



460 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04101

Phone: (207) 899-7123

Minutes: Forum #118

Date: September 24, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: NH Department of Environmental Services (Conference Room)
NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office
Pease International Tradeport
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801

1. Introductions and Administration:

Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the Port Safety Forum Co-Chair Jon Nass representing the Maine Port Authority with Captain Brian LeFebvre as the Co-Chair representing the Coast Guard. A quorum was comprised of 21 individuals.

Mr. Nass thanked Mr. Matt Burns for his interim support of the Port Safety Forum while the Maine Port Authority sought a new CEO following the departure of John Henshaw.

Review and Approval of the April 17, 2019 Port Safety Forum Meeting Minutes – Hearing no objections to the content of the April 17, 2019 minutes, Mr. Nass accepted the minutes as approved.

2. Port Activities Update:

NH Department of Environmental Services Update – Mr. Jason Domke, NH, DES

Mr. Domke provided an overview of NH DES activities. Fiscal Year 2019 has seen 284 DES responses. In particular, the following spill responses were recorded:

- 114 OPUF Heating Oil Releases
- 154 Petroleum Releases (*Tractor Trailer Accidents, Hydraulic Oil, Transformer Oil, Facility Releases*)
- 10 Hazardous Material Releases
- 6 Submerged Vehicles (*Sunken Vessels & Motor Vehicles*)
- 53 Complaints Investigated (*Petroleum, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste*)

NH DES also upgraded several marine response resources including upgrades to two boom/response skiffs which provide more stable and durable waterborne response capability.

There were several significant leadership changes within DES in the past year including:

- Bob Bishop- ORCB Bureau Administrator
- Gardner Warr- SRCIS Administrator

- Jason Domke- Planning and Preparedness Manager
- Amanda Bridge- Environmentalist II
- Dave Leathers- Retired
- One new responder starting shortly
- Two more positions to be posted

Other New Hampshire DES highlights include:

- A-15-3 (Great Bay Strategy) June 21
- Nashua Fire Dept. Boom Training August 27
- PRES 2019 Oil Spill Exercise September 18

Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) – Nick Napoli, NROC

Mr. Napoli updated the Forum on the latest enhancements of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal which is a digital database of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).

NROC is a state and federal partnership that was established in 2005 by the Governors of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont to coordinate and collaborate on cross-jurisdictional ocean issues. Federal agencies have been involved as equal partners with the states since the inception of NROC. In addition to its core membership, NROC is structured to include voluntary participation from additional federal and state agencies, federally recognized tribes, the New England Fishery Management Council, and other regional partners and ocean stakeholder groups. Ocean planning has been a priority for NROC since its formation.

In recent years in New England, there has been increased interest and proposals for offshore wind and marine hydrokinetic energy generation facilities, liquified natural gas terminals, aquaculture operations, telecommunications cables, energy transmission cables, and offshore sand mining. These potential activities present new economic opportunities that need to be coordinated with important existing economic sectors, including fishing, shipping, tourism, and recreation.

The Portal is a centralized, peer-reviewed source of data and interactive maps of the ocean ecosystem and ocean-related human activities in the northeastern United States. The maps on the Portal show the richness and diversity of the ecosystem and illustrate the many ways that humans and environmental resources interact. By providing user-friendly, centralized, and free access to data, information, and tools, the Portal facilitates decision making by a broad range of government agencies, industries, non-government organizations, academic entities, and individuals.

The data and maps in the Portal (www.northeastoceancouncil.org) are organized into ten themes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • marine life and habitat | • marine transportation |
| • aquaculture | • national security |
| • commercial fishing | • recreation |
| • cultural resources | • restoration |
| • energy and infrastructure | • water quality |

The coverage includes the federal waters off Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. While geographic coverage differs among datasets, the Portal's maps generally cover from Long Island Sound to the Gulf of Maine, and offshore to the 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) boundary. Some datasets cover the land areas of the New England states.

To use or review the Portal please visit: <https://www.northeastoceandata.org/>

NEARACOOS Update – Tom Shyka , NERACOOS

Tom Shyka provided an update on the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS). The NERACOOS system spans coastal waters from the Canadian Maritime Provinces to the New York Bight. NERACOOS provides weather and ocean data to fishers and commercial shippers determining if conditions are safe for passage and to emergency managers issuing storm warnings. NERACOOS is also advancing efforts to improve water quality monitoring, harmful algal bloom predictions and warnings, and coastal flooding and erosion forecasting systems. The University of Maine works with NERACOOS to maintain the network of observation buoys including refreshing and redeploying buoys every 6-9 months.

Buoy N (Northeast Channel off Southern Nova Scotia) broke from its mooring in December and was located off of the Azores in September. NERACOOS worked with Portuguese authorities to recover the buoy which contained important scientific data and sensing equipment. The buoy will be returned to the NERACOOS inventory as soon as possible.

Mr. Shyka also briefed the group regarding a semi-submersible autonomous “Glider” which uses articulated fins to submerge to depths of up to 600 meters and return to the surface to collect scientific data from the water column. The autonomous glider can be programmed to collect data in-between buoys or perform data collection in a specific location or to study a specific event.

The Gulf of Maine 2050 International Symposium will be held November 4-8, 2019, at the Westin Harborview, Portland, Maine. The Symposium seeks to:

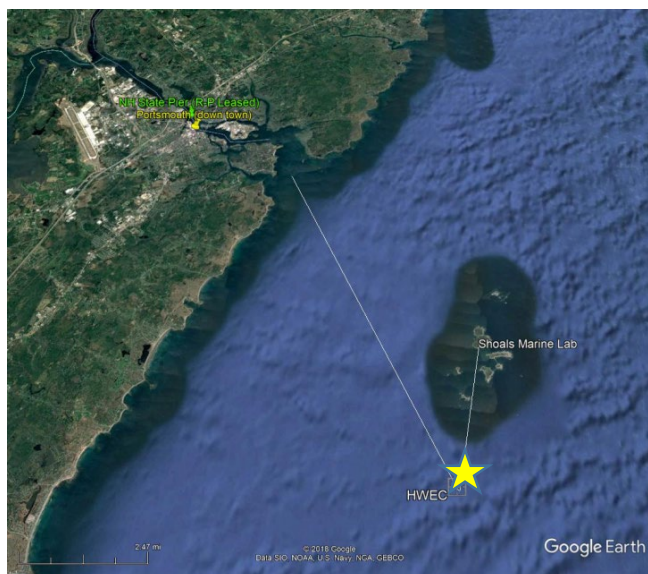
- Explore how warming waters, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and socioeconomic trends will impact the Gulf of Maine over the next 30 years
- Ignite multi-sector discourse and strategic efforts to determine how a changing Gulf of Maine will impact economic, environmental and community sectors
- Build a shared vision for regional resilience
- Identify steps needed achieve that vision
- Activate new collaborations for action

NERACOOS invites the Port Safety Forum to join leaders from across New England and the Maritime Provinces for this unprecedented event that brings together environmental, economic, social and institutional perspectives on climate resilience in the Gulf of Maine. Visit <https://www.gulfofmaine2050.org/home-2/registration/> to register.

Please visit <http://www2.neracoos.org> to learn more about the extremely valuable on-line tools available through NERACOOS.

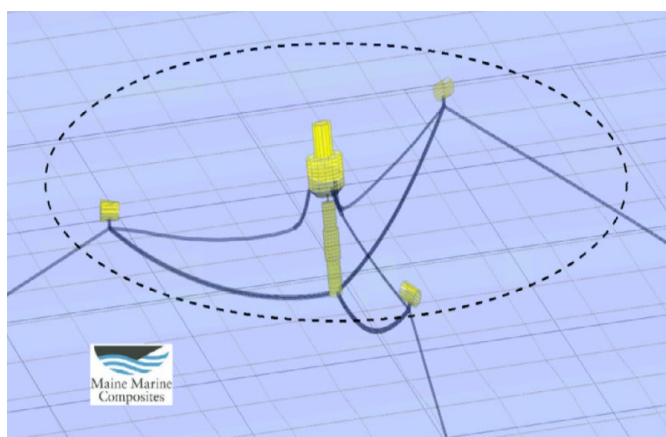
Wave Energy Conversion – Richard Akers

Mr. Akers provided a briefing on the Healy Wave Energy Converter. Healy Wave Energy, LLC is developing a wave energy conversion buoy that is designed for power production for island and coastal communities.



The 48 ton, 70' prototype device (buoy), was constructed in Clearwater, Florida, will be eventually deployed at the University of New Hampshire Center for Ocean Renewable Energy Open-Ocean Test site South of Isles of Shoals. The test site was selected based on a record of no apparent conflicts during 10 years of UNH demonstration of an aquaculture farm in the same location. Further, it was understood by the project team that it was a low volume fishing area which was unpopular for lobsters fishing. In the interim, the buoy is located on the NH State Pier. A dockside deployment is planned for Mid-late October to run initial testing.

Once deployed, the buoy will be anchored using a unique mooring system comprised of 3 anchors connected to 3 surface buoys, creating a 127' radius around the wave converter. The wave converting buoy will be tethered to the three floating buoys with 3" nylon line which may be submerged about 10' under the water's surface. The buoy will be coated in yellow paint for high visibility, with the entire apparatus well lit with lights on each of the floating buoys (including the wave converter). Additionally, the wave converter will be equipped with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder to further enhance visibility.



- Safety Zone: Lines are within 10 feet of surface
- 127 feet is relative to original HWECC Lat/Long position

Unmanned Aircraft - Brandon Lugo, Goserco, Inc./Aerial Armor

Mr. Brandon Lugo provided a remote briefing regarding Drone Detection technology. Aerial Armor provides both hardware and software equipment to locate and identify drones. Current “Aeroscope” technology provided by Aerial Armor can detect drones with a 2-5 mile range at 90% accuracy. The systems can deliver critical data including, drone registration information, serial numbers and the drone pilot’s coordinates. The system does not require live monitoring as the system will send alert messages via text or e-mail to provide early detection of an unwanted drone. For more information please contact Mr. Lugo at Brandon@AerialArmor.com or visit www.AerialArmor.com.

3. Coast Guard Update:

Captain LeFebvre, Captain of the Port, provided a general overview of Coast Guard operations followed by topic specific briefings as follows:

- ***Port Security Grants*** Sector NNE had eight Investment Justifications (or grant requests) of which funding for two was approved. The two grants that were fully funded, both came from New Hampshire Port Authority (Portsmouth Harbors Division).
- ***Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) study.*** Sector Northern New England recently conducted a WAMS study in collaboration with various port partners in Portsmouth and Seacoast New Hampshire. WAMS is a tool the CG uses to plan and implement Aids to Navigation Program (ATON) and better manage the waterway. WAMS are conducted periodically on each Federally designated "Navigable Waterway." The USCG seeks to identify what may be done to enhance the safe navigation upon a waterway and secondly, they use the data to anticipate and plan the navigation safety budgeting process, at both the regional and national levels. In conducting a WAMS, the Coast Guard’s Waterways Management Division partners with local agencies and waterway users to complete the study. The report is currently under review and will be finalized in the coming months.
- ***Eagle Visit*** – The Coast Guard Cutter Eagle, visited Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Aug. 1-5 and led a parade of sail for “*Sail Portsmouth.*” The 295-foot Barque Eagle was docked at the Portsmouth Port Authority State Pier. Approximately 10,500 visitors toured the ship during it’s Portsmouth port call.

4. Old Business/New Business:

None.

5. Next Meeting:

Date: December 18, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: International Marine Terminal
454 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04101