

Massachusetts Ocean Plan: Topics raised to date and next steps

Ocean Advisory Commission

September 8, 2009

Topics raised

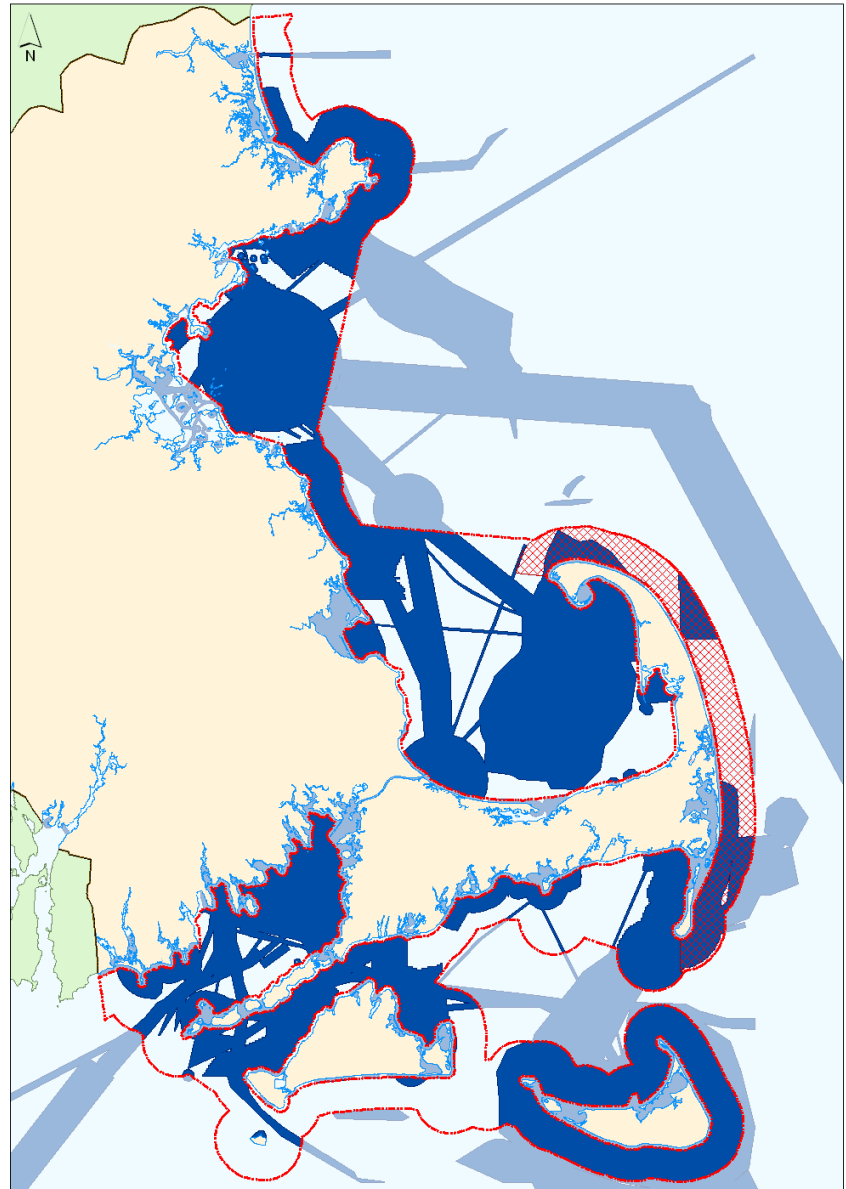
- Exclusionary, provisional, and designated renewable energy areas
- Community-scale wind
- Management standards
- Trust fund
- Beyond January 1, 2010/plan implementation
- Process through the fall

Exclusionary, provisional, and designated renewable energy areas

- How were final renewable energy (commercial wind) areas identified following compatibility assessment?
 - Compatibility assessment resulted in initial screening-out of areas not suitable
 - Applied bathymetry constraints (>30m and <5m)
 - Qualitative cumulative effect/cumulative impact assessment
 - Applied Oceans Act appropriate scale requirement to consider proximity to shoreline

FIGURE COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT: COMMERCIAL WIND

DRAFT



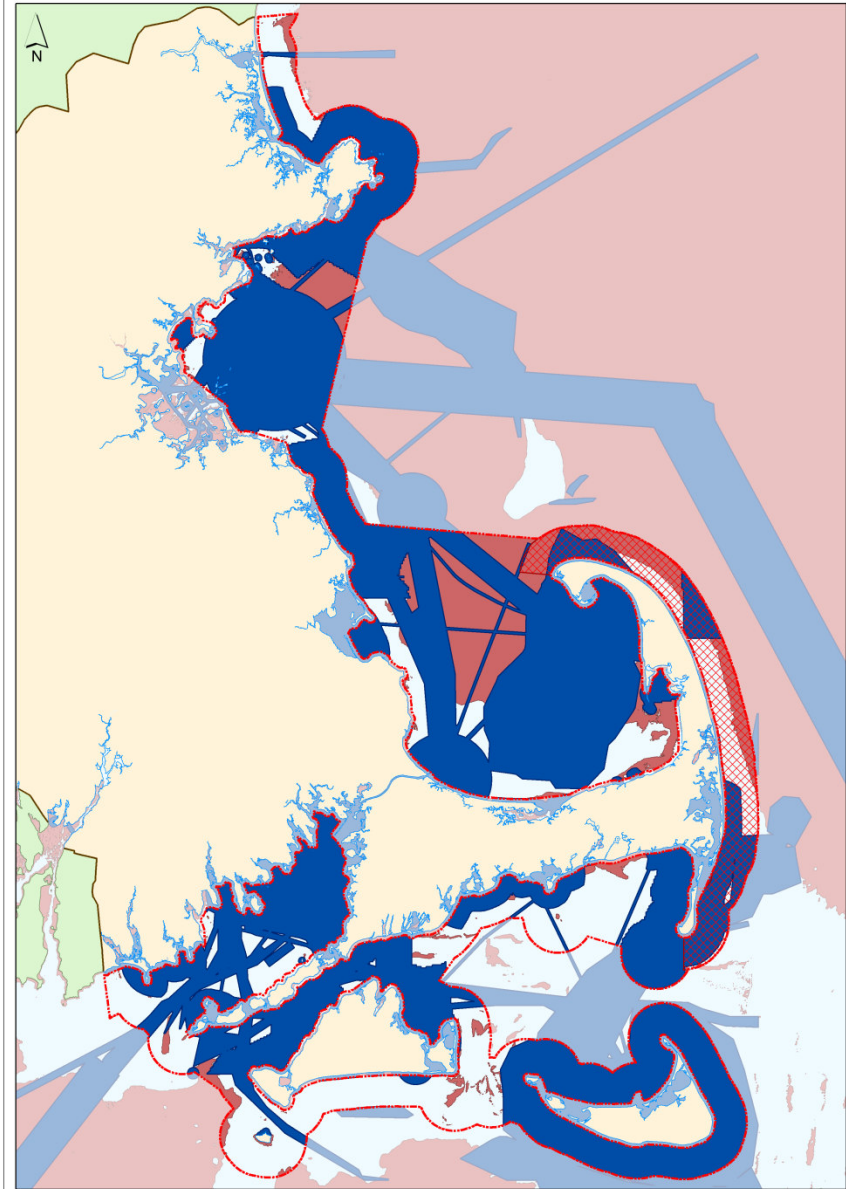
The datum for this map is the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83). The data are registered to the Massachusetts State Plane Coordinate System, Mainland Zone (Fipzone 2001). Units are meters.

0 5 10 20 Nautical Miles

0 10 20 40 Kilometers

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Exclusionary, provisional, and designated renewable energy areas

- Designated areas
 - Will be subject of additional study to further characterize suitability
- Provisional areas
 - Passed exclusionary screening process but have more significant technological limitations, cumulative impacts, and/or less suitability for wind energy
 - Not being explored for further suitability

Community-scale wind

- Geographic distribution
- Role of RPAs
- Structure for local/regional approval of specific projects;
- Relationship to ocean plan and state review processes

Management standards

- “Avoid” standard
 - Adds new MEPA standard
- “No less environmentally damaging practicable alternative” standard
 - How will this work?
- Next steps for implementing management standards
 - Development of regulation changes (MEPA)
 - Incorporation into CZM program

Trust Fund

- Development of implementation component/regulation
- Essentially need to determine how mitigation will be developed and incorporated
- MaineExpress cable provides opportunity

Plan Evolution (after January 1)

- Institute/hardwire plan into state agency research, science, and regulatory programs
- Develop implementation guidance with agencies
- Work with MOP to implement Science Framework
- Continued role of OAC, SAC, though transition to implementation and plan evolution
- Ensure continued public participation

Immediate next steps

- Public hearings
 - September 14 Boston
 - September 15 New Bedford
 - September 16 Barnstable
 - September 17 Gloucester
 - September 23 Martha's Vineyard
- Comment deadline November 23
- Development of response to comments and changes to plan

Immediate next steps

- Legislative hearing (tbd)
- Participation in national policy conversation
- SAC role
 - Further development of Science Framework
- OAC role
 - Response to comments