

Ecosystem Based Management Work Group

July 27, 2016 10:00 am – 5:00pm

Boston Marriott Long Wharf

296 State Street Boston, MA 02109

Meeting objectives:

- Review progress illustrating the Important Ecological Area (IEA) Framework (as described in Action ML-4 on page 55 of the draft Northeast Ocean Plan) and inform next steps for continued mapping of IEAs
- Obtain input from the EBM Work Group on key questions and decisions related to the use of existing marine life and habitat data to map IEA Component 1 – Areas of High Productivity and IEA Component 2 – Areas of High Biodiversity, and consider implications for advancing IEA Components 3 through 5
- Introduce the Ocean Health Index (OHI) and provide an overview of the process and timeline for developing an OHI for New England
- Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on progress with the IEA Framework and the OHI

Materials:

- Draft Northeast Ocean Plan (<http://neoceanplanning.org/plan/>)
 - Important Ecological Area Framework (Appendix 3: <http://neoceanplanning.org/plan/appendices/>)
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Agenda

10:00 Welcome

- Introductions
- Update on the planning timeline, including recently closed public comment period
- Review the agenda and the EBM WG Terms of Reference

10:20 Overview of draft Northeast Ocean Plan with a focus on key elements of EBM

- Overview of the draft Plan, including the key elements of EBM per EBM Consensus Statement referenced on page 28
- Review Marine Life and Habitat section of the Plan and related actions (in Chapter 3), focusing on the IEA Framework
- Review Monitoring and Evaluation section of the Plan and related actions (in Chapter 4), focusing on the Ocean Health Index
- Review the Science and Research Priorities chapter of the Plan (Chapter 5)
- Questions and Discussion

11:00 IEA Framework: Component 1 – Areas of High Productivity

- Review examples of and key decisions related to using existing marine life and habitat data to illustrate data categories within Component 1
- Inform next steps for work through the remainder of 2016

12:00 Lunch (Provided)

12:45 Wrap up Component 1 - Participants provide additional thoughts on Component 1 after consideration over lunch

1:00 IEA Framework: Component 2 – Areas of High Biodiversity

- Review examples of and key decisions related to using existing marine life and habitat data to illustrate data categories within Component 2
- Inform next steps for work through the remainder of 2016

2:00 Break

2:15 Wrap up Component 2 and Review Components 3 through 5

- Participants provide additional thoughts on Component 2 after consideration over the break
- Review the IEA Framework for Components 3 through 5 and initial progress identifying and using existing data to illustrate those components

3:15 Introduction to Ocean Health Index for the Northeast

- Overview of the process and timeline for developing the OHI in New England (Presentation by Halpern Lab - UCSB)
- Questions and Discussion

4:00 Public Input on IEA Framework and OHI

4:45 Summary and Next Steps

5:00 Adjourn