

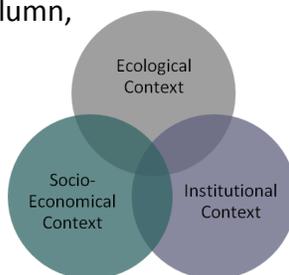
Spatial Planning for New York Ocean and Great Lakes

Ensuring long-term sustainable use of marine and Great Lake waters through comprehensive planning.



What is Offshore Spatial Planning?

Offshore planning is a process for allocating space in ocean and fresh water areas, on the surface, in the water column, and on the bottom, for specific uses. Spatial planning allows for accommodating competing uses, and analyzing impacts of uses to achieve the best social, economic and environmental outcome possible.



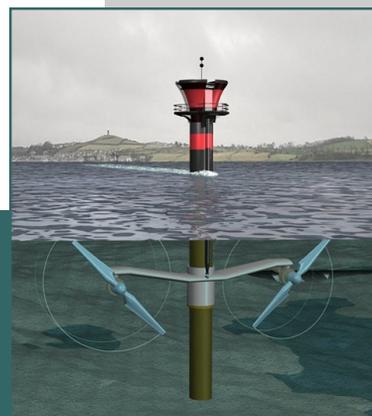
How will Spatial Planning Benefit New York Citizens?

Spatial planning will enable New York citizen's to maintain and use valued natural resources today and for future generations. The planning process includes mapping existing resources and identifying suitable areas for designated uses (e.g. wind farms, protected areas, LNG terminals, recreational and commercial fishing.)



Why is Spatial Planning Needed?

Currently New York manages ocean and Great Lakes activities on a sector by sector basis. For instance the process for establishing offshore wind farm locations is independent of the planning process for protected areas. Spatial planning identifies areas suitable for various activities, considers the needs of different uses, how these uses affect each other and the environment, and creates an overarching long term use plan. This effort can lead to greater protection of the State's natural marine and aquatic resources and expedited decision making processes.



Your Input is important:

- Participate at public meetings
- Review the documents
- Provide comments—be a part of the future of New York by participating in ocean and Great Lakes planning discussions.

Examples of information that will be used to help guide the process:

- Water column and bottom habitats (e.g. pelagic and benthic habitats)
- Underwater topography (e.g. bathymetry)
- Underwater infrastructure (e.g. cables and pipelines)
- Economic information related to the value of ecosystem services (e.g. value of a fishery)
- Community use data (e.g. dive site visits)
- Important marine features and areas (e.g. spawning areas)

What about changes?

The spatial planning process uses an adaptive management approach. Every few years revisions are made, based on new information, monitoring and measurable results. Revisions will account for new activities, information/knowledge, and changes in levels of use, the environment, priorities, and emerging issues or needs.

Fifty-years from now New York ocean and Great Lake ecosystems will be different. Scientists are currently predicting climate change, sea-level rise, warmer waters, and ocean acidification—each of which can dramatically affect ecosystems and habitat locations. It is hard to predict exactly how our natural resources will be affected by these changes and different uses, but by regularly adapting plans based on current conditions, New York will be one step closer to ensuring healthy ecosystems and economies connected to the ocean and Great Lakes will be sustainable for use and enjoyment by future generations.



How are areas to be identified for uses?

Areas will be designated based on consideration of existing needs and uses and a consensus driven process involving collaboration of individuals representing a cross section of user communities. This group will use the best available science and local knowledge to help guide decisions on appropriate uses for areas.

What areas will be mapped?

Eventually all of New York's ocean and Great Lakes waters will be mapped. However, given fiscal restraints, the effort will start by focusing on a region extending from New York Harbor out to the continental shelf, including the Hudson Canyon. As resources become available, New York's remaining ocean and Great Lake waters will be mapped.

What is the plan for the next two years?

1. Compile and develop information about the area by: a) mapping existing natural resources, and b) mapping human uses of those resources by engaging appropriate stakeholders (e.g. groups representing the needs of infrastructure, habitat, commercial and recreational fishing, etc).
2. Research impacts that different uses have on natural resources.
3. Develop criteria to guide the citing of certain activities in a specific location.
4. Create an ocean use plan that will identify areas appropriate to consider offshore renewable energy and identify sensitive areas in need of protection or special management measures.