

**Ocean SAMP Stakeholder Meeting #16**  
**Notes, June 30, 2010, 6 – 9 p.m.**  
**Hazard Rooms A and B, URI Bay Campus**

**Purpose of the Meeting:**

- 1) Present a summary of the Stakeholder process document.
- 2) Update Stakeholders on Ocean SAMP research, outreach and policy activities.

**Meeting Chair and Facilitator:** Ken Payne

Payne indicated to the approximately 40 attendees that the group is to collectively agree what took place during the stakeholder process. Payne will produce a report that reflects this input from his perspective as chair. He said his report will summarize what took place and that he is looking forward to preparing it. "As we look to the future, a 100 years from now, and people say, how did they understand their marine environment, there will be no more important document than the Ocean SAMP," he said.

**New Ocean SAMP Developments – Grover Fugate, CRMC**

Fugate indicated that a federal process to engage governors on the Atlantic coast in an memorandum to make offshore development of renewable energy resources as effective and efficient as possible is moving forward. Working groups to support the process have been formed, and Fugate serves on three of these groups. He said Rhode Island is well positioned to serve as a pilot project due to the work that has been accomplished through the Ocean SAMP. Locally, Rhode Island continues to work with Massachusetts to develop a cooperative effort to develop offshore renewable energy resources in waters adjacent to both states.

**Update on Ocean SAMP Chapters – Jennifer McCann, URI**

McCann reviewed the schedule for chapter review and the adoption process and encouraged stakeholders to continue to read and comment on the draft chapters. McCann, Payne and Fugate then answered questions about the Ocean SAMP process. One question focused on how the science being gathered for the SAMP is being made available to the public process. Fugate answered that significant effort is being made to ensure that new data is provided to the process as early as possible and that it is brought into SAMP policy development as soon as its use and applicability to the project is analyzed and understood. Another question asked about the relationship between the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) role concerning price rates for wind power and the SAMP, and Payne answered that the PUC work is not related to the Ocean SAMP data collection and marine spatial planning work taking place. Fugate also said that the

state's interaction with the developer, Deepwater Wind, remains a separate process from the Ocean SAMP work.

### **Stakeholder Summary Document – Ken Payne**

Payne reviewed the document (available at [http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/pdf/stakeholder/sh\\_stakeholder\\_report.pdf](http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp/pdf/stakeholder/sh_stakeholder_report.pdf)) and said that the stakeholder process has largely taken place in three phases: 1) Phase 1: This part of the process had to do with answering stakeholders' nervousness about the process, working out how the meetings would function, and determining at which point in the process stakeholders would have access to new material; Payne said there was "healthy skepticism" at this point; 2) Phase 2: This part of the process focused on the provision of research data and the evolution of the stakeholder group as the "portal to the public review," with some remaining questions as to how the CRMC would manage its role as administrator of the SAMP; and 3) Phase 3: This part of the process saw a continuing decline of any contentiousness remaining mostly from Phase 1, and to a lesser degree Phase 2, and focused more on how the SAMP policies would be made practical and useful for stakeholders and Rhode Island at large. Payne said of the entire process that "It's been extraordinary."

### **Discussion/Next Steps – Ken Payne**

Discussion focused on questions about the place the SAMP will occupy in the state's policy framework, and the degree of effectiveness the public can expect from the SAMP considering this overall policy framework. The group talked about how the SAMP can ultimately inform regional dialogue about resources management and protection, and whether the context in which the SAMP was created may still have placed it too near the developer's effort. Also, the group reflected on some aspects of Payne's report, with one stakeholder asking that it be noted that it is too early for Payne to say that the SAMP process was largely absent of contentiousness, as the adoption and implementation aspects of the project are not carried out yet.

### **Recognitions**

McCann indicated that, in part due to the Ocean SAMP effort, Fugate is the recipient of a major national award, the 2010 Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He and McCann and the Ocean SAMP team also received 2010 Northeast Sea Grant Network Outstanding Outreach Achievement Awards for the Ocean SAMP effort. McCann thanked all the stakeholders for their hard work and participation and indicated an Ocean SAMP celebration will likely be held in the fall. The meeting was then adjourned.

