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From: Gib_Chase@fws.gov [mailto:Gib_Chase@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2003 3:49 PM
To: Czm, (ENV); Skinner, Thomas (ENV)
Subject: Ocean Mgmt Task Force Preliminary Recommendations and Principles

Dear folks -- I have reviewed the Ocean Management Principles and Preliminary Recommendations recently released for public comment and have no real overriding concerns with either. However, I would ask how your recommendations are being integrated or relate with those proposed policies submitted by the Mass. Marine Fisheries concerning marine biodiversity, MPAs, fishery gear habitat impacts, and other related ocean management issues? Also, in developing the recommendations did you take into account the Gulf of Maine Council on Marine Environment management goals?

Recommendation #4 regarding the Ocean Sanctuaries Act --- I personally feel the act needs strengthening and priority and appropriate uses identified. With the exceptions of sand and gravel mining and oil and gas exploration the Act doesn't really protect the marine resources from other use activities. I agree it needs updating. The mission and purposes as well as the distinction between a marine sanctuary and a "park" need to be better defined and explained. User conflicts and incompatible uses are a growing problem and need to be addressed in the context of the public trust policy and authority.

Recommendation #9

I think we should look careful at the Public Trust Policy and apply that to those situations where the current regulatory framework is ambiguous regarding protection authority. I believe the state agencies have more authority under the Public Trust Policy than they think and the laws and regs should reflect this if they don't already do so. You are the "trustee" and therefore have the authority.

Recommendation #10, #13, #14

I would encourage looking into establishing a regional monitoring effort(s) with adjoining states. We share resources and should have some common management objectives. A substantial data base exist with the NE Army Corps of Engineers on bottom sediment analysis, chemical and physical, from most if not all major ports and small recreational/fishing boat harbors in the Commonwealth (as well as those in other NE states). This data covers, heavy metals, oil and grease substances, PCBs, grain size etc. This data represents a tremendous baseline for harbor health analysis. This data needs to be digitized -- I don't think it has been yet.

Please put me on your mailing list to receive other notices of meetings and workshops. Should you need or desire another member to serve your Task Force, I would be willing.

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