Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

The MA Ocean Plan, A Public-Private Partnership & Ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning

American Association of Port Authorities – May 2010

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Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

Overview

- The MA experience
  - Ocean management planning process
  - MOP role
- Highlights: MA Ocean Management Plan 1.0
- Science for plan development and future

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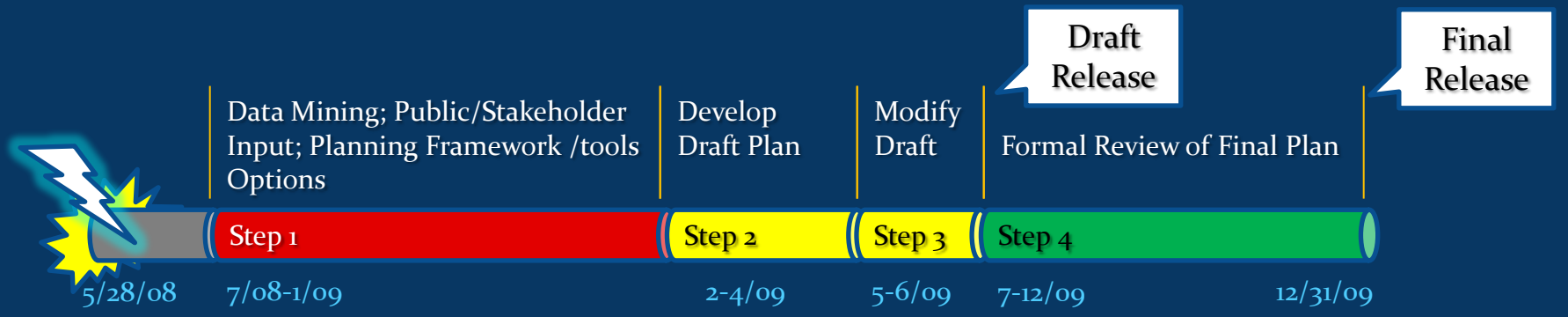
MA Ocean Planning Process



- Setting the Stage: MA Ocean Management Task Force 2003-04; Legislation filed 2004; MOP formation 2006-07
- May 28 2008: Governor Signs Oceans Act— Ocean Advisory Commission and Science Advisory Council established, Public involvement initiated, EEA Working Groups tasked (MOP supported)
- June 30 2009: Draft Plan Release, 5 Public Hearings and 300+ Comments, Continued Science Work (EEA and MOP), Draft Revisions
- January 4 2010: Final Plan Release

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Massachusetts Oceans Act of 2008

- Mandated deadlines for draft and final Plan
- Projects must be consistent with Plan
- Plan update at least every five years
- “Oceans 15” goals and requirements
- State fisheries management exempt
- Planning area: ≈0.3 nm from MHW to state limit (3 nm)

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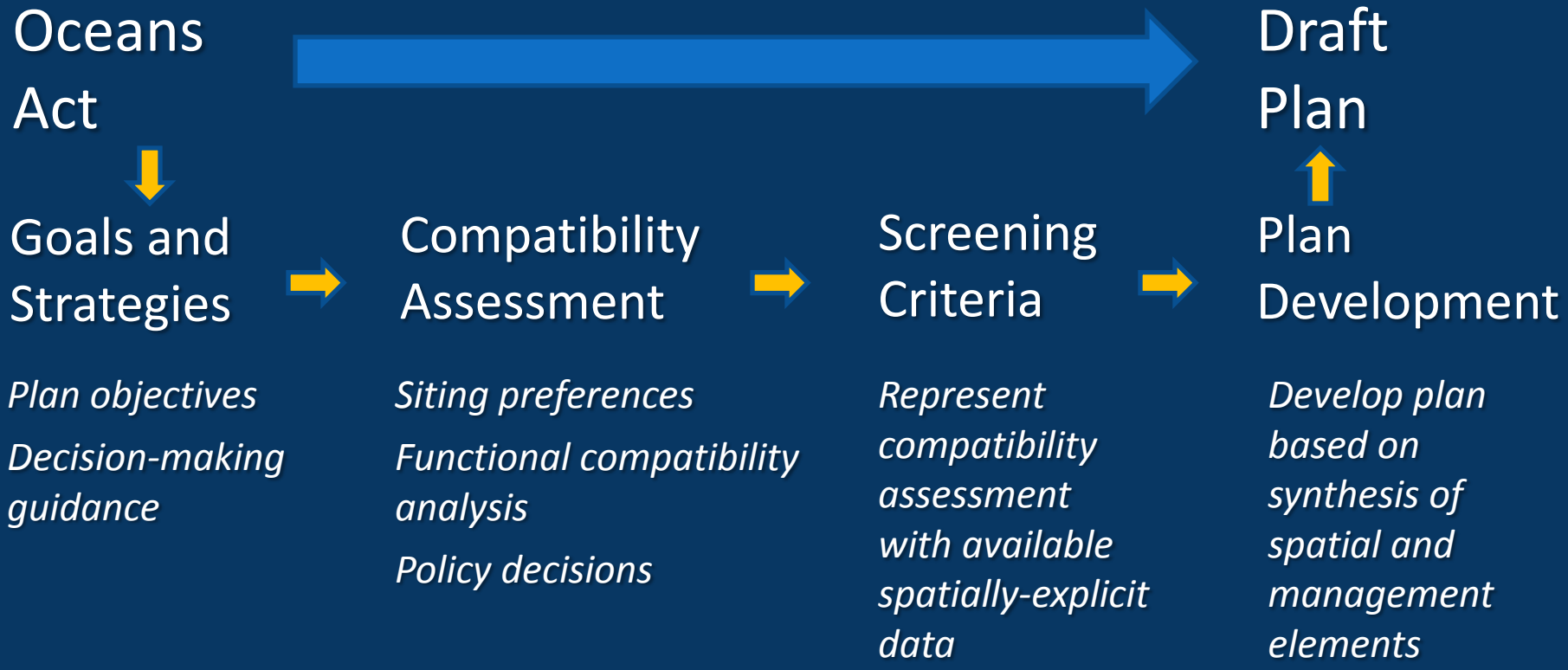
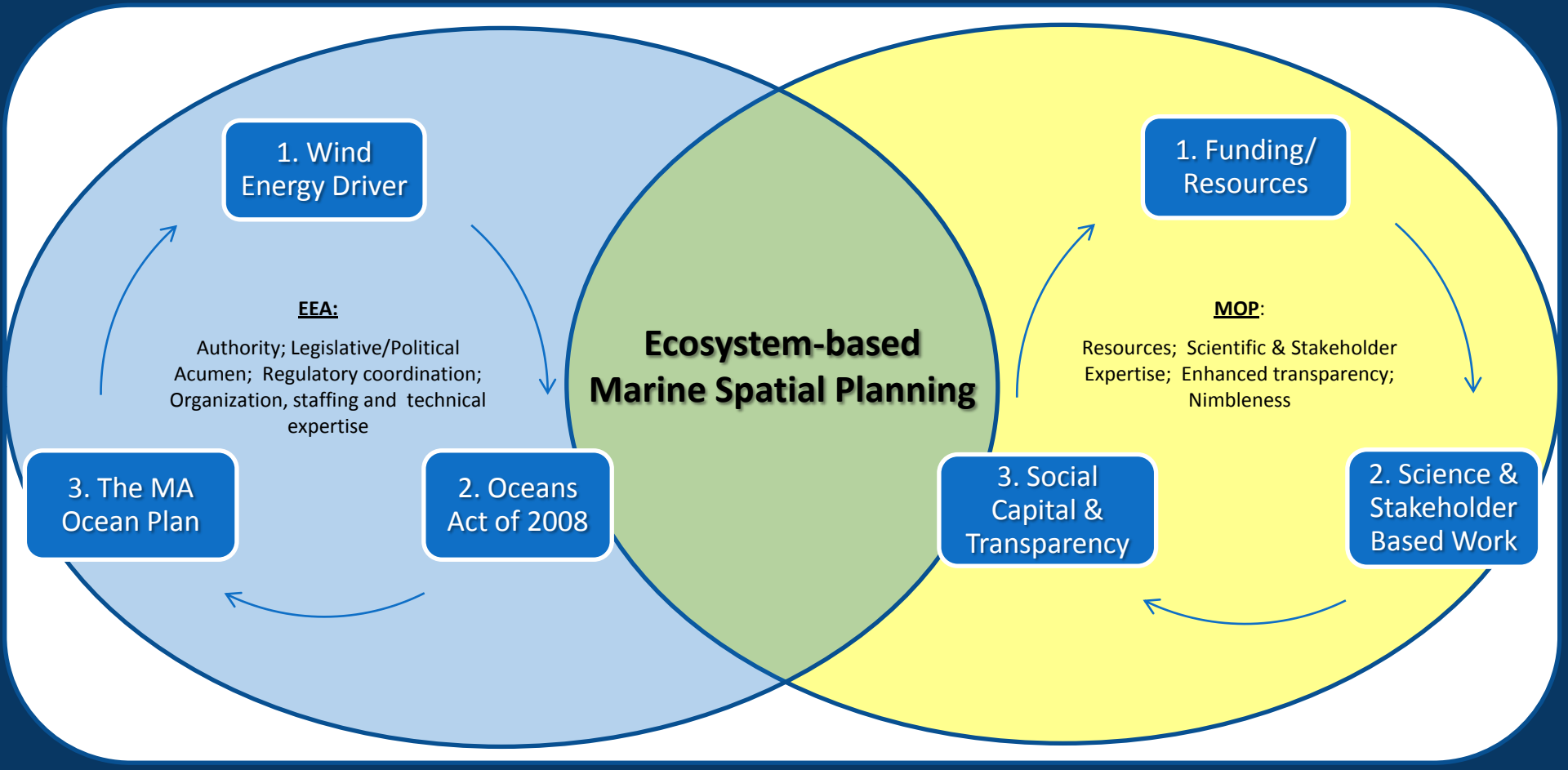
Translating the Oceans Act into an Ocean Plan



Public-Private Partnership Model



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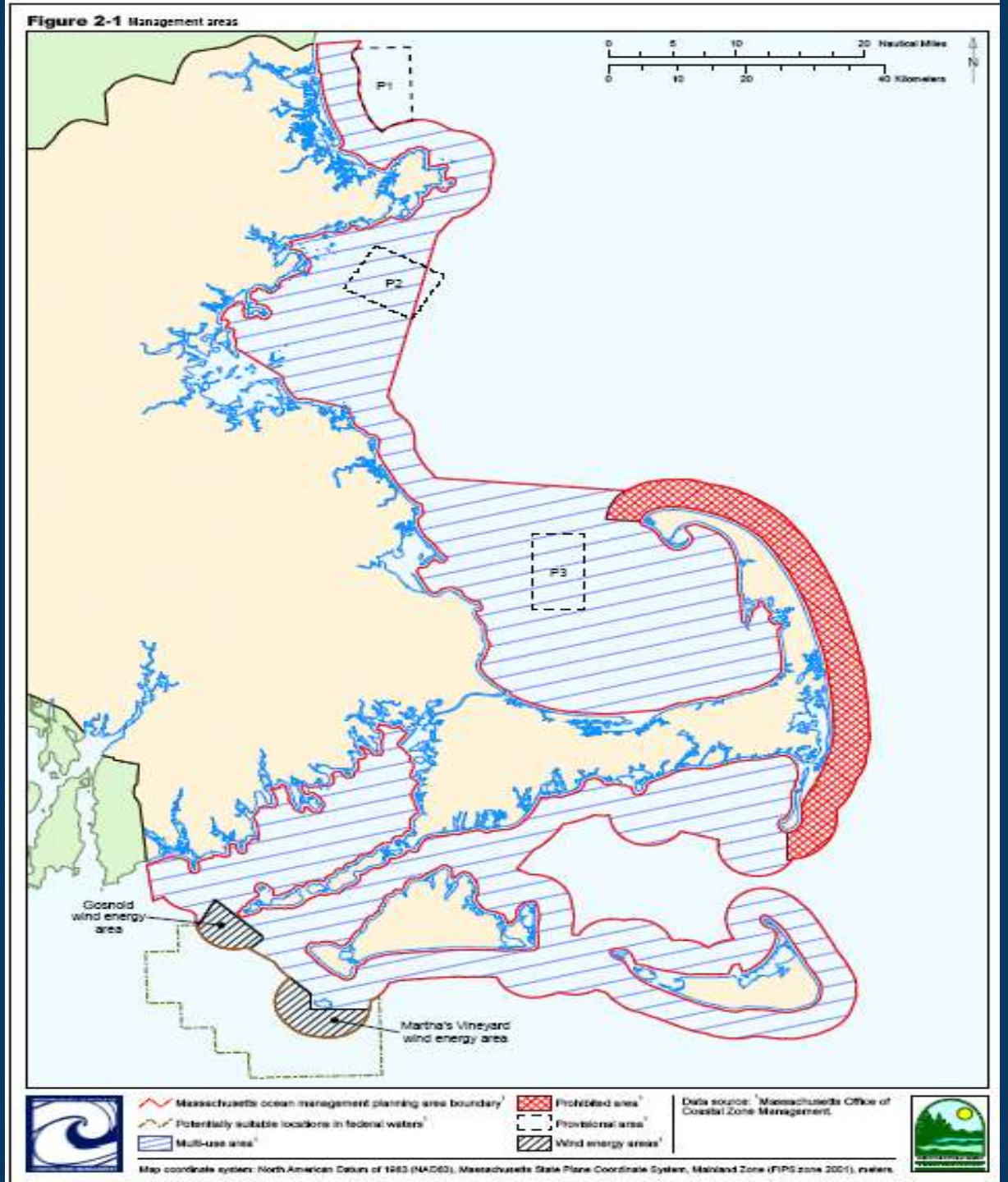
Stakeholder & Science Input

MA Ocean Management Plan

Multi-Use Area: most of planning area; new protection for species and habitats

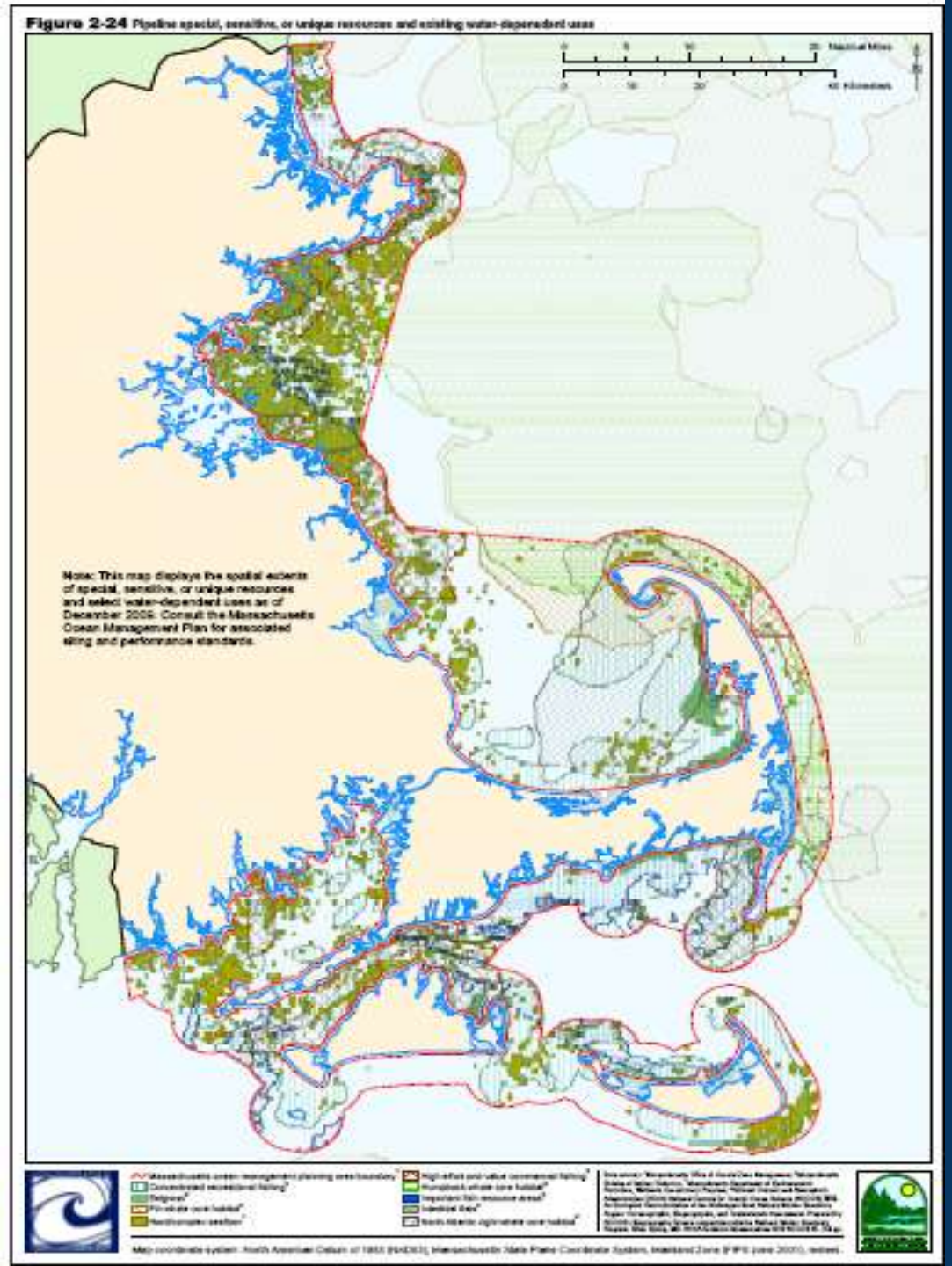
Prohibited Area: ~ 13%

Commercial-Scale Wind Areas: ~2%; provisional and adjacent federal waters



MA Ocean Management Plan: Pipeline Example

Figure 2-24: SSU resources and existing water-dependent uses



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SSU Resource	Siting Standard	Performance Standard
• North Atlantic Right Whale core habitat (Figure 2-2) • Humpback (Figure 2-3) and Fin Whale (Figure 2-4) core habitat • Roseate Tern core habitat (Figure 2-5) • Special concern (Arctic, Least, and Common) tern core habitat (Figure 2-6) • Long-tailed Duck core habitat (Figure 2-7) • Leach's Storm Petrel important nesting habitat (Figure 2-8) • Colonial water birds important nesting habitat (Figure 2-9) • Hard/complex seafloor (Figure 2-10) • Eelgrass (Figure 2-11) • Intertidal flats (Figure 2-12) • Important fish resource areas (Figure 2-13)[9]	Specified uses presumptively excluded. The presumption may be overcome by a clear demonstration that either no less environmentally damaging practicable alternative exists or that the project will cause no significant alteration of the resource, or by a demonstration of clear and convincing evidence that the SSU area mapping was erroneous and that the underlying data does not accurately characterize the resource or use.	Demonstrate that the public benefits associated with the proposed project clearly outweigh the public detriments to the SSU resources. Demonstrate that all practicable steps have been taken to avoid damage to the SSU resource interests and values and that there will be no significant alteration of SSU resource values or interests.

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Project Location within Areas of Existing Water-Dependent Uses	Siting Standard	Performance Standard
• Areas of high commercial fishing by effort and value (Figure 2-14)[10] • Areas of concentrated recreational fishing (Figure 2-15) • Areas of concentrated commerce and commercial fishing traffic (Figure 2-16) • Areas of concentrated recreational boating activity (Figure 2-17)[11]	Avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the maximum extent practicable; use mapped areas to guide alternatives analysis and additional project-specific characterization of existing uses and potential impacts.	Meet all applicable permitting standards

Mass.Gov

MOP Science Program

- Science integration for MA Plan 1.0 (reports, analysis and integration of existing data)
- Longer-term efforts scoped and launched
- MA Plan Science Framework for future
- EB-MSP for MA Plan implementation & evolution and to inform efforts more broadly

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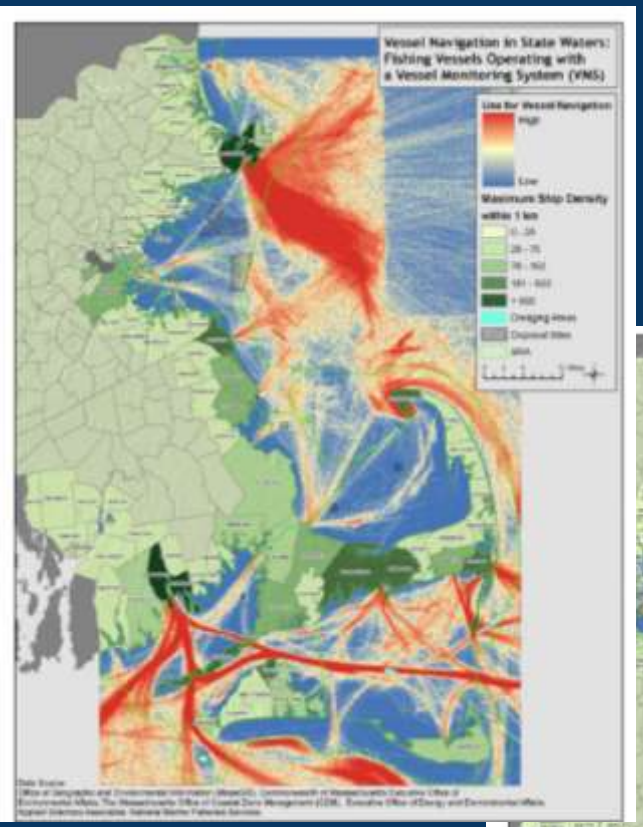
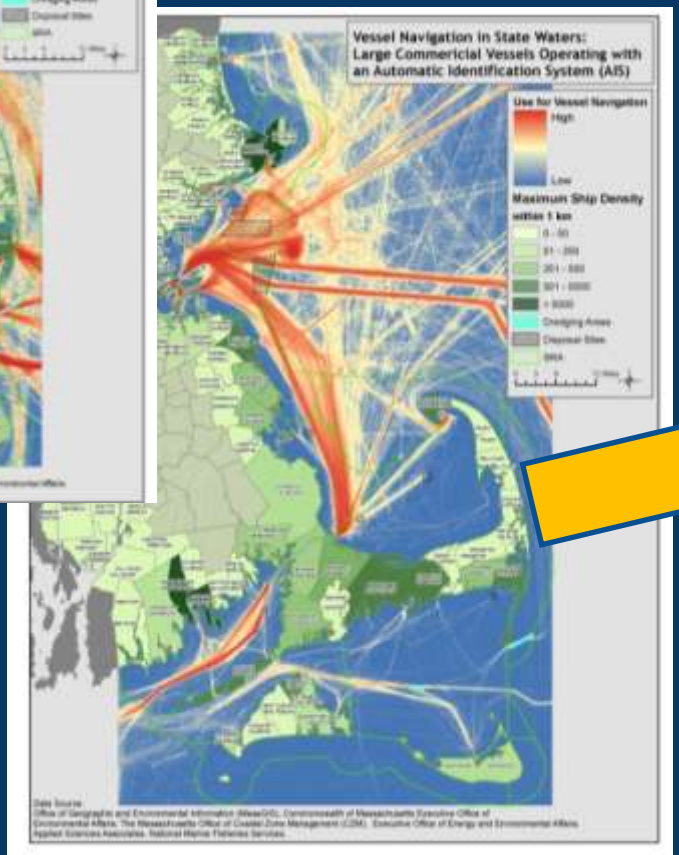
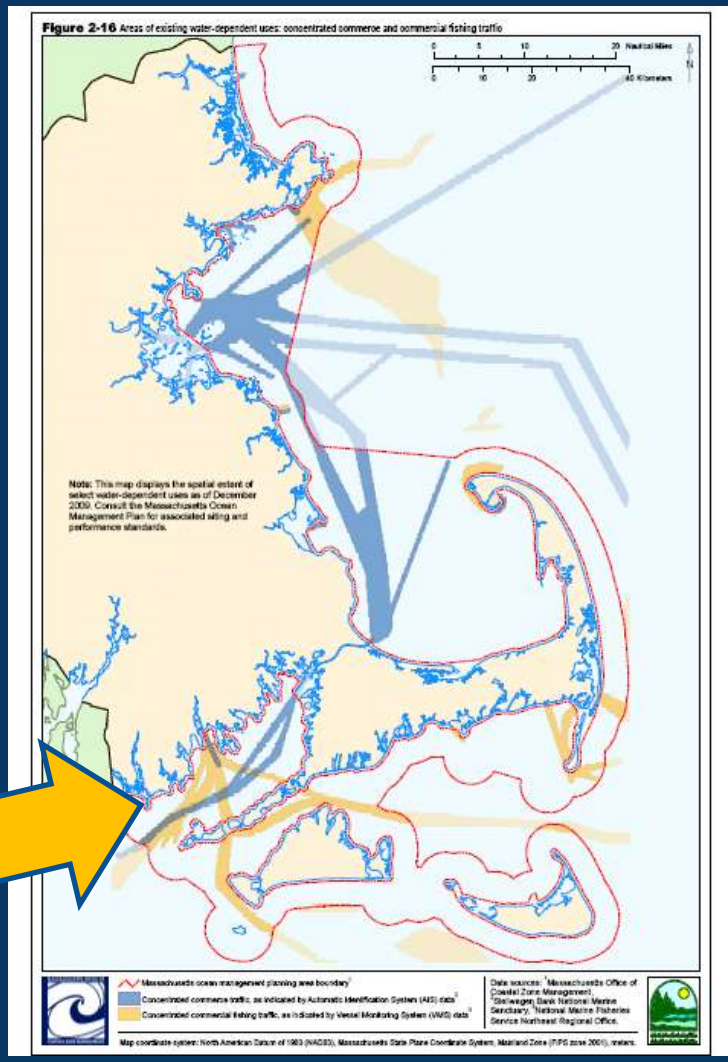
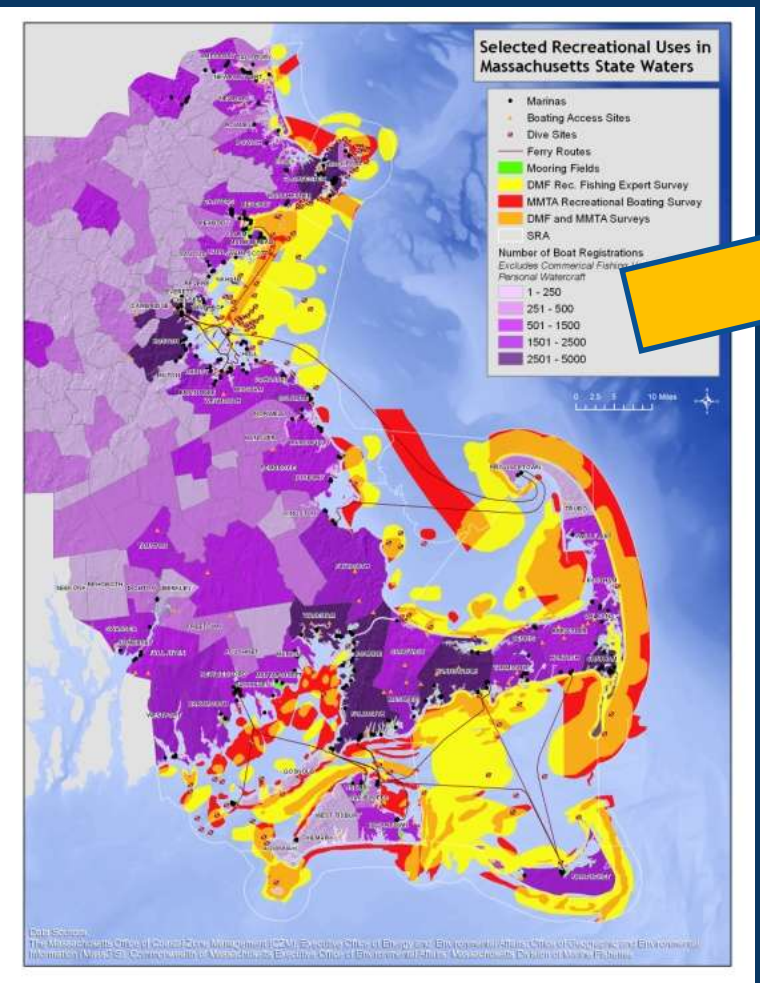
MOP Science in Plan

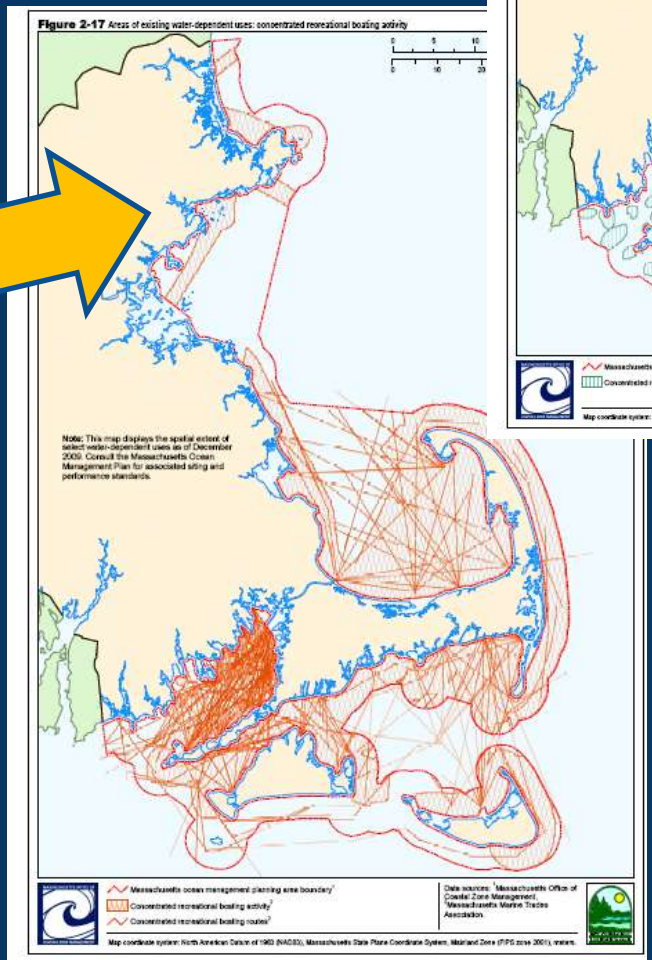


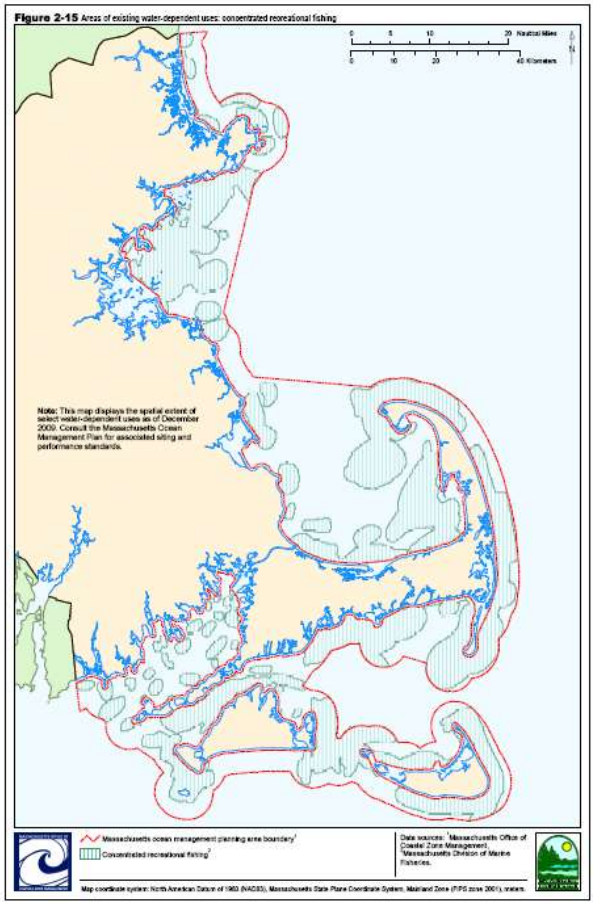




MOP Science in Plan







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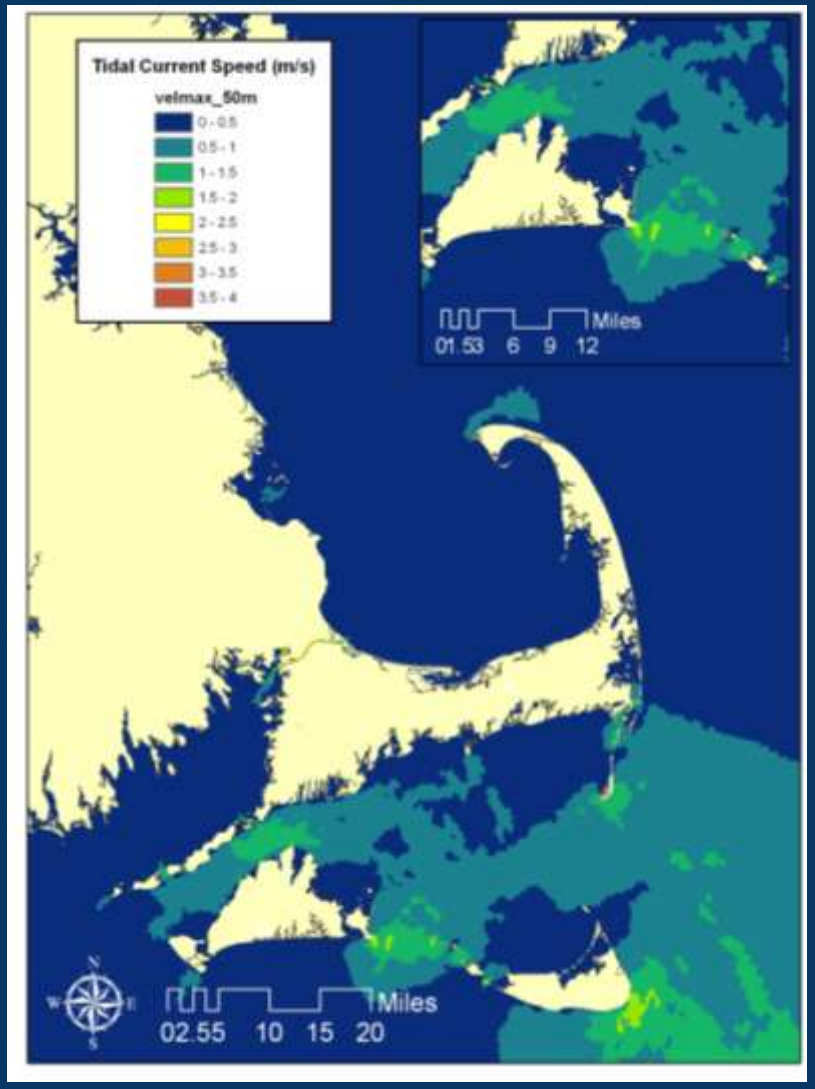
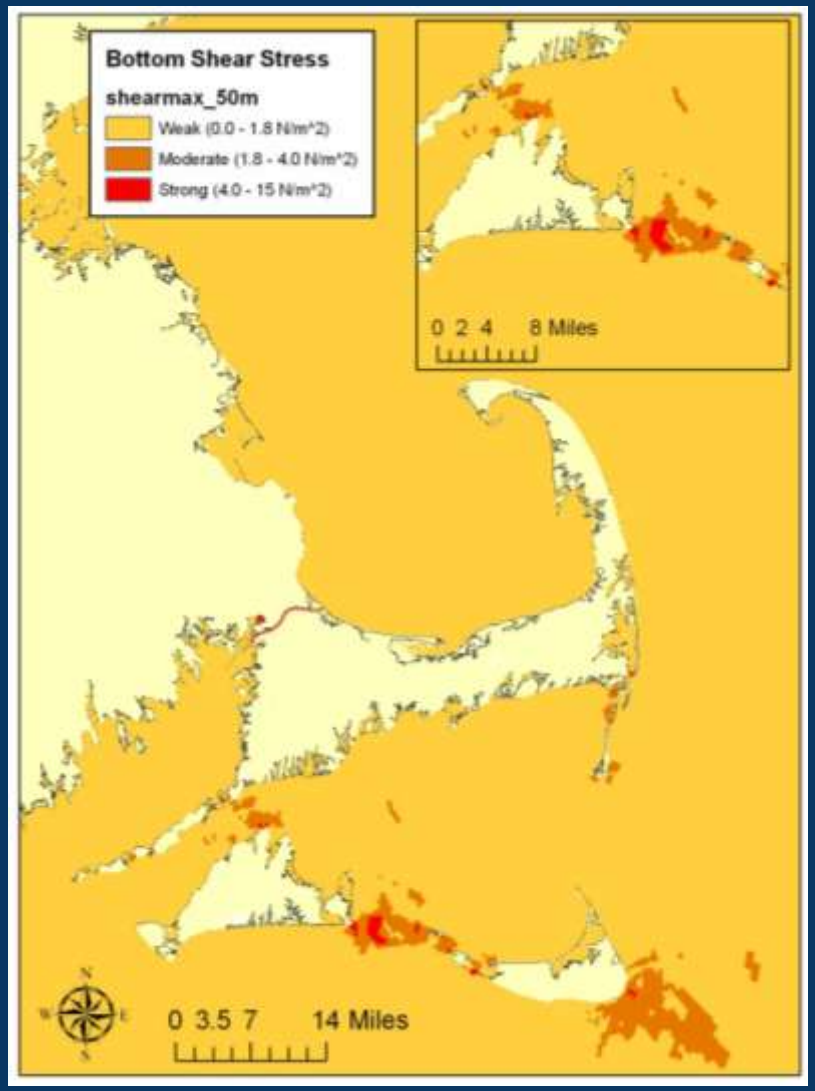
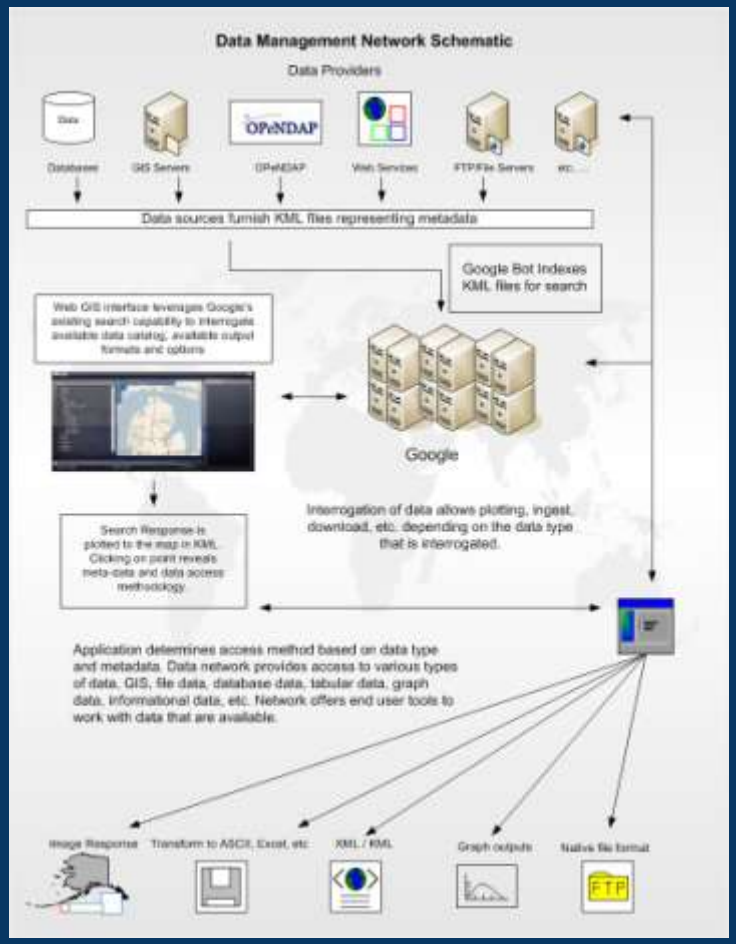




MOP Science – Longer Term Efforts

Data Network Design

- Focus on interoperability and the use of existing science tools connected to commercial Web 2.0 concepts
- Leverage existing global, national, and regional efforts
- Provide tools and “glue” to integrate legacy systems as opposed to redesigning components
- Focus on meeting users’ needs



MOP Science – Longer Term Efforts

Cumulative Impacts

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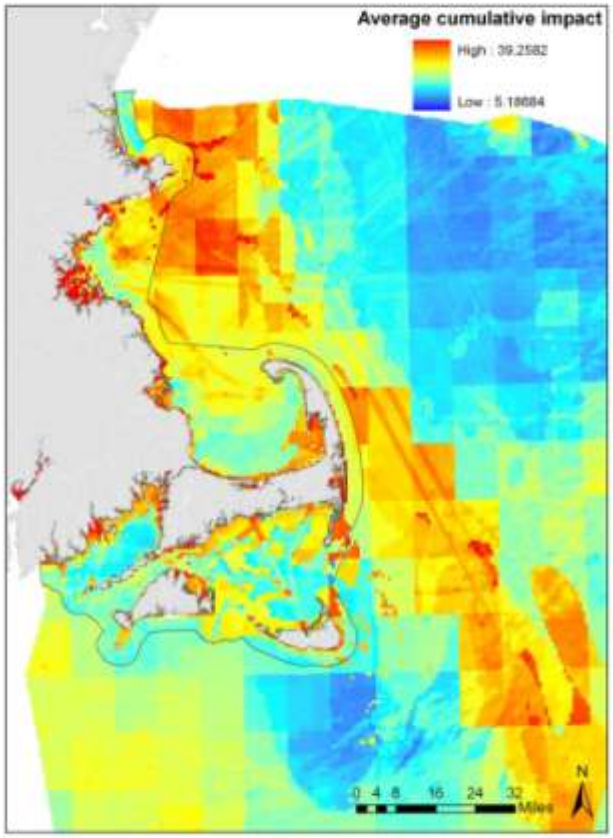

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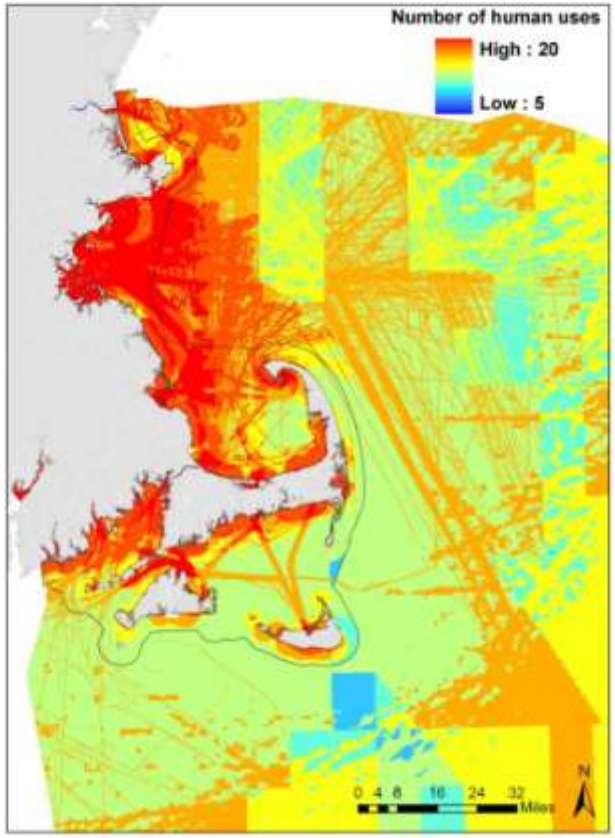


MOP Science

Ocean Management Plan Science Framework

- Recognizes the need to develop the science in order to advance and implement EBM

> *"Identify and prioritize the scientific research and data acquisition necessary to advance ecosystem based management in Massachusetts waters, and identify necessary steps and responsibilities for these tasks, based upon the Oceans Act and the ocean management plan."*

- Outlines a $2.5M research agenda in collaboration with MOP

- Identifies eight near term priorities (next five years) and five longer term priorities (beyond five years)

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES & SOCIETIES RELIANT ON RESILIENT COASTAL/ OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS

SOCIAL CAPITAL
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Private Partnerships

measure

INDICATORS
- Ecological, Economic, Social & Governance Change

produces

POLICY & MANAGEMENT GOAL SETTING AND DECISION MAKING
- MSP Framework

feedback

informs

TOOLS TO INFORM DECISION MAKING
- Cumulative Impacts/Vulnerability Assessment
- Use-resource Compatibility Analysis
- Ecosystem Services & Tradeoff Modeling

feedback

supports

INTEGRATED DATA NETWORK
- Accessible, Interoperable, Scalable Data & Products

feedback

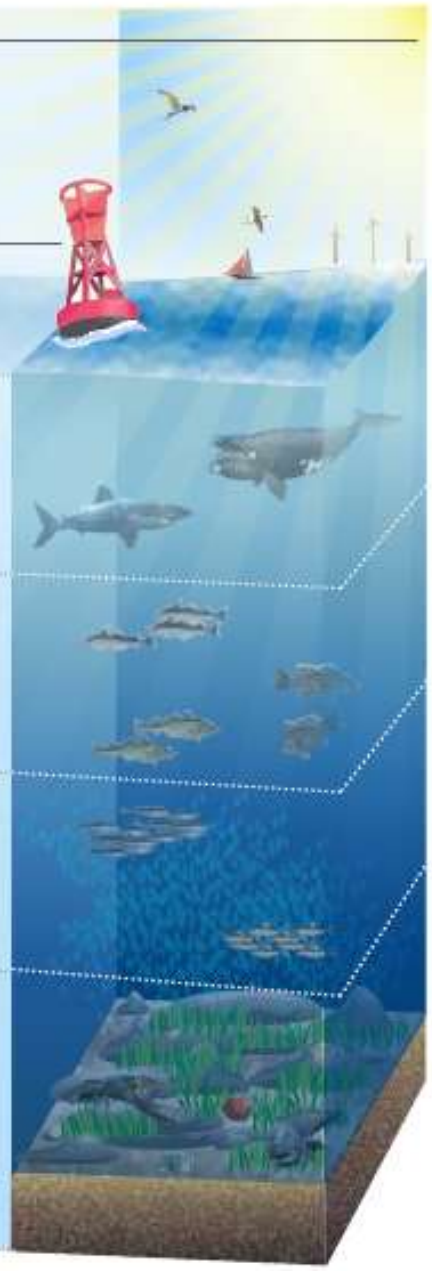
populates

DATA

Social & Economic
- Human Use Characterization

Ecological & Physical
- Habitat Classification

feedback



Ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning: Some Lessons So Far

- Nothing happens without a deadline
- MSP *approach* driven by level of data and tools
- Public–private partnership working for MA

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Thank You

www.massoceanpartnership.org

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