



# Welcome!

## Habitat Classification and Ocean Mapping

NROC Fall 2022 Meeting

# Who is part of HCOM?

*Who are we? Where are we?*

**Leads:** Massachusetts Coastal Management Program; NOAA's Office for Coastal Management; Maine Coastal Management Program (advisor)

**Full Partnership:** State agencies from ME to CT; BOEM; USGS; EPA; UNH CCOM/JHS; NOAA: Fisheries, Coast Survey, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Ocean Exploration; NEFMC; NPS; NERACOOS; CCS; TNC

**NROC Connections:** Emily S. and Nick N.

# Goals For Today's Meeting:

1. Update on work plan activities
2. Regional project updates
3. Demonstration on data gap prioritization

***All are invited to participate in these activities!***

# Work Plan

1. Regional Mapping Coordination
2. Develop a Habitat Classification CoP
3. Identify New Resources and Collaborations
4. Support Best Practices and Evolution of Data Creation
5. Foster the Development of Innovative Products

# Regional Mapping Coordination

- Seascapes project
  - NOAA OCS BlueTopo bathy data
- Process to fill regional data gaps
  - Prioritization tool

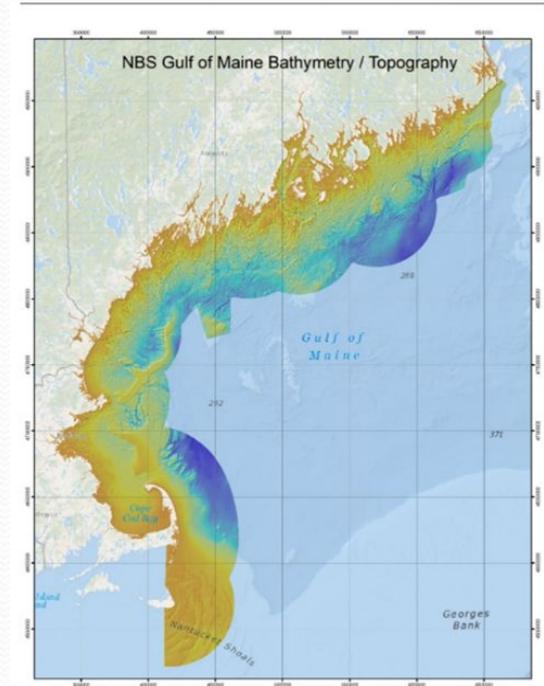


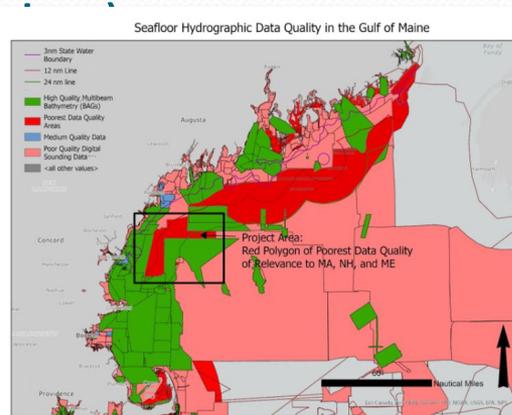
Figure 2. GOM Project Area with NBS Bathymetry/Topography (8-meter)

# Develop a Habitat Classification Community of Practice

- **Folks working on CMECS updates**
  - Biotic Component (soft sed→infauna/epifauna classes)
  - Geologic Component (easier to include photo data)
  - Geoform Component (Seascapes definitions)
- **Wind developers are using CMECS**

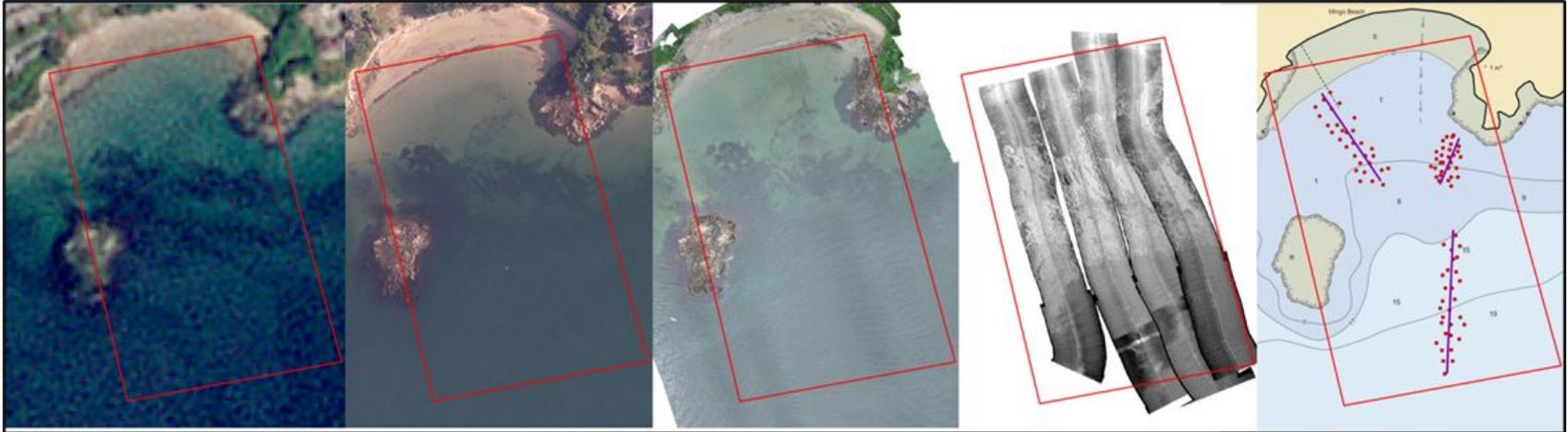
# ID New Resources and Collaborations

- NROC funding for MCMI to fill a 1200km<sup>2</sup> bathymetry gap off of ME/NH/MA
- NROC proposal for 400k to fund benthic characterizations (bathy, backscatter, sed., v. i. s. i. o. n. s.)



# Support Best Practices and Evolution of Data Collection

- MCFI effort funded by NROC
  - Project evolved out of data gap ID'ed from Seascapes project
- Eelgrass mapping methods evaluation



# Foster Development of Innovative Products

- Seascapes

- Geoforms—Rocky Zones, Flats, Sediment Shoals
- Slope

