

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Number and Title: Application of the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) to the Northeast

Grant Receipt/Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Project Leader: Mark Anderson

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

NALCC Conservation Need Addressed: Topic 1, Classification of Coastal and Marine Habitats

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

This quarter we completed the tasks for Phase 1: Calibrate the CMECS model to the Northwest Atlantic (Geoform, Substrate, and Biotic Components) at local, subregional and regional scales. This will serve as the foundation for the classification for the Northwest Atlantic.

Goal 1): Classification Units and Diagrams: Identify existing state and regional marine classification units and create space/time diagrams for existing units to aid in Steps 2 and 3.

Task 1: Create a list of existing classification units

a: Regional marine classifications - NAMERA, NERRS and CMECS (TNC)

b: CT, RI, ME, NH, MA (URI/Emily/John)

c: Massachusetts marine classifications. (Kathryn/MADMF)

This task was fully completed with existing classification units created for all three scales. The results were presented to the steering committee for review and adjustments were made after an informative discussion

Task 2: Each team creates one diagram for each scale.

This task was fully completed and diagrams are now available for each scale (see below)

Goal 2): Phase 1 Report: We have begun to create the phase 1 report which consists of a summary of components and subcomponents for the Northwest Atlantic at all scales. Preliminary crosswalks between CMECS and existing units have been created for each scale of the project and are now being circulated for review. Additionally, we have explored the use of CMECS Biotopes for crosswalking the benthic habitats developed in The Conservancy's Northwest Atlantic Marine Assessment. These integrated units (biotopes are a combination of an organism community and a physical environment) are closer in concept to the benthic habitats mapped in the assessment than to a strict hierarchical classification.

Summary of Progress: (Provide a paragraph describing progress, work to come, and timelines)

We have fully completed Phase 1 and are preparing a report. Additionally, we have explored the utility of the new CMECS biotope concept in crosswalking our regional scale benthic habitats.

Difficulties Encountered: None. However, the primary researcher on the mid-scale analysis (Emily

Shumchenia) will be leaving the project in the next quarter.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Next Quarter we will complete the Phase 1 report and initiate Phase 2: Test the Northwest Atlantic CMECS by applying it at three scales (regional, subregional and local), building on existing work aimed at mapping marine habitats at overlapping scales. The regional scale mapping will be conducted with datasets assembled to develop The Nature Conservancy's Northwest Atlantic Marine Ecoregional Assessment. As each test area develops their map, the team will identify individual class thresholds for each CMEC component (e.g. depth classes, or grain size classes) and prepare the justification for each.

Expected End Date: December 2013

Costs:

Cumulative NALCC-funded expenses to date: \$13,001.12

Total Approved Budgeted NALCC Funds: 130,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Date: April 30, 2013