

# Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan

The state has a new plan for protection and sustainable use of our ocean resources.

In 2009, Massachusetts adopted a first-in-the-nation Ocean Management Plan. Why an Ocean Management Plan? Since colonial days, Massachusetts has been defined by its relationship to the Atlantic through fishing, whaling, shipping, boating and culture. The Ocean Plan is a framework for managing the state's marine waters in the face of growing economic, environmental and recreational interests.




The planning area includes more than 2,000 square miles of ocean, beginning approximately 1,500 feet offshore and extending three or more miles seaward to the boundary of federal waters. The plan delineates a wide variety of resources within this area—fisheries, commerce, recreation, wildlife, and geology—and designates distinct zones of development.

Most state waters are in the "Multi-Use Area," where new developments such as pipelines, cables, sand extraction activities and aquaculture must avoid affecting specific mapped resources. The waters adjacent to the Cape Cod National Seashore are a "Prohibited Area," off-limits to new development.




Large-scale wind farms are permitted only in the "Renewable Energy Areas." (Not affected is the Cape Wind project, which would be sited in federal waters). Smaller "Community-Scale" wind projects are permitted in the Multi-Use area under the following conditions: they must avoid impacts to important resources, they must have the support of the host municipality, and they must be in a location designated by the regional planning agency (such as MAPC).

As a dynamic framework for management and evaluation, the plan will evolve over time as conditions change and new information becomes available. For more information, visit [www.mass.gov/eea/mop](http://www.mass.gov/eea/mop).



## Planning Areas

-  Ocean Management Planning Area Boundary
  -  Proposed "Prohibited Area" — Cape Cod National Seashore
  -  Proposed "Renewable Energy Areas"
- Balance of Ocean Management Planning Area is "Multi-Use Area"


## Fishery and Commerce Resources

-  Important Fish Resource Areas
-  Concentrated Commercial Fishing Traffic
-  Concentrated Commerce Traffic


## Habitats

-  Seabird Habitat and Nesting Areas
-  Right Whale Core Habitat

## Recreational Areas

-  Concentrated Recreational Boating & Fishing

## Renewable Energy Resources

-  Potential Tidal Resources

Footnote: Public comments may have prompted changes to the final Ocean Plan since this map was published in late 2009.

Data Source: Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

