

APPENDIX H  
INPUT RECEIVED DURING INTERAGENCY MEETING

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Study staff organized a meeting, held on September 18, 2006, in Hallowell, Maine to solicit ideas from state agency staff on opportunities for addressing select issues from a regional perspective and for improving interagency coordination. This meeting was attended by staff from the following Maine state agencies: DEP, DMR, DOT, DOC, DIFW and SPO. The following is a summary of the main comments and observations provided at the meeting by the participants:

- There was general consensus among agency participants that there is currently a high degree of interagency communication and collaboration on nearshore management related issues and initiatives. Current examples include MaineDOT's Gateway 1 and Sagadahoc projects, interagency working groups addressing LNG and potential tidal power proposals and the coastal water access planning group. The apparent discrepancy between this general agency perspective and public comments suggesting the need for more effective interagency coordination may be explained in part by the fact that these interagency collaborations are often issue-specific and focused on regulatory matters, are of limited duration and are not made known to the public generally in a way that indicates their collective scope.
- State agencies are for the most part not organized regionally such that there are designated point persons who are knowledgeable about the policy issues or concerns facing discrete regions and thus able to direct the public to pertinent information or decision makers. State agencies noted that the net benefits of this type of reorganization to achievement of their programmatic missions and related priorities is not readily apparent and that any decision about how best to reorganize and redeploy agency efforts should be based on a prior and more detailed assessment of agencies' missions, program responsibilities and priorities and resources.
- Any multi-agency strategic planning effort aimed at further integrating agencies' nearshore management efforts must take into account their existing missions, related programmatic priorities and funding related commitments. As an initial step in such a strategic planning effort, it would be useful to develop a multi-agency matrix that depicts this information.
- In order to develop or support regional initiatives efficiently and effectively, the State needs to provide for the requisite staff capacity and expertise, perhaps through enhancement of efforts by existing regional councils or by the State Planning Office. Any new state efforts to support or enhance regionally-based efforts should be well-coordinated with SPO's legislatively-directed effort to promote and enhance regionally-based management through the land use planning laws and programs it administers.
- There was general concern among state agencies that any new state effort to support regional initiatives, whether through reorganization or redirection of existing resources or through use new resources, should not diminish or dilute but be designed to support and enhance existing efforts to address agency priorities.