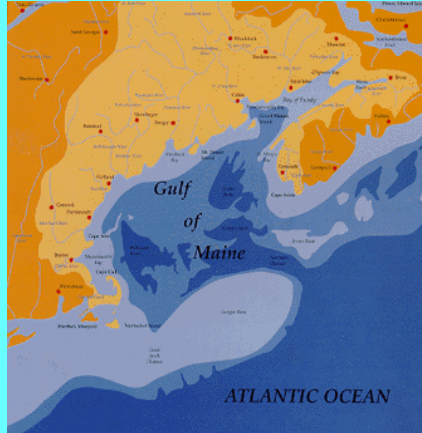


# Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop



Durham, NH

January 6 – 8, 2004

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## Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop

January 6, 2004

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## Messages taken from Scott Nixon keynote at September 2003 ERF meeting regarding our coastal programs

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- “It is time to look at the macro scale more, we have become too reductionistic and mechanistic.”
- From Odum: Always select the scale one size larger than your problem because it is half driven from the large scale, that is the first principle of the system approach



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## Background Information

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- In 2002, efforts began on developing a coordinated regional monitoring effort throughout the northeast Atlantic region
  - Area under consideration Atlantic Ocean from New York to Maine and the Bay of Fundy, Canada
  - Ecologically based focus on three areas: Habit loss, contaminants, nutrient over enrichment
- This workshop expands upon this original work to develop regional indicators in six important focus areas

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## Background Information

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- **Regional Effort to Coordinate Monitoring\Indicators**
  - **Vision** – A sustainable Northwest Atlantic ecosystem that ensures environmental integrity and that supports and is supported by economically viable, healthy human communities.
  - **Mission** – To track the status and trends in ecosystem integrity throughout the Northwest Atlantic region through collaborative partnerships. To provide information for management decisions at regional and local scales.
- **NCI Workshop Goal** – Consensus on a list of key indicators for which regional data will be compiled and tracked to indicate changing trends in ecosystem integrity through the Northwest Atlantic region.

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## Background Information

### ■ NCI Workshop will

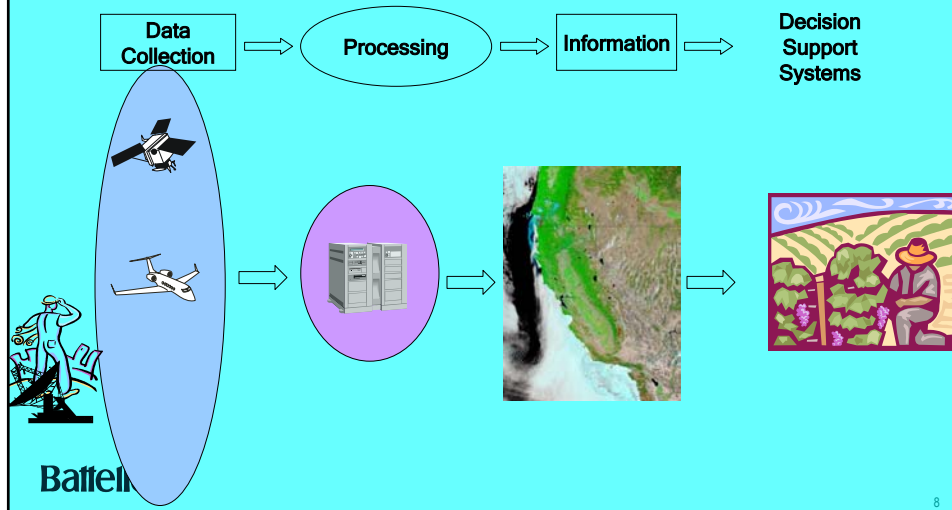
- Review present efforts to coordinate monitoring and indicator development throughout the region.
- Develop indicators that apply to the northeast coastal region under 6 focus areas
  - Fisheries
  - Contaminants
  - Eutrophication
  - Coastal Development
  - Aquatic Habitat
  - Climate Change
- Discuss how indicators could be measured and managed, including incorporation into existing programs, in the near future.

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## Similar Regional Efforts

### Pacific Northwest Regional Collaboration



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## NCI Workshop Participation

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- EPA (Region and NCA), NEPs
- Environment Canada
- State environmental management and protection agencies plus regulatory agencies
- New England Fisheries Management Council
- Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
- Research Reserves
- Sea Grant Programs
- Gulf of Maine Council
- GoMOOS
- NOAA
- Others

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## Overview of the Workshop Schedule

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- Today – Overview of background information on Indicator Development efforts and the goals of the workshop
- Wednesday – Using focused breakout groups agree on key regional questions that need to be answered and the indicators that should be used to answer them
- Thursday – Report out to participants and senior managers the findings of the breakout sessions and discuss how these efforts might be implemented throughout the region

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## **Workshop Background Information Products**

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- National Indicator Development Initiatives
- Tapping the Indicators Knowledge-base: "Lessons learned" by developers of environmental indicators
- Relevant Definitions for the Indicator Workshop
- Straw Ecological Concept models to support indicator development
  - Fisheries
  - Contaminants
  - Eutrophication
  - Aquatic Habitat
  - Coastal Development
  - Climate Change
- Draft List of Key Questions and Indicators
- Bibliography of Indicator Reports

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## **Why a regional effort?**

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- Regional councils are gaining visibility and importance
  - Pew Commission recommended coastal coordinating councils
  - Integrated Ocean Observing systems
  - Ocean Commission
- Why
  - Consistency in informing decision-makers and public on progress in coastal protection and restoration
  - Making sure we monitor for the right things

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## Why a regional effort?

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- Address gaps between monitoring and management by
  - Reaching out to managers to ensure our work is relevant
  - Working on constituency and meeting management needs
  - Figuring out the questions to ensure timely, relevant information is produced
- Pressing need for
  - Application of consistent (though not identical) methods
  - Consistent monitoring approaches (but not identical)
  - Aggregation of information from local to regional and higher levels
  - Consistent set of drivers, champions, support, and coordination

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## Why a regional effort?

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### CONCLUSION

**There is imminent opportunity for this region to become one of the leaders of integrated coastal monitoring along with groups such as SCCWRP, Great Lakes, and Chesapeake Bay.**

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## Expectations from the Workshop

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- By the end of the workshop we hope to finalize for each focus area (i.e., breakout group)
  - Conceptual Model
  - List of key issues and questions
  - List of indicators for the top 3 to 5 issues/questions
    - Identify up to 3 indicators for monitoring throughout the region
    - Identify information conveyed by the indicators identified and users
    - Spatial and temporal effectiveness of each indicator
    - Methods to communicate status of the region
    - Whether additional data collection efforts are needed
  - Develop a plan to implement these regional indicators into present programs