

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES COMMISSION

ResilientCoasts Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2025

Via Zoom

In attendance:

Commercial Fisheries Commission: Dan McKiernan, co-chair, Director of Division of Marine Fisheries; Alison Brizius, co-chair, Director of the Office of Coastal Zone Management; Pamela LaFreniere; Hollie Emery; Katie Almeida; Ed Barrett; Roger Berkowitz; Gordon Carr; Beth Casoni; Aubrey Church; Eric Hansen; Jackie Odell; Kevin Stokesbury. Absent: Vito Giacalone; Angela Sanfilippo; Tim Brady; Al Cottone

Consensus Building Institute (Facilitators): Meira Downie, Pat Field

Division of Marine Fisheries Staff: Brad Schondelmeier, Bradlie Morgan, Story Reed, Melanie Griffin, Kelly Whitmore

Office of Coastal Zone Management Staff: Deanna Moran

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Pat Field of Consensus Building Institute (CBI) started the meeting. Bradlie Morgan of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) conducted roll call attendance of the Commercial Fisheries Commission (CFC). Alison Brizius, Director of the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and CFC co-chair, described the *ResilientCoasts* project and emphasized the coastal focus of this plan, whereas the Massachusetts Ocean Plan — a separate CZM initiative — will consider environments at least three tenths of a mile offshore.

RESILIENTCOASTS DRAFT PLAN

Deanna Moran presented on CZM's *ResilientCoasts* Draft Plan. She provided an overview of the Plan, including its visions and goals, the process of determining geographic zones to consider, evaluating current strategies, and understanding how they can be applied to different regions. The geographic scope of the Plan considers 78 communities in Massachusetts' coastal zone, with an anticipated addition of 20 communities as climate change progresses over the next 50 years. The Plan's goals are to: improve human health and safety; protect and enhance the value of natural and cultural resources; increase resilience of built infrastructure; strengthen coastal economy; advance equity and environmental justice; and support the capacity of coastal communities. Deanna explained that the initiative was launched in 2023, planned in 2024, and the draft plan was released in May and is open to public comment through June 12. Planning was heavily front-loaded with stakeholder engagement.

Deana then described the details of the draft Plan's contents. The Plan provides information and guidance to local and regional efforts through identification of near-term adaptation areas (e.g., areas with coastal flood risk in the 2030's) to help prioritize action while considering the needs of seven different coastal typologies, including ports and working waterfronts. To track progress and help understand data needs, clear state goals, indicators, and metrics would be included. The 15 proposed districts are grouped based on similar geomorphology and social needs. While these districts encompass coastal areas, they end where Ocean Management Plan areas begin.

She then outlined an example of a district summary. This highlighted characteristics of a district, risks, timeframes, and coastal typologies. Near-term adaptation areas consider the intersection of people and housing, public facilities and infrastructure, and economic needs to determine overall vulnerability. Coastal resilience measures can be used to address different coastal hazards and include ports and working waterfronts. She then described at a high level how state leadership will help implement and support different strategies at various timescales.

Director McKiernan suggested highlighting the reassessment of the Port Profile Project in relation to the *ResilientCoasts* Plan.

Pat Field asked about considerations of fish nursery ground vulnerability. Deanna noted that though natural resources were not included in these analyses, the plan considered salt marshes and dune systems, and next steps could consider nursery grounds.

Ed Barrett asked about beach nourishment projects. Deanna said that these are determined in the plan through comprehensive cost and priority.

Pat Field wondered how the plan prioritized short-term vs. long-term projects. Deanna responded that long-term impact in risk reduction is prioritized.

Eric Hansen asked what action steps would be taken by the state to implement the plan in the future. Deanna noted that the Plan is the roadmap for implementation, and future actions are proposed in both the short and long-terms. These actions would include guidance for districts and training modules, as well.

Roger Berkowitz asked how these plans were developed and if best practices across states were considered. Deanna said that resilience measures and best practices were inspired by successful interventions in other states but also require an understanding of what will work in Massachusetts. She added that the Climate Plan Assessment was heavily considered to understand district-level risks.

Director McKiernan asked about the potential impact of changes in Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wetland protection on coastal systems. Deanna noted that DEP has been an important working group member and stakeholder throughout this process. The plan considers both strategies to continue on-going practices and shift regulatory programs in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING

Pat Field reminded the CFC of its upcoming business meetings in June and September.

Gordon Carr suggested that the CFC present to the Executive Office of Economic Development at a future meeting, which was embraced by the Chairs and facilitators.

Dan noted that the CFC should continue to use this format to host topic specific meetings and to engage other entities in a dialogue on issues of concern and then use the more formal meetings for the business of the public body.