Session Outline

I. Look Back: The NROC Story

II. What is Valued (wordle, anecdotes)

III. Look Forward (discussion)
   a. What has worked/want to sustain
   b. What has not worked/want to drop
   c. Biggest challenges over next 5-10 years
   d. How to best position ourselves
   e. How to stay agile, relevant, true to partnership
Dear Governor Baldacci,

Governor John Baldacci
State of Maine
Office of the Governor
91 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

I write to ask for your assistance in forming a Northeast Regional Oceans Council (NEOCEANS). I first proposed the NEOCEANS in an April letter to each New England Governor. Since then, the New England Governors' Conference agreed to support the formation of the NEOCEANS at the 29th Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECF) in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

It is vital that each New-England state participate. To begin the process, I ask that you appoint the appropriate members of your administration to represent you at an initial meeting of the NEOCEANS formation committee charged with developing the scope and initial issues for the NEOCEANS to discuss.

In addition, the NEG-ECF Conference passed a resolution that will extend our new regional collaboration to the Eastern Canadian provinces. The attached resolution details the desire of Eastern Canadian Premiers to form an Oceans Working Committee that will consist of the NEOCEANS and representatives of the five Eastern Canadian provinces. Through this effort, we have the opportunity to achieve regional cooperation on a larger scale on many issues that do not stop at our individual or international borders.

We must also work closely with the federal government in addressing important coastal and ocean problems. Increasing investments in technology, ocean exploration, water pollution and water monitoring, as well as advancing regional fishery management, aquaculture, and coastal management are just some of the issues to be addressed. Vice Admiral Lautenbach, the "Executive" of Commerce for Oceans and Atmospheric and National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administration, participated in both the NEG-ECF meeting and the Tri-Atlantic NEOCEANS Conference and pledged the support of NOAA as we move forward. EPA Regional Administrator Robert Varney also attended and offered the support of his agency.
NROC – How We Work

Regional common priorities for ocean policy and science

- Councils
  - GOMC and SEA
  - Other orgs.
  - RARGOM, SeaGrant, NERACOOS, JSOST, COMPASS, BOFEP, NEPs, NERRs,

- Northeast Ocean Congress

Regional issues not currently being addressed through other initiatives

- States lead on issue by issue basis
  - Ocean related energy
  - Maritime security
  - Marine technology
  - Hazard resiliency

Annual Action Plan

Priority actions on ocean science and policy

- Federal agencies through SIMOR
- NE Governors through Ocean Working Committee

Action plan on specific issues

State lead efforts
NROC Funds

***Graph does not show the INVALUABLE in-kind support of members and partners each year!!***
NROC 10th Anniversary Word Cloud
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