

The background of the slide is a photograph of ocean waves. The top left corner shows a white, foamy wave crest. The rest of the image is a deep blue sea with gentle ripples and waves, extending to the horizon under a pale, overcast sky.

**Northeast Regional Planning Body**

**Natural Resources Workshop**

# Meeting Objectives

- Inform options for characterizing marine mammal, sea turtle, bird, and fish distribution and abundance for use in ocean planning.  
(Action 1-1 under the Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems Goal)
- Discuss a review of existing regional efforts to identify areas of ecological importance or measure the health of the marine system and consider the applicability of such assessments for ocean planning.  
(Action 1-2 under the Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems Goal)

# Northeast Regional Planning Goals

- Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems
- Effective Decision-Making
- Compatibility Among Past, Current and Future Ocean Uses

# Goal: Effective Decision Making

- Not today's focus, but progress under this goal informs natural resource characterization
- Objective I: Enhance inter-agency coordination
- Objective III: Incorporate products into existing decision-making

# Goal: Effective Decision Making

- Initial discussions to date:
  - Regional data as context
  - Additional focus/prioritization of subset of data related to existing authorities - many that relate to today's discussion
- Summer: Continue agency discussions; engage industry and environmental groups
- Fall: Workshop; public meetings
- November: RPB determines next steps

# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## Objectives:

- I. Characterize the ecosystem, economy and cultural resources
- II. Support existing restoration and conservation programs
- III. Develop regional ocean science plan

# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## Progress on Action 1-1: Marine Life Distribution and Abundance

- Focus: Marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and fish
- RFP: Selected Duke, NOAA NCCOS, NOAA NEFSC - the Marine Data and Analysis Team (MDAT)
- Inventory of datasets, products and their applications
- Identified options and key decisions for product development

# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## 2014 Timeline Action 1-1: Marine Life Distribution and Abundance

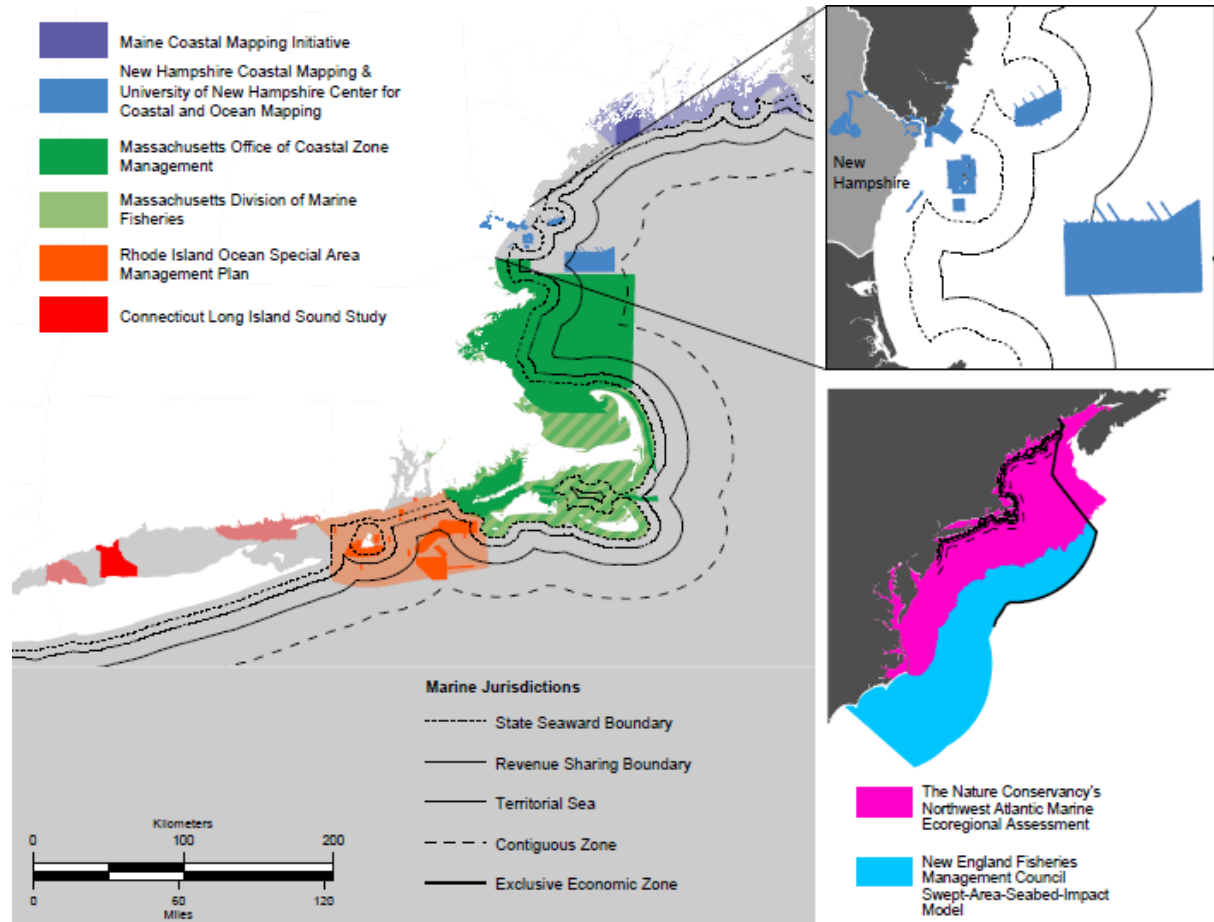
- Summer/Fall:
  - Expert working groups inform product development
  - Webinars and other opportunities to stay engaged
- Oct: Public meetings
- Nov: Update and next steps at RPB meeting



# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## Other Natural Resource Information:

## Habitat Classification



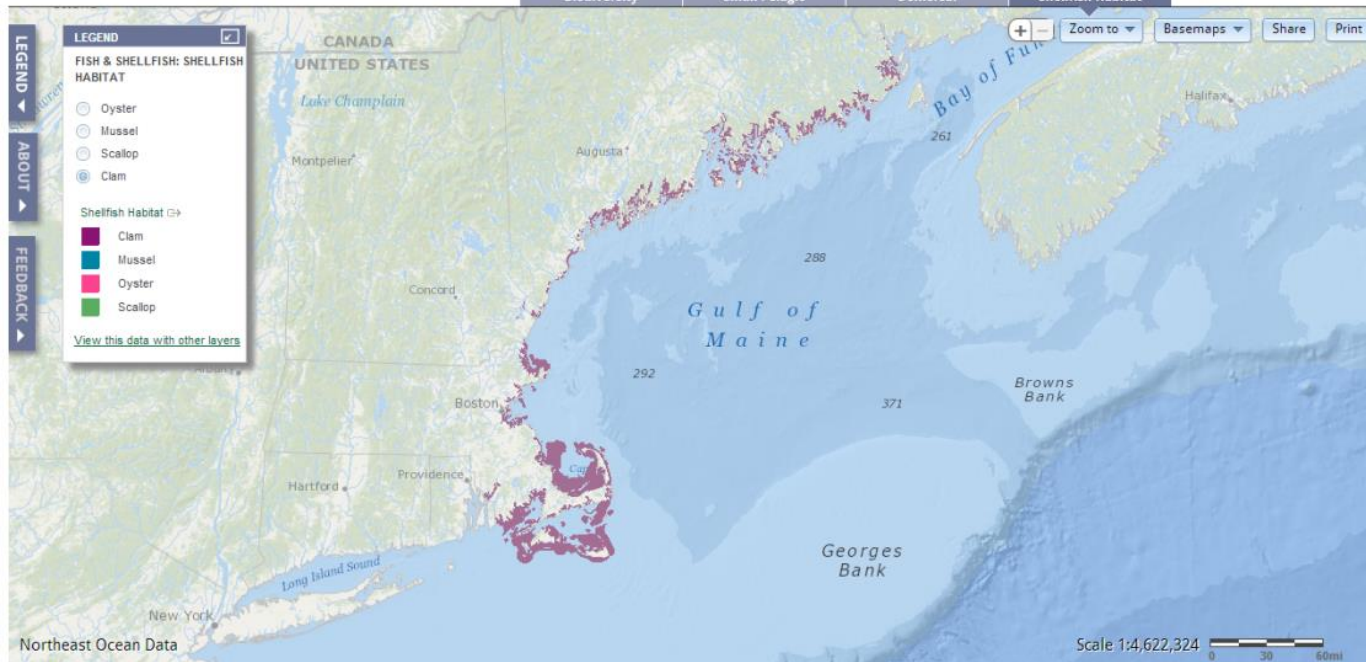
# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA

HOME MAPS » DATA » ABOUT »

MARITIME COMMERCE ENERGY RECREATION COMMERCIAL FISHING AQUACULTURE **FISH & SHELLFISH** MARINE MAMMALS & SEA TURTLES OTHER MARINE LIFE

Biodiversity Small Pelagic Demersal **Shellfish Habitat**



Other Natural  
Resource  
Information:

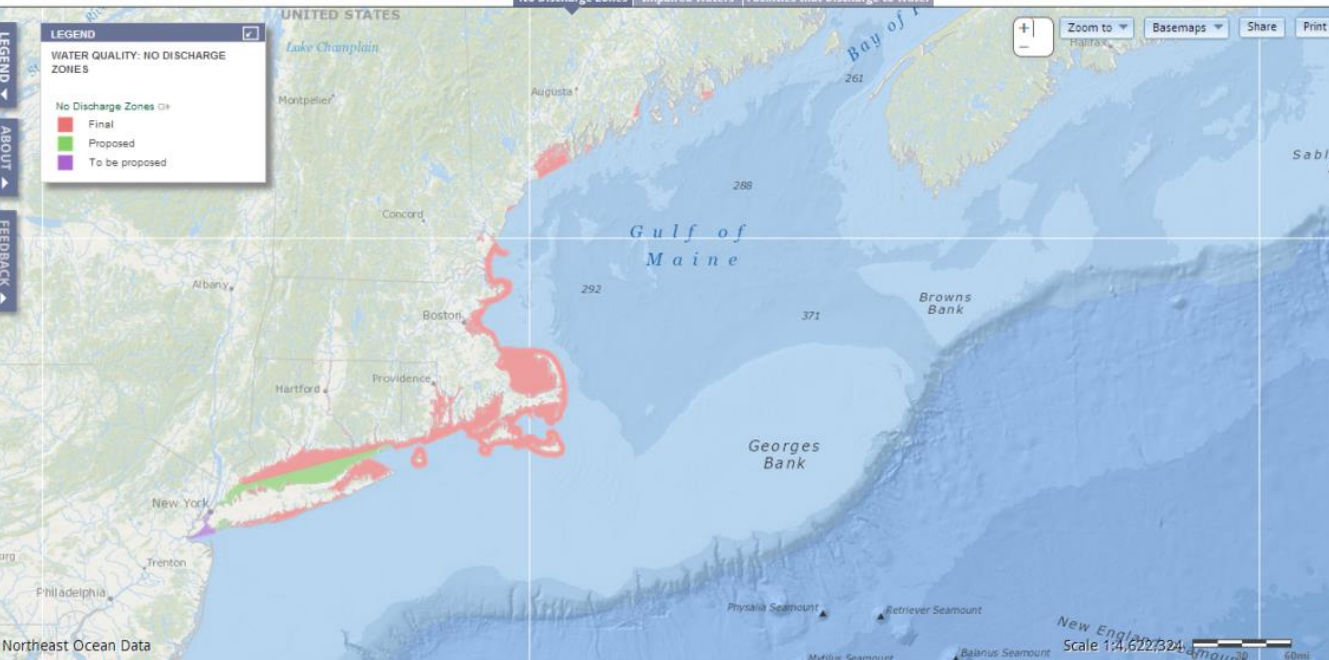
Shellfish  
Habitat

# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA

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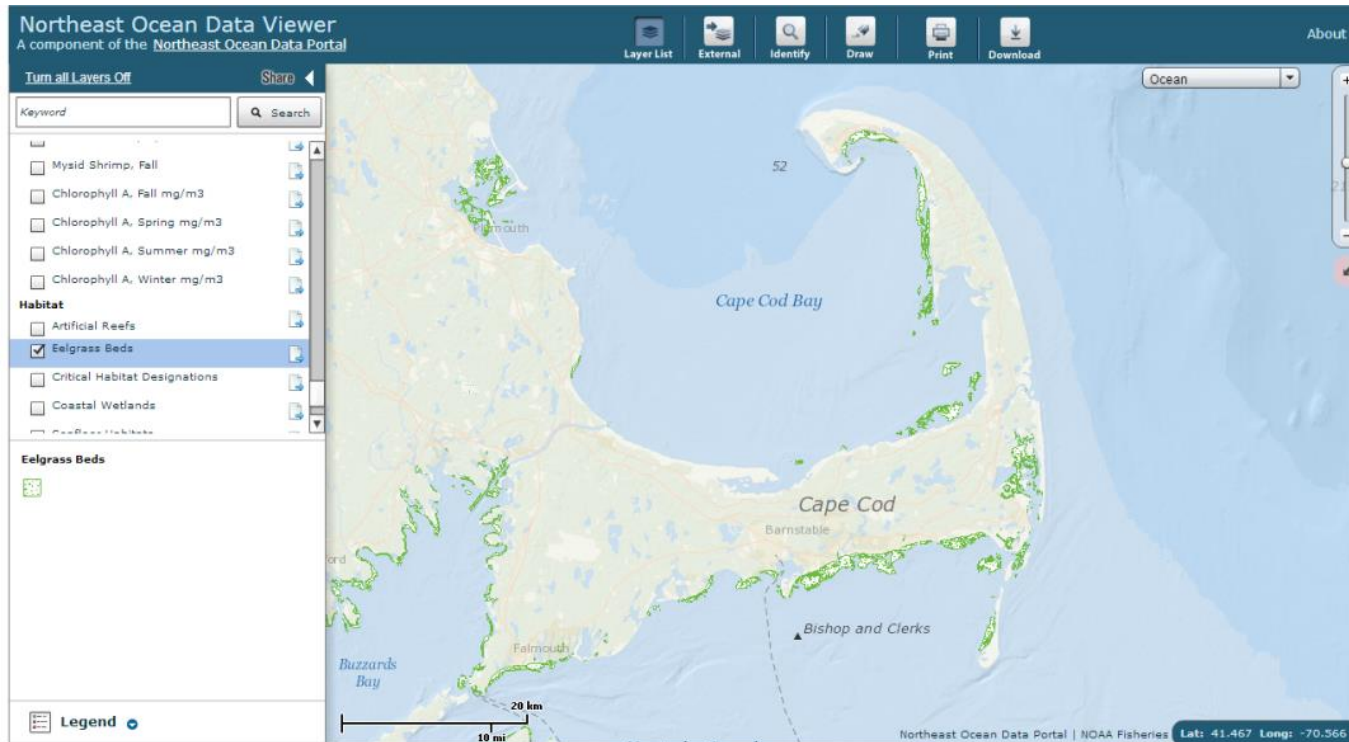
MARITIME COMMERCE ENERGY RECREATION COMMERCIAL FISHING AQUACULTURE FISH & SHELLFISH MARINE MAMMALS & SEA TURTLES OTHER MARINE LIFE WATER QUALITY



Other Natural  
Resource  
Information:

Water Quality

# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems



Other Natural  
Resource  
Information:

Eelgrass

# NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA

Maps and data for ocean planning in the northeastern United States

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## DATA EXPLORER



Use the Data Explorer to view any dataset or to select a combination of datasets to view on a single map.

## MAP OF THE MONTH



[Shellfish Management Areas](#) *June 2014*  
Shellfish growing and classification areas in the northeastern states

## NEWS

[New Interactive Maps of Water Quality in the Northeast](#) *June 23, 2014*

[Video: Guided Tour of Northeast Ocean Data Website and Maps](#) *June 12, 2014*

[New and Updated Data on Shipping Activity and Shellfish Habitat](#) *Mar 12, 2014*

# Goal: Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems

## Action 1-2: Ecological importance and ecosystem health

- Reviewed existing assessments in the region, focusing on their management application
- Today/Summer/Fall:
  - Consider the applicability of these assessments to regional ocean planning goals
  - Understand challenges
  - Determine additional information necessary to develop options for RPB consideration
- October public meetings; November RPB meeting