

7.13.2017

Task ID:306-18

Timeframe: January 2017 through June 2017

Subtask 1: Coordinate with Other State Agencies on Project-Specific Matters

Narrative: Coastal staff at DACF continued to monitor coastal policy and development-related matters and facilitate coordination on federal consistency-related matters as appropriate. See discussion in Part B-4 regarding federal consistency-related matters.

In addition to federal consistency-related matters, coastal staff at DACF coordinated with other DACF and other agency staff as follows:

- Assisted a U.S. DOE consultant in identifying state natural resources agency personal to invite to participate in a DOE webinar and subsequent survey regarding the regulatory process applicable to marine renewable energy devices;
- Drafted section regarding the Maine Coastal Program for inclusion in DACF's report to the Legislature pursuant to the Government Evaluation and Accountability Act, which provides for legislative oversight of executive branch agencies; and
- Reviewed and discussed with MGS DEP's proposed amendments to its Chapter 418 rules regarding beneficial of solid waste as they relate to recommendations of the Beach Advisory Task Force aimed at facilitating use of dredged materials (sand) for beach nourishment

Subtask 2: Coordinate Comments and Policies on Ocean Energy-related proposals

Narrative: During this period there were no actions by BOEM or other federal agencies regarding regulations or policies on renewable ocean energy projects that triggered efforts by coastal staff at DACF to coordinate state comments. There are currently no offshore wind energy proposals in the regulatory pipeline in Maine.

In May 2017, representatives of the University of Maine-led New England Aqua Ventus I project ("Aqua Ventus") made a presentation to state and federal natural resources agencies regarding its proposed floating offshore wind turbine project, one of several projects slated to receive about \$40 million in construction funding from DOE's Advanced Technology Demonstration Program for Offshore Wind. In June 2017, Aqua Ventus held a preliminary meeting with DEP to discuss state regulatory approvals needed for the proposed projects. Coastal staff at DACF consulted with DEP and Aqua Ventus regarding the meeting. At DEP's suggestion, MCP staff intends to participate as appropriate in subsequent meetings to address federal consistency review-related issues once the DEP has determined the license and permit approvals needed for the project.

As noted in the prior progress report, a group of Monhegan Island residents who have expressed concerns that the project would irreparably harm the island community, has organized to oppose siting of the Aqua Ventus project, which is about 2.7 miles off the Monhegan Island and about 10 miles from the mainland. The Legislature voted down a bill introduced this session at the group's request that would have forced the Aqua Ventus project to move to another location.