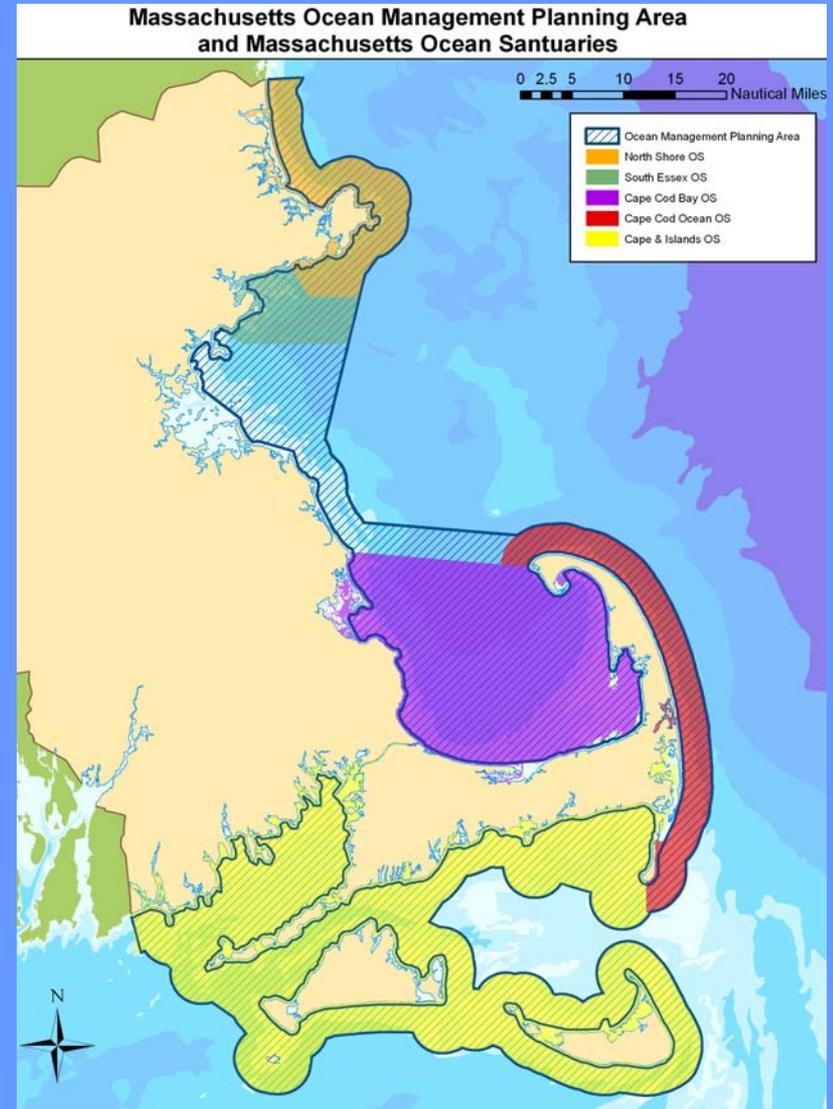


# The Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan

Northeast Regional Meeting  
November 17, 2008



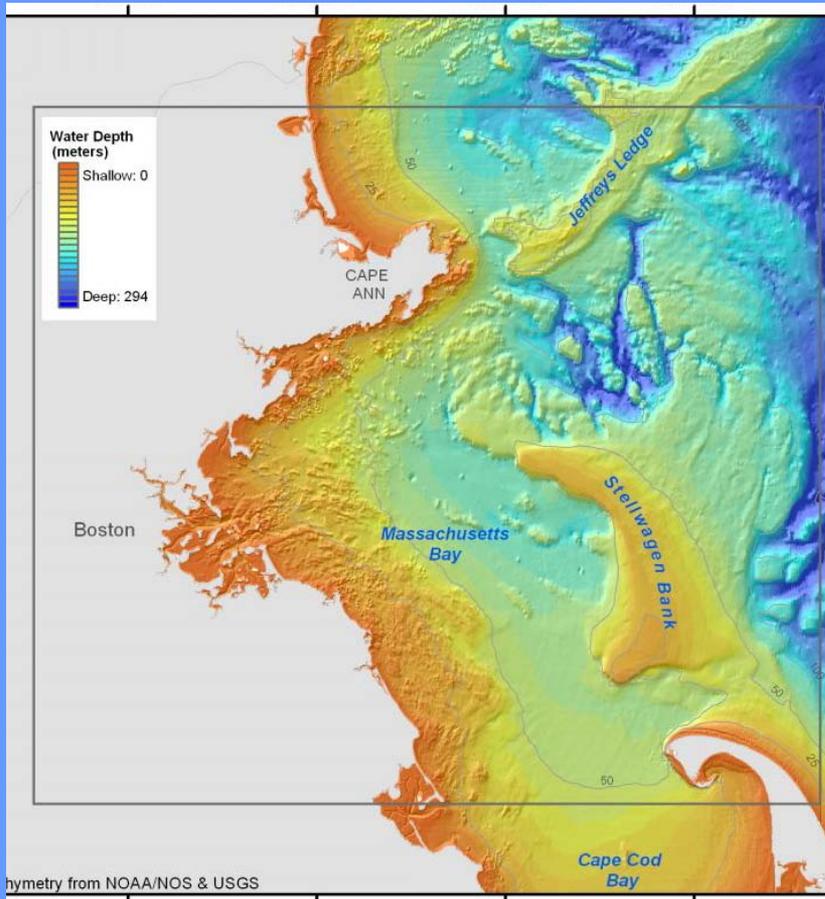
John Weber, Ocean Services Manager  
MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

# Background...

- New uses of ocean resources
- Management challenges for existing uses
- Pew/US Ocean Commissions
- 2003-2004: MA Ocean Management Task Force
  - Recommendations included Ocean Resources Management Act
- 2005: Initial bills filed



# Background...



- 2006: Massachusetts Ocean Partnership formed
- CZM efforts
  - Seafloor mapping
  - Coastal/ocean economic evaluation
  - Assessment of offshore energy potential
  - Federal consistency review

[http://woodhole.er.usgs.gov/project-pages/coastal\\_mass/html/massbay.html](http://woodhole.er.usgs.gov/project-pages/coastal_mass/html/massbay.html)

# Oceans Act of 2008

- Signed into law May 28, 2008
- Directs Secretary of EEA to develop an integrated ocean management plan
- Final plan promulgated by December 31, 2009
- Deadline of June 30, 2009 for draft plan



# Oceans Act of 2008

- **Ocean Advisory Commission assist Secretary - policy recommendations**
- **Ocean Science Advisory Council assist Secretary - baseline assessment and obtaining scientific information**
- **State approvals consistent to the maximum extent practicable with plan**
- **Plan incorporated in the Coastal Zone Management Plan**



# Oceans Act of 2008

- **Division of Marine Fisheries has sole responsibility for fisheries management (commercial and recreational fishing are allowable uses)**
- **Plan elements which impact fishing shall minimize negative economic impacts and be reviewed by the Division**
- **Integrate fisheries management, to the maximum extent practicable, with ocean management plan.**

# Oceans Act of 2008

- **Goals, siting priorities, and standards for ocean waters held in trust for the benefit of the public**
- **Coordinate uses across international, federal, state and local jurisdictions**
- **Identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses, and facilities**
  - **Renewable energy, IF consistent with plan and at appropriate scale**
  - **Aquaculture**
  - **Sand extraction**



# Oceans Act of 2008

- Defines planning area: ~0.3 nm from MHW to state/federal boundary



# Oceans Act of 2008

- **Deadline of June 30, 2009 for draft plan**
  - **Spatial component with defined management measures (rules and/or performance standards)**
  - **Framework for ongoing, dynamic plan evolution (Act requires review of plan at least once every 5 years)**



# Plan Process

## 4 Phases:

- Acquire information: data, public comment, lessons learned (*June 08-Jan 09*)
- Develop working draft plan (*Feb-Apr 09*)
- Review and modify plan (*May-June 09*)
- Formal public hearings, legislative review, promulgation (*July-Dec 09*)

# Plan Process

## Phase 1:

- **Working groups**

- Habitat
- Fisheries
- Renewable Energy
- Navigation
- Cultural/recreational resources
- Sediment
- Regulatory

- **MOP assistance with conceptual framework, lessons learned elsewhere**

# Plan Process

## Phase 1 (cont):

- **Public input**

- 18 public informational meetings
- 50+ interest group meetings
- Web site
- Public comment “portal”
- Media outreach
- Newsletter
- Alerts
- Workshop

Massachusetts Ocean Plan - Energy and Environmental Affairs Page 1 of 1

The Official Website of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
**Energy and Environmental Affairs** Mass.gov

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### Massachusetts Ocean Plan

The Oceans Act requires the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop a comprehensive ocean management plan, following a scientific and stakeholder process that leads to a draft plan by summer of 2009, and the final promulgation of the plan by December 31, 2009.

#### Massachusetts Ocean Plan Overview



The Oceans Act requires the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop a comprehensive ocean management plan, following a scientific and stakeholder process that leads to a draft plan by summer of 2009, and the final promulgation of the plan by December 31, 2009.

Until recently, management of ocean resources has been piecemeal - not only in Massachusetts, but nationwide. The tide is turning, however, with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts announcing a first-in-the-nation effort to develop a comprehensive ocean management plan.

#### Public Input for The Ocean Plan

The Oceans Act of 2008 "launches an unprecedented opportunity for civic engagement in deciding the future of our state waters," said Governor Patrick. "Public hearings up and down the coast will ensure that all interests and resources at stake in the use of our ocean waters will be taken into consideration and put in proper context."

#### Ocean Advisory Commission

A 17-member commission will advise the Secretary as the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in developing the ocean plan. The commission will include State Legislators, agency heads, representatives from a commercial fishing organization and an environmental organization, an expert in the development of offshore renewable energy, and representatives from the coastal Regional Planning Agencies.

#### Ocean Science Advisory Council

The Secretary will also receive assistance from a council of nine scientists who have expertise in marine sciences and data management.

#### Background on Oceans Planning

In 2003, the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force was launched to develop recommendations on a comprehensive approach to managing ocean resources. Released in 2004, these recommendations helped form the foundation for the Oceans Act of 2008, which was signed by Governor Deval Patrick on May 28.

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<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eocsubtopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Ocean+%26+Coast...> 11/16/2008



# Plan Process

## Phase 1 (cont.):

- **What we've learned from work groups**
  - Much data, but gaps
  - Big-picture questions (EBM, env. variability, economic value)
- **What we've learned from public input**
  - Regional differences in resources, uses, issues
  - Jurisdictional issues matter
  - Public trust foundation resonates



# Plan Process

## Phase 2:

- **Working draft plan**
  - Series of meetings: Feb and March
  - Spatial analysis
  - Develop alternatives, review with public
  - Advisory Commission provide input
  - Science Council assist with “plan for the plan”

# For more information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

<http://www.mass.gov/czm>

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