

Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

We offer the following meeting summary as a service to our Partners who were unable to attend:

First Ocean Advisory Commission Meeting

August 13, 2008— Exchange Conference Center Boston

Meeting Summary

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) convened the inaugural meeting of the Massachusetts Ocean Advisory Commission (OAC) on August 13th at the Exchange Conference Center on the fish pier in Boston. The meeting provided an introduction to the ocean management planning process that is called for in the Massachusetts Oceans Act of 2008.

Massachusetts EEA Secretary Ian Bowles welcomed all attendees. He thanked the Massachusetts legislature for their leadership in passing this precedential legislation and the members of the OAC for their commitment to the planning process. He noted that the recommendations of the OAC, informed by engagement of all stakeholder voices, will be of great value in shaping ocean management planning. Finally, Secretary Bowles expressed his commitment to developing an effective plan, one *not* based upon the “lowest common denominator.”

OAC Chair Susan Tierney expressed her delight in being a member of the Commission and acknowledged the tremendous contributions to ocean resource management made by the late Susan Snow Cotter of the Office of Coastal Zone Management. Chairwoman Tierney stated that the OAC, in consultation with the many stakeholder voices, will assist the Secretary and EEA staff in developing the planning principles and framework necessary for effective integrated management of Massachusetts’ coastal ocean resources.

Commission members (see below) introduced themselves, described their backgrounds and their goals for the OAC’s work. There was general agreement that balancing the varying interests will be difficult but that all stakeholder voices should be heard and incorporated, to the extent possible, into a plan that is in the best interest of the Commonwealth overall.

Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Zone Management Deerin Babb-Brott presented a brief history of events leading to the passage of the Oceans Act. He offered an overview of the objectives of the Act and presented the State’s plan to achieve those objectives. He acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the Massachusetts Ocean Partnership and EEA’s intent to continue that productive collaboration. Mr. Babb-Brott ended his presentation by outlining the charge of the OAC (see accompanying PDF entitled, “MA Ocean Planning Process”).

In a preliminary discussion of ocean management planning principles, OAC members agreed on the need for clear guiding principles that are consistent with the Act and that emphasize fairness in the inevitable and difficult task of negotiating trade-offs among competing ocean uses. Some Commissioners suggested considering the value or standing of different uses in the broader context of benefit or cost to the Commonwealth overall. Others noted that benefits and burdens of particular ocean uses should be fairly allocated spatially/geographically.

Many Commissioners acknowledged the paramount importance of meaningful public input in the planning process. Two cornerstones of the State’s initial outreach efforts will be public listening sessions (20 will be held around the state in September and October) and an on-line web presence for public information and input. Commissioners expect to be informed by and involved in the public listening sessions to the greatest extent feasible.

The OAC is required to meet at least four times during the next year. The next meeting is expected to be held in November.

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Massachusetts Ocean Advisory Commission Members

Senator Robert O'Leary	Representing the Cape and Islands
Senator Anthony Petruccelli	Representing the First Suffolk and Middlesex Districts
Senator Bruce Tarr	Representing the First Essex and Middlesex Districts
Representative Frank Smizik	Representing the Fifteenth Norfolk District
Representative Demetrius Atsalis	Representing the Second Barnstable District
Representative Viriato DeMacedo	Representing the First Plymouth District
Deerin Babb-Brott	Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Zone Management, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Paul Diodati	Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, Department of Fish and Game
Laurie Burt	Commissioner, MA Department of Environmental Protection
Susan Tierney (Chair)	Managing Principal, Analysis Group; (energy sector)
John Pappalardo	Chairman, New England Fishery Management Council; Policy Analyst, Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association
Jack Clarke	Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, Mass Audubon
Stacey Justus	Planner, Cape Cod Commission
JoAnn Taylor	Coastal Planner, Martha's Vineyard Commission
Alan Macintosh	Assistant Director, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
Carolyn Kirk	Mayor, City of Gloucester; Metropolitan Area Planning Council
John Bullard	President, Sea Education Association; Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District



EEA Secretary Ian Bowles



Commissioners: Carolyn Kirk, Paul Diodati, Deerin Babb-Brott, Susan Tierney, and John Bullard

Executive Director:

Stephanie Moura
Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

Governing Board:

Bill Adler
MA Lobstermen's Association

Priscilla Brooks
Conservation Law Foundation

John Bullard
Sea Education Association

Stephen Crosby
*UMass Boston
McCormack Graduate School of
Policy Studies*

Richard Delaney— Chair
*Provincetown Center for Coastal
Studies*

Paul Diodati
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Deborah Hadden
Massport Authority

James Hunt— Vice Chair
City of Boston

Leslie-Ann McGee
MA Coastal Zone Management

Leona Roach
MA Marine Trades Association

Andrew A. Rosenberg
Joint Oceans Commission Initiative

Greg Watson
*MA Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs*

Senior Advisor:

Robbin Peach
*UMass Boston Co-Principal
Investigator*