

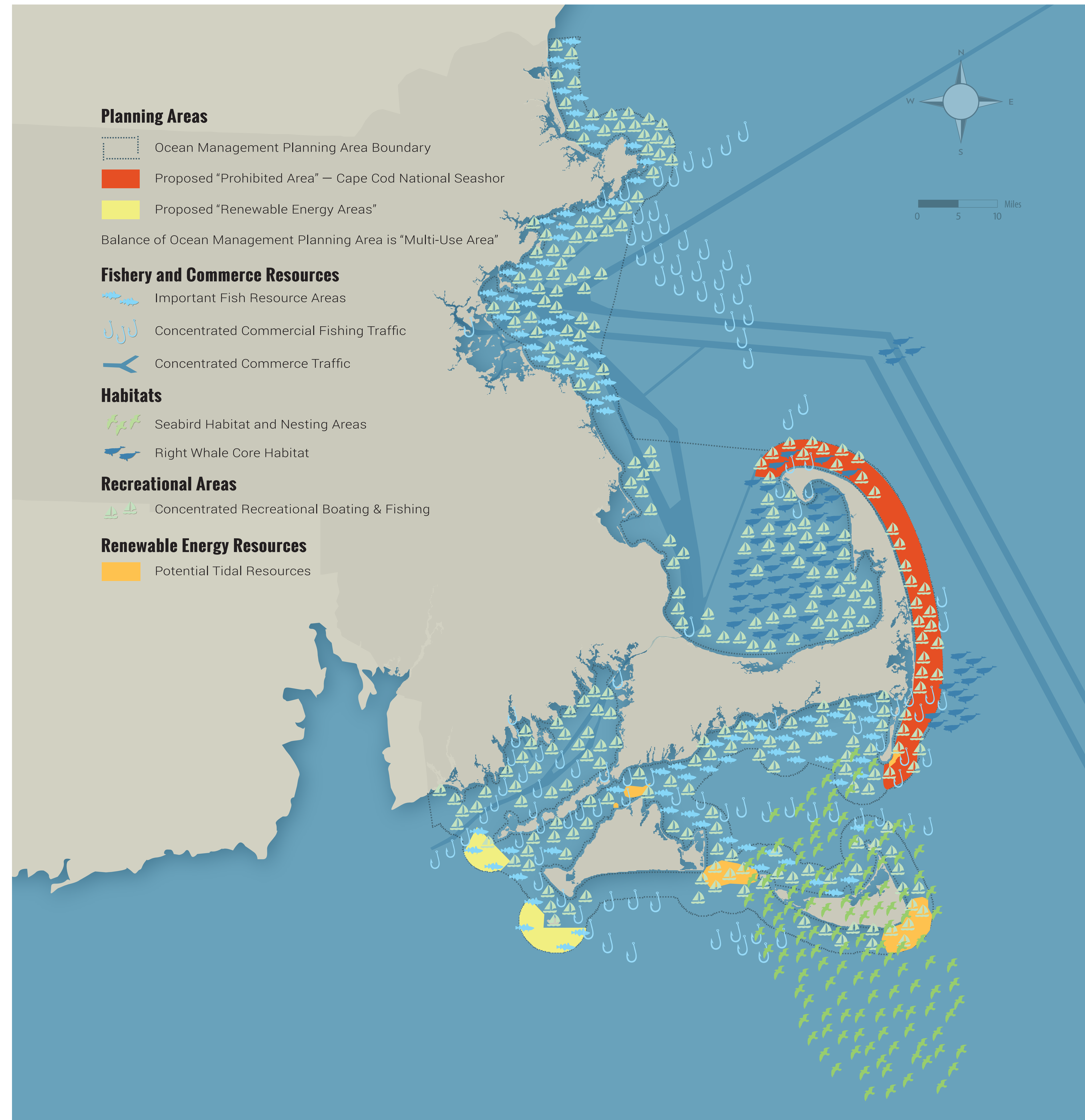
PRODUCTION: OCEAN COMMODITIES

MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME

Massachusetts has a long and proud history with marine industries. Today, Massachusetts is the **number two producer** of seafood in the country by sales.¹ The seafood industry employs **11,270 Massachusetts workers** in commercial fishing, seafood processing and wholesale distribution, and another **11,000 workers** in related industries. Combined, these jobs pull in a payroll of **\$509 million**.²

In 2009, Massachusetts adopted a **first-in-the-nation Ocean Management Plan**. The Ocean Plan is a framework for managing the state's marine waters in the face of growing economic, environmental and recreational interests. The planning area includes more than **2,000 square miles** of ocean.³ The plan delineates a wide variety of resources within this area—fisheries, commerce, recreation, wildlife, and geology—and designates distinct zones of development.

OCEAN MANAGEMENT PLAN

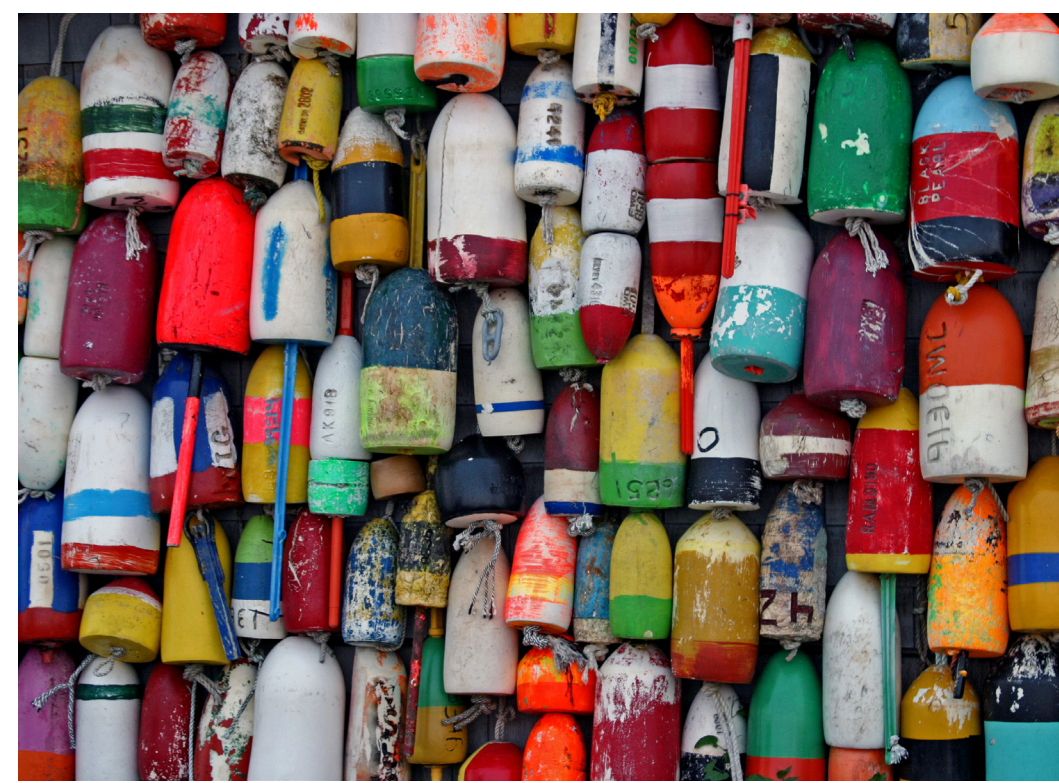


THINKING LOCAL: SEA INDUSTRIES

Southeastern Massachusetts is home to a **rich and historic fishing industry**. Much of the **cultural diversity** of southeast Massachusetts is owed to the early days of the whaling industry, which drew Portuguese immigrants.⁴ Today in Southeastern Massachusetts there is a large representation of Portuguese speakers, with ancestry tracing to Portugal, the Azores, and Cape Verde.

The Port of New Bedford is the **largest fishery port on the U.S. East Coast**. The region has several additional fishing ports, including **Chatham, Woods Hole, Rock Harbor, Sandwich, Scituate, Provincetown, and Plymouth**. Southeastern Massachusetts (including **Cape Cod and the Islands**) is also the focal point for all of the Commonwealth's marine aquaculture industry.⁵

The Southeastern Massachusetts seafood industry is not just fishing - it includes **processing, wholesale and retail distribution, marine equipment suppliers, and storage facilities**.⁶ New Bedford alone has more than **30 processors and distributors**, and the New Bedford commercial port alone employs more than **4,400 workers**. In 2011, the New Bedford fishing fleet brought in **\$369 million in direct sales**.⁷



Sources:
1. USDA Census of Agriculture, 2012
2. Massachusetts Special Commission on Seafood Marketing, 2013
3. Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, 2009
4. Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/portam/whaling.html>
5. Woods Hole Sea Grant <http://www.whoi.edu/seagrant/page.do?pid=52096>
6. Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development <http://www.mass.gov/hed/economic/profiles/southeast.html>
7. Port of New Bedford <http://www.portofnewbedford.org/commercial-fishing/our-commercial-fishing-industry/>

MASSACHUSETTS FOOD SYSTEM PLAN