

# The MA Ocean Management Plan

Maine Ocean Energy Task Force  
May 8, 2009



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MA EEA/CZM

# Outline

- Oceans Act of 2008
- Outreach
- Addressing impacts
  - Human
  - Environmental

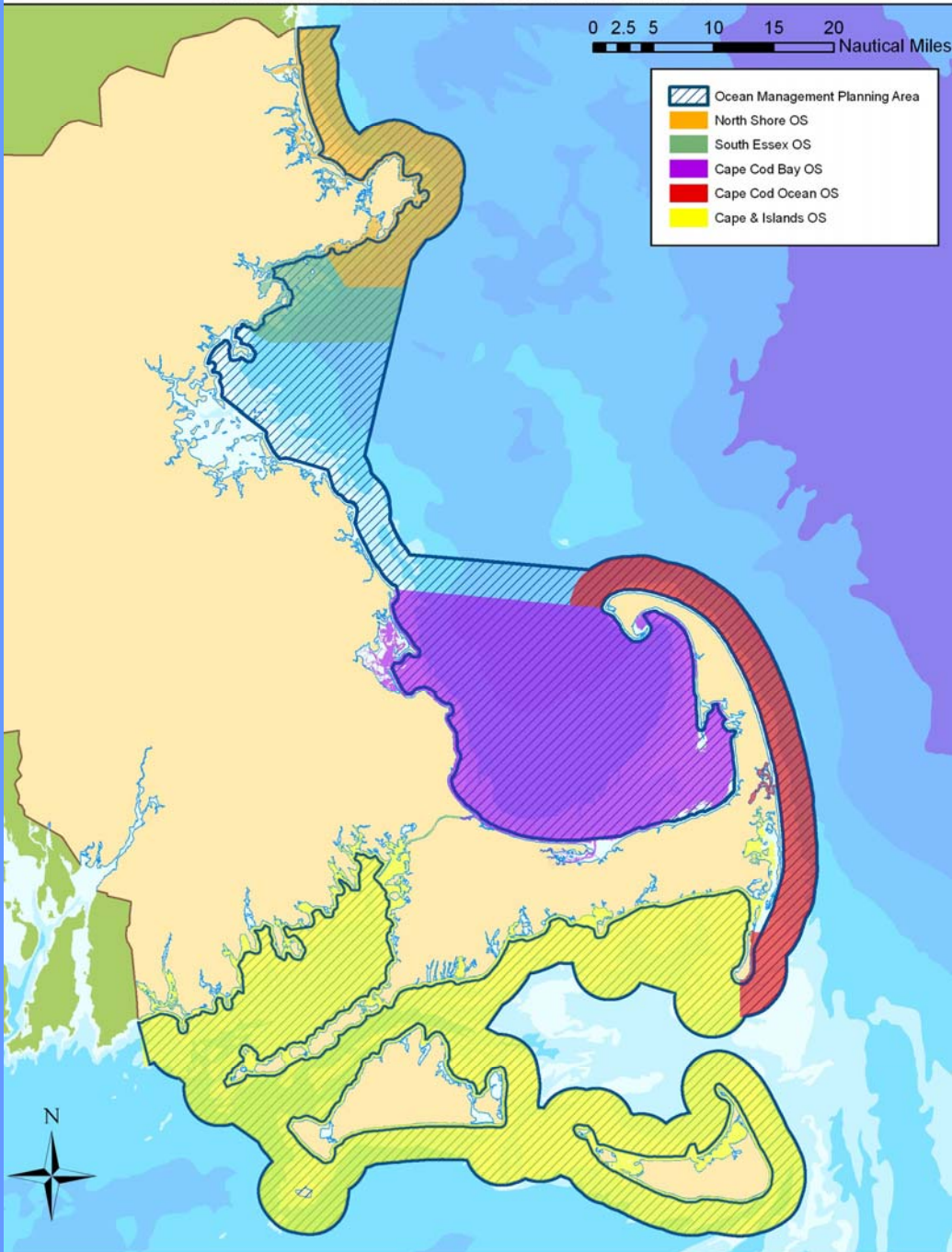
# Oceans Act of 2008

- Establish an integrated ocean management plan by December 31, 2009
  - Spatial component + management measures
  - Framework for ongoing evolution
- Plan submitted to legislature in less than two months (*expletive deleted*)
- Creates two consultative bodies:
  - Ocean Advisory Commission
  - Ocean Science Advisory Council

# Oceans Act of 2008

- 15 requirements of the ocean plan
  - The Plan must contain standards for specific uses, including:
    - Energy facilities, including “appropriate-scaled” renewable energy, and related infrastructure
  - The Plan must identify and protect ***special, sensitive, and unique*** estuarine and marine life and habitats

# Massachusetts Ocean Management Planning Area and Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries



Ocean  
Planning  
Area

# Phase 1: Outreach (June 08-Jan 09)

- 18 “listening” sessions
- 70+ consultations with stakeholder groups and individuals
  - Federal, state, regional, local governments
  - Conservation organizations
  - Marine trade organizations
  - Commercial and recreational fishermen
  - Academia
  - Etc...
- Point was: listen, not talk

# Phase 1: Outreach (June 08-Jan 09)

- Individual commercial fishing groups
- OAC meetings and workshop
  - Set the bar high
  - Educate re: approaches
  - Identify areas for further discussion
- Web site, public input site
- Email flashes, newsletters
- Traditional press

# Phase 2: Outreach (Feb 2009-present)

- Two workshops in February
  - Provide public review of draft workgroup data
  - Identify gaps, mis-characterizations
- OAC meeting in March
  - Goals, strategies, outcomes
- Two workshops in May
  - Draft application of goals, strategies, outcomes to spatial/management options

# Phase 2: Outreach (Feb 2009-present)

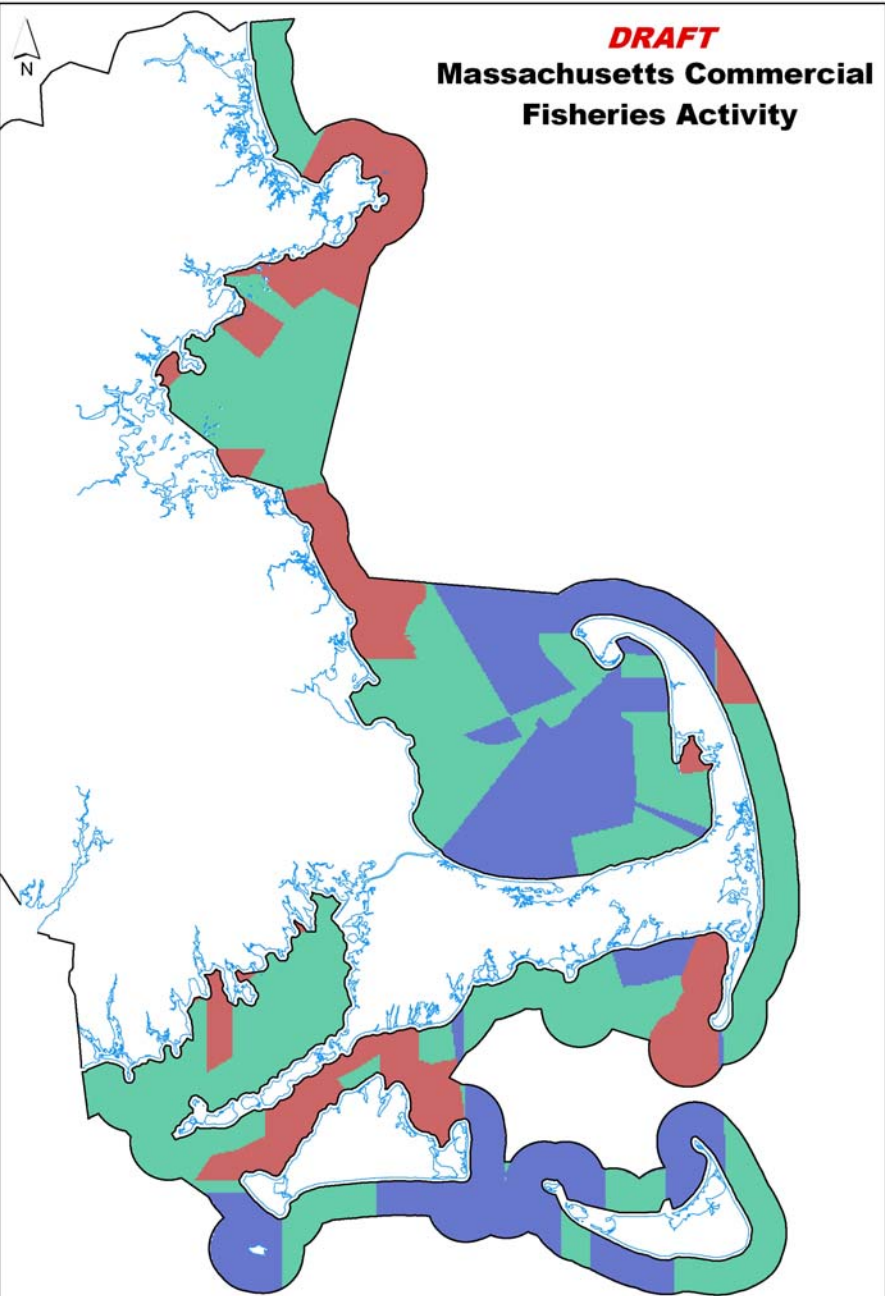
- Upcoming OAC meeting end of May
  - Final public meeting before submittal
- Formal public hearings in fall 09
- Punchline:
  - Time, time, and more time does have some payoff
  - Build outreach around a progression of decisions
  - Transparency

# Phase 1: Data acquisition




(June 08-Jan 09)



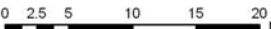
- Ocean use/ resource work groups
  - Habitat
  - Commercial and Recreational Fishing
  - Renewable Energy
  - Navigation and Infrastructure
  - Sediment Management
  - Social, Cultural and Historic
- Internal plus outside expertise
- Science Council review

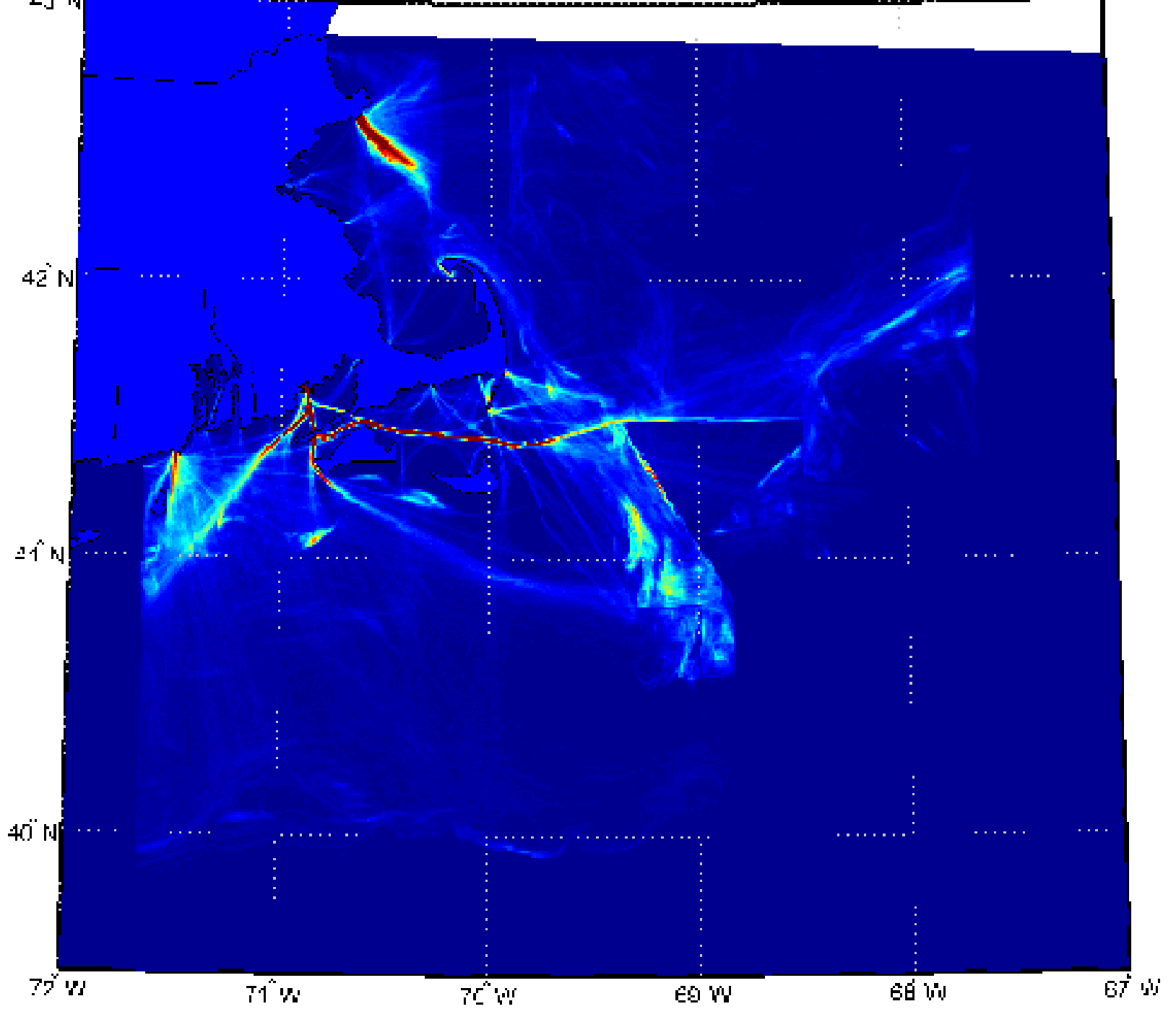
**DRAFT**  
**Massachusetts Commercial  
Fisheries Activity**



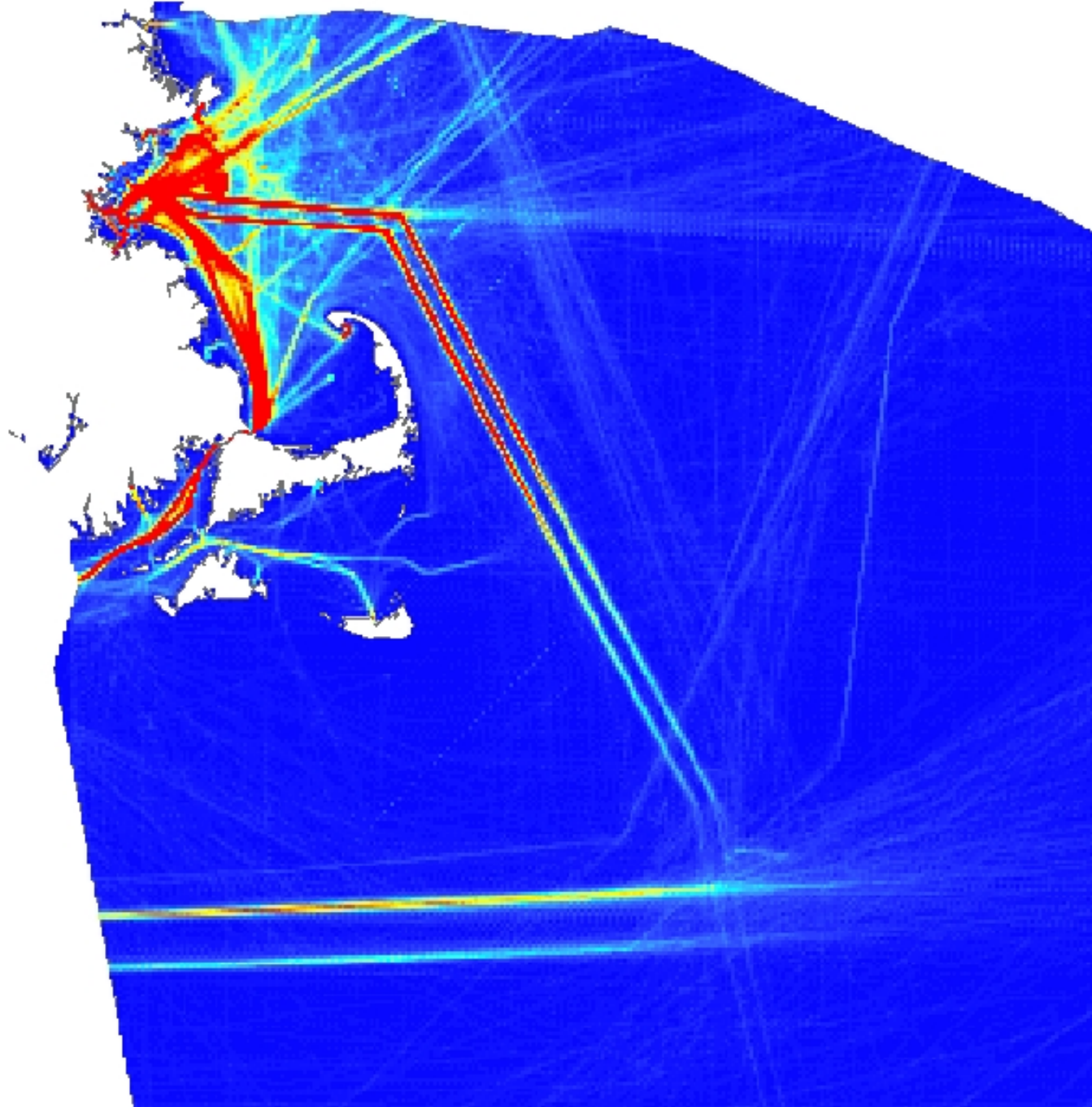
Commercial  
fishing effort  
and value

  Ocean Management Planning Area  Medium The datum for this map is the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83). The data are registered to the Massachusetts State Plane Coordinate System, Mainland Zone (Fipszone 2001). Units are meters.

 Low  High  0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Nautical Miles

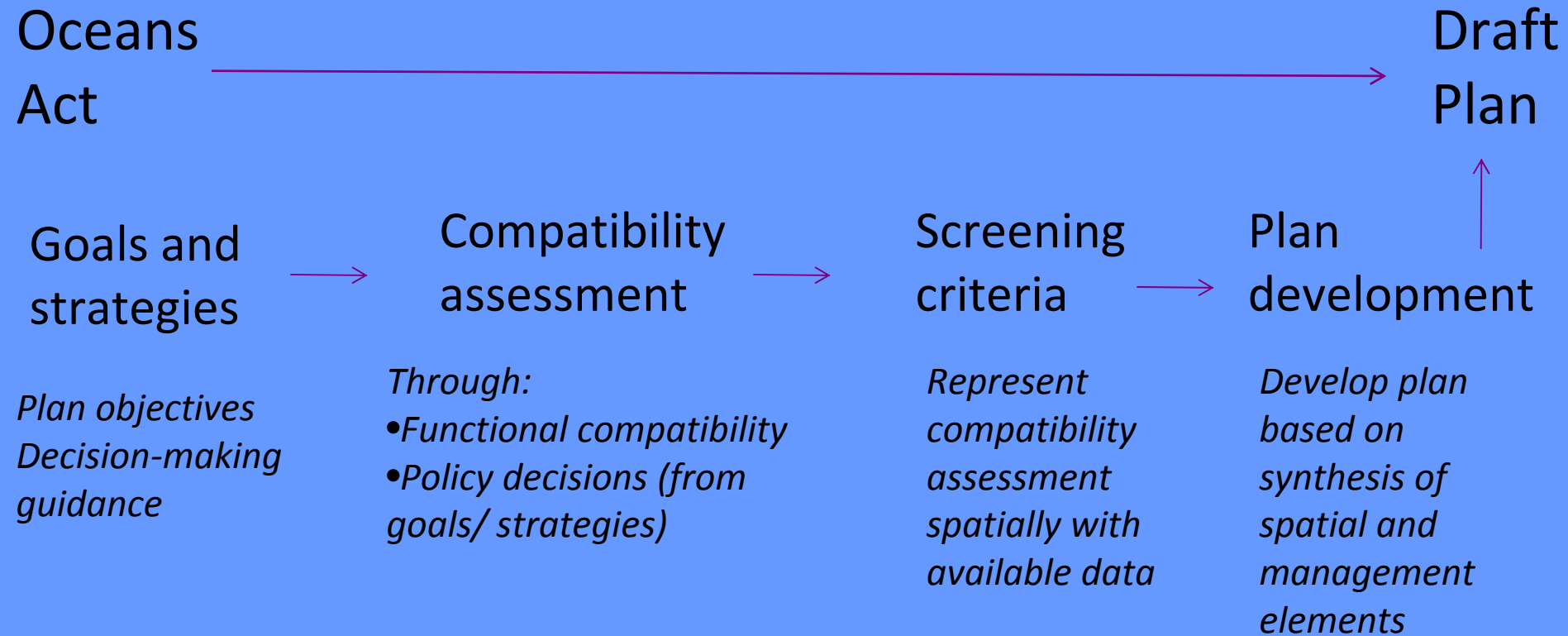


Data courtesy NMFS



Data courtesy Stellwagen Bank NMS

# Phase 2: From Oceans Act to a plan through spatial data



# Strategy for effective stewardship: use

## Specifically applicable requirements of the Act:

- preserve and protect the public trust;
- preserve and enhance public access;
- reflect the importance of the waters of the commonwealth to its citizens who derive livelihoods and recreational benefits from fishing;
- foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of the ocean;
- support the infrastructure necessary to sustain the economy and quality of life for the citizens of the Commonwealth;
- identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses and facilities allowed in Ocean Sanctuaries;
- address climate change and sea level rise

# Strategy for effective stewardship: use

- Strategy:

spatial

- Minimize conflict with commercial fishing by siting incompatible uses outside areas of significant fishing effort and value
- Minimize conflict with recreational fishing by siting incompatible uses outside areas of concentrated recreational fishing activity
- Minimize conflict with significant interconnections between homeports and grounds
- For specific projects developed pursuant to the ocean management plan, develop methodology to identify impacted fishery and assess economic impact of specific development projects
- For specific projects developed pursuant to the ocean management plan, develop framework for mitigation

# Strategy for effective stewardship: use

- Screening criteria and data:

policy + data

- Areas of significant commercial fishing effort and value: high fishing activity by effort and value

- Data: Fisheries Workgroup

- Areas of concentrated recreational fishing activity

- Data: MMTA recreational fishing/boating survey, DMF recreational fishing survey

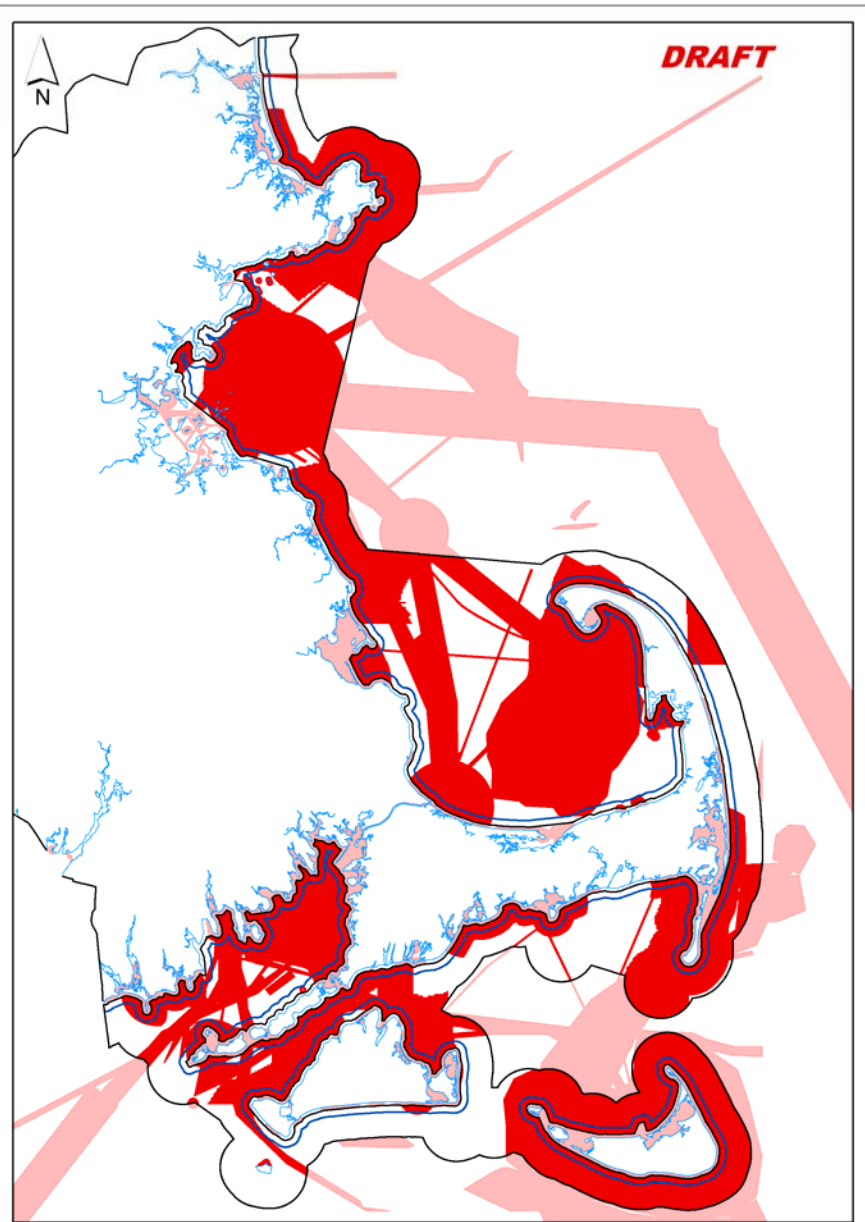
- Direct transit navigation routes for shipping and

- Data: AIS, VMS

# Compatibility/screening: wind

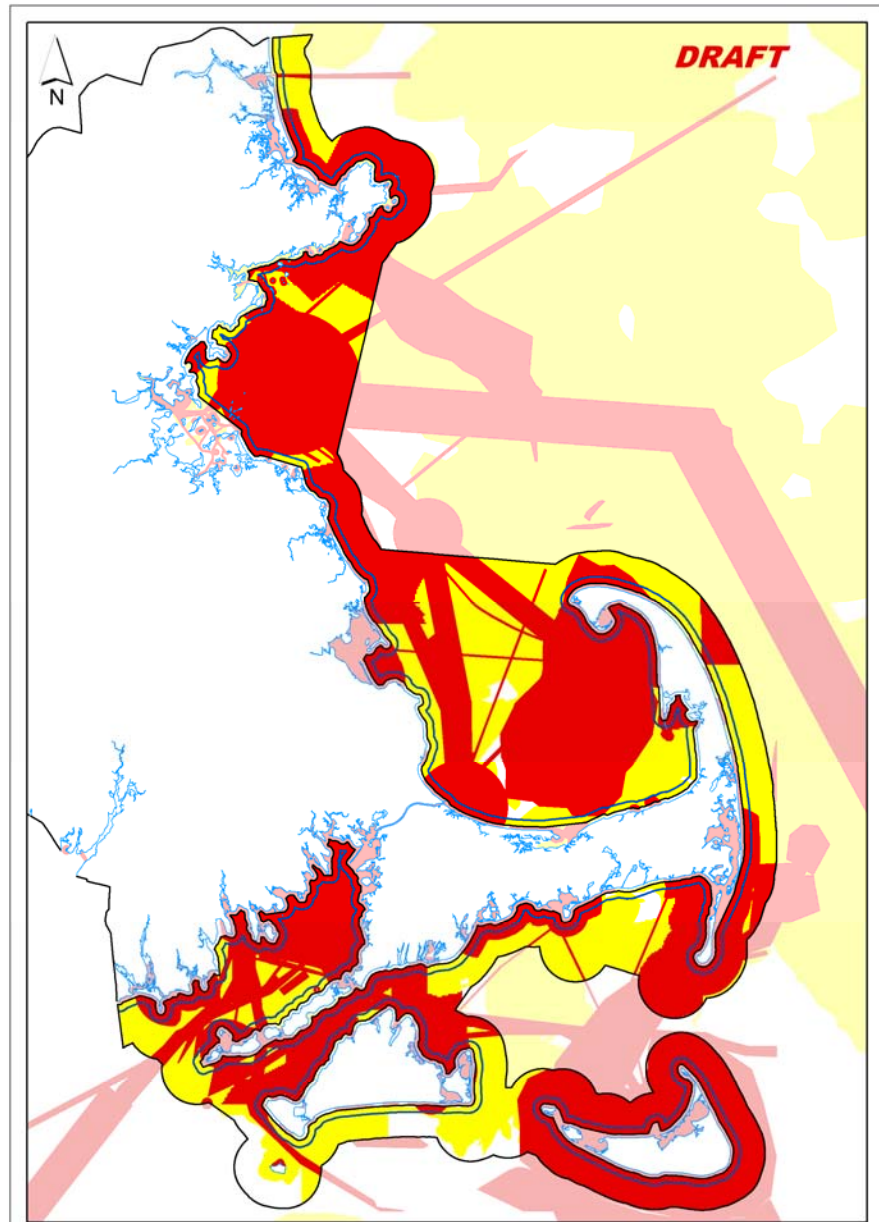
## Exclusionary (avoid)

- Designated navigation areas (shipping channels and traffic lanes, precautionary areas, anchorage areas, pilot boarding areas)
- Ferry routes
- High concentrations of several bird species
- Right whale core habitat
- Areas of significant commercial fishing effort and value: high fishing activity by effort and value
- Direct transit navigation routes for shipping and fishing
- Regulated airspace



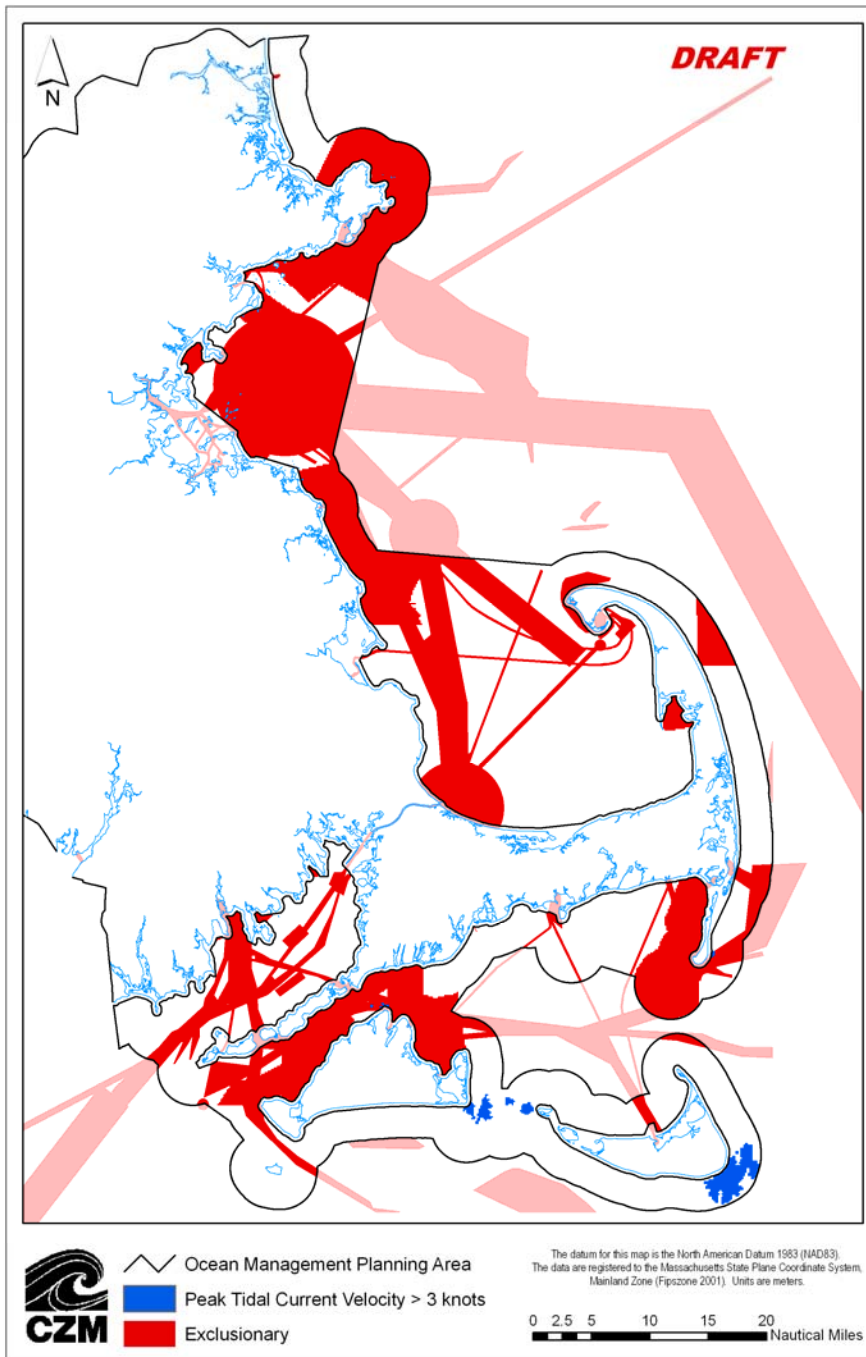
**CZM**

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# Ecological valuation process

- Compile and analyze spatial data:
  - Marine mammals (4 species)
  - Birds (5 species)
  - Crustaceans (5 species)
  - Mollusks (8 species)
  - Fish (22 species)
- Score individual datasets using a standard set of criteria:
  - Major contribution to fitness of population
  - Spatial rarity
  - Global and regional population importance
- Combine individual dataset scores for each grid cell

# Ecological valuation process

- Benefits
  - Differentiates areas
  - Help identify areas potentially suitable for use or protection
  - Is a 1<sup>st</sup> step toward managing based on ecosystem perspective
- Limitations
  - Data availability; caution with conclusions
  - Spatial resolution of available data
  - Evolving understanding of ocean ecosystem
  - Difficulty correlating biotic and abiotic data

# Data punchline

- Structure for use/application important
  - Decision criteria based on policy/function
  - Limitations on conclusions that can be drawn
- Allow more time than you think you need
- Qualitative info can help budget, schedule
- New ground means new ways of looking at data (and that's okay)



For more information:

<http://mass.gov/eoeea>

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