



NROC

Northeast Regional
Ocean Council

NROC Opportunities in the Context of Administration and NE Governors' Priorities

April 8, 2021



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Administration & Congressional Priorities

National Priorities

- Climate Executive Orders
 - 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
 - 13990 on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis
- Administration's Offshore Wind Energy Announcement (March 29th)
- Racial Equity Executive Order
 - 13985 Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government
- American Jobs Plan
- Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships

To Track

- Pingree Working Waterfronts Bill
- Regional Ocean Partnership Bill



NE State Priorities

- **Maine**
 - Maine Climate Action Plan (2020)
 - Maine Offshore Wind Initiative (demonstration project, partnership with UK, research array)
- **New Hampshire**
 - Offshore Wind and Port Development Commission & pending offshore wind legislation
 - Resilience – data development for adaptation, tidal crossings, living shorelines
- **Massachusetts**
 - Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (2021)
 - Resilience – technical assistance, grant programs, focus on working waterfronts
- **Rhode Island**
 - 2021 Act on Climate – proposes carbon emission reduction goals
 - Resilient Rhody – statewide climate action strategy
- **Connecticut**
 - Governor’s Council on Climate Change – reduce carbon emissions, adaptation, and resilience
 - Long Island Sound Blue Plan, Resilient Connecticut, Long Island Sound Study



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NE State Priorities

Key themes and drivers: **Climate**

- Carbon emission reductions targets
- Commitment to balanced development of Offshore Wind energy
- Resilient coasts – communities, infrastructure, and habitats



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Synergies with NROC

What opportunities do you see for NROC to implement these national priorities here in New England (e.g., funding opportunities, regional pilots, new partnerships)?

What opportunities do you see for NROC to work across states to leverage common state priorities?



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NROC letter

“...we welcome the opportunity to engage our extensive network and experience to support this effort by providing a forum for regional dialogue and input on key ocean and coastal issues.”

“We respectfully request that the interagency Ocean Policy Committee and the federal agencies communicate with and work through NROC on relevant federal and regional priorities, and consider NROC as a regional scale implementation body for these efforts...”

- Pilot Administration priorities that are appropriate for **regional scale implementation**, serve as an effective and inclusive messenger to reach regional stakeholders, to design regional scale projects, and to test climate resilience practices
- Identify regional priorities for **mapping, characterization, and other data collection**
- Increase the reliability and accessibility of **federal datasets** that are routinely used in ocean management