

## APPENDIX K

# REACTIONS TO BAY MANAGEMENT STUDY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

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Four meetings were held to present and hear reactions to the study recommendations:

1. Conservation Stakeholders Group Meeting, Nov. 13, 2006
2. DMR Advisory Council Meeting, Nov. 15, 2006
3. Lobster Advisory Council Meeting, Nov. 15, 2006
4. Public Meeting in Belfast, Nov. 20, 2006

In addition, we posted the draft report online and accepted written comments and suggestions. This document provides a synopsis of comments received.

#### Supporting Regional-Level Initiatives

- To help ensure regional initiatives are successful, it was recommended that coastal trainers are provided to help with scientific analysis and with group facilitation, that towns receive needed technical and information support, and that lessons learned from existing regional initiatives (such as pilot projects, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership) are communicated to other areas.

#### Improving the Amount and Accessibility of Nearshore Data and Information

- Suggestions focused on four main issues: provide support to regional groups to collect information; use pre-existing data distribution methods, when possible; and do both sector and cross-sector research needs analyses and protect data confidentiality as needed.

#### Increase Amount and Diversity of Funding

- In general, most comments were related to the need for more specific information such as: total funds needed for implementation, specific funding sources under consideration and responsibilities for raising funds. In addition, two types of concerns were raised: sufficient funds can't be raised to successfully carry out all the recommendations; and that funds will be taken from existing programs that are already struggling.

#### State Framework

- Several comments suggested a need to be clearer about the vision behind the Coastal Policies Act; how the Policies will be implemented and how the State's public trust responsibilities are carried out
- It was suggested that, in discussing interagency cooperation, reiterate that this study was not intended to do an in-depth analysis of coordination; rather, it was examined in light of supporting regional management.
- In hosting nearshore management meetings, refer to the annual coastal waters conference as well as meetings of coastal stakeholders as two methods to encourage communication across sectors and groups and to advance towards ecosystem-based coastal management.

#### Reactions to Report as a Whole

- Several clarifications were requested, including: How the study will affect and interact with fisheries management, especially the lobster zone council system; How the impacts of land-use on water quality and habitats will be addressed; and What the geographical extent of the study is, including a clarification of why the term 'bay management' is not helpful and has been replaced by the term 'nearshore management'.

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- Several formatting suggestions were made such as: consolidate the goals, add a table of contents, executive summary, sequential page numbers and a problem statement, and put the principles into a separate report section.
- There were some who do not believe that this report goes far enough, and believe that, even if all the recommendations are implemented, there will still be unmet needs in nearshore management.
- Several questions were raised about the process to be used for consideration of the report in the Legislature, next steps, methods of implementation and ways to ensure that the report does not “sit on the shelf”.