

Ocean Planning Stakeholder Workshop

Thank you for attending today's workshop. The planning team at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has been working for the past several months to develop information that will form the basis for the integrated ocean management plan required by the Oceans Act of 2008. To date, we have conducted an extensive series of public listening sessions and stakeholder meetings, developed a draft baseline assessment, and completed workgroup reports that incorporate existing data and information.

Because the planning team is now beginning to work with the materials developed to date, EEA wants to provide public and stakeholder participants with the opportunity to discuss the current status and on-going work of the planning team, and provide the opportunity to discuss the workgroup reports with members of the workgroup teams. To that end, enclosed are one page summaries of the work group reports (and the entire fisheries work group report) for your review prior to the workshop; if you would like to review the work group reports in their entirety please visit the EEA website at www.mass.gov/eea and select the link for "Massachusetts ocean plan." As the agenda describes, we will also provide the opportunity to discuss potential management and planning models being considered.

The planning team is currently in the process of developing the 'next generation' of technical material, particularly building upon the fisheries and habitat materials through a more comprehensive ecological valuation approach that draws from individual workgroup reports. We will provide an update on that and other work we are doing as part of the discussion.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to your participation.