



## **NROC Meeting**

### **November 15, 2018**

University of Southern Maine  
Abromson Center, Room 214 / 215  
88 Bedford Street, Portland, Maine

### **Meeting Briefing Packet**

*Call-in and Webex Information, p. 2*

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### **Conference Call and WebEx Information for the Meeting**

#### **Conference Call Access Information**

Call In: 1 877-680-1673  
Passcode: 1993954#

#### **WebEx Information**

Meeting Number: 744921075 Meeting Passcode: 4927573

Meeting Host: MS ADRIANNE R HARRISON Join Instructions for Instant Net Conference:

1. Join the meeting now:

<http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=744921075&p=4927573&t=c>

2. Enter the required fields.

3. Indicate that you have read the Privacy Policy.

4. Click on Proceed. Audio is through the conference line.

<b>NROC Meeting Agenda</b> <b>Thursday, 15 November 2018</b> <b>University of Southern Maine, Abromson Center, Rm 214/215, 88 Bedford Street, Portland, ME</b>	
9:15 AM	<b>Arrive and Networking</b>
9:30 AM	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <i>NROC Co-Chairs: Matthew Nixon ME and Rick Bennett USFWS</i>
9:40 AM	<b>News from NROC Executive Committee</b> <i>Matthew Nixon ME</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NROC Funding Status, (p. 4)</li> <li>• Nominating NROC representatives to NERACOOS Board</li> </ul>
9:50 AM	<b>NROC Partners</b> <i>Highlights and opportunities for collaboration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NERACOOS – <i>Ru Morrison, (pp. 5-6)</i></li> <li>• Northeast Sea Grant Consortium – <i>Sylvain De Guise, CT Sea Grant</i></li> <li>• Gulf of Maine Council – <i>Prassede Vella, MA CZM (pp. 6-7)</i></li> <li>• North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative – <i>Rick Bennett USFWS</i></li> </ul>
10:30 AM	<b>Roundtable Discussion and Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NROC member organizations – priority projects and opportunities for collaboration</li> <li>• New England Federal Partners – <i>Rick Bennett USFWS</i></li> <li>• Other audience news / updates</li> </ul>
11:15 AM	<b>NROC Committee Initiatives / Work Plan Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ocean Planning Committee – <i>Ted Diers NH and Mel Cote EPA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advancing Northeast ocean management priorities in context of the Administration's new Ocean Policy. (p. 9)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:15 PM	<b>Lunch Break</b> – lunch on your own
1:15 PM	<b>NROC Committee Initiatives / Work Plan Development</b> (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee – <i>Steve Couture NH, Regina Lyons EPA, Jeffrey Runge GMRI / NERACOOS</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) (p. 5, 9)</li> <li>○ Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) (pp. 5-6, 9)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee - <i>Julia Knisel MA and Adrienne Harrison NOAA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CHR Committee will share results of recent discussion on topics for a regional workshop or similar event and ask for feedback on topics. (p. 9)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:15 PM	<b>CoastWise: Developing Science-based, Climate Resilient Practices for Community-based Replacement of Tidal Road Crossings that Support Coastal Wetland Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ellen Bartow-Gillies, Coastal Management Fellow, Maine Coastal Program</i></li> </ul>
2:30 PM	<b>Sand Management Committee Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Grover Fugate, RI CRMC</i></li> </ul>
2:45 PM	<b>Other Business / Passing the Rock to Next Co-Chairs</b> – <i>Steve Couture NH and Regina Lyons EPA</i>
3:00 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>

## NROC Executive Committee Update

### Funding Status

NROC is currently operating on funding from the following sources:

1. FY2016 NOAA Regional Coastal Resilience Grant Award
  - Project: *High Resolution Coastal Inundation Modeling (Track 1) and Advancement of Green Infrastructure and Living Shoreline Approaches in the Northeast (Track 2)*. Remaining funds are focused on project close-out and outreach for Track 2.
  - Total Award: \$891,243 (including \$44,550 for NROC)
  - Funding Period: Extended through April 2019.
  - Lead: NERACOOS
  - Partners: NROC, UMaine, NH DES, UNH, UMass Dartmouth, URI, UConn / CIRCA, ME Coastal Program, MA CZM, RICRMC, The Nature Conservancy, GMRI and others
  
2. FY2017 NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant
  - Project: *Increasing Resilience and Reducing Risk through Successful Application of Nature-based Coastal Infrastructure in New England*
  - Total Award: \$999,999 (including \$50,687 for NROC)
  - Lead: The Nature Conservancy
  - Partners: NROC, ME Coastal Program, NH Coastal Program, NH DES, MA CZM, RI CRMC, UConn / CIRCA, and local partners
  - Funding Period: October 2017 to September 2020
  
3. FY2018 NOAA / NOS / NCCOS
  - Project: *Developing Predictive Model of Ocean and Coastal Acidification Thresholds from Long Island Sound to the Nova Scotian Shelf*
  - Total Award: \$498,000 (including \$20,000 for NROC)
  - Lead: NERACOOS
  - Partners: NROC, UMass Dartmouth, UNH, GMRI, Wells NERR, NH Sea Grant, UMaine, others
  - Funding Period: September 2018 through August 2021
  
4. Funding for NROC Ocean Planning activities will be discussed during the November 14th Ocean Planning Meeting and an update will be provided during the NROC November 15 meeting.

### *Observing System*

The third year of funding has begun for NERACOOS' main award that will continue to support observations, modeling, and data management efforts in the Gulf of Maine, Southern New England and Long Island Sound. NERACOOS is happy to share that through recent budget increases NERACOOS will be able to sustain the deployment of the nutrient observatory (see more detailed update below) and initiate new glider surveys in the Gulf of Maine. Neal Pettigrew and his team at UMaine will deploy a glider survey between the seven buoys they operate, which will include transects between George's, Wilkinson's and Jordan's Basins. An additional glider survey will be conducted by Mark Baumgartner at WHOI, which will monitor oceanographic conditions and baleen whale occurrence in the Gulf of Maine.

### *Integrated Nutrient Observatory Development*

The NERACOOS Integrated Nutrient Observatory project is in the process of wrapping up sensor deployment activities supported by the IOOS Ocean Technology Transition funding. Over the past 4 years NERACOOS partners at UMaine, UNH, URI, and UConn have tested and integrated nutrient sensors into their mooring and dock based monitoring systems. NERACOOS will be hosting a series of webinars in early 2019 that will highlight the successes, lessons learned and data collected by this technology transition project. The sensors supported by this project are also transitioning into an operational component of NERACOOS. Many of the nutrient sensors that were tested and deployed during this project will continue to operate with support from NERACOOS and EPA.

### *Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN)*

NECAN continues to be active throughout the region. NECAN hosted a series of citizen science workshops (ME, MA and CT) in the spring of 2018 to better assess and integrate water quality monitoring efforts throughout the region. NECAN also continues to host webinars and is currently hosting a series focused on industry. A list of upcoming webinars and recordings of previous webinars are available on the [NECAN website here](#). The NECAN Steering Committee continues to work on the implementation plan, which is [available here](#). The working groups of NECAN (Policy, Education and Outreach, Industry, and Science) have also been very active in recent months. If you'd like to learn more about these working groups or become involved in their efforts please contact Emily Silva ([emily@neracoos.org](mailto:emily@neracoos.org)) who will connect you with the appropriate working group.

Also, if you're interested in ocean and coastal acidification be sure to check out the OA Information Exchange, [www.oainfoexchange.org](http://www.oainfoexchange.org). This collaborative website is a great place to learn more about ocean and coastal acidification and to connect with others in the field. For more information contact Julianna Mullen, [julianna@neracoos.org](mailto:julianna@neracoos.org).

### *Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN)*

ISMN, which is a joint project of NROC and NERACOOS, is moving forward with efforts as outlined in the [Science and Implementation Plan](#) to establish the Center for Analysis Prediction and Evaluation (CAPE). A solicitation to participate in the ISMN Oversight Committee will be forthcoming in the fall of 2018, as well as a data integration workshop in the spring of 2019.

### *New Projects - Inundation and OA forecasting*

NERACOOS and their partners were recently awarded two new grants. The first is from the IOOS Coastal Ocean Modeling Testbed program. The goal for this 3-year project is to deliver improved ocean and

coastal inundation forecast products to key end users in the Northeast where severe weather events cause coastal inundation, flooding, erosion and other damages. The second award is from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program. The project will focus on the development of a predictive model for ocean acidification thresholds in the Northeast. Efforts begin in the fall of 2018 for both projects and will include a significant stakeholder engagement component.

For more information about NERACOOS and any of these projects please contact Ru Morrison [ru.morrison@neracoos.org](mailto:ru.morrison@neracoos.org)

## Partner Update – Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

### Working Group and Council Meetings

(1) A joint Council and Working Group meeting was held June 5-6, 2018 at NOAA's offices (GARFO) in Gloucester, MA. Meeting highlights included: 1) final review of the GOMC 2018 – 2022 Framework for Action which will replace the previous 5-year Action Plan; 2) approval of a new 2-year Work Plan; 3) approval of proposed new work plan initiative to address marine debris in the Gulf of Maine (focusing on reducing pollution from single-use plastics); 4) and discussions about the GOM 2050 symposium to be held in November 2019. Guest speakers at the June 2018 meeting gave presentations on Extreme Flooding in the Gulf of Maine (C. Ward, New Brunswick DELG, and J. Knisel, MA CZM), Regional Climate Trends and NOAA's National Water Model (D. Vallee, NOAA), Right Whales in the Gulf of Maine (M. Asaro, NOAA) Presentations are available at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/council-meetings/>. At the end of the two-day meeting, New Brunswick Secretariat passed off leadership to Maine Secretariat for the next two years.

### GOMC Framework for Action 2018 – 2022

The Council approved the Framework for Action 2018 – 2022 available at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/GOMC-Framework-for-Action-2018-2022-2.11MB.pdf>. This is a streamlined document that highlights accomplishments during the past five years and sets out goals and outcomes for the upcoming five-year period. The goals and outcomes provide a framework for more detailed GOMC actions included in the separate GOMC 2-year Work Plan.

### GOMC Awards Program

GOMC hosted the 2018 GOMC Awards reception at the Gloucester House in Gloucester, MA on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Awards were given to individuals and organizations from the all the states and provinces around the Gulf of Maine (although New Hampshire had by far the biggest slew of awardees!). The work of these people is aimed to benefit the protection and improvement of the Gulf of Maine and its environs. Information awards this year's award recipients is available at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/gomc-home/awards/>

### Gulf of Maine 2050 – International Symposium

Gulf of Maine 2050 (GOM 2050) is a 5-day international symposium to be held November 4-8, 2019 at the Westin Portland Harborview in Portland, ME. Partner organizations include GOMC, GMRI, NERACOOS, RARGOM, and Huntsman Marine (New Brunswick). GOM 2050 will address climate related impacts, acidification, warming and sea level rise, which will drive changes in the Gulf of Maine over the

next 30 years. The goal of the symposium is to integrate environmental, economic, social, and institutional perspectives on emerging climate challenges and opportunities. It will bring together multiple science disciplines, natural resource managers, municipal planners, representatives from key industries, a diverse mix of community leaders, NGO's, and the donor community to understand of how the Gulf of Maine is expected to change in the next 30 years. GOM 2050 will build a shared vision of regional resilience, identify steps necessary to achieve that vision, and activate new collaborations for action. As part of the planning and preparation for the Symposium a workshop will take place during April 2019 in New Brunswick. GOMC is represented on the steering committee by Judy Pederson, Rob Stephenson, Ru Morrison, Jason Tuell, Ellen Mecray, Theresa Torrent and several others.

#### Gulfwatch Monitoring Program

With no current funding, routine sampling, archiving and analysis have come to an end. In 2016, Gulfwatch worked with NOAA's Musselwatch program. Results are being analyzed. Gulfwatch will continue to pursue NOAA in-kind support to measure contaminants of emerging concern in mussels collected by the program. Gulfwatch has been working in collaboration with ESIP to assemble and evaluate data from a sediment study for the Bay of Fundy.

#### EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)

ESIP activities are focused on 1) completing ECCC Gulf of Maine Initiative in 2019 looking at eutrophication and contaminants in the Bay of Fundy, 2) supporting GMRI projects in the future, 3) working with St. John River Society to set up additional ICUC sites, and 4) continuing to monitor and support ESIP's Indicator Reporting Tool. Potential opportunities include linking with the Northeast data portal and utilizing ICUC sites to monitor living shorelines projects.

**To:** Northeast Regional Ocean Council members and partners  
**From:** Eric Roberts, Coastal Resilience Specialist at The Nature Conservancy  
**Subject:** Fall Meeting Update regarding the project, *Increasing Resilience and Reducing Risk Through Successful Application of Nature Based Coastal Infrastructure Practices in New England*  
**Date:** November 2, 2018

Brief updates were last provided at the April 27, 2018 NROC meeting and more recently on the October 25 Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee conference call. Progress highlights since the April 27 update include the following:

- The contract with the NROC Coordinator, Ms. Joan LeBlanc, was finalized and executed on May 25. Ms. LeBlanc is providing a range of administrative, coordination, and technical support to advance project implementation.
- Project partners (NROC, the state Coastal Zone programs in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut/the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, and The Nature Conservancy) convened a day-long workshop on May 30. Approximately 60 participants from state and federal agencies worked in small groups to identify and document a range of metrics for site suitability assessment, as-built, and performance monitoring project phases for several different living shoreline project types and common project goals.
- A literature review of monitoring metrics for living shorelines, the presentations delivered by federal agency partners at the May 30 workshop as well as small group discussion notes, and ongoing engagement with project partners and other researchers working on related projects are informing the development of the Draft New England Living Shorelines Monitoring Metrics and Protocols Guide. The document will provide guidance for site suitability assessment and pre and post-construction monitoring activities to assess the performance of living shoreline projects in New England. Project partners reviewed an initial draft; updates and revisions based on partner feedback are ongoing. A working draft version will be completed shortly, applied at existing and pilot project sites, and refined in year 3 of the grant.
- State partners with pilot project design/permit/build tasks continue in various stages of progress. Project construction is likely to occur in early 2019, with contractor selection, site suitability analysis, design, and permitting activities ongoing until early 2019.
- Outreach and education activities are ongoing. A few highlights include: 1) the project team was invited to present on the project at the Restoring America's Estuaries conference in California in December. 2) MA CZM co-convened a "Green Solutions" workshop on April 12 with Waquoit Bay NERR that focused on living shorelines and featured a presentation on the regional project; a similar workshop, "Engineering with Nature to Protect Rhode Island Shorelines" was also convened in Rhode Island on April 10. 3) TNC presented on the project at the United States Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Engineering Research Board on August 7-9. Partners also drafted a two-page issue and project overview handout.
- Partners held initial conversations with representatives of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal and MyCoast to discuss opportunities to house and display the monitoring data once it is collected.
- Partners connected with representatives of related projects and identified potential opportunities for collaboration. For example, the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay is leading a similar project to develop a monitoring framework for natural and nature-based features in New York; colleagues in New York expressed interest in holding a joint meeting or conference call to share information and approaches. Similarly, the National Wildlife Federation, working in partnership with the Coastal States Organization, is conducting a 2-year project focused on policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities related to living shorelines. Both of these projects represent opportunities to both share information and incorporate lessons learned into the New England regional project.

For additional information, please contact Eric Roberts ([eric.roberts@tnc.org](mailto:eric.roberts@tnc.org)) or Joan LeBlanc ([jleblanc@northeastoceancouncil.org](mailto:jleblanc@northeastoceancouncil.org)).



## NROC Committee Initiatives

### **Ocean Planning Committee**

During the November 15 Council meeting, NROC will discuss outcomes from the Ocean Planning Committee meeting on the previous day (November 14<sup>th</sup>). The expected outcomes from the November 14 meeting include the identification of regional ocean management and planning priorities, including regional data priorities, specific activities and a recommended structure for advancing those priorities within NROC, and recommendations for communicating regional priorities to the federal Ocean Policy Committee set up under Executive Order 13840. Leading up to the meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>, NROC has been conducting outreach to participants in the regional ocean planning process to obtain input on potential regional priorities from a range of agency and stakeholder perspectives. This input will form the basis for discussions. More information for the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, including an agenda, can be found here: <https://neoplan.org/event/fall-2018-ocean-planning-meeting/>. Additional meeting materials will be added during the week leading up to the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee**

See information regarding Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) and Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) included within the NERACOOS partner update on page 5 of this meeting packet. Ru Morrison and / or Jackie Motyka of NERACOOS will provide highlights about these two initiatives during the meeting.

### **Coastal Hazards Resilience Committee**

The CHR Committee met in October to discuss recent data collection by USACE in NE, share updates on current resilience related projects and policies, and explore topics for a NROC sponsored workshop in the next 12-18 months. Highlights from the Committee call include:

- USACE working to develop standard methods for collecting dune features as part of their coastal LiDAR and imagery data collection efforts.
- A few common themes from state and partner report outs emerged from the call. These also became the focus for a future workshop type event.
  - Building connections between coastal science/research and coastal managers. Example: Exploring connections between USGS centers and coastal management needs in NE
  - Peer to peer discussion of approaches to developing policies and options for retreat. NH work in Hampton. Results from discussion session at RAE Summit. Additional legal/policy analysis needs.
  - Review of recent SLR projections and guidance incorporating newest projections. Compare approaches, projections, and guidance across NE states. Share lessons.
  - Opportunities for developing common metrics for topics beyond living shorelines.

**Northeast Regional Ocean Council**  
**April 27, 2018 Meeting – NH Department of Environmental Services, Portsmouth, NH**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees**

Rick Bennett, USFWS (NROC Federal Chair); Leann Bullin, BOEM; Jamie Carter, NOAA; Mandy Chestnutt, NFWF (remote); Bridget Cotti-Rausch, EPA / CSO; Steve Couture, NH DES; Michele DesAutels, USCG D1; Kerby Dobbs, BOEM Marine Minerals Division; Claire Enterline, ME (remote); Peter Francis; CT DEEP; Grover Fugate, RI CRMC; Kirsten Howard; NH DES; David Kaiser, NOAA; Julia Knisel; David Kaiser (GLD meeting); MA CZM; Alix Laferriere, NH TNC; Joan LeBlanc, NROC; Julia Lewis; USCG D1; Regina Lyons, US EPA; Trevor Mattera, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership; Peter Murdoch, USGS; Ivy Mlsna, US EPA; Nick Napoli, NROC; Becca Newhall, NOAA; Matthew Nixon, ME (NROC State Chair); Larry Oliver, USACE; Jeff Reidenauer, BOEM Marine Minerals Division; Eric Roberts, TNC; Jeff Waldner, BOEM Marine Minerals Division; Jeff Willis, RI CRMC

**Updates**

NROC Executive Committee

Matt Nixon provided an Executive Committee update regarding the status of NROC funding from the following three sources: 1) NOAA Regional Coastal Resilience Grant – NERACOOS, 2) Moore Foundation and in-kind Ocean Planning funds, and 3) NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant – TNC.

*Additional detail included in the meeting Briefing Packet.*

NERACOOS / NROC Proposal to NCCOS

Matt Nixon reported that NERACOOS submitted a proposal titled “A Generic Predictive Model for Ocean and Coastal Acidification Thresholds from Long Island Sound to the Nova Scotian Shelf”. Proposal includes \$50,000 over three years for NROC to help coordinate stakeholder involvement in workshops, and to communicate and coordinate project efforts with state and federal managers.

*Additional detail about this proposal as well as NERACOOS updates about federal data certification, integrated nutrient observatory development, and Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) are included in the meeting Briefing Packet.*

Gulf of Maine Council

Rebecca Newhall provided an update regarding GOMC activities including plans for a two-day in person meeting and awards reception in Gloucester, MA, June 5-6, 2018. GOMC is also working with partner agencies (NERACOOS, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Huntsman Marine and RARGOM) to plan a multi-day symposium to be held in Portland, ME during the fall of 2019.

*Additional detail included in the meeting Briefing Packet.*

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC)

Rick Bennett provided an update regarding the NALCC. LCCs have been proposed to receive zero funding in the President’s FY18 and 19 budgets. In FY 2018, Congress restored funding; however, the structure and function of the LCCs are being discussed with the administration. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working collaboratively with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to identify the function, governance and structure that works best for State / Federal collaborative partnerships.

The goal is to identify a cooperative relationship that facilitates large-scale landscape conservation that is supported by the States and the administration.

#### **Key Points from Audience Updates / Announcements / Opportunities**

- Bridget Cotti-Rausch is working as an EPA / CSO program fellow over the next year. With EPA seeking to increase understanding of coastal programs, Bridget will be looking for common themes and bringing information back to headquarters.
- Betsy Nicholson announced completion of a new publication from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, "[The Economic Contributions of Working Waterfronts](#)" – will debut at the National Working Waterfronts Symposium in a few weeks. This publication provides a methodology for use by local leaders to estimate the economic contribution of their working waterfront or 'local ocean economy'. It will be a companion to the online tutorial.
- Betsy also provided an update regarding NOAA's [Green Infrastructure Effectiveness Database](#), a tool to help decision-makers understand the effectiveness of green infrastructure in protecting people and property from impacts of coastal storms and sea level rise. The database includes searchable literature sources from 1980 to 2018 about the effectiveness of using green infrastructure for reducing coastal hazards.
- Rebecca Newhall noted that [NOAA's Digital Coast](#) has a number of upcoming training opportunities and tools, including: 1) Planning and Facilitating Collaborative Meetings; 2) Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience; and 3) Coastal County Snapshots with economic benefits, exposure and resilience to flooding etc.
- Regina Lyons noted that EPA's Region 1 Administrator is Alexandra Dunn who previously served as Executive Director of the Environmental Council of States. Staff are supportive of coastal programs. Recent budget includes funding for National Estuary Programs (NEP) including a \$1 million competitive grant program. Funding for NEPs not included in the President's budget for FY19.
- Leann Bullin reported that BOEM plans to hold auction for two lease areas off the coast of Massachusetts to develop commercial wind power. A webinar was held on April 26 to discuss auction format and details. A 60-day comment period for the proposed auction began on April 11, 2018. BOEM will also host public open houses during May 2018 to facilitate communication with the fishing industry.
- Jamie Carter noted that NERACOOS, Wells NERR and others are hosting a drone workshop focusing on technology. This will be a three-day invite-only workshop to document the practical uses of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs, commonly known as drones) to management applications in coastal zones. The workshop will focus on documenting and exploring requirements for two main management areas: (a) Habitat mapping and change, and (b) Human use and human impacts. Participants will be invited to effectively represent the private sector, academia, and management agencies.
- Michele DesAutels provided an update regarding USCG D1 leadership and activities. A new Captain will be coming in with a focus on prevention, marine planning and protection. On April 24-25, USCG D1 hosted an Offshore Wind Workshop along with other districts and

headquarters. The workshop provided networking connections and information about leasing and offshore service inspections.

- Larry Oliver noted that the feasibility study and environmental impact statement for dredging New Haven Harbor in CT is expected to be complete this June. The coastal flood risk management project in CT is moving into the alternatives analysis phase.
- Trevor Mattera noted that PREP has released its 2018 State of the Estuaries Report and has now moved on to updating their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.
- USGS products funded under Hurricane Sandy are now coming out. A variety of new tools and models are available. USGS is looking for states to partner on a pilot project to develop tools for predicting or planning around 'compound flooding'. This effort may become part of NOAA's National Water Model. Locations have not yet been selected – NH, MA and RI expressed interest.
- Betsy Nicholson noted that the FY18 Omnibus includes \$30M in funding for coastal resilience grants, which will be run through a partnership between Office for Coastal Management and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Timing may be as soon as June on an RFP.
- Matt Nixon noted that the Coastal States Organization will host their summit December 8-13, 2018 in Long Beach, California. NROC may want to host a panel.
- Grover Fugate reported that RI has been studying the links between sea level rise and flooding. They have high resolution data for coasts and rivers.

#### Regional Planning Body Updates – Nick Napoli

- Northeast Regional Planning Body will meet on June 21 in Warwick, RI. The Block Island Windfarm Tour will take place on June 20 at 3:00 PM. Anyone interested in attending the tour should let Nick know as soon as possible.
- Maps for planned offshore wind areas are now up on portal (vessel monitoring used the most so far). Other elements are being finalized now. Anyone interested in early access should let Nick know.
- RPB received another grant from the Moore Foundation to look at transitioning financial support for the portal away from private foundations. Funding for the portal will run out in 2020 unless new sources are identified. Anyone with input for potential funding scenarios should contact Nick. One option is to explore financial contributions from those who utilize and benefit from data sets that will end up on the portal (e.g. wind energy companies). Nick will follow up with NROC ocean planning committee.

#### **Habitat Classification and Ocean Mapping (HCOM) Workshop**

The committee continues to track various state and federal program's mapping needs and plans in [SeaSketch](#). HCOM may have a 2019 / 2020 winter meeting focused on data needs, plans and understanding of capacity throughout the region.

Claire Enterline and Rebecca Newhall provided an overview from a March 2018 workshop on **Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS)** led by HCOM. CMECS is a method for classifying and comparing sites by looking at several components such as water column, geofom, substrate, and biota. Next meeting will focus on best practices / making sure maps can be applied on regional basis

and determining how to classify / how to get the data. HCOM may consider giving a presentation as part of the Gulf of Maine Symposium.

### **Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee**

Steve Couture, Regina Lyons and Ivy Mlsna provided updates from the Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee.

- NEERS held a workshop on marsh resilience and migration on April 26<sup>th</sup> which built off many conversations started at previous NROC marsh resiliency workshops. Approximately 100 people attended. Salt marsh grass plantings showed some success but need adaptive management. Hosting a communications workshop might be a good next step.
- In December, NROC co-hosted an Ocean and Coastal Acidification Monitoring Workshop with NECAN. Approximately 25-30 people attended. A [workshop report](#) is available on the NECAN website.
- NECAN will host a webinar series over the summer to revisit state of science in the region.
- Potential grant funding for NECAN would include some funds for NROC coordination.
- Key points from discussion about OCA mitigation:
  - Seawater is monitored for pH or other parameters for growing spat / water quality can then be adjusted to support the spat.
  - Limits and / or bans to reduce fertilizer inputs can help.
  - Since EPA will not be regulating OA at the Clean Water Act level / potential policy decisions at local level should be considered.
  - Microscale treatment of aquaculture sites is currently focusing on nutrient management.
  - Managing landscape is the best tool right now.
  - Island Institute has pilot utilizing kelp to buffer pH around oysters / also looking at crushed oyster shells.
  - One of the current challenges is not viewing broader ecosystem impacts.
  - EPA has released its publication "*Guidelines for Measuring Changes in Seawater pH and Associated Carbonate Chemistry in Coastal Environments of the Eastern United States*"
  - Casco Bay NEP has a proposal in to EPA to conduct a pilot project on how to potentially use shell hash to mitigate ocean acidification.
  - The Nature Conservancy has created a new coalition involving shellfish farms.

### **Ocean Planning Committee**

#### Regional Planning Body (RPB) Update

Nick Napoli reported that RPB has selected Coastal State Stewardship Foundation as their fiscal sponsor. NROC could potentially collaborate with CSSF on other initiatives. Nick noted that additional funding is needed to support both the NROC and MARCO portals and he will be developing potential options for funding. Cost is approximately \$300,000 - \$600,000 / year for maintenance, not including federal products from shipping and fisheries data, etc. More involvement and support from agencies would be needed to further reduce costs. Depending upon the direction of federal policy, ocean planning work for RPB could potentially be moved to the NROC's ocean planning committee.

### Sand Management Update and Next Steps

Jeff Reidenauer and Jeff Waldner provided a report from the April 26 Workshop in Portsmouth, NH. The workshop focused on roles and responsibilities of agencies regarding offshore sand management and placement. Jeff Waldner reviewed case studies for responsible offshore sediment management. Matrix similar to that used for the NROC living shorelines workshop was used. Focused on challenges and opportunities.

Key outcomes from the workshop:

- Need to do baseline studies and data collection on ecological conditions. Look at leveraging / cooperating with states.
- Group is committed to meeting regularly / potentially in sync with NROC meetings. A matrix and summary report from the meeting will be forthcoming.
- BOEM will be rolling out a new marine minerals system website. Will feature robust data set - grab samples, geophysics, interpretation of sand resource areas, etc. Currently meeting with states to provide data management tools so that system will eventually be 'plug n play'. Already met with ME and NH and will meet with MA, RI and NY later.
- A project would need to be of significant scale (~10 - 20 million cy) to move forward. Although there has been no significant extraction in New England yet, the intent is to promote informed, proactive vs. reactionary decisions.
- Betsy Nicholson noted that NOAA put \$3K at NERACOOS that is supposed to be used to support the next sand committee meeting / event. Co-chairs, please use it.

### RPB Restoration Sub-committee Report

Ivy Mlsna and Larry Oliver provided an update regarding RPB Restoration Sub-Committee activities. The group is moving forward with data portal update to include completed projects. This strategy will help identify gaps, needs, and highlight priority projects or ideas for states. NOAA restoration portal and Corps projects are being added first. Will include a map of projects with brief description, project cost and phase. An updated, easy to use portal should be an incentive to increase use of the portal. Partners can decide what information they want to submit for inclusion in the portal. NROC members should provide recommendations for projects to their representative on the subcommittee.

### **Hazards**

Julia Knisel provided a presentation and facilitated discussion regarding recent storm activity, damage to the States' shorelines and Federal properties, and needs / potential partnerships and synergies regarding recovery. NROC members were asked to provide damage assessments and / or other needs based on impacts from the Nor'easters in March 2018.

Key points from the discussion:

- Federal partners looking to see if new definition of 100-year storm is needed.
- With five storms taking place over a short period, cumulative impacts were a major factor leading to damage as many coastal areas were already compromised by previous storms.
- Storm prediction tools were helpful to show communities what areas were likely to experience flooding, particularly during smaller storms.
- The level of storms from this past winter may be the new normal for the future.

Federal and state partner needs / concerns following the storms.

- Need to figure out how to use the science from Hurricane Sandy to improve tools for predicting erosion and sea level rise.
- Department of Transportation and Parks Department need to have baseline information to better understand and plan for response to coastal storm damage. NH example - lack of records about historic berm elevations made re-grading and putting materials back onto the beach more challenging.
- Need to address the cumulative impact of these storms. During one storm sand is removed from the coast but then comes back. With multiple storms, sand has left the system and is gone for good. Impact will be accelerated erosion with lack of recovery.
- There is a need to figure out where we need to retreat.
- Creating a permitting approach linked to scenario mapping is important.
- Need to address the liability component / informing about risk. With studies available, municipalities, developers, builders and consultants all have liability exposure.
- Funding is needed to enable USGS to deploy research tools.
- Northeast states need a regional plan outlining how they should respond to sea level rise but do not have money to fund this effort.
- Developers should focus on designs that incorporate sea level rise, storm surge, and erosion. However, there are big discrepancies among some estimates (NOAA / ACOE).
- There is a disconnect between coastal predictions and infrastructure designs because no state DOT has a coastal engineer on staff.
- Need to look at contaminants (sources and sinks) as well as sea level rise / saltwater intrusion.
- May be a need for a hazards workshop this Fall to focus on tools. MA will have a new tool available to forecast 10-20 years in June. Could focus on Atlantic coast / high energy or move inland to look at watershed impacts.
- Julia Knisel will take the recommendation for a hazards workshop and the needs raised during the meeting back to the committee to discuss and come up with recommendations.

### **Geographic Location Description (GLD) Use and the RPB's Data Portal**

During a luncheon meeting, NROC state representatives met with David Kaiser from NOAA to discuss GLD and the potential for using data on the NE Ocean Data Portal to support expansion of GLDs if that is desired by states. Creating a GLD does not prohibit any activity but pushes federal consistency review into offshore areas. States would then have more involvement in review of offshore oil and gas proposals.

BOEM has been directed to look at every area of the continental shelf over the next 5 years to determine what areas to open or close for potential oil / gas activities. Depending on recommendations and industry interest, the program could lead to lease sales in North Atlantic. There is little interest in North Atlantic now because there is better oil elsewhere and there is a lack of infrastructure (pipelines, shipping etc.) to support off-shore drilling.

Phases of the program:

1. Identify areas open / closed
2. Lease sale

3. Exploration plan would be filed by industry that gets lease
4. Propose development

GLDs come into play during Phase 3. If an exploratory plan is located within a GLD, then CZM would review. Even without a GLD, states can request an opportunity to review. Creating a GLD requires showing coastal effects. To make a successful case for a GLD, the area must be defined, and the state's need to show effects on interests (uses, resources, economy, environment) supported with information. Data in the portal can be a first step to evaluating and identifying a GLD. To trigger review, a GLD would need to be in place before an application is filed for exploration.

Creating a regional GLD may be possible if it's part of a regional ocean plan. States could come together to create regional GLD for oil and gas but each state would still need their own proposals for GLD as part of their coastal programs. Geography would have to be driving force, i.e. would need to show that oil and gas activity would impact the entire region based upon geographic features.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Update on the National and Targeted Watershed Coastal Resilience Assessments**

Mandy Chestnutt provided an update regarding NFWF National and Targeted Watershed Coastal Resilience Assessments. Their first coastal resilience grants began after Hurricane Sandy when \$102 million was awarded to 54 projects. They are now reviewing these projects to assess impact.

- Started by identifying resiliency hubs and then determining coastal impact on these open areas.
- Conducting national level assessment and targeted watershed assessments.
- Working to identify areas on the landscape where investments in conservation will benefit both human and community resiliency
  - The model looks at protected areas and privately owned open space - leads to resiliency hubs (public) and open space hubs (privately owned)
- Exposure Index = Threat Index + Asset Index

Final products will be rolled out in July. Workshops in targeted watersheds will take place in September. Also looking at case studies to give the model a reality check. Will build knowledge from case studies back into model.

#### **Questions / Answers**

- What type of projects? Beach and dune restoration, flood plain restoration, coastally based larger scale restoration projects. Focus on natural vs. hard infrastructure.
- What about vulnerability / community risks? May help communities identify vulnerabilities, help prioritize restorations. Example – Overlaying salt marsh sparrow habitat with resiliency hubs helps prioritize species protection and piggyback on resiliency efforts.
- Any update on NFWF – NOAA coastal resilience grants? Amount of funds and focus area should be known soon / possible RFP in June.

### **Living Shorelines II Update**

Eric Roberts from The Nature Conservancy provided an update on current accomplishments, goals and next steps for the Living Shorelines II project. Issues highlighted in the 'State of the Practice Report' - lack of information, and policy factors impeding use of living shorelines – are driving the current project.



Current focus is evaluating effectiveness of projects, raising awareness throughout the region, and creating policy guidance.

Key progress since October 2017:

- Most subaward contracts with states are in place
- Currently drafting contract scope for NROC Coordinator
- Eric was hired in January (60% grant / 40% TNC)
- Project work – some NEPA process still needed
- Held kick-off meeting in February

Next steps:

- Create monitoring protocols workshop
- Reach out to federal partners for agenda feedback
- Putting together case studies to guide small group conversations
- States – ME, RI, MA identifying pilot sites
- December 2018 – conference
- May 30, 2018, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM – Workshop in Gloucester to develop standardized metrics and data for project goals as they relate to different living shoreline projects. Ex. shoreline erosion. 4 sites in NH will be monitored with protocols.
- NROC members recommended the following resources be considered: 1) Delaware and NJ have metrics already, 2) USGS is overseeing project with NFWS can provide some information, and 3) USGS is working on similar effort in NJ.

### **Federal Partners Brief and Discussion**

Federal partners have been meeting twice per year to coordinate and collaborate. Recent common areas of interest are water, drought index / soil moisture, data sharing, high water mark, common services / modeling, consistent data and interpretations among agency information / data. The following points were made in response to question about whether current format of NE Federal Partners is meeting needs of NROC.

- Federal Partners don't have a mandate so they are flexible in their focus and function.
- There is value to federal and state partners meeting together.
- Communication is key so that federal agencies can have 'one voice' whenever possible.
- Having federal partners at the table is important for states to benefit from learning about new policies and opportunities. States can then communicate this information to municipalities.
- NROC may also benefit from federal information on specific topics or issues. NROC should make suggestions if the states would like the feds to focus on something in particular.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM

*Meeting summary prepared by Joan LeBlanc, NROC Coordinator*

*Briefing Packet and presentations from the meeting are available under Council Meeting Materials at:*

<http://northeastcoastcouncil.org/library/>