Ocean Planning and Maritime Commerce in New England

Bay Planning Coalition Workshop
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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Case study: Ocean Planning in New England
- Key Issues and Trends for maritime commerce
- Potential role for Ocean Planning
- Moving forward

Background

Regional Ocean Partnerships

- Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership
- Council of Great Lakes Governors
- Governors' South Atlantic Alliance
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
- Northeast Regional Ocean Council (ME, NH, MA, CT, RI; 2006)
- Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership
- West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health

NROC – Issue Areas

- Ocean and coastal ecosystem health
- Coastal hazards resilience
- Ocean planning

NROC Outreach to Support Ocean Planning

- Fishing (commercial and recreational)
- Ocean industries

NROC Outreach to Maritime Commerce Sector

- Process
  - Stakeholder assessment (interviews, on-line survey)
  - Working sessions (key ports in each state)
  - White paper
- Outreach topics
  - Key issues and trends facing the maritime commerce sector
  - Hopes for ocean planning
  - Information gaps/needs
  - How to best reach out to and engage the maritime sector

Findings: Key Issues and Trends

- Emerging use conflicts for coastal ocean space
- Dredging needs – existing and driven by increasing container ship sizes; disposal challenges
- Ecological and environmental
- Economic implications

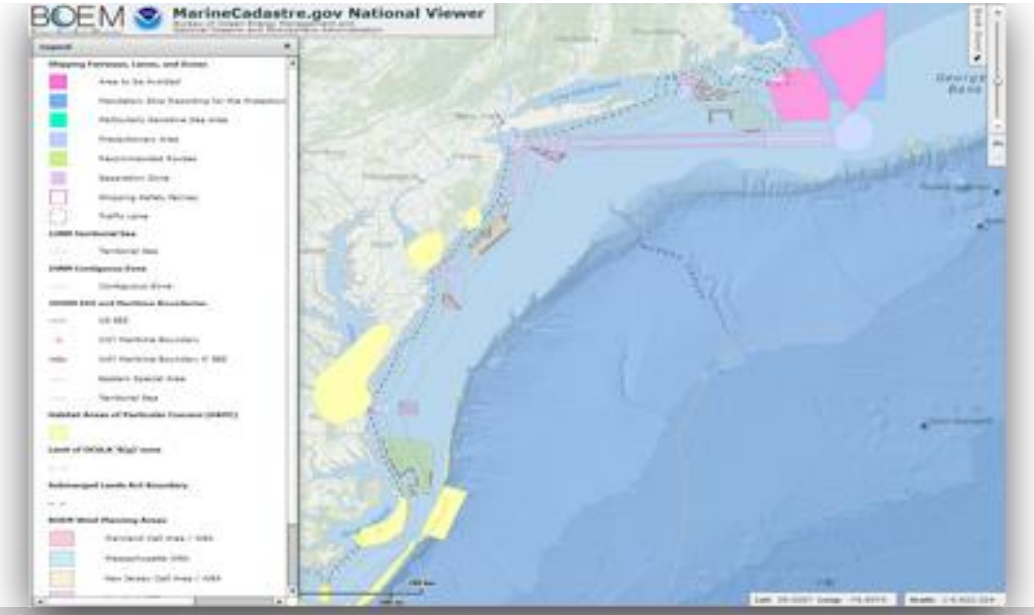
Findings: Potential Roles for Ocean Planning

- Address key ocean use conflicts (fishing, transportation, aquaculture, wind energy)
  - Examples: Right whales and shipping, placement of offshore energy
- Bring affected stakeholders to table
- Consolidate and integrate existing information
- Support better integration of regional transportation planning across road, rail, and water modes
- Foster integration across state and federal efforts in New England
- Help policy makers better understand marine issues (e.g., the economics of maritime shipping and commerce)

Findings: Potential Role for Ocean Planning

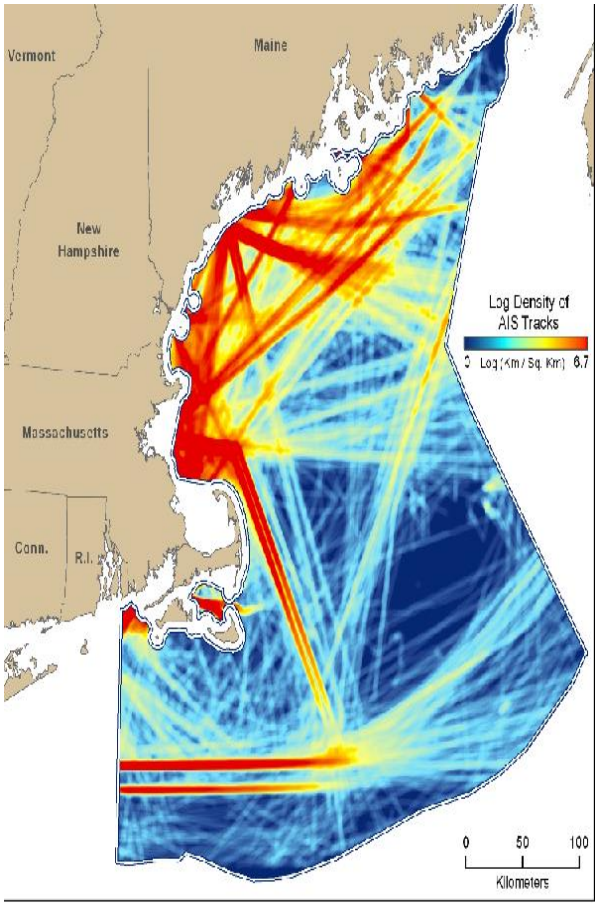
Caution: Ocean planning should not create winners and losers

- Among competing ports
- Among different industries (e.g., shipping, fishing, aquaculture, and energy)



Findings: Support for Improving Access to Marine Spatial Information

- Locations of different ocean uses
- Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) data viewed as good source for characterizing shipping activity
  - advice on how to interpret this information (for different vessels, cargoes)
- Identified additional data gaps and needs



Ocean Planning In New England: Moving Forward

- Northeast Regional Planning Body (RPB) convened in late 2012
- Staff support from NROC
- Stakeholder engagement
  - RPB meetings open to public
  - Public workshops and comment opportunities
  - Ongoing informal outreach to ocean industries and other stakeholders
- Prepared draft goals, objectives, actions in 2013
- Early 2014, released “Framework for Ocean Planning in the Northeast United States”

Questions?

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