

RI OCEAN SAMP FISHERIES PROCESS AND TIMELINE *rev. 10/5/2009*

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 scope of work and 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.

Fall 08 - Spring 09 Identify existing data, studies, 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.

Key events included the April 21st meeting for fishermen with Dr. Frank Thomsen from the Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in the UK and the April 23rd RI Natural History Survey symposium entitled “The Impacts of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects on Marine Ecosystems”.

Task 5.

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 6.

Winter 09 – Fall 09 As needed, present data and/or preliminary findings to fishermen, scientists, managers, and other stakeholders.

Ongoing; key events have included the presentation at the March 3, 2009 meeting of a draft list of site-specific fisheries studies that an offshore renewable energy developer would be required to perform.

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Task 7.

Winter 10 Present fisheries chapter outline to stakeholders for review and comment.

Task 8.

Winter 10 Hold proposed event with fishermen, scientists, managers, and other stakeholders to review data and gather input for further defining best practices and strategies for overcoming obstacles in planning and policy initiatives.

Task 9.

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

Task 10.

Summer 10 Refine draft fisheries SAMP chapter.

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

For further information, contact:

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