

## **Presentation 16: David S. Robinson**

### **The Rhode Island Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes Project – Experiences and Lessons Learned from the Deep South Coast of New England**

The scope of maritime archaeology in southern New England is becoming increasingly multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural in nature. This developmental trajectory is due partially to a greater need for and growing general interest in marine spatial planning, stimulated by mounting pressures associated with impacts from climate change, fishing, sand & gravel harvesting, and the proposed construction of offshore energy infrastructure. Southern New England's federally-recognized Tribes involved in the review of federal undertakings offshore and in state-led marine spatial planning initiatives have for the last 10 years repeatedly requested standardized methodologies for identifying their ancestral paleocultural sites in the the submerged environments potentially affected by these impacts. These communities have also, along with the author of this paper, advocated for and been involved in the development of opportunities to more actively engage the planning, direction, and execution of maritime archaeological research. Experiences and lessons learned are presented from the recently completed, BOEM-funded, Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes Project, conducted over the past five years in the coastal and offshore waters of Rhode Island with indigenous descendent communities as active research partners. This information is shared with the hope that at least some of the knowledge gained from our experiences and from the results of our Rhode Island research will be transferrable and useful to agencies, Tribes, and marine archaeologists working in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.