

# MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE GULF OF MAINE: THE CHALLENGE AND COMPLEXITY OF LOCAL PARTICIPATION

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# Structure of the Talk

- Global Context of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
- Policy changes in the United States
- What MSP in the Gulf of Maine entails
  - ▣ Massachusetts Ocean Plan
  - ▣ Where Maine is heading
- Challenges of MSP

# The Global Context

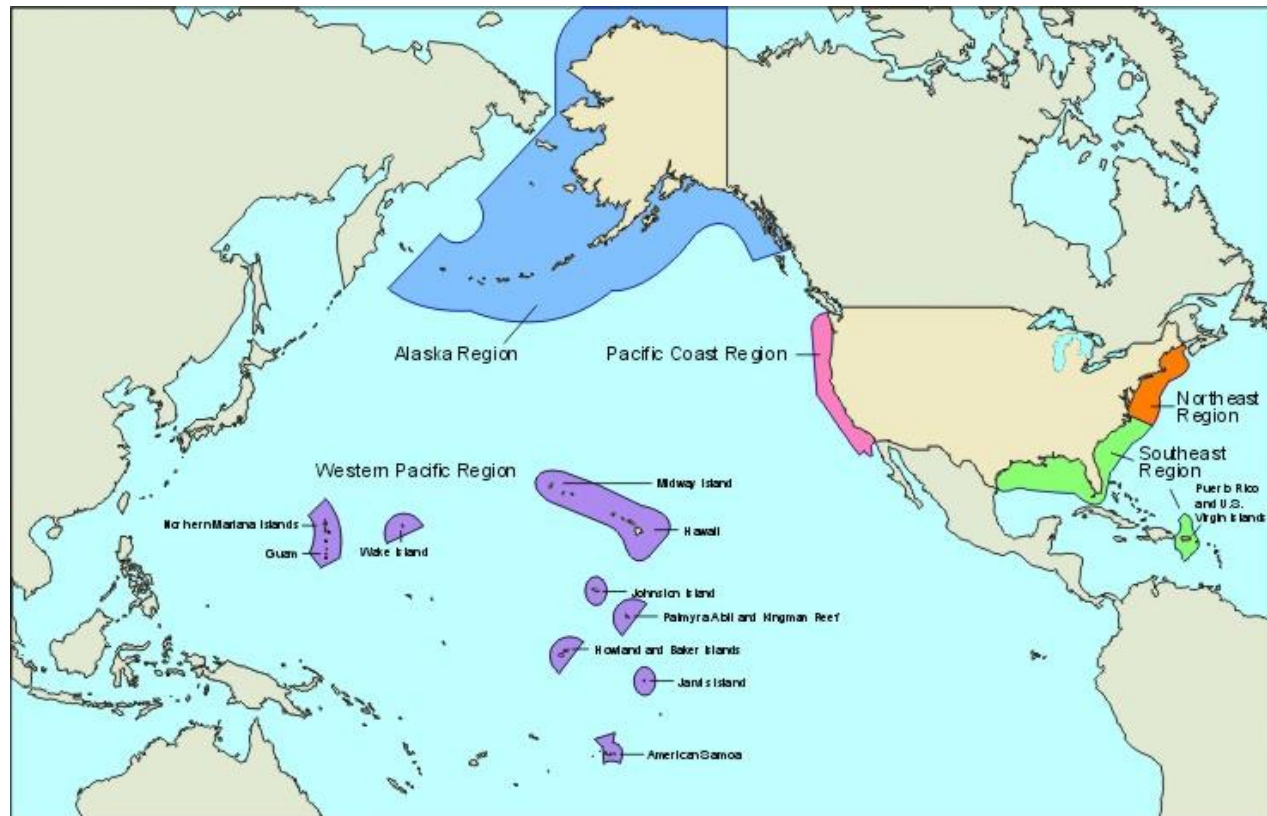
- Increasingly states are moving to implement ecosystem based management of the oceans
  - ▣ Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) seen as a solution to this challenge
  - ▣ Zoning the ocean spaces for separate uses seen as a way to introduce new uses and manage conflict between users
  
- Marine Spatial Planning
  - ▣ UNESCO conference in 2006
  - ▣ Created guidelines for implementation
  - ▣ Following this increasing MSP activity, especially in Europe, the US, Australia and New Zealand

# Challenges to Marine Spatial Planning

- Four things that will provide a challenge
  - MSP is costly
  - Uncertainty about current resources and future use
  - Who participates in the process of mapping
  - Once you create a map you create entrenched interests

# Ocean Policy and the US

- The United States has the largest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the world



# Ocean Policy

- United States began developing a comprehensive ocean plan in the early 2000s
  
- Government Effort:
  - ▣ Ocean Act of 2000
  - ▣ Report published in 2004
  
- Private effort: Pew Oceans Commission report in 2003
  
- Obama's Administration
  - ▣ Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force established in 2009
    - Recommendations in 2010
      - Created the National Ocean Council
      - Currently charged with implementing ocean policy

# US National Ocean Policy

- National Ocean Council charged with implementing Ocean Policy – key actors
  - ▣ Council of Environmental Quality
  - ▣ Office of Science and Technology Policy
  - ▣ Heads of 20 federal agencies including:
    - The Secretaries of: State, Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Energy, and Homeland Security
  
- Calls for Ecosystem Based Management
  - ▣ Maritime Spatial Planning part of the strategy

# Why Marine Spatial Planning

- Ecosystem-Based Management the goal
  - ▣ Oceans should be managed to reflect all components of the ecosystem – human and nonhuman species, environmental issues
  - ▣ Moving away from species-by-species management
  - ▣ Moving away from management within political boundaries
  
- New uses of the ocean emerging
  - ▣ Fisheries and aquaculture
  - ▣ Energy production
    - Oil and gas, wind energy projects, tidal power
  - ▣ Tourism: Whale watching, recreational fishing, beaches, kayaking
  - ▣ Shipping lanes
  - ▣ Marine sanctuaries

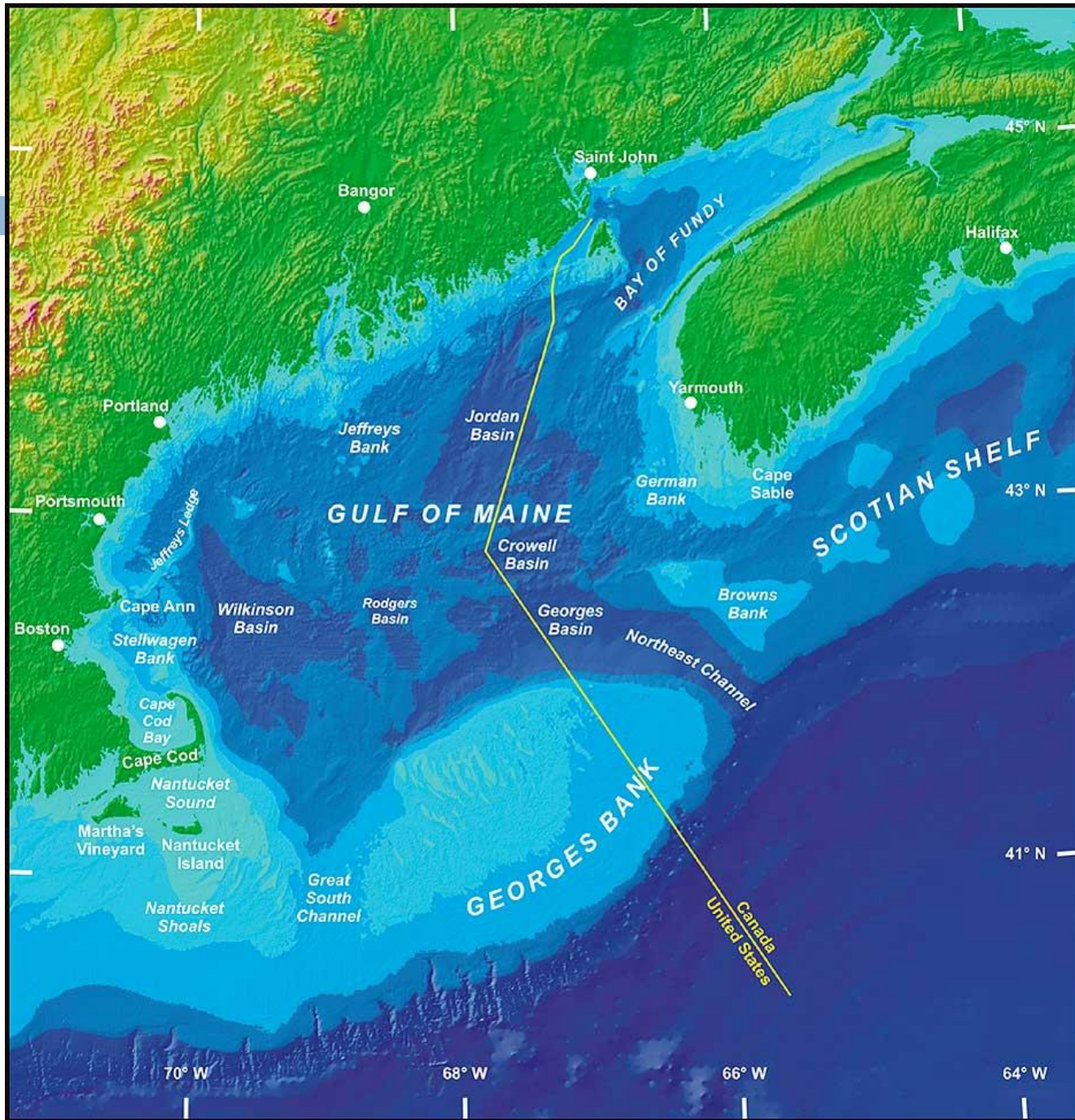


# Goals of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

- Promote compatibility amongst users and reduce conflicts between users
- Increase certainty and planning for new uses of the oceans
- Support sustainable and productive use of the oceans
- Ensure a resilient ecosystem and sustainable ecosystem services
- Provide public access to coasts, oceans, lakes
- Provide a space for rigorous and consistent decision making
- Enhance interagency cooperation and communication

# New England & Maritime Region





# Governance in the Gulf of Maine

- Gulf of Maine shared with Canada
- Divided jurisdictions
  - ▣ States govern oceans out to 3 miles
  - ▣ Federal authority from 3 to 200 miles
- Three key states
  - ▣ **Maine – 367 kilometers of coastline**
  - ▣ New Hampshire – 29 kilometers of coastline
  - ▣ **Massachusetts – 309 kilometers of coastline**

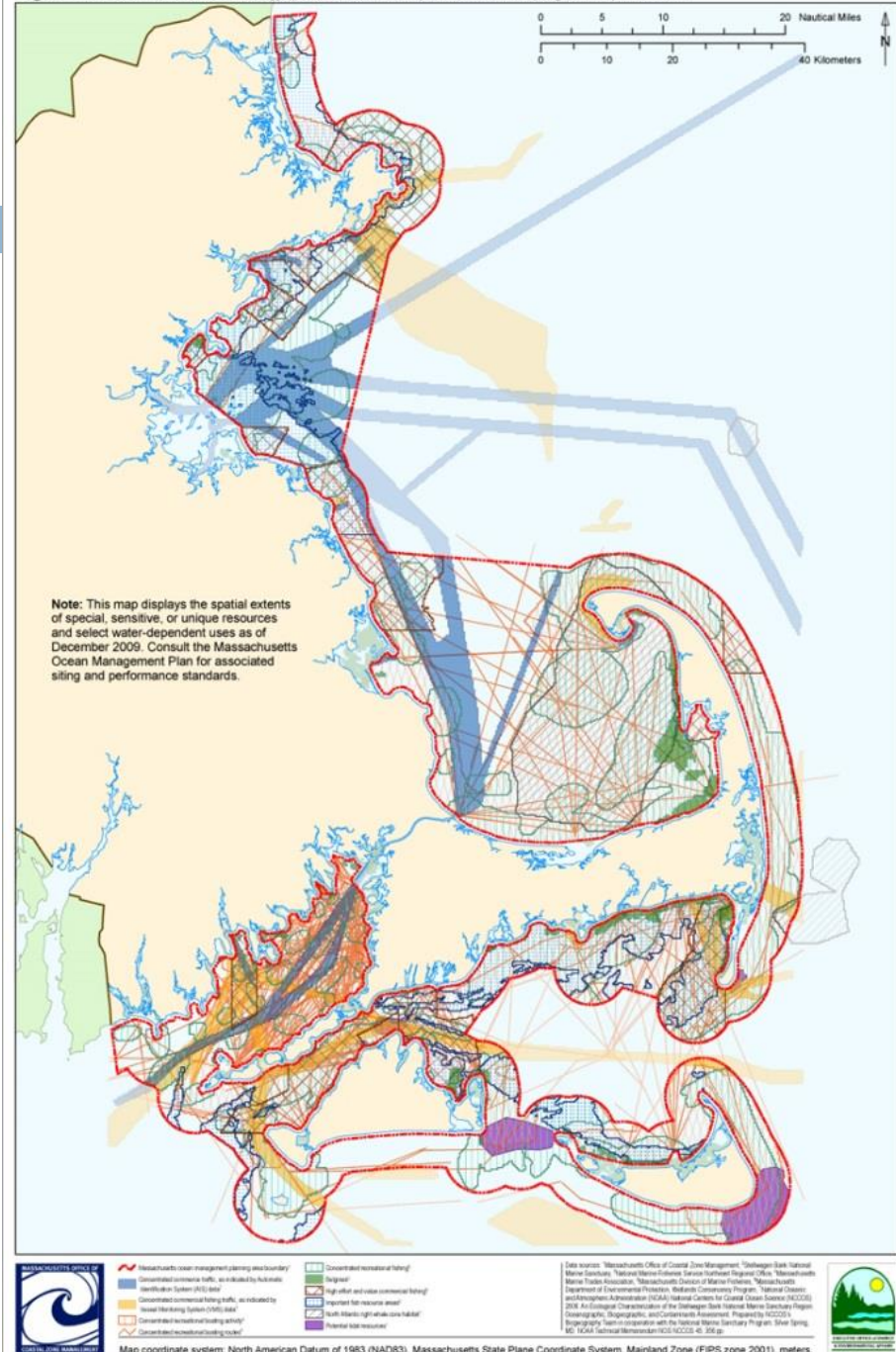
# Massachusetts Ocean Plan

- Developing a plan out to 3 miles of state waters
  - Began in *May 2008*
    - 18 public meetings
    - 90 stakeholder consultations
  - Draft completed in June 2009
    - Five months of public review and comments
      - 300 comments
      - Five public hearings
      - 25 informational meetings
  - Final recommendations delivered in December 2009

# Massachusetts Ocean Plan

- ❑ Blue – Commercial shipping lanes
- ❑ Yellow – commercial fishing traffic
- ❑ Brown – major fishing areas
- ❑ Purple – potential site for tidal power
- ❑ Green stripes – recreational fishing

**Figure 2-21** Commercial-scale tidal energy special, sensitive, or unique resources and existing water-dependent uses

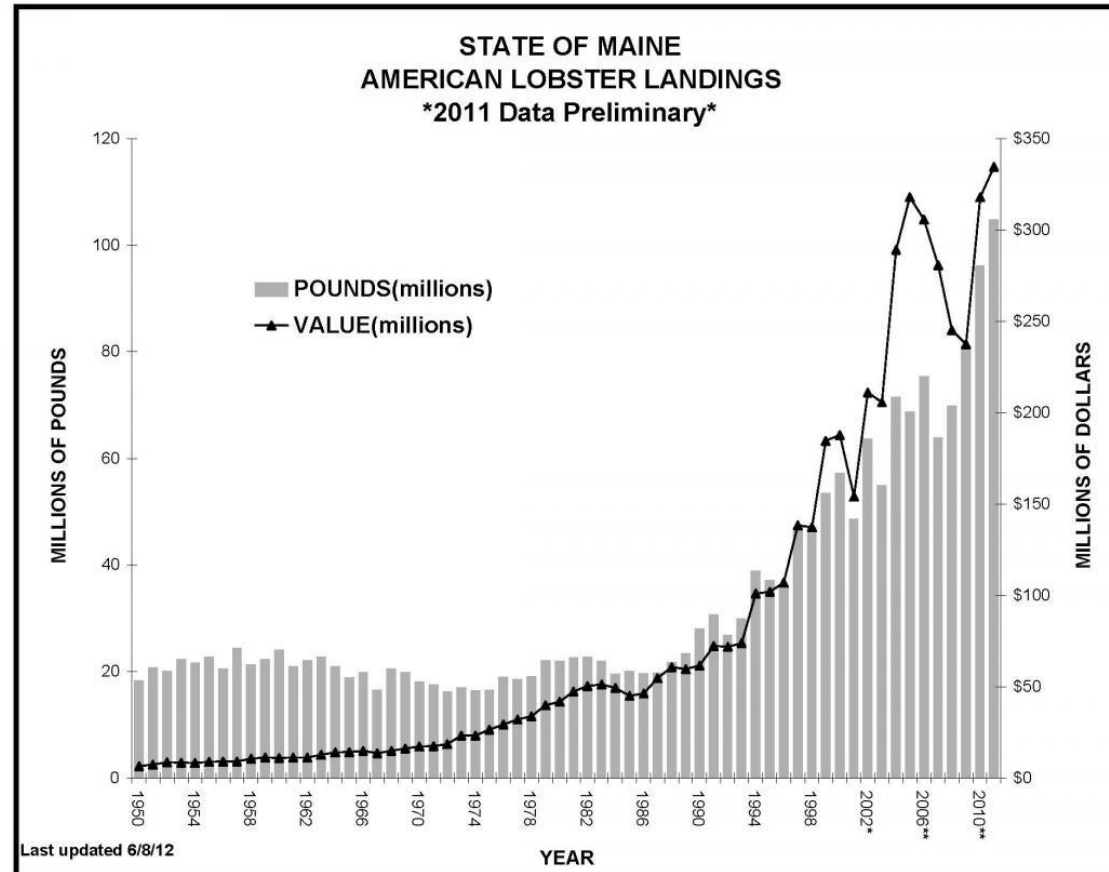


# Key Issues in Maine

- Maine does not have an ocean plan yet
- Competing uses of the oceans increasing
  - Aquaculture – mostly mussels and oysters
  - Tidal Power – one experimental site
  - Wind Power – this is the big issue
- How do you introduce new uses and users?
- Can MSP be a solution?

# Key issues in Maine

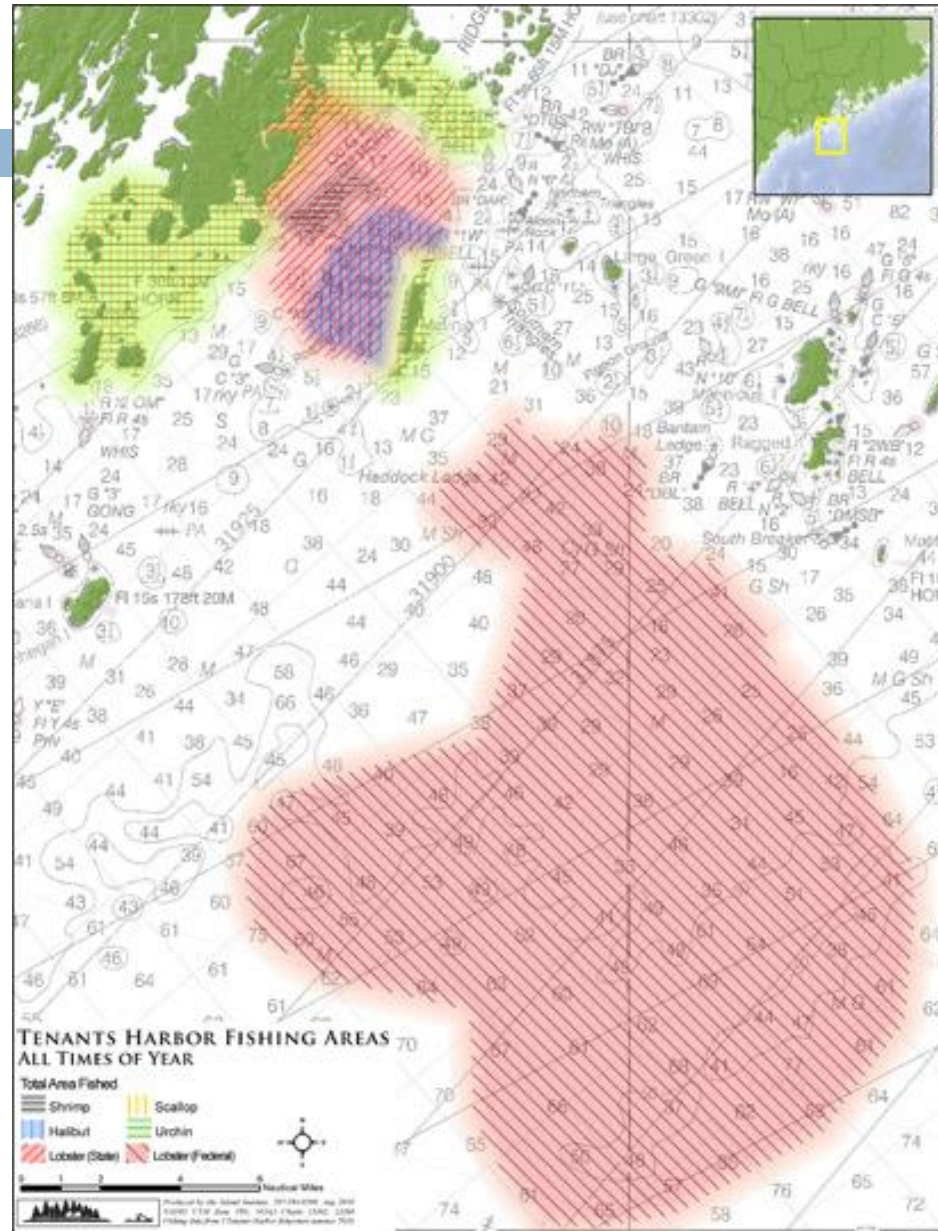
- Dominance of the lobster industry
  - ▣ 7300 licensed commercial fishermen
  - ▣ 6000 are lobstermen
- Provides 65% of the fisheries value in Maine
- Groundfish 1%
- Herring 3%

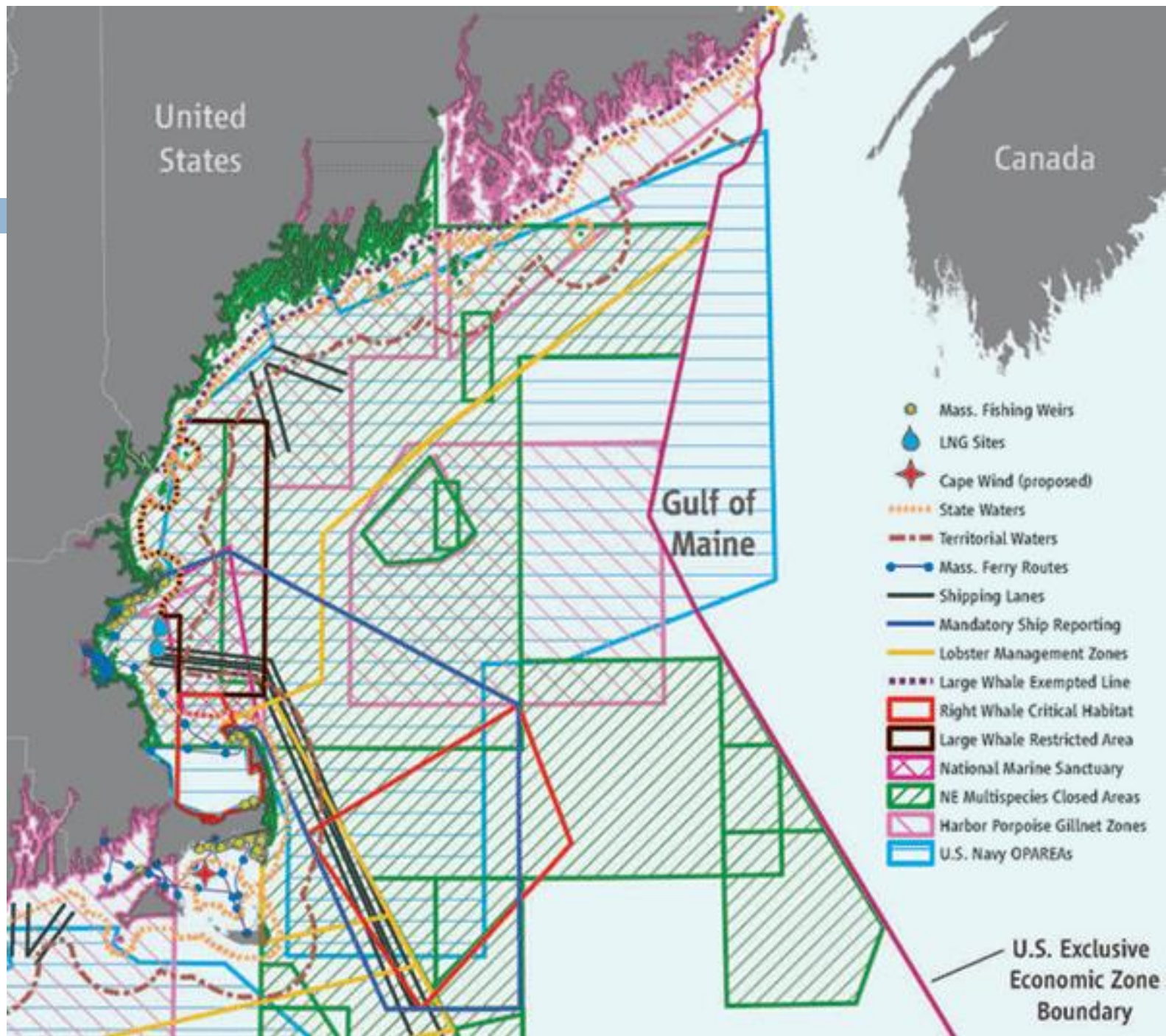




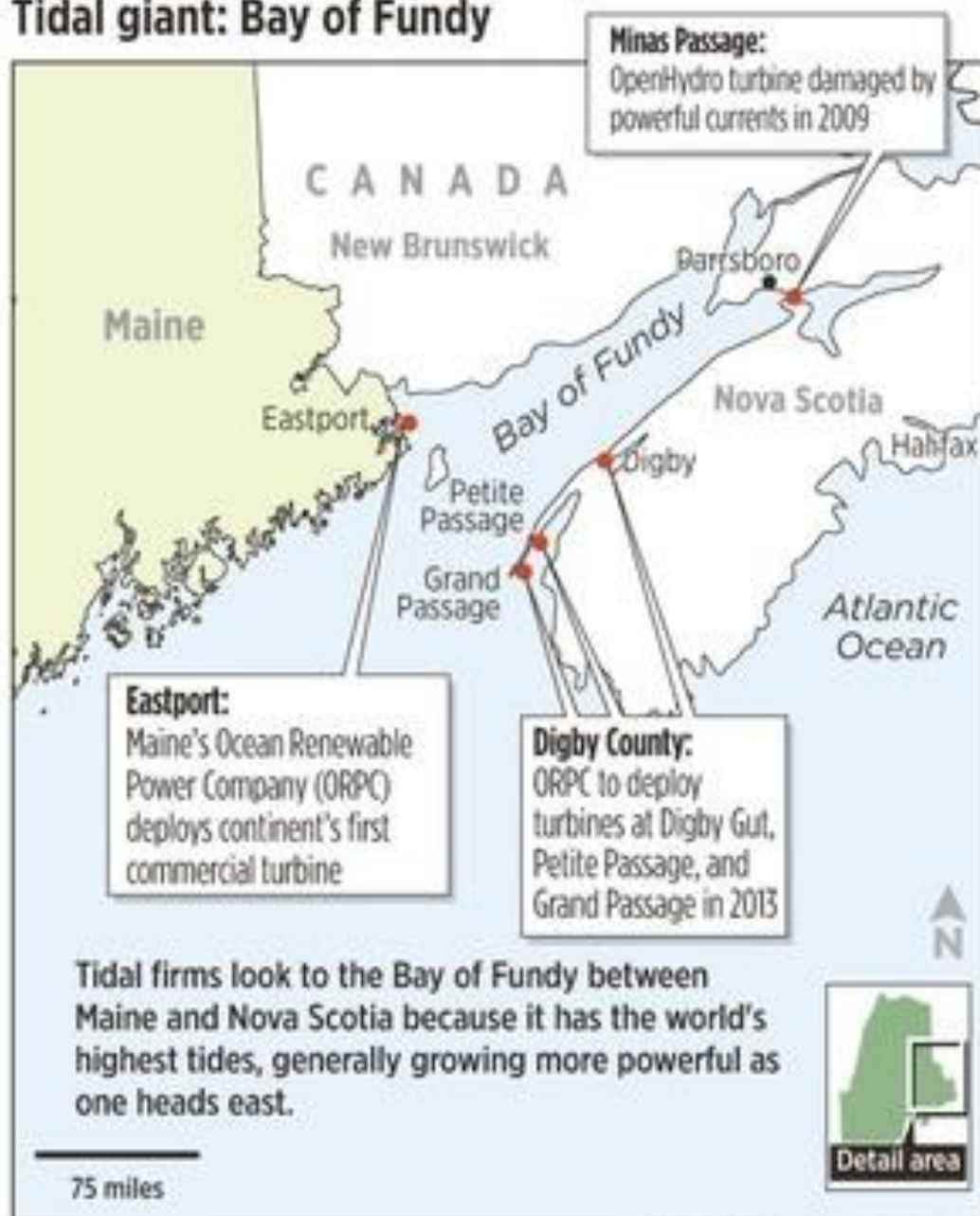
# Island Institute Mapping Project

- Mapping where fishermen are fishing
- Confidential data from fishermen
- Mapping information that has not been mapped
- Will also help fishermen when new users seek entry

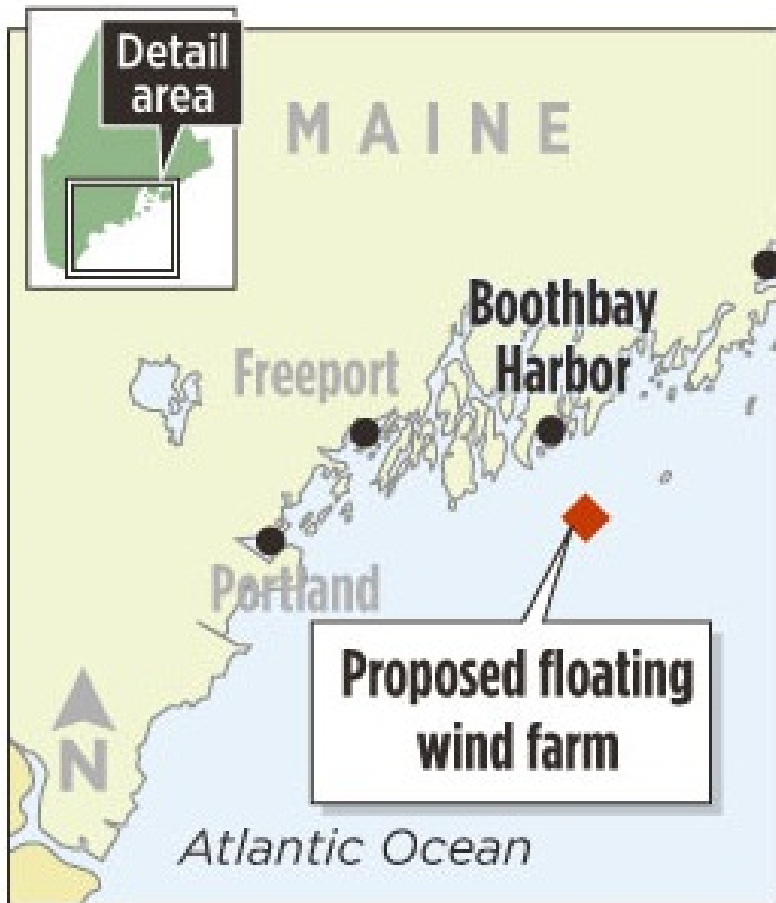




## Tidal giant: Bay of Fundy



# Statoil project – A new entrant



- Potentially a 120 million dollar project
- Four-3 mw windmills at a trial site
- 12 miles out – takes 4 square miles out of fishing area
- Extensive discussions with various stakeholders
- Extensive use of MSP to site the project

Source: Statoil North America Inc.

STAFF GRAPHIC | MICHAEL FISHER

# Challenges of Marine Spatial Planning

- In a complex environment there are some key questions
  - ▣ Multiple users – who has a say
  - ▣ High levels of uncertainty
    - What is in the ocean
    - The value of different uses
  - ▣ What happens when things change – two key challenges
    - Warmer oceans
    - Ocean Acidification
  
- Once you make a map – how do you change it?
  - ▣ Entrenched interests vs. new interests
  - ▣ Organized interests vs. less organized interests
  - ▣ If oceans change fast – can you react?