

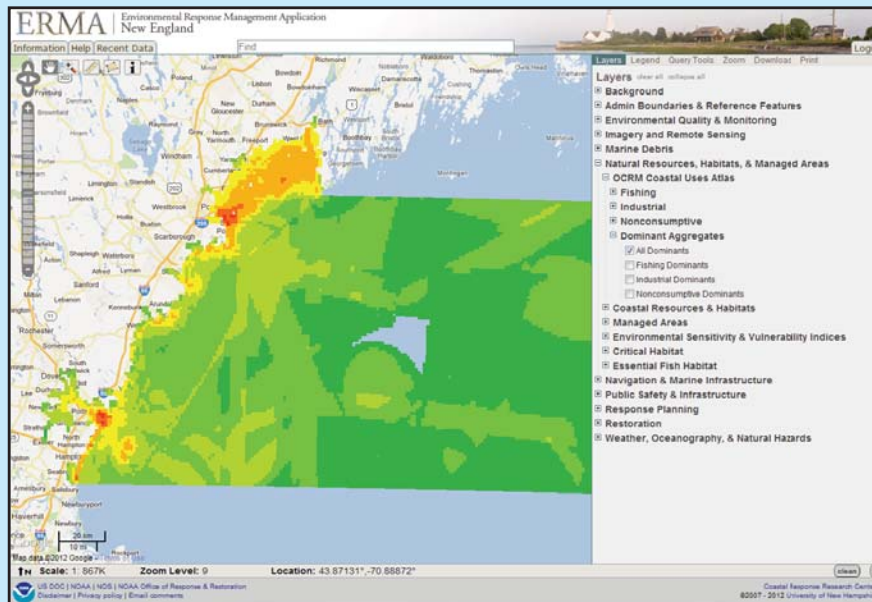
# MAPPING OCEAN USES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND SOUTHERN MAINE:



## UTILITY & APPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE, ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

### INTRODUCTION

In early 2010, the National Ocean Service's Ocean Uses Team partnered with the University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Resource Center (CRRC) to map a wide range of ocean uses in New Hampshire and Southern Maine. At the time, ocean use patterns were gathered in preparation for the March 2010 Spill of National Significance drill (SONS 2010). A month later, the actual Deepwater Horizon Spill occurred. Now, two years later, the utility of ocean use data for response, assessment and restoration is as relevant and clear as ever. The re-release of the products and insight derived from this project is intended to spark further integration of the patterns and significance of ocean uses into the whole spectrum of emergency response and follow up efforts. This fact sheet discusses the project background, utility and potential applications of ocean use data specifically for response, restoration and assessment endeavors.



*Atlas data were integrated into the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) developed by UNH and NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration. The number of overlapping uses is represented here on a green-to-red scale.*

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The coasts of New Hampshire and Southern Maine are vital to the region's economy and cultural heritage. Recognizing the risks posed by toxic spills and other disasters, NOAA's Ocean Uses Atlas Project fills a critical information gap in response efforts by mapping, for the first time, the full range of significant human uses of the ocean in state and federal waters off of the coast of New Hampshire and Southern Maine. Spatial data for nearly 30 ocean uses were gathered during a participatory mapping workshop convened with regional ocean use experts. The resulting ocean use maps provide baseline information regarding the location and extent to which the ocean environment is used for non-consumptive, fishing, industrial and military activities. Maps of human uses shown individually and in aggregated sectors, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data are available at [www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/atlas\\_nhsm/](http://www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/atlas_nhsm/).



*The Atlas project engages community members and local experts through participatory GIS workshops*

### WHY MAP HUMAN USES OF THE OCEAN?

- Our oceans are getting crowded. Human uses of oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes are expanding at rates that challenge our ability to plan and manage them under traditional approaches.
- At the same time, managers and planners lack continuous, comprehensive, consistent and comparable data to understand even the most basic aspects of ocean uses: the fundamental target of ocean management.
- As the nation moves forward with integrated management and planning, and new uses emerge such as aquaculture and renewable energy, the Ocean Uses Team seeks to fill this critical information gap.

*NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas. The MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.*

*“Data collected through the Ocean Uses Atlas Project are useful because they provide an added dimension to the traditional natural resource environmental sensitivity indices. Because Ocean Uses Atlas data are collected from respected regional experts they are more readily accepted by the public. When tough decisions have to be made, ocean use data are crucial to making those decisions in a publicly and politically acceptable, economically viable and effective way.”*

**-Dr. Nancy Kinner, Co-Director, UNH CRRC**

## UTILITY FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE, ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

As traditional uses expand and emerging uses come online, ocean use data are becoming increasingly indispensable for effectively preventing or minimizing the impacts of spills and other disasters. Ocean use data can offer critical information to: prevent environmental emergencies through proactive planning and facility siting; guide and prioritize future response activities when an incident occurs; improve understanding of the baseline of activities and communities affected by the spill or efforts to minimize it; and allow responders to incorporate local knowledge, thereby engaging communities and creating greater public acceptance of difficult decisions.

Participatory mapping of ocean uses also allows individuals to become involved and identify important areas before emergencies happen. During an active response situation, ocean use data can allow responders to target cleanup activities in areas of greatest importance to coastal communities, and to minimize adverse user impacts of the response itself. Understanding the diverse user communities informs targeted outreach to user groups most affected by response activities. Beyond response efforts, ocean use data support the prioritization and evaluation of restoration activities. As a result, limited restoration funds can be targeted toward key human uses and values. Ultimately, integrating ocean use data into decision-making for emergency response, assessment and restoration can lead to more effective and efficient outcomes.

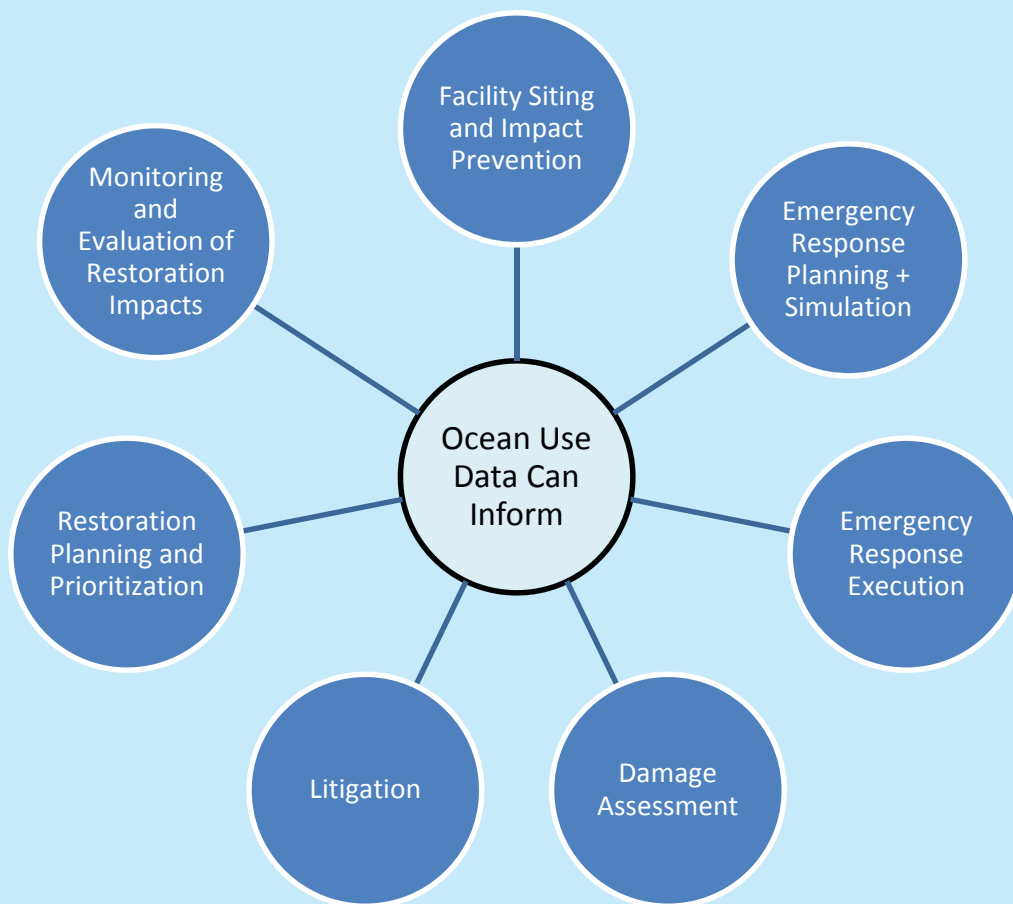


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Dr. Mimi D'Iorio  
GIS Manager  
Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov  
(831) 645-2703

Dr. Charles Wahle  
Senior Scientist  
Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov  
(831)242-2052

Lauren Wenzel  
Acting Director  
Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov  
(301) 563-1136

