

Stakeholder Forum

October 20, 2015

Draft NE Ocean Plan Development Timeline

Note: schedule is approximate and will be modified as milestones are achieved; the exact timing of activities will evolve.

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Northeast Ocean Plan Draft Outline



NE Plan Draft Outline

1. New England Offshore Environment and the Need for Ocean Planning
2. Ocean Planning in New England
3. The Regulatory Environment and Management Actions
4. Ocean Plan Implementation
5. Science and Research Priorities

NE Plan Draft Outline – Chapter 2

2. Ocean Planning in New England

2.1 Ocean Planning Process

This will be a summary of the ocean planning process, including public engagement and RPB related activities in each phase of the process. It will include references to documents in the appendix and/or www.neoceanplanning.org for more information.

2.1.1 National Ocean Policy

2.1.2 Initial Outreach and Establishment of the Northeast Regional Planning Body

2.1.3 Goal Setting and Work Plan Development

2.1.4 Draft and Final Plan

2.2 Ocean Planning Goals and the Ocean Plan

This section will describe how the Northeast Ocean Plan will address key themes from public input and will advance the three goals of Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems, Effective Decision Making, and Compatibility among Past, Current and Future Ocean Uses by guiding and informing agency decision making. It will also include a brief description of how the rest of the plan is organized and how it will be used.

NE Plan Draft Outline – Chapter 3

3. The Regulatory Environment and Management Actions

3.1 Regulatory Context and Primary Legal Authorities

3.2 Natural and Cultural Resources

3.3 Human Activities

3.4 Ecosystem Based Management

NE Plan Draft Outline – Chapter 3

3.1 Regulatory Context and Primary Legal Authorities

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10
- Clean Water Act, Section 404
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- Deepwater Port Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treat Act
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106
- Magnuson-Stevens Act
- Ports and Waterways Safety Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act



NE Plan Draft Outline – Sections 3.2 & 3.3

3.2 Natural and Cultural Resources

- 3.2.1 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- 3.2.2 Birds
- 3.2.3 Fish
- 3.2.4 Habitat
- 3.2.5 Restoration
- 3.2.6 Historic and Cultural Resources

3.3 Human Activities

- 3.3.1 Marine Transportation
- 3.3.2 National Security
- 3.3.3 Commercial Fishing
- 3.3.4 Recreational Fishing
- 3.3.5 Recreation
- 3.3.6 Energy and Infrastructure
- 3.3.7 Aquaculture
- 3.3.8 Sand and Gravel

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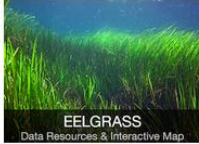


NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA
Maps and data for ocean planning in the northeastern United States

HOME MAPS DATA ABOUT

HUMAN DIMENSIONS




 AQUACULTURE Interactive Map	 RECREATION Interactive Map	 COMMERCIAL FISHING Interactive Map
 MARITIME COMMERCE Interactive Map	 ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE Interactive Map	 CULTURE Interactive Map

MARINE LIFE

 MAMMALS & TURTLES Interactive Map	 FISH & SHELLFISH Interactive Map	 OTHER MARINE LIFE Interactive Map
 EELGRASS Data Resources & Interactive Maps	 HABITAT Story Map	 BIRDS Interactive Map

Anticipated Release: 2015

ENVIRONMENT

 BATHYMETRY Data Resources & Interactive Maps	 WATER QUALITY Interactive Map	 RESTORATION Interactive Map
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Anticipated Release: 2015

Featured Map

IMPAIRED WATERS

Impaired waters designated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Data Explorer

LAUNCH THE DATA EXPLORER

The Data Explorer provides maps of all available datasets. Any combination of data can be viewed on a single map.

What's Next?

Northeast Ocean Data adds data, maps, and website enhancements on a rolling basis. Find out what's currently in development.

UPCOMING PRODUCTS

NE Plan Draft Outline – Sections 3.2 & 3.3

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For each section:

- A. Overview
- B. Ocean Plan Maps and Data
- C. Description of how relevant agencies intend to use ocean plan data in existing regulatory and management programs
- D. Additional information sources and existing management programs
- E. Long term maintenance of ocean plan maps and data, including brief mention of science priorities to be further detailed in Section 5
- F. Other related RPB agency initiatives and coordination activities

NE Plan Draft Outline – Section 3.4

3.4 Ecosystem Based Management

This section will describe progress towards charting an ecosystem based approach to management, including defining and identifying important ecological areas, reviewing analyses and overlays of human use and ecological data, and developing a framework for monitoring and evaluation. It will also describe how the agencies intend to incorporate these analyses and tools into decision making under existing authorities and the actions the agencies will take to advance EBM and related science. *Note: This section, or components of this section, could be moved to other parts of the plan (e.g. implementation, science priorities), depending on progress.*



NE Plan Draft Outline – Chapter 4

4. Ocean Plan Implementation

This chapter will describe how the RPB intends to implement the ocean plan, including enhancements to agency practices, other responsibilities and commitments, and plan evaluation.

4.1 Intergovernmental Coordination

This section will describe the specific coordination activities that will be undertaken to implement the ocean plan.

4.1.1 Best Practices for Agency Coordination

4.1.2 Coastal Zone Management Act

4.1.3 Tribal Coordination

4.2 Responsibilities and Commitments

This section will describe RPB organization commitments to implementing the following additional responsibilities for ocean plan implementation.

4.2.1 Forum for Federal, Tribal, and State Coordination

4.2.2 Plan Updates

4.2.3 Public Engagement

4.2.4 Northeast Ocean Data Portal

4.2.5 Implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Science Priorities

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

4.3.1 Plan Performance

4.3.2 Ocean and Ecosystem Health

NE Plan Draft Outline – Chapter 5

5. Science and Research Priorities

This chapter will describe priority data, research, and science necessary to update and advance ocean plan information and analyses. *Note: The organization of this section is likely to change as priorities are refined and earlier plan sections are developed.*

5.1 Natural and Cultural Resources

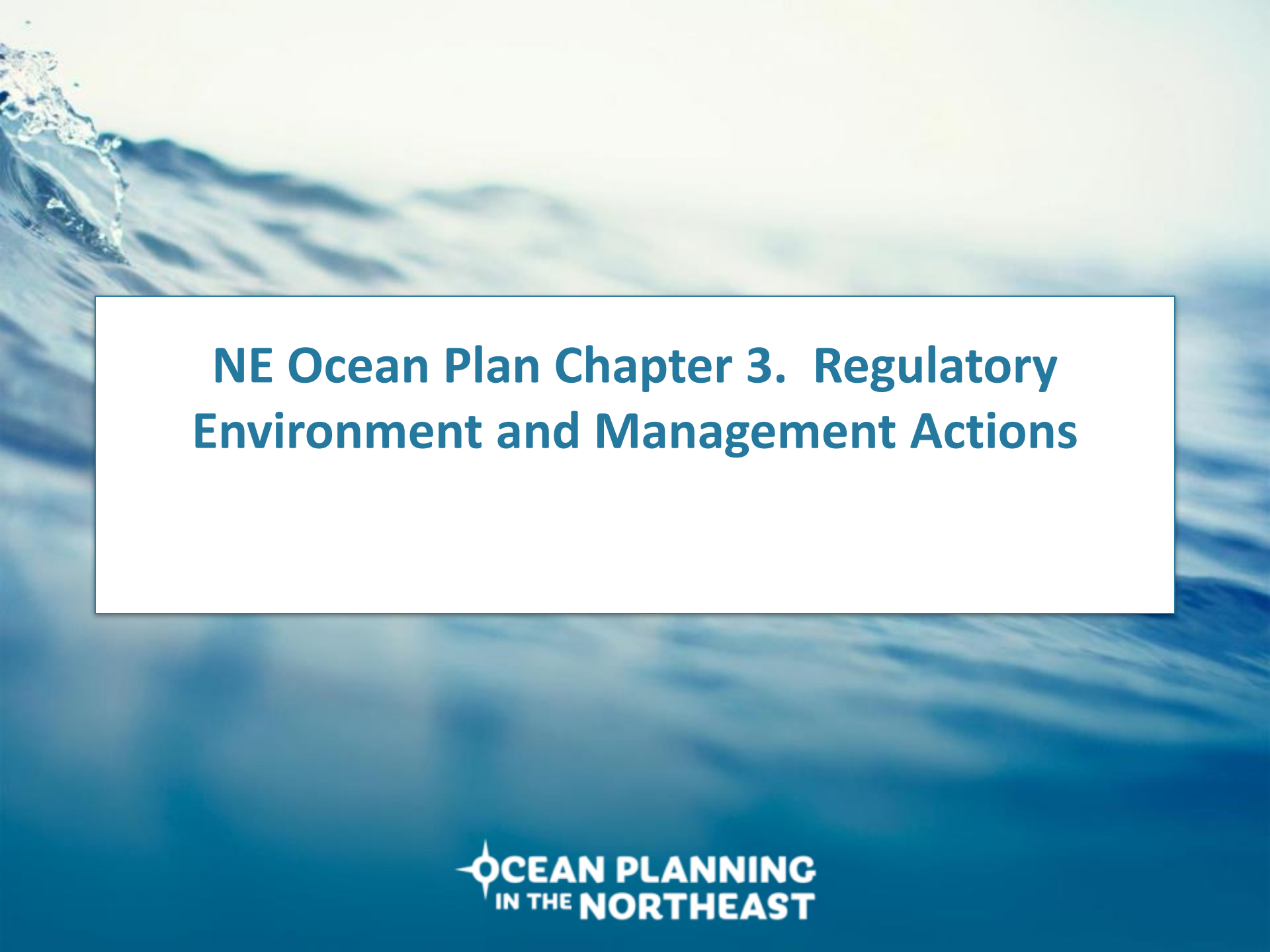
5.2 Human Activities

5.3 Ecosystem Based Management

5.4 Changing Conditions

NE Plan Draft Outline – Public Engagement

- Public engagement and input will be a prominent component of every section of the plan
- Section 2: Public engagement in the planning process, formation of the goals, and the development and review of the plan to ensure it advances planning goals
- Section 3: Public engagement in the regulatory process, both as an important data and information provider and with a critical role in regulatory actions
- Section 4: Public engagement in implementation, including agency coordination to identify potentially affected stakeholders, continued participation in regional planning activities after 2016, and monitoring and evaluation of the final plan.
- Section 5: Public engagement as a partner in the advancement of science and research priorities both for plan updates and longer term initiatives

The background of the slide is a photograph of ocean waves. In the upper left, a wave is breaking, creating white foam. The rest of the image shows the surface of the ocean with gentle ripples and waves under a bright, slightly hazy sky.

NE Ocean Plan Chapter 3. Regulatory Environment and Management Actions

Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

3.2 Natural and Cultural Resources

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- F. Other related RPB agency initiatives and coordination activities

Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

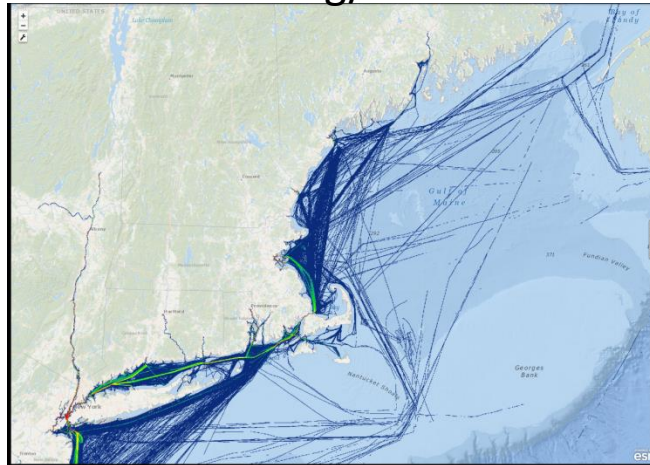
- Marine life and habitat data:
 - Online viewers with species level base products are near complete
 - Abundance, richness, and diversity products for regulatory and ecologically-based species groupings are being developed; vulnerability-based species groupings are being considered
- Restoration: NE Portal to be updated with restoration sites by end of year – to coincide with draft section of the plan
- Historic and Cultural resources: Working with tribes and agencies to develop plan content
- Human use data mostly complete and being added to the portal; anything new is likely a future priority to be listed in Section 5
- Sections 3.2 and 3.3 are beginning to be drafted and will provide agency guidance about the use of ocean plan maps and data under existing authorities

Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

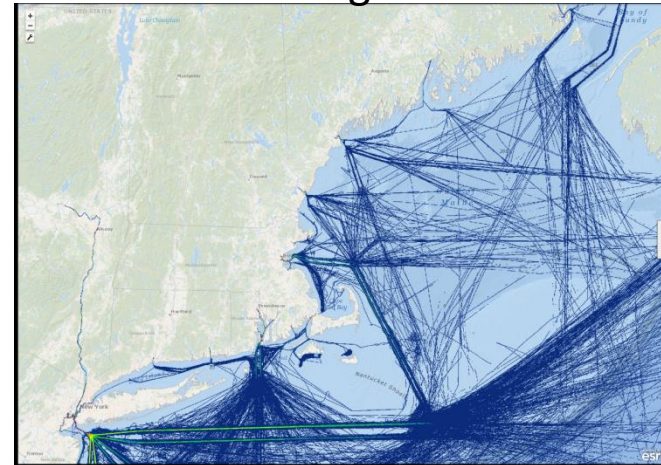
Marine Transportation

- Data portal being updated with 2013 AIS data after extensive industry review
- Data portal will still include 2011 and 2012 data

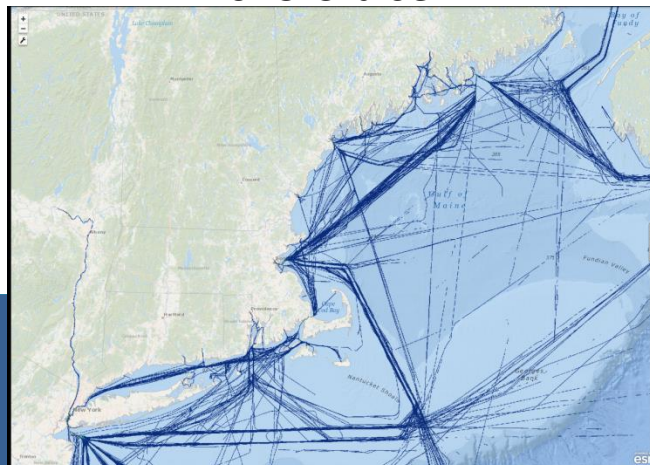
2013 Tug/Tow



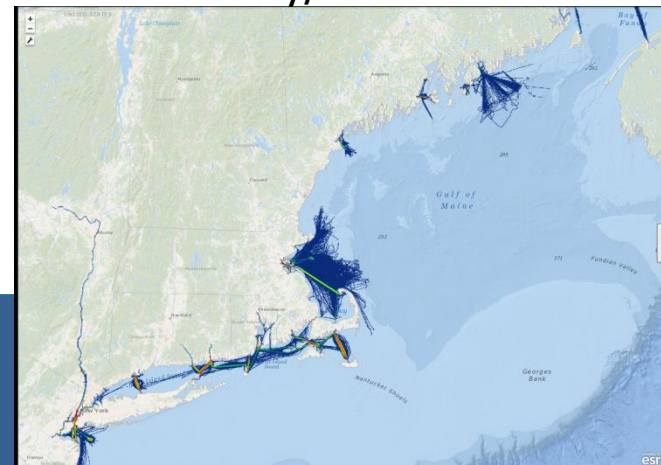
2013 Cargo



2013 Cruise



2013 Ferry/Whale Watch

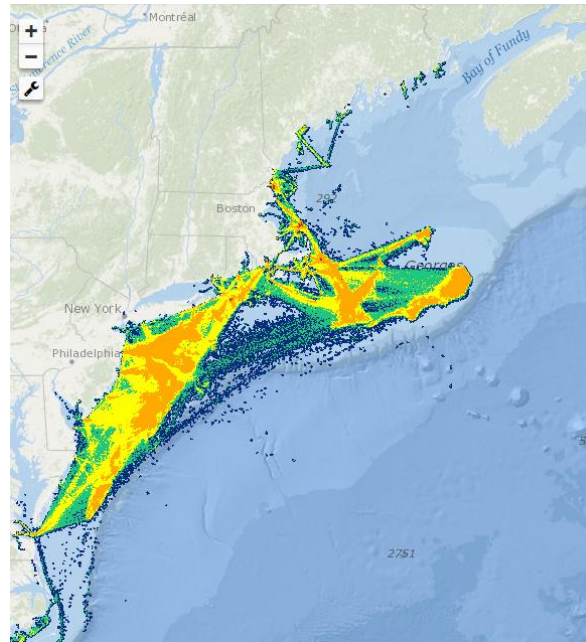


Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

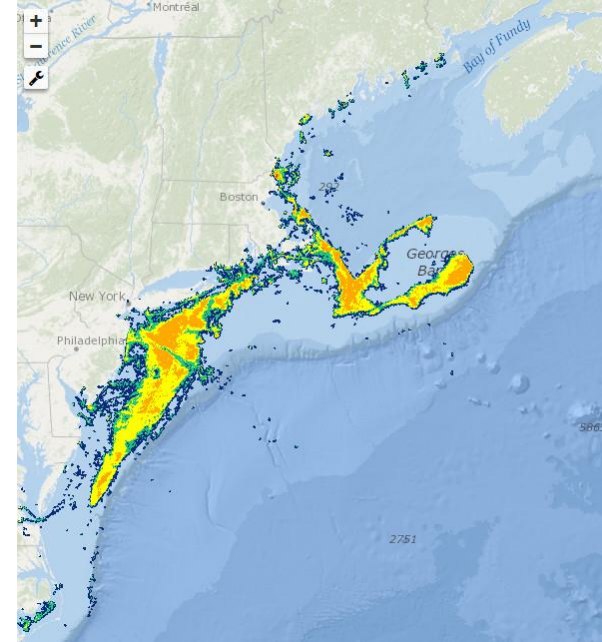
Commercial Fishing

- Data portal to be updated with 19 Vessel Monitoring System maps that have been extensively reviewed
- Update will also include a map of relevant federal fishery management areas

2011- 2014 Scallops






2011- 2014 Scallops < 5 Knots




Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

Recreation

- Recreational characterization recently completed
- Whale watching, SCUBA, distance races, and recreational activity points being added to the data portal
- Updated recreation theme on the NE Portal to be completed shortly





**Characterization of
Coastal and Marine
Recreational
Activity in the U.S.
Northeast**

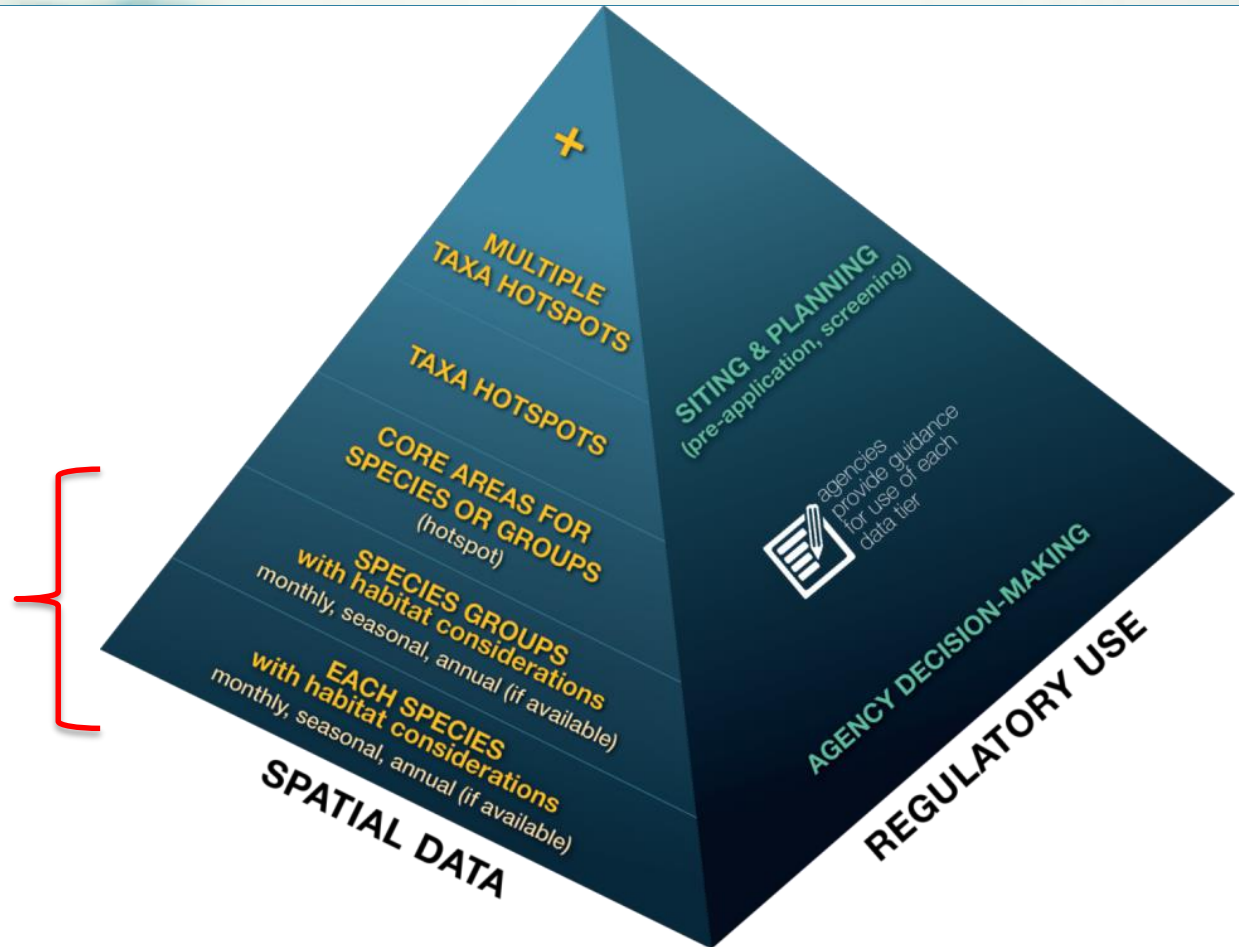
A Report developed by
Point 97, SeaPlan, and the
Surfrider Foundation for
the Northeast Regional
Planning Body

October 2015

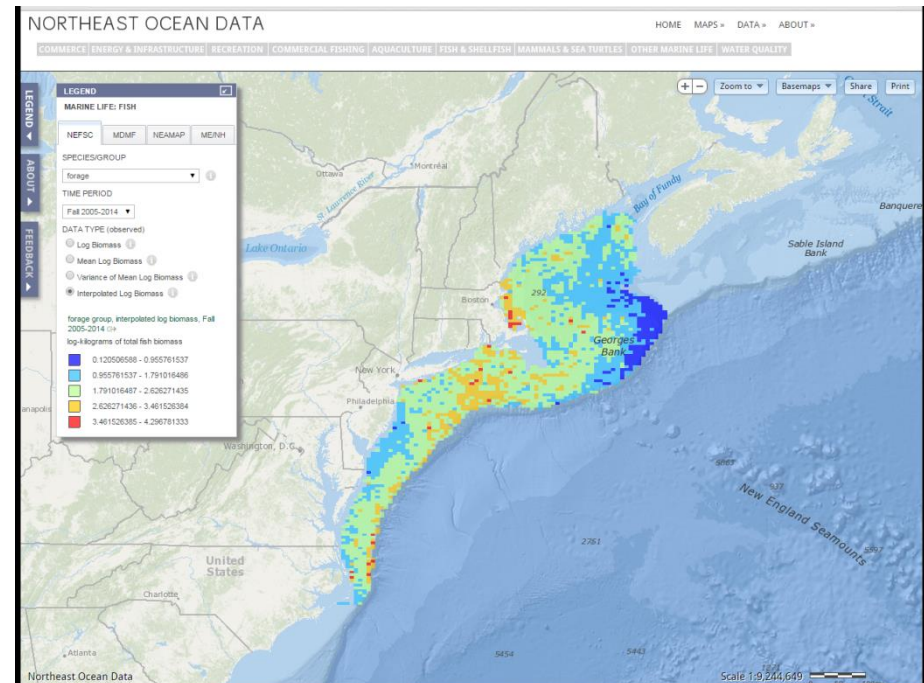
Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

Marine Life Data

Base Products: Initial
MDAT species data
& model outputs



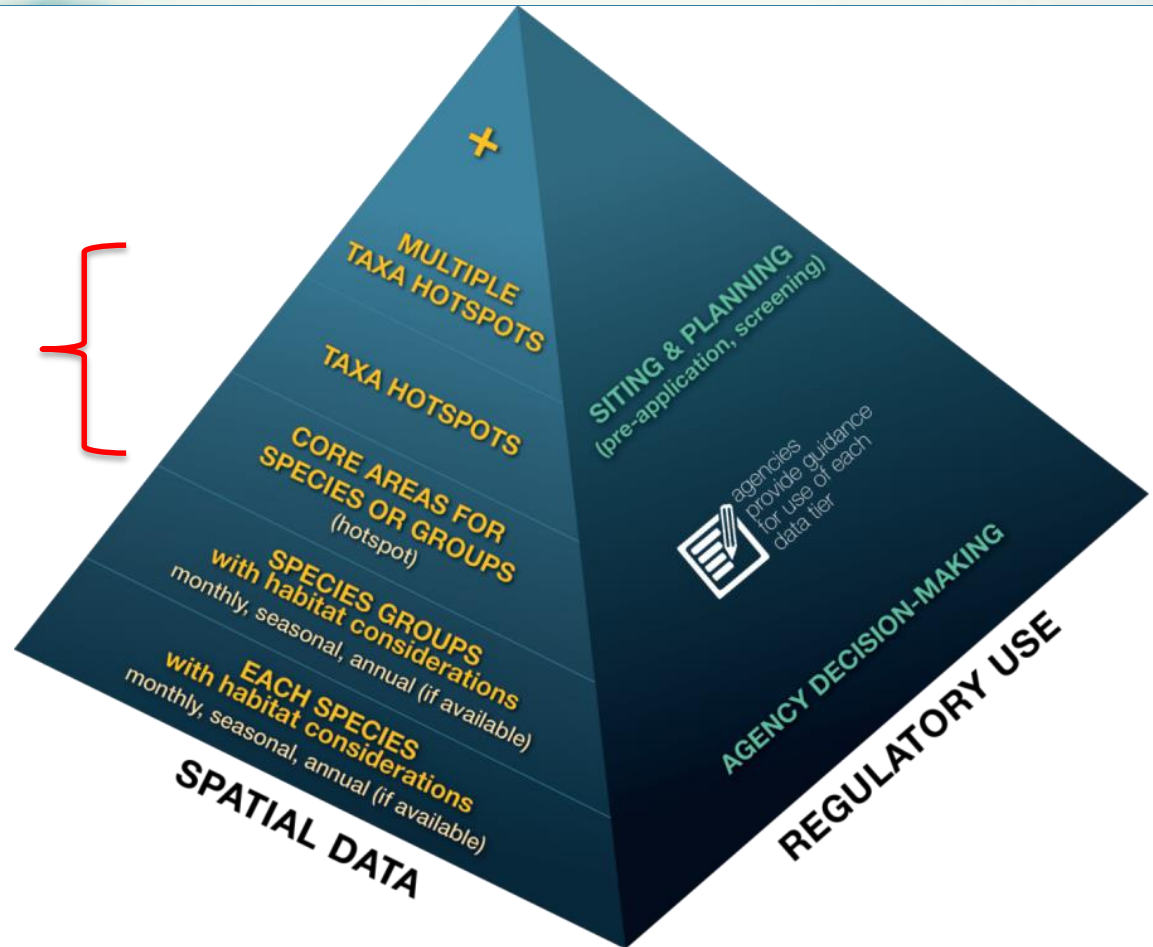
Online viewers to view
base products nearly
complete



Sections 3.2 and 3.3 Update

Marine Life Data

Summary products
under development

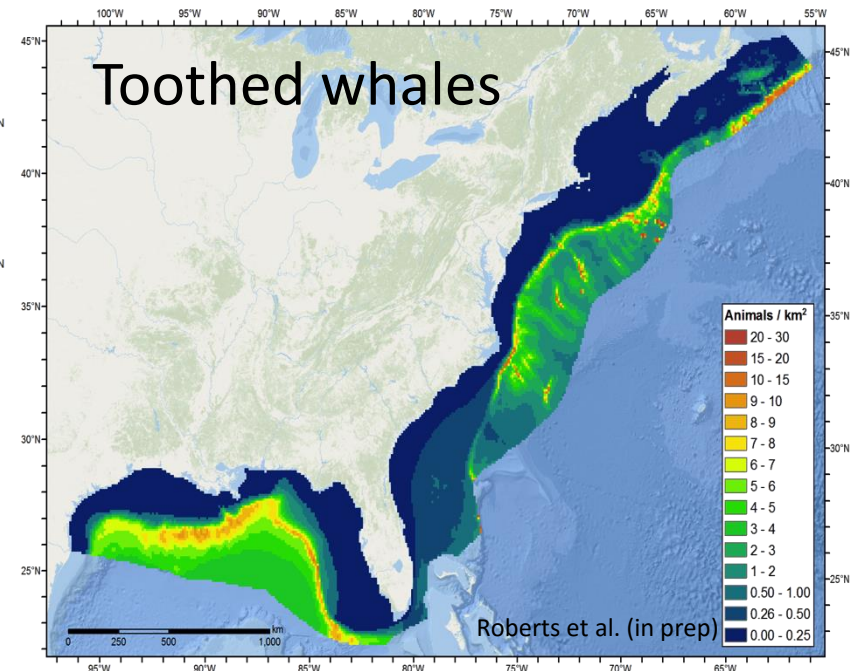
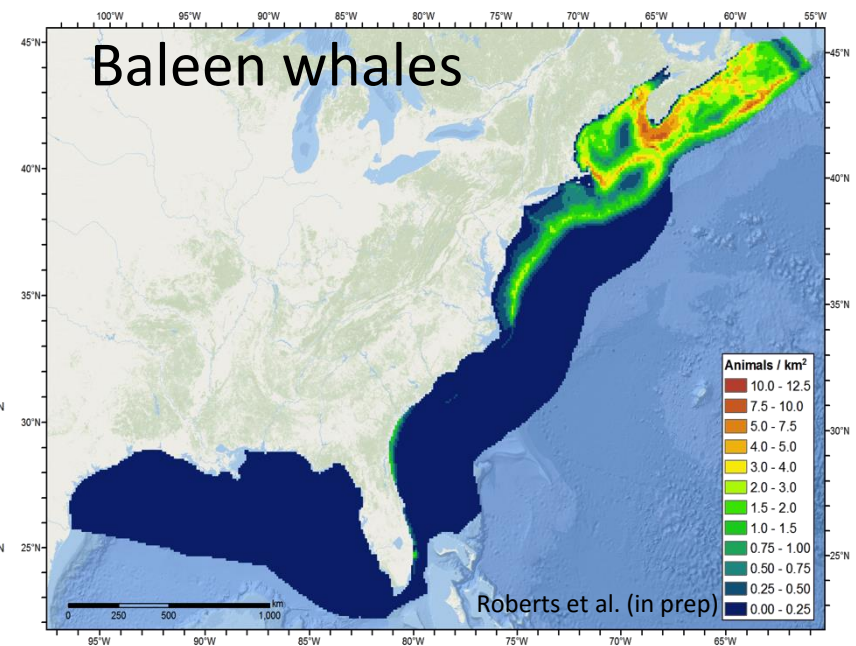
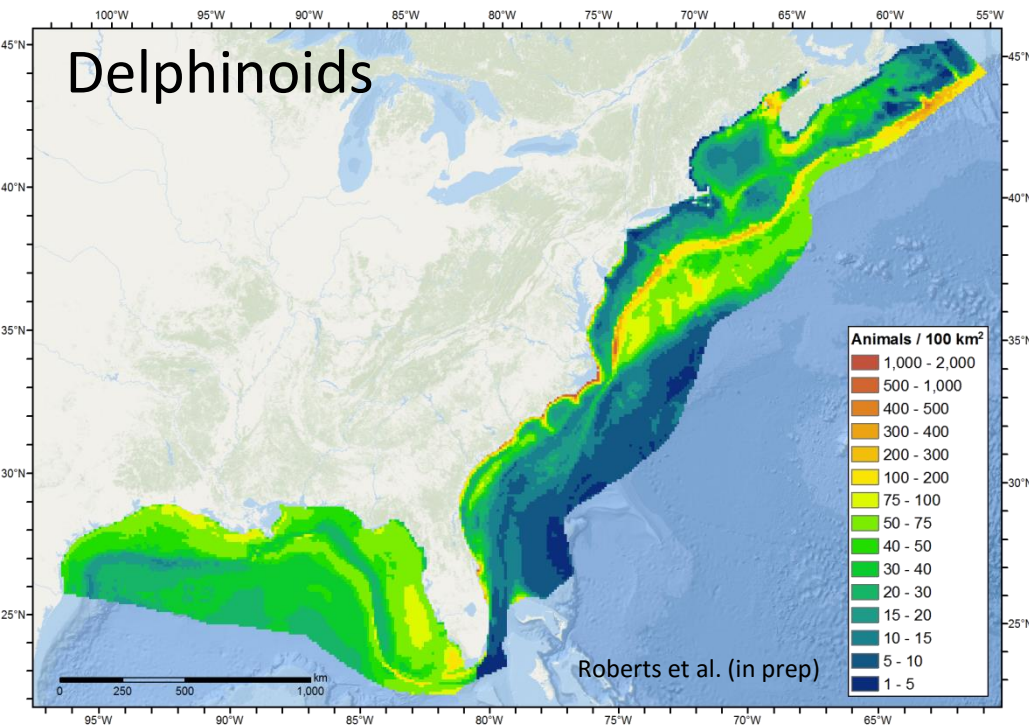


Species grouping options...

Marine mammals	Avian	Fish
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All cetaceans• Baleen whales• Small delphinoids• Large delphinoids• Sperm and beaked whales• All ESA-listed species• Sensitivity to sound (low, mid, and high frequencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spatial (nearshore, offshore)• Taxonomic (terns, gulls, etc.)• Ecological/functional (plunge-divers, surface divers)• Conservation/authority (State-listed, BCR priorities, AMBCC priorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All species• Elasmobranch• Flatfish• Forage• Gadoid• Invertebrate• Other demersal• Other fish• Pelagic• EFH• Fishery Management Plans

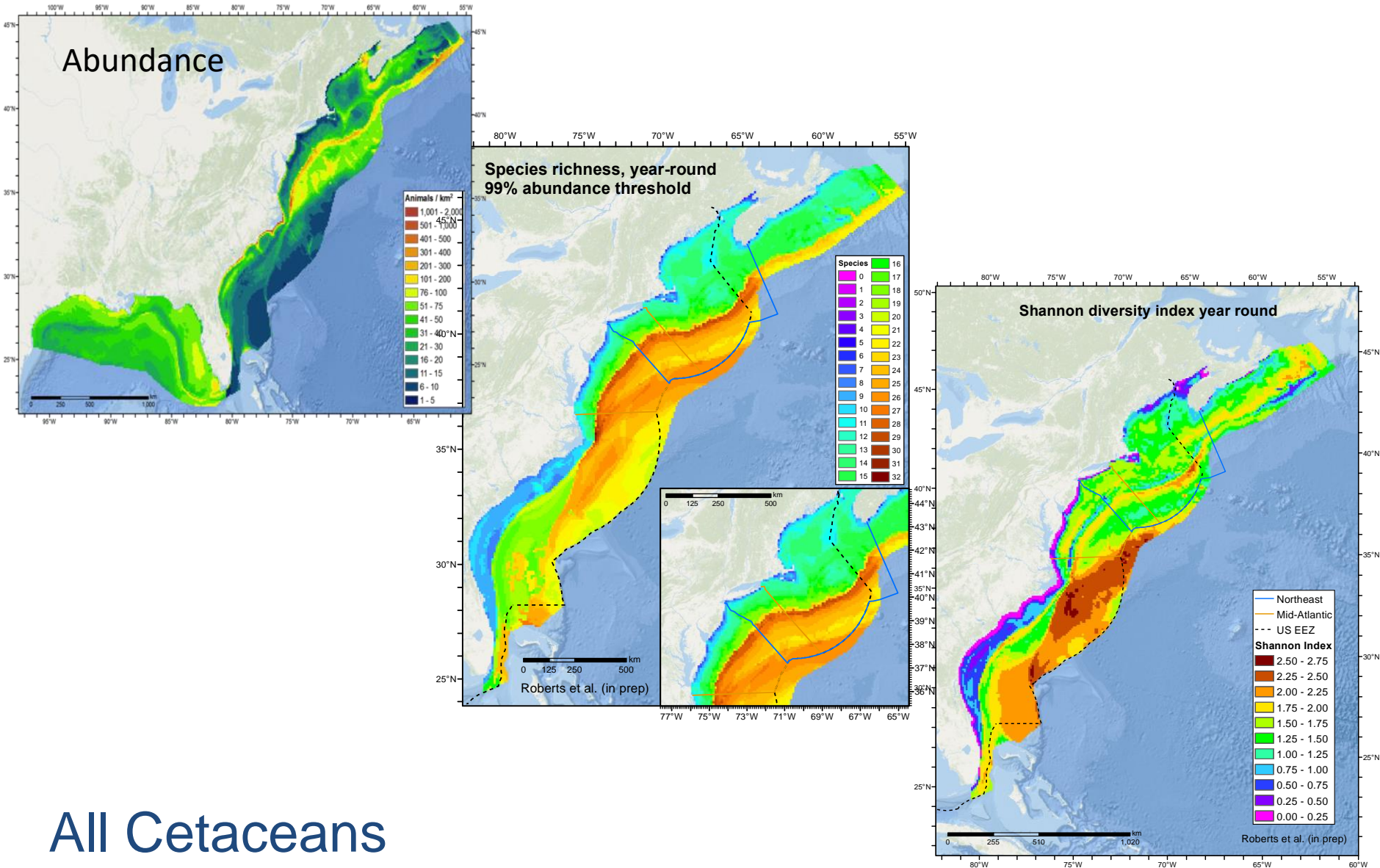
Groups are not mutually exclusive; some groups may require longer term research

Example Mammal groups - Abundance



Example Taxa Hotspots: Abundance, Richness, Diversity

Using 99% pop threshold



All Cetaceans

Example Taxa Hotspots: Abundance, Richness, Diversity

All Birds

Abundance Hotspots

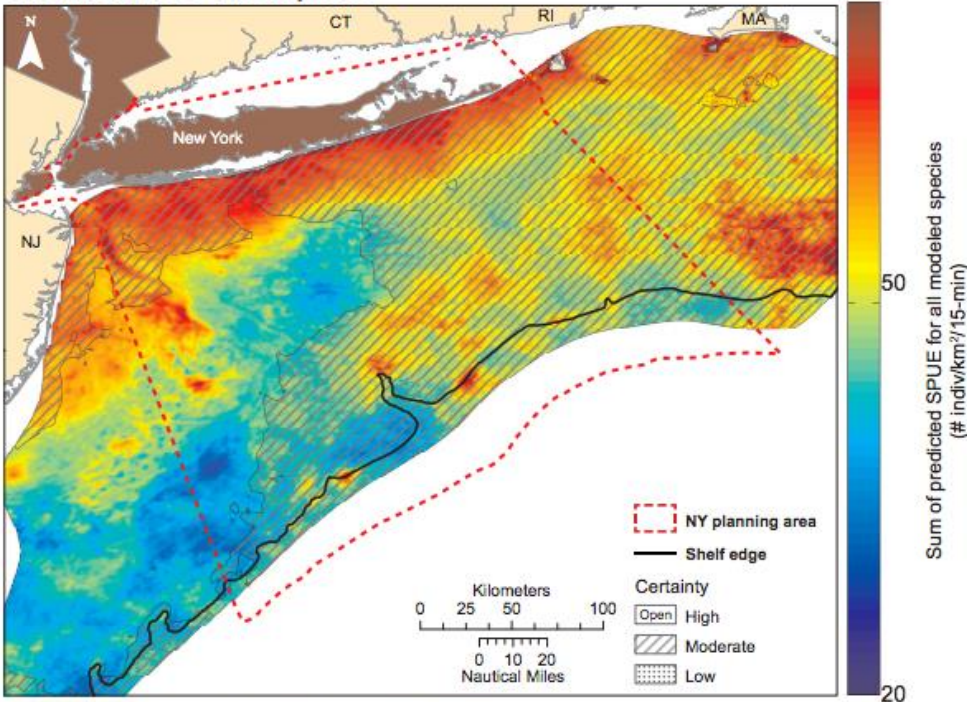


Figure 6.35. Predicted seabird abundance hotspot map.

Richness Hotspots

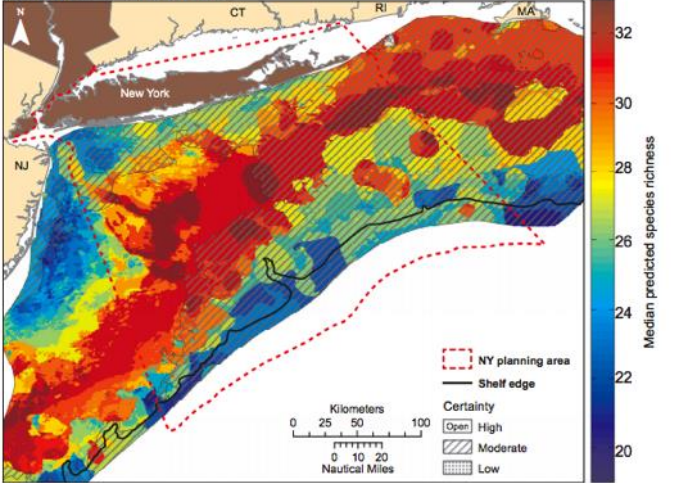


Figure 6.36. Predicted species richness hotspot map.

Diversity Hotspots

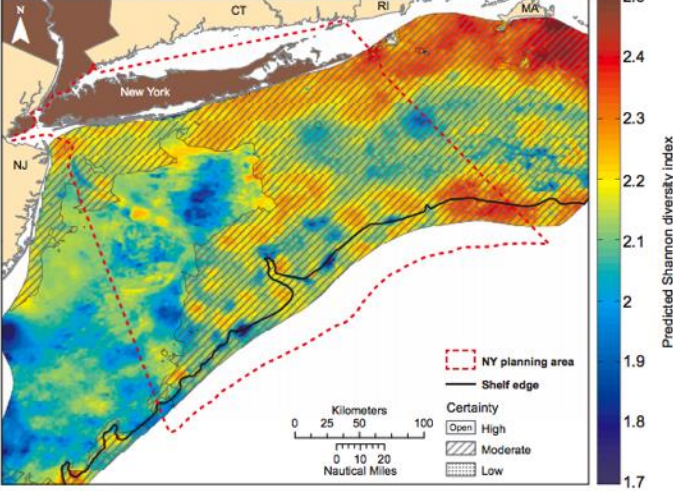


Figure 6.37. Predicted Shannon species diversity index hotspot map.

Example Fish groups - Biomass

Forage fish

Elasmobranchs

Flatfish

Gadoids

Invertebrates

Pelagics

Other demersals

Other fishes

Northern sand lance

Alewife

Atlantic herring

Butterfish

Blueback herring

Atlantic mackerel

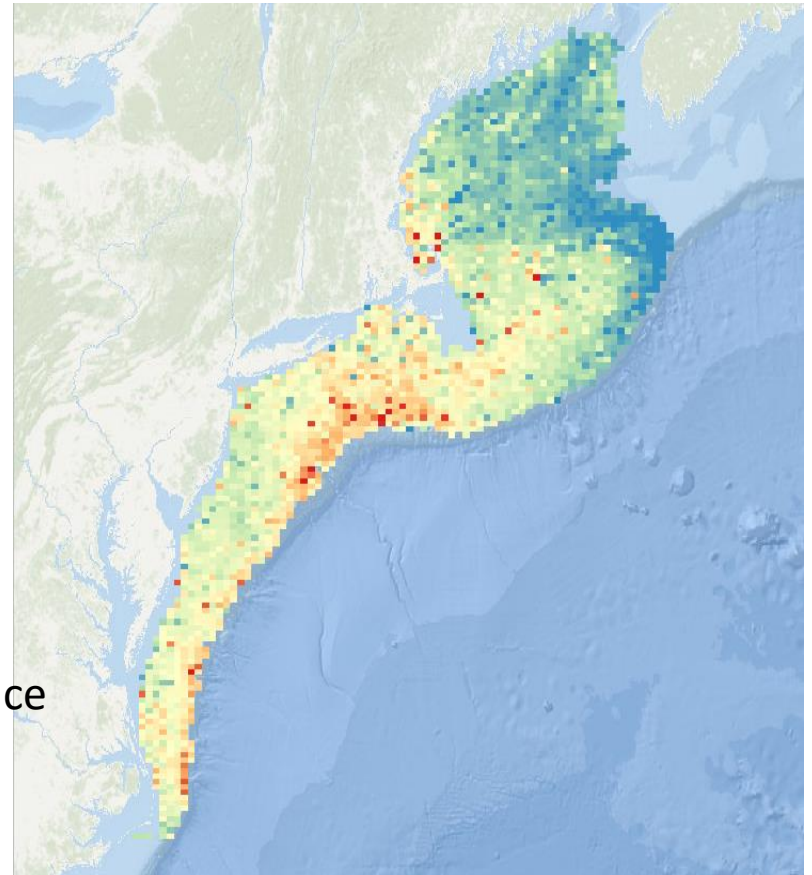
Atlantic menhaden

American shad

Hickory shad

Capelin

American sand lance



Example Taxa Hotspots: Abundance, Richness, Diversity

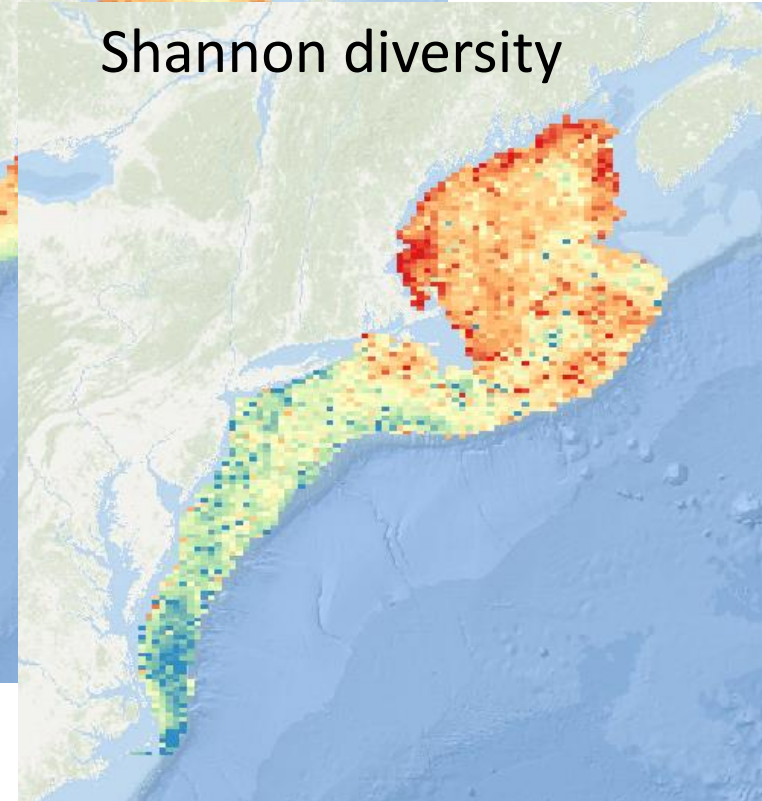
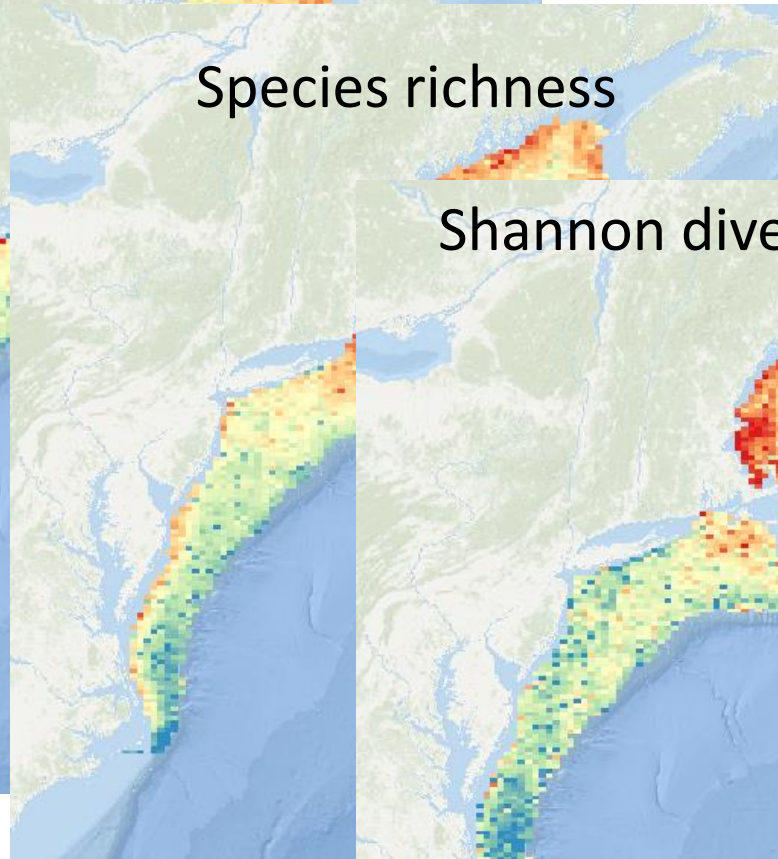
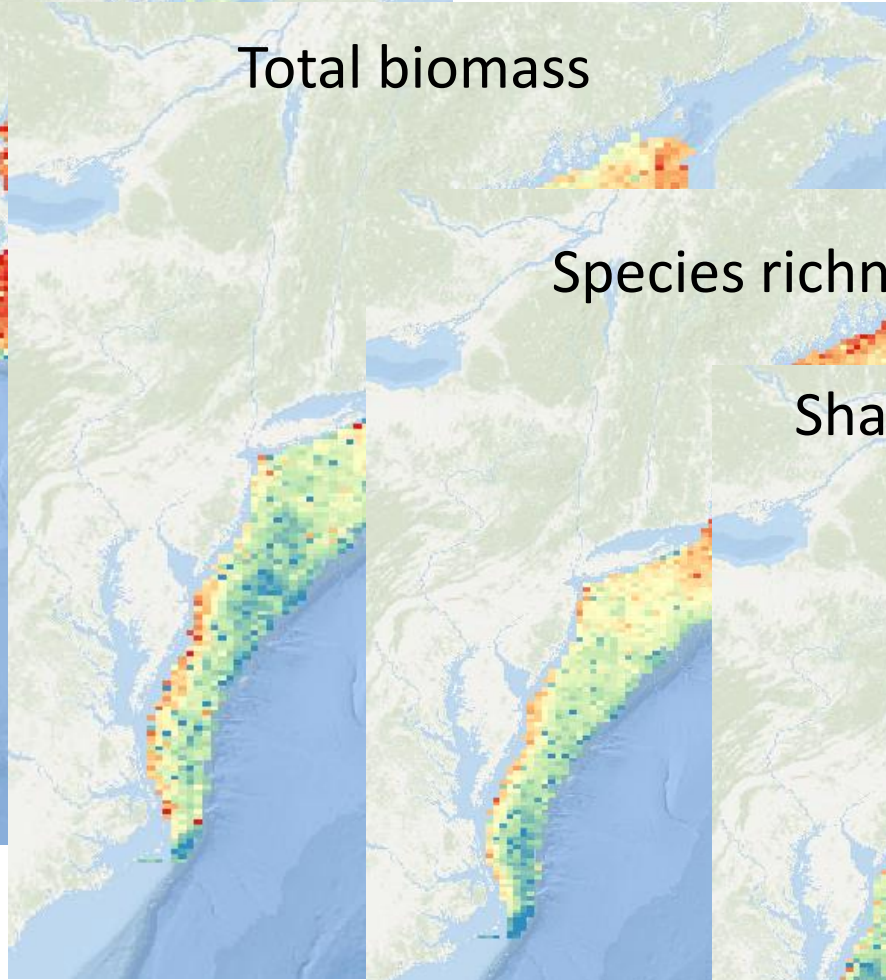
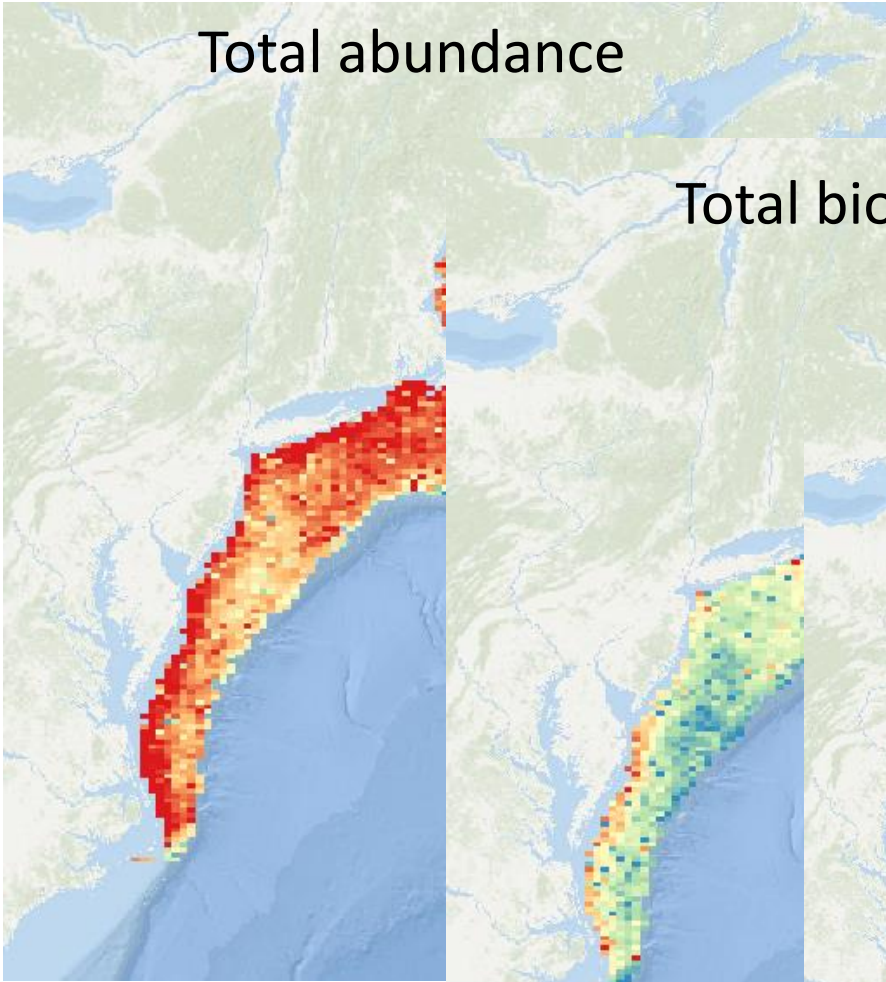
Total abundance

Total biomass

Species richness

Shannon diversity

All Fish

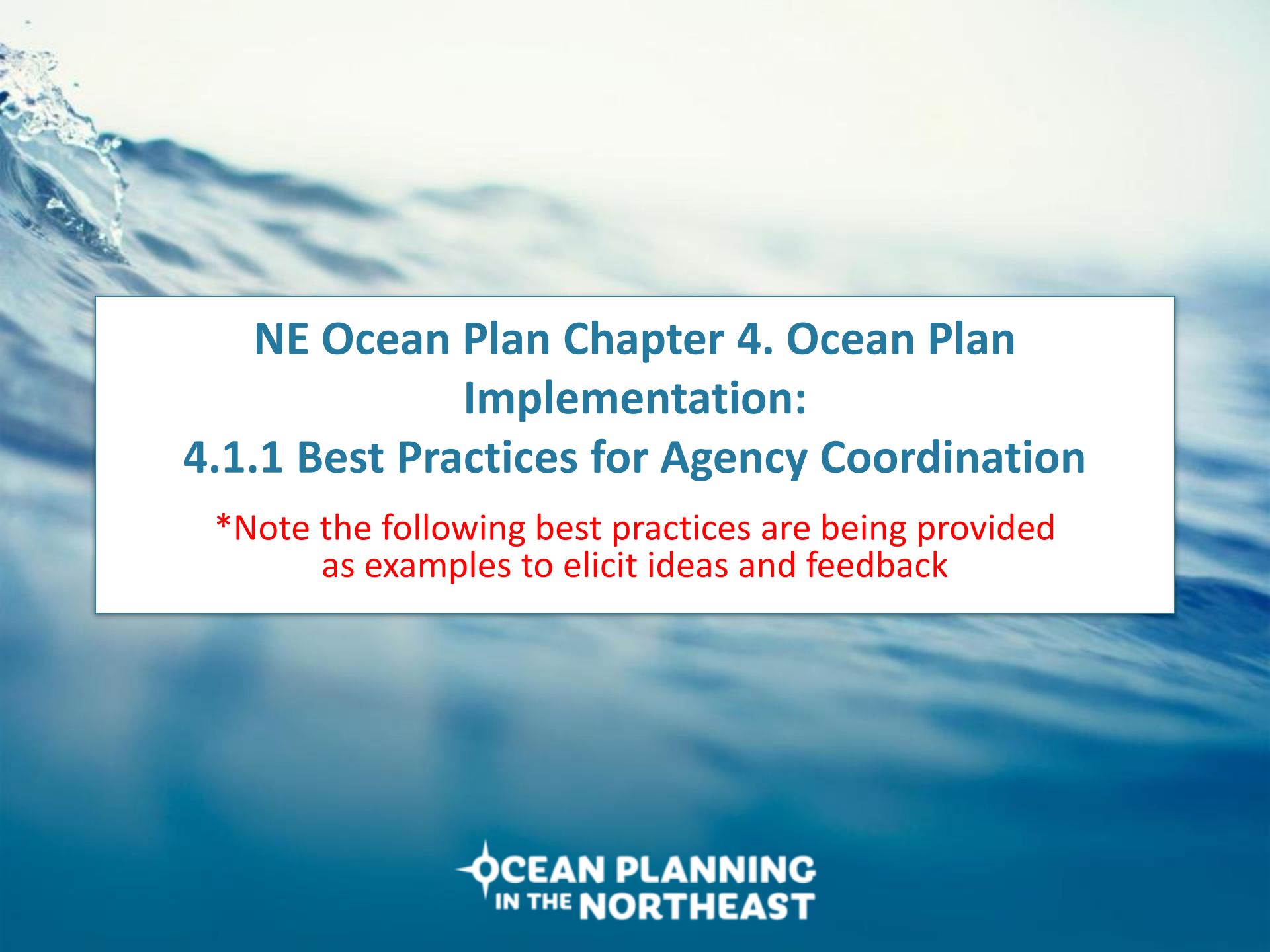


Ecosystem Based Management Work Group Update

- EBM WG established as an outcome of the April 2015 EBM Workshop and June 2015 RPB meeting
- First meeting on 9/30/15:
 - Review marine life data
 - Review habitat data and provide input on priority habitat characteristics that should be characterized
 - Review initial ideas for identifying “important ecological areas” by synthesizing marine life and habitat data
- Subsequent meetings:
 - Provide input on ecological and human use data overlays
 - Provide input on monitoring and evaluation
 - Provide input on science and research priorities

Ecosystem Based Management Work Group Update

- Recommended priority habitat data that should accompany marine life data (possibly incorporated into below)
- Recommended RPB defines “important ecological areas” in terms of their various components (rarity, diversity, vulnerability, spawning/breeding areas, migration, etc.)
- Staff, with MDAT support, will suggest a set of components and their potential to be mapped in the short and long term
- “Ecologically rich areas”, term being used in MidA, can be one of the components with potential to be mapped in short term



NE Ocean Plan Chapter 4. Ocean Plan Implementation:

4.1.1 Best Practices for Agency Coordination

***Note the following best practices are being provided
as examples to elicit ideas and feedback**

Background

- Regulatory Work Group identified early coordination and use of Portal data/Plan information as key benefits
- Options for Effective Decision-Making report identified and RPB concurred that Best Practices could be developed; outline reviewed in June
- EPA and NMFS have provided initial feedback; seeking same from USACE, USCG, USN; will be coordinating with tribes to address similar issues
- Working report to be provided for RWG/RPB review, anticipating prior to the November RPB meeting
- Originally described narrowly as best practices for pre-application review; has been broadened as “best practices for agency coordination” to capture range of applicability

Purpose

Support and provide for:

- The use of relevant information from the data portal, the Plan, stakeholders, and other sources;
- A common initial understanding of the proposed project;
- Clear and efficient direction for the applicant;
- Informed stakeholder engagement in the planning, review, and/or regulatory process; and
- Coordinated federal, state, and tribal review as appropriate.

Categories and examples

- Participation in early coordination
 - *Federal agencies subject to Executive Order #13547 should engage in early coordination as a general practice, and should do so consistent with these best practices, as appropriate.*
 - *The lead agency should ensure that all agencies with potential interests in NEPA review and USACE permitting receive notice of, and an opportunity to participate in, agency coordination.*
- Use of data and information
 - *Project proponents and agencies should use the data portal and associated textual and graphical information contained in the Plan as a primary initial source of information to inform agency coordination and project review under authorities described in Chapter 3.1.*

Categories and examples

- Coordination with stakeholders
 - *In the context of the proposed project, agencies and the proponent should discuss how stakeholder interests are addressed by applicable authorities, and agencies with subject-matter jurisdiction should specifically identify management provisions that require characterization of stakeholder interests.*
- Coordination with states
 - *Federal agencies serving as either a project proponent or a lead agency should use the agency coordination process to discuss with a state(s) that has state jurisdiction over the proposed project whether a coordinated approach to NEPA and regulatory review should be considered. On a project-specific basis, such discussion will be influenced by a range of existing statutory, regulatory, administrative, and/or practical measures.*
- Coordination with tribes – will be coordinating with tribes to develop.