

# **Toward Comprehensive, Statewide Ocean Planning in Massachusetts (or What *is* ocean management anyway?)**

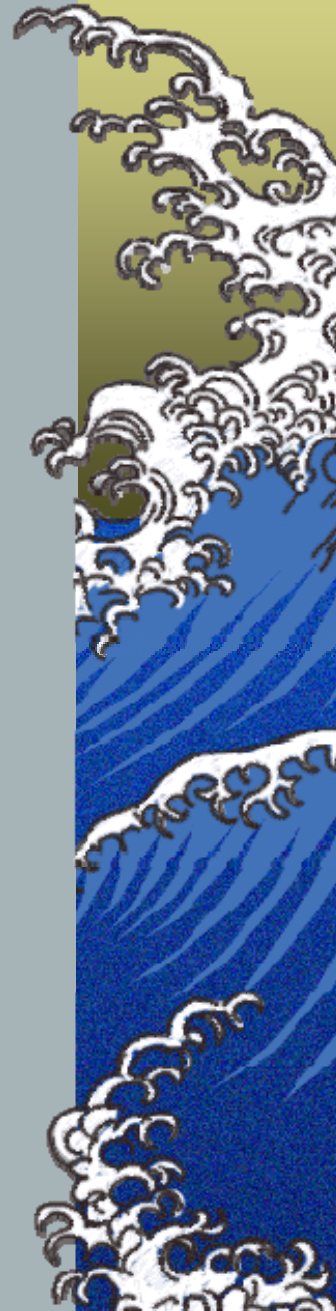
**Susan Snow-Cotter  
Director**

**Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management**



# Outline

- ▶ Policy Drivers
- ▶ Ocean Management Task Force
- ▶ Implementation to Date
- ▶ Ocean Planning
- ▶ Regional Ocean Planning
- ▶ Lessons Learned



# America's Living Oceans

CHARTING A COURSE FOR SEA CHANGE

FINAL REPORT

Pre-Publication Copy



PEW

OCEANS  
COMMISSION

## AN OCEAN BLUEPRINT FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



U.S. COMMISSION ON  
OCEAN POLICY

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON

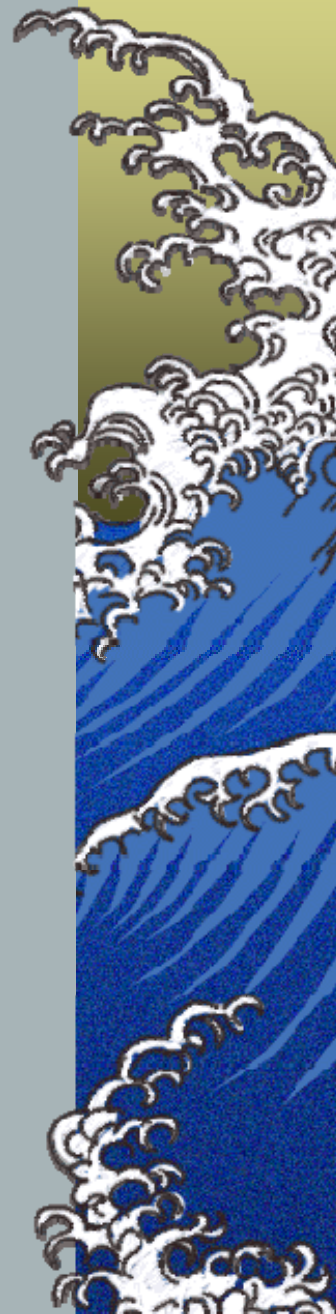
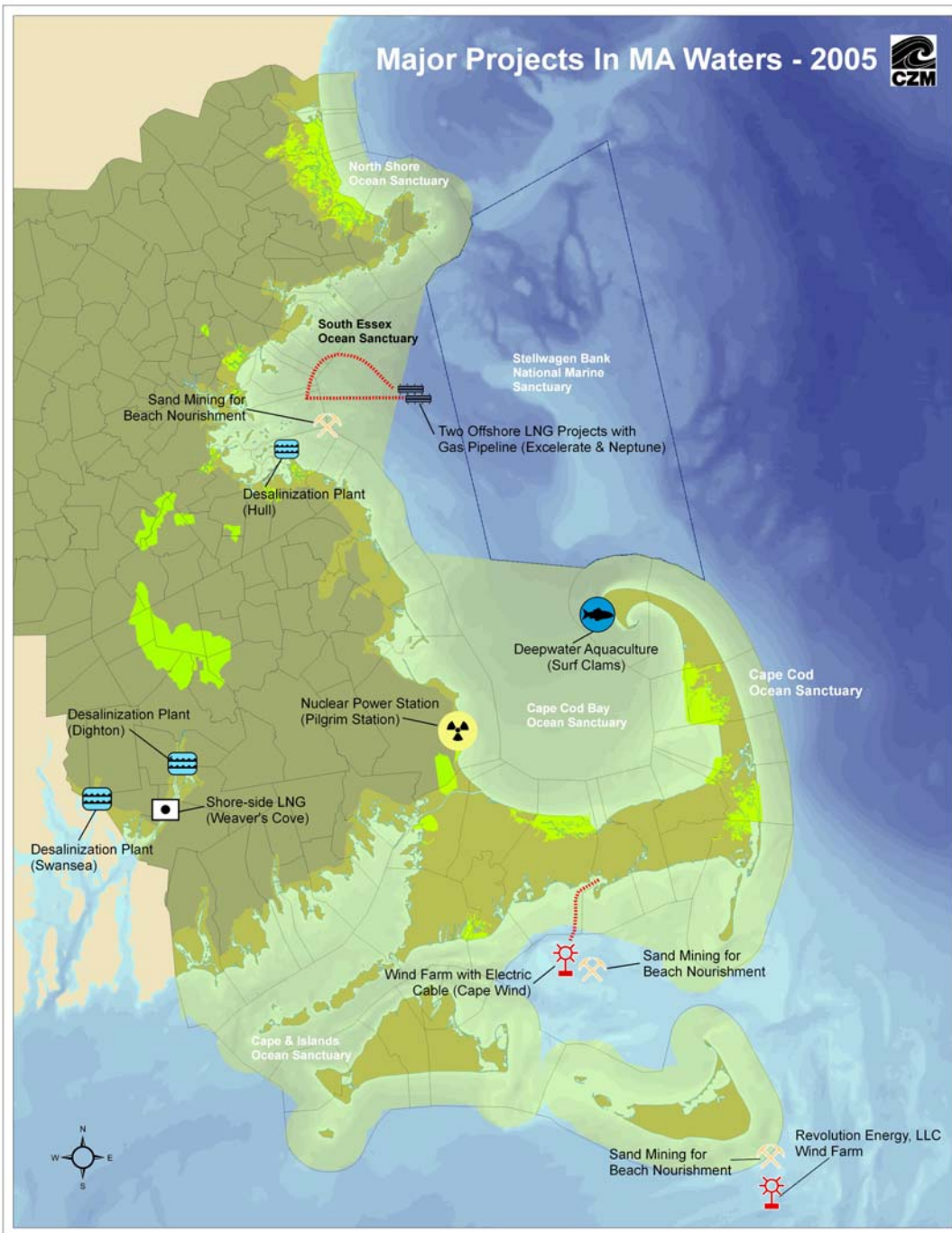
# OCEAN POLICY

## U.S. OCEAN ACTION PLAN



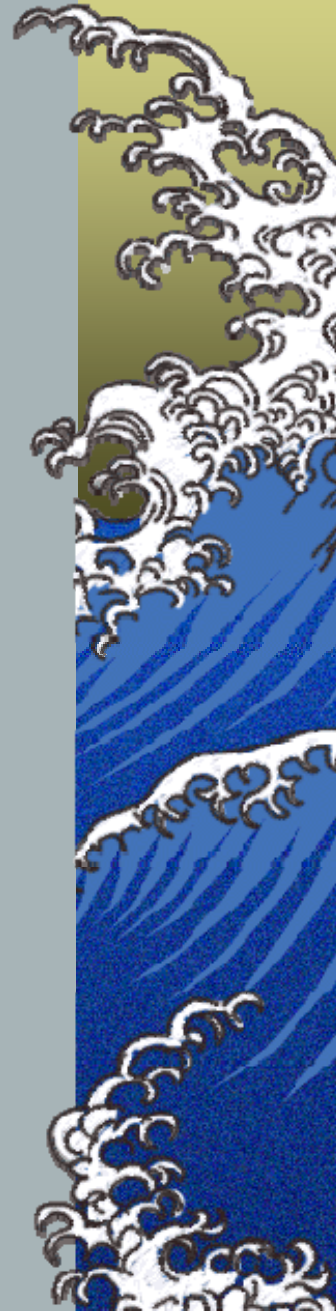
DECEMBER 17, 2004

# Major Projects In MA Waters - 2005



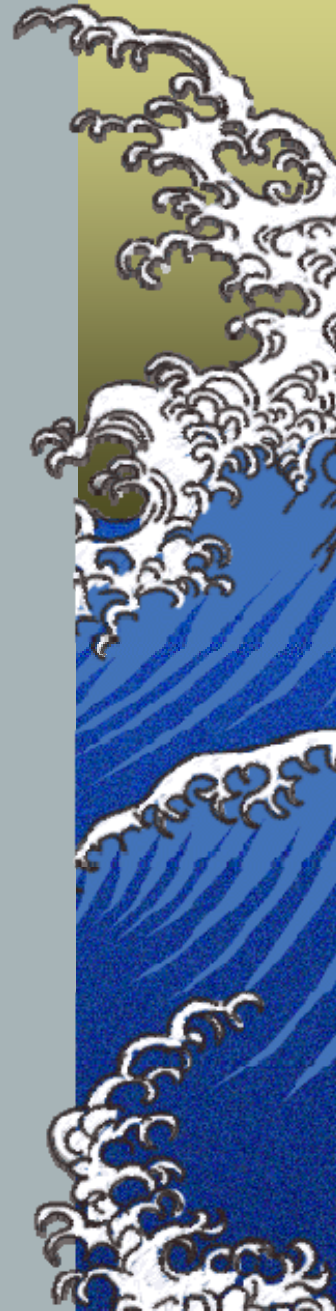
# Timeline

- ▲ *1999 – present – Cape Wind*
- ▲ *2000-2004 – Hubline Gas Pipeline*
- ▲ *2000-2 – Winergy*
- ▲ *2003 – present – 4 LNG proposals*
- ▲ *2003 – present – offshore sandmining*
- ▲ *2004 – Energy Policy Act*
- ▲ *2006 – Buzzards Bay Disposal Site*
- ▲ *2012 – George’s Bank Moratorium expires*



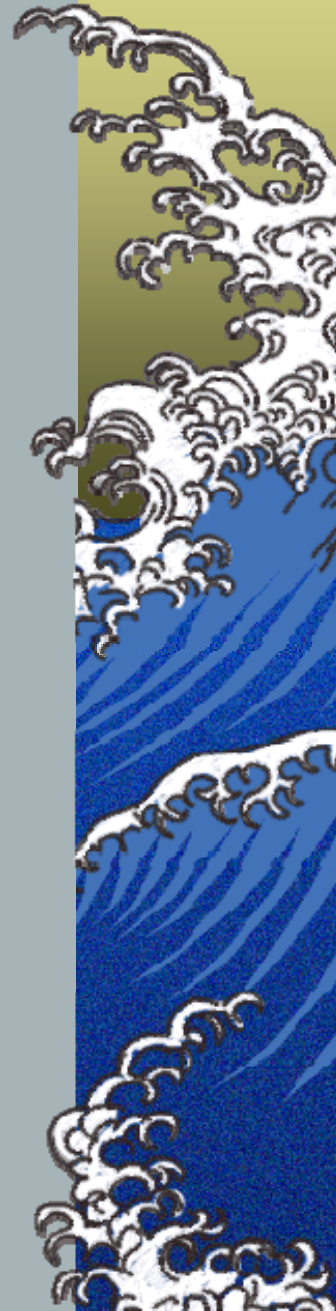
# Ocean Management Task Force (June 2003-March 2004)

- Governance (Legislation)
- Management Tools
- Scientific Understanding
- Outreach



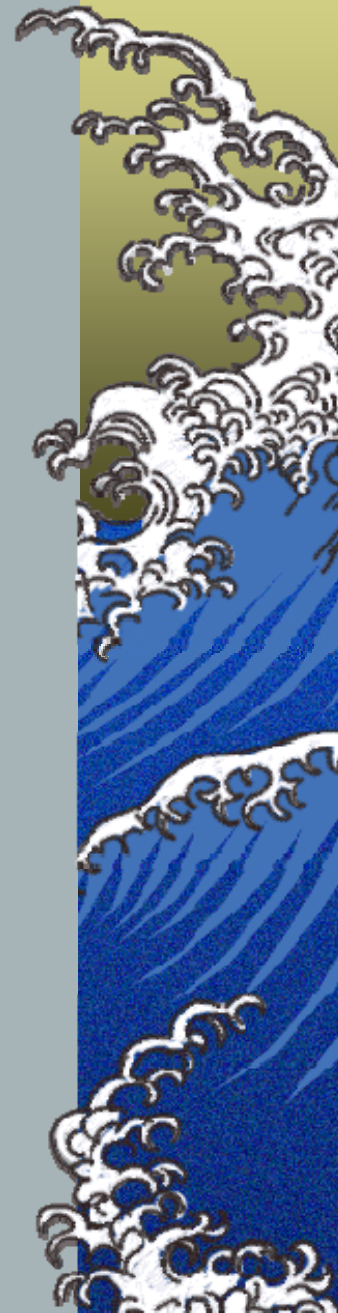
# Implementation To Date

- Ocean Management Legislation Introduced (March 2005)
- Seafloor Mapping
- Human Use Characterizations
- MPA Inventory and Working Group
- Ocean and Coastal Economy
- Interagency Planning Meetings



# Ocean Management Plan

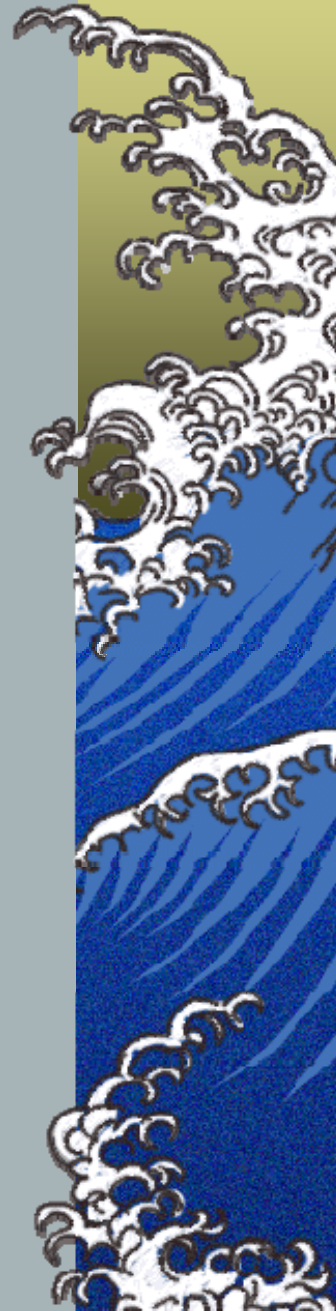
- ▶ *Addresses management of 1.6 acres of state waters*
- ▶ *Organizes data and information on ocean resources and uses*
- ▶ *ID's areas more or less appropriate for development*
- ▶ *Uses performance standards to guide development*
- ▶ *Incorporated into CZM Program Plan – enforceable.*





# Ocean Mgt (continued)

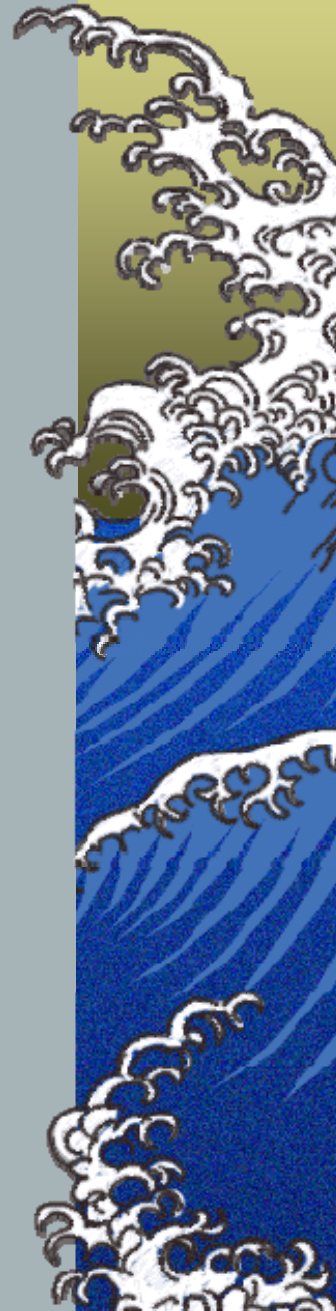
- ▶ *Will be implemented through existing authorities (plan will guide permitting process)*
- ▶ *Streamlines permitting process*
- ▶ *Develops new management guidance for existing authorities*
- ▶ *Does not restrict fishing, hunting or navigation*
- ▶ *Does not include MPA's*



# Ocean Management/Zoning

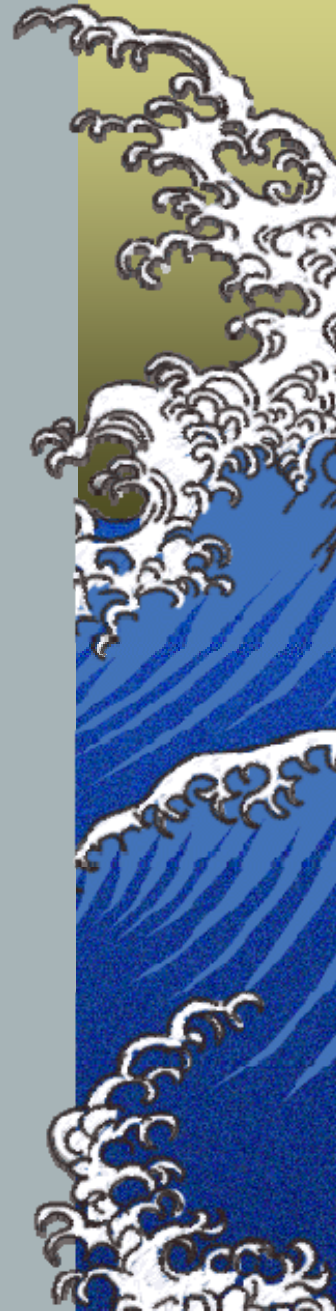
## More Questions than Answers

- *How have others done this?*
- *How much/what information do we need to develop plan?*
- *What should planning area be?*
- *How can we include watershed activities/adjacent federal waters?*
- *Statewide or regional approach?*
- *What about home rule?*



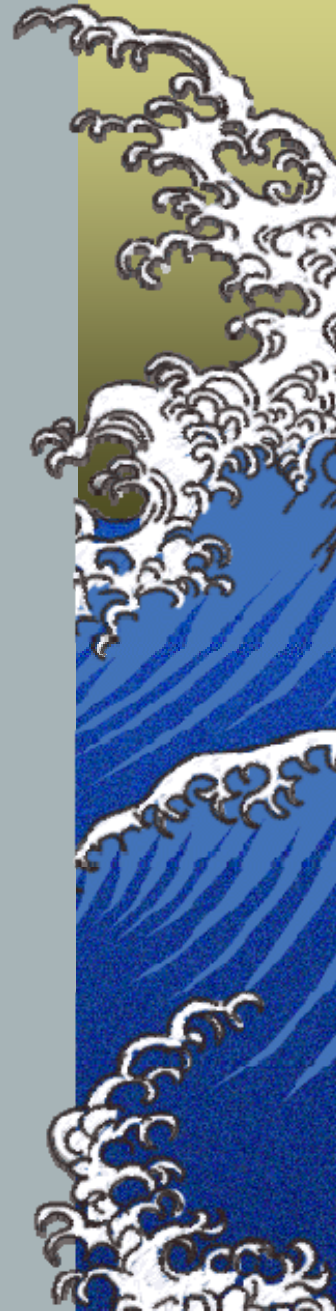
# More Questions than Answers

- *What should be prohibited or approved subject to plan?*
- *How can we anticipate future uses/technologies?*
- *Short of MPA's how can we ensure protection of important areas?*
- *How will Ocean Plan impact FERC/state energy siting facility processes?*



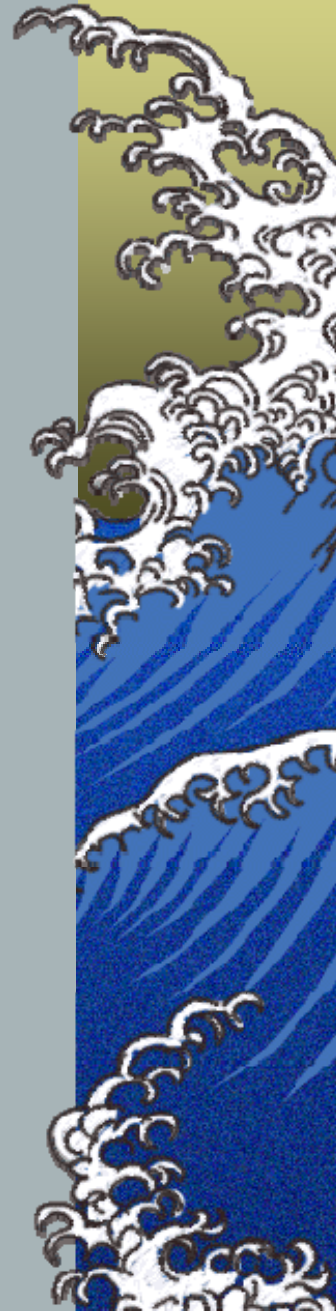
## Next Steps

- *Passage of Oceans Bill (or not)*
- *Continue Interagency Planning*
- *Ocean Zoning Workshop/Peer Review Team*
- *Ocean Protection Partnership*
- *Building Information base (energy projects, seafloor mapping, human uses)*



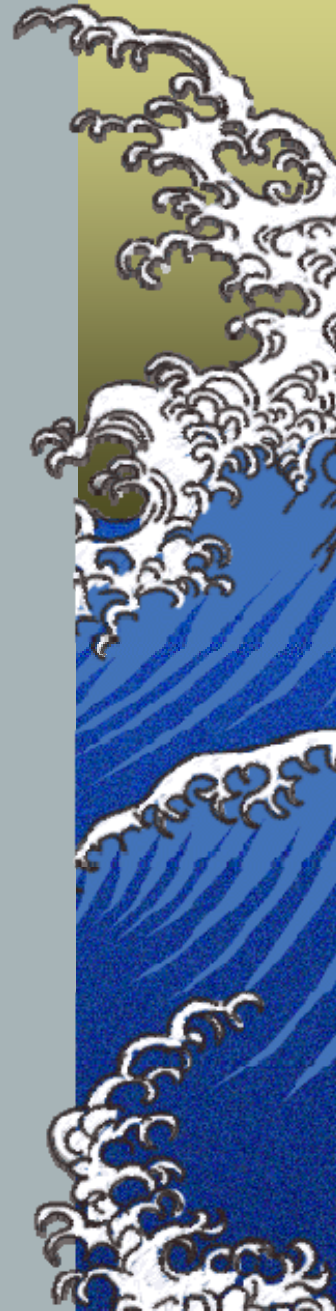
# Regional Ocean Management

- *Gulf of Maine Council (17 year history)*
- *Northeast Regional Ocean Council (initiated in 2005 by Gov. Carcieri and Premier of Newfoundland, NEGECP)*
- *Focus on Ocean Use, Energy and the Science and Data that supports management*



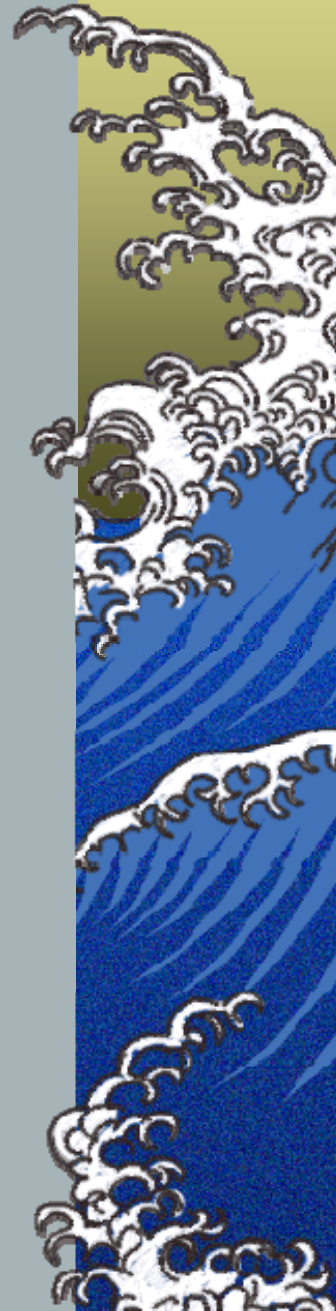
# Lessons Learned

- ▶ *Ocean Management is wicked hard!*
- ▶ *While most people think that planning is a good idea, each sector thinks that they are special and should not be included in planning effort.*
- ▶ *Society is reactive by nature and it will be very difficult to turn the tide to being proactive – particularly if it involves making difficult tradeoffs.*



## Lessons Learned (cont.)

- ▶ *While planning should be an open process, only government is positioned to make hard decisions.*
- ▶ *Existing ad hoc process benefits many sectors.*
- ▶ *We'll never have enough good information but we know more than we think.*
- ▶ *Start with what we can agree on.*



[Susan.Snow-Cotter@state.ma.us](mailto:Susan.Snow-Cotter@state.ma.us)  
[www.Mass.Gov/czm](http://www.Mass.Gov/czm)

