

**Northeast Regional Ocean Council
Ocean Planning Committee
Regional Data Work Group
Terms of Reference**

Purpose

The purpose of the NROC Ocean Planning Committee (OPC) Regional Data Work Group is to ensure the long-term utility and sustainability of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal (Portal) by supporting and informing a range of tasks related to the development and maintenance of geospatial data products and maps of ecological and cultural resources and human activities.

Responsibilities

The Regional Data Work Group will have the following responsibilities:

1. Ensure timely updates and maintenance of existing geospatial data products and inform the development of new data products and analyses for regional data priorities
2. Facilitate a greater role for data providers, agencies, and stakeholders in data development, updates, and maintenance.
3. Connect regional data efforts with federal and state efforts, including efforts by the [Federal Interagency Ocean Policy Committee](#) to publish federal geospatial data that address regional needs.
4. Informing the identification and acquisition of funding sources for regional geospatial data product development and maintenance

Core Work Group Membership

Membership will be derived from the organizations that participate in the Ocean Planning Committee, and will be geographically diverse and include a range of expertise necessary to inform the responsibilities listed above, as well as to accomplish specific tasks related to specific data themes. The work group will be co-chaired by at least one state and one federal representative, with the potential to include additional chairs from other OPC member organizations. Members will be asked to participate in 2-4 virtual meetings per year. Members may also be asked to participate on an as-needed basis in other ocean planning events, such as workshops and NROC OPC meetings.

Ad-hoc Subgroups

The work group will include ad-hoc subgroups that will advance work on specific data themes on an as-needed basis. Subgroups could include individuals from a range of organizations, including but not limited to OPC organizations, universities, industry, and other non-governmental organizations who have expertise in the specific data theme. Subgroups will be formed when a specific data theme is being updated. Members will help to identify relevant data sources, inform mapping and presentation methods, assist with stakeholder engagement, and review draft data products for that specific data theme. Subgroups will be drawn from the priorities and themes in the Northeast Ocean Data Portal work plan, including topics identified by stakeholders and the NROC OPC in the fall of 2018. The list below represents data themes

likely needing ad-hoc subgroup support over the next two years (although not all may be formed).

- Fishing
- Aquaculture
- Marine transportation
- Recreation
- Cultural resources
- Energy and infrastructure
- Offshore sand resources
- Marine life and habitat
- Blue economy
- Data analyses and tools
- Climate change
- Oceanography
- Subgroups on additional topics may be formed on an as-needed basis