

1. Executive Summary

The Northeast region, for ocean planning purposes, includes the coastal counties of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and the New York counties (bordering Long Island Sound) of Queens, Bronx, Suffolk, Nassau, and Westchester. The coastal and marine natural resources and coastal infrastructure of the Northeast region, and the economic activities and cultural/recreational services that rely them, directly support more than 320,000 jobs and more than \$20 billion in economic value (GDP) per year (2013 data) in the ocean economy. This represents about 2% of the region's overall economy.

The major segments of the region's ocean economy are living resources (commercial fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood processing), coastal and marine tourism and recreation (including beach recreation, boating, fishing, whale watching, and SCUBA diving), maritime transportation of goods and passengers, ship and boat building, coastal and marine construction, and marine minerals (mainly sand and gravel).

Northeast Region Ocean Economy GDP (\$million/year, 2013)

	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	Northeast Region
Living Resources	574.2	67.4	874.9	137.0	69.9	90.6	1,813.9
Tourism & Recreation	1,242.3	291.7	3,237.7	1,450.2	1,726.8	2,356.9	10,305.5
Transportation	195.7	1,058.4	2,195.3	273.6	817.1	889.2	5,429.3
Ship & Boat Building	677.3	--	30.7	309.8	1,679.8	2.1	2,699.6
Construction	30.2	6.9	127.9	24.1	49.7	86.8	325.6
Minerals	97.3	7.3	25.4	20.6	97.4	17.0	265.5
Ocean Economy	2,817.4	1,431.7	6,491.7	2,215.3	4,440.7	3,442.6	20,839.5

Northeast Region Ocean Economy Employment (2013)

	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	Northeast Region
Living Resources	7,744	566	7,436	1,385	818	2,473	20,421
Tourism & Recreation	30,694	7,328	68,063	34,439	36,875	64,188	241,586
Transportation	3,378	6,039	11,261	2,792	4,172	9,956	37,599
Ship & Boat Building	11,080	--	463	3,715	9,203	123	24,584
Construction	342	85	1,591	173	355	909	3,455
Minerals	328	43	151	176	306	328	1,332
Ocean Economy	53,566	14,062	88,963	42,679	51,729	77,978	328,976

Coastal and marine national security activities in the region, including US Navy and US Coast Guard bases, support more than 10,000 additional jobs and account for billions of dollars per year in federal expenditures. Including indirect and induced GDP contributions and employment – economic activity in other industries, supported by the ocean economy – the ocean economy, generates more than 500,000 jobs and \$40 billion/year in GDP in the Northeast.

This economic activity extends to varying degrees on an interrelated set of natural resources and coastal infrastructure. Infrastructure includes ports, marinas, residential and commercial waterfront real estate, recreational areas, and waterfront access ways. Natural resources include beaches, coastal wetlands, nearshore and open ocean habitats, and complex ecosystems encompassing marine plants, finfish, shellfish, seabirds, and marine mammals. The health and integrity of these ecosystems affects the value they can generate for people. In addition to ocean economy values such as those in the tables above, the region's coastal and ocean resources generate significant ecosystem service value (water filtration, waste assimilation, storm surge protection, and carbon sequestration); and they support a range of historical, cultural, and spiritual values for Native tribes and more recent immigrants and their descendants. Many of these values are not readily observed in markets, and are not well quantified or understood.

The interrelationship between economic activities, resources, and infrastructure that supports the region's ocean economy sometimes gives rise to conflicts between competing users. Some resource uses are compatible with each other in a specific location, implying that the values they can generate in those use sectors are additive; some are incompatible, implying that some values may be diminished or obviated when resource uses overlap. Planning decisions may affect the quantity and/or quality of a resource or infrastructure category, or how it is distributed geographically (an historic example is the decision to improve water quality in Boston Harbor). Planning decisions may also affect access to resources and infrastructure, and the extent to which they are available as inputs to different economic sectors (for example, allocation of coastal ocean space to aquaculture could, in some cases, reduce access to that space by recreational boaters). By affecting the quantity, quality, and availability of resources for different uses, planning decisions affect the future generation of market and non-market (ecosystem) value.

Where use conflicts arise and resource uses are not compatible, legal systems, resource management policies, and planning decisions will affect how those conflicts are resolved and which use(s) have priority over others in each location. Including information about the economic consequences of different resource allocation and planning options can help inform marine resource management decisions.

This Baseline Assessment, the data available through the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#), and the many other sources referenced in the pages that follow, are intended to inform and support the Northeast's ocean planning process.