

MASSACHUSETTS OCEAN MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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Massachusetts' draft statewide integrated ocean management plan will be hot-off-the-presses in July 2009. This café conversation offers a timely opportunity to mine lessons from the Commonwealth's just completed ocean management planning process for the benefit of conference participants from around the country and beyond who face similar challenges. Designed as a follow on to the local plenary presentation by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), this session will use the Massachusetts experience as a case-study to engage participants in examining three primary topics:

- Natural and social science integration. Discussion themes will include: How was scientific data and information incorporated during plan development? What methods were used to identify and evaluate ecological and socioeconomic tradeoffs of the plan alternatives? How will scientific information be applied during plan implementation, environmental review and permitting?
- Stakeholder involvement and public outreach. Discussion themes will include: What programs and methods were used to engage stakeholders and the general public in plan development? How was that input considered in plan development?
- The unique collaboration between the state and the Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP). Discussion themes will include: What were the state's and MOP's respective roles and responsibilities? How effective was the public-private partnership?

Moderated by EEA and MOP, discussion on each of the above topics will emphasize identification of central challenges, approaches to overcoming them, key lessons learned and how these might constructively inform ocean management planning efforts elsewhere. The session format will be highly interactive; participants are encouraged to bring challenges from their own experience for discussion and group problem-solving. Participants will come away with pragmatic information to support their own work in ocean management and connect with colleagues engaged in similar efforts.

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