

RI OCEAN SAMP FISHERIES PROCESS AND TIMELINE *rev. 2/24/2010*

Description: The RI Ocean SAMP fisheries chapter will be developed through a process that will draw upon the input of fishermen, scientists, managers, and other stakeholders. Below is a list and timeline of steps to be taken in this process.

Task 1.

Fall 08-Winter 09 Meet with commercial and recreational fishermen to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities related to the Ocean SAMP effort.

Six different meetings were held between October 2008 and August 2009 for fishermen and fisheries stakeholders to discuss and document fisheries-related issues and concerns.

Task 2.

Fall 08-Winter 09 Meet with commercial/recreational fishermen to identify and document commercial and recreational fishing activity locations.

Approximately ten different meetings were held between October 2008 and January 2009 to delineate fisheries usage areas on nautical charts.

Task 3.

Fall 08-Spring 09 Develop draft fisheries chapter outline and distribute to stakeholders for review and comment.

Accomplished from November 2008 through June 2009 via in-person meetings and email communication.

Task 4.

Winter 09 Present draft commercial and recreational fisheries usage maps to fishermen.

Draft maps were presented to fisheries stakeholders at a special meeting on March 3, 2009, and subsequently presented to the general public at the March 19, 2009 Ocean SAMP stakeholder meeting. A request for map revisions was issued in July 2009, and revised maps were finalized in October 2009.

Task 5.

Fall 08-Spring 10 Identify existing data, studies, experts, and scientific/technical literature to inform fisheries chapter. Reach out to fisheries scientists and managers from universities; state, regional, and federal agencies; and non-governmental organizations to acquire and/or determine the relevance of these sources.

Ongoing. Has included periodic meetings and correspondence with NMFS and RI DEM, and ongoing guidance from and collaboration with Dr. Jeremy Collie (URI GSO); Dr. Andrew Gill (Cranfield University, UK); Dr. John King (URI GSO); and Dr. Frank Thomsen (Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science, UK). Key events have included the April 23rd, 2009 RI Natural History Survey symposium entitled “The Impacts of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects on Marine Ecosystems,” and the November 2009 Baird Science Symposium entitled “The Ecology of Marine Wind Farms: Perspectives on Impact Mitigation, Siting, and Future Uses.”

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Task 6.

Spring 09-Spring 10 As needed, present data and/or preliminary findings to fishermen, scientists, managers, and other stakeholders.

Ongoing; has included periodic meetings with fishermen to review ongoing SAMP-related activities and research. Key events include the March 2010 draft fisheries chapter workshop with fisheries stakeholders and experts.

Task 7.

Spring 10 Draft fisheries chapter begins formal Ocean SAMP review process.

Target date: March 2010.

Task 8.

Winter-Spring 10 Hold event with fishermen, scientists, managers, and other stakeholders to define best practices and strategies for managing fisheries within the context of offshore renewable energy and other potential future uses of the SAMP area.

From March 29 – April 1, 2010, Dr. Andrew Gill and Dr. Frank Thomsen from the UK will visit URI and engage in a series of workshops and events with fisheries stakeholders and the public, with the goal of refining the fisheries chapter and other components of the Ocean SAMP document.

Task 9.

Spring 10 Distribute draft fisheries chapter to Ocean SAMP stakeholders for review and comment.

Target dates: April-May, 2010.

Task 10.

Spring 10 Present fisheries chapter to Ocean SAMP stakeholders at Ocean SAMP stakeholder meeting.

Scheduled for May 4, 2010.

Task 11.

Summer 10 Fisheries chapter begins formal CRMC Rulemaking Process.

Target dates: June-July, 2010.

Note: Timeline may be altered due to circumstances beyond the control of CRMC and/or URI.

For further information, contact:

Jennifer McCann, URI Coastal Resources Center/RI Sea Grant, mccann@crc.uri.edu

Tiffany Smythe, URI Coastal Resources Center/RI Sea Grant, tsmythe@crc.uri.edu

You may also visit the Ocean SAMP website at <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/>