FACT SHEET

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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What We Stand For continued

- Supports the sustainable development of both our ocean resources and our local and regional economies;
- Seeks to minimize the impacts of human-induced climate change and ocean acidification;
- Maintains adequate federal funding for ocean planning efforts;
- Fosters cooperation between federal, tribal, state and local agencies and governments;
- Protects, restores and maintains clean coastal waters and healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of human communities and marine wildlife;
- Educates ocean users, the public, regional decision makers and stakeholders about the need and value of a comprehensive regional ocean plan and planning process.

Our Priorities

MAKING PLANNING HAPPEN

Creating a plan for the future of New England's ocean takes coordination, cooperation, scientific research, and public engagement. NEOAN recognizes the need for federal funding to make that planning happen, give planners the information they need to make good decisions, and to engage the public and stakeholders in the process. That is why NEOAN opposes any attempts to slow implementation of or block funding for the National Ocean Policy and supports increased funding for scientific research and for regional ocean partnerships like the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).

GETTING PLANNING RIGHT

A good plan needs a good planning process, and a good planning process gives everyone a seat at the table and a voice in the process. NEOAN will work with NROC and the New England regional planning body to advocate for an open, transparent and participatory planning process and will work with stakeholders and the public to help them understand the planning process and the importance of participation.

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Join Us

The creation of a comprehensive plan for the future of New England's ocean is critical to ensure a thriving and prosperous future for our ocean and those communities that make their living at sea or along the coast. We need your help to ensure that this planning process moves forward, and is done right—based on sound science and giving all ocean users a real voice. Join NEOAN to become a part of this movement. You can join NEOAN as an individual or organization. To learn more or join our network visit www.newenglandoceanaction.org or scan the QR code below with your smart phone.