

BOEM Massachusetts Task Force

Massachusetts Update on the Revised
Draft RFI

September 8, 2010

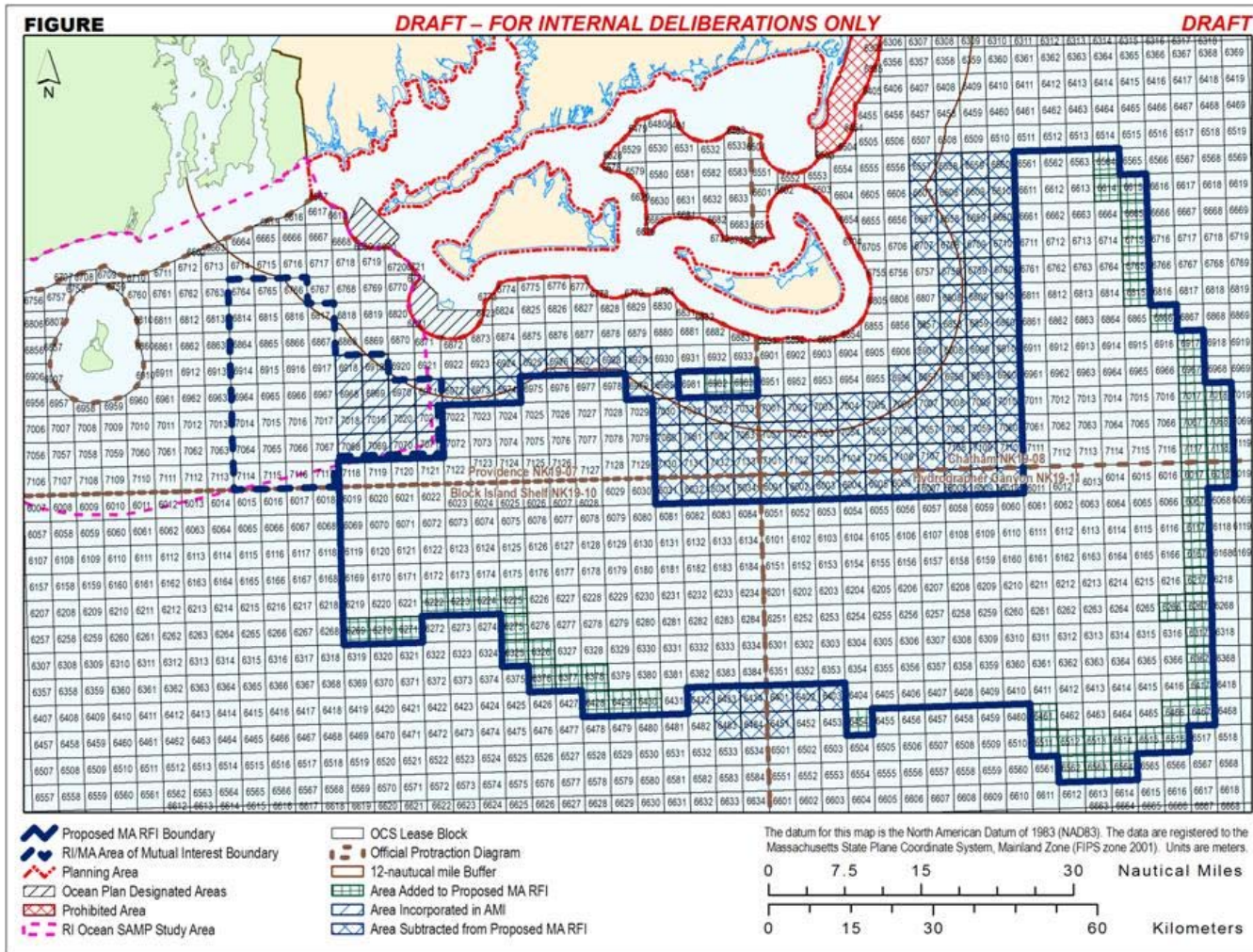
Actions Since Last Task Force Meeting

- Reviewed comments, revised draft RFI area and terms
- Identified relevant available spatial data
- Applied Science Associates finalizing analysis of existing fisheries, whale and bird data in RFI area
- Now scoping field work for marine mammals, birds, baseline oceanography in RFI area
- Finalizing MOU with UMASS for NOREIZ
- Established MOU with RI and designated Area of Mutual Interest

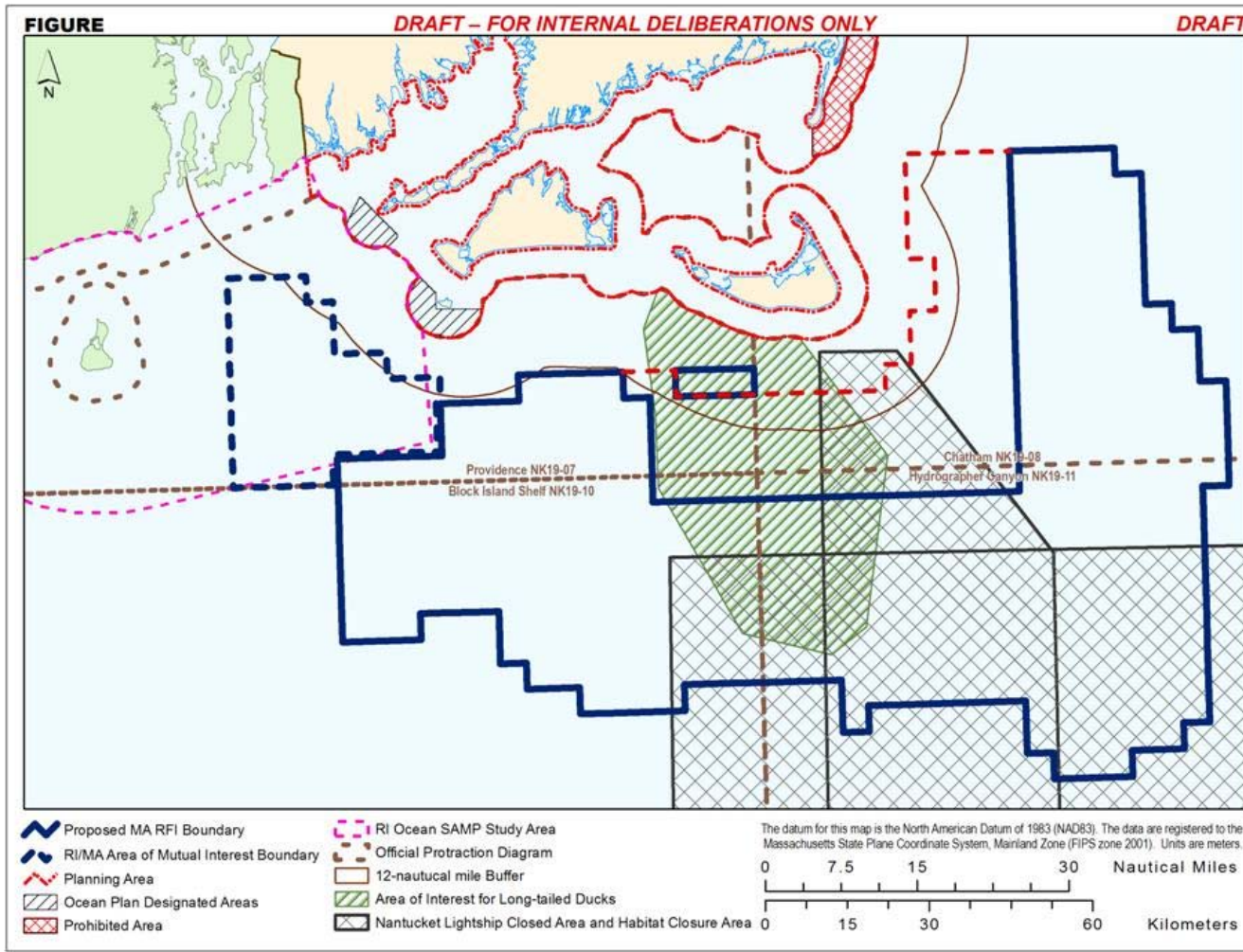
Comments and Revisions

- Visual/aesthetics
 - Increased buffer zone to 12 miles from 9 miles
- Multiple uses/incorporate current data
 - Increased buffer, removed a large area of the shoals, MORIS data included in RFI
- Resource data
 - ASA contract, new field work
 - Field work will address broad area of RFI and provide baseline for NEPA review
 - Physical oceanographic modeling w/UMASS Dartmouth

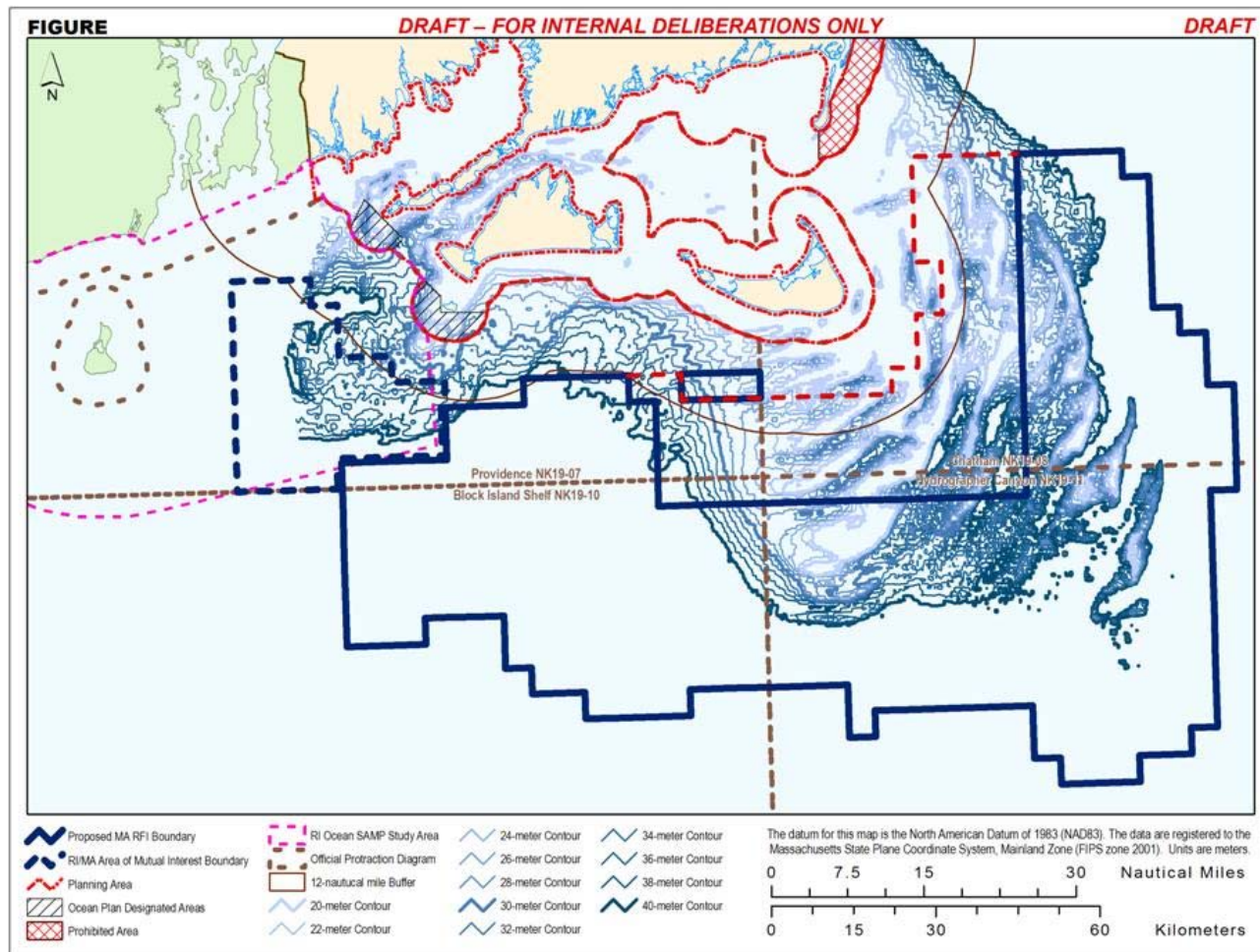
Revised Draft RFI Area



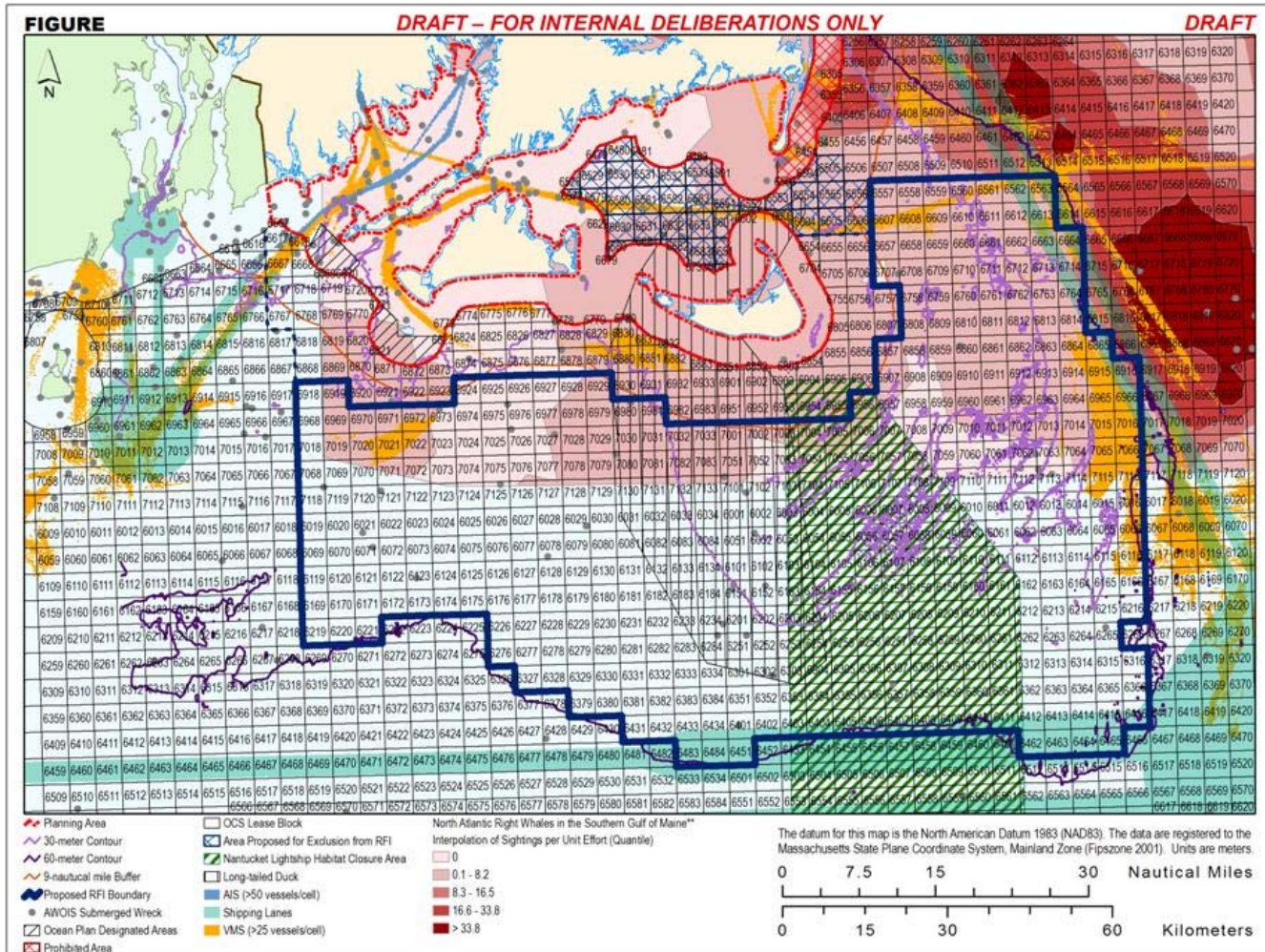
Revised Draft RFI Area



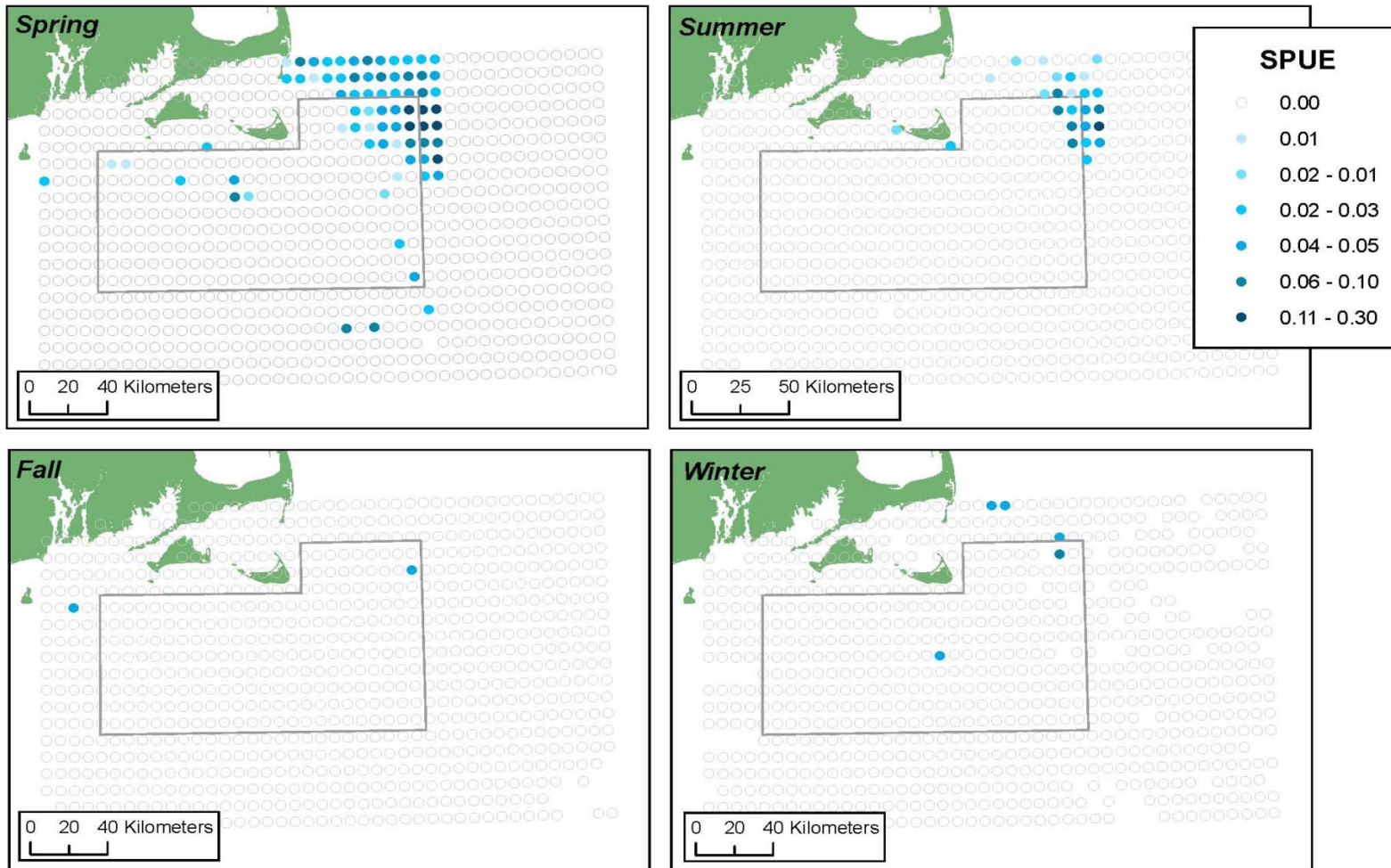
Revised Draft RFI Area



Existing Spatial Data



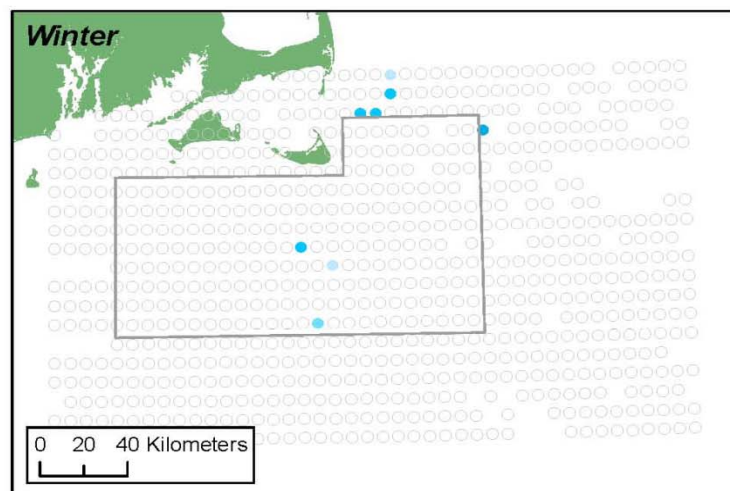
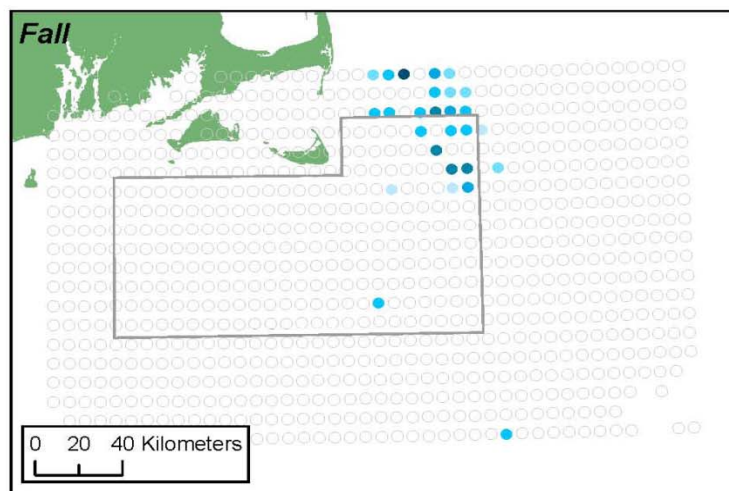
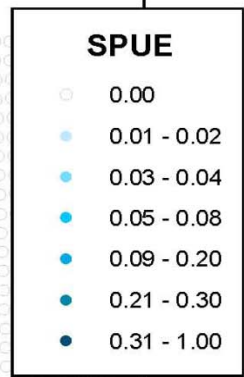
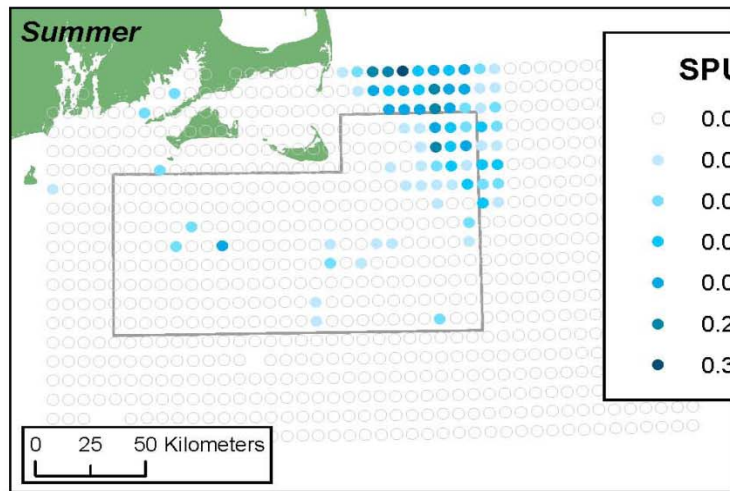
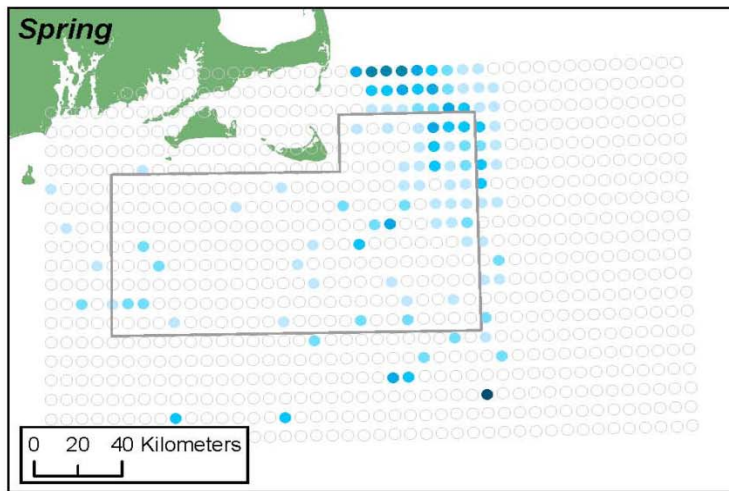
ASA Data Product



right whale

SPUE = number animals sighted / effort

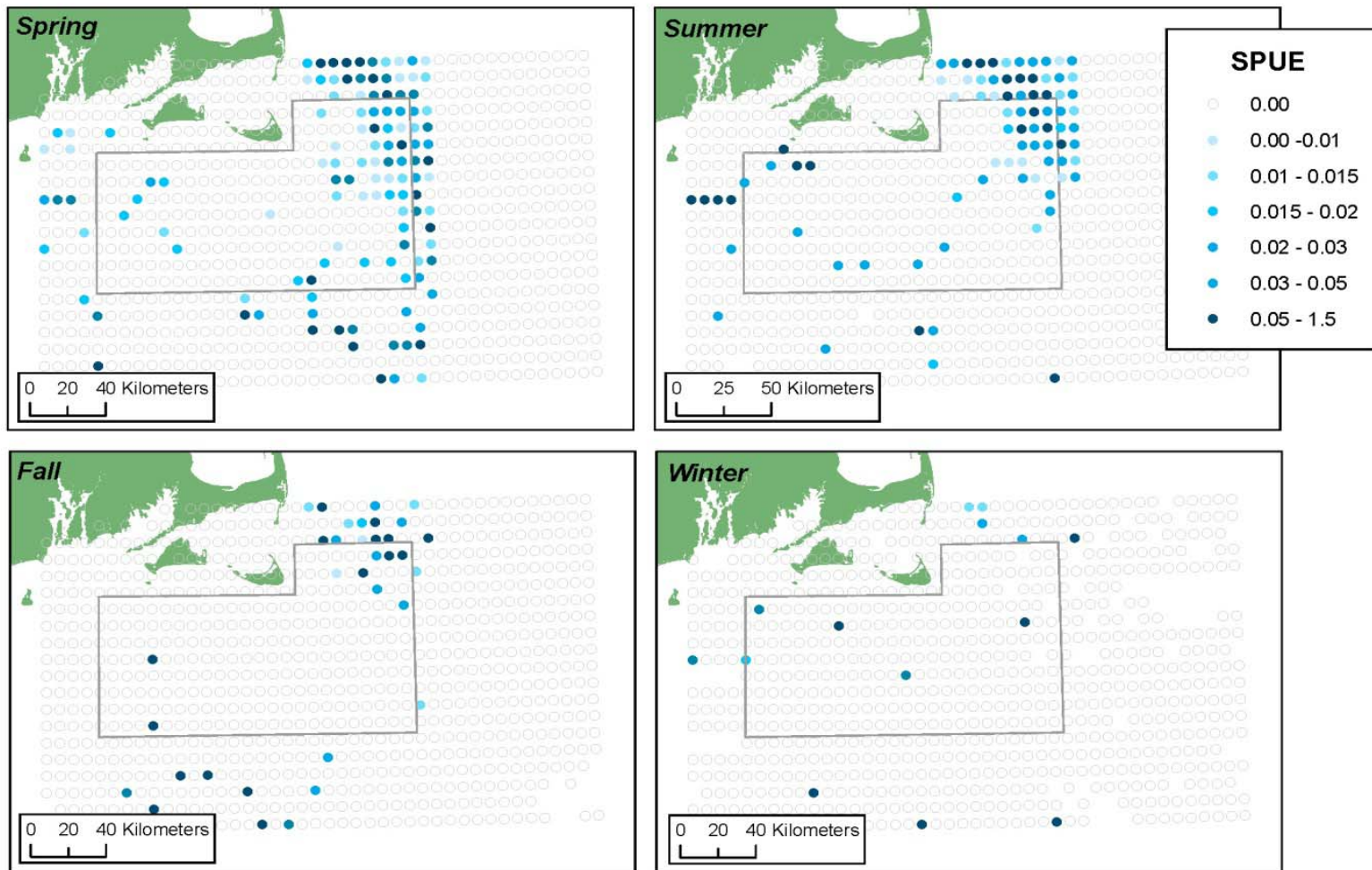
ASA Data Product



humpback whale

SPUE = number animals sighted / effort

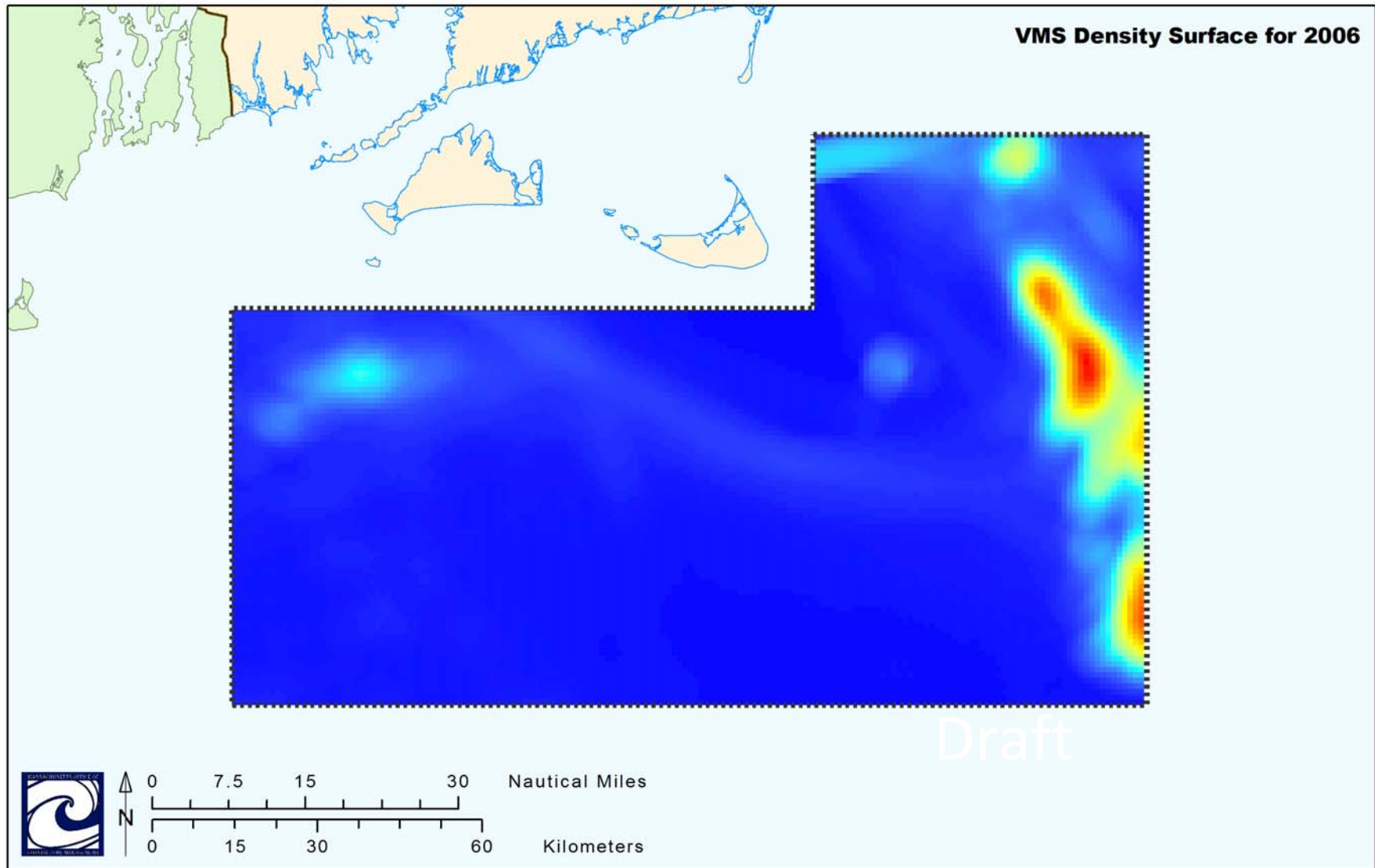
ASA Data Product



fin whale

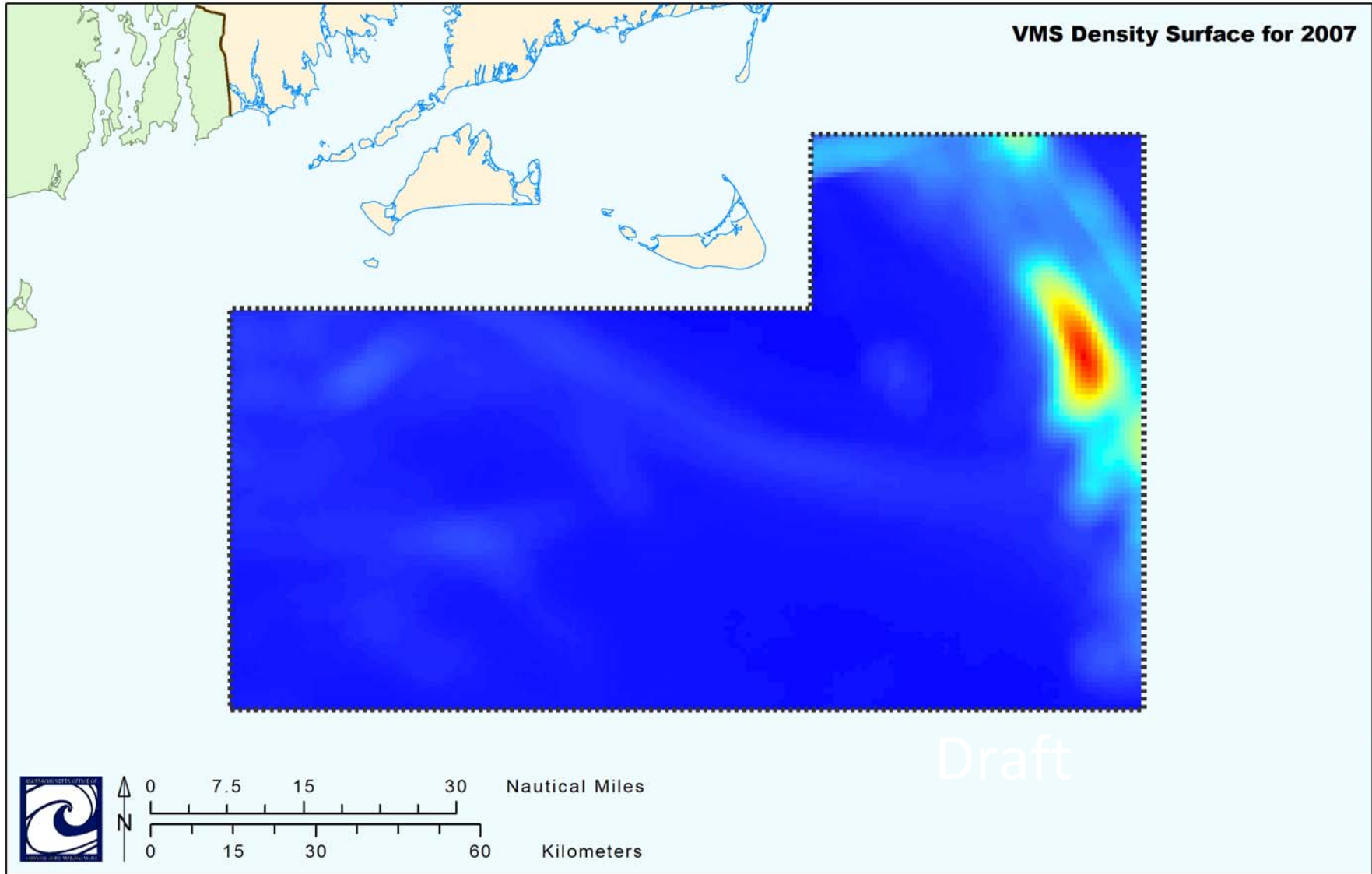
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ASA Data Product

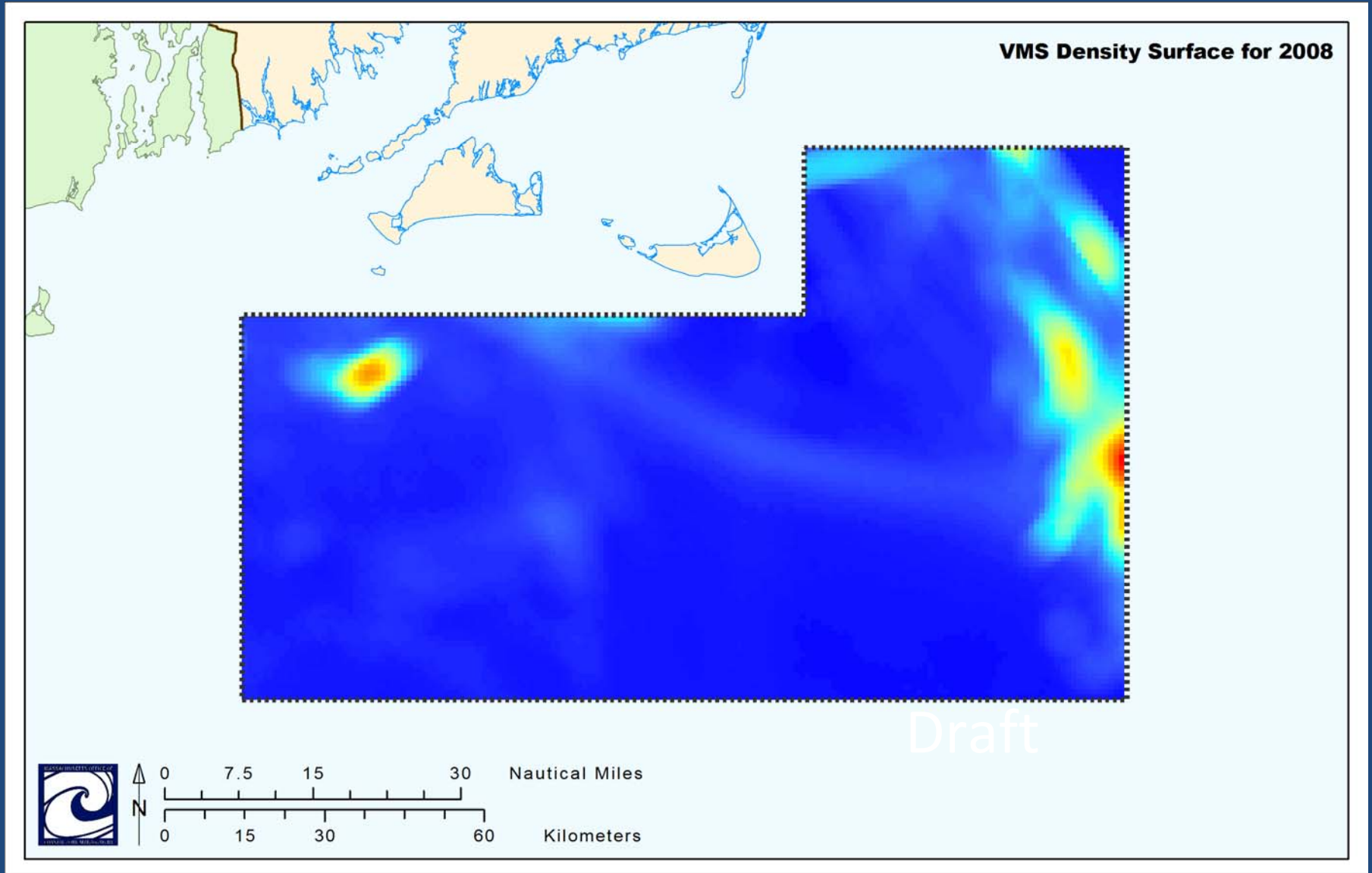


ASA Data Product

VMS Density Surface for 2007



ASA Data Product



Field Work

- Use RFI to help scope: broad area characterization guided by current desk-top study and responses to RFI
- Focus on birds and whales; pick up oceanography, other values opportunistically
- Begin Spring 2011
- Integrate with RI data
- Intent to feed into the planning process through the Call for Information/Area ID

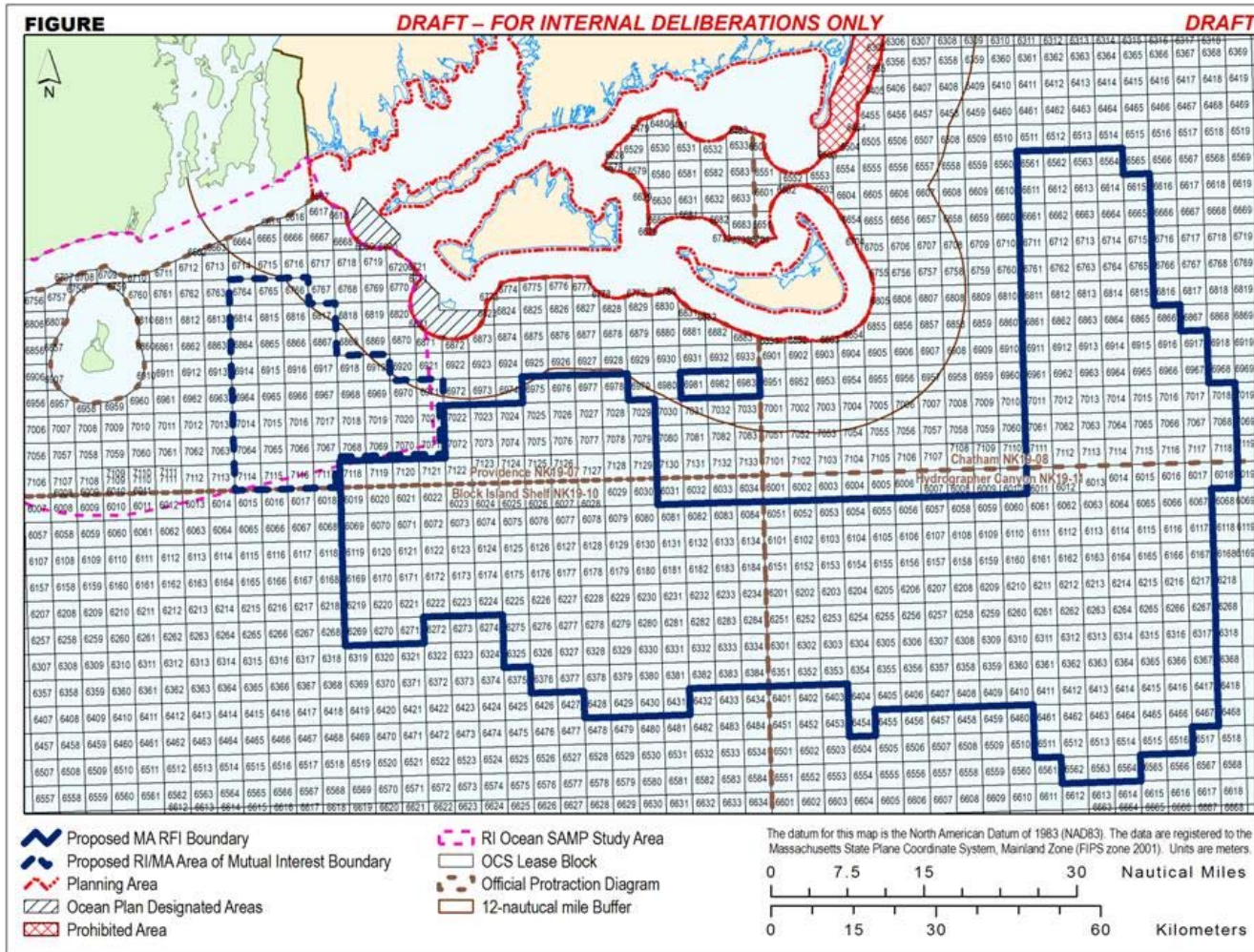
National Offshore Renewable Energy Innovation Zone

- Test area for tidal, wave, and offshore wind to:
 - establish a permanent facility for developing and testing renewable energy technologies and techniques;
 - measure and understand available marine resources;
 - develop survey information relevant to potential projects in the MREID area; and
 - provide a site to conduct training sessions related to the development and deployment of off-shore renewable energy

National Offshore Renewable Energy Innovation Zone

- UMASS/MA application to BOEM in September
- BOEM to distribute to Task Force for comment
- Intent is to try to use RFI to address both commercial and NOREIZ interests

MA/RI Area of Mutual Interest



MA/RI MOU and Area of Mutual Interest

- MOU provides that:
 - SAMP to serve as planning/siting document within Area of Mutual Interest
 - MA have opportunity for immediate and future comment on Special Area Management Plan
 - MA and RI share benefit/impact of project development
 - RI lead on AMI RFI/leasing process with BOEM subject to MA concurrence

MA/RI MOU and Area of Mutual Interest

- SAMP addresses siting in RI waters; will be extended to federal waters in several months
- RI CRMC to hold public information meetings on the SAMP September 15 (New Bedford) and 16 (Martha's Vineyard)
- Comments due to CRMC September 24
- Currently developing process for MA participation and comment on federal water extension

Ongoing Comment on SAMP/AMI

- Task Force
- MA and RI developing process to ensure that MA stakeholders – particularly fishing interests – are represented
- MA and RI developing process for comment on extension of SAMP to federal waters (AMI)
- NEPA

Thank You