Maine Climate Council Coastal and Marine Working Group

Meeting notes 5.7.2020
9am-12pm, Virtual
Co-chairs: Heather Leslie and Kathleen Leyden
Note takers: Jessica Reilly-Moman and Jessica Waller

9:00am - Laura Singer (facilitator) opened the meeting and Cassaundra Rose provided zoom orientation.
9:08am – Heather Leslie reviewed the Maine Climate Council (MCC) and Coastal and Marine Working Group (CMWG) charge:
   1. Evaluate and recommend mitigation strategies;
   2. Evaluate and recommend for adaptation and resilience;
   3. Provide feedback to MCC on clean energy economic transition plan;
   4. Assess impacts of climate change on wide variety of state spheres, including economy;
   5. Develop recommendations for legislation.

9.13am – LS reviewed the meeting goals and agenda:
   1. Hear from Resilient Fisheries (RF) and Working Waterfront (WW) subgroup for strategies
   2. Time for public comment
   3. Other subcommittees (SCs) will update
   4. Share feedback on stakeholder engagement

9:19am – Meeting observers introduce themselves.

9:23am – Resilient Fisheries (RF) strategy presented by Carl Wilson (DMR, STS committee, CMWG member):
   - RF strategy is in the context of other states and partners. This strategy covers monitoring and business objectives. It is based on strong monitoring programs and in support of 1000s of small businesses.
   - This SC is not comfortable using ERG’s approach to develop forecasts for fisheries relative to climate change scenarios moving forward: releasing a forecast will be suspect given the time frame, and forecasting should be narrative instead of predictive. They recommend that ERG efforts focus on aquaculture integration in Maine.
   - Biggest challenge: consistent funding for monitoring that serves the entire state, near shore and offshore.
Specific Strategy Actions:

1. Information – monitor species, productivity;
2. Market support and business resilience – enhance access to markets, address aquaculture, different regions of state with have different impacts, enhance access for new species in Maine;

Questions addressed include:

1. Does this strategy include ecosystem-based management? Yes, it’ll be a “small lift” to add ecosystem-based criteria (Including evaluation of one species on other species);
2. Shellfish management needs stronger recognition in this RF strategy;
3. Cost - think creatively on what is priority, what about partnerships, scalable ideas, and synergy for SC strategies;
4. Research collaboratives with industry are vital;
5. “Increased efficiency” means less about increasing efficiency in diesel engines and more within fisheries management framework, ie., discussion around excessive effort, for example bait from around the world as efficient use of our resources.

Comments in the chat include:

- Infrastructure:
  - Is location of critical infrastructure that supports the FA sector economy (processing plants, critical transportation corridors, etc.) at risk due to SLR?

- Shellfish and aquaculture:
  - Mass, other states, and NOAA have broad "shellfish initiatives" that couple conservation goals with industry resilience;
  - Municipal shellfish management should be more than a mention;
  - Does the scope of aquaculture include "sea vegetables" such as harvested seaweed?
  - Towns are looking for guidance on protocols, like licensing, surveying, and conservation. This is one of three similar regional groups in the state - others led by Bridic McGreavy (UMaine) and Mike Thalhauser (MCCF).

- Supply chains:
  - What about conducting monitoring and analysis of seafood supply chains - losses, profitability, value added opportunities and multipliers, workforce development;
  - How seafood supply chains and their vulnerabilities have been affected by the current (coronavirus) crisis and how that can translate into climate change.

- Regulatory:
Does regulatory review include solutions such as continuing to reduce OBDs, failed septics and other sources of bacteria and nitrogen pollution that negatively impact shellfisheries?

§ The ecosystems strategy addresses recommendations on runoff.

- More outreach to the industry:
  - This could be a cross reference to the monitoring strategy;
  - Requesting federal funding to increase funding to collaborative research may be another ask to help support collaborative research as well.

10:02am - Working Waterfronts (WW) Strategy, Kathleen Leyden Co-chair and MCP

Three components:
1. Regulatory approaches to develop and redevelopment (ex. Require use of SLR projection maps), Non-regulatory approaches (ex. Transfer of development rights as a planning tool, reduce the tax burden of working waterfronts);
2. Funding mechanisms (working waterfront revolving infrastructure revolving loan, Fish pier bond, Green Marine Program);
3. Education and outreach (expand business recognition, environmental leader program, monitor and evaluate existing WW infrastructure, provide guides and build on existing guides).

Comments and questions on this strategy includes:
- Needs to be a cross pollination with other relevant groups, all coastal adaptation will be large construction projects;
- What are distinctions between private and public working waterfront?;
- Alignment of regulation and align current document with resiliency goals;
- Have monitoring needs that aren’t state agencies, such as the seafood supply chain, access/availability of cold storage, aspects of losses, profitability, value added been discussed?
  - Very brief conversations at DMR relative to stimulus funds;
  - This could also be GHG reduction strategy, (i.e., shipping instead of trucking), could tie in with Alliance of Marine Economy;
  - WW strategy does not discuss supply chain issues in WW, yet trucking disruptions is one of the main issues right now, we need strength and redundancy;
  - Emergency management workgroup is looking at this.
- Public access to waterfront addressed?
  - If flood insurance remains expensive, redevelopment becomes exciting for public access.

10:34am – Break
10:44am – Updates from remaining SCs (Monitoring, Ecosystem Conservation, Ocean Renewables.)

Monitoring SC provides update on Blue Carbon, Monitoring, and Information Exchange Strategies.
- Questions asked around analysis of cost of tone per carbon for the blue carbon strategies by ERG (hopefully), opportunity to work with the Community Resilience members who are also recommending statutory and regulatory amendments to address climate change?

Ecosystem Conservation SC provides updates for Nature Based solutions Strategy
- Reaches into inland more than others, include streams and tributaries
- Dovetails with Community Resilience and Transportations WGs?

Chat comments include
- Maine Specific General Permit upheld more stringent protections against marine fill and filling of wetlands. However, these legal precautions have stifled exploration of living shorelines that could prevent coastal erosion, naturally protect bank erosion, preserve sediment transport to mudflats, and support habitat improvements while protecting coastal property and infrastructure.

Ocean renewables SC will be reflected in a strategy from the Energy WG.
- Impacts (positive and negative) to the marine environment are built into the BOEM task force, as well as through Gov. Mills’ initiative.

11:19am – ERG update (H Leslie)
- ERG appreciates how responsive WG members have been to their requests, and will have an update at MCC CMWG meeting on May 28th.

11:20am – Stakeholder outreach and engagement update (H Leslie)
- 6 WG members raised hands for stakeholder outreach or engagement; this led to a discussion about the best ways to do outreach before and after June.
- WG member requests:
  a. please add outreach activities to [link]
  b. Please send list of individuals and institutions who should be targeted for outreach
- Response to polls may be more reflective of attendees than of the significance of the strategies themselves.

Outreach folder for CMWG:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/15vO-HfnWicNPKzIaQjnZaxbEdS7qly1

11:39am – Next steps:
- May 8-21 work on strategy templates for consolidation/completion by May 21;
- May 28 meeting, 9am-12pm.

Poll: How would you rate this virtual meeting?
Excellent: 33%, Good, 57%, ok – 10%, Ugh, 0%

Poll: What level of comfort with our draft strategies?
Very: 13%, pretty good – 74%, mostly ok – 13%, not – 0%

12:00pm – Facilitator Laura Singer concluded the meeting.
Participants:

Susie Arnold, WG & Science & Tech liaison
Nick Battista, WG
Jeremy Bell, WG
Kathleen Bell, WG
Sebastian Belle, WG
Eliza Berry, Observer
Lydia Blume, WG
Curtis Bohlen, WG
Angela Brewer, WG
Curt Brown, WG
Monique Coombs, Observer
David Costello, Observer
Amanda Cross, WG
Meaghan Daly, Observer
Anthony Donovan, Observer
Paul Drinan, Observer
Flora Drury, WG
Claire Enterline, WG
David Fairman, Observer

Chris Feurt, WG
Ivy Frignoca, WG
Jonathan Fulford, Observer
Parker Gassett, Observer
John Hagan, WG
Amalia Harrington, Observer
Pat Ianni, Observer
Bev Johnson, WG
Jessica Joyce, Observer
Stacey Keefer, WG
Dot Kelly, Observer
Allen Kratz, Observer
Heather Leslie, WG Co-chair
Kathleen Leyden, WG Co-chair
Kathy Mills, WG
William Needelman, WG
Randall Parr, Observer
Rebecca Peters, WG Staff
Chris Petersen, WG
Allison Potter, WG Staff
Kristen Puryear, WG

Jess Reilly-Moman, WG Staff
Alex Ritchie, Observer
Cassaundra Rose, WG Staff
Jocelyn Runnebaum, Observer
Laura Singer, WG Facilitator
Marla Stelk, Observer

Hattie Train, WG
Shri Verrill, Observer
Richard Wahle, Observer
Steve Walker, WG
Jessica Waller, WG Staff
Carl Wilson, WG
Don Witherill, WG
Katrina Zarrella Smith, Observer