

NROC Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health Committee (OCEH)

2022-2023 Workplan



Background

- ▶ This committee was established to help identify and coordinate regional activities to preserve and restore ecosystem health in New England.
- ▶ The goal is to enhance region-wide coordination and collaborative actions on shared ocean and coastal ecosystem health priorities including those affecting water quality, habitats, and living resources and their derived social and economic benefits.
- ▶ NROC OCEH Committee combined with the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) Ecosystem Health Committee to develop an integrated, regional sentinel monitoring plan to document the effects of climate change and other stressors on northeast ocean and coastal ecosystems, and formation of a regional network to advance scientific understanding of ocean acidification and its impacts on marine-dependent industries.
- ▶ “Committee of Committees”

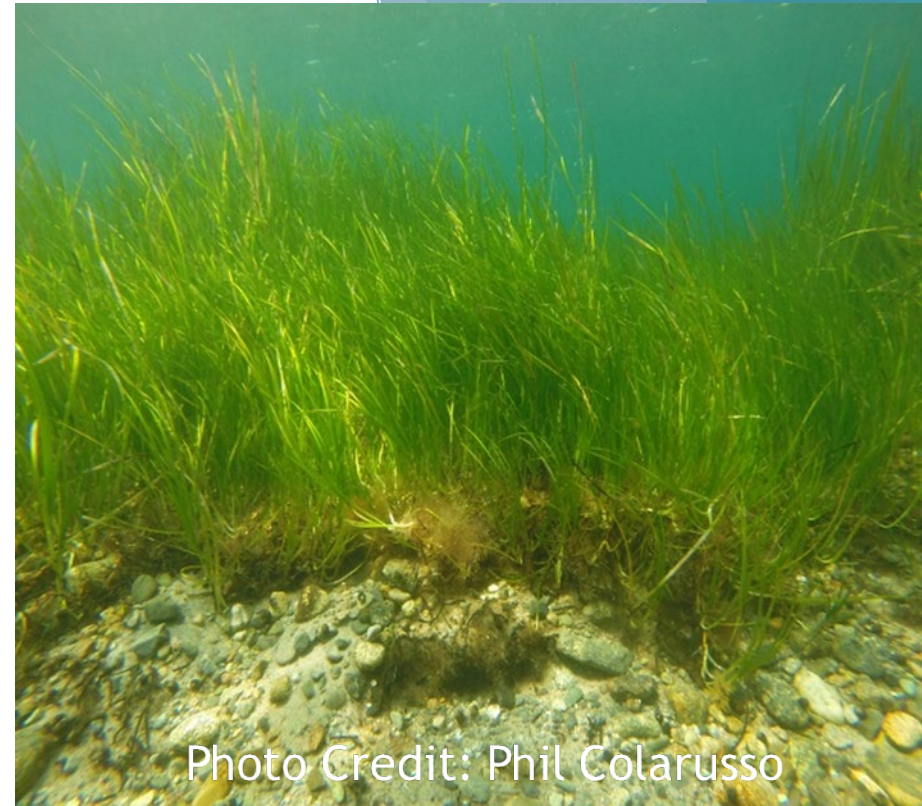


Photo Credit: Phil Colarusso

Strategy OCEH-1: Support Research and Monitoring

- ▶ OCEH - 1.1 Implement “Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Plan for Ecosystem Change in Northeastern Ocean and Coastal Waters”
- ▶ OCEH - 1.2 Support Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN)



Credit: EPA ORD



Strategy OCEH-2: Strengthen Regional Coordination

- ▶ OCEH-2.1 Hold an OCEH committee meeting
- ▶ OCEH-2.2 Promote regional seagrass and marsh resiliency through understanding existing seagrass and salt marsh condition, coordination of mapping and migration modeling, implementation of seagrass and salt marsh management techniques, and evaluation of project effectiveness and their use in New England Coastal Zone Policy

OCEH-2.3: Strengthen habitat classification
and ocean mapping efforts in the Northeast

Take it away HCOM!