

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Northeast Regional Ocean Council

and

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding:

- (1) **Northeast Regional Ocean Council**, heretofore referred to as NROC, is a state and federal partnership that facilitates the New England states, federal agencies, regional organizations, and other interested regional groups in addressing ocean and coastal issues that benefit from a regional response. It is NROC's mission to provide a voluntary forum for New England states and federal partners to coordinate and collaborate on regional approaches to support balanced uses and conservation of the Northeast region's ocean and coastal resources. <http://northeastoceanCouncil.org/about/>

- (2) **Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment**, heretofore referred to as GOMC, is a Canadian-American regional partnership that provides collaborative leadership on cross-border issues such as ecosystem conditions, water quality, and climate change within the Gulf of Maine watershed. This forum engages governmental and nongovernmental representatives in a comprehensive approach to management, emphasizing natural linkages over political boundaries and integrating ecological, economic and societal goals. The Council's work to protect and enhance environmental quality and allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations is made possible by volunteer and financial support from many partners. <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/gomc-about-the-council/>

Mutual Interests:

The organizations and institutions that comprise the membership of NROC and GOMC share common interests and public mandates to protect, conserve and wisely manage natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Both organizations support activities to promote healthy and resilient coastal and ocean ecosystems and to address the impacts of climate change on environmental and human health. In order to foster strong regional communication, centered on the shared geography of the Gulf of Maine, the NROC and the GOMC propose to work collaboratively to leverage information, data, best practices and communication vehicles to the benefit of the people who rely on the resources of the Gulf of Maine.

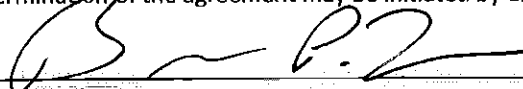
Agreed upon interactions:

- (1) Foster regular communication and information sharing.
 - a. Build communication links on specified topics between standing committees:
 - i. Environment and Human Health
 1. NROC-NERACOOS: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health
 2. GOMC: Ecosystem Indicator Partnership
 - ii. Climate Change
 1. NROC-NERACOOS: Coastal Hazards Resilience
 2. GOMC: Climate Network
 - iii. Ocean Planning
 1. NROC: Ocean Planning
 2. GOMC: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

- b. Provide annual progress reports from NROC to GOMC and from GOMC to NROC on current and emerging priorities and work plans, on joint activities that have occurred during the intervening year, and on policy issues or changes that may affect the interactions between the two organizations.
- (2) Identify opportunities to share best practices, lessons learned and capabilities.
- a. Relay examples that are applicable to both Canadians and Americans and might be deployed within the Gulf of Maine and to adjacent regions in Atlantic Canada and Southern New England.
 - b. Provide technical sessions to transfer technical requirements, tools and know how.
- (3) Collaborate, whenever feasible, on planning regional workshops, webinars and other information sharing venues of mutual interest to NROC and GOMC.

Duration and termination of Agreement

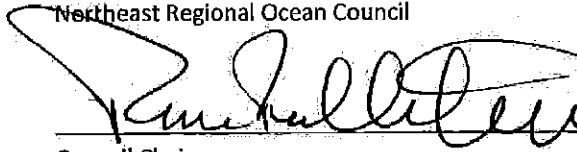
The duration of this agreement will be for one year, from the date of signing. Renewal will be automatic unless specifically terminated. Amendment of the agreement may be made at any time, by signature of both parties. Termination of the agreement may be initiated by either party in writing with a notice period of 30 days.



State Co-Chair *Brian P. Thompson*
Northeast Regional Ocean Council

6/17/14

Date



Council Chair
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

6/16/14

Date