

Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

Ocean Management Planning Progress Report

As a service to our Partners: This report, the first in a series to be distributed every 4-6 weeks, is designed to keep you informed in an expedient fashion. **Each report will list and briefly describe significant events, activities and milestones** in the rapidly evolving ocean planning process being led by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). **Links to relevant, supporting documentation have been embedded for your reference**— if you require additional information, do not hesitate to contact us via phone (617-981-2788) or email (hkrum@massoceanpartnership.org).

Event Key Responsibility

Event Key	Responsibility
EEA	Led and conducted by EEA Planning Team
EEA (mop)	Directed by EEA with MOP Technical Support
MOP (eea)	Directed by MOP with EEA Team Input
MOP	MOP Independent Event

Progress in MA Ocean Management Planning (10/29-12/17/08)

10/29/08 MOP Partner's Event in Salem

MOP (eea) Purpose:

This MOP event afforded our Partners and prospective Partners the opportunity to meet directly with the EEA planning team to: obtain an MA ocean planning status report; ask questions about the process; and to provide input into the planning process. MOP staff reported the progress of science program contractor work and communications/outreach initiatives.

Related Information:

10/29/08 Partners' event agenda, PowerPoint presentation and a meeting summary with partner Q/A are available: <http://www.massoceanpartnership.org/oct08.html#10291>

10/30/08 Final EEA Public Listening Session

EEA (mop) Purpose:

The EEA ocean management planning team conducted 18 public listening sessions starting on 9/18 in Boston and ending on 10/30 in Springfield. These sessions began the process of educating the public about the MA ocean planning process while at the same time served as an opportunity to collect initial public comment and suggestions.

Related Information:

Transcripts and video recordings of all 18 public listening sessions are available through the MOP (<http://www.massoceanpartnership.org/sept08.html#918>) and EEA (<http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/listeningsessions.aspx>) websites.



11/12/08 EEA Ocean Planning Workshop (for OAC/SAC)

EEA (mop)

Purpose:

This EEA convened workshop began the technical discussion of ocean management planning methods with the Ocean Advisory Commission (OAC) and Science Advisory Council (SAC). The meeting was supported by MOP science program contractors which included regional expert academicians and related planning practitioners.

Related Information:

The workshop agenda, handouts, all presentations and a meeting summary with presentation abstracts and participant Q/A are available: <http://www.masscoceanpartnership.org/nov08.html#1112>

11/21/08 EEA draft Workgroup Reports

EEA

Purpose:

The EEA empanelled and led six internal workgroups, each with a primary area of expertise (Habitat; Renewable Energy; Fisheries; Sediment Management; Recreation and Culture; Transportation, Navigation and Infrastructure). These workgroups were tasked with the specific responsibility of identifying all pertinent available data relevant to the MA ocean management planning process while noting where significant data gaps existed. The EEA workgroup reports will inform the SAC baseline assessment.

Related Information:

The draft workgroup reports are available: [11/21/08 EEA Workgroup Reports](#) (MOP site) and through the EEA Ocean Plan site: [EEA Workgroup Reports](#)

11/28/08 EEA Launches a Web-based Public Input Portal

EEA (mop)

Purpose:

In order to enhance, extend and facilitate the collection of public comment on the MA ocean management planning process, the EEA launched a public-input portal that has an online comment submission form and provides access to video recordings and transcripts from the 18 public listening session conducted in September and October. MOP communications staff and consultants provided technical support for the development of this site.

Related Information:

To submit comments visit: <http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/commentonline.aspx>

11/30/08 MOP Ocean Planning Framework Options Draft Reports

MOP

Purpose:

The MOP science program contracted a team led by the Urban Harbors Institute to: perform a thorough inventory of current ocean planning methods (in use worldwide); develop a listing and explanation of applicable planning tools that help to determine ocean use compatibility for specific locations in the MA ocean planning area (e.g. wind turbines and recreational fishing); and begin the process of developing appropriate ocean-use performance standards (indicators of plan effectiveness).

Related Information:

These draft reports are being evaluated and will inform the 12/09/08 MOP Planning Frameworks discussion.



12/02/08 Preliminary Report of EEA Stakeholder Interviews

EEA (mop)

Purpose:

The EEA is conducting interviews with 50+ ocean stakeholder groups (begun on 10/14 and continuing through December, 2008). The primary purpose of this significant endeavor is to collect stakeholder input (their issues of concern, planning process issues, suggestions for the planning process and potential benefits of the MA ocean plan) and to mine additional relevant data (e.g., location of historical fishing grounds, ID of critical species habitat, etc.).

Related Information:

The draft summary report of stakeholder comment and a list of the interview questions are available: [Prelim Stakeholder Interview Report](#) (MOP site), [Same Report](#) on EEA site.

12/03/08 Final Summary Report of EEA Public Listening Sessions

EEA (mop)

Purpose:

From 9/18 through 10/30, the EEA hosted 18 public listening sessions, the results of which were compiled and summarized by a MOP contractor (Consensus Building Institute). This summary report was presented to the OAC for their consideration while developing the specific planning objectives required to meet the 15 Principles prescribed by the Oceans Act of 2008.

Related Information:

The final summary report is available: [Summary Report of Public Listening Sessions](#) (MOP site), [Same Report](#) on EEA site.

12/05/08 Interactive Ocean Management Planning Process Timeline

MOP (eea)

Purpose:

MOP Communication/Outreach staff, in collaboration with the EEA planning team, has developed a graphical representation of the MA ocean management planning process. This timeline will be used to map out the evolving planning process, educate/inform our Partners and other stakeholders, and will ultimately be transformed into an interactive, visually-based documentary of the planning and implementation process with lessons learned (with embedded video, audio, and other supporting documentation).

Related Information:

The timeline is still in draft form but iterations will be available online through the MOP website in Jan/Feb 2009 and then ultimately via an interactive DVD.

12/08/08 EEA Science Advisory Council Meeting

EEA

Purpose:

The EEA Science Advisory Council met to review the draft EEA workgroup reports, evaluate the draft science baseline assessment, and to identify potential data gaps for the near and long-term MA ocean management planning process.

Related Information:

The meeting agenda, draft chapters of the baseline assessment, and a meeting summary with participant Q/A are available: [12/08/08 EEA Science Advisory Council Meeting](#)



12/09/08 MOP Planning Framework Team Meeting (1 of 2)

MOP (eea)

Purpose:

This meeting was convened to review the status and key findings of products developed by the MOP planning frameworks team and to begin the process of integrating this knowledge with information being produced by the EEA ocean planning team, the SAC, and EEA workgroups into potentially applicable ocean planning framework options for Massachusetts.

Related Information:

The meeting agenda is available: [12/09/08 MOP Planning Framework Team Meeting](#) (summary documents are forthcoming)

12/11/08 EEA Ocean Advisory Commission Meeting

EEA (mop)

Purpose:

EEA convened this meeting of the OAC to: update the Commission on the MA ocean planning process and describe the immediate next steps; review results of the public and stakeholder outreach; begin the process of developing conceptual and operational objectives in support of the 15 principles of the Oceans Act of 2008; and to discuss the conceptual approach to ocean-use compatibility analysis.

Related Information:

The meet agenda, handouts, presentations and a meeting summary are available: [12/11/08 EEA Ocean Advisory Commission Meeting](#)

12/17/08 MOP Planning Framework Team Meeting (2 of 2)

MOP (eea)

Purpose:

The goal of this meeting was to develop a "final" set of planning framework options and recommendations for their potential use by the EEA planning team in Massachusetts. These results will be used to inform an EEA-convened working session to be held in early January.

Related Information:

The meeting report with planning framework options recommendations will be available in the near future.

Next Steps (12/17/08-1/31/09)

Early January: EEA (mop) Working Session on applicable planning framework options

January 14: Next SAC meeting (1-4 pm, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, Conference Room C on the 2nd floor)

Mid January: Next OAC meeting (date TBD in the third week)

Late January: EEA (mop) Working Session on continued stakeholder involvement (date TBD in last week)

January 29: MOP Partners' Event/Workshop on ocean-use conflict resolution skills (location TBD)

