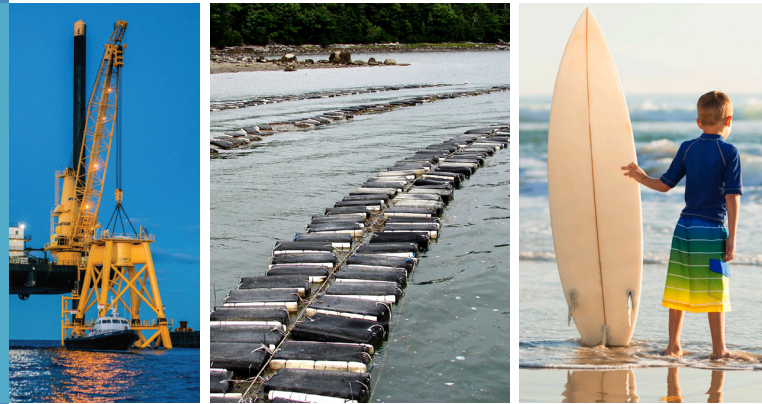


## GOALS

1. Healthy Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems;
2. Effective Decision-making;
3. Compatibility Among Past, Current, and Future Ocean Uses



NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN

## WHAT DOES THE NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN DO?

**Enables regional characterization** of marine life, habitat and human activities using an unprecedented online library of peer-reviewed regional data

**Sets expectation** for the federal government to use this information to guide and inform regulatory and management decisions within existing authorities

**Supports identification** of potential conflicts, compatibilities, and affected resources

**Employs best practices** for regulatory/management processes through interagency coordination, stakeholder engagement, and use of data

**Identifies future priority** science and research needs

## NEXT STEPS

**Public comment period:** May 25-July 25 at 5pm

**Where to comment:**

- Join one of our public meetings being convened across New England (<http://neoceanplanning.org/events/draft-plan-comment-meetings/>)
- Submit comments online at [neoceanplanning.org/plan](http://neoceanplanning.org/plan) or email [comment@neoceanplanning.org](mailto:comment@neoceanplanning.org)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**[neoceanplanning.org](http://neoceanplanning.org)**

TWITTER: [@neoceanplanning](https://twitter.com/neoceanplanning)

EMAIL: [comment@neoceanplanning.org](mailto:comment@neoceanplanning.org)

**Through a historic, unprecedented effort, federal, state, regional, and tribal entities—** the caretakers of New England’s marine environment—have joined forces to develop a comprehensive Northeast Ocean Plan. It is a blueprint to protect and manage a public treasure together.



NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN

## NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

### REGULATORY AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The Plan provides an unprecedented amount of information describing 10 ocean resources and activities. For each of these areas, federal agency commitments are described to:

1. Maintain, update, and develop additional data for the Portal
2. Inform regulatory and management decisions
3. Identify potentially affected stakeholders and help resolve potential conflicts
4. Enhance interagency coordination

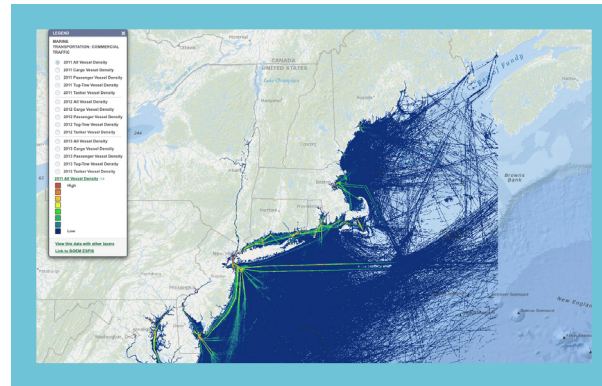
### PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Plan implementation includes best practices for intergovernmental coordination and stakeholder engagement; Plan administration and oversight including Data Portal maintenance, updates and development; and monitoring and evaluating of plan performance, and ocean and ecosystem health.

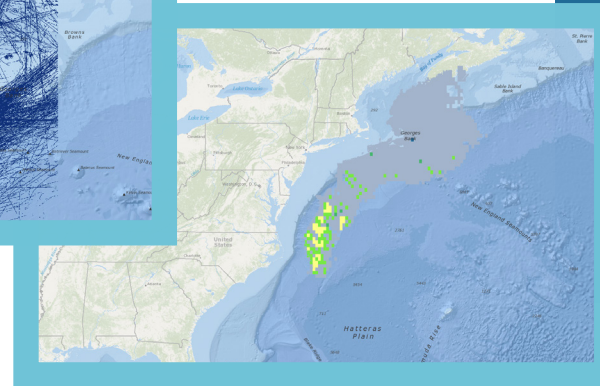
### SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The Plan identifies known knowledge and information gaps and organizes those gaps under six primary science and research priorities.

1. Improve understanding of marine life and habitats
2. Improve understanding of tribal cultural resources
3. Improve understanding of human activities, coastal communities, socioeconomics, and interactions between uses
4. Characterize the vulnerability of marine resources to specific stressors
5. Characterize changing environmental conditions, particularly resulting from climate change, and characterize resulting impacts to existing resources and uses
6. Advance ecosystem-based management (EBM) by building on the previous priorities and also including cumulative impacts and ecosystem services



Marine Transportation: commercial traffic



Sea Turtles: loggerhead

## NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA PORTAL

The Northeast Ocean Data Portal is an online, publicly accessible repository that offers a wealth of current scientific data and maps describing key aspects of the 10 ocean resources and activities covered in the Plan.

[northeastoceandata.org](http://northeastoceandata.org)

## 10 Ocean Resources & Activities



### MARINE LIFE & HABITAT

Focuses on species, habitats, and a framework for Important Ecological Areas (IEAs).



### CULTURAL RESOURCES

Celebrates the unique cultural history of New England's relationship to the ocean, including that of Native American tribes.



### MARINE TRANSPORTATION

Outlines interconnected system of waterways and ports that transport people and goods.



### NATIONAL SECURITY

Explores importance of New England's ocean for military training and defense.



### COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL FISHING

Highlights the important economic role of commercial fishing and provides the broad footprint of certain fisheries.



### RECREATION

Describes the variety of activities that comprise New England's ocean recreation.



### ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Addresses the increasing use of the ocean for energy & infrastructure, including for emerging renewable energy technologies.



### AQUACULTURE

Describes the current aquaculture footprint and potential for new aquaculture projects.



### OFFSHORE SAND RESOURCES

Emphasizes the need to better understand potential uses of offshore sand resources for shore and beach replenishment.



### RESTORATION

Identifies potential restoration projects needing funding.