

NROC Ocean Planning Committee

November 14, 2018



NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN

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Review of Ocean Planning Activities

Review of Ocean Planning Activities

1 - Outcomes from June 21, 2018 ocean planning meeting

- Broad interest in continuing to coordinate on regional ocean planning/management issues
- Consider options for advancing regional ocean planning/management priorities under a new structure, including within NROC
- Obtain input on the development and implementation of the Northeast Ocean Plan and potential regional priorities going forward
- Meet in November 2018 to discuss progress and next steps

Review of Ocean Planning Activities

2 - Overview of activities since June 2018

- Convened NROC and the former RPB to consider organizational options for advancing regional priorities
- Engaged participants of the ocean planning process to obtain input on regional priorities
- Northeast Ocean Data Portal
 - Conduct trainings/outreach; provide advice on use of the data
 - Document use of the portal; case studies
 - Data updates; related stakeholder engagement
 - Maintain the site and the applications
 - Develop 2019 work plan
 - Identify funding opportunities and consider long-term sustainability

Review of Ocean Planning Activities

2 - Overview of activities since June 2018

- Best practices for decision-making
- Monitoring and evaluation
 - Progress report
 - Supporting the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring System
 - Providing regional input for externally developed Ocean Health Index

Review of Ocean Planning Activities

3 - Advancing ocean planning activities via the NROC Ocean Planning Committee

- Membership: state & federal agencies, tribes, NEFMC
- Leadership: state & federal co-chairs; tribal co-chair possible
- Role:
 - Make recommendations to NROC while being efficient and nimble (considering much of the membership is the same)
 - Early focus at the management level on determination of regional priorities and on coordination and communication
 - Increase staff level roles and involvement in work groups and projects to advance regional priorities
- Stakeholder engagement: generally less formal and more flexible; specifics to be considered based on regional priorities

Regional Planning Priorities

Regional Planning Priorities

Process for obtaining feedback

- Spoke with ~50 regular participants in the process
- Tribes, state agencies, federal agencies, NEFMC, maritime, energy, commercial fisheries, recreation, consultants, environmental groups
- Group and individual interviews
- Context
 - Northeast Ocean Plan culmination of five years of work developing regional priorities
 - Plan was implemented for 18 months
 - New executive order provides an opportunity to evaluate progress to date, identify or reconfirm priorities, and focus on those areas where there is momentum and interest
 - Capacity

Regional Planning Priorities

Process for obtaining feedback

- Simplified Northeast Ocean Plan to enable discussions with many different participants
- *Key functions*
 - Data: stakeholder- and peer-reviewed regional data products and maps for management and decision-making; Northeast Ocean Data Portal
 - Best Practices: Use of data/information; coordination across jurisdictions; stakeholder engagement
- *Issues*

Regional Planning Priorities

Summary of feedback

Regional Planning Priorities

Proposal for advancing regional priorities

Regional Planning Priorities

Proposal for advancing regional priorities

- Convening
Provide a regional forum for a broad range of interests to engage in offshore management issues
- Data
Continue to engage stakeholders in the development of peer-reviewed geospatial data products of the ecosystem and human activities
- Best Practices
Enhance existing regulatory and management process with specific improvements around using best available information, coordination across jurisdictions, and engaging the public

Regional Planning Priorities

Proposal for advancing regional priorities: Convening

Ocean Planning Committee

- 1-2 in-person meetings per year; updates at regular NROC meetings
- Communicate and coordinate within and across agencies and jurisdictions
- Identify and advance regional priorities
- Establish work groups
- Enable and initiate discussions/forums/workshops for emerging or important regional issues
 - i. Aquaculture
 - ii. Cumulative impacts
 - iii. Climate change
 - iv. Offshore wind
 - v. Sand
 - vi. Tribal interests
 - vii. Regional science & research priorities

Regional Planning Priorities

Proposal for advancing regional priorities: Data

- Activities:
 - Data-related outreach and engagement around the following issues:
 - fishing
 - aquaculture
 - marine transportation
 - recreation
 - cultural resources
 - energy and infrastructure
 - sand
 - marine life and habitat
 - Maintain Northeast Ocean Data Portal as a resource to access regional data and maps
 - Consider analysis products and tools
 - Enhance site to support best practices for regulatory and management processes
 - Work with federal and state data providers to ensure long-term sustainability of data assets
 - Identify long-term funding and capacity

Regional Planning Priorities

Proposal for advancing regional priorities: Data

- Establish data portal advisory work group to meet 2-4 times per year
 - State and federal agency participation at the staff level
 - Provide guidance for advancing activities, particularly for ensuring timeliness and accuracy of products relying on state & federal data
 - Not the primary venue for stakeholder engagement

Regional Planning Priorities

Proposal for advancing regional priorities: Best practices

- Establish work group
- Focus:
 - Using best available information and data, including the Portal, in decision-making
 - Improving coordination between jurisdictions and agencies
 - Improving stakeholder engagement in offshore management decisions
- Activities:
 - Determine need for one or separate work groups to address the above priorities
 - Develop specific mechanics and frameworks for implementing best practices
 - Communicate, educate, and advise on the use of BPs
 - Track and report on the implementation and use of BPs

Regional Planning Priorities

Key elements for a communication of Northeast Priorities

Regional Planning Priorities

Key elements for a communication of Northeast Priorities

- Context
 - NROC is the regional ocean partnership for New England
 - Established by governors in 2005
 - Includes federal agencies as equal partner
 - Flexible structure to include other regional partners and stakeholders
 - Supported the development of the Northeast Ocean Plan
 - Maintains and provides the Northeast Ocean Data Portal as a regional resource used by states, federal agencies, industries and other stakeholders for decision-making

Regional Planning Priorities

Key elements for a communication of Northeast Priorities

- Regional priorities
 - Engaging regional ocean management stakeholders and providing a forum for improving the understanding and practices around regional offshore management issues
 - Identifying and advancing regional priorities, including data priorities
 - Maintaining the Northeast Ocean Data Portal
 - Advancing best practices for decision-making within existing regulatory and management processes

Regional Planning Priorities

Key elements for communication of Northeast Priorities

- Specific requests for federal agency cooperation
 - Increase the reliability, accuracy and accessibility of federal data assets used in offshore management and business decisions, specifically:
 - Fisheries – VMS/VTR
 - Marine transportation – AIS
 - Marine life and habitat
 - Administrative, regulatory, and management areas
 - Improve coastal seafloor mapping initiatives, including:
 - Coordination and communication with the states on new mapping, exploration, and research activities
 - New topobathy LiDAR, substrate, and habitat data collection

Regional Planning Priorities

Key elements for communication of Northeast Priorities

- Specific requests for federal agency cooperation
 - Encourage the use of best practices in federal agency actions, processes, and decisions
 - Coordinate and communicate with NROC on the specifics of how to advance these requests to benefit from regional stakeholder input and NROC's years of experience
 - Support Regional Ocean Partnerships and their data portals to ensure state and regional stakeholder information and needs are incorporated into federal decisions