

# Appendix 1 - Goals, Strategies, and Outcomes

## Goal #1: Integrated management

### *Requirements of the Oceans Act:*

- Set forth the Commonwealth's goals, siting priorities, and standards for ensuring effective stewardship of its ocean waters held in trust for the benefit of the public.
- Adhere to sound management practices, taking into account the existing natural, social, cultural, historic, and economic characteristics of the planning areas.
- Coordinate uses that include international, federal, state and local jurisdictions.
- Encourage public participation in decision-making.

### *Strategies:*

- Define goals, strategies, and outcomes that are responsive to the Act, reflect consideration of public comment, and can be achieved within the Act's timeline based on existing information.
- Review and incorporate as appropriate related/relevant Commonwealth law and policies, such as those related to climate change.
- Characterize the planning area and its component regions through the baseline assessment and regional characterizations.
- Review and consider the policies of regional, municipal, and other formal plans that address ocean waters.
- Accommodate local and regional policies and initiatives that are consistent with the Act and the Commonwealth's ocean management goals.
- Develop criteria for selecting alternative management strategies/actions.
- Identify measures of success or indicators that can be used to measure performance of management strategies in achieving desired outcomes.
- Designate protection and use areas and develop integrated management measures in consideration of international, federal, state, and local jurisdictions.
- Coordinate designation of protection and use areas and measures with federal agencies.
- Coordinate designation of protection and use areas in state waters with review of adjacent federal waters for areas with similar features/values.
- Develop governance structure that maintains Ocean Advisory Commission (OAC) and Science Advisory Council (SAC) functions and coordinates roles and responsibilities of state agencies in integrated ocean management, plan implementation, and advisory capacity to Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- Maintain 'networked' governance structure for flexibility and responsiveness to implementation of Act.

*Outcome:* An integrated ocean management plan that:

- Is responsive to the Oceans Act.
- Is implemented in coordination across jurisdictional levels.
- Achieves balance through the designation of areas for uses and activities allowed pursuant to the Oceans Sanctuaries Act and in the planning area.

Goal #2: Effective stewardship/protection of the marine ecosystem

*Requirements of the Oceans Act:*

- Value biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- Respect the interdependence of ecosystems.
- Identify and protect special, sensitive, or unique marine and estuarine life and habitats.

*Strategies:*

- Compile existing data to identify ecologically important areas.
- Review Fisheries and Habitat Work Group reports.
- Review certainty/uncertainty of existing data and available methodologies.
- Develop Ecological Valuation Index (EVI).
- Develop compatibility/conflict matrix.
- Map gradations of ecological value based on EVI.
- Consider connectivity between/among areas of ecological value.
- Overlay existing regulatory protected areas.
- Define “special, sensitive, and unique.”
- Overlay data from other work groups.
- Apply conservative approach to area designated for management areas as proportion of overall planning area.
- Map appropriate Special, Sensitive, and Unique areas.
- Develop/modify regulations to reflect protected status.

*Outcome:* Special, sensitive, and unique areas identified and protected based on the first generation of an ecosystem-based management approach.

Goal #3: Effective stewardship/economic use of marine ecosystem

*Requirements of the Oceans 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:*

- Map gradations of habitat value.
- Overlay existing regulatory protected areas.
- Overlay use data.
- Apply compatibility matrix.
- Identify potentially suitable use areas (for sustainable uses, infrastructure, renewable energy, and other uses allowed under the Ocean Sanctuaries Act).
- Apply conservative approach to total area designated as use areas as proportion of overall planning area, informed or modified by the following guidance for decision-making, explicit or inherent in the Act and/or illustrated through workgroup report data:
  - Minimize conflict with commercial fishing by siting development areas outside areas of significant fishing effort and value.
    - ✓ 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 (apply through Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act [MEPA]).
    - ✓ For specific projects developed pursuant to the ocean management plan, develop framework for mitigation (apply through MEPA).
  - Minimize conflict with recreational fishing by siting incompatible uses outside areas of concentrated recreational fishing activity.
- Preserve/enhance public access by siting use areas to minimize impacts to concentrations of recreational uses.
  - Consider impacts to significant interconnections between shore access points and destination areas.
- Incorporate specific performance standard(s) for deepwater aquaculture criteria in development area.
- Apply performance standard specifically for cables; evaluate management measures for other utilities based on compatibility matrix factors like significance/duration of impact, conflict with other uses.
- Identify appropriate test/pilot project areas for renewable energy development as part of use areas or performance standard overlay.
- For renewable energy facilities, use and resource overlays provide basis for identifying “appropriate scale” and generally appropriate areas, for the following factors from the Act:
  - Protection of the public trust.
  - Compatibility with existing uses.
  - Environmental protection.
  - Public safety.

- Develop performance standards to address:
  - Community benefit.
  - Proximity to the shoreline.
  - Appropriateness of technology and scale.
- “Appropriate scale” incorporates consideration of appropriateness of scale necessary to be responsive to climate change and state renewable energy statutory requirements.

*Outcome:* Use areas identified and enforceable management measures promulgated such that:

- Locations and performance measures for allowable uses and infrastructure are identified.
- Renewable energy development is of appropriate scale.
- Conflicts with/impacts to existing uses and resources are minimized.
- Measures for reconciling use conflicts with fisheries are developed.
- Permitting is streamlined.

Goal #4: Adaptive framework

*Requirements of the Oceans Act:*

- Encourage public participation in decision-making.
- Adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the ocean environment

*Strategies:*

- Prioritize key management issues and related science needs for the next iteration of the ocean management plan.
- With the SAC, develop a strategy for addressing prioritized ocean management issues that require additional scientific research and/or data collection.
- Prioritize scientific research and data collection efforts of state agencies to reflect ocean management plan priorities.
- Facilitate the use of science in public outreach and education.
- To assist in implementing the science strategy, enlist the expertise and capacity of the University of Massachusetts, other colleges and universities, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other entities engaged in ocean-related scientific research.
- Institute a process for future amendments to the ocean management plan that adequately responds to the pace of advances in science and technology and economics.
- Ensure public participation as a key part of the ocean plan amendment process.

*Outcome:* An adaptive framework that:

- Establishes the ocean management plan as a key driver of future, ocean-related scientific research.
- Provides basis for sound ocean policy, management, and science in the future.
- Results in science and research in response to identified management and policy issues.
- Continues to engage stakeholders in future iterations of the ocean management plan.
- Provides a foundation to communicate scientific information to the public.