

**The RI Ocean SAMP
Fisheries
Stakeholder
Process:
A Case Study in
Transparent
Policy-making**



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Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop
May 24, 2011**

Setting the Stage: Rumors and headlines at the start of the Ocean SAMP process

RHODE ISLAND OFFSHORE WIND STAKEHOLDERS
FINAL REPORT

February 2008

Prepared for
Rhode Island Governor Carcieri
and the
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources



"Mapping the ocean: SAMP will
target areas for renewable
energy projects"
Providence Journal,
July 24, 2008

"Carcieri to announce developer
of wind farm"
Providence Phoenix,
September 24, 2008

"In 2006, Governor Carcieri announced an ambitious plan to increase the use of renewable sources of energy to generate 20 percent of the state's electricity needs. It was expected that approximately 15 percent would be derived from wind energy." *RIEDC Press Release*,
September 26, 2008

Ocean SAMP From Day 1: Intensive Stakeholder Process

- Overall Stakeholder Process
 - Stakeholder group
 - Representatives of fishing industry, NGOs, other fisheries-related interests
 - Monthly meetings for two years
 - Educational presentations
 - Distribution of information and materials via website, listserve
- Fisheries Stakeholder Process



Fisheries Stakeholders and Advisors

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- New England Fishery Management Council
- NMFS Northeast Regional Office
- RI Department of Environmental Mgmt.
- RI Sea Grant Fisheries
- Save the Bay
- Conservation Law Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
- URI GSO
- RI Lobstermen's Assn.
- RI Commercial Fishermen's Assn.
- RI Fishermen's Alliance
- RI Party and Charter Boat Assn.
- RI Saltwater Anglers Assn.
- RI Monkfishermen's Assn.
- Ocean State Aquaculture Assn.
- Ocean State Fishermen's Assn.
- Sakonnet Point Fishermen's Assn.
- Eastern NE Scalloper's Assn.

Fishing Industry Stakeholders

- RI Lobstermen's Assoc.
- RI Commercial Fishermen's Assoc.
- RI Monkfishermen's Assoc.
- RI Fishermen's Alliance
- Ocean State Fishermen's Assoc.
- Eastern New England Scalloper's Assoc.
- Sakonnet Point Fishermen's Assoc.
- Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Assoc.
- RI Party and Charter Boat Assoc.
- RI Saltwater Anglers Assoc.

Chapter Table of Contents

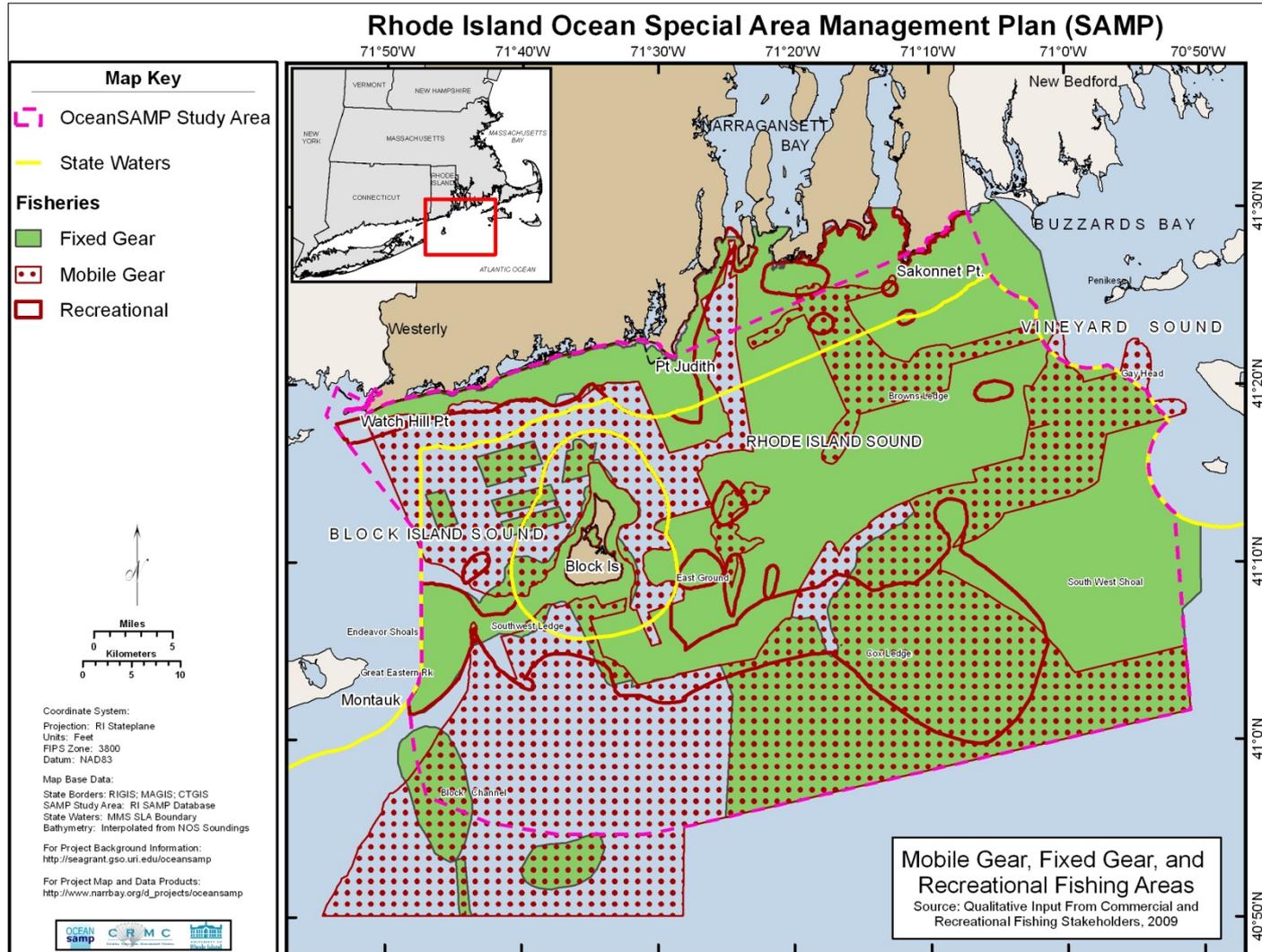
1. *Marine fisheries resources in the Ocean SAMP area*
 - **Commercially and recreationally targeted species**
 - **Baseline characterization**
2. *Fish habitat in the Ocean SAMP area*
3. *Commercial and recreational fisheries*
 - **History and ports**
 - **Fisheries descriptions and fishing area maps**
 - **Effort and landings**
4. *Economic impact of commercial and recreational fishing*
5. *Impact of existing activities and trends on fisheries resources and habitats*
6. *Policies and standards*
7. *Appendices*

For both commercial and recreational fisheries....

- History
- Ports
- Descriptions
- Fishing Area
Maps



Combined Fishing Areas



Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

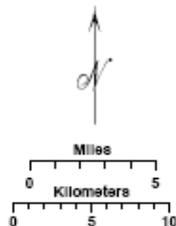
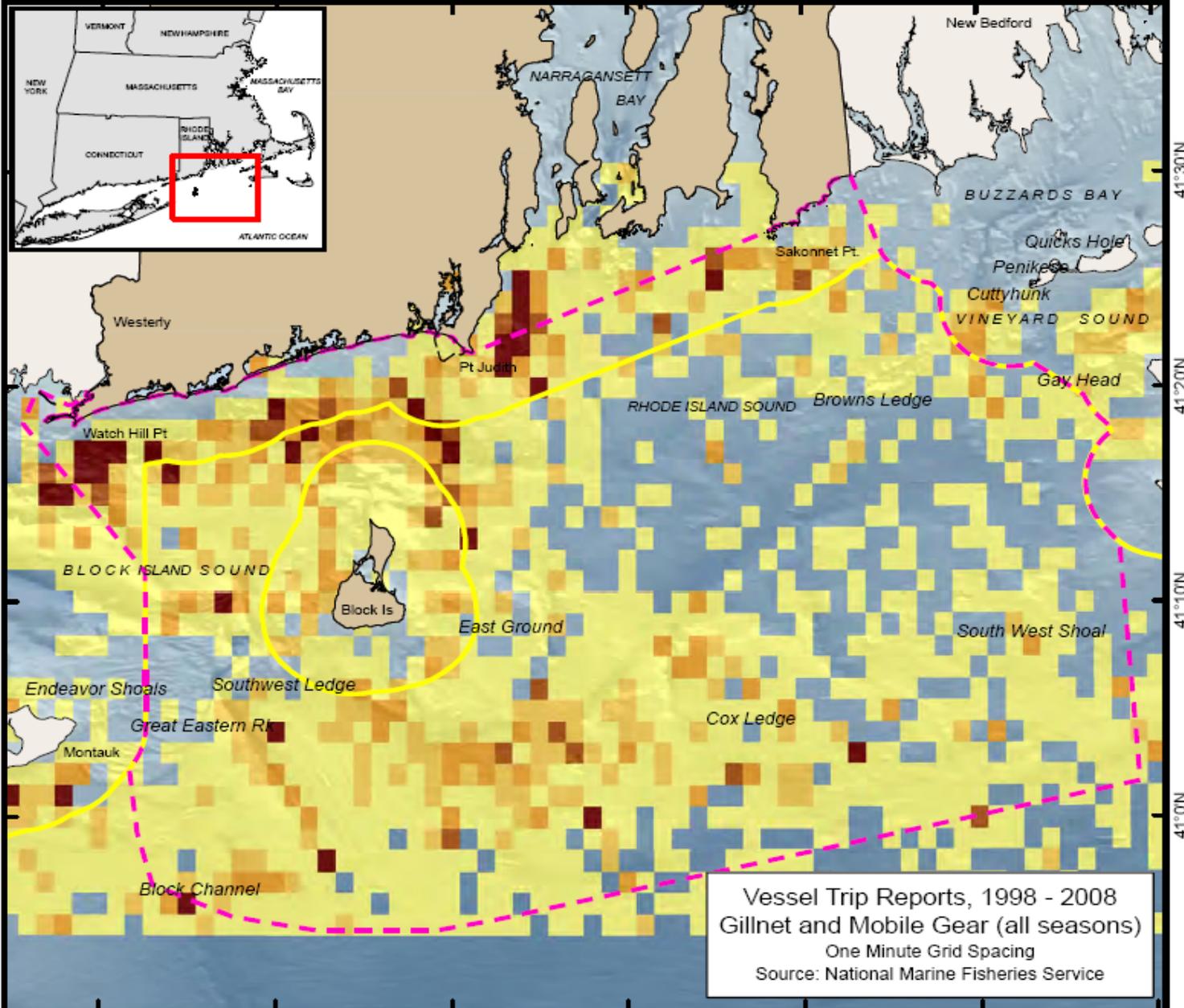
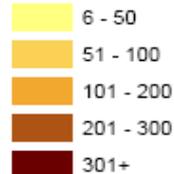
71°50'W 71°40'W 71°30'W 71°20'W 71°10'W 71°0'W 70°50'W

Map Key

 OceanSAMP Study Area

 State/Federal Waters

Number of Trips per Cell



Coordinate System:

Projection: RI Stateplane
Units: Feet
FIPS Zone: 3800
Datum: NAD83

Map Base Data:

State Borders: RIGIS; MAGIS; CTGIS
SAMP Study Area: RI SAMP Database
State Waters: MMS SLA Boundary
Bathymetry: Interpolated from NOS Soundings

For Project Background Information:
<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp>

For Project Map and Data Products:
http://www.naribay.org/d_projects/oceansamp



Vessel Trip Reports, 1998 - 2008
Gillnet and Mobile Gear (all seasons)
One Minute Grid Spacing
Source: National Marine Fisheries Service

Fishing Industry Concerns

- Access
- Transit routes
 - Radar interference
 - USCG Regulations
 - Travel lanes
 - Weather impacts on travel
 - Safety issues
- Economics
- Life History
 - Spawning
 - Juvenile habitat
 - Migration patterns
- Habitat impacts
 - Cable route
 - Structures
 - Electro-magnetic fields
- Noise Effects
 - Construction
 - Operation

AGGREGATE FISH BIOMASS, FALL

Map Key

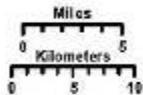
-  OceanSAMP Study Area
-  State Waters

Total Biomass, Fall mg/m²

-  < 2.4
-  2.4 - 2.9
-  2.9 - 5.3
-  5.3 - 17.5
-  17.5 - 79.0

Data Source

-  NEAMAP
-  NMFS
-  RI DEM
-  URI GSO

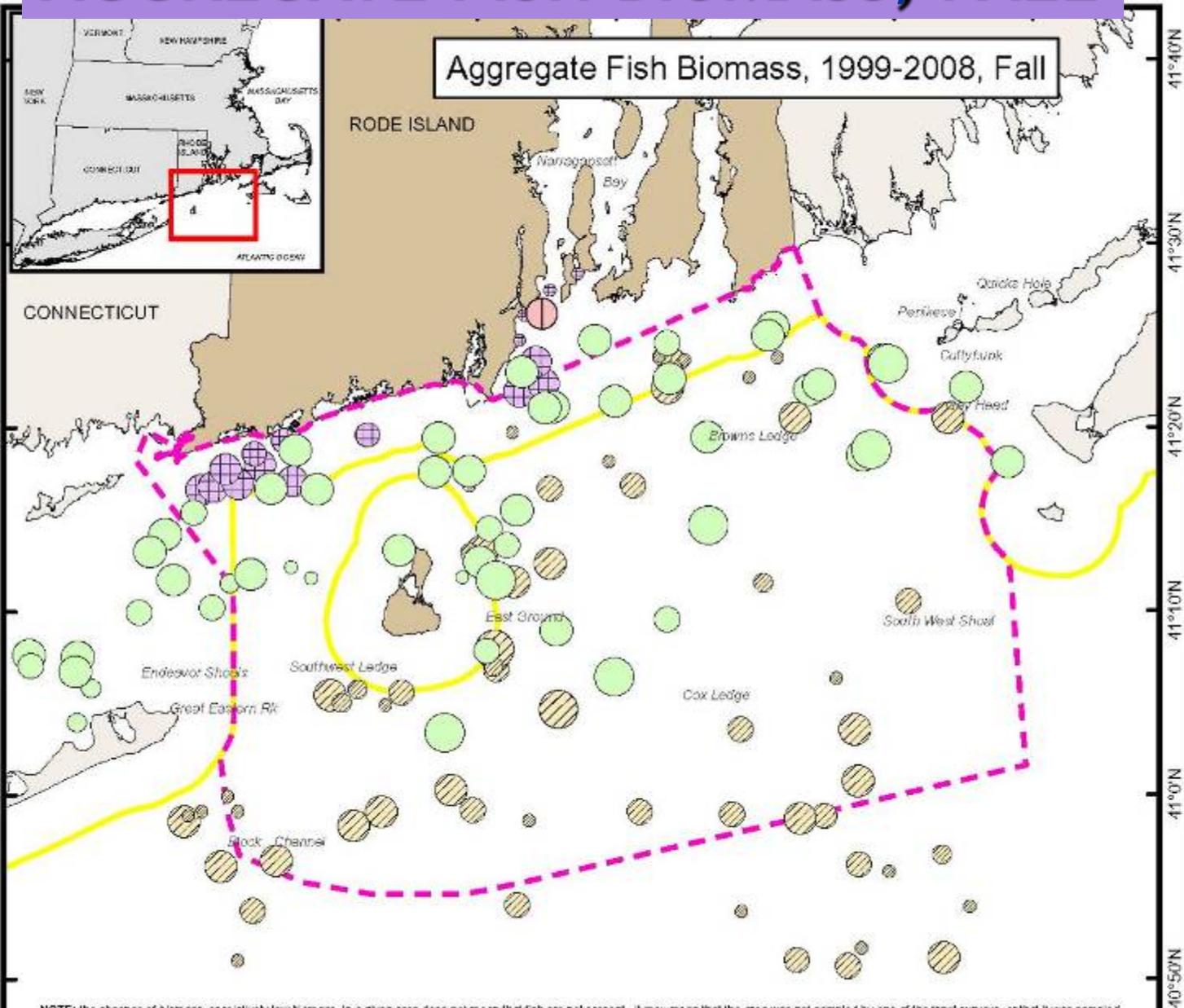
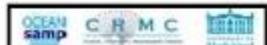


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Aggregate Fish Biomass, 1999-2008, Fall

NOTE: the absence of biomass, or relatively low biomass, in a given area does not mean that fish are not present. It may mean that the area was not sampled by one of the trawl surveys, or that it was sampled during a time of lower abundance for some species. These maps reflect an aggregate of data from four different fisheries independent trawl surveys, which employ different survey methods and sample at different survey stations. This analysis used URI GSO, RI DEM, and NMFS data from 1999 - 2008, and NEAMAP data from 2007 - 2008 (the NEAMAP survey began in 2007). For further information see Chapter 8: Fisheries Resources and Uses, and Appendix IV: Baseline Characterization.

Policies and Standards

- Value of commercial and recreational fisheries
- Dynamic nature of fisheries
- Important fish habitats and fishing areas
- Offshore construction
- Fishing access
- Site-specific studies for future projects

Advantages of OSAMP

- A Set Of Policies For Each Area Of The Plan
- Protection Of Existing Uses And Sensitive Resources Or Unsuitable Areas
- Informational Requirements For Major Ocean Developments And Development Standards For Those Uses
- Continued Stakeholder Representation Through FAB and HAB
- Mandatory Review Every 5 years.

Fisheries Mitigation

- Direct compensation for Block Island Wind Farm
- Charter and Party Boat Marketing Plan
- Commercial Fisheries Center Executive Director Funded

Not Really Fisheries Mitigation

- Ventless Trap Survey
- Bottom trawl survey



Construction 2015



Construction 2015



Continuing work for solutions

- Bottom trawl survey
- Ventless trap survey
- EMF study-pending
- NROC fisheries mapping
- Fisheries liaison
 - Challenges
 - Accomplishments



STRIFE

AS LONG AS WE HAVE EACH OTHER, WE'LL NEVER RUN OUT OF PROBLEMS.

Questions and Discussion?



Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

Map Key

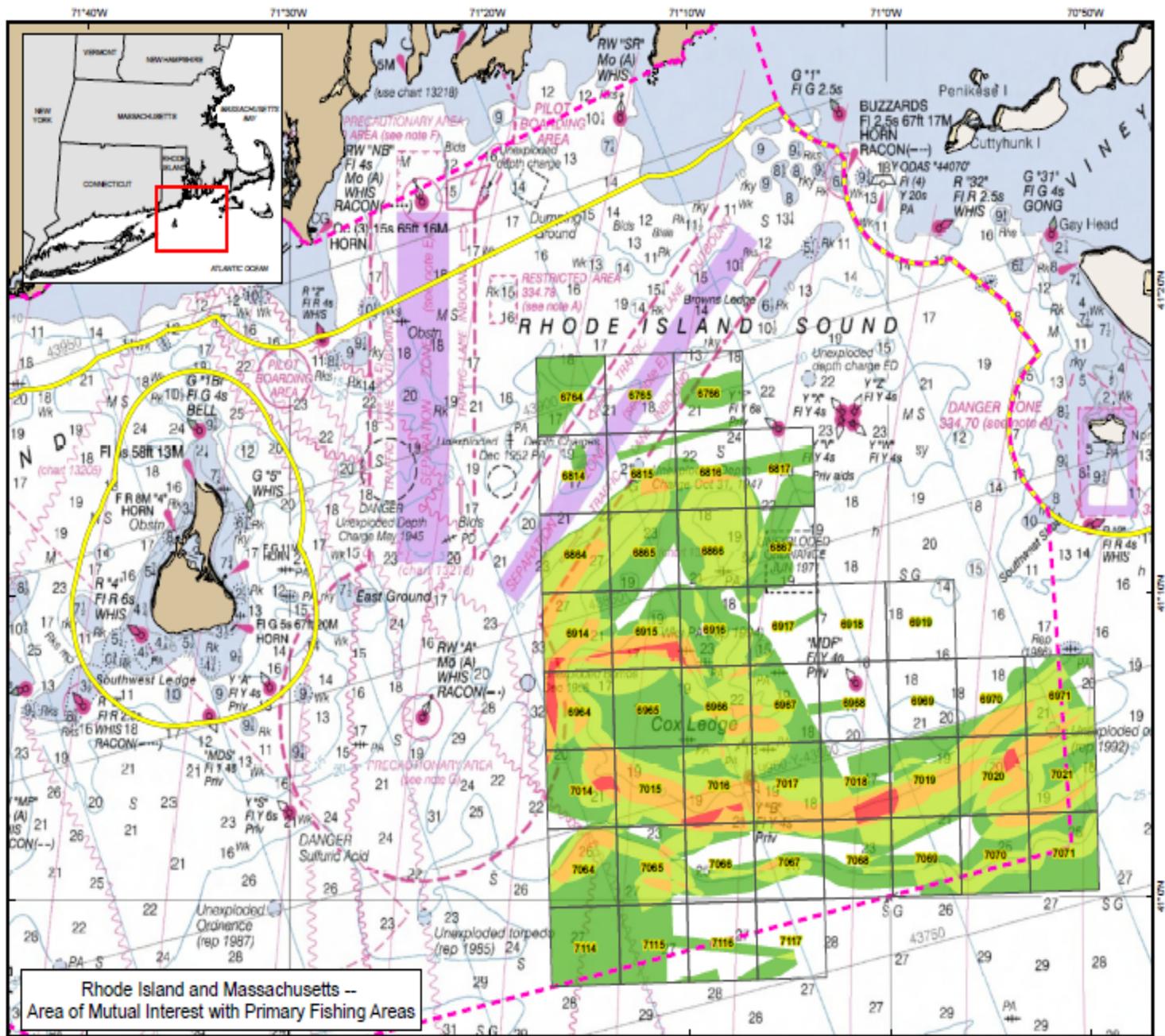
OceanSAMP Study Area

State/Federal Waters Separation

Area of Mutual Interest

Fishing Pressure

of Participating Fisheries



Rhode Island and Massachusetts --
Area of Mutual Interest with Primary Fishing Areas

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