

Appendix C: Summary and Synthesis of Gulf of Maine Council Goals and Significant US Federal and State Programs and Policy

This Table links significant federal and state program to the text of the Summary and Synthesis Report.

GOMC Goal/Objective	Fed/State Agency	Program	Purpose	Page
Goal 1: Protect and Restore Coastal and Marine Habitats				
<i>a. Increase awareness and improve management of regionally significant habitats</i>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”)	National Estuary Program	improve the quality of estuaries of national importance	14-15, 28, 33
	EPA	Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (“BEACH”)	Promotes water quality through mandate that states submit water quality criteria and standards and adopt plans to monitor and control for designated pathogens	15, 33
	U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”)	National Marine Sanctuary Program	create national marine sanctuaries to protect natural and cultural resources	12, 32-33
	NOAA	Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (“CELCP”)	to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic value	28, 33
	NOAA	Coastal Zone Management Program (includes Coastal Services Center)	advancing national coastal management objectives and maintaining and strengthening state coastal management capabilities (See Appendix A: Funding)	10-11, 33
	NOAA	National Estuarine Research Reserve System	partnership program between NOAA and the coastal states to establish a network of protected areas for long-term research, education and stewardship; protects estuarine land and water	12
	US Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”)	Coastal Program	to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats in order to support healthy coastal ecosystems	17, 33

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	USFWS	National Wildlife Refuge System	Subjects USFWS wildlife refuges around the Gulf of Maine to comprehensive conservation plan processes and protection	17, 33
	USFWS	Coastal Barrier Resource Act	identifies undeveloped coastal barrier lands and associated marine or aquatic areas that serve as barriers protecting coasts along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes and prohibits federal expenditures or subsidies that tend to encourage development of such areas.	17, 33
	US Department of Agriculture (“USDA”)	Wetlands Reserve Program	provides incentives for landowners to protect wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture	18, 33, 37
	USDA	Conservation Security Program	provides payments to producers who practice good stewardship on their agricultural lands and incentives for those who want to do more	18, 33, 37
	USDA	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	permits farms to receive financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land that will reduce non-point source pollution, reduce emissions, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation and promote at-risk species habitat conservation	18, 33, 37
	USDA	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (“WHIP”).	provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to create high quality wildlife habitats	15, 30, 33
	Maine State Planning Office (“MSPO”)	Land for Maine’s Future program	uses public funds to acquire land to set aside for conservation and coastal protection	23, 33

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	MSPO	Coastal Program	undertakes or supports projects that promote sustainable economic development, encourage environmental stewardship and education, conserve and manage marine fisheries, reduce coastal hazards, and improve public access	23, 37
	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MDEP”)	Wetlands Program	the protection of private or public water supply, protection of groundwater, flood control, prevention of storm damage, prevention of pollution, protection of land containing shellfish, protection of wildlife habitat, and protection of fisheries.	22
	MDEP	Waterways Regulation Program	to protect access to the water's edge for fishing, fowling and navigation, protect navigation rights, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, ocean sanctuaries and other ecologically sensitive areas from unnecessary encroachment by fill and structures.	21-22
	Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management	Massachusetts Ocean Management Initiative (legislation pending)	Task force recommendations include the strengthening of state agencies to better address environmental, planning, and public trust issues in both state and federal waters; establishing an ecosystem-based protocol to improve management of federal waters; and initiating ocean education and stewardship initiatives	20, 37
	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”)	New Hampshire Coastal Program	the prevention and abatement of coastal pollution, fostering community stewardship and awareness of coastal resources, and protection and restoration of coastal natural resources.	27

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	NHDES	River Management and Protection Program	Designed to protect and manage rivers with outstanding natural or cultural characteristics and designated for protection	29
	New Hampshire Estuaries Project	New Hampshire Estuaries Project	funded by the EPA's National Estuary Program undertakes research and planning for the state's coastal estuaries, including Great Bay and Little Bay	28
<i>b. Increase habitat protection</i>		See above		34
	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service/New England Fishery Management Council	Essential Fish Habitat	Rules and Regulations are being developed for the identification and protection of Essential Fish Habitat ("EFH") as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act	11, 34, 36
<i>1. Protect an additional 5,000 acres of habitat within coastal communities</i>		See above		
<i>c. Increase habitat restoration</i>				34-35
<i>1. Restore 3,000 acres of coastal and marine habitats by 2006, maintaining the rate of restoration achieved between 1996 and 2001</i>				34
	USACE, NOAA, EPA, USFWS, and USDA and partnering states	National Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy	promotes the restoration of estuary habitat by creating and maintaining effective partnerships within the Federal government and with the private sector, providing Federal assistance for and promotes efficient financing of estuary habitat restoration projects	16

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	NOAA	CZMA's Enhancement Program	See Appendix A	35
	USFWS	Gulf of Maine Program	See Appendix A	17, 35
<i>d. Increase awareness and improve management of aquatic nuisance species</i>				35-36
	USFWS and NOAA (co-chairs)	Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force	Issues guidelines to prevent the introduction and spread of nonindigenous species in waters of the United States by ballast water operations and other operations of vessels equipped with ballast water tanks are voluntary.	17-18, 34-35
	MDEP and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Maine Invasive Aquatic Species Program	Intergovernmental effort to educate the public on the existence and threats posed by invasive species, the ways to prevent their introduction and spread, and put in place a largely-volunteer monitoring effort to track the progression of invasive species in the land and coastal regions of the state.	26, 35
	Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group	A statewide collaborative of organizations, agencies and concerned professionals that advises the Commonwealth on which plants are invasive and what steps the state should take to manage these species.	36
	NHDES	Exotic Species Program	coordinates activities associated with the control and management of exotic aquatic plants; as well as activities associated with the implementation of education programs and volunteer plant monitoring programs with respect to terrestrial and aquatic species with no express mention of marine threats	35-36

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<i>e. Enhance citizen stewardship</i>				36-37
	NOAA/NMFS/NEFMC	New England Fishery Management Council	Citizen stewardship enhanced through council and advisory committee structure, cod tagging programs, etc.	11, 36
	US EPA through state partnerships in all three coastal states	National Estuary Program	See above	14, 27, 33
	USDA	Wetlands Reserve Program	See above	18, 33, 37
		Conservation Security Program	See above	18, 33, 37
		Environmental Quality Incentive Program	See above	18, 33, 37
	Maine State Planning Office	Coastal Program	See above – provisions include citizen involvement and stewardship	23, 33
	Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management	Ocean Management Initiative	See above – if passed in present form includes citizen participation processes	19 – 20, 37
	NHDES	Bureaus of Air Resources , Water Resources, Land Resources, etc.	See above – all DES bureaus are overseen by citizen boards, e.g. Air Resources Council, Water Resources Council, Water Council, Waste Management Council, Water Council, and the Wetlands Council.	27, 28, 37
Goal 2: Protect Human Health and Ecosystem Integrity				37-39
<i>a. Increase awareness and improve management of priority contaminants</i>	Clean Air Act of 1970	US EPA, Maine DEP, Mass DEP and NH DES	Sets National Air Quality Standards enforced through states. Air quality regulated through limits of hazardous air pollutants permitted to be released into the air.	13, 22, 24, 37, 38

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	Clean Water Act	US EPA, Maine DEP, Mass DEP and NH DES	Establishes national standards for states to manage point source discharges through NPDES permits. Non-point source discharges not presently regulated	13-14, 22, 25, 37, 38
	Regional Mercury Action Plan of 1998	New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (“NEG/ECP”)	Binational regional task force created to report to NEG/ECP Committee on the Environment and for advice on efforts to reduce regionwide mercury releases and minimize risks to public health.	22, 25, 28, 37
	Climate Change Action Plan	New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (“NEG/ECP”)	Action Plan commits New England States and Maritime Provinces to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	38
<i>b. Identify reduction strategies for priority contaminants</i>	See above	See above	See above	39
<i>c. Enhance citizen stewardship</i>	See Goal 1 above			39
Goal 3: Encourage Sustainable Maritime Activities				39-40
<i>a. Create and implement a marine research and monitoring strategy that responds to pressing management issues and supports regional economic development</i>	Office of Naval Research	Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (“GoMOOS”)	Non-profit corporation committed to providing integrated, remotely-sensed and in situ information about the Gulf of Maine and related ecosystems on an hourly basis for by researchers, managers, military experts, industry, educators and others seeking to understand the cold water environment, to manage ocean and littoral resources, and to develop commercial uses of marine resources, data and information resources	39

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<i>b. Develop and implement a nature-based tourism strategy that sustains the environment and the well-being of local people</i>	State tourism programs			39-40