Tailoring the Ocean Health Index to the U.S. Northeast

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (UCSB)

Stakeholder Forum
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Northeast Ocean Health Index Team

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Overview

- Ocean Health Index methodology
  - Q&A
- Tailoring the OHI to the Northeast
  - Overall process
  - Regions
  - Goals
- Discussion
What is ‘healthy’?

Does it mean pristine?
A healthy ocean sustainably delivers a range of benefits to people now and in the future.
What benefits are derived from a healthy ocean?
10 Global Goals & Sub-goals

- Food Provision
  - Fisheries
  - Mariculture
- Artisanal Fishing Opportunities
- Natural Products
- Carbon Storage
- Coastal Protection
- Tourism and Recreation
- Livelihoods & Economies
- Sense of Place
- Clean Waters
- Biodiversity
- Iconic Spp Places
- Species Habitats
What is our target?

How well are we doing compared to our target?

Current Status

Likely Future

Trend over the past 5 years

Pressures ↓

Resilience measures ↑

Clean Waters
What is our target?

How well are we doing compared to our target?

Current Status + Likely Future

74

Trend over the past 5 years

Pressures ↓

Resilience measures ↑
10 Global Goals & Sub-goals

- Food Provision: 54
- Artisanal Fishing Opportunities: 77
- Natural Products: 48
- Carbon Storage: 79
- Coastal Protection: 87
- Fisheries: 49
- Mariculture: 82
- Livelihoods & Economies: 62
- Sense of Place: 74
- Clean Waters: 91
- Biodiversity: Species Habitats
- Tourism and Recreation: Livelihoods Economies
- Iconic Spp Places
Global Ocean Health Index Assessment 2016

![Pie chart showing various health indicators with percentage values. The overall index score is 71.](image)
Overview

- Ocean Health Index methodology
  - Q&A
Overview

• Ocean Health Index methodology
  o Q&A

• Tailoring the OHI to the Northeast
  o Overall process
  o Regions
  o Goals

• Discussion
U.S. Northeast Ocean Health Index

Key Innovations:

• Coordinate with RPB to adapt OHI goals to better capture regional priorities for monitoring and assessment
• Incorporate local community values into reference points, targets, and goal weightings
• Evaluate ocean health annually over last 10-15 years
• Describe how management may have contributed to past changes in ocean health
• Assess at smaller spatial scales
- Gather regional data and information

**Step 1**
- Work with local groups to define reporting regions and understand regional priorities *(RPB Input)*

- Continue data collection and calculate preliminary scores for the Northeast

**Step 3**
- Hold workshops on draft methods and reference points *(RPB Input)*

- Calculate final scores and communicate with key audiences

**Step 4**
**U.S. Northeast Ocean Health Index**

**RPB and Community Engagement Priorities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Additional Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Define region boundaries and regional priorities for a healthy ocean (define goals)</td>
<td>Includes discussion of specific indicators that must be included and subtle differences in priorities by sub-region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define what a perfect score should be for each goal (set reference points)</td>
<td>Includes discussion of potential differences by sub-region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish which priorities for ocean health are most and least influential (establish goal weightings)</td>
<td>Includes discussion of potential differences by sub-region</td>
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<td>Discuss how to use best available data to measure established goals</td>
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<td>Update measurements of Resilience and effective management actions</td>
<td>Focus on management actions that local groups would like to track through time and establish benchmarks</td>
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Biophysical boundaries balanced with management boundaries

Scale of decision-making balanced with scale of data availability
Potential Reporting Regions

Other considerations:
- Long Island Sound
- Nantucket Sound
- RI OSAMP
- North/South break for MA & offshore Cape Cod
Define OHI Goals based on priorities outlined in the Northeast Ocean Plan

THE NORTHEAST OCEAN PLAN

This Plan summarizes the ocean planning process and is a guide to informing agency decisions and practices in order to continue making progress toward achieving regional goals for the management of our public ocean resources.

This Plan recognizes that these goals and a desire to move toward an ecosystem-based approach to management must be achieved through existing legal frameworks by using the best available information and by ensuring public and scientific input in every decision. Therefore, the work is not done, and this Plan serves as the foundation for continued progress.
NE Ocean Plan

Resources & Activities

Marine Life and Habitat
Cultural Resources
Commercial and Recreational Fishing
Seafood Provision
Marine Transportation
Recreation
Restoration
Aquaculture
Offshore sand resources
National Security
Energy and Infrastructure
Marine Life and Habitat
Cultural Resources
Commercial and Recreational Fishing
Seafood Provision
Marine Transportation
Recreation
Restoration
Aquaculture
Offshore sand resources
National Security
Energy and Infrastructure
Employment

Cultural Identity and Sense of Place

Food Provision
Indicators

- Tons caught
- Revenue
- Fishing sector jobs
- Local harvest not for profit

Goals

- Food Provision
- Coastal Economies
- Sense of Place
Discussion Points

- Best way to obtain feedback from RPB & stakeholders
- Reporting Regions
- Defining Goals
- Additional priorities not captured in Ocean Plan?
- General questions and feedback