Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

- Long-term contaminants monitoring program
- Data sharing agreements
- Standardized monitoring protocols
- Regional inventories (restoration sites)
- Strategies
  - Gulf-wide Restoration Strategy
  - Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative
- Clearinghouse/Directories – peoplefinder and knowledgebase
- Ecosystem indicators and SOE reporting
Objectives

• Improve coordination between state and federal government.

• Engage federal agencies around specific state priority issues.

• Improve the understanding of ocean resources.

• Identify and address ocean policy gaps.

• Create a strong communication network among coastal and ocean resource managers.
Northeast Regional Ocean Council Organizational Chart

New England Governors Council
Created the Northeast Regional Ocean Council in 2005.

Northeast Regional Ocean Council
2008 Chair: Brian Thompson, CT
2008 Vice-chair: David Russ, DOI
NROC has 18 Council members, including 12 state representatives & 6 federal representatives.

Executive Committee
The EC consists of the NROC chair and vice-chair with an additional state and federal member.

Ad Hoc Committee
Ad Hoc Committees will form as needed and disband upon completion of tasks.

Issue Area Work Groups
Representatives from state and federal agencies, NGOs, academia and industry will be on each Issue Area Work Group.

I. Ocean & Ecosystem Health
Co-leads: Massachusetts & US EPA

II. Coastal Hazards
Co-leads: Connecticut, DOI, & NOAA

III. Ocean Energy
Co-leads: Rhode Island & USCG

IV. Maritime Security
Co-leads: USCG

Federal Interagency Work Group
Co-Lead Agencies:
- Department of Interior
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- US Environmental Protection Agency

7 additional agencies are represented on the Interagency Work Group.
Accomplishments to Date

1. Created Structure to Enable a Regional Response
2. Obtained Resolutions of Support and Direction from NEGC/ECP
3. Issues identified via surveys, Ocean Congress
4. Developed Action Plan and Detailed Workplans
5. Developed a communication and outreach strategy
6. Hosted Northeast hazards workshop
Action Plan Goals

• Ocean and coastal ecosystem health

• Render New England a “Coastal Hazards Ready” region

• Regional planning, siting, authorization, and operation of coastal and ocean energy generation and distribution facilities
Benefits of NROC Collaboration

- Focused Federal-State partnership
- Strong federal support
- Coastal Program Managers involved
- Presence as the “go to” entity for ocean issues in NE
- Resilient to administration changes
Challenges & Needs

• Consistent Identity – umbrella organization for subregional efforts vs. new organization

• No funding, no staff

• Maintaining the attention of NE governors

• Appropriations strategy
More Information

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
www.gulfofmaine.org

Northeast Regional Ocean Council
http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc/

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