

Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Ocean Planning Committee Webinars

First Webinar: Thursday, April 2, 2020, 10:00-12:00

Additional Webinar(s): Date(s) To Be Determined

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Ocean Planning Committee (OPC) was originally scheduled to hold an in-person meeting on April 2, 2020. Due to recent events, the NROC OPC decided instead to hold a series of webinars starting on April 2 and seek to hold its next in-person meeting in the fall of 2020. The following agenda shows which topics will be addressed during the April 2 webinar and which topics will be on the agenda for future webinars.

Webinar Objectives

- Review NROC OPC activities since the last public meeting in June 2019.
- Obtain an update on federal progress implementing Executive Order 13840 and recent activities of the federal interagency Ocean Policy Council.
- Review the status of the various ocean planning considerations throughout the region, provide feedback on NROC member and stakeholder needs associated with each, and consider NROC's role in providing data and supporting best practices for decision-making.

Draft Agenda for Webinar 1: April 2, 2020, 10:00-12:00

10:00 Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review, Co-Chair Update

Mel Coté, NROC Ocean Planning Committee Federal Co-Chair, Chief, Surface Water Protection Branch, 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

10:15 Review of NROC's Ocean Planning Activities Since June 2019 Meeting

Co-chairs and staff will provide a brief summary of ocean planning activities since the last meeting in June 2019.

*Speakers: Ted Diers and Mel Coté
Nick Napoli, Ocean Planning Director, NROC
Emily Shumchenia, NROC*

10:25 Update on Federal Interagency Ocean Policy Committee Activities Since June 2019 Meeting

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

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

10:45 Update on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Revision

A brief update on the Sanctuary's Management Plan Revision process.

Speaker: Ben Haskell, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

10:50 Offshore Wind in the Northeast

The June 2019 NROC OPC meeting focused on offshore wind and resulted in the identification of several issues that informed NROC's work plan. Each of the following presenters will provide a brief update and reflect on issues relevant to NROC such as the use of data and best practices, data and information needs, and specific aspects of the process where NROC may be able to provide information and support. This will be followed by questions from meeting participants and discussion.

- Federal Offshore Wind Energy Program Update for the Northeast
Speaker: Jim Bennett, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Port Access Route Studies (PARS), including the PARS for the Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island
Speaker: Michele DesAutels, U.S. Coast Guard
- Power Grid and Transmission Planning
Speaker: Fara Courtney, Outer Harbor Consulting and Facilitator for the Grid and Transmission Working Group of the Business Network for Offshore Wind

12:00pm Adjourn

Topics for additional webinar(s): Date(s) to be determined

I. Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring in the Northeast

In the last year, there have been efforts to establish regional entities focused on coordinating wildlife and habitat science, research, and monitoring related to offshore wind development. The following speakers will provide a brief update on each organization and consider intersections with NROC's work plan and projects, including the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. This will be followed by questions from meeting participants and discussion.

- Proposed Regional Wildlife Science Entity for Offshore Wind
Speaker: TBD
- Responsible Offshore Science Alliance
Speaker: Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Responsible Offshore Science Alliance

II. State Ocean Planning

Speakers from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine will provide updates on their individual state ocean planning processes and comment on coordination with NROC's ocean planning work plan and projects. This will be followed by questions from meeting participants and discussion.

- Connecticut Blue Plan
Speaker: David Blatt, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan
Speaker: Lisa Engler, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
- Rhode Island Ocean and Bay Special Area Management Plans
Speaker: Grover Fugate, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
- Maine Offshore Wind Initiative
Speaker: TBD

III. Other Ocean Planning Considerations

Speakers will provide an update on several other ocean planning considerations in the region including offshore aquaculture, fisheries management, the National Marine Sanctuary, and cable projects. This will include speaker perspectives on existing or potential coordination with NROC and it will be followed by questions from meeting participants and discussion.

- Update on Offshore Aquaculture and Discussion of Potential Co-Location with Offshore Wind
Speaker: Kevin Madley, NOAA Fisheries
- The Northeast Ocean Data Portal as a Tool to Support New England Fishery Management and the Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment
Speakers: Michelle Bachman and Tom Nies, New England Fishery Management Council
- Findings of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Condition Report and an Update on the Sanctuary's Management Plan Revision
Speaker: Ben Haskell, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Update on Telecommunications and Other Cable Projects
Speaker: TBD