

# Northeast Regional Ocean Council

## June 2019 Ocean Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 9:00-4:00

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA

### Meeting Objectives

- Review NROC Ocean Planning Committee (NROC OPC) activities since the last public meeting in November 2018.
- Obtain an update on federal progress implementing [Executive Order 13840](#), including the activities of the federal interagency Ocean Policy Committee, and consider potential implications for the northeast and the NROC OPC work plan.
- Obtain public and NROC input on specific topics related to offshore wind, given the importance of the issue in the region and the potential to inform planning for other offshore activities, with a particular focus on how the NROC OPC work groups can inform planning and management through the development of updated data products and the transfer of best practices and lessons learned.

### Agenda

**8:30**

**Registration**

**9:00**

**Welcome**

**Tribal Blessing**

**Introductions and Agenda Review**

Mel Coté, NROC Ocean Planning Committee Federal Co-Chair, Chief of the Surface Water Branch at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1

Ted Diers, NROC Ocean Planning Committee State Co-Chair, Administrator of the Watershed Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

**9:15**

**Review of Ocean Planning Activities Since November 2018 Meeting**

Ted Diers and Mel Coté

Nick Napoli, NROC

Emily Shumchenia, NROC

*Co-chairs and staff will provide an overview of ocean planning activities since the last meeting in November 2018. The presentation will be followed by NROC and public input and questions.*

9:45

**Update on Federal Interagency Ocean Policy Committee Activities**

Deerin Babb-Brott, Principal Assistant Director for Oceans and Environment, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

*A presentation on the activities of the federal interagency Ocean Policy Committee will be followed by input and questions from meeting participants.*

10:15

**BREAK**

10:30

**Offshore Wind in the Northeast**

*In November 2018, the NROC OPC decided it will discuss one current or emerging offshore planning and management issue in the region during each of its meetings. For this meeting, the NROC OPC will focus on offshore wind. The intent is to obtain an update on the current status of offshore wind planning, leasing, and regulatory review and to inform the NROC OPC work groups about potential data products or best practices that can be developed or transferred throughout the region. Future meetings will likely cover other current or emerging issues.*

*The morning portion of the offshore wind session will include the following presentations and perspectives to provide context for discussions in the afternoon. This includes:*

- *The status of offshore wind planning and leasing from New York through the Gulf of Maine*

*Speaker: Darryl Francois, BOEM Chief of Engineering and Technical Review Branch*

- *An overview of [Executive Order 13807 “Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure,”](#) the related “One Federal Decision” Memorandum, and the potential implications for the regulatory and review process for offshore wind and other potential offshore infrastructure projects*

*Speaker: TBD*

- *BOEM’s implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act, including BOEM’s approach to assessing cumulative impacts and the implications of EO 13807 and related Department of the Interior Secretary’s Order on timelines and other aspects of the process*

*Speaker: Michelle Morin, BOEM Chief of Environment Branch for Renewable Energy*

- *An update on the Port Access Route Study for the Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island*

*Speaker: Michele DesAutels, USCG First District*

- *Addressing fisheries science and monitoring and incorporating fisheries considerations into offshore wind planning*

*Speaker: Andy Lipsky, Acting Chief of Staff, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

- *State, tribal, and New England Fishery Management Council perspectives on the status of offshore wind development to date, lessons learned, and opportunities for the NROC OPC work groups.*

*Meeting participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide brief input before lunch.*

**12:15pm**      **Lunch (provided)**

**1:00**            **Offshore Wind in the Northeast (continued)**

*After morning presentations and lunch, meeting participants will consider specific topics related to offshore wind where the NROC OPC may be able to provide information, data, or transfer best practices and lessons learned, including:*

- *Public engagement*
- *Interjurisdictional coordination, including federal consistency with states and best practices for tribal engagement*
- *Use of data in decision-making and potential data needs to inform offshore wind development*
- *Cumulative impacts*

**2:45**            **BREAK**

**3:00**

**Potential Areas of Focus for NROC OPC Work Groups**

*Meeting participants will consider priorities for the NROC OPC Work Groups based on the discussion throughout the day and considering other recent and potential offshore uses such as energy and telecommunications cables, aquaculture, ocean disposal sites, and the use of sand resources.*

*The Best Practices Work Group will focus on public engagement, interjurisdictional coordination, pre-application practices, and the use of data and information in decision-making.*

*The Regional Data Work Group will focus on maintaining and updating the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). Potential discussion areas during the meeting could include data priorities related to characterizing commercial fisheries, marine transportation and navigation, and marine life and habitat.*

**4:00**

**Adjourn**