Electric Oceans:

Finding the space for renewable energy in crowded waters

Date & Time: Friday, February 15th, 2013: 3:00pm -4:30pm
Location: Room 313, Hynes Convention Center

Energy fuels our economies. And while a move toward renewable energy is welcomed by many, decisions about where to put renewable energy facilities are never easy. This symposium will focus on offshore wind in New England. We will introduce a new tool for assisting thorny siting decision, highlight ongoing local efforts to balance wind, fisheries, and other critical concerns, and reflect on best practices.

Co-Organizers: Mary Ruckelshaus, Managing Director, Natural Capital Project & Anne Guerry, Lead Scientist, Natural Capital Project
Discussant: Mary Boatman, Environmental Studies Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Speakers:

Robert Griffin, Economist, Natural Capital Project, Stanford University: **Modeling what Matters: Quantifying Tradeoffs for Energy, Transportation and Fishing**

Sally McGee, Northeast Marine Program Director, The Nature Conservancy: **In Practice: Reconciling Existing Uses with Emerging Uses**

Andy Lipsky, Director of Science and Policy, SeaPlan: **Lessons Learned: Marine Planning in the Northeast and Applying the National Ocean Policy along our Nation's Working Waters**

Synopsis: Offshore wind, waves and tides have tremendous potential to help us meet our burgeoning energy needs. While the European marine renewable energy industry has been active for decades, the U.S. industry is in its infancy. Recent legislation has accelerated renewable energy development in our waters, particularly along the East Coast, including Boston's watery backyard. Technological hurdles exist for industry expansion, but a critical challenge is finding space in a crowded ocean. Given our myriad ocean uses (fishing, marine transportation, recreational boating) one more use can yield substantial tradeoffs. In this symposium, we will share novel approaches to delineating spaces for wind energy facilities that can inform siting decisions that lead to the best outcomes for people and the ecosystem services on which we depend. This symposium will feature three presentations; the first will focus on the science and economics of siting wind energy facilities, the second will highlight the wind energy area in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and interactions with commercial fisheries, and the third will discuss ongoing work to balance offshore wind and fisheries, highlight industry to industry partnerships, and reflect on best practices. We will conclude with a panel that engages audience participation and explores lessons learned from this novel and contentious work and related efforts that blends the elegance of basic science with the complexity of real-world decisions.

Media Resources:
AAAS Session Information: http://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2013/webprogram/Session6023.html
Natural Capital Project: www.naturalcapitalproject.org
SeaPlan: http://www.seaplan.org/