Northeast Regional Ocean Council Opportunities for Collaboration

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Today's Presentation

1. **Overview of NROC**
2. **Intro to Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning**
3. **Interim Framework on CMSP (State and Regional Perspective on CMSP)**
4. **Opportunities for Collaboration between NEFMC and NROC**

Not Today's Presentation

- **Personal Disclaimer**

- **Details re: CEQ Interim Report**

- **Involvement of fisheries in CEQ framework**

- **Implementation of CMSP -- Legal framework around CMSP**
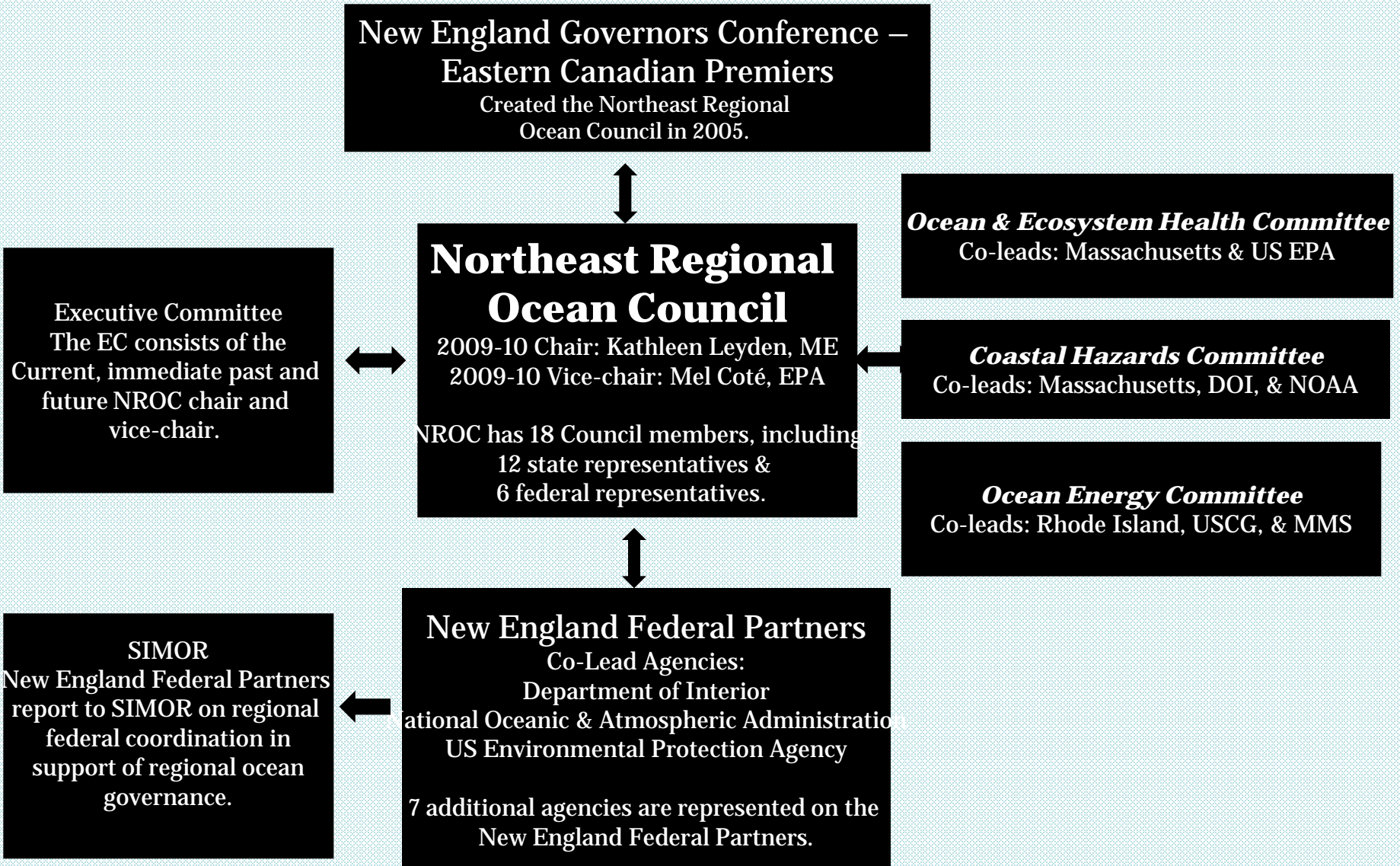
- **The final word**

NROC Origin and Purpose

- US Commission on Ocean Policy

- Northeast states (VT, CT, RI, MA, NH, ME)

- Develop **regional goals and priorities** and implement **coordinated and collaborative responses** to coast/ocean issues and challenges that are inherently **regional**.

Current NROC Membership

- ME CZM & ME DMR
- NH CZM
- MA CZM and MA Technology Collaborative
- RI DEM & CZM
- CT CZM

- EPA
- NOAA CSC, NMFS, NEFSC
- DOI: USGS, MMS, NPS, USFWS
- USCG
- ACOE
- USDA-NRCS

NROC Organizational Structure

New England Governors Conference – Eastern Canadian Premiers
Created the Northeast Regional
Ocean Council in 2005.

Northeast Regional Ocean Council
2009-10 Chair: Kathleen Leyden, ME
2009-10 Vice-chair: Mel Coté, EPA

NROC has 18 Council members, including
12 state representatives &
6 federal representatives.

Ocean & Ecosystem Health Committee
Co-leads: Massachusetts & US EPA

Coastal Hazards Committee
Co-leads: Massachusetts, DOI, & NOAA

Ocean Energy Committee
Co-leads: Rhode Island, USCG, & MMS

Executive Committee
The EC consists of the
Current, immediate past and
future NROC chair and
vice-chair.

SIMOR
New England Federal Partners
report to SIMOR on regional
federal coordination in
support of regional ocean
governance.

New England Federal Partners
Co-Lead Agencies:
Department of Interior
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
US Environmental Protection Agency

7 additional agencies are represented on the
New England Federal Partners.

SIMOR Role

SIMOR to serve as champion as NROC moves forward, especially on those actions that require:

- changing way federal agencies do business via improved coordination
- jointly supported projects
- streamlined processes

SUCCESSES

- Improved state/federal **relationships**
- **Alignment** of priorities and resources
- Increased **visibility**
- Formal **partnerships**
- **Workshops** – hazards, LIDAR, marine spatial planning, indicators
- **Influencing** MSP implementation/nat'l policy
- **$$** Regional LIDAR proposal
- **Partnership** with other ROCs

Marine Spatial Planning

(using spatial data to plan and manage)
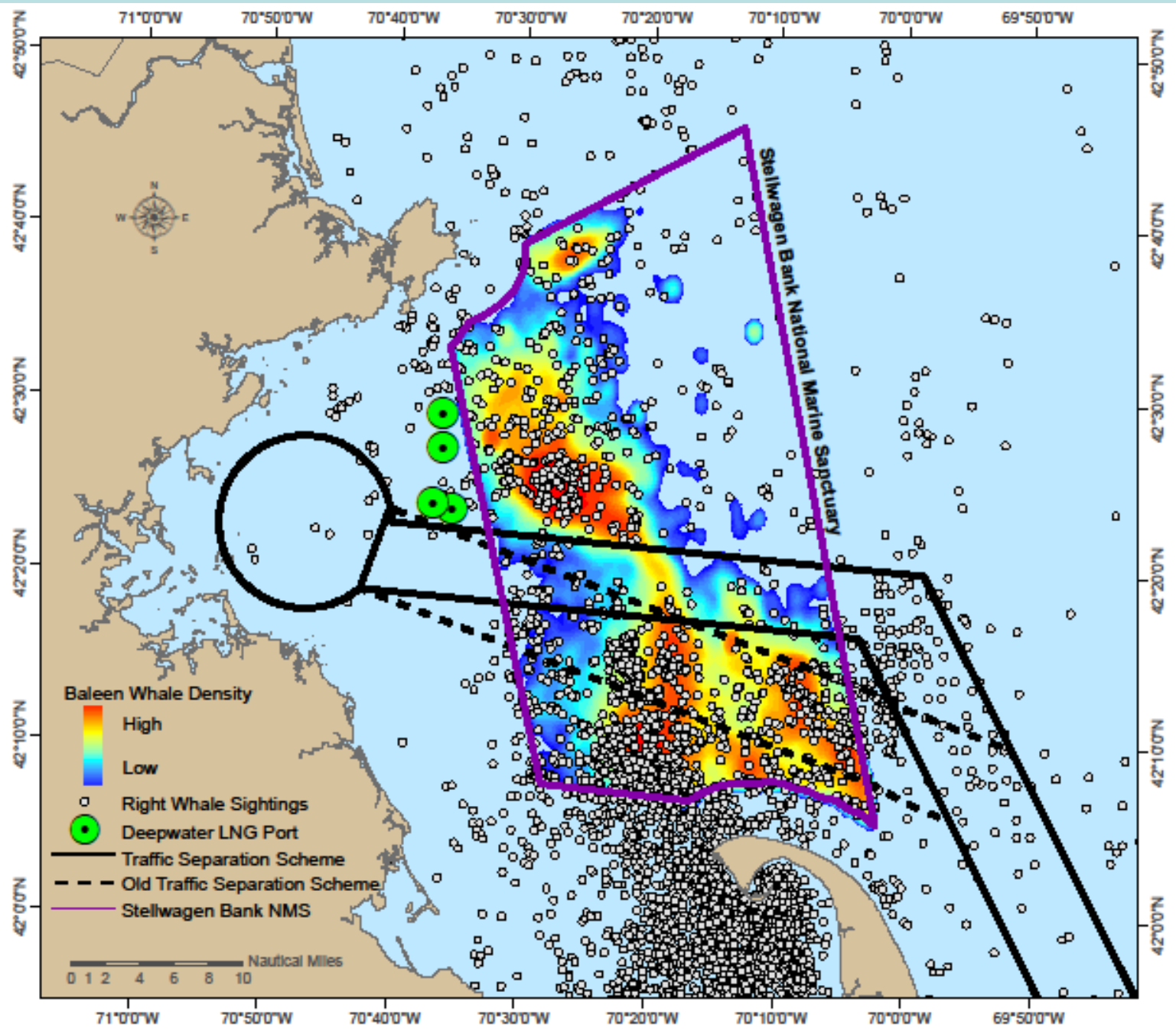
PLANNING AREA C: MONHEGAN ISLAND AND ADJACENT WATERS PROJECTED FISHING ACTIVITY

FISHING ACTIVITY

State Marine Boundary

Shrimp_Tows

Monhegan_Lobster_Mapping

Fish_Rank

- 0
- 1
- 1.5
- 2
- 2.5
- 3
- 3.5
- 4
- 4.5

MONHEGAN ISLAND AND ADJACENT WATERS
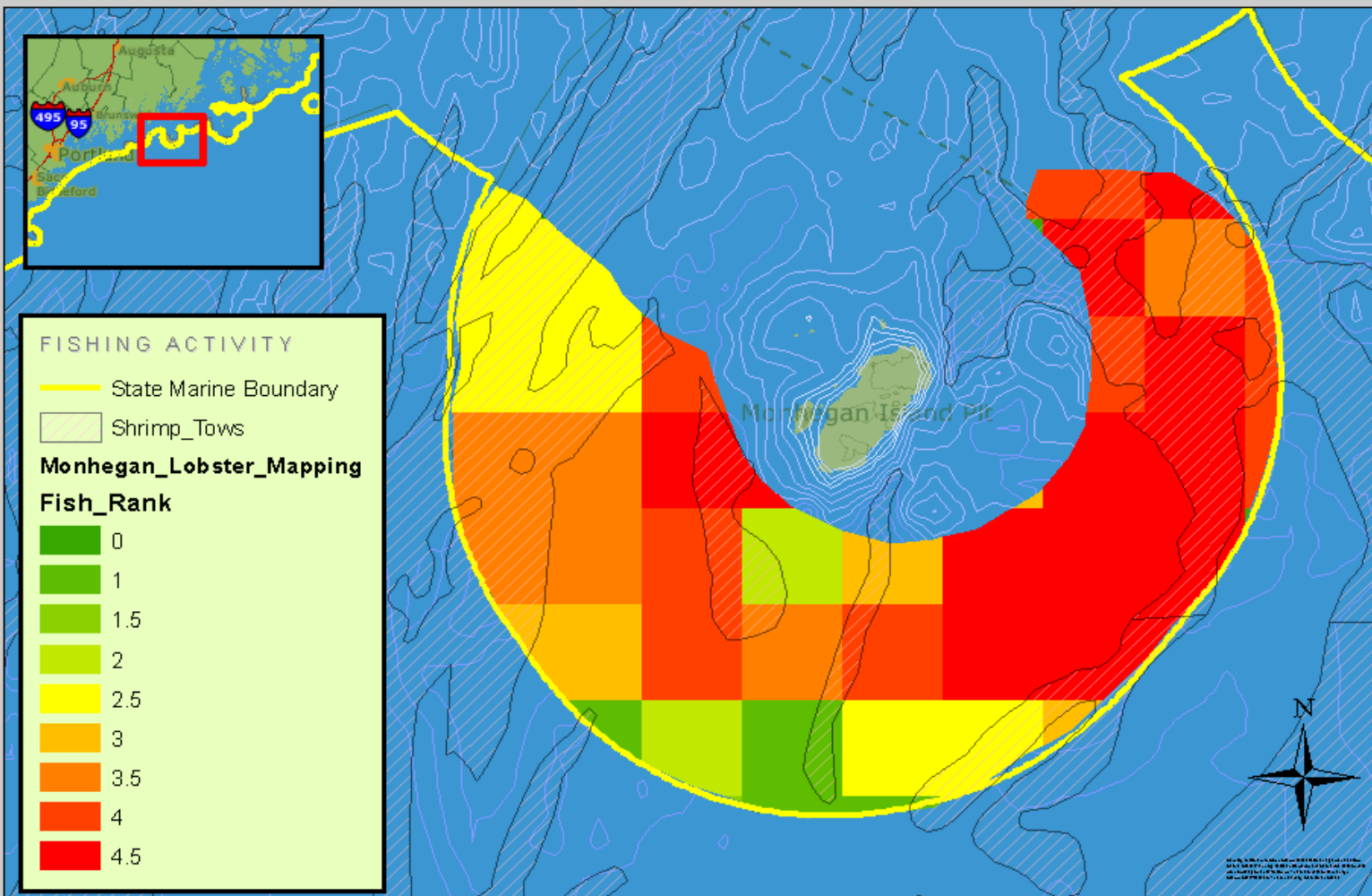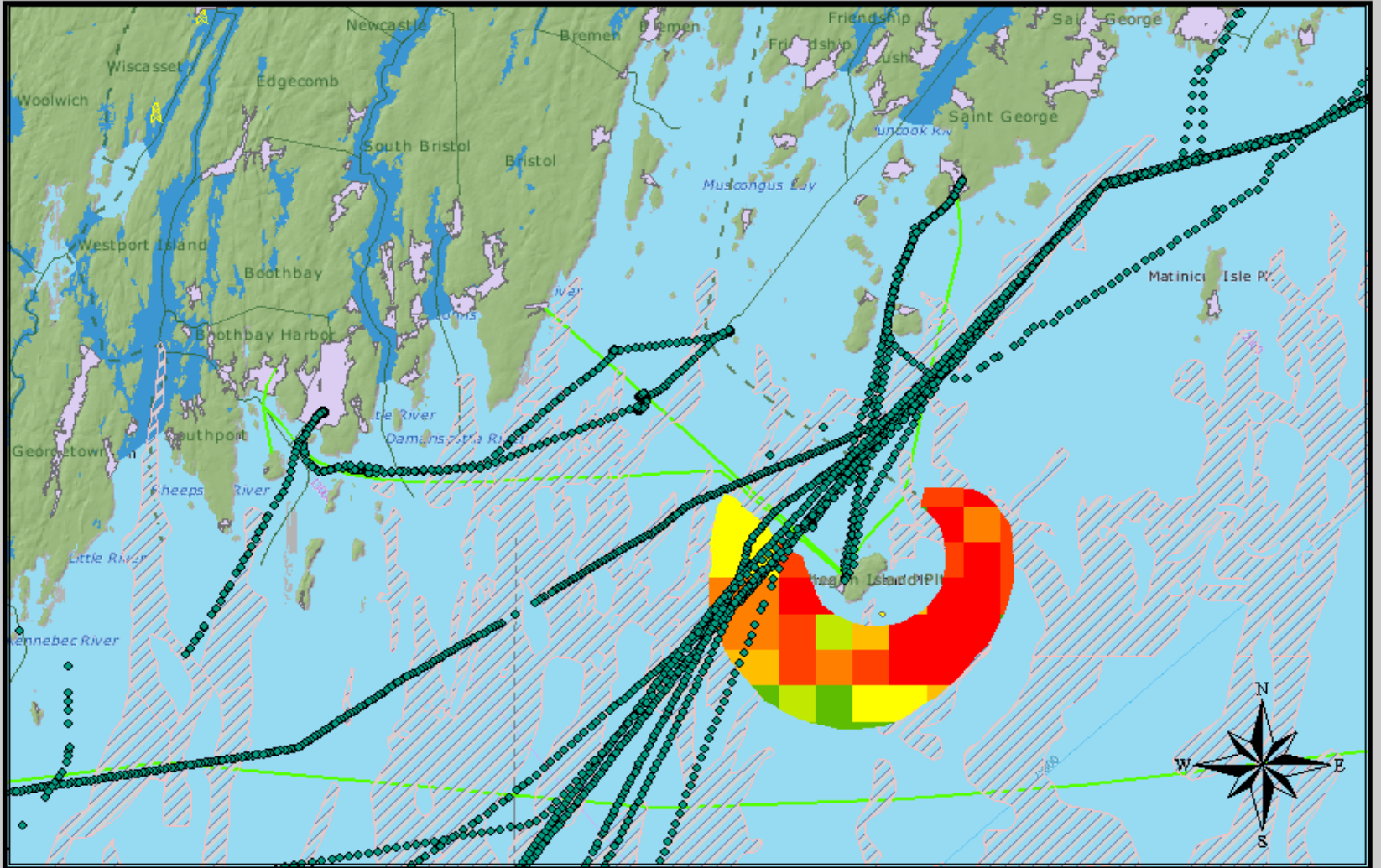
Legend:
- Ship_Position Events
- Shrimp_Tows
- Ferry_Routes
- Navigable_Harbors

0 0.5 1   2   3   4
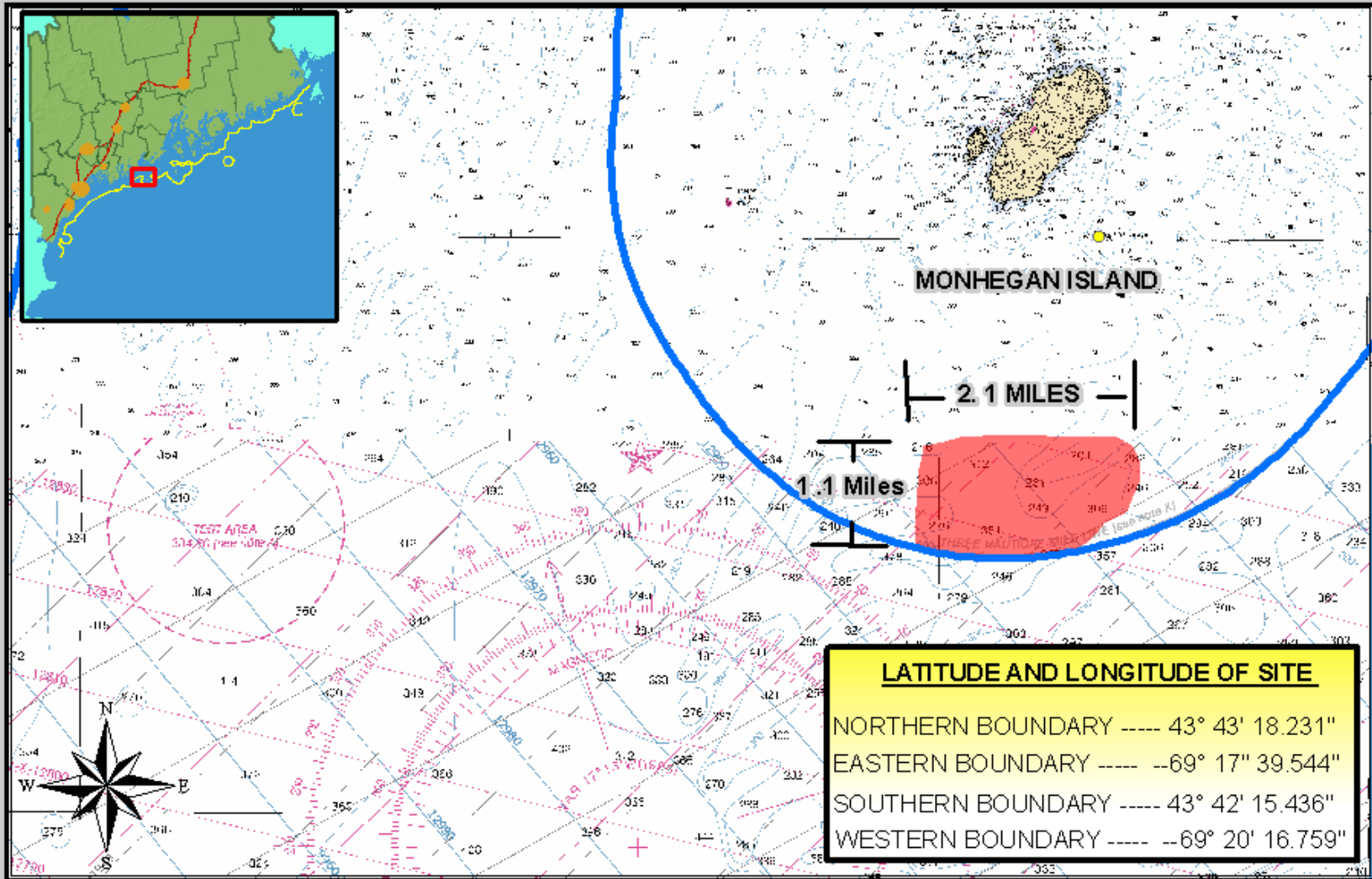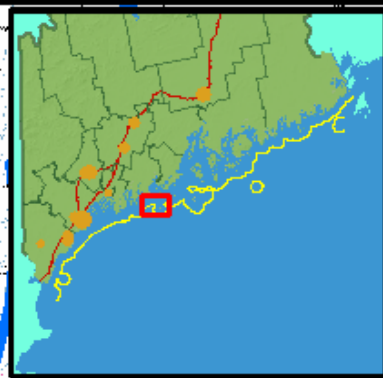Miles

Map by Matthew Nixon
Maine State Planning Office
Sources: ME SPO, ME DMR,
ME DEP, ME IFW, ME GIS,
NOAA, USFWS, MMS

Maine Coastal Program

Labels on map: Newcastle, Wiscasset, Edgecomb, Woolwich, South Bristol, Bristol, Bremen, Bremen, Friendship, Friendship, Saint George, Saint George, Muscongus Bay, Westport Island, Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Southport, Georgetown, Sheeps River, Little River, Kennebec River, Damariscotta River, Matinicus Isle Plt, Monhegan Island Plt
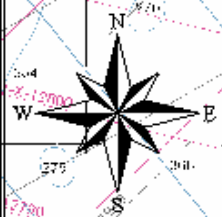
MAP C

MONHEGAN ISLAND
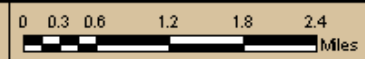
2. 1 MILES

1.1 Miles

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF SITE

NORTHERN BOUNDARY ----- 43° 43' 18.231"

EASTERN BOUNDARY ----- --69° 17" 39.544"

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY ----- 43° 42' 15.436"

WESTERN BOUNDARY ----- --69° 20' 16.759"

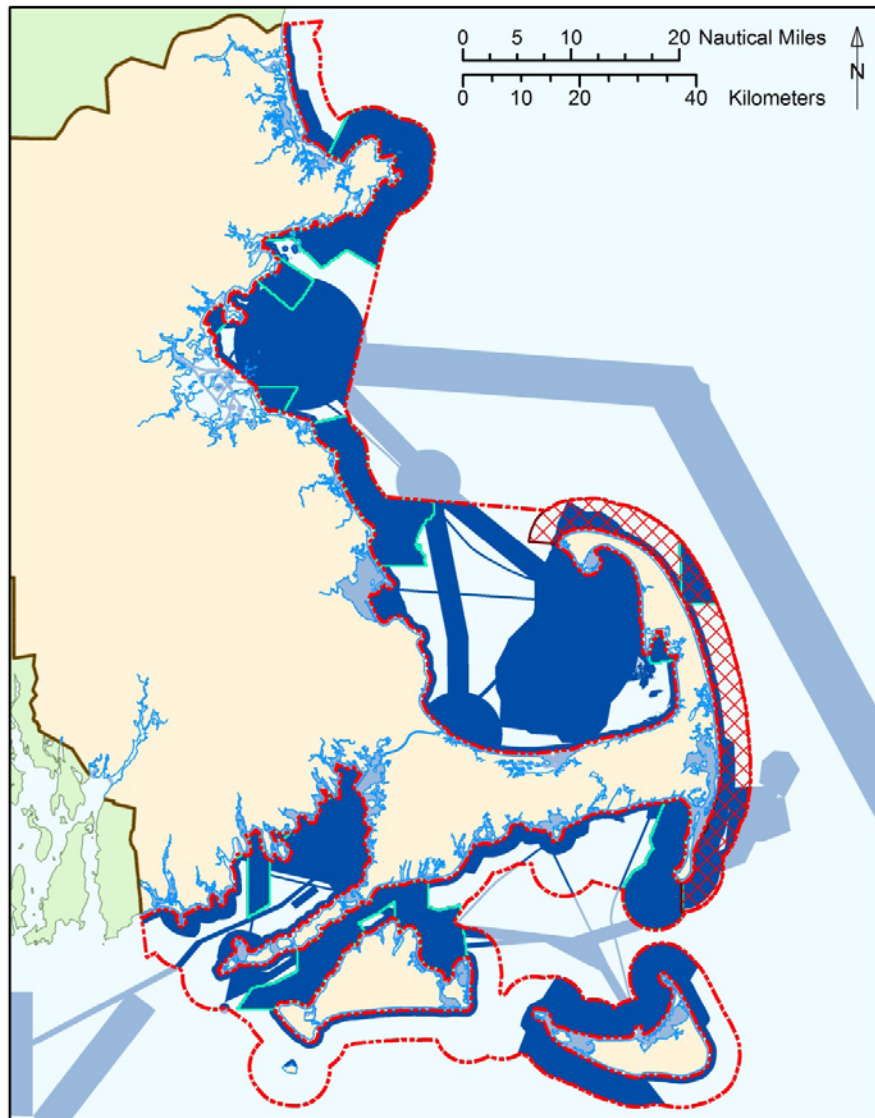State Marine Boundary
Demonstration Site

MONHEGAN ISLAND OCEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATION SITE

0   0.3 0.6   1.2   1.8   2.4
Miles

Map by Matthew Nixon
Maine State Planning Office
Sources: ME SPO, ME DMR,
ME DEP, ME IFW, ME GIS,
NOAA, US FWS, MMS

Figure Appendix 3-7 Exclusionary criteria

0 5 10 20 Nautical Miles
0 10 20 40 Kilometers

Planning area boundary
Prohibited area
Exclusionary criteria

Map coordinate system: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83), Massachusetts State Plane Coordinate System, Mainland Zone (FIPS zone 2001), meters.

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE OFFICE of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

- State lead
- Intensive efforts
- Need federal collaboration
- Do not involve changing fisheries management
- Lots of questions about implementation

Fisheries and State MSP Efforts

- Intensive fisheries outreach, using interactive GIS
- Attempt to identify important fishing areas, predominant travel routes
- Minimize conflict to fishing industry
- Acknowledge complexity of resource and use (seasonal, market, quotas, etc.)
- Incomplete information, subject to continuous change

Presidential Directive

- National Ocean Policy

- Framework for MSP

- Anticpated final framework and Executive Order

- Budget – Federal agencies and competitive grants for regions

Great Lakes

Northeast

Mid-Atlantic

West Coast

South Atlantic

Gulf of Mexico

Caribbean

Legend

US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Regional Planning Areas

Large Marine Ecosystems

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

A planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current/anticipated uses of ocean & coastal areas. It identifies areas most suitable for activities in order to:

- reduce conflicts among uses,
- reduce environmental impacts,
- preserve critical ecosystem services

A public process for people to better determine how the ocean and coasts are used/protected.

Other Characteristics

- Transparent process

- Multi-objective – intended to address economic, environmental, security, and social needs regarding ocean and coasts.

- Comprehensive, adaptable, integrated, ecosystem-based

Input Provided by NROC/States

- Respond to regional objectives
- Address capacity and data needs
- Start small (not out to 200 nm)
- Simplify
- Be flexible
- Create incentives to participate
- Consider NE as a pilot, build on all existing efforts

Heard on the Street

- "Old wine in a new bottle"?
- An approach supported by "naïve zealots" in the conservation community?
- A shift towards top-down management?
- Drawing lines in the sea?

An Opportunity?

- Much needed state/federal coordination

- Looking at best available data to understand the implications of current siting of facilities/uses in the ocean

- Tailored to each state's and region's needs with a flexible outcome.

- Not an end-point in itself. End points could be successful ocean energy siting, protection of fishing areas from other uses, etc.

Initial Steps

- Establish Regional Planning Body
  - Established by NOC (w/states, Tribes)
  - Interests relevant to CMSP for region
  - Adjacent countries and states (ex officio)
  - Empowered to make decisions
- Development Agreement
- Decision-making
- Work Plan

Planning Process

- Objectives
- Existing Efforts
- Stakeholders
- Scientists
- Analysis
- Scenarios
- Draft
- Final
- Monitor, evaluate and modify

PHASE I (1-12 Months)

Governance Advisory
Committee Formed

PHASE II (9-24 Months)

PHASE III (18 Months-5 Years)

NOC Strategic Action Plan

Data Guidance and Information Management System Developed

Initial Regional Steps Implemented

Federal Agency
Coordination

Work Plans Developed

Coordinate | Regional
with States | Planning
and Tribes | Bodies
| Formed

Work Plans
Submitted to NOC

Funding and Support
Re-evaluated by
NOC

National
Workshop

Regional Capacity
Assessment and
Initial Regional Steps
Identified

CMSP Process Implementation

Central Portal
Launched and
Data Standards
Released

Information
Management System
Completed and All
Relevant Data Linked

First CMS Plan
Submitted for
NOC Certification
(3 Years)

All Initial C
Plans Comp
and Certi
(mid-201

Strategic Action Plan and
Guidance Released

Additional Guidance
Released by NOC

NROC and CMSP

- Leading the nation
- Work to date:
  - Workshops/meetings
  - Human use inventories
  - Data gaps analysis; regional data portal
  - Defined (new) information needed (birds, etc.)

Opportunities NEFMC/NROC

- NROC Ecosystem Health subcommittee
- Share habitat characterization expertise
- Assist in accurately characterizing fishing
- Participate on CMSP science advisory committee
- Fall workshop
- Maintain this dialogue