The concept of ocean planning is not new in New England. Both RI and MA have written successful ocean plans that have enabled projects, such as offshore wind and fiber optic cables, to be sited and permitted effectively due in large part to the characterization of ocean uses and integrated spatial natural resource data for those waters. With the signing of the National Ocean Policy into Executive Order in 2010, the Obama Administration challenged regions like New England to develop regional ocean plans from the coast to 200 miles offshore. NOAA leads this effort here, co-chairing the Northeast Regional Planning Body of federal, state, tribal and Fishery Management Council participants. Mid-way through their planning phase, Nicholson will share their plans to characterize our regional ocean economy and ecosystems, ensure effective and transparent decisions, and explore compatibility among ocean uses.