



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



The U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force & Coastal and Marine Spatial

Paul A. Sandifer, Ph.D.

Senior Science Advisor to the NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Duke University Fisheries Forum

Beaufort, NC

May 12, 2010

Ocean Policy Task Force - Overview



“We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans, coasts and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations.”

“To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, the U.S. needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the long term conservation and use of our resources.”

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 12, 2009

June 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE OCEANS, OUR COASTS,
AND THE GREAT LAKES

The oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities, and play critical roles in our Nation's transportation, economy, and trade, as well as the global mobility of our Armed Forces and the maintenance of international peace and security. We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations.

Yet, the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are subject to substantial pressures and face significant environmental challenges. Challenges include water pollution and degraded coastal water quality caused by industrial and commercial activities both onshore and offshore, habitat loss, fishing impacts, invasive species, disease, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification. Oceans both influence and are affected by climate change. They not only affect climate processes but they are also under stress from the impacts of climate change. Renewable energy, shipping, and aquaculture are also expected to place growing demands on ocean and Great Lakes resources. These resources therefore require protection through the numerous Federal, State, and local authorities with responsibility and jurisdiction over the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, the United States needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the long-term conservation and use of our resources.

In order to better meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, there is established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force), to be led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force shall be composed of senior policy-level officials from the executive departments, agencies, and offices represented on the Committee on Ocean Policy established by section 3 of Executive Order 13566 of December 17, 2004. This Task Force is not meant to duplicate that structure, but rather is intended to be a temporary entity with the following responsibilities:

more

(OVER)





Ocean Policy Task Force - Overview

Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF) Responsibilities

- Within **90 Days** Develop Recommendations For:
 - A National Policy
 - A United States Framework for Policy Coordination
 - An Implementation Strategy
- Within **180 Days** Develop:
 - A Recommended Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)



Ocean Policy Task Force - Proposed Policy Coordination Framework

- The White House Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Science and Technology Policy would lead an interagency National Ocean Council to coordinate ocean-related issues across the Federal Government and to implement the National Ocean Policy
- Establishes Interagency Policy Committees for Ocean Resource Mgmt. and Ocean Science and Technology
- Creates a Governance Coordinating Committee of the National Ocean Council to improve coordination and collaboration with State, tribal, and local authorities, and regional governance structures



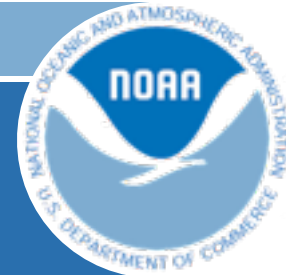
Ocean Policy Task Force - Proposed Nine Priority Objectives

How we do business:

1. ***Ecosystem-Based Management***
2. ***Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning***
3. *Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding*
4. *Coordinate and Support*

Areas of Special Emphasis:

1. *Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification*
2. *Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration*
3. *Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land*
4. *Changing Conditions in the Arctic*
5. *Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure*

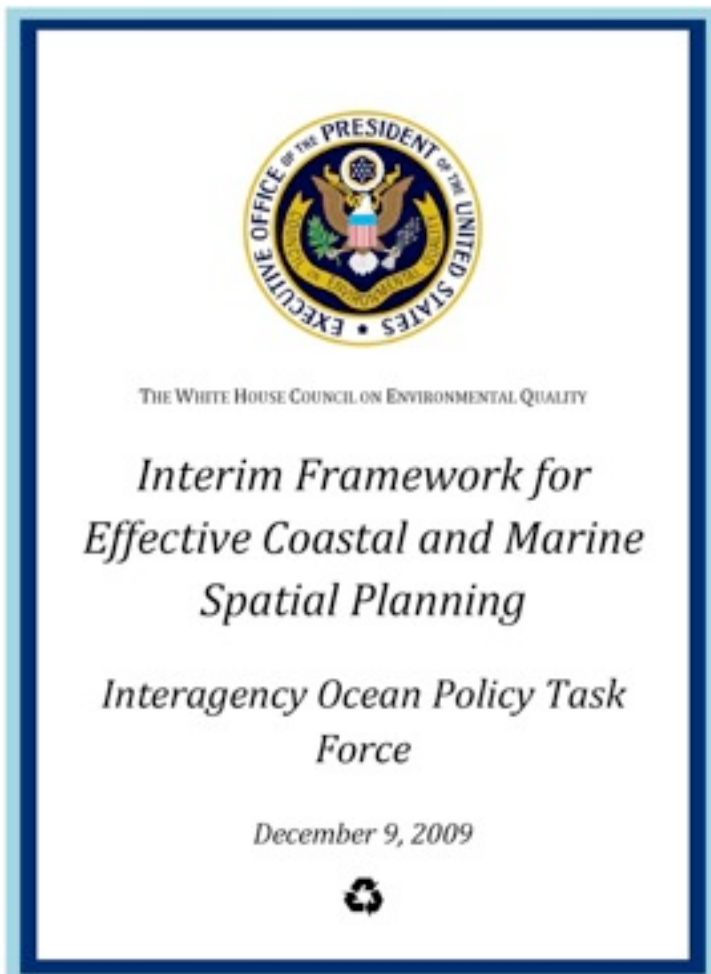


President Obama's Memo of June 12, 2009 to Executive Departments and Agencies

“Within 180 days from the date of this memorandum, the Task Force shall develop, with appropriate public input, a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning. This framework should be a comprehensive, integrated, **ecosystem-based** approach that addresses conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources...”



Ocean Policy Task Force Interim CMSP Framework



Definition of CMSP:

*A comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, **ecosystem-based**, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas.*

The CMSP Process:

Identifies areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.



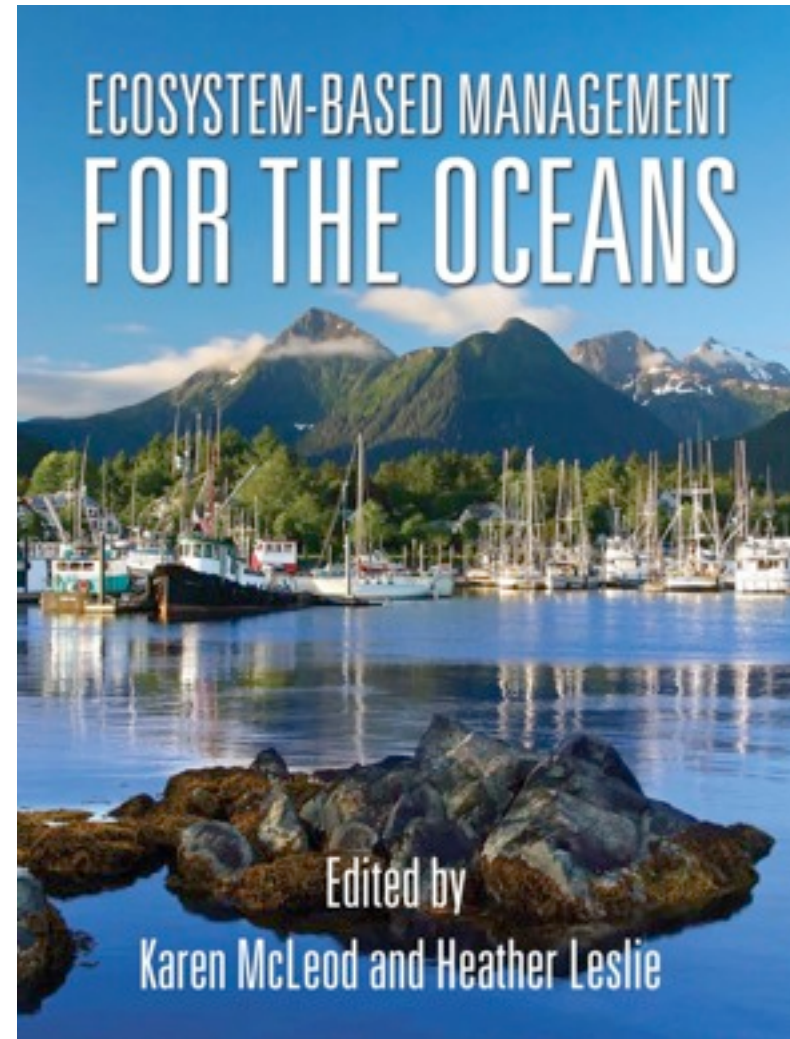
Scientific Foundation for CMSP Is Ecosystem-Based Management

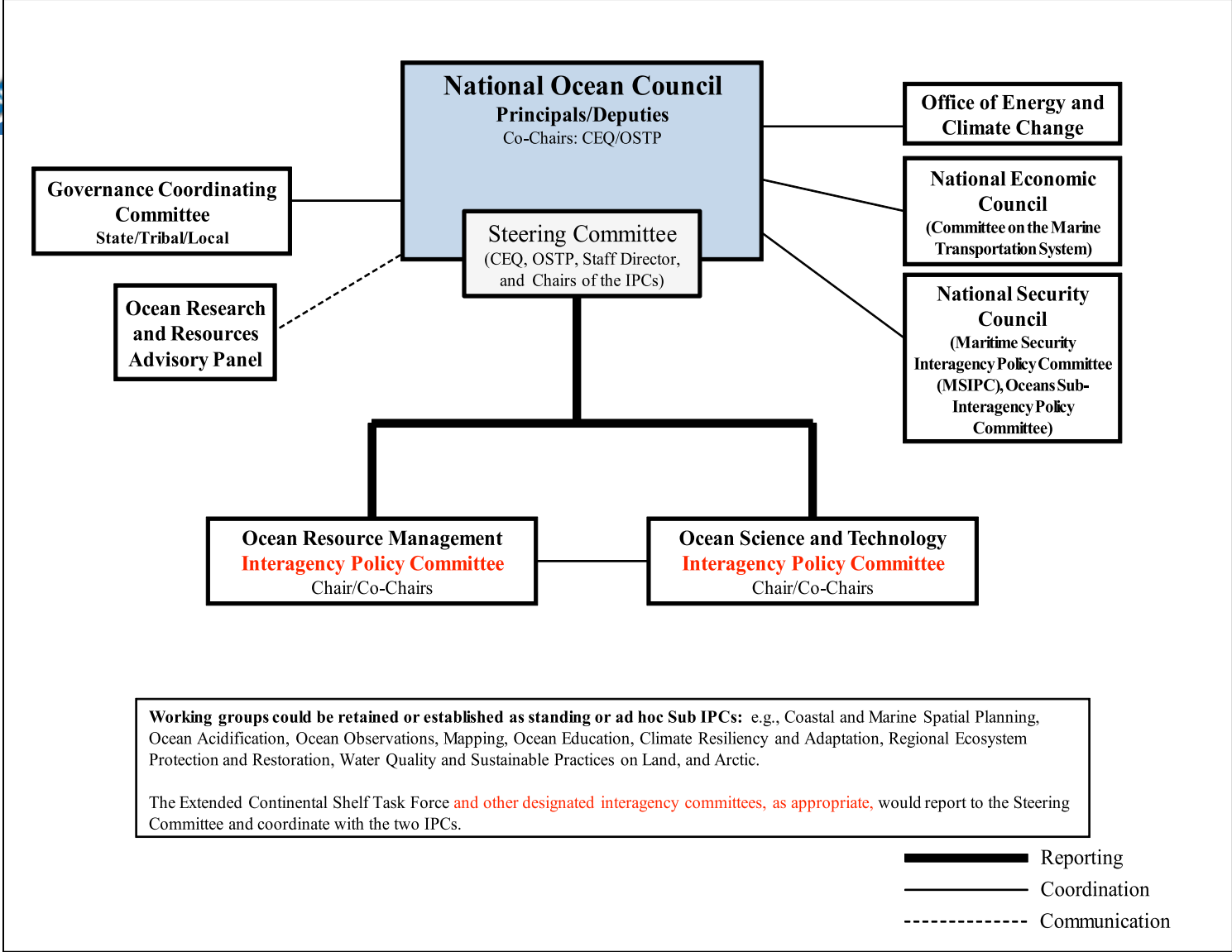
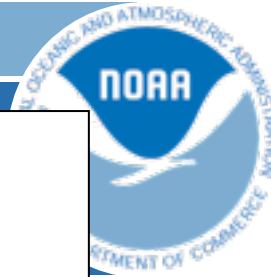
EBM is an integrated approach to management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. The goal of EBM is to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive and resilient condition so that it can provide the services humans want and need.



Scientific Foundation for CMSP Is Ecosystem-Based Management

EBM is an integrated approach to management that considers the entire ecosystem, **including humans. The goal of EBM is to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive and resilient condition so that it can provide the services humans want and need.**







Ocean Policy Task Force Interim CMSP Framework

Outlines 7 national goals for CMSP that link back to the National Ocean Policy goals with a focus on:

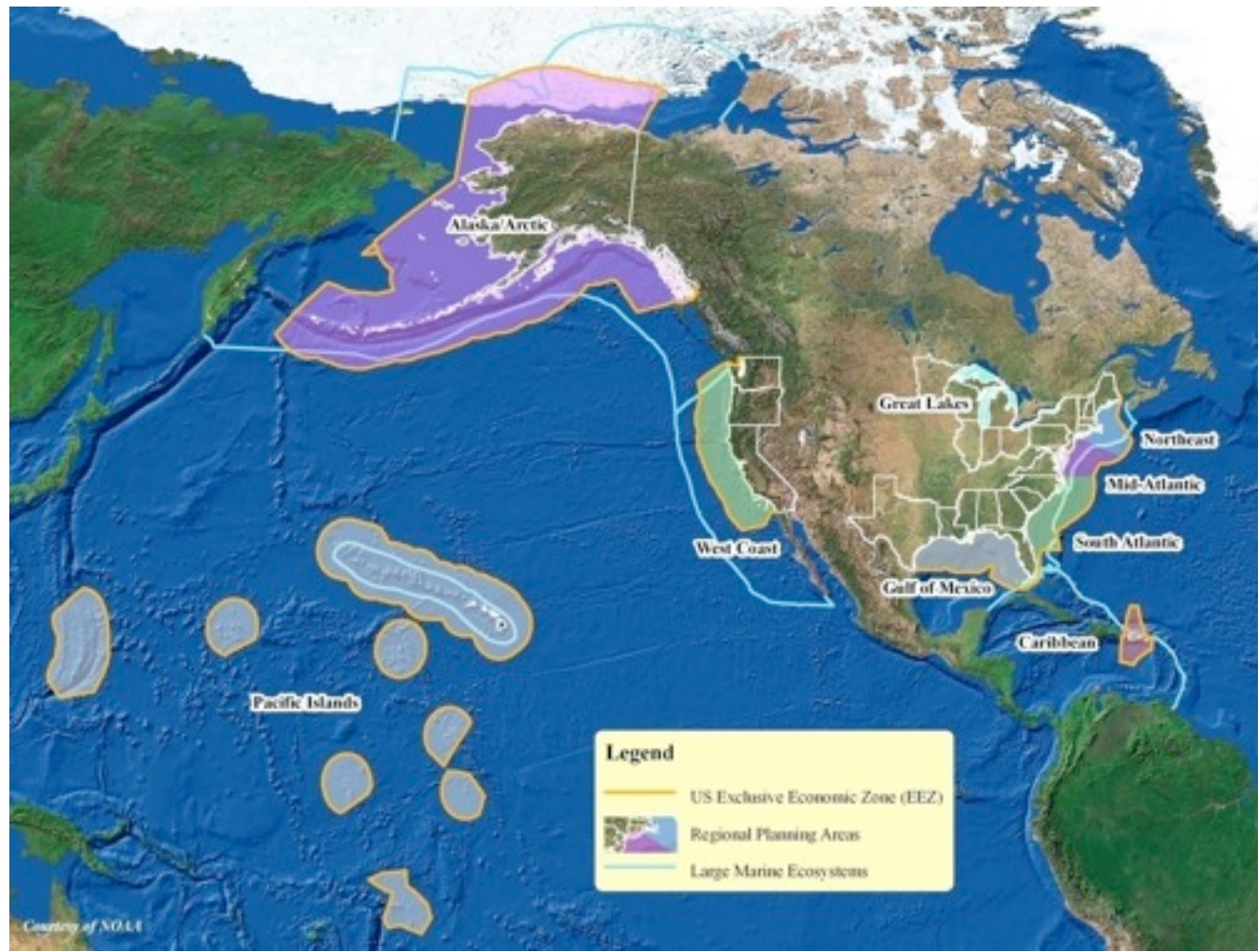
- Promoting compatibility among uses and reducing user conflicts
- Streamlining and improving the rigor and consistency of decision-making and regulatory processes
- Increasing certainty and predictability in planning

Lists 12 Guiding Principles for CMSP that include:

- Ecosystem-based management
- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Informed by best available science
- Flexibility to accommodate changing conditions (environment, science, policy, technology)



Large Marine Ecosystems & Regional Planning Areas





Ocean Policy Task Force - Interim CMSP Framework

Authority for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:

- CMSP in and of itself is non-regulatory.
- Existing federal and state statutes authorize agency planning efforts and provide a legal basis to implement CMS plans within these authorities.

Development Agreement:

- An express commitment signed by agencies to work cooperatively to engage in CMSP and develop CMS plans.

Adherence and Compliance:

- Signatories would be expected to adhere to CMS plans within the limits of their statutory and regulatory authorities. Agency deviation from the plan would require advance notice and justification.

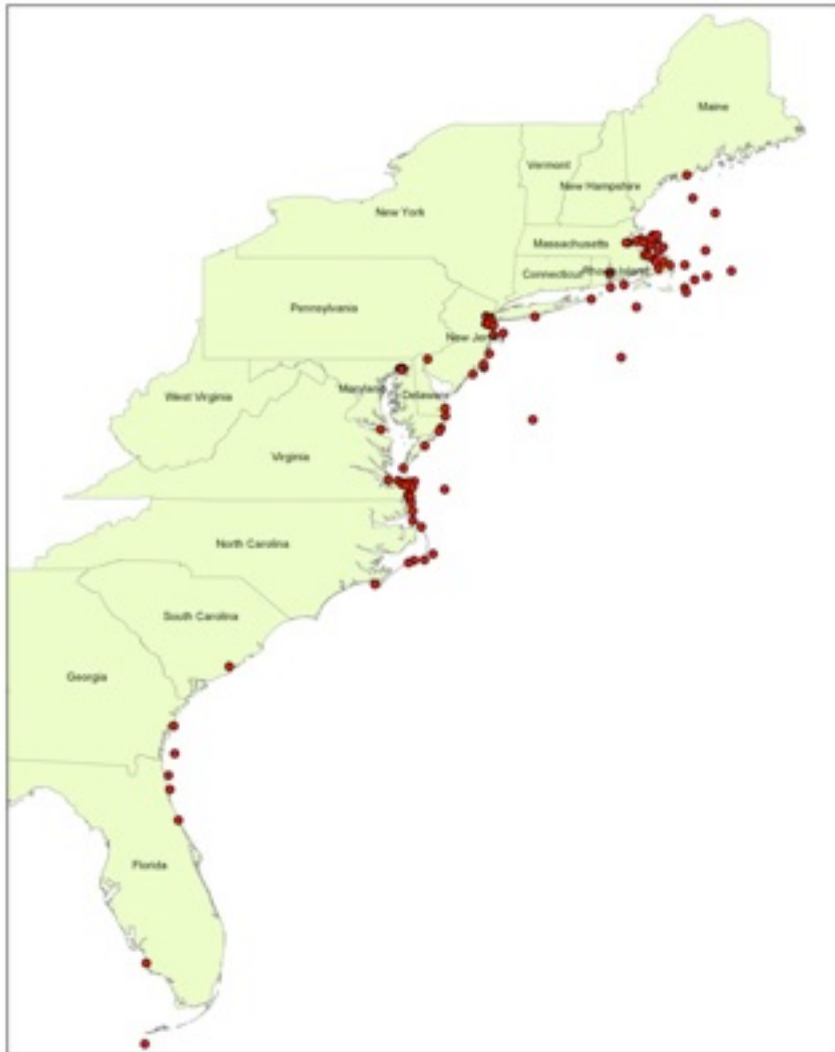


Ocean Policy Task Force - Interim CMSP Framework

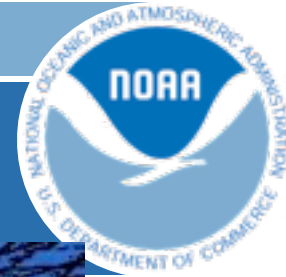
Essential Elements of the CMSP Process:

- Identify Regional Objectives
- Identify Existing Efforts that Should Help Shape the Plan throughout the Process
- Engage Stakeholders and the Public at Key Points throughout Process
- Consult Scientists and Other Experts
- Analyze Data, Uses, Services, and Impacts
- Develop and Evaluate Alternative Future Use Scenarios and Tradeoffs
- Prepare and Release a Draft CMS Plan with Supporting Environmental Impact Analysis Documentation for Public Comment
- Create a Final CMS Plan and Submit for National Ocean Council (NOC) Review
- Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Modify the NOC-certified CMS Plan

Example of CMSP in Action

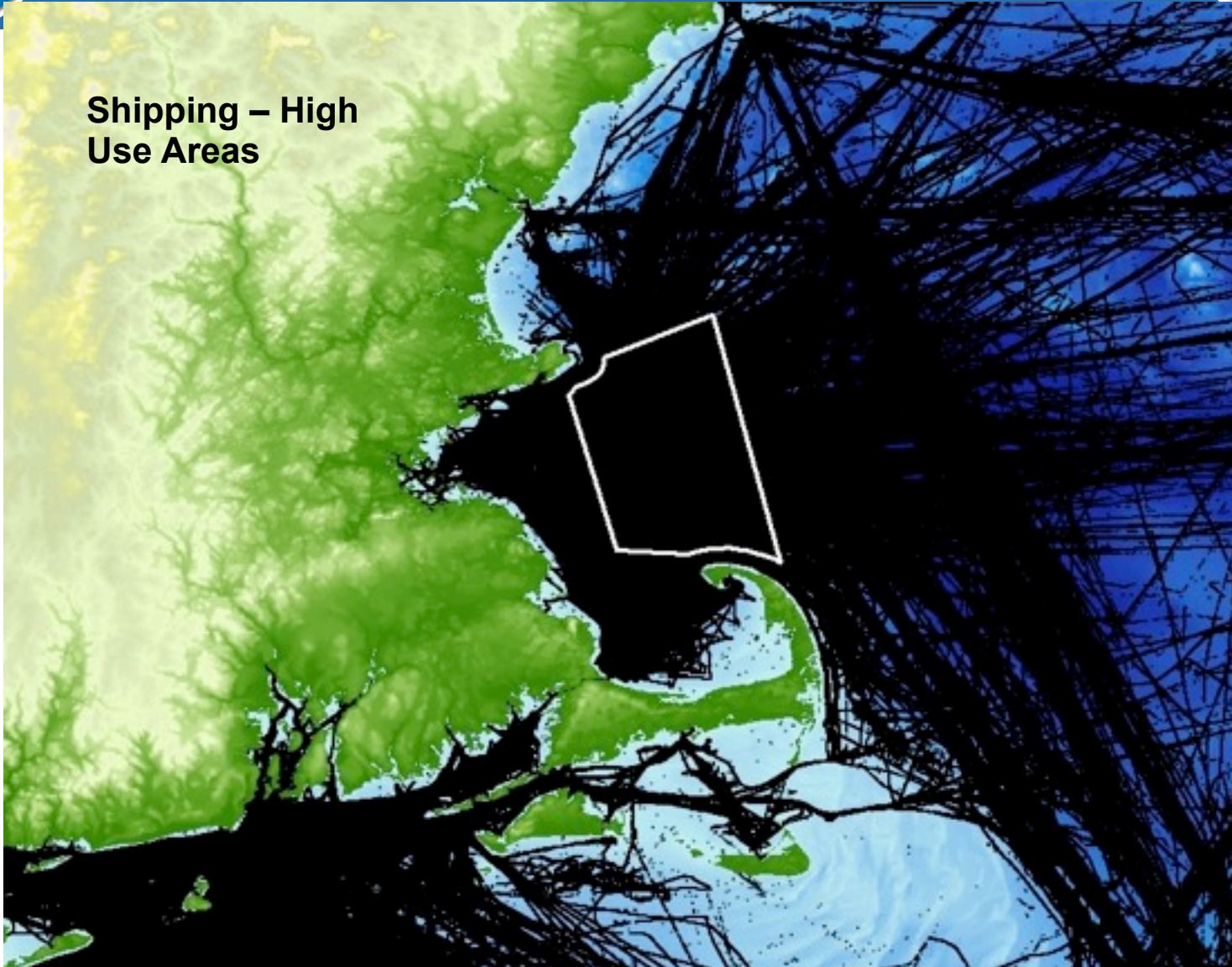


**Approximate
Distribution of
Ship Struck
Baleen Whales
along the
Eastern
Seaboard of
the U.S**



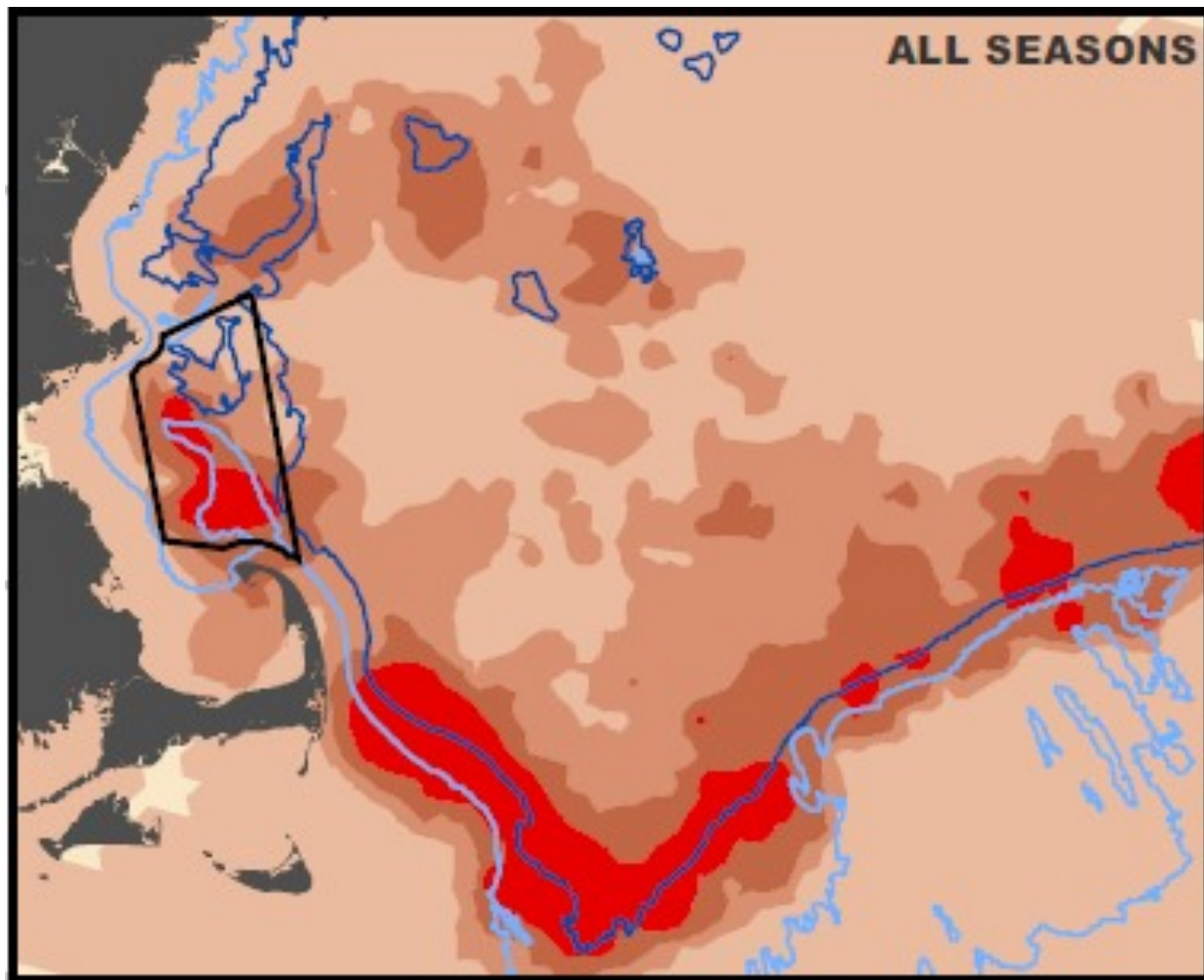
Stellwagen Bank NMS

Shipping – High Use Areas





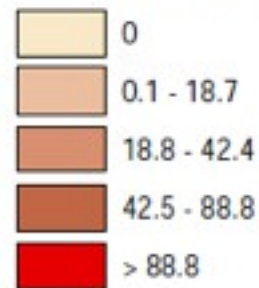
Application of CMSP To



Baleen Whales

1970-2005

SPUE (Quantile)



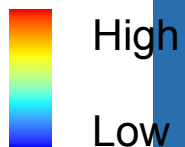
NOAA – NCCOS (Figure excerpted from Pittman et al., 2006)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
 ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



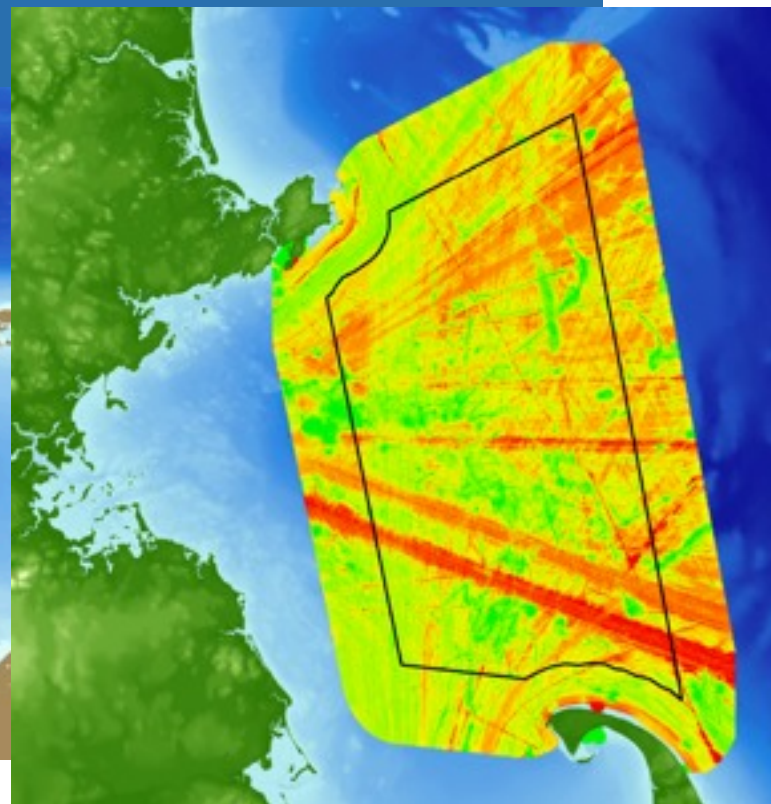
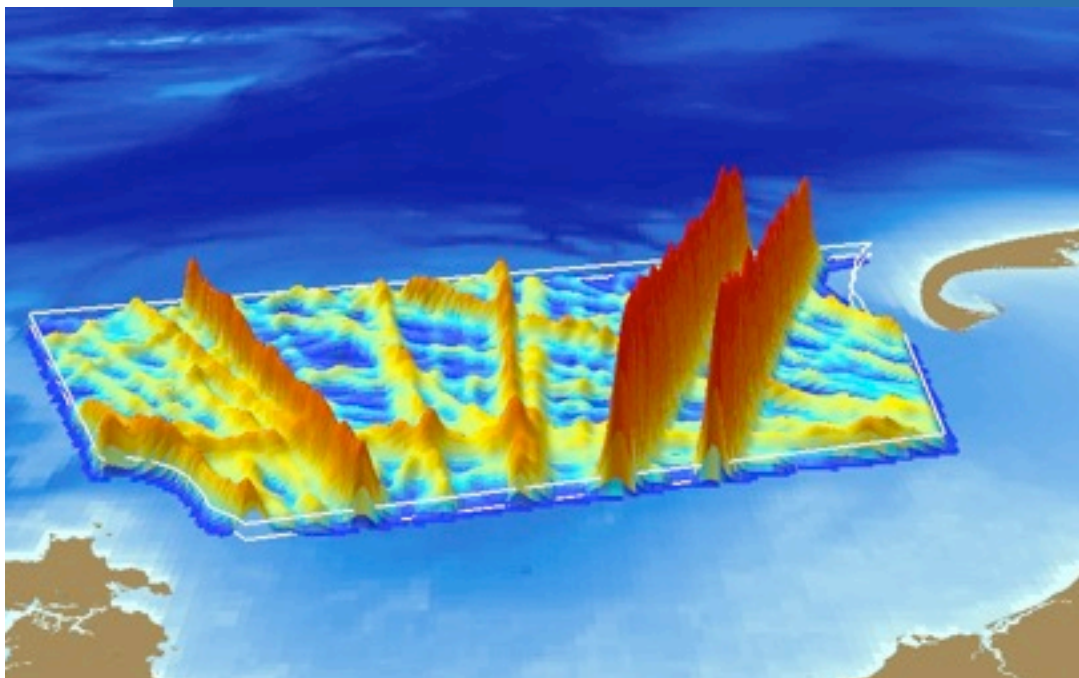
Vast Majority & Fastest Ships Use The Traffic Separation Scheme



Shipping Density

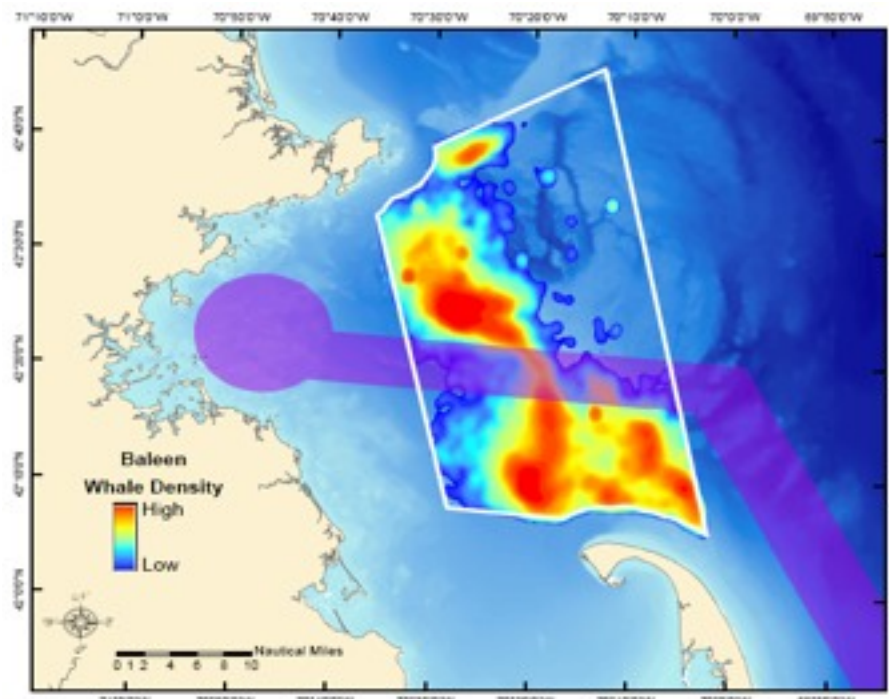
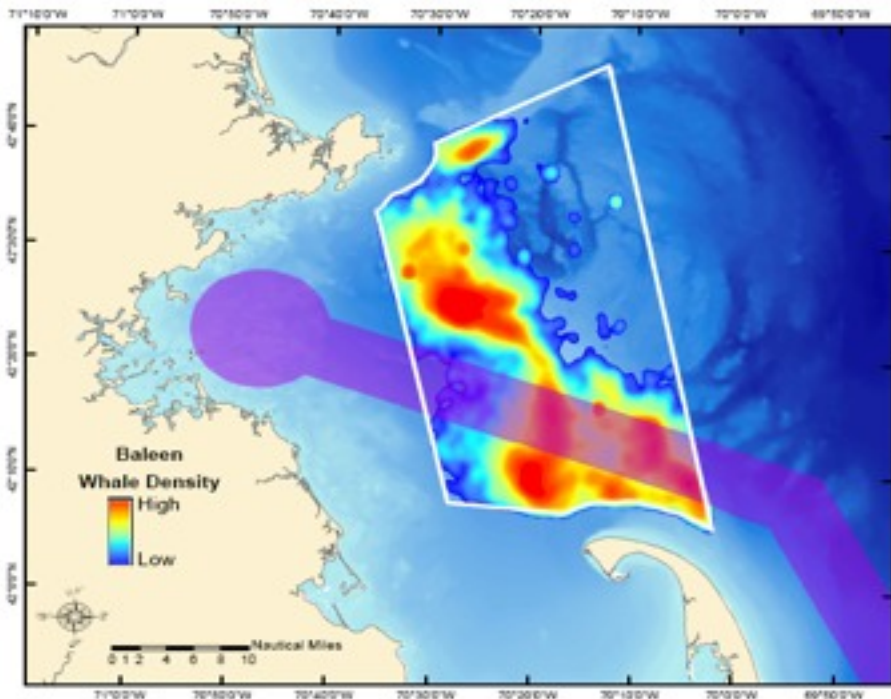


Ship Speed





GOAL: Shift TSS To Area Of Lower Whale Density

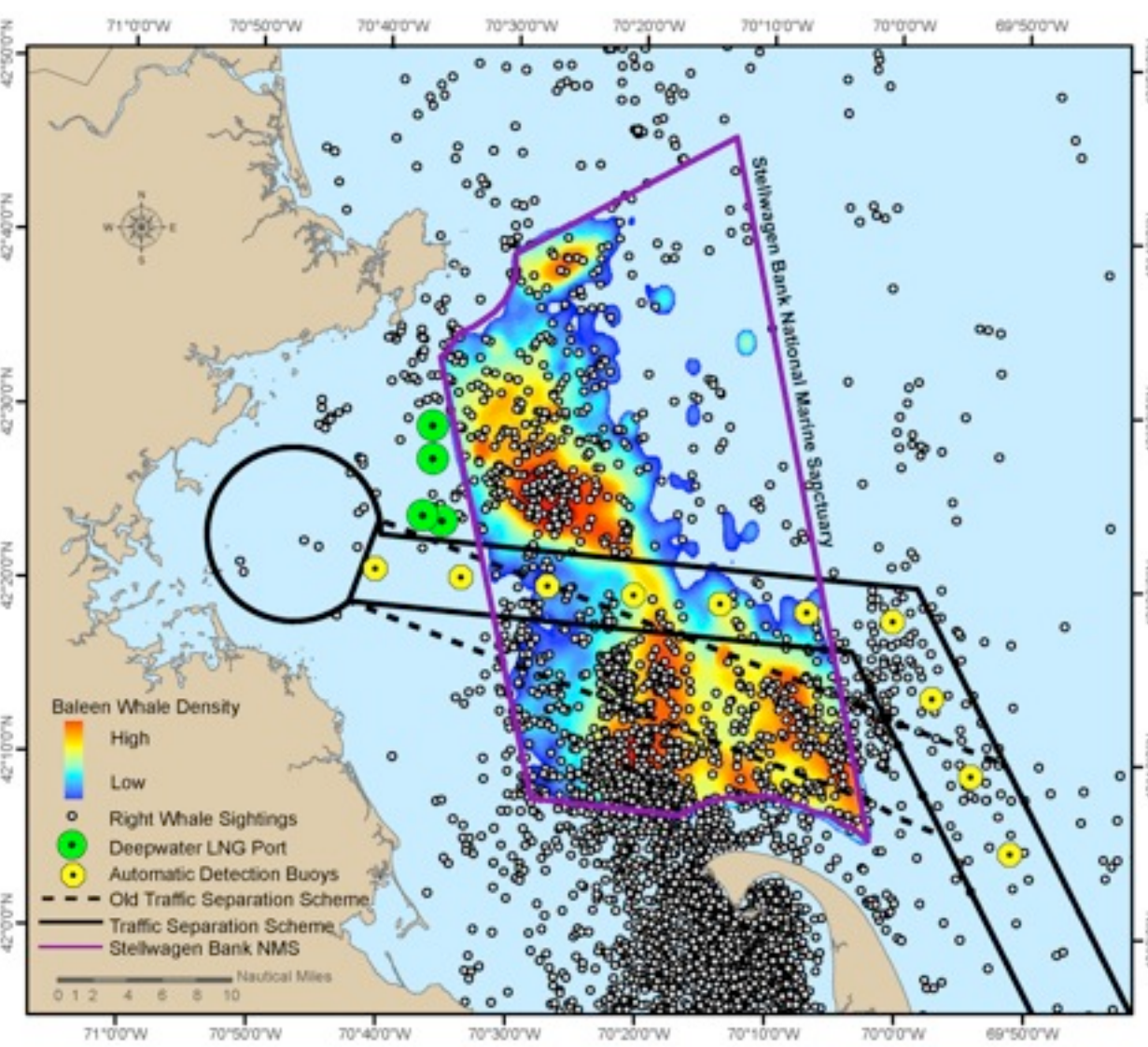


Baleen Whales Distribution: 1979 - 2004

Red = highest density **Blue** = lowest density



Application of CMSP To Save Whales

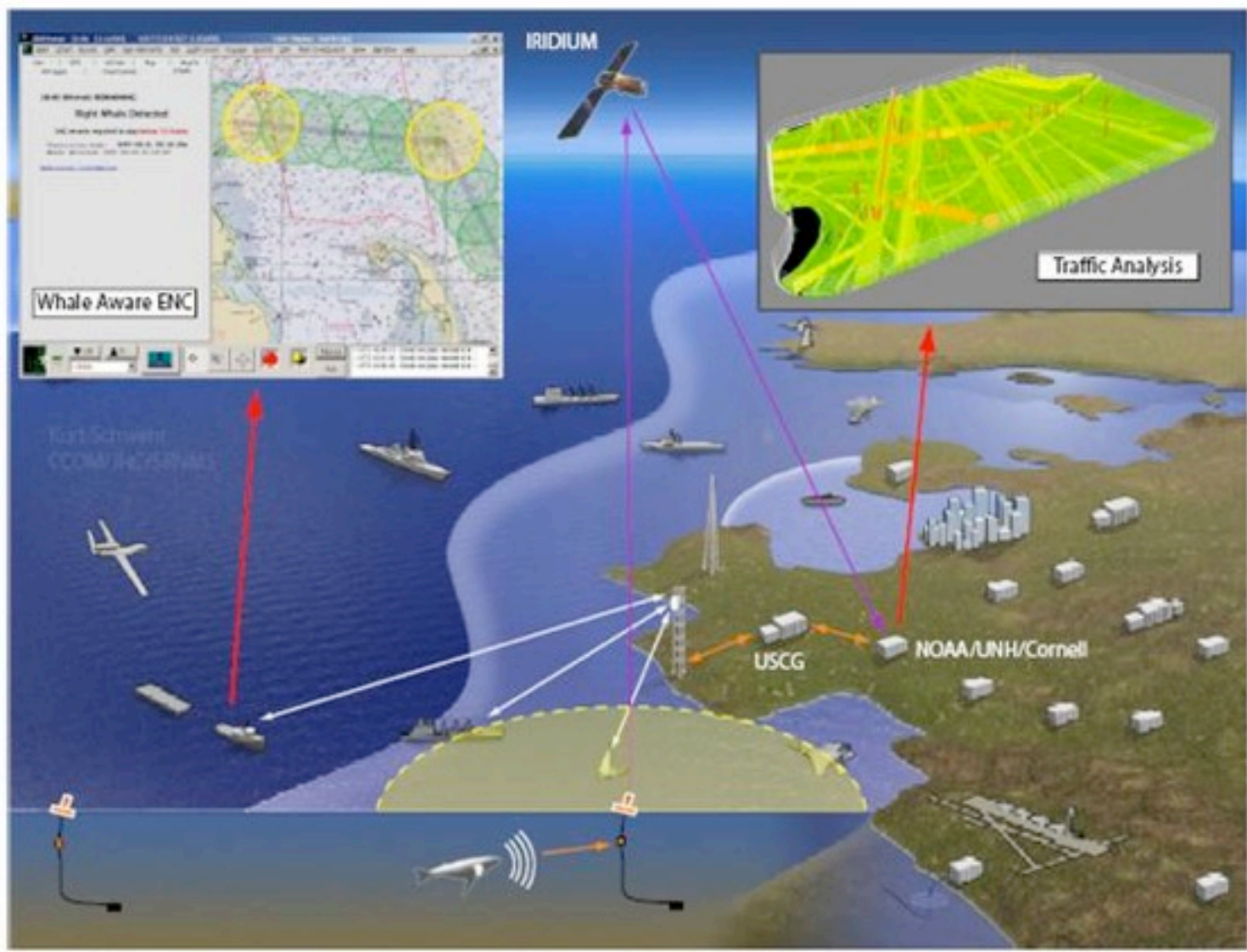


Shipping Lanes Through the Sanctuary Moved on 1 July 2007 to Reduce the risk of Ship Strike to Whales

81% all whales

58% right whales





This schematic shows passive acoustics in real time--the use of real time buoys to alert ships to whales.





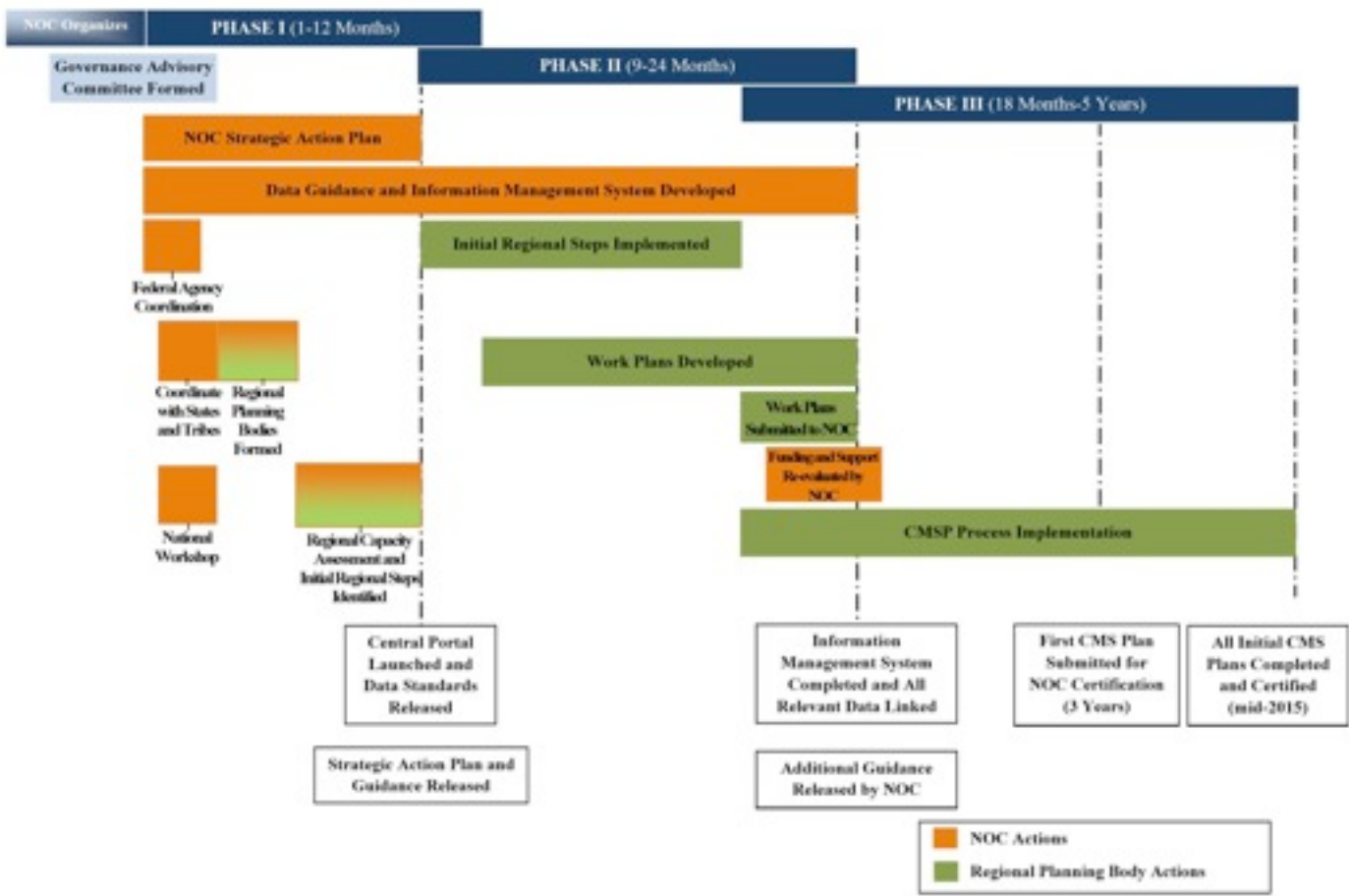
Next Steps

- 60 Day Public Comment Period on CMSP Framework Closed February 12, 2010
www.whitehouse.gov/oceans
- Finalize Reports and Submit to President in Spring 2010
- Presidential Action (?)



Ocean Policy Task Force - Interim CMSP Framework

COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING PHASED IMPLEMENTATION





Ocean Policy Task Force - Interim CMSP Framework

Priorities for Financial and Other Support:

1. Hold a national workshop and simulation exercise.
2. Support the development of regional CMSP including the capacity for regional planning bodies.
3. Improve and integrate the data and information used to inform CMSP and identify additional scientific research to support CMSP.
4. Support public outreach and stakeholder engagement.



Why CMSP Is Important



“Coastal and marine spatial planning may sound like the stuff of policy wonks, but it is actually vital to anyone who works or plays on the oceans. In fact, coastal and marine spatial planning is an essential tool for anyone who depends on the oceans for sustainable jobs, healthy seafood, clean energy, recreation or vibrant coastal communities.”

*- Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator and member of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force
December 14, 2009*