



What are Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) Principles?

- Consider the entire ecosystem, including humans and the human-built environment.
- Develop & use scientific understanding of ecosystem functions and cumulative impacts of human activities.
- Protect ecosystems based on the scientific understanding of them.
- Acknowledge the interconnectedness within systems and among systems.
- Integrate ecological, social, economic, and institutional perspectives into decision making & adaptive management.
- Integrate local and indigenous knowledge to enrich scientific ecosystem understanding.
- Plan and manage in collaborative partnerships and with active engagement of stakeholders.

Part I: ACTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES TO DATE

A: Recognizing Existing Ecosystem-based Management Efforts in State Agencies

Many of the programs of the Council's nine agencies that manage human activities already reflect EBM principles.

B: Developing Agency Guidelines to Integrate Ecosystem-based Management into the Existing State Programs

The Council initially inventoried ~ 200 state programs that manage human activities that affect ecosystem health. Agencies evaluated a number of them and drafted guidelines for how their respective programs were or could be more consistent with EBM principles and offered EBM-inspired recommendations.

C: EBM Projects Supported by the Environmental Protection Fund from State Fiscal Years 2006-2007 & 2007-2008

D: Establishing Principles to Align Council Agencies

Council will create a set of shared principles to guide future agency actions and advance the agendas of both EBM and Smart Growth. Using these principles, State agencies will work more closely together and in better partnership with local governments to create a sustainable future.

E: Establishing a Research Agenda

The Council-created Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) created themes of critical research and monitoring for short and long term action:

1. What are the ecosystem's structures, functions, and the value of its services to society?

2. What are the drivers of ecosystem change?
3. How can we best anticipate future ecosystem states?
4. How can society resolve competing human uses?

F: Creating an Ocean/Coastal Resources Atlas

Spatial information and tools are critical. The Council-created Technical Advisory Group produced a unique information source through the on-line Atlas that allows users to build maps by selecting features of interest, print maps and download information into GoogleEarth or two different software packages.

www.nyoglatlas.com

G. Demonstrating Improvements in Two Study Areas Using EBM

The Council created two demonstration areas, the Great South Bay on Long Island and the Sandy Creeks Watershed on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, to gain on-the-ground experience in applying EBM.

These areas have served as learning laboratories for the Council agencies to collaborate on various approaches to EBM planning and implementation. The goal is to apply lessons learned as the Council begins to implement EBM statewide.



Part II: PRIORITIES TO ACHIEVE HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS IN NEW YORK



Healthy ocean and Great Lakes ecosystems are essential to the continued vitality of New York's communities. Ecosystem-based Management requires the integration of the human and natural components of ecosystems, including our communities, human uses and economic activity, into approaches to restoring ecosystem health.

The Council has identified five integrated categories of priorities that respond to underlying issues and challenges of the Great Lakes and ocean ecosystems. These broad categories are forward-looking and goal-oriented, and when taken as a whole, would lead to healthier ecosystems over the long-term.

Water and Land: Managing Natural Resources, Human Activities and Environmental Quality *Achieve healthy ecosystems that meet human needs and interests in New York's interconnected marine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments.*

- Use a Regional Approach
- Enhance Local Planning and Protection in Coastal Transition Zones
- Minimize Effects of Upland Development on Ecosystem Health
- Protect Sensitive Coastal and Offshore Habitats
- Restore Fisheries
- Support EBM Approaches to Managing Great Lakes Water Levels
- Manage Invasive Species
- Reduce Sources of Contamination and Pollution
- Restore & Maintain Riparian Buffers
- Manage for Multiple Offshore Uses

Energy: Developing Ecosystem Approaches to Meet Critical Energy Needs *Achieve renewable, sustainable, and efficient energy production and transmission in a manner that is consistent with place-based ecosystem goals for coastal areas, promotes community well-being, is adaptive, and engages stakeholders.*

- Encourage Sustainable Energy Development
- Reduce Energy Demand
- Promote Efficient Transportation

Economy: Achieving Economic Vitality and Community Well-Being within the Context of Healthy Ecosystems *Promote economic growth and community development, recreational activities and other human use activities in a manner that achieves ecosystem health.*

- Promote Smart Growth
- Maintain Working Waterfronts
- Promote Sustainable Natural Resource Use and Extraction
- Promote Tourism
- Develop Environment-based Industries
- Re-develop Brownfields
- Ensure Environmental Justice



Climate Change: Adapting to Dynamic Coastal Ecosystems *Address the causes of global climate change and respond to environmental change, particularly sea-level rise, in a manner that allows the State and municipalities to implement an adaptive approach.*

- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Impacts
- Prepare Local Communities for Ecosystem Changes
- Identify and Prioritize the Protection of Coastal Habitats

Capacity Building: Providing the Tools to Put EBM Principles into Action to Protect the Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystems *Equip and empower decision makers and citizens to implement EBM principles.*

- Provide leadership and organizational frameworks
- Build State and Local Capacity for EBM
- Build Individual and Community Capacity for EBM Oceans
- Scientific Data Collection, Research and Analysis
- Understanding Ocean and Great Lakes Processes
- Access to Information and Data



Part III: INITIAL AGENDA TO ACHIEVE EBM GOALS

The following actions are based on the operating budgets and staffing levels at agencies and the Environmental Protection Fund as proposed in the 2008-2009 Deficit Reduction Bill and the Executive Budget for 2009-2010. External events will no doubt have a significant impact on our State's fiscal situation, and will affect the State's ability to act on many worthy and important competing needs. The Council's recommendations focus on the areas of greatest needs of ecosystems and integrating EBM in State, regional and local decision making.

1 Transitioning the Council to Implementation.

2 Develop and Implement Regional EBM Action Plans.

DEC will establish four "action zones" for the Great Lakes and one for the ocean. The ocean action plan will integrate and build on existing (on-going) estuary programs for Peconic Bay, South Shore Estuary Reserve and New York Harbor. It will also seek an inter-relationship of ecosystem goals from adjoining eco-regions.

3 Aiding Local Governments to Achieve EBM.

DOS will evolve the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) to provide a consistent statewide mechanism for EBM and Smart Growth; continue local government training, and provide model ordinances and regulations to guide local governments in taking action on protecting coastal, tidal, and riparian zones.

4 Complete Incorporating EBM Principles into State and Regional Programs.

5 Work to Accommodate Competing Demands for Limited Offshore Resources.

Develop proactive plans for offshore areas with the greatest potential for conflicts over human use of those areas such as energy generation and transmission. Develop comprehensive criteria that address: impacts on habitats and biota, visual aesthetics, commercial and recreational fishing, recreational boating, shipping, and submerged historic and cultural resources. Identify critical offshore habitats requiring protection.

6 Track Ecosystem Health to Measure Success Over Time.

7 Complete EPF Funded Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Projects.

8 Build Capacity to Equip and Empower Diverse Constituencies.

9 Implement Key Recommendations of the Council's Science Advisory Group.

Develop a prioritized and targeted set of research needs that will be pursued in the short term that reflect current management priorities and develop a

strategy for funding those priorities, given tight fiscal times.

10 Continue to Evolve EBM in the Pilot Areas.

The pilot areas include the Great South Bay on Long Island and the Sandy Creeks Watershed on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

11 Reduce Debris in Ocean and Great Lakes Waters.

Reduce coastal and offshore pollution and minimize associated impacts to recreation, fish and marine mammals.

12 Prohibit the Discharge of Waste From Boats into the Environment.

13 Maintain and Enhance the Web-based Ocean and Coastal Resources Atlas.

Other Recommendations in the report include:

- Executive Actions
- Legislative Actions
- Funding Efficiencies
- Interstate and International EBM Management
- Federal and Congressional Agency Actions

February 2009

Overview of The New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council's draft Report



The New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council

*Honorable Alexander B. "Pete" Grannis,
Chair
Commissioner
Environmental Conservation*

*Honorable Patrick Hooker
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Agriculture and Markets*

*Honorable Marisa Lago
Commissioner
Economic Development*

*Mr. Francis J. Murray
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Development Authority*

*Honorable John Egan
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Office of General Services*

*Honorable Carol Ash
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Parks, Recreation and Historic
Preservation*

*Honorable Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez
Secretary of State*

*Mr. John J. O'Connor
Officer-in-Charge
State University of New York*

*Honorable Astrid Glynn
Transportation
Commissioner*

*Council Executive Director
Mr. George Stafford
Deputy Secretary of State*

Our Waters, Our Communities, Our Future Taking Bold Action Now to Achieve Long-Term Sustainability of New York's Ocean and Great Lakes

A 2006 New York State law created the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council and committed the state to **Ecosystem-based Management (EBM)** to achieve sustainability of our coastal resources, watersheds, and their communities.

The Council is a collaboration of the **nine state agencies** with responsibilities for managing human activities that impact our ocean and Great Lakes and their watersheds, and hence, the communities that depend on them.

The Council, working together with citizens, governments, nations, scientists, and businesses, seeks to promote the State's policy to conserve, maintain and restore coastal ecosystems so that they are healthy, productive and resilient and able to provide what people need.

The 2006 Act required the Council to achieve **seven ambitious tasks** to stage the implementation of EBM principles and **submit a report** to the Governor and Legislature on these achievements and actions for moving forward.

The Council was assisted by hundreds of citizens, several advisory and working groups, and demonstration area communities.

The Council is pleased to present the draft of this Report for your review, discussion, and comment. We hope you will take some time to read it and let us know what you think. Look in this flyer for the ways you can submit comments, and we hope you will also participate in one of the many **Community Conversations** to be held throughout the State.

THE COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Visit the Council's Web site to submit comments:

www.nyoglecc.org

Participate in a Community Conversation. For schedule, call 518-474-6000 or see

www.nyoglecc.org

Fax comments to the Council at: 518-473-2464

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