

**Massachusetts Ocean Partnership
Statement of Partnership and Endorsement of MOP Five Year Strategic Plan**

The Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP) is a broadly representative public-private partnership created to support and advance ecosystem-based, integrated multi-use management of the Commonwealth's coastal ocean resources. By collaborating with others, MOP will work toward the goals of improving the health, management and understanding of marine and coastal resources to ensure thriving ocean ecosystems and their continued capacity to serve vital ecological, economic, recreational and other needs. MOP's primary near-term goal is to support the development and implementation of an integrated multi-use ocean management plan for MA waters as soon as possible. Responsible state, local and federal agencies will develop, implement and enforce the integrated multi-use ocean management plan; MOP will provide support and coordination for this complex undertaking. The Five Year Strategic Plan outlines how MOP will proceed to achieve its goals in the coming five years.

The Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (MOP) engaged a group of stakeholders in the process of developing a strategic plan to guide the activities the partnership will undertake for the next five years (begun 12/2007). This broadly representative Strategic Planning Group (SPG) convened formally three times in 2006 and 2007 to discuss how its members could collaboratively support MOP's role in advancing integrated multi-use ocean management for Massachusetts' coastal ocean waters. The result of these consultations among stakeholders is MOP's Five Year Strategic Plan. (Available on MOP's website at www.massoceanpartnership.org)

This Statement of Partnership and Endorsement expresses the signatory organization's desire to be a Partner and its support for implementation of MOP's Strategic Plan. Partners will be acknowledged in MOP public information materials and will be invited to actively collaborate on specific Strategic Plan implementation projects. Partnership is open to anyone who endorses the strategic plan or provides resources to support MOP, and who seeks Partnership status from the MOP Governing Board. It does not imply any financial support from MOP to the Partner.

By signing this statement, my organization indicates that:

- It views the prospect of integrated multi-use ocean management and MOP's Strategic Plan to support it as positive steps for Massachusetts;
- It will publicly support the goals and actions in the Strategic Plan;
- It will participate cooperatively in efforts to implement the Strategic Plan as MOP and its partners work to make integrated multi-use ocean management a reality in Massachusetts.

Being a Partner *does not* constrict or affect any future policy positions or decisions of my organization, beyond that of supporting MOP's Strategic Plan as a whole. Request Partnership status by signing below:

Name/Title

Organization/Agency Affiliation

Date