New Hampshire & Southern Maine
Ocean Uses Atlas Project

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
FISHING OCEAN USES - Wednesday, January 13th, 2010

OVERVIEW

This Ocean Uses Atlas workshop is designed to create detailed maps of the full range of ocean uses that occur in the marine environment off the coast of New Hampshire and Southern Maine to assist in emergency response planning. This project spans the entire coastal and marine environment from the shoreline to the offshore boundary of the EEZ (200nmi), including all state and federal waters around the offshore islands. This workshop will focus on the patterns of specific *fishing* uses of the ocean throughout the region from Cape Small in Phippsburg, Maine south to New Hampshire/Massachusetts border. Workshop participants will be asked to impart their knowledge regarding a range of fishing uses (see list below) throughout the study region.

Ocean use maps will be created through a participatory group mapping exercise that focuses on gathering three different, but related kinds of spatial information for each use: (i) the general footprint of use throughout the region; (ii) the dominant areas where the use is most commonly pursued; (iii) the anticipated future use in spatial extent or intensity .

At the start of the workshop, all participants will be assigned to a work group and an associated mapping station. Participants will remain with their work group throughout the day. Each mapping station will have a dedicated GIS specialist and facilitator to guide the group through the mapping process and to ensure that the workshop objectives are met. Each station will have paper base maps for reference, as well as the digital technology needed to complete the workshop tasks in an efficient, timely and interactive way.

Use Name	*Includes*	*Excludes*
Fishing Sector		
Commercial dive fishing	Commercial SCUBA and free diving for invertebrates and fishes	All other forms of commercial fishing
Commercial fishing with benthic fixed gear	Traps, pots, bottom longlines, bottom gillnets, vertical hook and line	All other forms of commercial fishing
Commercial fishing with benthic mobile gear	Trawling, dredging, other mobile gear	Vertical hook and line fishing from boats, all other forms of commercial fishing
Commercial kelp and algae harvest	Commercial kelp and algae harvesting	All other harvesting
Commercial pelagic fishing	Mid-water trawling, purse seine, pelagic longlines, handlines, harpoons, mid-water gillnets	All other forms of commercial fishing
Kayak fishing	Hook and line fishing from hand-propelled kayaks	All other forms of fishing, including motorized kayaks
Recreational and commercial fishing from shore	Rod and reel, surf-casting, fishing from piers, jetties, crab traps, cast nets	All other forms of shore-based fishing
Recreational dive fishing	Recreational SCUBA and free-diving for invertebrates and fishes	All other forms of fishing
Recreational fishing from boats, benthic species	Party boats, rod and reel, trolling, traps, head boats, and private boats targeting benthic species	All other forms of boat-based fishing
Recreational fishing from boats, pelagic species	Party boats, rod and reel, trolling, head boats, and private boats targeting pelagic species	All other forms of boat-based fishing
Shore-based recreational harvest	Intertidal collection or subsistence harvest of living marine species (i.e. plants, invertebrates, and fish) for consumption, bait, aquaria, or research	All other forms of harvesting

MAPPING GUIDANCE

For each use presented, you will be asked to map the following:

Step 1: Maximum Footprint of Use

Objective: To map the maximum footprint, or areal extent, of each use throughout the study area. The maximum footprint of use includes all areas in which the use is *known to occur* with some regularity, regardless of its frequency or intensity. The maximum footprint does not include areas where the use may have occurred once or twice or where it might conceivably occur now or in the future (e.g. kayaking throughout the entire EEZ).

Mapping Approach: With guidance from facilitators, participants will draw shapes that represent activity areas for each specific ocean use. Each participant will be given an opportunity to individually draw use areas, add existing ones and discuss conflicts, as time permits. Taking turns, participants will draw use boundaries on the projected map based on their knowledge of where this use is known to occur. For certain uses, some existing data and use patterns will be presented and participants will be asked to review and modify the existing patterns for completeness and accuracy. <u>All contributions</u> will be merged together to create an overall regional footprint. If one participant has already drawn the use in a given area, it is not necessary to draw over this area.

Step 2: Dominant Use Areas

Objective: To draw boundaries for dominant use areas throughout the study region. Dominant use areas are defined as *ocean areas routinely used by most users most of the time* and must be drawn within the maximum footprint. Examples could include: popular swimming beaches, regular fishing areas for chart boats, hot spots for whale watching, consistently good surfing beaches, etc.

Mapping Approach: With guidance from the facilitators, participants will work together to draw shapes showing the dominant use areas as they occur throughout the study region. Participants will be asked to map the dominant locations within the maximum footprint that are most routinely used. With guidance from facilitators, the group will work together to decide where to draw these areas on the map. If there are specific areas that you consider dominant use areas, ask the GIS facilitator to zoom to those areas and allow you to draw a draft shape. Once draft shapes have been drawn for the entire study region, the entire group will then decide which areas to keep, refine, modify or eliminate. The resulting areas will be identified as the dominant use areas for that use. Please note that this is designed as a group exercise and participants should work together to agree on which areas to map as dominant use areas.

Step 3: Future Use Areas

Objective: To anticipate, where appropriate, future use for the foreseeable future (e.g. ten years out), and to illustrate ocean areas where the patterns of use may either expand or grow in intensity. Future use patterns should reflect an anticipated significant and disproportionate (relative to other areas) change in patterns of use through either a lateral expansion of a dominant use area or an increase in its intensity of use, or both.

Mapping Approach: Participants will work together to identify and draw potential future areas for each use throughout the study region. If the group is unable to quickly project the future for a particular use, we will move on to the next use.

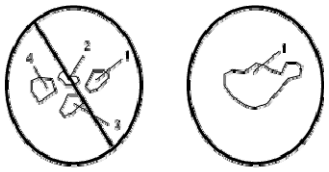
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

PLEASE ASK A FACILITATOR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

Preparation – Although we are not using existing spatial data in the workshop, you are welcome to bring maps and other reference information relevant to uses in your session. You might also wish to sketch out your thoughts on the patterns of certain uses on the blank regional maps provided in this mailing and at the workshop.

Scale - In order to map the entire study region, it will be necessary to break it up into sections, map each section separately and combine results at the end. The GIS specialist will work with you to ensure that the entire region gets represented.

Broad Brush Strokes - For this exercise, don't draw too many tiny areas for each small place where the use occurs; instead, draw the larger aggregate area within which these uses occur.



Land vs. Sea - If you are drawing a use area that comes close to the shore, go ahead and extend the shape to cover the land rather than trying to precisely trace the shoreline. We will process the data later to only include the marine area.

Drawing Shapes in GIS - When you are ready to close a use area in the mapping exercise, don't attempt to connect the area at the first point. Under-draw the line and allow the computer to complete the shape. Overdrawing the shape can create technical issues with the GIS.

Disagreements - Disputes will be recorded by the facilitator and all participants' input will be retained. So, try to use your time productively and efficiently, recognizing that the objective is to acquire a realistic broad scale comprehensive map of each use for the entire region, rather than a precise map of one use in a single small area.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONTRIBUTION
