

Northeast Ocean Plan

Gulf of Maine Council

CMSP Committee Webinar

May 16, 2017

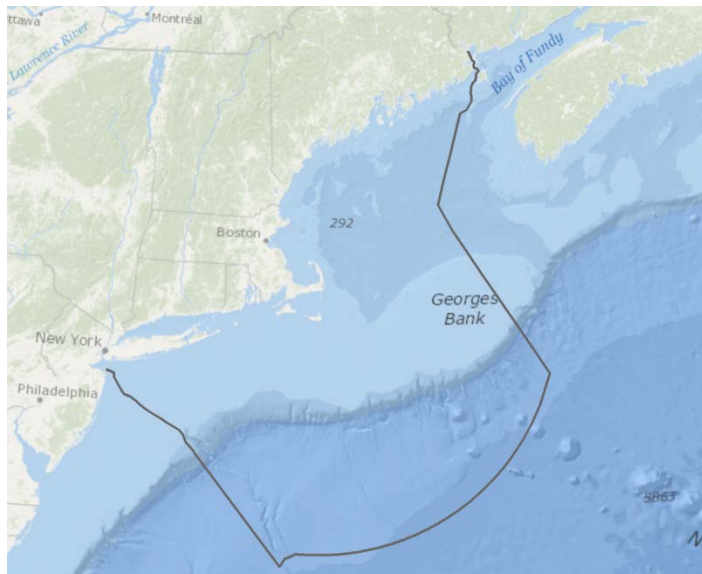




NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN

Northeast Regional Planning Body

- Six New England states
- Six federally-recognized tribes
- Nine federal agencies
- New England Fishery Management Council
- Two ex-officio members, NY and Canada





Northeast Ocean Plan goals

1. Healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems
2. Effective decision-making
3. Compatibility among past, current and future ocean uses





OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT

Regional Stakeholder forums + workshops

3–6 weeks before each
RPB meeting

Focus on upcoming RPB
decisions

Subject specific projects + targeted outreach + work groups

Cumulatively reached
thousands of people across
many issue areas

Expert/scientific review of
methods, products

State public meetings + advisory groups

Interactive and informal
Throughout New England

Website + social media + eblasts

Calendar and RPB
updates

Project reports, meeting
summaries, other
products

Existing meetings + events

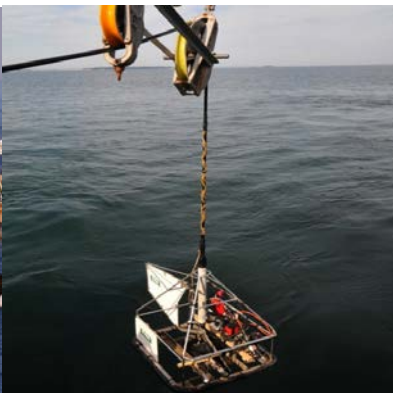
Leveraged existing
opportunities to reach
stakeholders

Various topics, throughout
New England



What Does the Northeast Ocean Plan Do?

- Provides unprecedented amount of ocean information
- Commits federal agencies to use information in their decisions
- Helps identify conflicts and compatibility on the water
- Encourages government to work better together and engage ocean users
- Identifies future priority science and research needs





NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN

NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA PORTAL

NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA

Maps and data for ocean planning in the northeastern United States

[HOME](#)

[MAPS](#) ▾

[DATA](#) ▾

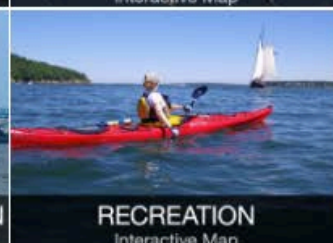
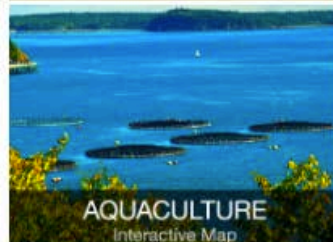
[ABOUT](#) ▾



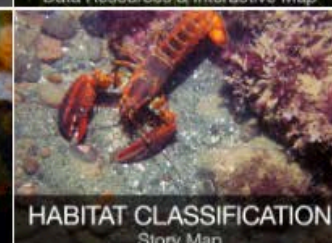
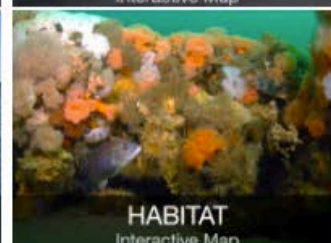
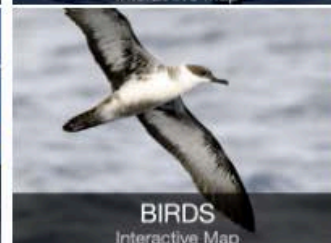
DATA EXPLORER

Interact with any combination of data in the Data Explorer — Human Activities, Marine Life, and Environment

Human Activities



Marine Life



Environment





Plan Describes Top Ten Primary Ocean Resources and Activities

1. Overview of **importance** of each ocean resource or activity to ocean management
2. **Regulatory and management landscape** of that resource/activity
3. Peer-reviewed **maps and data** available on portal
4. Regulatory and management **actions** identified by RPB agencies
 - ✓ Maintain, update and develop additional data for the Portal
 - ✓ Inform regulatory/environmental review and management decisions
 - ✓ Identify potentially affected stakeholders and resources
 - ✓ Enhance interagency coordination



Ocean Resources & Activities



MARINE LIFE & HABITAT



CULTURAL RESOURCES



MARINE TRANSPORTATION



NATIONAL SECURITY



COMMERCIAL & RECREATIONAL FISHING



RECREATION



ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



AQUACULTURE



OFFSHORE SAND RESOURCES



RESTORATION



MARINE LIFE & HABITAT

Marine Life & Habitat

Describes how we developed an unprecedented library of regional data products characterizing marine life and habitat, and includes:

- Maps of species
- Maps of habitat types
- Maps of species groupings developed to assist decision-making



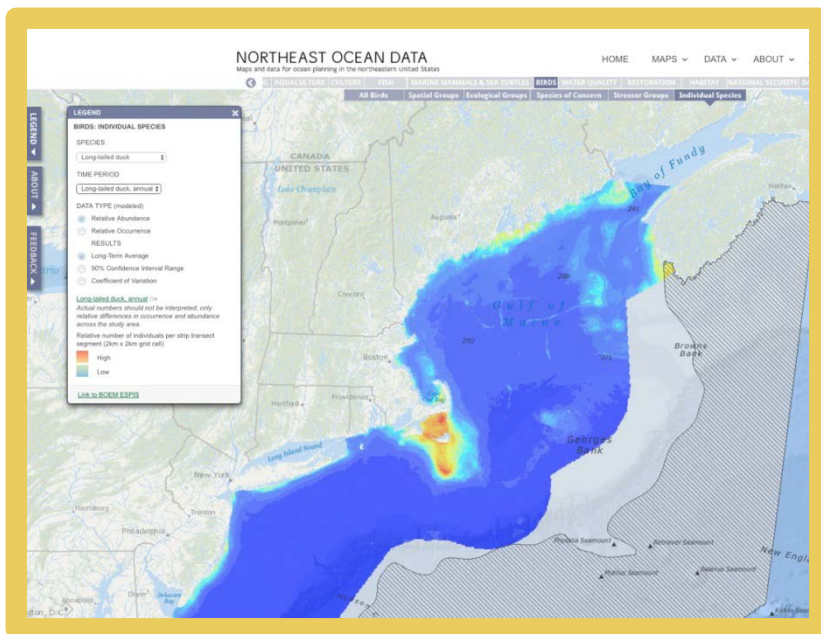


MARINE LIFE &
HABITAT

Corals

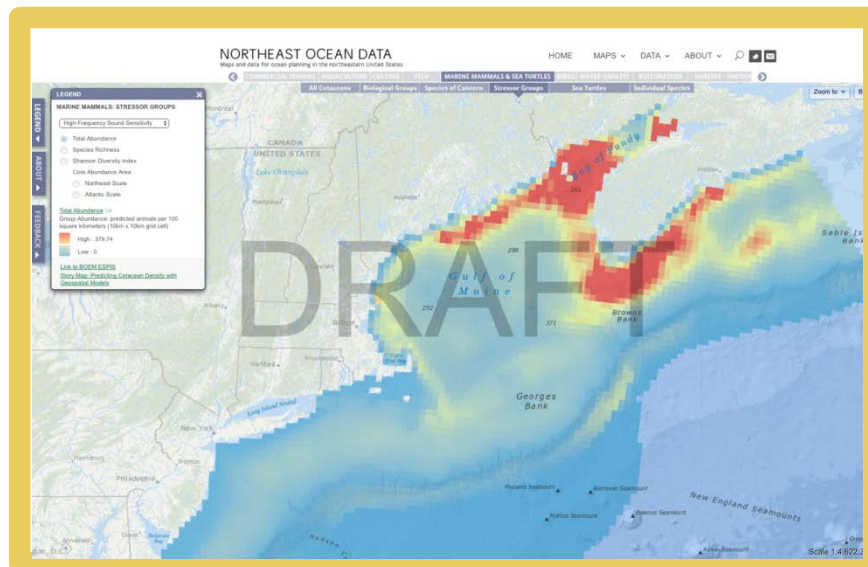
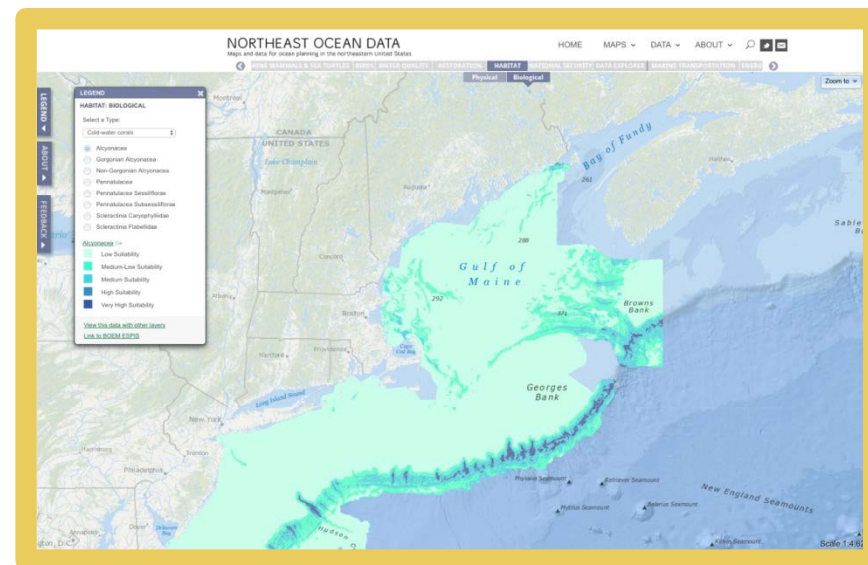


NORTHEAST OCEANPLAN



Long-tailed duck: predicted annual relative abundance

Mammals sensitive to high frequency sound





Marine Life & Habitat

Also defines Important Ecological Areas as habitat areas and species, guilds, or communities critical to ecosystem function, recovery, and resilience. They are further divided by five components:

- Areas of high productivity
- Areas of high biodiversity
- Areas of high species abundance
- Areas of vulnerable marine resources
- Areas of rare marine resources





NORTHEAST OCEANPAN



ENERGY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

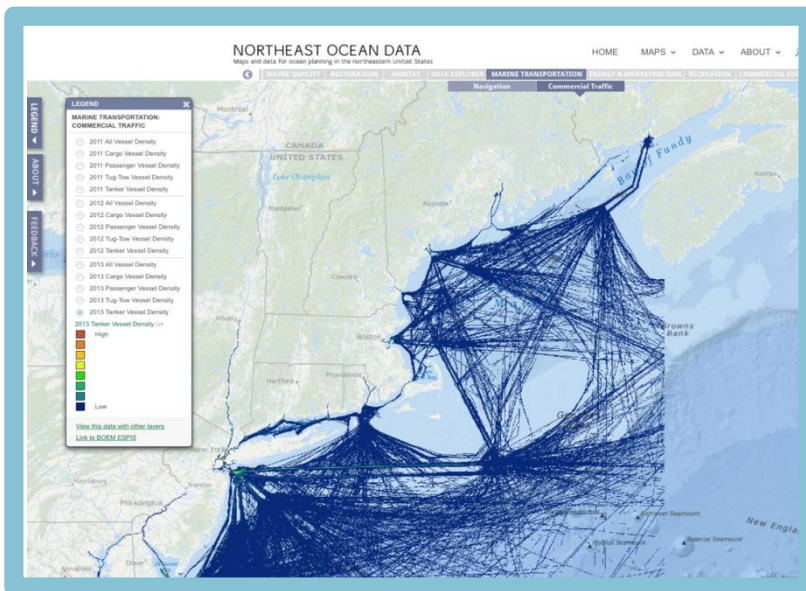


ENERGY &
INFRASTRUCTURE

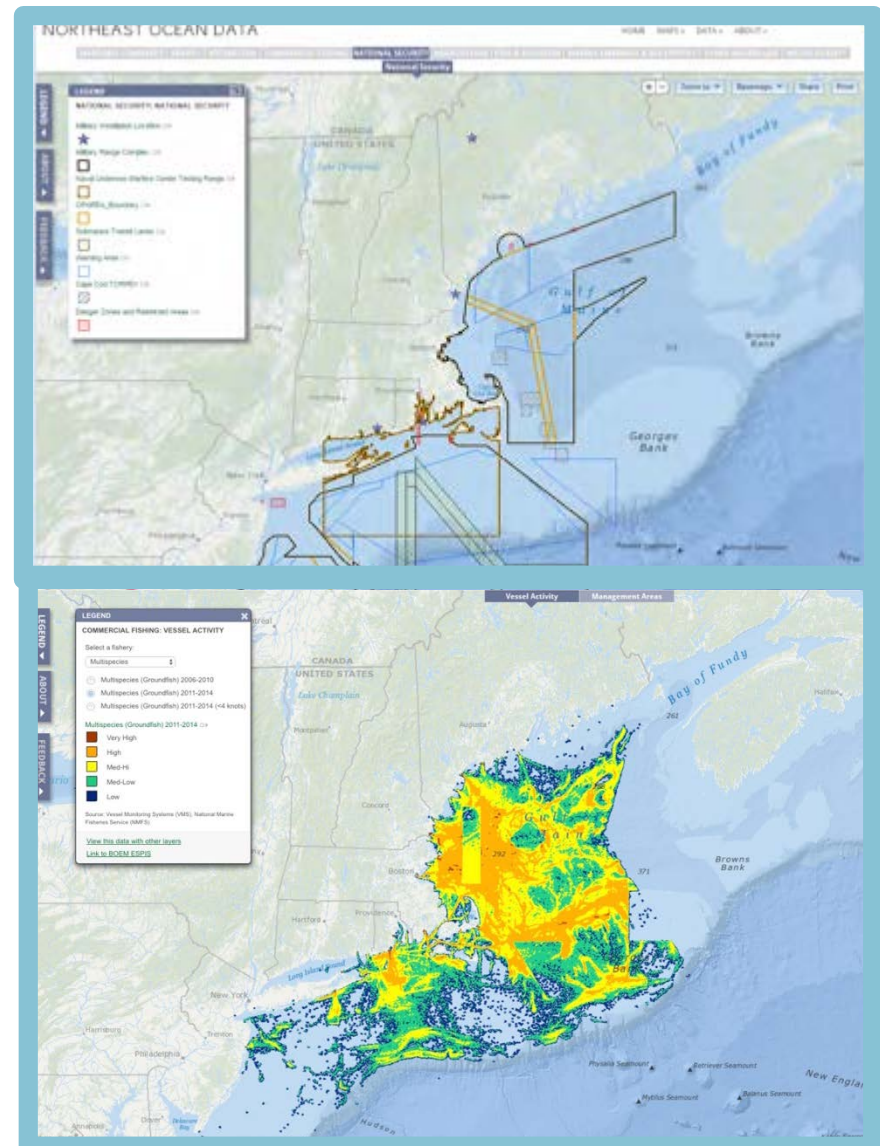
National Security Use Areas



NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN



Tanker Vessel Density



Multispecies Fishing Vessel Density



Intergovernmental Coordination

Best practices provide flexible but consistent guidance to help enhance value of agency coordination by supporting:

- Agreement across agencies to use relevant information from portal, plan, stakeholders, and other sources early in project development
- Initial understanding of proposed project and broad understanding of issues,
- Clear and efficient direction for the applicant,
- Informed and engaged ocean stakeholders, and
- Coordinated federal, state, tribal review as appropriate.





Science and Research Priorities

1. Improve understanding of marine life and habitats
2. Improve understanding of tribal cultural resources (e.g, paleocultural reconstruction mapping)
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

TIMELINE



October – December

- Northeast Ocean Plan finalized and certified by the National Ocean Council
- RPB begins to organize itself for implementation

January – March

- Plan is adopted and signed by RPB leadership
- RPB leadership rotates to EPA, NH and Micmacs
- RPB begins implementing the actions in the Plan, trains work force, and prepares for upcoming public conversations

April – May

- April 13 public webinar to provide an overview of implementation activities in preparation for May public meetings
- May 2 Stakeholder Forum in Portsmouth, NH
- May 24 RPB Meeting in Gloucester, MA

USING & UPDATING THE NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA PORTAL TO SUPPORT DECISIONS

- Communicating the use and role of the Portal
 - Portal use and case studies
 - Relationship of the Portal to the Plan and other data and information systems
- Updating ocean activity data
 - RPB actions to update data
 - Outreach to relevant stakeholders
- Updating marine life, habitat, and important ecological areas (IEA) data products
 - RPB actions to update marine life and habitat data
 - Advance IEA framework by developing draft data products for each component of ecological importance
 - Input on draft methods and products

Ocean Resources & Activities



MARINE LIFE & HABITAT



CULTURAL RESOURCES



MARINE TRANSPORTATION



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AQUACULTURE



OFFSHORE SAND RESOURCES

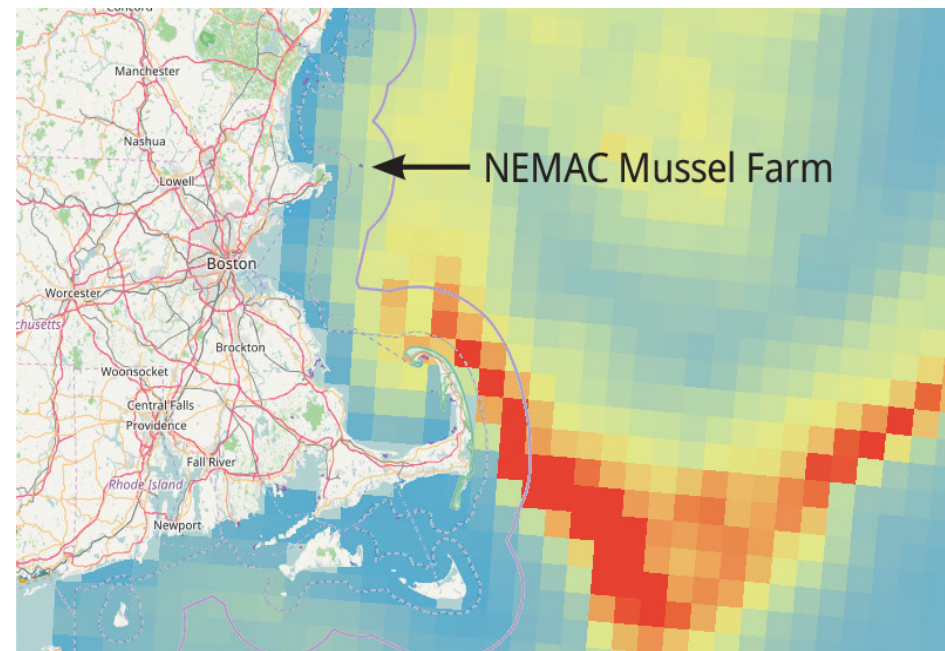


RESTORATION



First Shellfish Aquaculture in Atlantic Federal Waters

- NEMAC submitted NEPA documents for offshore mussel aquaculture as research and economic development opportunity for struggling fishing communities – Dec 2012
- NEMAC used data from the Portal to identify a site with little or no impact on fisheries, protected marine resources, marine transportation, and other uses
- USACE issued Section 10 permit – Jan 2015
- Construction began on first shellfish farm in Atlantic federal waters – August 2016
- The site is expected to yield 15,000 lbs in the first ten month growing season with just one line in the water; will be scaling up.
- NEMAC project approval benefited from easy and shared access to data, and enhanced agency coordination.

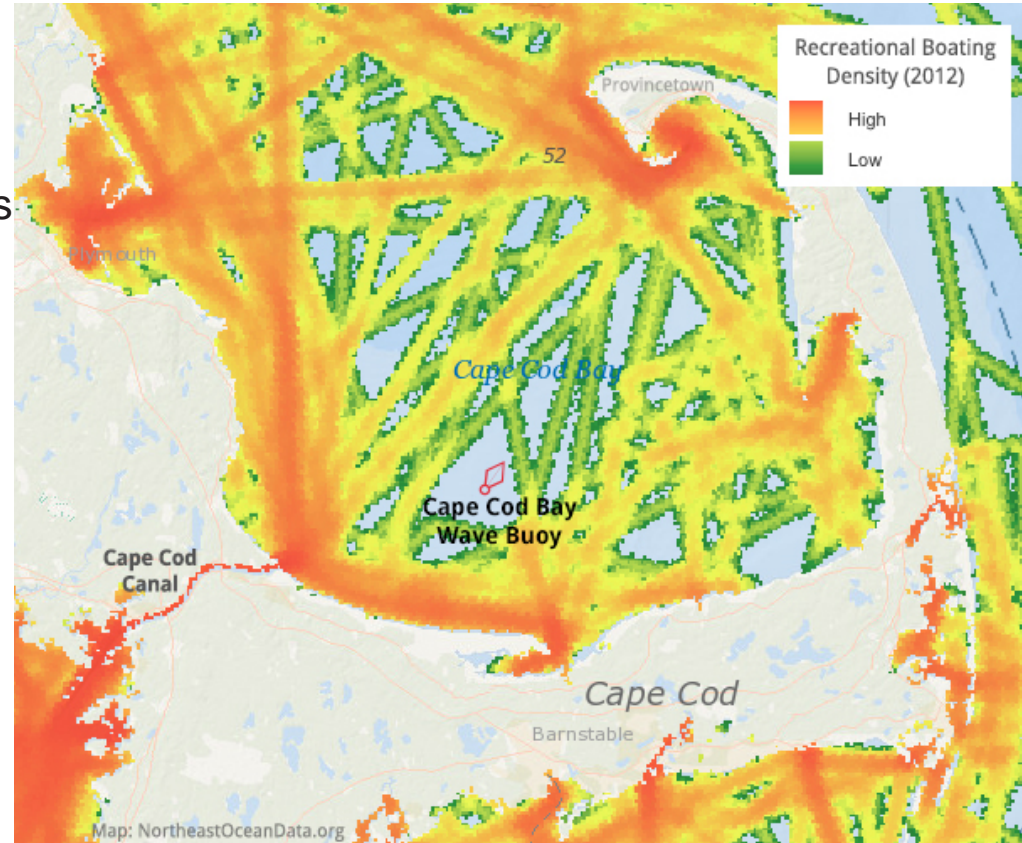


Northeast Ocean Data map showing the farm is not located in an area of abundant ESA-listed whales (red)



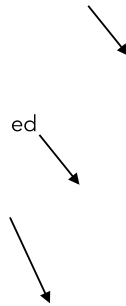
Aids to Navigation: Siting a Wave-Monitoring Buoy in Cape Cod Bay

- Significant tug and barge traffic through the Cape Cod Canal.
- Strong northerly winds kick up heavy seas in contrast to calmer Buzzards Bay.
- Despite a relatively robust regional ocean observing system, no real-time data collection of waves in Cape Cod Bay.
- NERACOOS used the Portal to identify a site for a monitoring buoy in a low traffic area that also met other criteria.
- Deployed in May 2016, it now collects wave and temperature data used by numerous stakeholders.



NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA PORTAL

MAINTENANCE AND USE

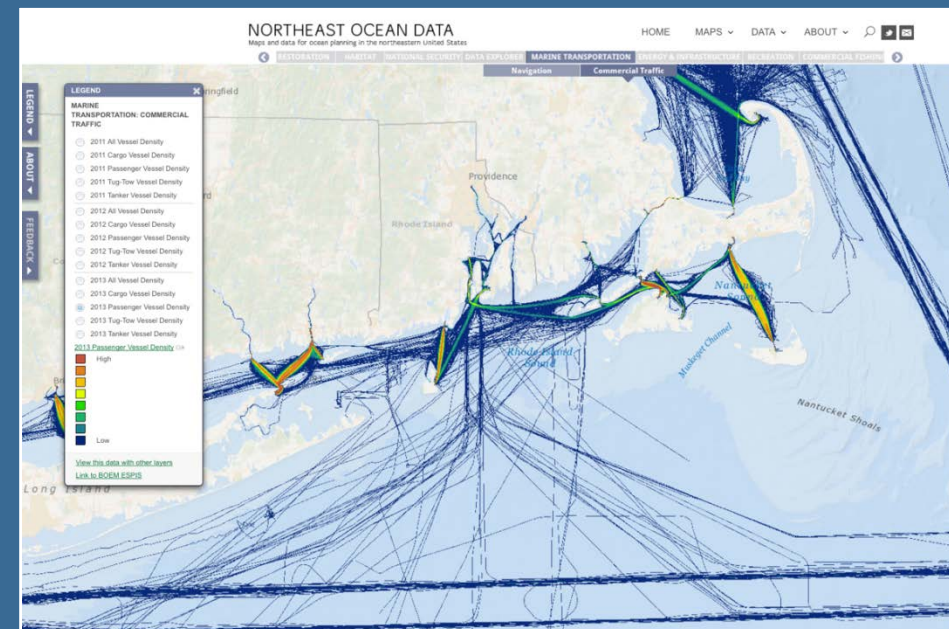
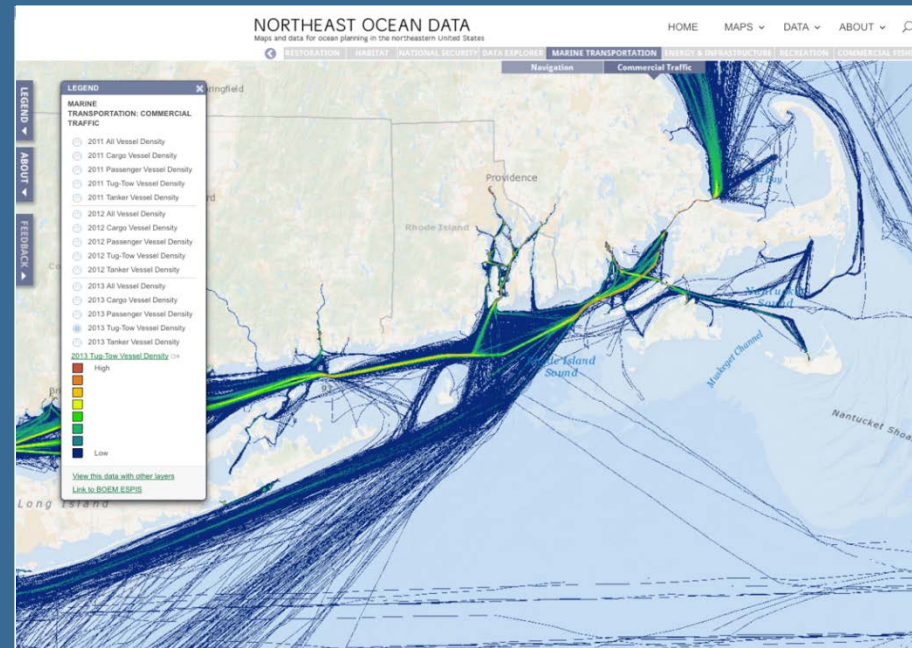
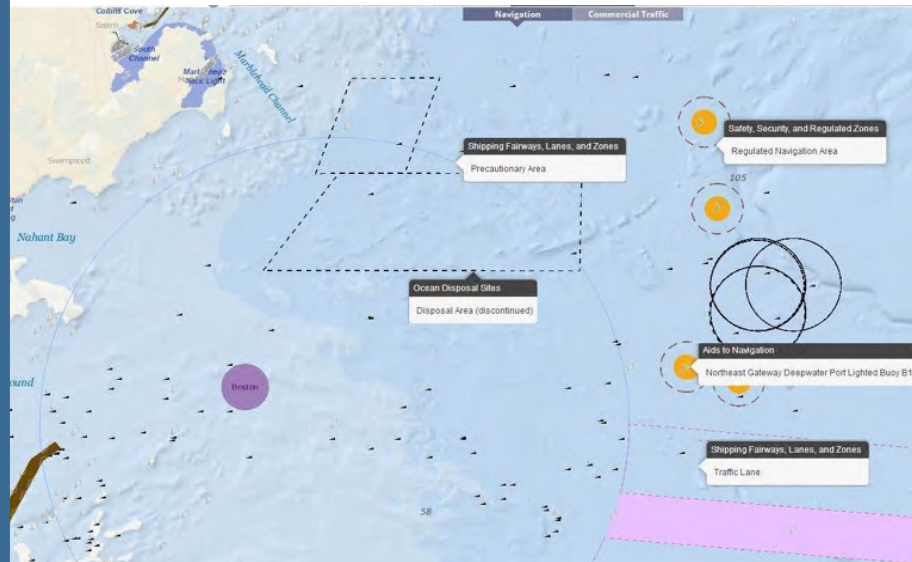


- Noticeable spike in Portal activity – hits and feedback
- Daily/weekly spikes potentially associated with agency announcements and events

Approach to Boston Harbor



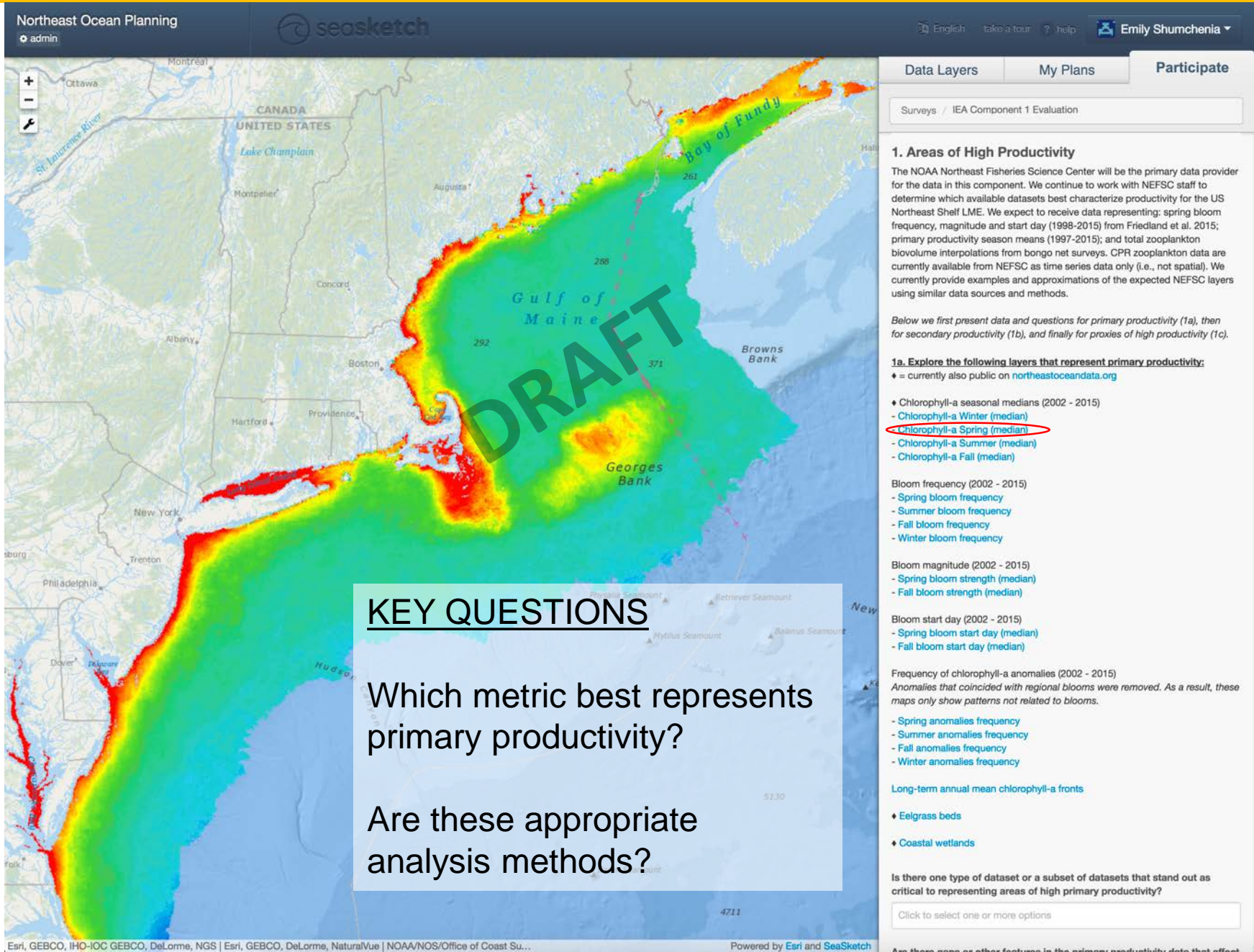
NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN



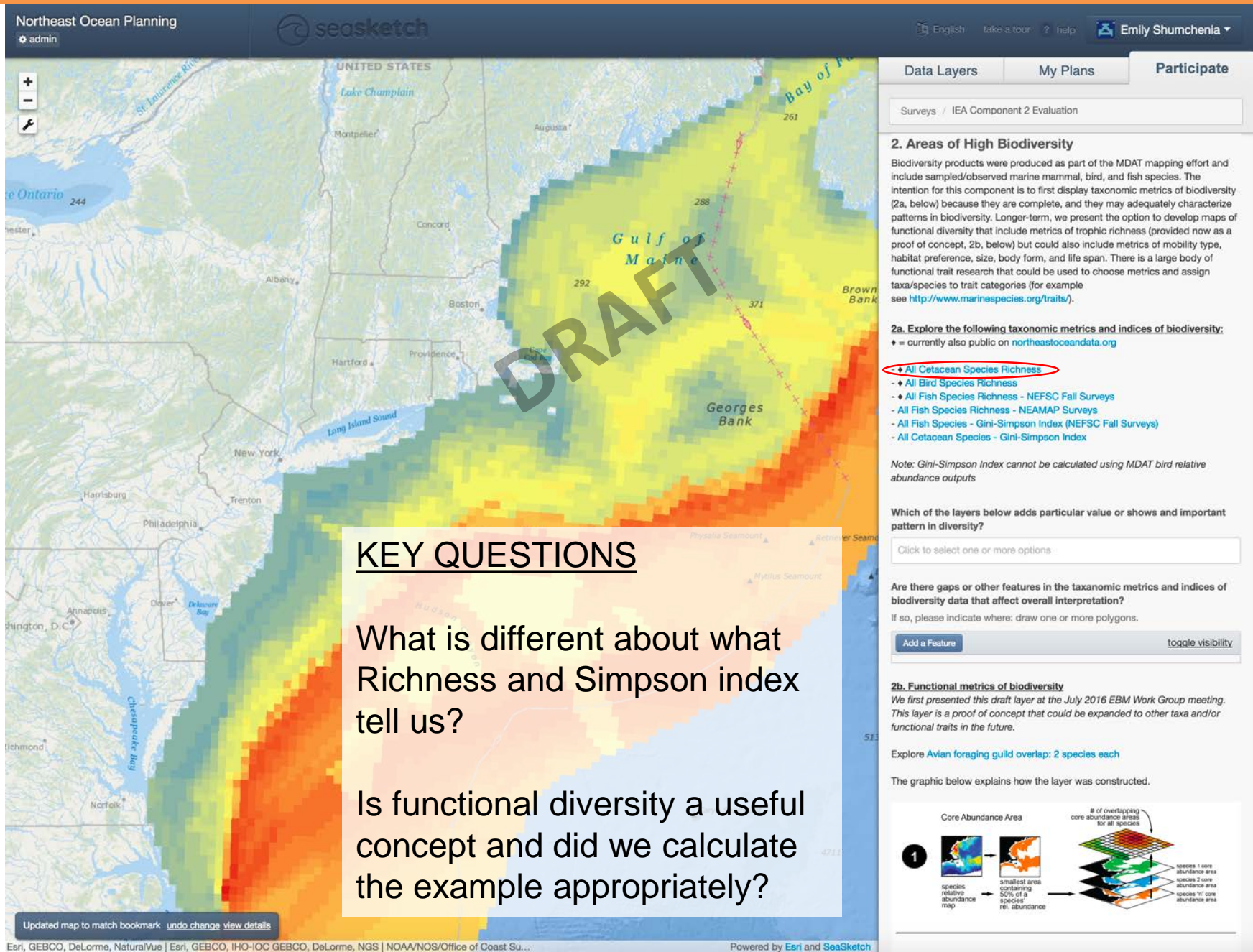
Passenger vessels

Tug Tow vessels

Component 1: Areas of high productivity – Example: Chlorophyll-a Spring (median)



Component 2: Areas of high biodiversity – Example: All cetacean species richness



What is Monitoring & Evaluation?



establishes two tracks



Plan Performance Monitoring

Measure progress toward implementing the Plan's actions and achieving the Plan's goals and objectives



- Conditions before Plan
- Track implementation
- Obtain public input



Ecosystem Health Monitoring & Evaluation

Measure changes in the ecosystem, including human activities, to identify issues that may require management attention

- Baseline
- Indicators
- Obtain public input



**Inform amendments
and updates to the Plan**



Cross-Border Opportunities and Needs for Collaboration

- Transboundary projects and ocean uses (e.g., marine transportation)
- **Tools to assist application of acoustic impacts on whales/sound mapping**
 - Management measures driven by economic incentives (e.g., Vancouver – reduce acoustic footprint)
- Trends in shifting marine life, oceanographic (chlA, temp, pH)
- **Envi quality, cumulative impact assessment**
- Habitat mapping/characterization
- **Indigenous partnerships** (session with members from both sides, lessons learned from engagement)
- Share tools, approaches, methods
- Lessons learned from public process and implementation (including monitoring and evaluation **fed coordination/best practices**)



GOMC CMSP Committee

Role:

- Investigate and make recommendations on roles and activities of the Council in CMSP;
- Track and exchange information on CMSP policies and activities on both sides of the border.

Membership:

Priscilla Brooks, Conservation Law Foundation

Scott Coffen-Smout, DFO

Daniela Diz, World Wildlife Fund Canada

Andrew Dumbrille, World Wildlife Fund Canada

Glen Herbert, Heather Breeze, DFO

Betsy Nicholson and Daniel Martin, NOAA

Matthew Nixon, Maine Coastal Program

Robert Stephenson, St Andrews Biological St

Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute

Prassede Vella, MA CZM