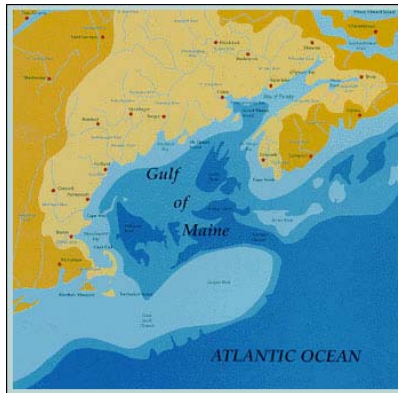


# 2002 Northeast Monitoring Workshop & Progress Forward

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Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop  
December 2003

## Setting a Context

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### **I. December 2002 Monitoring Workshop**

- Focus
- Results
- Next Steps

### **II. Progress Attained**

- Data Aggregation
- Organizational Development

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## Workshop Focus

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- ❑ What are the benefits and challenges from coordinated regional monitoring;
- ❑ How this would help solve pressing regional environmental issues;
- ❑ How a monitoring network might be organized; and
- ❑ What new monitoring and research is needed.

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## Workshop Results

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- ❑ Significant merit in working on environmental issues at a regional scale;
- ❑ Focus an integrated network on specific questions;
- ❑ Involve major monitoring programs (e.g., 800 lb) to attain critical mass and identity;
- ❑ Address inherent challenges and promote benefits

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## Workshop Products

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- ❑ Rationale, definition on the expectations, and framework for an ecologically driven coordinated regional monitoring program
- ❑ Inventory of monitoring programs
- ❑ Regional monitoring and research gaps
- ❑ Lessons learned from other coordinated monitoring programs
- ❑ Website [www.atlantic-ne-monitoring.net](http://www.atlantic-ne-monitoring.net)

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## Recommended Next Steps

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- ❑ Identify products critical to management;
- ❑ Develop regional monitoring strategy;
- ❑ Locate a fiscal agent to manage finances & secure initial resources;
- ❑ Convene indicators summit; and
- ❑ Develop State of the Environment report.

*"we had high expectations but what happened?"*

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## II. Progress Attained (selected examples)

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### Data Aggregation

- ❑ Contaminants: Mercury Synthesis & Template
- ❑ Nutrients: Metrics & Indices
- ❑ Monitoring Inventory
- ❑ Stock Assessment & Tissue Analysis
- ❑ Spatial data framework for the Gulf of Maine to support benthic habitat mapping for resource management
- ❑ Northern Shrimp Project
- ❑ Prototype Biophysical Maps - Census for Marine Life

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## Progress

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### Organizational Development

- ❑ Environmental Information Exchange Proposal
- ❑ *Vital Signs* initiative
- ❑ GOM Ocean Data Partnership
- ❑ EPA Regional Commitment & Northeast Coastal Indicators Workshop
- ❑ Gulf of Maine Summit in October 2004
- ❑ Regional Ocean Observing Systems – data streams
- ❑ Monitoring and Observing Integration Pilot Funds
- ❑ Increased Monitoring & Indicator Funding

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## Conclusions

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- ❑ Significant progress was attained since 12/02
- ❑ Increasing appreciation for scope & complexity
- ❑ Success in other regions is compelling
- ❑ “old fashioned” commitment is a pre-requisite
- ❑ Key building blocks exist
- ❑ Funds are available & horizon is promising

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