats on a watershed scale;
- Spatial planning to improve decision-making about new and competing uses in marine waters;
- Other priorities include improving regulatory standards, accelerating priority research, developing ecosystem health indicators, and controlling the spread of invasive species.



Ocean Energy Planning and Management

Energy from renewable ocean wind and tidal power will help meet the regions’ energy needs, create new jobs and increase energy independence. NROC is concerned about sound planning and siting of renewable and fossil-fuel based coastal and ocean energy facilities. The Council’s 2009-2010 work plan focuses on:

- Developing shared data and information requirements for ocean energy projects and streamlining permitting processes; creating a regional strategy to acquire needed information;
- Facilitating the exchange of creative ocean energy approaches among the states;
- Other priorities include improving the assessment of economic impacts, use conflicts and safety concerns of ocean energy projects.

Storm-Resilient Coastal Communities

Billions of dollars in public infrastructure and private property continues to be at risk from coastal storms in New England and projections of the impacts of sea level rise are dire. NROC is working to produce state-of-the-art data and tools to advance planning and response to storms, shoreline erosion, and coastal inundation due to projected sea-level rise from global warming. The Council’s 2009-2010 work plan focuses on:

- Enacting sea level rise adaptation strategies;
- Acquiring data needed to create accurate inundation models; identifying the components of an Integrated Ocean Observing System to support coastal hazards planning and response;
- Developing analytical tools for coastal managers to anticipate and response to climate change.



Through NROC, the Governors of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut have requested \$6.09 million in federal support to advance shared federal and state priorities in the areas of ecosystem health, ocean energy planning and coastal hazards resiliency.