Northeast Regional Planning Body
Marine Life Characterization Webinar
August 27, 2014

OCEAN PLANNING IN THE NORTHEAST

June 25th Workshop

- 125 Participants from tribes, state and federal agencies, industry, academia, non-profit organizations and the public
- Initial discussions to inform options for characterizing marine mammal, sea turtle, bird and fish distribution and abundance for use in ocean planning
- Identified cross-cutting issues related to creating new spatial data products
- Summary available at www.neoceanplanning.org

June 25th Workshop

CROSSCUTTING ISSUES	OPTIONS
DATA COLLECTION	• Sources • Geographic scope • How to integrate survey methods? • How to integrate expert knowledge?
TEMPORAL EXTENT	• How many decades of data to include? • Monthly, seasonal, annual summaries
TREATMENT OF DATA	• Summarize by species, guilds, functional groups • Incorporate migration routes? • Which environmental covariates?
SPATIAL PRODUCTS	• Tier I spatial products (observations) • Tier II spatial products (observations + habitat)
USES	• As supporting information • For environmental impact assessment and/or permitting decisions by state or federal regulatory agencies • Assessing compatibility with other uses

Role of Expert Work Groups

- Inform the Marine life Data and Analysis Team (MDAT) on the development of new spatial data products
- Help identify longer-term priorities for marine life spatial data products
- Meet every 4-6 weeks through at least the end of the year

Work Group Participation – Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Sean Todd	College of the Atlantic	Robert DiGiovanni	Riverhead Foundation
Erin Burke	MA Division of Marine Fisheries	Kathleen Vigness-Raposa	Marine Acoustics, Inc.
Erin Summers	ME Division of Marine Resources	Bob Kenney	URI
Scott Kraus	New England Aquarium	Mark Baumgartner	WHOI
Brooke Wikgren	New England Aquarium	Bryan Wallace	Stratus Consulting
Dave Wiley	NOAA Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary	Michael Coyne	SeaTurtle.org
Leila Hatch	NOAA Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary	Andrew DiMatteo	US Navy
Debi Palka	NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Matthew Godfrey	NC Sea Turtle Project
Peter Corkeron	NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Tom French	MA Fish & Wildlife
Sofie van Parijs	NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Todd Callaghan	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Gordon Waring	NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Jay Odell	The Nature Conservancy
Tim Cole	NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center	Kimberly Skrupky	BOEM
Stormy Mayo	Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies	Chuckie Green	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council
Jooke Robbins	Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies	Elizabeth James-Perry	Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head

Work Group Participation – Avian

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
David Bigger	BOEM	Todd Callaghan	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Iain Stenhouse	Biodiversity Research Institute	Tom French	MA Fish & Wildlife
Andrew Gilbert	Biodiversity Research Institute	Gwynn Crichton	The Nature Conservancy
Wing Goodale	Biodiversity Research Institute	Dave Wiley	NOAA Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary
Dick Veit	City University of New York	Les Kaufman	Boston University
John Kanter	New Hampshire Fish & Game	Holly Goyert	North Carolina State University
Chris Elphick	UConn		
Rebecca Holberton	UMaine		
Peter Paton	URI		
Tim Jones	USFWS		
Linda Welch	USFWS		
Jeffrey Leirness	USFWS		
Jill Peterson	NOAA		
Dan Dorfman	NOAA		

Work Group Participation – Fish

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Peg Parker	Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation Alternates – David Spencer, Fred Mattera	Jake Kritzer	Environmental Defense Fund
Kathy Mills	Gulf of Maine Research Institute	Todd Callaghan	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Jeremy King	MA Division of Marine Fisheries	Giancarlo Cicchetti	US EPA
Sally Sherman	ME Division of Marine Resources	Jay Odell	The Nature Conservancy
Malin Pinksky	Rutgers University	Sharri Venno	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Peter Auster	UConn / Mystic Aquarium	Elizabeth James-Perry	Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head
Kathryn Ford	MA Division of Marine Fisheries		
Les Kaufman	Boston University		
Jon Grabowski	Northeastern University		
Jeremy Collie	URI		
Chris Bonzek	Virginia Institute of Marine Science		
Steve Cadrin	UMass School of Marine Science and Technology		
Jamie Cournane	New England Fishery Management Council		
Michelle Bachman	New England Fishery Management Council		

Summary of First Work Group Calls

Avian – August 1, 2014

- Data: The Compendium of Avian Occurrence is the primary data source
- Species:
  - Group discussed a range of criteria, including conservation/protection status, potential vulnerability, and data availability
  - Challenges associated with filtering species by vulnerability and rarity
  - MDAT will assess their ability to model each of the 112 species in the Northeast based on data in-hand and propose groupings that may increase model robustness
- Potential collaboration/integration with Saltmarsh Habitat Avian Research Program (SHARP) and Natural Heritage Programs

Summary of First Work Group Calls

Marine mammals & Sea turtles – August 7, 2014

- Data:
  - Duke University marine mammal and sea turtle density models use line-transect survey data from a variety of sources, including NEFSC
  - North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium and Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies are important potential additions for regional data
- Products:
  - MDAT will assess their ability to produce finer scale products from the existing model in nearshore areas and for species with high numbers of observations
  - MDAT will explore options for nesting models with other types of products or approaches
  - Further consideration of climate change and trends is necessary

Summary of First Work Group Calls

Fish – August 12, 2014

- Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Assessment (NEAMAP), and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries bottom trawl surveys are the principal data sources
- Additional, local datasets would offer the potential for higher model resolution in some areas/embayments
- Work group identified important species not well captured by trawl surveys and for which MDAT will consider additional data sources (e.g., American lobster, American eel, Atlantic sea scallop, river herring).
- MDAT will explore habitat data, potential species groupings and coordination with other projects looking at climate and trends

Timeline – now through Fall 2014

- Public webinar – today!
- Next expert work group meetings – September 2014
- Public meetings – October 2014
- Fall Regional Planning Body meeting in Portsmouth, NH – November 13-14, 2014

Additional ecological assessments

- RPB also considering other ecological assessments to support planning
- RPB subcommittee currently refining general options for conducting additional ecological assessments
- Focus on identifying important ecological areas and/or measuring ecosystem health
- Current considerations:
  - Clearly define and communicate options
  - Consider science and technical support needs
  - Consider opportunities to implement and recognize increasing linkage to other key RPB decisions that help define plan outcomes

Additional ecological assessments

- Potential broad range of options for defining and identifying important ecological areas:
  - Areas already designated through existing state and federal authorities (critical habitat, EFH, state ocean plans, etc.)
  - Areas could be identified by considering distribution, abundance, density, hot spots, and other core habitat for protected species
  - Areas could be identified by considering ecological productivity, diversity, function, and resilience
- Within and across each broad category above:
  - Range of approaches with varying complexity and existing efforts to leverage
  - Different technical and science support needs
  - Different existing and potential management applications