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.

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

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

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
New England Federal Partners report to SIMOR on regional federal coordination in support of regional ocean governance.
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)
- 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
- Anticipated final framework and Executive Order
- Budget – Federal agencies and competitive grants for regions
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
“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
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