

About Ocean Planning

Regional ocean planning, also known as Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) is a process that uses science, intergovernmental coordination and extensive public and stakeholder involvement to plan for the future of our ocean. This planning will promote new, sustainable ocean uses while minimizing and mitigating conflicts with existing ocean users and with the health of the ocean environment upon which those industries, and ocean wildlife depend. NEOAN believes that this approach to ocean management will help bring together decision-makers, experts, and ocean users from across the region to address key challenges facing our ocean including the depletion of fish stocks, coastal pollution, climate change and ocean acidification. Regional ocean planning will also help improve governance and give the public and stakeholders more of a voice in the decisions that are made about ocean use.



The New England Ocean Action Network (NEOAN) brings together individuals and organizations from the region’s environmental community, educational and research institutions, fishing industry, clean energy field, recreational ocean users, and other industries and stakeholders to advocate for a healthy ocean and thriving economy. Visit NewEnglandOceanAction.org to find out who we are.

What We Stand For

New England’s coast and ocean are among our region’s greatest economic, environmental and cultural assets, bringing over \$16 billion annually to our region’s economy. Stewarding the natural environment and improving the management of our coast and ocean through a comprehensive ocean planning process will help to grow our region’s coastal and maritime economy, restore and protect ocean and coastal ecosystems, and recognize and acknowledge New England’s unique maritime heritage.

This is why NEOAN supports, monitors and comments on efforts to develop a comprehensive, region-wide ocean planning process and will advocate for the development of a plan that:

- Is developed through an open and transparent process that includes the full participation of New England’s ocean and coastal users and coastal communities;
- Uses the best available scientific, economic, and cultural data; legal information; and local knowledge;
- Acknowledges and recognizes the economic and cultural importance of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, as well as other historical ocean users;

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