

Ocean Governance in the Gulf of Maine

Lessons Learned – the Good, the
Bad and the Ugly

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation
Washington, DC
December 6, 2004



Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment

Overview

- National Recommendations
- A Tour of the Gulf of Maine
- Governance Context
- Governance Gulf of Maine Style
- Lessons Learned
- Recommendations



National Recommendations: Regional Ecosystem Councils

Pew Commission

- Enforceable management plans
- Advisory Councils
- Ocean zoning
- Fisheries tied to Plan

Ocean Commission

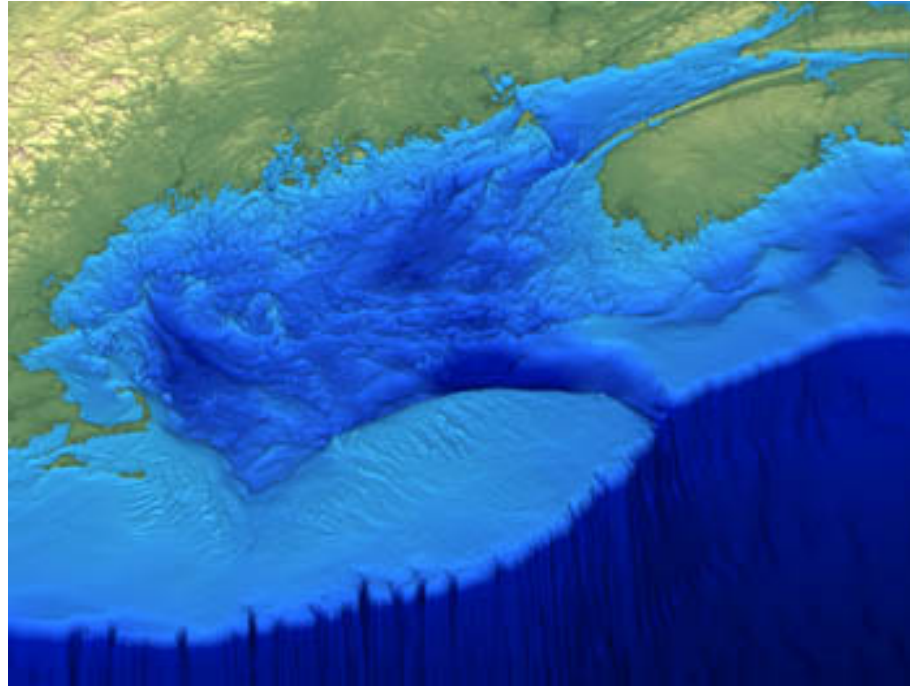
- Flexible process
- Voluntary creation
- Federal coordination
- Common boundaries & assessments
- Information program
- Offshore activities
- Marine protected areas



A Tour of the Gulf of Maine

- US & Canada
- Watershed is 70,000 sq. miles
- 85 M w/in 1-day
- 2000 point source discharges
- Array of protected areas





- One of the world's most biologically productive seas with 2000 plant & animal species
- Strong natural resource-based economies



Context for Ocean Governance in the 1980's

- Geo-political conditions were bad
- The environment was in good shape
- Coastal management was basis for innovation
- Pursued a bottom-up & measured regional response



Governance Gulf of Maine Style

- Structure & representation
- Focus
 - Coastal and marine habitat protection
 - Toxics in the marine food-chain
 - Sustainable maritime activities
- Funding stream
- Project portfolio



Lessons Learned -- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

- Focus on regional needs shared by all partners
- Maintain continuity in commitment, leadership and staffing
- Build capacity and empower others to act



#1 Focus on regional needs

Principles

- Issues that require regional collaboration
- Inclusive in priority setting
- Build lasting and productive relationships
- Choose priorities, adopt measurable objectives, create baselines & track progress

Good, Bad and Ugly

- Shared vs. common
- Need time to set priorities
- Collegial & genuine
- Hallmark is Action Plan
 - Measurable
 - Resources for baselines and to track progress
 - Held accountable



#2 Maintain continuity in staffing, commitment and leadership

Principles

- Agenda that causes people at the right level to participate
- Create and nurture champions
- Staying the course pays
- Indicators of commitment

Good, Bad and Ugly

- Participation & turnover
- Inertia and culture
- Working in a regional setting
- “Other duties as assigned”



#3 Build capacity and empower others to act

Principles

- Networking & sharing
- Sustain partnerships
- Celebrate success
- Make your agenda theirs
- Patience is a virtue

Good, Bad & Ugly

- 15-years to create a foundation w/cracks
- Partnering is key to leveraging resources and results



Ocean Governance Recommendations

- Incubate a network of bottom-up ecosystem councils within a federal framework with robust stakeholder participation
- Substantially improve federal agency coordination & increase investments in management, science, monitoring & observing, information delivery, and capacity building