

TO: New York Marine Science Consortium Members and Affiliates
FROM: Karen Chytalo and Matt Gove, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
DATE: 8/31/2012
SUBJECT: NYMSC Annual Symposium on September 22, 2012

Dear Members and Affiliates of the New York Marine Sciences Consortium,

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking your involvement and expertise in crafting the *New York Ocean EBM Research Priorities* document, which will highlight the most pressing research needs to facilitate better management of New York's ocean resources. Many of you were involved in the development of the original document this is based on.

This research priorities document will feed into the larger *New York Ocean Action Plan (OAP)*. The OAP, called for by the New York Ecosystem Conservation Council in 2009, is focused on improving the health of our ocean ecosystems and their capacity to provide sustainable benefits to New Yorkers. Grounded in short-term actions to reach long-term goals, the OAP will guide State government funding, research, management, outreach, and education choices.

An important component of the OAP is a prioritization of research needed to facilitate better management of New York's ocean resources. The level of scrutiny and focus that New York's estuarine ecosystems have achieved has not been matched in our ocean environments. Moreover, interest in the use of ocean resources has grown recently, specifically for production of wind power.

We need your assistance on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at the Fifth Annual New York Marine Sciences Consortium Symposium in the Wang Center on the Stony Brook University campus. In the afternoon, we will call on your expertise to review, add to, delete, refine, and prioritize ocean research needs from New York's coast to the shelf break. With your participation, we can direct funding and management to create healthier ocean ecosystems!