

**MEETING SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 25, 2009
OCEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE #1
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN IMPACTS**

I. Introductions and Last Meeting's Summary

- Task Force Members Present: Sean Mahoney, George Lapointe, Habib Dagher, Beth Nagusky, and Don Perkins
- Interested Public Present: Ernie Hilton, Mary McCann, Richard Podolsky, Marcia Bowen, Vivian Newman, Mark Dittrick, George Kendrick, Richard Rozene, Tim Divoll, Chris Desorbo, Wing Goodale, Linda Mercer, Norman Famous, Matt Nixon, Jake Ward, and Susan Elston, By Phone: Jeff Thaler, Dennis Heineman, Heather Deese, and Tom Shyka
- The minutes from the last meeting on February 11, 2009 were accepted with the clarification that Acoustical Issues would be added as a sub-category, not as a segment of Viewshed Issues.

II. Presentation of the State's Data Collection of Marine Resources, *Matthew Nixon (State Planning Office)*

- Mr. Nixon presented a number of slides detailing some of the data the state has available regarding marine uses and activities in Maine's coastal waters and in the Gulf of Maine.

III. Update on Subcommittee 2 (Regulatory and Permitting Process), *Beth Nagusky (DEP, Task Force Co-Chair)*

- Subcommittee 2 has been working to facilitate the state's involvement in preparation regarding Offshore Wind Development.
- Federal agencies including the National Marine Fisheries Service, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers have been consulted in the process and feedback gathered regarding the Task Force's initiatives in the permitting arena.
- Subcommittee 2 is on a track to use recommendations from Subcommittee 1 to identify areas that developers might be able to use for offshore wind equipment testing.

IV. Presentation of the University of Maine's Database of Offshore Activities and Wind Predictions in the Gulf of Maine, *Dr. Habib Dagher, and Dr. Susan Elston (University of Maine, AEW)*

- The University of Maine has a significant data collection regarding marine uses, environmental concerns, wind intensity data, and infrastructure location compiled over the course of two years. Much of their wind data has been created at the university through a joint effort by Dr. Elston and a faculty initiative.
- Dr. Dagher touched on two potential options for Maine's offshore wind endeavors. The first involves creating a site for commercial developer testing, while the second uses a public-private partnership to create a research test site to be administered by the University or some other public institution.
- An effort will be made to join the expertise and extensive data collection held at the University of Maine with the State's own data collection and other existing data to facilitate the compilation of relevant data for siting purposes.

V. Next Steps and Timeline for Recommendations

- Prior to discussing the subcommittee's next steps, Richard Podolsky and representatives of the BioDiversity Research Institute provided a summary of source information procured for the subcommittee regarding Avian and Bat data. Mr. Podolsky and the BRI staff will be combining their sources for the next meeting.
- The Subcommittee discussed the need and timing of coming to some sort of consensus to move from the data-rich environment to being in a position to make recommendations to the full Task Force.
- Next steps are to review the data collections from the University and the State in detail, using the Subcommittee's expertise in specific areas and determine gaps and/or needs.
- Mr. Mahoney then asked for clarification on what he should be reporting out to Subcommittee 7 (Interim Steps/Coordination). He proposed reporting that SC #1 would focus in the short term on identifying suitable test site areas in State waters for offshore wind technology with a focus on deepwater environments, acknowledging that existing, available information is not necessarily complete. In the long term, SC #1 would work to identify areas where likelihood that renewable energy development would conflict with or present unacceptable risks to environmental and human values and use.