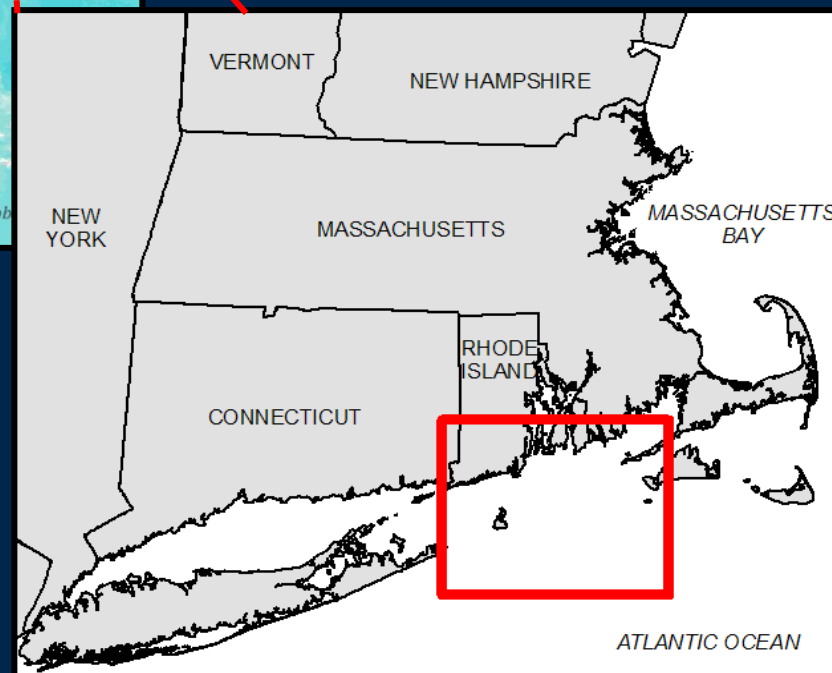
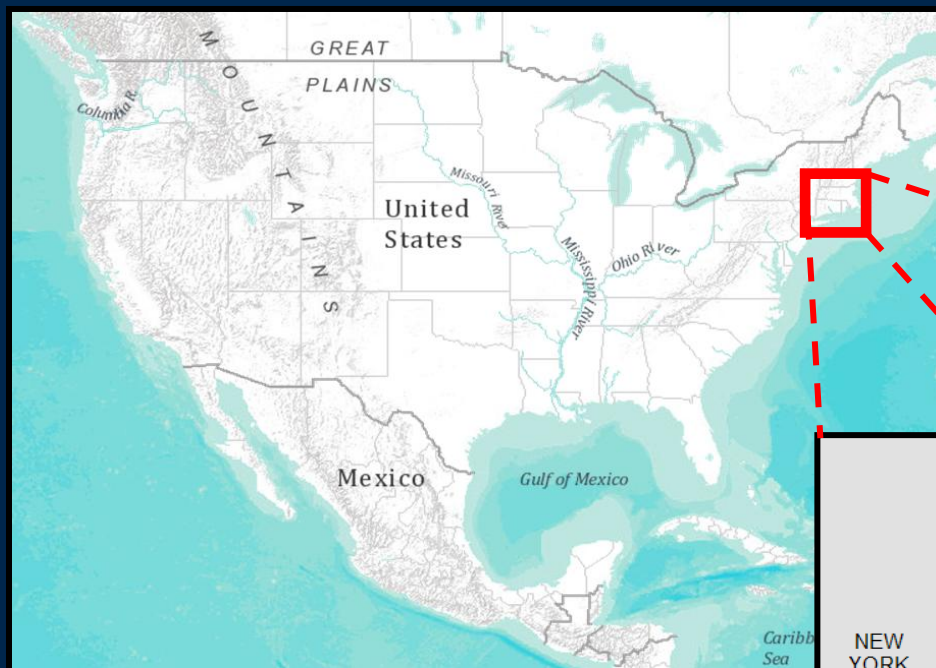


Marine Spatial Planning in Rhode Island: Balancing Conservation Priorities with Development Potential

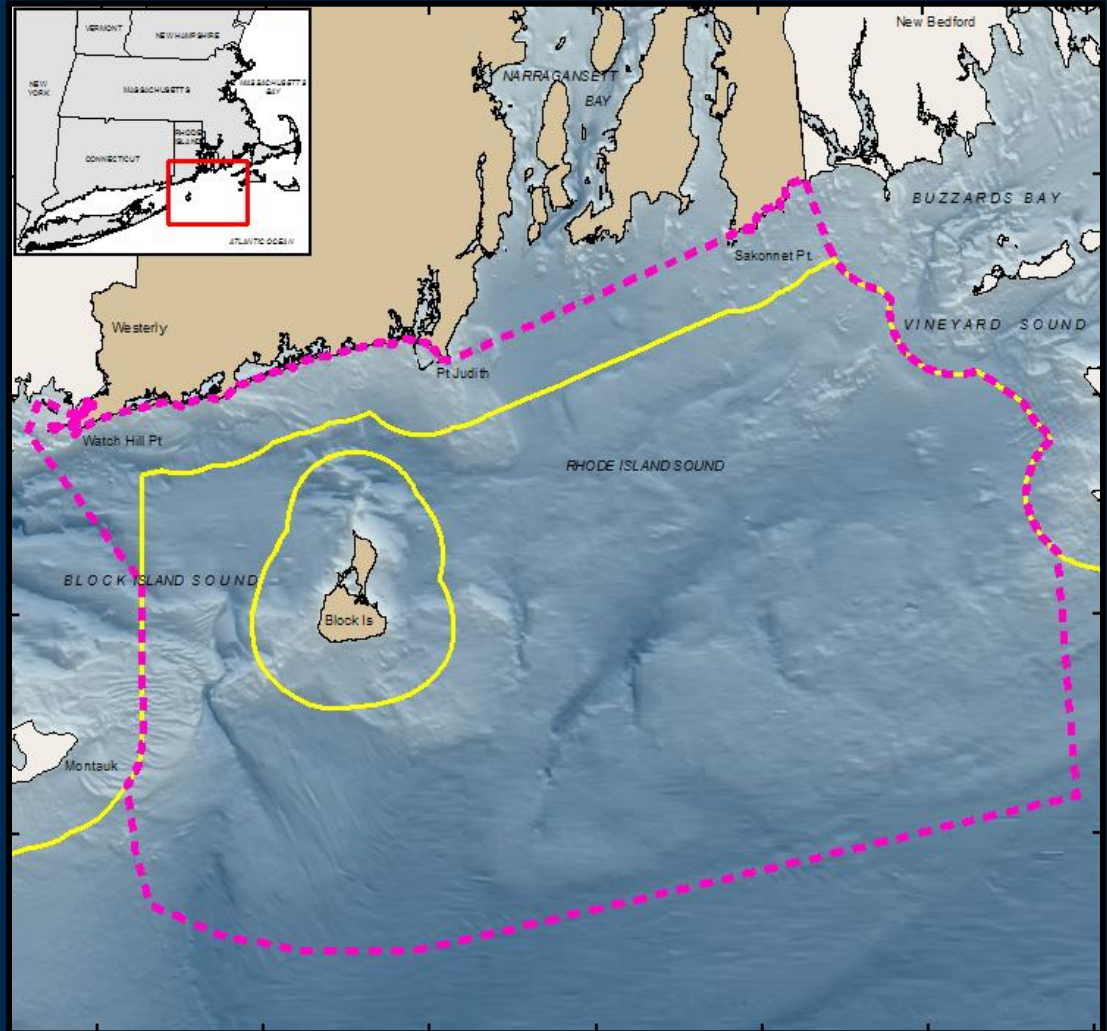
Christopher Damon – *Environmental Data Center, University of Rhode Island*
OceanSAMP Team – *RI Coastal Resources Management Council; RI Sea Grant; URI
Coastal Resources Center; URI Graduate School of
Oceanography; URI Department of Geology; URI Department of
Natural Resources Science*

Study Area:



The OceanSAMP Study Area:

- Area ~ 3,900km²
- Extends ~ 48km offshore
- Both state and federal waters



R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council

R.I. Ocean Special Area Management Plan

*Advancing marine spatial planning
through research and public input*



R.I. COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER
RHODE ISLAND SEA GRANT

Special Area Management Plan (SAMP):

- Defined in 1980 amendment to CZMA

Purpose:

A management tool that extends CRMP in areas with unique characteristics

Project Timeline:

August, 2008 – October, 2010

OceanSAMP Overview:

Goals:

- Maintaining the ecology
- Promoting/Enhancing fisheries
- Providing strong marine transportation network
- Providing for future uses
- Establish framework for coordinated decision-making between state and federal agencies
 - Streamline permitting process

Why Participate?

State Government:

- Proactive planning; engaged public; federal consistency

University:

- Research interests and data

Stakeholders:

- Keep existing access; have voice in process

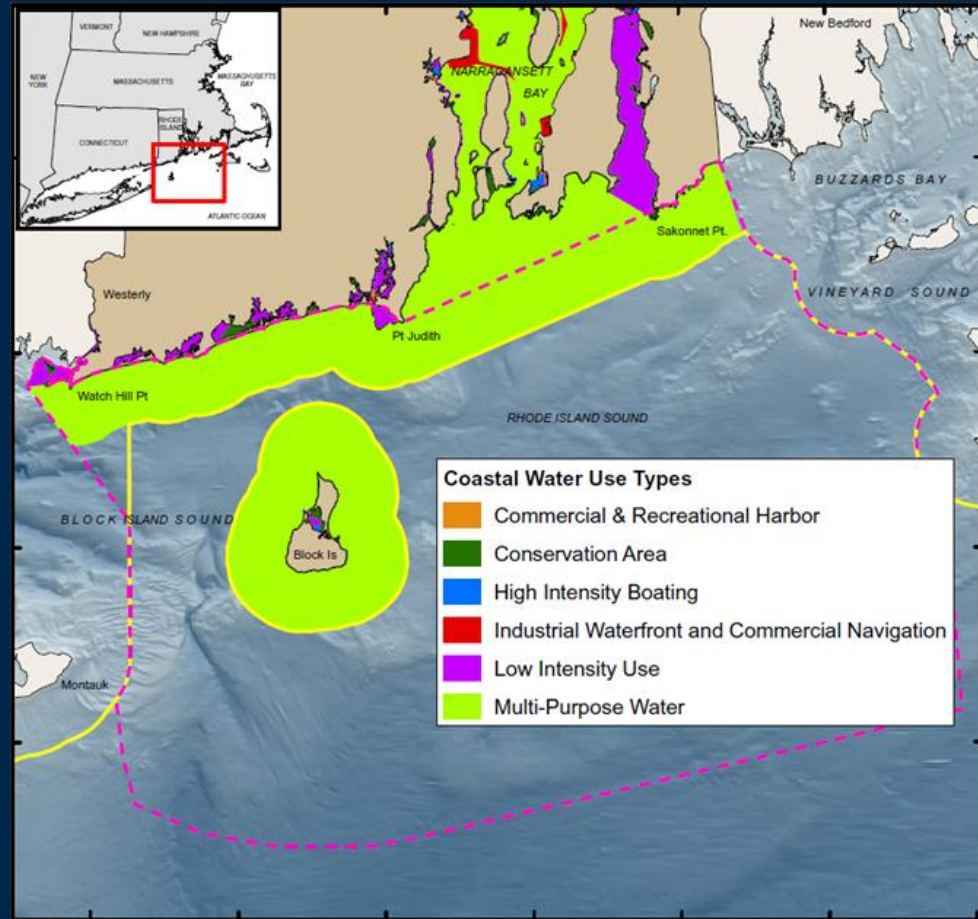
Developers:

- Access to data; well defined requirements; reduced permitting time/costs

Historical Context:

Coastal Planning not new in RI.
All state waters have been zoned
since the 1970's

- Type 1 – Conservation Areas
- Type 2 – Residential / Low Intensity Use
- Type 3 – Marina / High Intensity Boating
- Type 4 – Multi-purpose
- Type 5 – Commercial and Tourism
- Type 6 – Port and Navigation



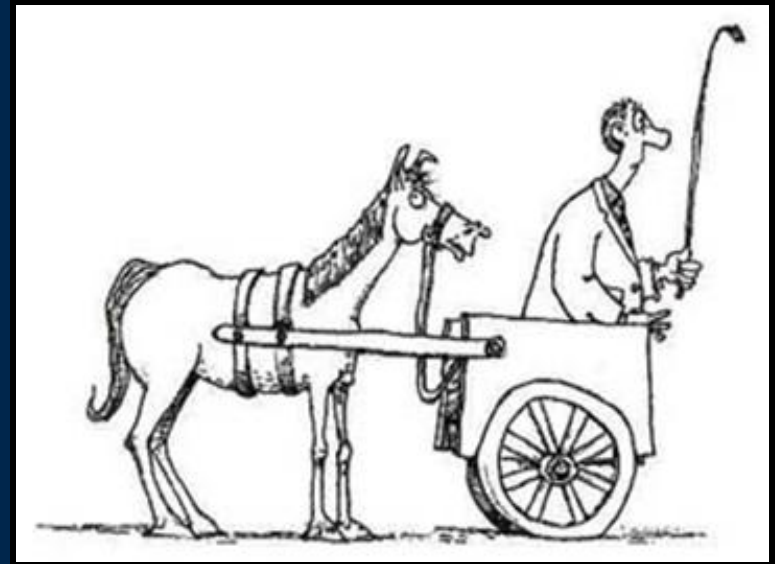
Historical Context (cont.):



- 6 Existing SAMPs
 - address regional issues
 - addition to CRMP regulations

Immediate Questions:

- 1) What do we know about the ecology of the area?
- 2) How is the area used?
- 3) How do you narrow down potential development sites?
 - Focus research dollars
 - Maintain transparency

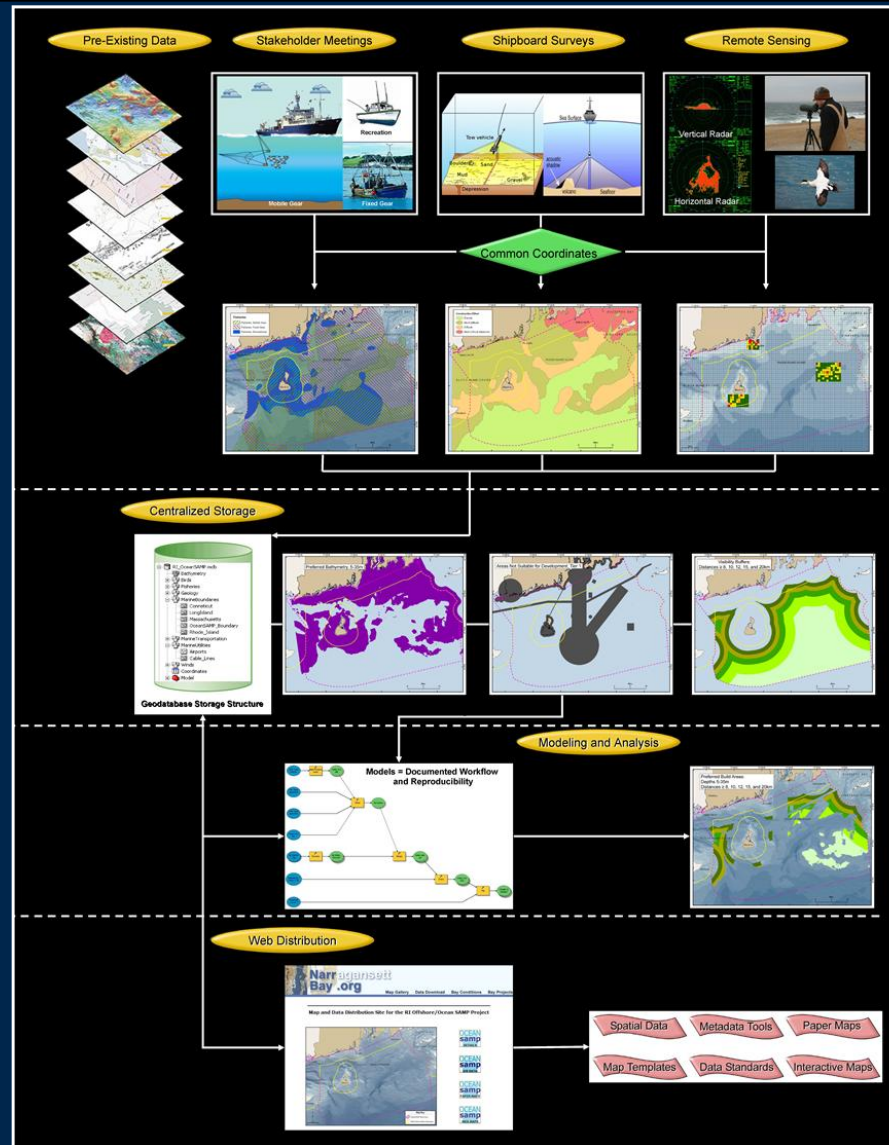


Research Topics:

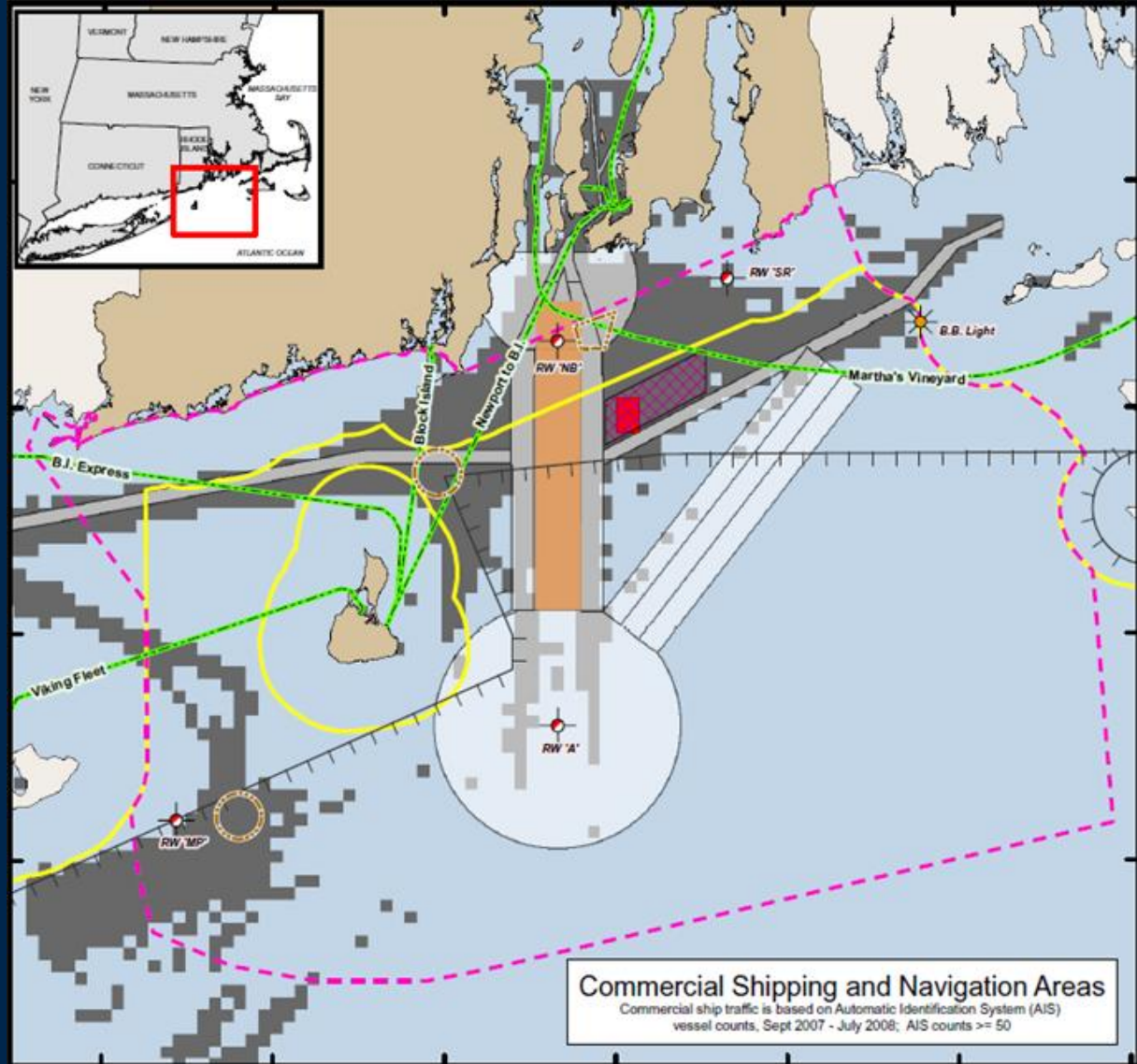
- Wind Resources
- Marine Mammals and Birds
- Fisheries Abundance
- Physical Oceanography
- Ecosystem Interactions
- Sediments and Benthic Habitat
- Cultural Resources
- Acoustics and Electromagnetics
- Meteorology
- Engineering
- Ecological Valuation



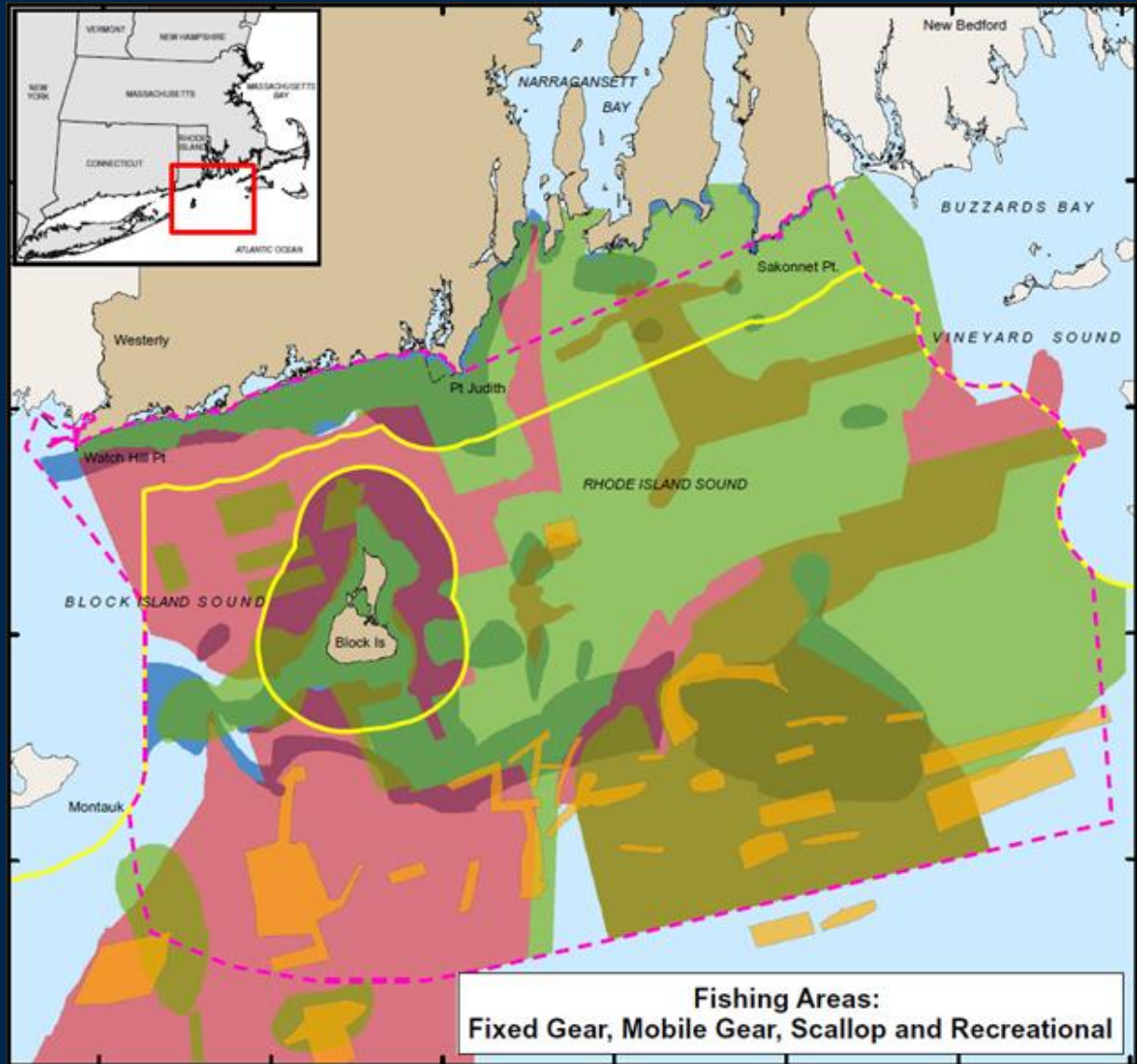
Data Access Model:



Existing Uses: Transportation

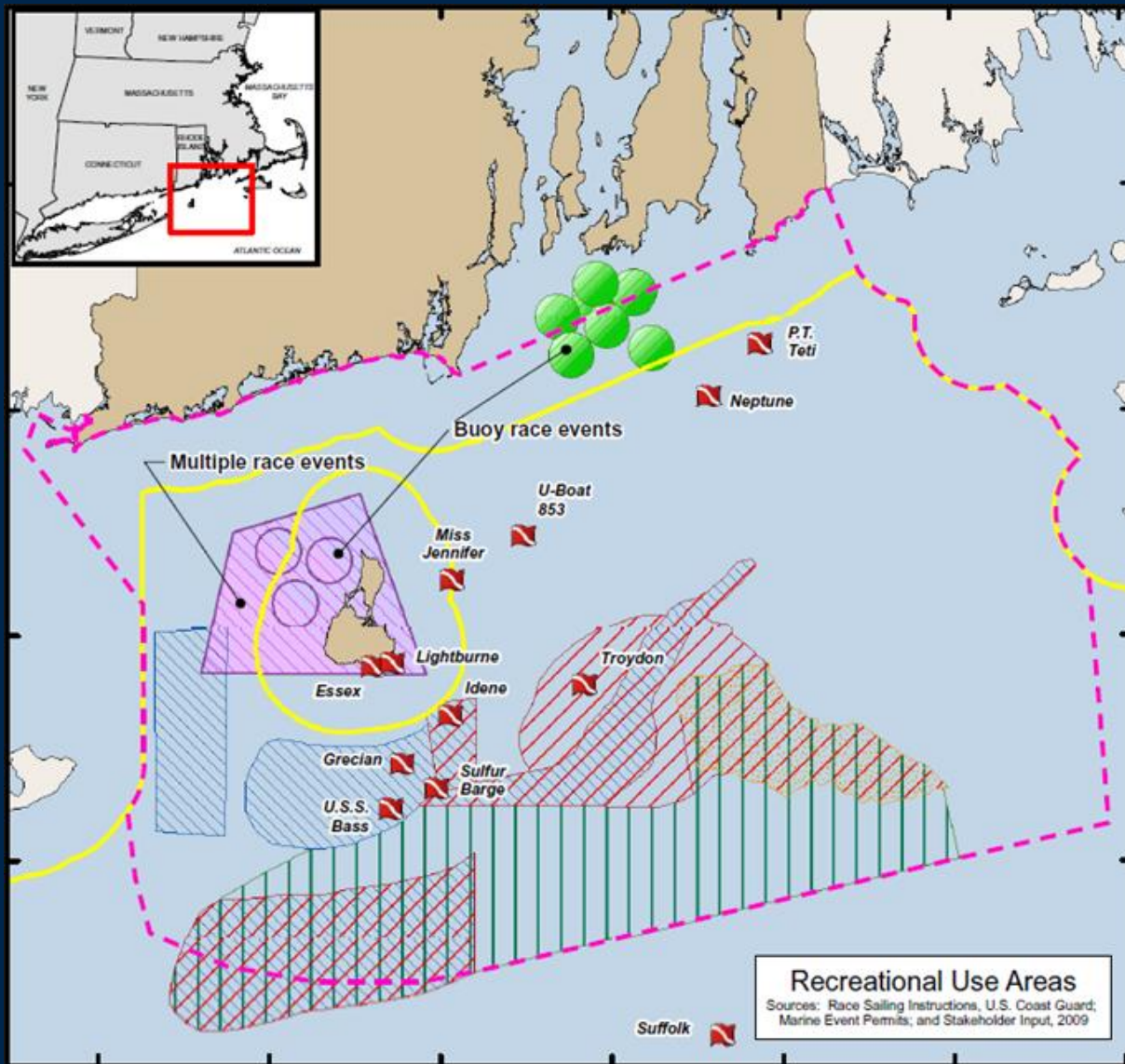


Existing Uses: Fishing Areas



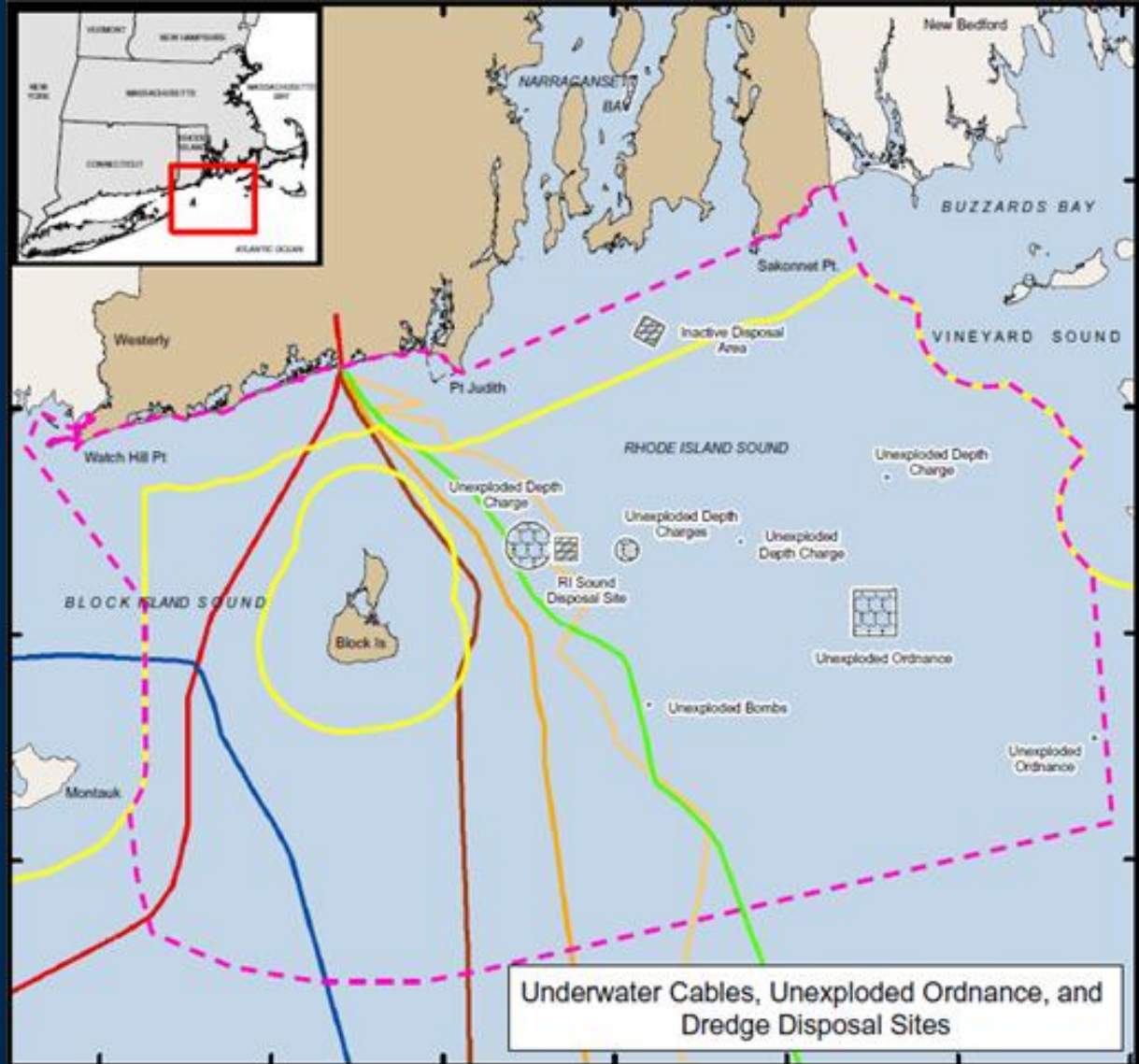
Existing Uses:

Recreation



Existing Uses:

Cables and Obstructions



Stakeholder Process:

1. Establishing the procedure

- Project transparency key purpose
- Coordinated by 3-party
- 17 meetings over 20 months

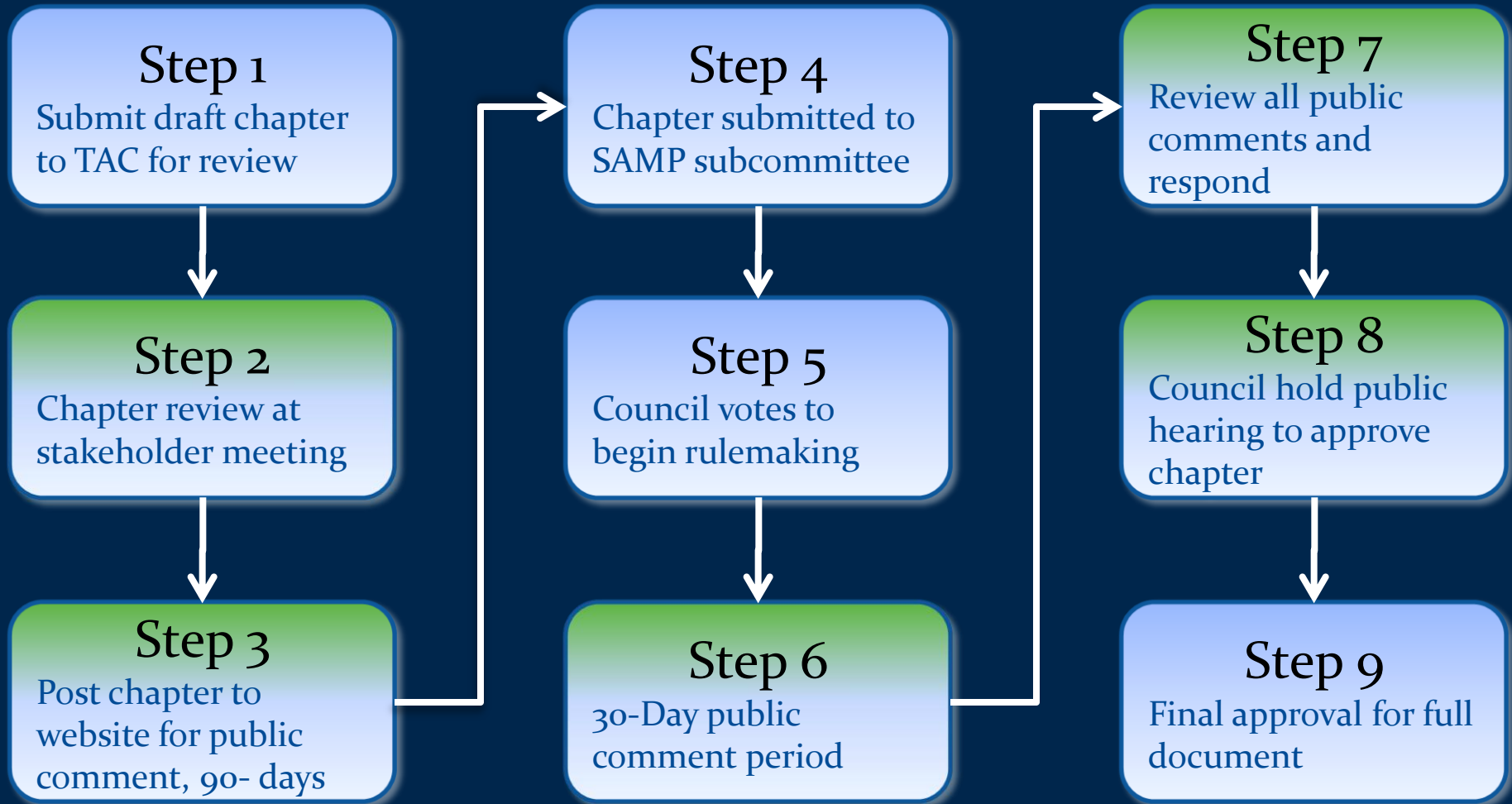
2. Learning about the SAMP area

- Presentations from researchers
- Answer initial stakeholder questions

3. Reviewing draft chapters

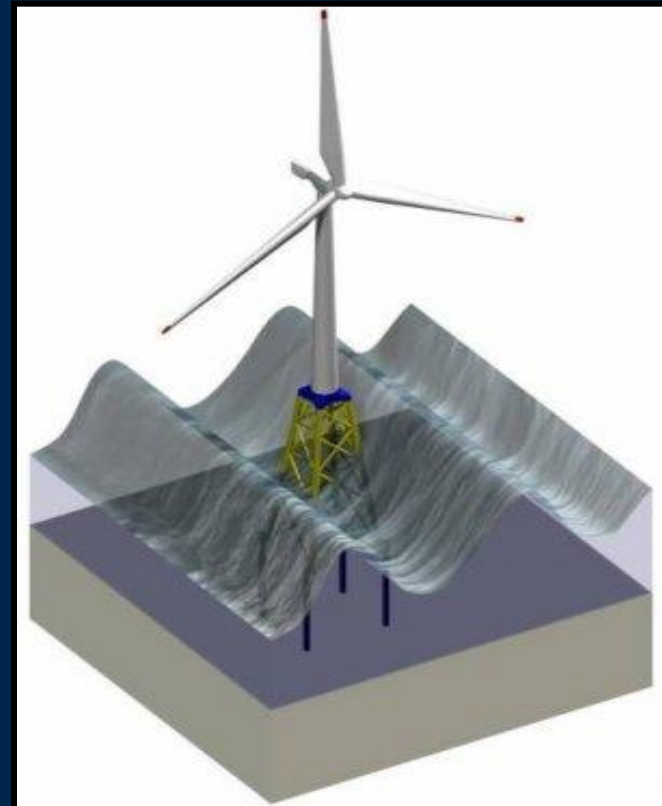
- Submit formal comments on each chapter after hearing from constituents

Public Review Process:



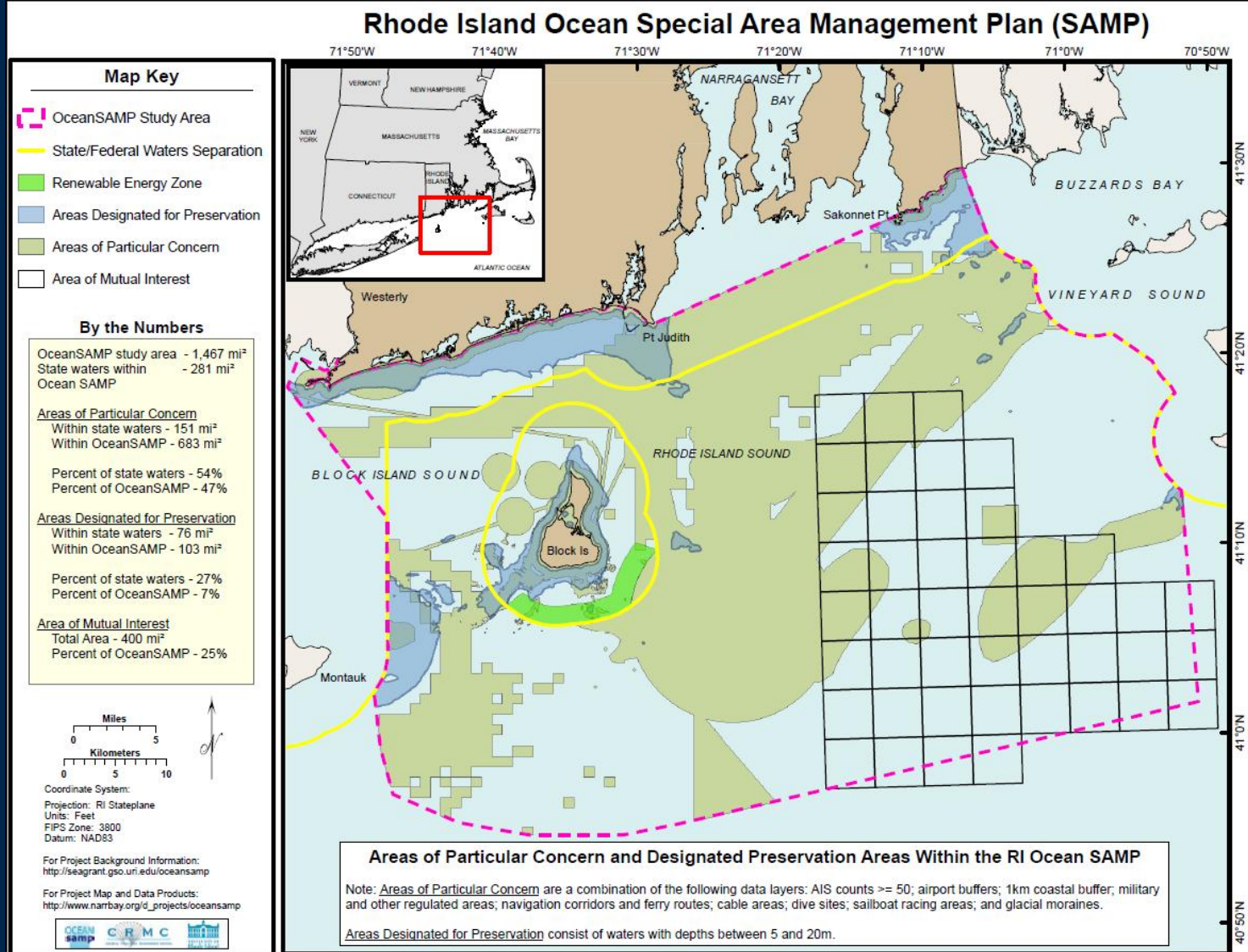
- Adequate Wind Resources
greater than 7 m/sec at 80 m, hub height
- Bathymetric Limits
- Geologic Constraints
- Shipping and Navigation Areas
- Regulated areas
disposal sites, military areas, unexploded ordnance
- Coastal buffer (1 km)
- Cable Areas
- Stakeholder Inputs

Potential Site Screening:



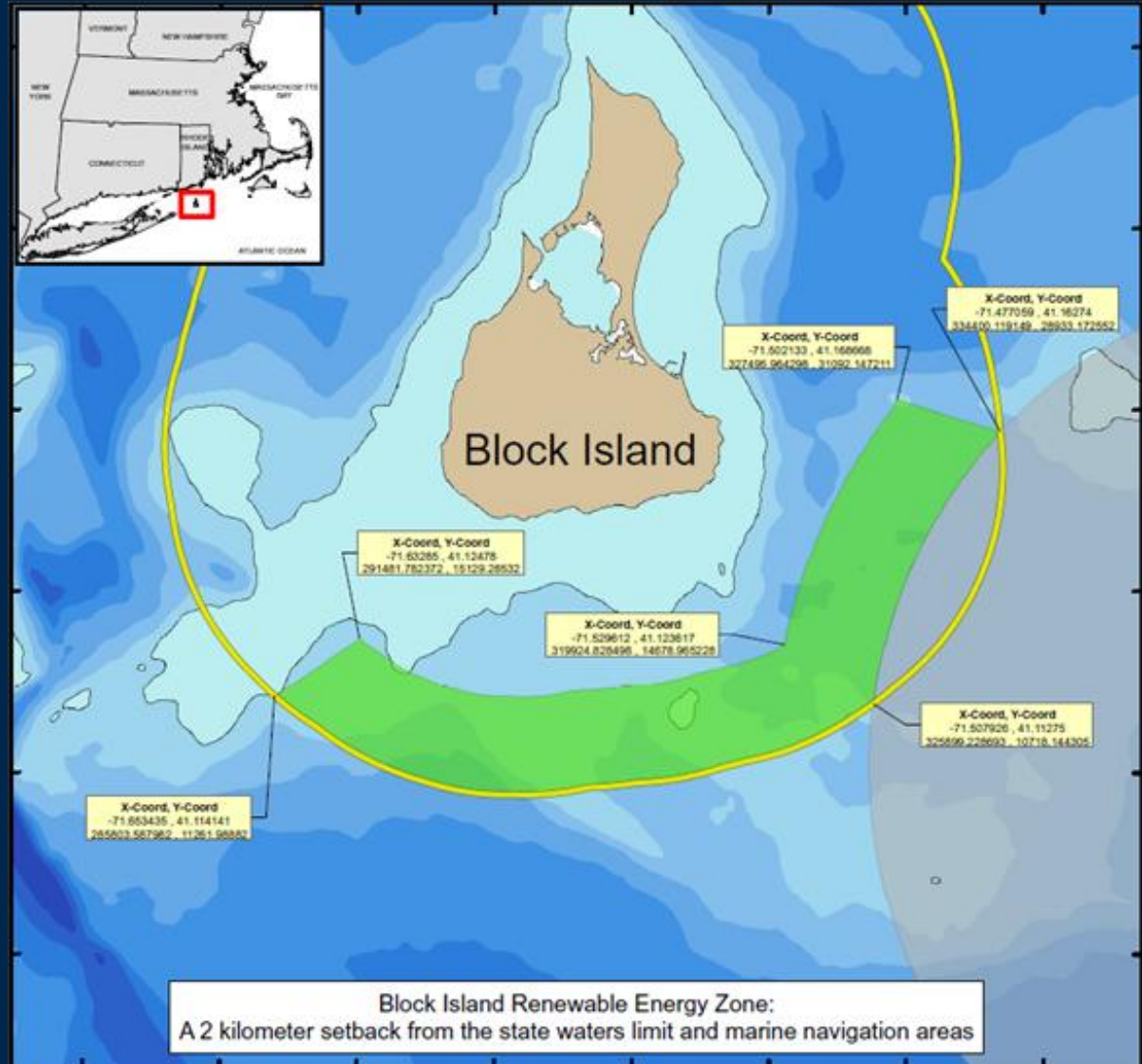
Results:

- Renewable Energy Zone
- Areas of Preservation
- Areas of Concern
- Area of Mutual Interest



Renewable Energy Zone:

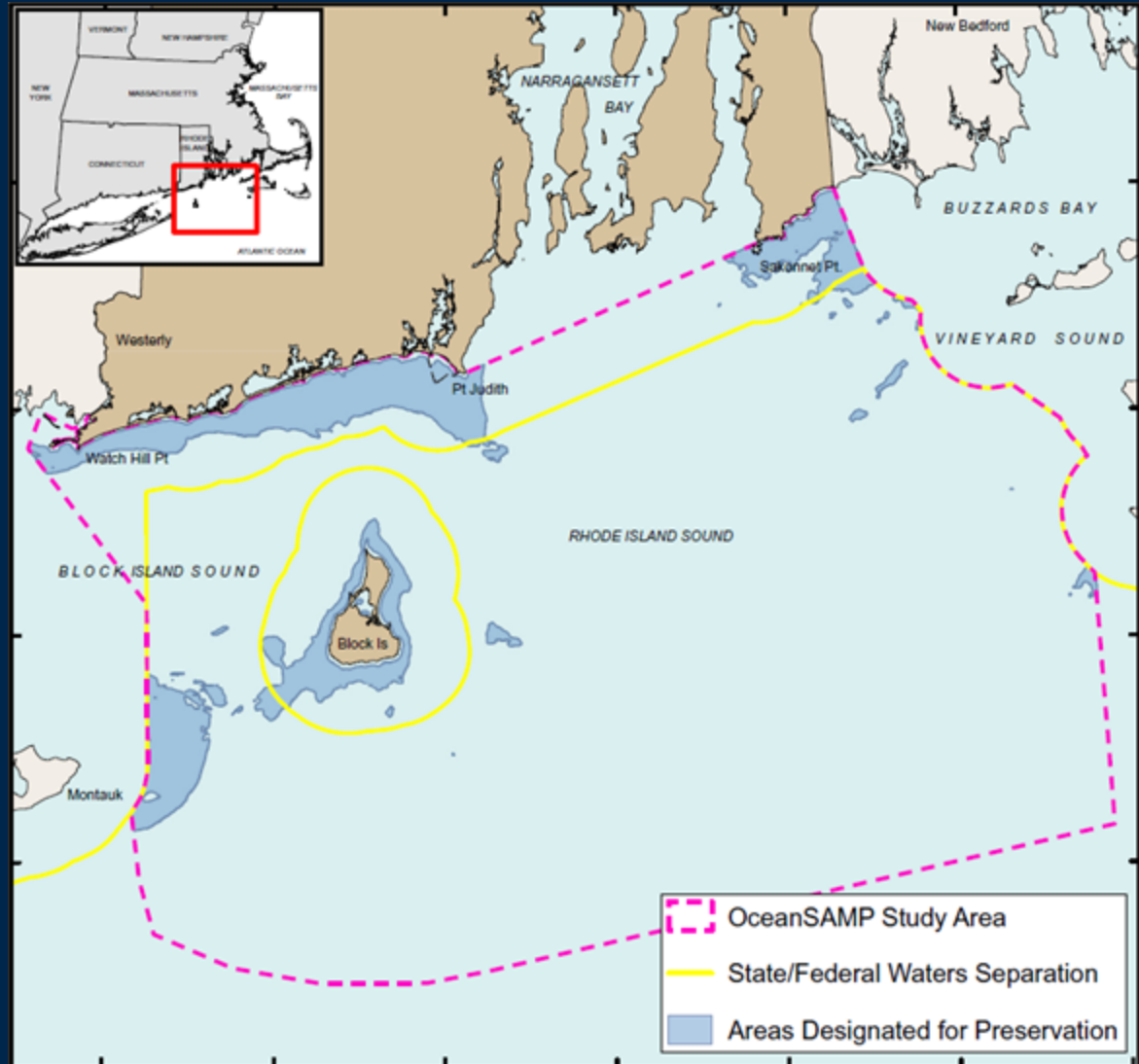
- State's preferred area for development
- Developer's requirements and obligations clearly outlined in SAMP policies
- Can utilize data developed as part of SAMP



Preservation Areas:

No large-scale
development or
mining/mineral extraction

- Sea duck foraging –
depths < 20m

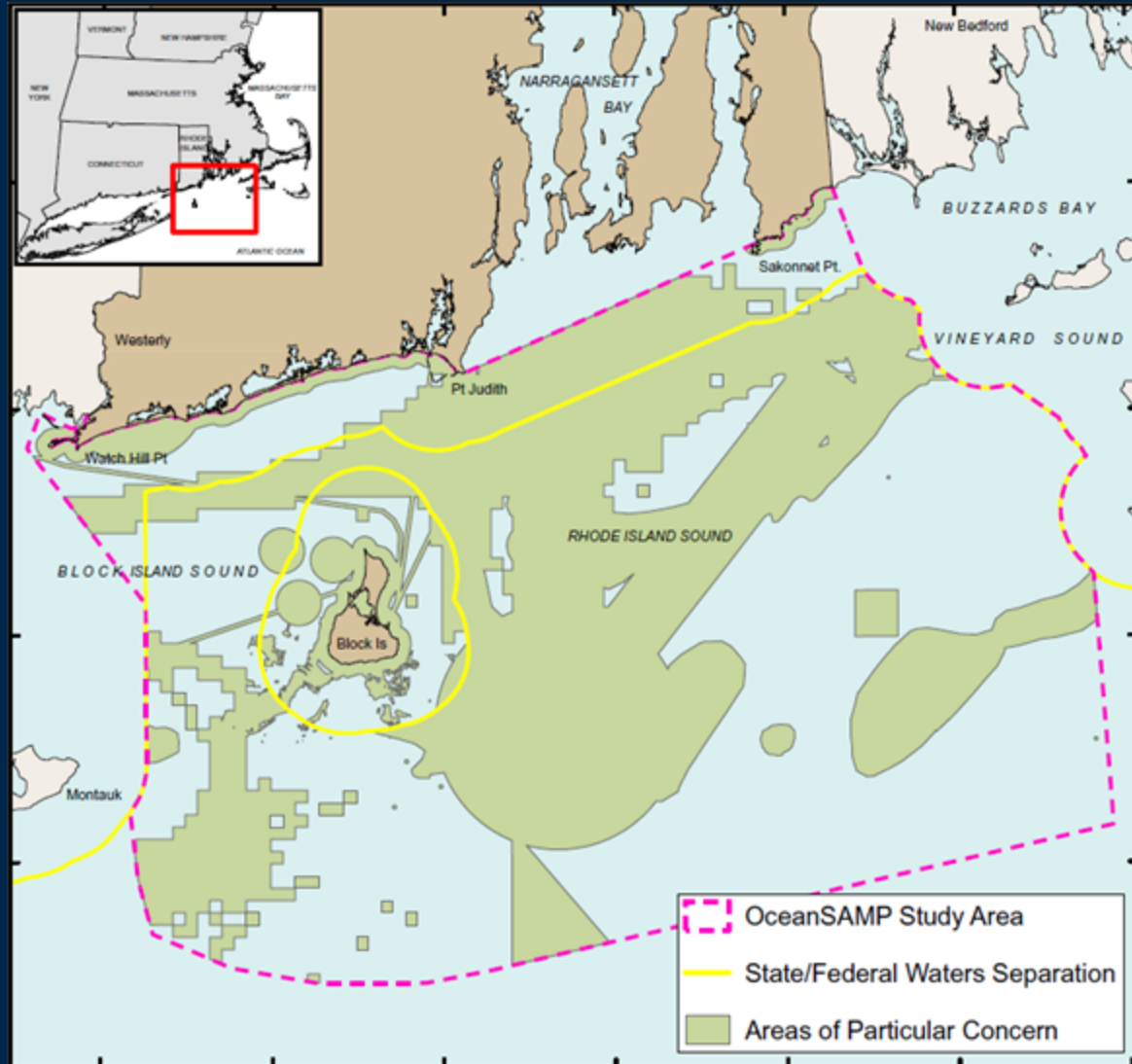


Areas of Concern:

Developer must demonstrate
no practical alternatives

Cost is not a valid argument

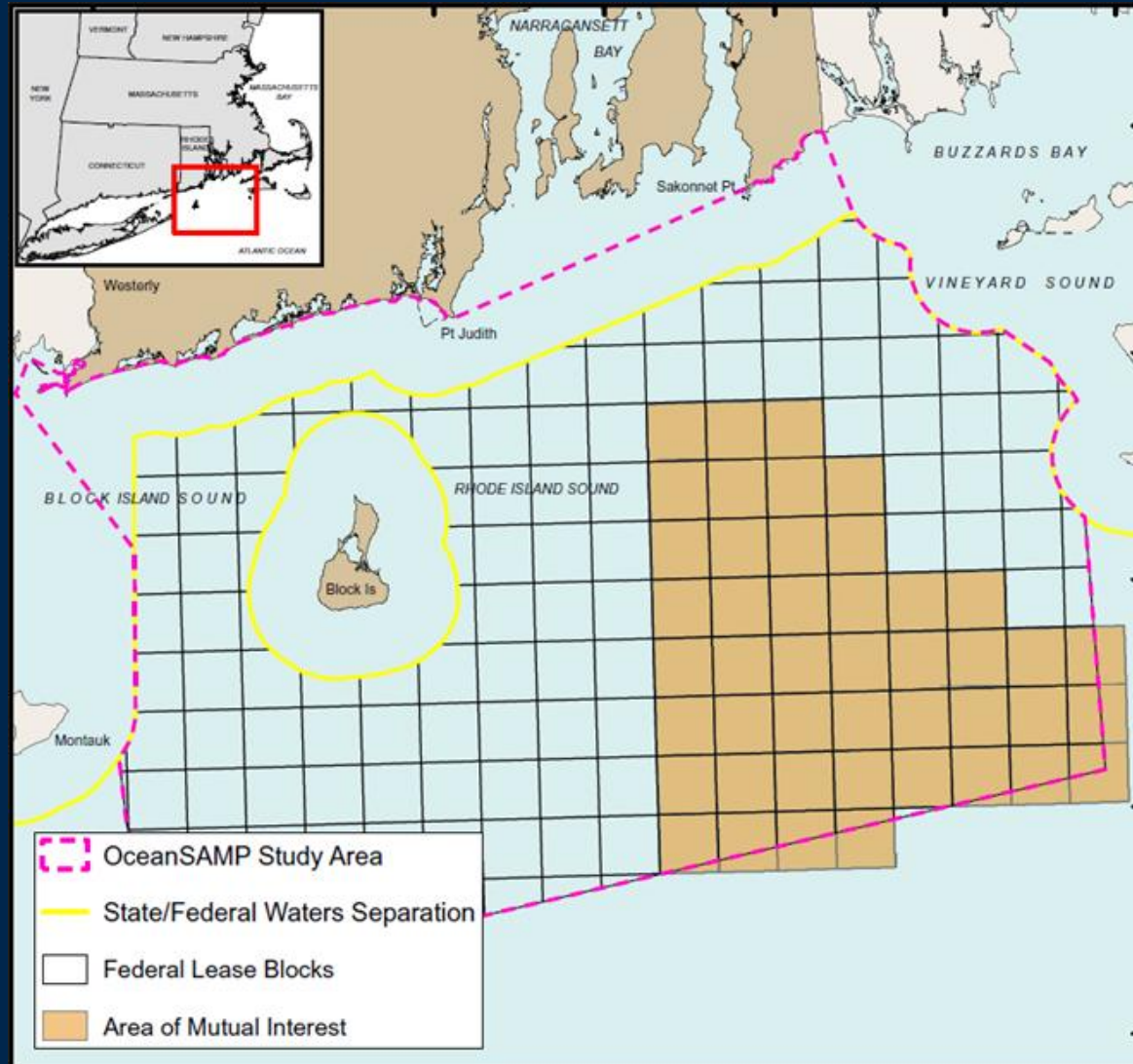
- Unique or fragile features
- High productivity
- Historical or cultural value
- Substantial recreational use
- Transportation corridors and military use
- High fishing activity



Areas of Mutual Interest:

Joint RI/MA Development area in federal waters

- Both states agree to adopt the SAMP methodology
- Submit joint proposals to federal government for any development



OceanSAMP Chapters:

- Ecology of the SAMP Region
- Global Climate Change
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Commercial and Recreational Fisheries
- Recreation and Tourism
- Marine Transportation and Infrastructure
- Renewable Energy and Offshore Development
- Other Future Uses
- Existing Regulations and Policies
- Policies of the OceanSAMP

Rhode Island Ocean
Special Area Management Plan

OceanSAMP

VOLUME 1

Adopted by the Rhode
Island Coastal Resources
Management Council
October 19, 2010

R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council

R.I. Ocean Special Area Management Plan

*Advancing marine spatial planning
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R.I. COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER
RHODE ISLAND SEA GRANT

Summary:

- SAMP adopted by state (10/2010)
- Research ongoing
- Can be amended at any time
- Mandatory 5 yr. review schedule
- Have preferred development site in state waters
- Coordination with neighboring states
- Federally adopted (07/2011)

Resources:

RI OceanSAMP Website

<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp>

Note: The OceanSAMP effort was a 2-year project to characterize Rhode Island's coastal waters, requiring the collaboration of more than 100 researchers and policy experts. Interested parties are encouraged to visit the OceanSAMP website for much more detailed information about project research and outcomes.