Dear Participant:

You have been asked to take part in a marine spatial planning (MSP) research and capacity-building program led by the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center and funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. This program is directed at MSP practitioners. Its goals are to leverage and strengthen the network of MSP practitioners, and to enhance communication between and the capacity of present and future MSP leaders. In order to gain a better understanding of existing MSP efforts and the experiences of MSP practitioners, we are asking a small group of practitioners to share information on their MSP efforts and experiences.

Your involvement will include completing a questionnaire and participating in a phone interview. The questionnaire will include a series of questions about your MSP effort and experiences. It will be sent to you by email and should take you no more than 60 minutes to complete. The interview will follow up on the information you provide on the questionnaire with a series of open-ended questions about your MSP work and experiences and will last approximately 45 minutes. To ensure we faithfully capture your input, we would like your permission to record the interview so that we can transcribe it afterwards.

We are required to inform you that there are no risks associated with this study, and research findings may benefit you by contributing to the development of the MSP network as a whole as well as to your MSP initiative and your work as an MSP practitioner. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntarily. You can refuse to answer any number of questions or may choose to stop participating at any time. Your individual input will be strictly confidential. Questionnaire documents, interview recordings, and interview transcripts will all be kept confidential and locked in a secure location for three years, after which time they will be destroyed per university policy. Results will be reported as generalized findings and we will not quote you unless we get prior written approval from you. The written permission would be to use that specific quotation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the individuals primarily responsible for this study, Danielle Turek at danielle_turek@my.uri.edu or (205) 213-0028, or Jennifer McCann, Principal Investigator, at (401) 874-6127. You may also contact the URI Vice President for Research at (401) 874-4328.

You have read the Consent Form. Your questions have been answered. Your signature on this form means that you understand the information and you agree to participate in this research.

Signature of Participant

Signature of Researcher

Typed/printed Name

Typed/printed name

Date

Date

Please sign consent form, keep a copy for yourself, and send a copy to danielle_turek@my.uri.edu.
MSP Practitioner Questionnaire

Overview: The URI Coastal Resources Center has launched a new initiative through which it will provide technical support to the marine spatial planning (MSP) community both in the United States and abroad. In Phase I of this program we are conducting an assessment to help define the needs of the MSP community based on analysis of a select number of ongoing MSP efforts. Phase II will provide MSP practitioners involved in these MSP efforts with technical support and skills to help them overcome challenges and enhance their efforts. This questionnaire is part of Phase I. Questions included here are derived from MSP guidance documents including those by Ehler and Douvere (2009), Collie et al. (2013), McCann and Schumann (2013), and the NOAA Scientific Advisory Board (2009).

Your Participation: To help us complete the Phase I assessment, we are asking you to (1) complete this questionnaire and (2) participate in a follow-up phone interview. During the interview, we will delve deeper into many of the items addressed by the questionnaire, and you will have the opportunity to provide further explanation and insight. Your input on this questionnaire will help us understand your MSP effort and experiences and will build upon what we have learned thus far by reviewing the available literature on your MSP effort. We estimate it will take you approximately 60 minutes to complete this questionnaire.

Instructions: After you have reviewed, signed, and returned the Informed Consent form (attached), which details the confidentiality provisions associated with our research, please complete this questionnaire. We ask that it be completed by you or someone on your team who has been extremely engaged with this process since its early stages and who makes many of the organizing decisions. Please complete the questions to the best of your ability; the more information that you provide, the better we will be able to help you by identifying resources and opportunities for collaboration and/or assistance. If there is any question you feel you cannot effectively answer in writing, please write as your response that you would prefer to discuss this question by phone during the follow-up interview. For any responses that have available reference material, please include the link to that material or attach the material when returning this questionnaire.

There are several options for completing this questionnaire: (1) save this document to your desktop and type the answers in it using a word processing software such as Microsoft Word; (2) print the document, complete it by hand, then scan and email it to us; or (3) complete it by hand and return it to us by mail. Digital questionnaires can be emailed to Danielle Turek, Graduate Research Assistant, at danielle_turek@my.uri.edu. Hard copy questionnaires can be mailed to the URI Coastal Resources Center/RI Sea Grant, 220 South Ferry Rd., Narragansett RI 02882, attn: Danielle Turek. If you have questions about this questionnaire, please contact Danielle Turek or Jennifer McCann at mccann@crc.uri.edu.

Thank you for your time and participation! We look forward to receiving your input.

Jennifer McCann
Director of Extension Programs
URI Coastal Resources Center

Tiffany Smythe Ph.D.
URI Coastal Resources Center

Danielle Turek
URI Coastal Resources Center
YOUR NAME: _____________________________________________________________________

YOUR AFFILIATION: _____________________________________________________________________

NAME AND LOCATION OF YOUR MSP EFFORT: __________________________________________

*Questions highlighted in RED were those reserved for follow-up interviews*

PART 1. DRIVERS, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1A. Drivers and Issues

1. What is the main driver(s) behind your MSP effort (e.g. wind development, conservation concerns, etc.)?

2. How does the MSP driver(s) motivate diverse stakeholders to become involved in the MSP effort?

3a. How have management issues to be addressed by the MSP effort been identified?

3b. What are the issues?

3c. How, if at all, have these issues been prioritized?

1B. Goals and Objectives

4. What are the stated goals and objectives of your MSP effort? If they have not yet been formalized, what are the informal goals?

5. For each set of descriptors below, please check the box to the right of the most appropriate description of your MSP goals (for example, for item (a.), choose conceptual or operational or both). Are your MSP goals and objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Conceptual</th>
<th>Operational</th>
<th>Both (depends on goal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
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<td>b.</td>
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<td>c.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. How were the plan goals and objectives developed?
   a.) Mandated by a political body (e.g., state legislature)
   b.) Developed by planning staff during the planning process
   c.) Developed by planning staff, with stakeholder input, during the planning process
   d.) Other, please explain:

7. How and by whom have the goals and objectives been integrated into the MSP effort?

PART 2. STRUCTURE

2A. Scope

1a. What is the approximate size of the planning area being considered in your MSP effort (e.g. square miles)?

1b. If the area is defined by place names or geographic boundaries, please include them here (e.g. Long Island Sound).

2. At which political/jurisdictional level is the effort being planned (e.g., municipal, state/provincial/ or regional within a country)?

3a. What types of spatial designations or management areas have been included, or are being considered, in your MSP effort (e.g., use or development zones, protected areas, no-take preserves, etc.)?

3b. If specific management areas are included in your MSP effort, please name and describe them here.

4a. What types of future activities and uses, if any, have been addressed or are being addressed?

4b. How are these future uses and activities addressed?

2B. Timeframe/Timeline

5. Describe the actual or proposed/estimated timeline and major milestones for your planning effort (e.g. plan development, plan implementation, plan evaluation)?
6. Is there a provision for updating and revising the plan? If so, please describe:

**2C. Plan Development**

7a. What strategies or methods are you using to IDENTIFY important areas (e.g. use of ecological valuation index, stakeholder input, etc.)?

7b. How are these mechanisms being used (e.g. data, stakeholder research, geospatial data analysis, etc.)?

8a. What strategies or approaches are being used to assist in the MANAGEMENT of important areas (e.g. regulations, performance standards, market-based instruments, etc.)?

8b. How are these mechanisms being used?

9. How does the MSP effort recognize and deal with uncertainty and risk?

**PART 3. CAPACITY**

**3A. Planning Team**

1a. Who are the individuals and organizations that make up your technical team (i.e. the group of individuals that meets regularly)?

1b. Which organization(s) has the authority to make management decisions, and are they part of your team?

1c. Which organization(s) has the capacity to make technical decisions, and are they part of your team?

2. Does the MSP team include everyone you need to IMPLEMENT this plan (e.g. managers, scientists, enforcement, etc.)? Please explain.
3. To what extent would you say that the planning team is trusted by stakeholders? Has this relationship changed over time? Please explain.

4. Does the planning team have the power to make commitments to stakeholders?

5. Have the roles and responsibilities of all entities (i.e. planning team, researchers, state/federal/tribal agencies and stakeholders) been clearly defined? If so, how?

6a. Has a work plan been developed?

6b. Does the work plan identify key work products?

6c. Does the work plan identify resources required to complete the planning outputs on time?

6d. How has this plan been shared with stakeholders?

3B. Implementing Institutions

7. Who are the institutions responsible for implementing the MSP effort (e.g. government agencies, universities, NGOs, etc.)?

8. In your opinion, have the institutions responsible for MSP implementation demonstrated their capacity to implement the plan?

9. What POLICY changes, if any, were or are being made as part of creating the plan (e.g. new or revised laws or regulations)?

10a. Has a new agency, organization, or group been formed to create and implement the plan?

10b. How, if at all, have existing organizations, agencies, or groups changed or expanded in order to create and implement the plan?
11. What governance and institutional arrangements are or will be used to IMPLEMENT the plan (e.g., regulations enforced by government agency, advisory council, interagency agreements)?

3C. Data/Research Basis

12. What environmental data are being used/collected for plan development? (e.g. fish abundance, bathymetry, physical processes, etc.) If a more detailed inventory or list is available, please attach or direct us to the list.

13. What human use data are being used/collected for plan development (e.g. fishing activity, recreational uses, etc.)? If a more detailed inventory or list is available, please attach or direct us to the list.

14. The below table includes descriptions of data needs and research products. In column A, indicate whether or not this product is part of the MSP effort (Y/N). In column B, indicate the current status of that particular data or research need (completed, ongoing, not yet begun). In column C, indicate whether you have sufficient resources (staff and funding) at this time to develop the product.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Need/Research Product</th>
<th>A. Included in Planning Effort? (Y/N)</th>
<th>B. Status? (Completed, ongoing, or not yet begun)</th>
<th>C. Sufficient resources (staff and funding) to develop? (Y/N)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. An inventory and maps of important biological and ecological areas in the marine management area;</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. An inventory and maps of current human activities (and pressures) in the marine management area;</td>
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<td>c. An assessment of possible conflicts and compatibilities among existing human uses;</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. An assessment of possible conflicts and compatibilities between existing human uses and the environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. A trend scenario illustrating how the MSP area will look if present conditions continue without new management interventions;</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. Alternative spatial use scenarios illustrating how the management area might look when human activities are redistributed based on new goals and objectives or alternative scenarios;</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. A preferred scenario that provides the basis for identifying and selecting management measures in the spatial management plan.</td>
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</table>

15a. Is there a central data repository for the collected data? Please describe.

15b. Is there a review process in place to ensure quality? Please describe.
3D. Monitoring and Performance Measures

16. Are monitoring and performance measures being identified for or included in the plan? If yes, please describe.

17. Are resources available to conduct long-term monitoring/research? If yes, please describe.

18. Have new management tools or policies been tested beforehand as a pilot or on a small-scale basis?

19. Is adaptive management an explicit component of the MSP effort?

20. Is adaptive management formally structured around response to feedback from monitoring and evaluations?

3F. Conflict Resolution

21. Is there a mechanism for conflict resolution (e.g., formal examination of alternatives, advisory committee, unstructured compromise among user groups)? If yes, please describe.

22a. Have you had any conflicts to date?

22b. How have any conflicts that have arisen to date been dealt with?

4. COMMITMENT

4A. Authority
1. Please describe the government mandate and authority that supports and drives the planning efforts.

2. Have the institutions responsible for plan development and implementation been provided with the necessary authority?

3a. To what extent do the institutions that will assist in implementation, and/or will be affected by its actions, understand the MSP agenda?

3b. To what extent do these institutions also support its agenda?

   Please explain.

4B. Funding

4. Please describe the resources (financial and/or in-kind) dedicated to developing and implementing this MSP effort.

5. Have sufficient financial resources been committed to fully DEVELOP the plan? (Please mark or highlight the answer that best describes your planning effort.)

   a.) No financial resources have been committed for planning.
   b.) Some pledges and commitments are secured, but significant funding gaps remain.
   c.) Adequate short-term funding (approximately two years) is secured for developing the plan.
   d.) Sufficient financial resources are in place for developing the plan.
   e.) Other, please explain:

6. Have sufficient financial resources been committed to fully IMPLEMENT the plan? (Please mark or highlight the answer that best describes your planning effort)

   a.) No financial resources have been committed for implementation.
   b.) Some pledges and commitments are secured, but significant funding gaps remain.
   c.) Adequate short-term funding (approximately two years) is secured for developing the plan.
   d.) Sufficient financial resources are in place for developing the plan.
   e.) Other, please explain:

7. Have sufficient financial resources been committed to EVALUATE the plan? (Please mark or highlight the answer that best describes your planning effort)

   a.) No financial resources have been committed for evaluation.
b.) Some pledges and commitments are secured, but significant funding gaps remain.
c.) Sufficient financial resources are in place for evaluation.
d.) Other, please explain:

5. CONSTITUENCIES

1a. Who are the constituencies/user groups (state/provincial/federal agencies, science advisors, stakeholders, etc.) who would be affected by the plan?

1b. Are all of these constituencies/user groups involved in the MSP effort?

1c. How are they involved?

2. What are the stakeholders’ motivations for coming to the table?

3. Are there sufficient resources (time, money, facilities) to carry out the stakeholder engagement plan?

4a. To what extent is there public awareness for the MSP process?

4b. To what extent is there public support for the MSP process?

5a. In general, do user groups who will be affected by the MSP actions understand its goals, strategies, and targets?

5b. Do the user groups support its goals, strategies and targets?
6. GENERAL

1. Are there any particular issues that you have been struggling with in your MSP process (e.g., capacity, constituent involvement, etc.)?

2. Which particular steps in the MSP process have been especially demanding of time or resources?

3. What have been your biggest successes in your efforts to date?

4. Do you believe your MSP project will have the ability to practice adaptive management of the area?

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE

THANK YOU for your time and input! We greatly look forward to working with you to strengthen the MSP network! Please use the space below for any additional comments you may have for us.