

Northeast Ocean Plan Outline

Draft for RPB Deliberation – June 3-4, 2015

Section 1: Introduction

This section will summarize the northeast ocean planning process, including the National Ocean Policy, the establishment of the RPB, ocean planning goals, public outreach, ocean planning projects, and existing conditions within the planning area. Much of this information will be incorporated by reference to materials online and/or into one of the appendices, such as:

- *National Ocean Policy*
- *Northeast RPB Charter*
- *The Northeast RPB Framework for Ocean Planning (including goals, objectives, actions, work plan, and stakeholder engagement plan)*
- *A summary of the planning timeline and public outreach, including reference to documentation of RPB meetings, public meetings and workshops, the Ecosystem Based Management Workshop, targeted outreach to specific sectors and interest groups, and other relevant material via the ocean planning website.*
- *The Baseline Assessment, including the characterization of the marine environment and economy*
- *The Northeast Ocean Data Portal, including its role in supporting the Northeast Ocean Plan*

This section will also describe how the Northeast Ocean Plan will advance the three goals of Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems, Effective Decision Making, and Compatibility among Past, Current and Future Ocean Uses.

Section 2: Management Application of Ocean Plan Information

This section will describe the analysis and management application of plan information introduced in Section 1, with a specific focus on spatial data products and associated written and graphical content. Specific sections could include:

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>A. Marine mammals</i> | <i>I. Commercial fishing</i> |
| <i>B. Sea turtles</i> | <i>J. Recreational fishing</i> |
| <i>C. Birds</i> | <i>K. Recreation</i> |
| <i>D. Fish</i> | <i>L. Energy and infrastructure</i> |
| <i>E. Submerged aquatic vegetation</i> | <i>M. Aquaculture</i> |
| <i>F. Restoration</i> | <i>N. Sand and gravel</i> |
| <i>G. Historic and cultural resources</i> | <i>O. Important ecological and/or</i> |
| <i>H. Marine transportation system</i> | <i>human use areas</i> |

Each section (A through O) could include the following specific elements:

- i. *Aggregate map(s) depicting important areas or the extent of existing uses and resources, a description of the synthesis of the underlying data, and potential interpretations (including limitations and caveats)*
- ii. *A brief reference to relevant legal authorities and responsible agencies*
- iii. *A description of how the referenced agencies intend to use ocean plan maps and information in existing regulatory programs and practices*
- iv. *References to additional information, including base data products, economic data, trends, best management practices, and existing guidelines available via the NE Ocean Data Portal, the Baseline Assessment, and/or other information sources that will be used by the agencies*
- v. *Reference to location where draft agency guidance using content from this section of the plan will be hosted (e.g. agency website)*

Section 3: Ocean Plan Implementation

This section will describe how the RPB intends to implement the ocean plan, including enhancements to agency practices, agency commitments, long-term administration, and plan evaluation. Specific sections could include:

- A. *Best practices for pre-application, including best practices for tribal consultation and identification of potentially affected stakeholders*
- B. *Agency commitments related to formalizing plan implementation, including:*
 - *Continued development of agency guidance related to the use of plan information under specific authorities (referenced in Section 2)*
 - *Coordination through the Coastal Zone Management Act*
 - *Adoption of the plan*
- C. *Administration of priority components of the Northeast Ocean Plan, including maintenance of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal, updates to specific data products, and identification of additional analyses to be further detailed in Section 4*
- D. *Monitoring and evaluation, including the assessment of plan performance and use of indicators of ocean health*
- E. *Process for plan updates, revisions, and continued public input*
- F. *Roles of RPB, NROC, individual agencies, and the National Ocean Council*

Section 4: Science and Research Priorities

This section will describe priority data, research, and science necessary to update and advance ocean plan information and analyses. Specific sections could include:

- A. *Additional studies and primary research to increase understanding of natural and human systems*
- B. *Updates to specific natural resource, cultural resource, and human use data products*
- C. *Continued analysis and integration of Ecosystem Based Management considerations, potentially including:*
 - *Important ecological areas and human use areas*
 - *Habitat mapping and classification*
 - *Changing conditions related to climate or other factors*
 - *Vulnerability, risk and impacts of changing conditions and potential new uses to existing human uses and resources*
 - *Ecosystem service production and valuation*
- D. *Reference to existing programs and efforts to be leveraged*

Appendices

This section will include information referenced throughout the document, including details about the planning process (outreach, communications strategy, planning options considered throughout) and specific documents summarizing projects (baseline assessment, etc.)