Ocean Planning

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"...priority consideration ... given to coastal dependent uses and orderly processes for siting major facilities related to national defense, energy, fisheries development, recreation, ports and transportation, and the location, to the maximum extent practicable, of new commercial and industrial developments in or adjacent to areas where such development already exists..."



- The term 'Special Area Management Plan' means
 - A comprehensive plan providing for natural resource protection and reasonable coastaldependent economic growth containing a detailed and comprehensive statement of policies;
 - Standards and criteria to guide public and private uses of lands and waters; and,
 - Mechanisms for timely implementation in specific geographic areas within the coastal zone.



- (B) Special Area Management Plans
 - (i) The council shall adopt such special area management plans as deemed necessary and desirable to provide for the integration and coordination of the protection of natural resources, the promotion of reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth, and the improved protection of life and property in the specific areas designated council as requiring such integrated planning and coordination.
 - (ii) The integrated planning and coordination herein specified shall include, but not be limited to, federal agencies, state agencies, boards, commissions, and corporations, including specifically the economic development corporation, and cities and towns, shall utilize to the extent appropriate and feasible the capacities of entities of higher education, including Rhode Island Sea Grant, and shall provide for the participation of advocacy groups, community-based organizations, and private persons.



- Recognized National Leader
- First SAMP adopted 1983
- Latest SAMP adopted 2005
 - Metro Bay SAMP
 - Aquidneck Island SAMP
- MRDP
 - Blanket coastal zone with SAMPs to best manage coastal resources



Planning Authorities

- Federal (CZMA)
 - SAMPs are a preferred management tool
- State (§ 46-23)
 - Water Types
 - Innovative management tool that is Recognized nationally and internationally
 - Exclusive manager of submerged lands
 - Public Trust resource manager



- Surge of Interest in Offshore Environment
- CRMC organized the CZM managers of New York/New England to discuss issues of common interest
- Most Pressing Issue = Energy Needs

 Liquid Natural Gas
 - Renewable Energy Sources



- Discussions centered around a Regional Form of Ocean Governance
- Planning & Zoning for Ocean Uses
- Control of projects in the offshore environment



The Planning Process

- Mapping exercise of existing uses and critical resources/transportation zones
- Site Selection Screening Criteria
- Conflict Analysis
- Develop for Public Review
 - Ocean Zoning Map
 - Regulatory program for project development
 - Regulatory program for resource protection



- The Result:
 - Pre-selected sites
 - Environmental accountability
 - Public and government support
 - Permitting predictability
- Similar successful model
 UK Crown Estate for Renewable Energy
- Consistent with proposed legislation to amend the CZMA for renewable energy



Coastal Zone Management: SAMP vs EIS		
Time	1 year floating zone/2 nd year full adoption	4 - 7 years
Control of Process	State	Federal Entity
Resources Protected by Process	State and Federal Waters	Project Site Only
Future Applications for Other or Same Proposals	Regulatory Framework in Place for All Activities	Site Only and Only for That Activity
Regulations Specific to Activity	Yes	No
Public Process	Throughout	Limited and At Specific Times
Residuals or Benefits Beyond Project	URI Research Site, Ocean Observing Platform, GIS Data Base on Resources and Uses	Project Specific Documents
Ability to Adapt	Continuous	None
Transparent to Public and Understandable	Open and Mapped Based	Complex and Technical Documents Project Specific
State Interest	Planning and Regulatory Tool for All Ocean Waters	Site and Use Specific
Applications to Other Areas	US Waters and World	None
Value to Industry	Clarity and Certainty of Process	Site and Project Specific

- The ACOE under Regulatory Guidance Letter
 92-03 and 89-10 allows for simplified permitting
 if they participate in the SAMP development.
- The process has been designed to be consistent with MMS's process. In addition MMS has indicated they would like to **participate in the SAMP process**, as this is similar to a process they would like to develop.
- Thus there would be "**buy in**" at the federal level simplifying and coordinating permitting between state and federal partners.



Necessary Studies

Why so much??

To meet federal standards
 Cape Wind tried economizing on the bird studies.

The results were such that Cape Wind had to do the studies over with a final cost for the bird studies alone of \$4 million!!!



Why a Moratorium?

- Protects State Interest Until Regulations
 Are In Place
- Allows CRMC and URI to Focus Solely on Plan Without Being Distracted By Applications
- Avoids Conflict And Contradiction If Applications Were Active
- Levels Playing Field For All Players
- Prevents Undesirable Applications

