

MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee: Inaugural Scoping Meeting

This document summarizes discussions of the MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee at the group's inaugural meeting convened by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) and facilitated by Meridian Institute in Washington, DC on March 10, 2014. Participant feedback and questions on the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework and regional ocean planning generally can be found in Appendix A.

The members of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC) have been chosen as they are leaders in their respective communities. While it is MARCO's desire to facilitate dialogue and capture comments and thoughts from these stakeholders' communities through their respective SLC member, with respect to the comments and opinions contained in the Summary of MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee: Inaugural Scoping Meeting and Appendix A - MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee: Specific Comments and Questions, the individual SLC members did not first convene community-wide participation in generating comments on the Draft Framework. This is largely due to time constraints resulting from a relatively brief period between the meeting announcement and the in-person meeting. To that end, please accept these comments on the Draft Framework from SLC members as individual comments as opposed to comments from the entire community they represent. As the SLC becomes further established, they can provide comments on the ocean planning process that reflect their sector community-wide.

Introduction and Agenda Review

Gwynne Schultz, Chair of the MARCO Management Board, opened the meeting by welcoming participants. She introduced Ingrid Irigoyen, Meridian Institute, who facilitated the meeting, beginning with a round of introductions. A roster of Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC) members and a list of meeting participants can be found in Appendices B.1 and B.2. Ms. Irigoyen then reviewed the meeting agenda, available in Appendix C, as well as the meeting objectives:

- Introduce Stakeholder Liaison Committee members to Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning and to the committee's proposed roles in informing the planning process.
- Provide founding members of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee an opportunity to help shape the committee process so that it most effectively meets the needs of stakeholders and provides meaningful input for regional ocean planning.
- Facilitate in-depth discussion and feedback about the initial draft products of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB), including the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework.

Presentation and Discussion: Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning and the Role of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee

Sarah Cooksey, MARCO Management Board, opened the session by providing an overview of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. She referred to slides, which can be found in Appendix D. During her presentation, Ms. Cooksey described Mid-Atlantic ocean planning activities, including a series of public listening sessions currently being held across the region in which stakeholders are invited to provide input about the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)'s *Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* (Draft Framework). Ms. Cooksey also described the MidA RPB's timeline for key next steps, including finalization of the Draft Framework and development of a workplan, regional ocean assessment, and possible ocean plan.

Ms. Cooksey explained the roles and functions of MARCO and the MidA RPB. She described a number of products and services in support of regional ocean planning that MARCO is providing, such as the MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal ([Data Portal](#)) and a variety of stakeholder engagement mechanisms, including the SLC.

Meeting participants were then invited to share any questions or comments regarding regional ocean planning generally. During discussion, participants sought clarification about the regional ocean planning process, including the relationship between MARCO and the MidA RPB, the proposed content of a regional ocean assessment, and the timeline for moving forward. A number of participants voiced support for development of a regional ocean plan that takes into account current and future ocean uses, and for improved communication and coordination with ocean users and other stakeholders through the planning process. Participants also highlighted the importance of learning from existing ocean planning efforts and appropriate documentation of information and activities that result from the planning process. Participant feedback and questions on the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework and regional ocean planning generally can be found in Appendix A.

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they represent. As the SLC becomes further established, they can provide comments on the ocean planning process that reflect their sector community-wide.

Presentation and Discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee

Kris Ohleth, Executive Director of MARCO, then provided an overview of the proposed structure and function of the SLC. She referred to slides, which can be found in Appendix D, and a document entitled *Description of MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee*, in Appendix E. Ms. Ohleth explained the objectives of the SLC as being to provide input on regional ocean planning, act as a conduit and advisor for effective communication between MARCO and stakeholders, and serve as a resource for increased understanding and dialogue on ocean planning. She described proposed roles and responsibilities of the SLC members in representing a broad diversity of interests within their stakeholder groups; working with MARCO to improve communication, outreach, and information sharing; and helping to inform and shape the ocean planning process. Ms. Ohleth asked SLC members to provide guidance on how MARCO can best support their efforts in reaching out to their stakeholder groups and to ensure meaningful engagement of the SLC.

During discussion, SLC members sought further clarification about the flow of information between the SLC, MARCO, and the MidA RPB. Ms. Ohleth explained the role MARCO will serve in sharing information between the SLC and the MidA RPB, emphasizing that SLC members will review publicly available draft products and MARCO will provide SLC input to the MidA RPB in as direct a manner as possible. Membership on the SLC does not preclude SLC members or other stakeholders from engaging with and providing comments directly to the MidA RPB through existing public comment mechanisms. The added value of the SLC process is its role as a forum for discussion across stakeholder interests and with MARCO about regional ocean planning, providing in-depth input through MARCO to the RPB, and clarification of questions and discussion of concerns stakeholder may have going forward.

Participants suggested identifying on the SLC membership roster the stakeholder interest group that each SLC member is representing, as well as a creating a timeline of SLC, MARCO and MidA RPB activities and deadlines for public comment on draft products. It was suggested that at least two weeks' notice be given in advance of deadlines, to ensure sufficient time for SLC members to solicit stakeholder feedback. Participants recommended that individual MidA RPB members use their federal and state contact lists to further disseminate information about regional ocean planning-related meetings and activities. Several participants applauded the quality of the Data Portal and noted its utility as a tool to share information with stakeholders. They stressed the importance of tailoring data to meet specific sectorial needs. Participants were asked to help MARCO identify data gaps and provide feedback to enhance the Data Portal.

Presentation and Discussion: the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Marty Rosen, MARCO Management Board, began the session by providing an overview of the Draft Framework, including the draft vision, principles, goals, objectives, and initial geographic focus. The Draft Framework can be found in Appendix F and the slides referred to during his presentation can be found in Appendix D. Mr. Rosen explained that the MidA RPB is currently gathering public input about the Draft Framework, will make refinements based on that input, and aim to finalize the Draft Framework at the next in-person MidA RPB meeting scheduled for May 2014. He explained that this would set in motion development of a workplan that would articulate activities to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in a final framework document. Additional efforts will include development of a capacity assessment, regional ocean assessment, and the possible development of a Mid-Atlantic regional ocean plan.

Ms. Irigoyen then facilitated discussion about each element of the Draft Framework. Participants emphasized the importance of understanding the environmental and economic interconnections between state and federal ocean waters, oceans and bays/estuaries, and the land and sea, and strongly encouraged ocean planners to include consideration of those interconnections in any regional ocean planning efforts. Participants recommended development of a product to show how the MidA RPB is complimenting, not duplicating, existing management efforts focused on bays and estuaries. The need for further clarification about the MidA RPB's intentions regarding bays and estuaries was emphasized.

Participants noted a need for further clarification of the MidA RPB's intentions in using several terms in the Draft Framework, including "ocean energy," "nautical information," and "adaptive management."

It was recommended that the MidA RPB work to anticipate and mitigate potential conflicts over ocean space and resources. And in its effort to find efficiencies, the MidA RPB should not inadvertently hinder existing efficiencies.

The importance of providing for the needs of long-standing ocean industries through the planning process was noted. Participants also urged the MidA RPB to consider ecosystem functioning, take into account the needs of wildlife, and include international stakeholders in its planning efforts. Several participants urged the MidA RPB to take into account issues and information about potential offshore oil and gas development through the planning process, and stated their support for including consideration of that issue in the development of a comprehensive regional ocean plan and other potential products.

A detailed account of specific points of participant feedback on the Draft Framework can be found in Appendix A.

Presentation and Discussion: the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

Tony McDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University and Principal Investigator for the team managing the Data Portal, provided an overview of the Data Portal. He referred to slides, which can be found in Appendix D. Mr. McDonald began by encouraging the SLC to continue helping ocean planners in the region determine ways to best engage the public and to identify data gaps and other improvements to the Data Portal. Mr. McDonald noted a continuing effort to make the Data Portal user friendly and encourage public usage. He pointed to specific features of the Data Portal that the public can use to identify data gaps, provide review and advice, and learn more about the data being displayed. Mr. McDonald then described the portal team's ongoing stakeholder outreach efforts and the team's development of a webinar series and online tutorial to help instruct and encourage public use. Further efforts to improve the Data Portal, including identifying communities of interest, reflecting seasonal and other time-specific data, and the possible development of 3D and 4D mapping, were also discussed.

During discussion, it was emphasized that public trust and confidence in the Data Portal tool are vitally important to its success, and provision of metadata and efforts to solicit stakeholder review of data for accuracy are key elements of building that trust. In response to a question, it was stated that making assumptions based on forecasted data would not be effective at this time. Mr. McDonald requested that the SLC help to further inform and encourage their stakeholder groups to use the Data Portal as a tool, review and provide data, and identify ways it could be improved over time. SLC members noted the importance of securing sustainable, long-term funding for the Data Portal.

Summary of meeting outcomes, next steps, and closing remarks

In closing, Ms. Irigoyen offered a summary of major outcomes and next steps. MARCO Management Board Members thanked participants for their input and shared their enthusiasm for having established the SLC as a forum for meaningful stakeholder discussion and input to inform regional ocean planning. Ms. Irigoyen then adjourned the meeting.

Appendix A

MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee: Specific Comments and Questions Offered During Inaugural Scoping Meeting on March 10, 2014

This document captures specific comments offered verbally by members of the MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC) during the group's inaugural meeting, convened by MARCO and facilitated by Meridian Institute in Washington, DC on March 10, 2014.

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SLC Comments/Questions about Draft Mid-Atlantic RPB Framework

Draft Vision

(No comment provided)

Draft Goals

General Comments about Goals:

- I like them – it's a rational way to divide things up and recognize the importance of the uses and ecological health of the ocean.

Goal 1: *Promote ocean ecosystem health and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.*

Comment:

- I struggle with these goals a little bit and the management of a public trust resource has high accountability. It's not just "conservation" or "management" –it's both. When I first read goal one I was struck that it solely focused on conservation. I struggle with that a bit and want both to be fully reflected. The conflict part of this is important and core to this process.

Goal 2: *Plan and provide for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner that reduces conflicts, improves efficiency and regulatory predictability, and supports economic growth.*

Comments:

- We need to make sure that when we are doing this we take into consideration those industries that have been working on the water for a long time (e.g. shipping and fishing). We should do this, but not severely impact these industries.
- In Goal two, I would add "anticipate, and reduce conflict." A lot of the thinking will be for anticipating conflicts.
- Goal 2 is not just about improving efficiency, but not hindering existing efficiencies that are already working well.

Draft Objectives for Goal 1

Objective 1: *Understanding, protecting, and restoring key habitats*

Comment:

- I would just say that we should just expand it beyond habitat that it should take into account ecosystem functioning and wildlife.

Objective 2: *Accounting for ocean ecosystems changes and increased risk*

Comment:

- Are we avoiding water quality? The Mid Atlantic has such a strong estuarine influence. I didn't know if we were trying to avoid that? There are issues in respect to the impact receiving waters have on the shelf. There is also atmospheric deposition. All these issues are under "ecosystem changes" – I wouldn't say that rules out regional water quality issues.

Objective 3: *Valuing traditional knowledge of the ecosystem*

(No comment provided)

Draft Objectives for Goal 2

Objective 1: *Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic*

(No comment provided)

Objective 2: *Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic*

Comments:

- We are looking forward to having many more megawatts of wind power off the OCS.
- Could you give more background on what is meant by “greater collaboration around ocean energy issues?”
- Do you mean offshore wind? What about tidal energy?
- Should there be something to address fossil fuels and drilling?

Objective 3: *Foster greater understanding of the needs of the Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities*

(No comment provided)

Objective 4: *Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting through greater coordination*

(No comments provided)

Objective 5: *Enhance coordination to ensure and update nautical information and navigation practices*

Comments:

- We need to ensure our routes remain open.
- On number five – what do you mean by “nautical information?” People think “charts” and that navigation practices means “speed and direction,” but what else?
- When I see number 4, I see who it impacts. When I see five, this is a bigger piece and that talks about national economy. If our trade goes up our GDP goes up. That could be expanded on. It’s not just shippers and traders, but its consumers as well.
- “Enhancing coordination,” but with whom? There are a lot of different players – and lots of international players – whom may never be represented at this table. We need to keep this in mind.

Objective 6: *Facilitate enhanced coordination on the use of sand and gravel resources*

(No comment provided)

Objective 7: *Coordinate improved understanding of near-shore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses*

Comment:

- These groups have a huge economic importance to the communities.

Objective 8: *Recognize and take into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources*

(No comment provided)

Objective 9: *Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure*

Comment:

- When you call someone internationally it goes through a cable not a satellite.
-

Draft Principles

General Comments on the Principles:

- What can we do that deals with resilience?

Principle 1: *Recognizes and considers the interconnections across human uses and interest, marine species and habitats, and coastal communities and economies.*

Comment:

- In number one, “recognizing interconnections” is there anywhere the marine industry is recognized here? The betterment of trade as one of the principles is something we should be looking at. Trade really looks at protecting the marine environment. Is there any place we can put that in these principles?

Principle 2: *Coordinate in making information available to support economic development and ecosystem conservation so that multiple interests can co-exist in a manner that reduces conflict and enhances compatibility*

(No comment provided)

Principle 3: *Consider the risk and vulnerabilities associated with past, present, and predicted ocean and coastal hazards and predicted changes to temperature and ocean acidification*

(No comment provided)

Principle 4: *Consider sound science and traditional knowledge in decision-making*

(No comment provided)

Principle 5: *Apply a flexible and adaptive approach in accommodation changing environmental conditions, advances in science and technology, and new or revised laws and policies*

Comments:

- On number five – adaptive management – I have led some national academy efforts on adaptive management. I support this principle, but the concept is being dumbed down by overuse. If you commit to it, it is more than just being flexible and accommodating to changing issues. Adaptive management is assessing the effectiveness of your decisions and being willing to make changes in your decisions based on those outcomes. It is about rigorously assessing how it is working and being prepared to make those changes.
- We know the Panama Canal is scheduled for completion in 2015 and we know there will be more East Coast traffic. China is looking to build a canal in Nicaragua – how will that impact shipping? It will be important to know this.

Principle 6: *Actions will be consistent with Federal laws, regulations, Executive Orders and treaties, and with State laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and treaties where applicable*

Comments:

- It is important to clarify that this process will not be redundant. That our intent is to build off existing programs and laws. It will be helpful to clarify that and avoid duplication.
- I have a few questions about how these things will actually get done and under what authority. If you are doing habitat protection in federal waters – what authority will it be under? Will it be under MSA? There are number of uncertainties with how you are going to do this without replicating efforts. How will this effort tie to other efforts? Should we expect input from this body to other ongoing efforts?

Principle 7: *To increase inter-jurisdictional coordination to facilitate efficient and effective management of Mid-Atlantic ocean uses and resources*

(No comment provided)

Principle 8: *Process and products will benefit from meaningful public input, be designed to be easily understood by all, and allow stakeholders to participate and understand when and how decisions are reached*

(No comment provided)

Principle 9: *Respect the intrinsic value of the ocean and its biodiversity*

Comments:

- What is this principle is trying to capture?
 - Is this more than just ecosystems services? That it has value solely because it exist?
-

Comments/Question about Ocean Planning Generally

Comments/Questions on Ocean Planning Process and Development of an Ocean Plan

- A case can be made for proceeding incrementally. Real progress can be made by increasing coordination between users and those with regulatory authority in the ocean.
- I think most people know that this is a manifestation of a national plan. If we are going to do a plan, could you tell me more of the state of play for what a plan might look like? How has it evolved?
- You need to document what you have learned here. One of the biggest issues is the retention of information over the long haul. You need to put it in one place and recognize that is not the end all be all. Say this is what we have learned, but continue to adaptively manage it. A plan does not necessarily mean regulatory structure. Clarifying who does what is something this group and the RPB can do.
- Coordination is great. We need to put it on a paper. The public assumes we are already coordinating. They want to know what will change with all this talking. There should be a deliverable by the end of the day. That was the vision from the Executive Order.
- There are examples where these processes have been effective, engaged stakeholders, have had good data analysis – we don't have to wait to a final regional plan to advocate improvements. Timing is critical. Once these things are cited it's too late to have an informed discussion. The more groundwork now the better.
- In regards to ocean planning – our groups are talking more and having more one on one discussions. We know who to talk to and this is a great benefit. That is a big component of ocean planning.
- I am all for incremental improvements, but that does not constitute a plan. I have been around this a long time. The basic thought from the two commissions is that we have not looked at our oceans in a holistic way. We were looking at everything by an activity by activity basis. We had no goal of what we wanted to achieve. If you think about it, a plan requires a vision of the future. A plan – while not spatially fixed map – has to have a dimension that resolves issues with spatial implications. The other that strikes me with these regional councils is that this ocean we are trying to plan for

does not belong to just the state, it belongs to all Americans. We need to think of this as a national interest. What happens when we reach a difference of perspective between the states? For example look at ocean energy – one state here is for fossil fuels the others are not. How do we see this planning effort provide creative thought for discussion if not resolution?

- Since you have asked for specific recommendations for what a plan should be – I am wondering if you looked at the Rhode Island or Massachusetts plan? They have done a plan and some basic mapping – it was not useless. Have you looked at what has already been done in the U.S.?
- One outcome of the planning process is to evaluate uses. The ocean today will not be the same in five to ten years. We will be learning throughout the process. And we need to look at each user's intent and how that impacts the ocean. We need to really get down to a specific scale.
- When we do comprehensive planning we run into issues with local and state governments. What are the authorities we will have to work with? How many authorities are there? How can we explain this to normal people? Who is making the decisions out there and on what? It would be useful for MARCO to answer these questions and it will be helpful for us in communicating to our groups.
- The regional ocean assessment – is it just biological? What are you looking at?
- There are days we discussed developing a plan, but it will always be outdated and need to be updated. We should be saying though that we are going to be making a plan and it's more of a question of what we need to include. The hesitation goes back to push back about misinformation around creating new authorities - which this effort will not do. We need a comprehensive plan for the RPB that indicates our intention for the future. I am afraid to say that because people will jump to the conclusion that we will be creating a new authority.
- On the RPB you have the states representatives, the Mid Atlantic fisheries council, the feds, and the tribes. How did the fisheries get involved?
- Are you looking for consensus from this group?
- Will FERC be involved?

Comments/Questions on Geographic Focus

- One of the things I would like accomplish is to have the states recognize that the ocean doesn't stop with your view from the shore. We need to think broadly about our role with the ocean.
- At the meeting in Annapolis one of the ladies mentioned that the focus would be on the state waters. Do we intend to go there?
- I feel that from a number of environmental groups it's helpful to include a number of the bays and estuaries – to the extent that you are tackling issues that will ultimately impact the inshore bays. There has been confusion with how the geographic part is phrased.

- One thing that was raised with developing offshore wind is the need to come on shore. You will need to factor the waters that it is moving through and look at the whole issue of siting.
 - We need to document that we don't want to go into the bays and estuaries and we want to talk about how the ocean relates to the bays. Put it on a map so people can see the connection. A work product would be to show how MARCO is not overlapping with a bay program or how it is complimentary to those efforts.
 - There is not a special reason to include the Long Island Sound if you do not include the Chesapeake.
 - I thought NROC was planning in the Long Island Sound? Are there efforts for New York and Connecticut to plan in the Sound?
 - In regard to Long Island Sound we need to interact with the NE RPB. Both those entities (NE and Mid A RPB) are involved in the Long Island Sound.
 - When we draw the line between North Carolina and Virginia how do we draw out the line? Do we just go straight out? For the portal we don't need to get hung up on it, but you need to show where MARCO ends and the other jurisdictions begin.
 - Currents and oil slicks don't care for state lines.
 - We spent the latter half of last year putting a user survey and we left out the Chesapeake and the Sound. I don't know if that will inform your discussion or not.
-

Comments/Questions on Stakeholder Outreach

- We want recreational stakeholders and their opinions involved in this process.
- Regional ocean planning only works when you have an array of stakeholders at the table.
- I am not clear what stakeholders some people in attendance here are representing. I would like to know who is representing what sector of the industry. This would be a product that needs to be outlined or on the roster.
- In regards to getting the word out to our groups – if we are going to get feedback from the recreational sector we will need at least two weeks' time. The RPB is building a contact list with the public listening sessions and it would be very helpful for agencies to use their broader reach to advertise those meetings. People have commented they have only heard about these meetings (*in reference to public listening sessions*) from their specific user groups and not the feds.
- The average fishermen will want to know how this impacts him. Will it restrict where he can fish? It will be hard to address all these questions. I will be working to get answers back to the community that will address the most people.
- Will all of this be posted online so that the public can know what is going on?

Comments/Questions on MARCO-RPB Relationship

- You have the RPB, MARCO, and the SLC, who is on top of whom and where are we?
- I would like to follow up on the council's role and wanted to clarify if it is your expectation that the work products of the SLC will flow through the RPB? Will MARCO's role be of facilitating the SLC and communicating that output to the RPB? Would it be possible for the SLC to convene jointly with the RPB?
- Can someone clarify on what type of feedback this process will provide to MARCO and the RPB? What is the vision for what this process will be and what the output of the products will be?
- Can individual also comment directly to the RPB?
- In regards to feedback from the RPB to this group – if we come up with products will there be a feedback loop between these two groups?
- I think that having a list of the different people on the advisory committees and what these committees are on the RPB website and knowing how they will interact will be helpful. Will we address the other deliverables of the RPB? Like the charter?
- It was mentioned that MARCO might have a role on an ocean assessment? It would be nice to have a schedule of when MARCO, the SLC, and the RPB are meeting so we know when to have our information and comments in.
- Since MARCO says we will not address offshore drilling – are you saying that the SLC can still address this? Because we provide broader input to the RPB? The interesting thing about this regional ocean is that it has significant interest among the states, but it is also a federal interest. It's not Virginia's oil, it's the American people's. If this is an interest of the whole region – then it is important to know that the area where BOEM was talking about drilling is closer to Maryland and then Virginia Beach. Oil spills do not stop at a state boundary. If we cannot address this issue- how can the sectors address these conflicts? It doesn't make sense.
- One area of water quality we hope the RPB/MARCO can look at is marine debris and ocean acidification. We hope MARCO can appropriate that and are not sure if the RPB can rope that in.

Comments/Questions on Data Portal

- Will the portal focus on planning? Or will it be used as a decision tool? From a fisheries standpoint we are not ready for this as a data set. One of my objectives is to get fisheries data on the map.
- I wanted to ask if gap analysis is part of the portal initiative. Are you constantly identifying data gaps? This committee could play a constructive role forward in bringing their sectorial knowledge forward.
- In terms of mapping and characterizing – is there anything we can do after we identify an important place to ensure there is some protection in place?

- Are you working with the Coast Guard? How are you dealing with right whales and movable Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA)?
- Are you going to have the capacity to do forecasting on this?
- I wanted to get clarification on the period of time of data collection? What is your timeframe?
- I want the information to be discerned by people who are using this. When clicking these images it looks like there are vessels everywhere and all the time. That first impression is so important.
- To what extent do you want us to push this information out there to general public?
- This is a tool to assist in the planning process, but it does not represent the plan.
- Are there enough resources for MARCO to collect data for each different group? There are 10,000 different types of recreational fishers. Are there resources for different portals for different sectors?
- Some of the funding came through regional partnership grants. Any indication that it will be cut?

Appendix B.1

MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee

March 2014

Membership Roster

David Blazer

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Appendix B.2

MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee: Inaugural Scoping Meeting

March 10, 2014 • Washington DC

Meeting Participant List

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Appendix C

MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee: Inaugural Scoping Meeting

Date **Monday, March 10, 2014**

Time **10:00am to 4:00pm**

Location: **1920 L St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036**

Objectives:

- Introduce Stakeholder Liaison Committee members to Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning and to the committee’s proposed roles in informing the planning process.
- Provide founding members of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee an opportunity to help shape the committee process so that it most effectively meets the needs of stakeholders and provides meaningful input for regional ocean planning.
- Facilitate in-depth discussion and feedback about the initial draft products of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, including the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework.

Agenda

- 9:45 am** **Coffee and refreshments provided**
- 10:00 am** **Welcome, introductions, and agenda review**
Gwynne Schultz, MARCO Chair
Ingrid Irigoyen, Meridian Institute
- 10:20 am** **Presentation and Discussion: Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning and the role of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee**
During this session, MARCO Management Board members will provide a brief overview of Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning, the relationship between MARCO and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, and the full suite of planned stakeholder engagement efforts. This will be followed by brief discussion.

- 10:50 am** **Presentation and Discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee**
Following a brief presentation by MARCO Management Board members about the current thinking regarding the structure and functions of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee, participants will be asked to share their questions and ideas to help MARCO shape the committee process so that it most effectively meets the needs of stakeholders and provides meaningful input for regional ocean planning. During discussion, participants will be asked to keep in mind the major objectives that MARCO has identified for the committee:
- Provide direct input and feedback to MARCO about design and implementation of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.
 - Act as a conduit for information between stakeholders in the region and MARCO about regional ocean planning.
 - Serve as a venue for increasing dialogue, understanding, and communication among stakeholders.
- 11:45 am** **Lunch (provided)**
- 12:30 pm** **Presentation and Discussion: the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework**
The objective of this session is to share and discuss participant feedback about the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework (draft framework). The session will begin with MARCO Management Board members offering a brief presentation of the purpose and content of the draft framework, followed by group discussion of each major element of the draft framework. During discussion, participants will not be asked to provide consensus advice, but rather to illuminate important questions, concerns, and perspectives that key stakeholder interests in the region have about the draft framework and foster increased cross-sectoral understanding.
- 2:00pm** **Break**
- 2:15pm** **Discussion: the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework (continued)**
After a brief break, discussion of the draft framework will continue.
- 3:15 pm** **Presentation and Discussion: The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal**
Tony MacDonald, Monmouth University
During this session, a presentation will be provided about the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, a key tool for ocean planning and stakeholder engagement. This will be followed by participant questions and discussion.

3:45 pm **Summary of meeting outcomes, next steps, and closing remarks**

Ingrid Irigoyen, Meridian Institute

Gwynne Schultz, MARCO Chair

4:00 pm **Adjourn**

Appendix D

Inaugural Meeting of the Stakeholder Liaison Committee

March 10, 2014



Meeting Objectives

- Introduce you to Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning
- Provide you with an opportunity to help shape this committee process
- Facilitate in-depth discussion and feedback



Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, and agenda review
- Presentation and discussion: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning
- Presentation and discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee
- Presentation and discussion: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework
- Presentation: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal



Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, and agenda review
- **Presentation and discussion: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning**
- Presentation and discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee
- Presentation and discussion: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework
- Presentation: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal



Appendix D

Ocean-Related Opportunities and Challenges in our Region

- Our Mid-Atlantic ocean waters and ecosystems are economic engines and cultural treasures.
- Ocean activities and ecosystem components are managed separately by many jurisdictions. But they are interconnected!



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COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

What is Ocean Planning?

- A process for bringing together ocean managers and stakeholders
- A science- and information-based tool



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Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

To address this new era of ocean challenges and opportunities, the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia in 2009 signed an agreement that established MARCO

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COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)

- Established in April 2013
- Intergovernmental group created to coordinate and implement regional ocean planning
- Includes representatives of:
 - Six Mid-Atlantic states (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD and VA)
 - Shinnecock Indian Nation
 - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
 - Eight federal agencies

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Appendix D

What is the purpose of the MidA RPB?

To coordinate among State, Federal, Tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives



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What will the MidA RPB do?

- Develop a work plan
- Assess and identify capacity
- Complete a regional ocean assessment
- Engage stakeholders and improve coordination
- Consider developing an ocean plan



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MidA RPB Timeline

2013-2014 Organize and identify goals/products

2015-2016 Complete first iteration products and implement actions

2017-2018 Implement, adapt, and iterate

- Ongoing activities during this timeline
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Data collection/sharing/integration
 - Adaptation of planning products

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How will MARCO work with the MidA RPB?

- Together, MARCO and the MidA RPB can promote greater, more effective governmental and private investment, and generate more attention on priority Mid-Atlantic issues.
- MARCO products and services available to the MidA RPB:
 - Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Preliminary Regional Ocean Assessment

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Appendix D

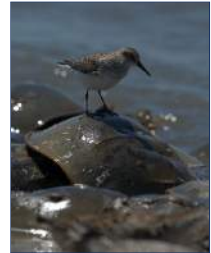
Stakeholder Engagement Efforts

- MidA RPB Public Listening Sessions
- MidA RPB Meetings
- MidA RPB Webinars
- MARCO SLC
- MARCO Data Portal project
- One-on-one interactions
- More TBD...



Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, and agenda review
- **Presentation and discussion: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning**
- **Presentation and discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee**
- Presentation and discussion: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework
- Presentation: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal



Members of the SLC

Individuals who

- Are recognized as thought leaders and key nodes of communication by their communities of interest
- Understand and can represent a variety of perspectives and interests in the region
- Represent of a larger group of stakeholders who may be impacted by, involved in, or interested in ocean planning



Objectives for the SLC

- Provide direct input and feedback to MARCO about design and implementation of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.
- Act as a conduit for information between stakeholders in the region and MARCO about regional ocean planning.
- Serve as a venue for increasing dialogue, understanding, and communication among stakeholders.



Appendix D

How did we choose the members of this committee?

- Geographic and sectoral diversity
- Broad range of stakeholder perspectives of the Mid-Atlantic region
- Small in size to foster meaningful dialogue among its members



SLC Member Roles

SLC Members are asked to

- **Strive** to represent the issues and interests of the full diversity of their sector
- **Work** with MARCO to tap into existing communication networks
- **Share** information and perspectives with one another and with MARCO
- **Help shape** the ocean planning process



How will MARCO support you in your role?

MARCO will:

- Provide management, support, and facilitation
- Work to ensure participation in the SLC cross-sector dialogue is fair and balanced
- Develop the objectives for and schedule of convening of the SLC, in consultation with the SLC
- Ensure SLC members have the materials related to ocean planning
- Convey SLC input and feedback to ocean planners in the region, including the RPB



Discussion Questions

- What ideas do you have about how the SLC process can meet its objectives?
- How can MARCO help you carry out your roles on the SLC and engage your sectors?



Appendix D

Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, and agenda review
- Presentation and discussion: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning
- Presentation and discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee
- **Presentation and discussion: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework**
- Presentation: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal



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MidA RPB Timeline

- 2013-2014** Organize and identify goals/products
 - 2015-2016** Complete first iteration products and implement actions
 - 2017-2018** Implement, adapt, and iterate
- Ongoing activities during this timeline
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Data collection/sharing/integration
 - Adaptation of planning products

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Draft Ocean Planning Framework

- Proposed Elements:
- Initial geographic focus
 - Vision statement
 - Principles
 - Goals and objectives
 - Example actions



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Initial Geographic Focus

- Primary geographic focus area:
 - Shoreline out to 200 miles (State and Federal waters)
 - Northern limit: NY/CT and NY/RI border
 - Southern limit: VA/NC border
- Connect and coordinate with major bays, estuaries, and terrestrial areas

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Appendix D

Draft Vision

A Mid-Atlantic ocean where safe and responsible use and stewardship support healthy, productive, resilient, and treasured natural and economic ocean resources that provide for the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations



Nine Draft Principles

- 1) **Recognize interconnections** between human uses, marine ecosystem, and coastal communities
- 2) Share information to ensure the **compatibility of multiple interests**
- 3) **Improve resilience** associated with ocean and coastal hazards
- 4) Consider **sound science** and traditional knowledge in decision-making
- 5) **Adaptive management**
- 6) **Consistency with existing laws**
- 7) Increase **coordination and government efficiency**
- 8) Promote public input through **transparency and engagement**
- 9) Respect the ocean's **intrinsic value**



Draft Goals

Goal 1: Promote ocean ecosystem health and integrity

- conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.

Goal 2: Plan and provide for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner

- reduce conflicts, improve efficiency and regulatory predictability, and support economic growth.



Draft Objectives for Goal 1

Promote ecosystem health and integrity

- 1) Understand, protect and restore key habitats
- 2) Account for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks
- 3) Value traditional knowledge of the ecosystem



Appendix D

Draft Objectives for Goal 2

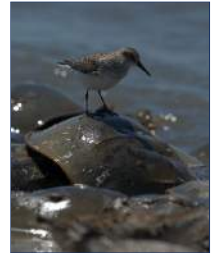
Plan for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner

- 1) National security
- 2) Ocean energy issues
- 3) Commercial and recreational fishers and fishing communities
- 4) Ocean aquaculture
- 5) Nautical information and navigation practices
- 6) Offshore sand and gravel resources
- 7) Non-consumptive recreational uses
- 8) Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources
- 9) Submerged infrastructure



Agenda

- Welcome, introductions, and agenda review
- Presentation and discussion: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning
- Presentation and discussion: Shaping the Stakeholder Liaison Committee
- Presentation and discussion: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework
- **Presentation: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal**



MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal:
A regional hub for sharing information & maps

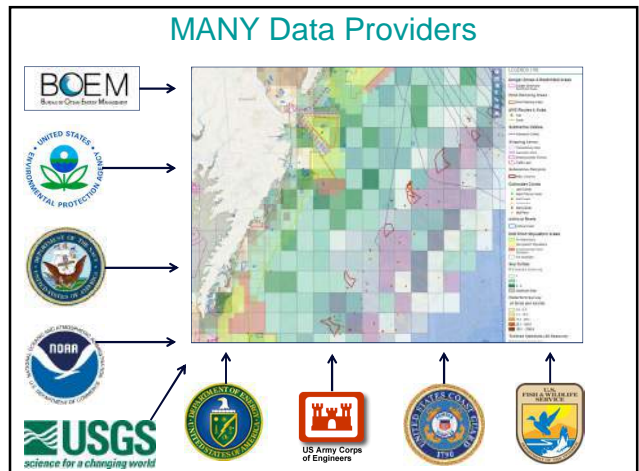
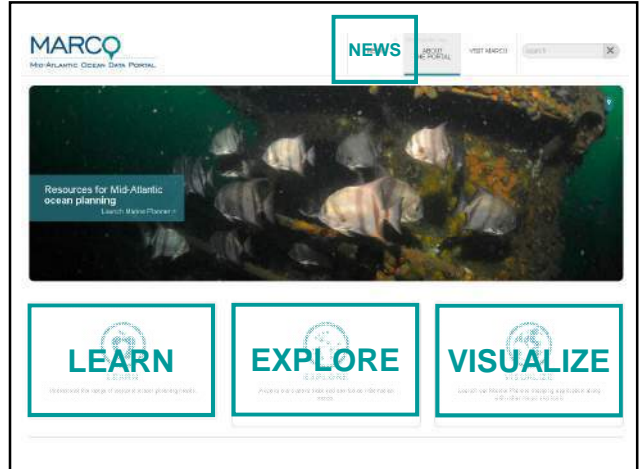
Stakeholder Liaison Committee
Washington, DC
March 10, 2014



Appendix D

“The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is an **online toolkit and resource center** that consolidates available data and enables state, federal and local users **to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information** such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.

The Portal serves as **a platform to engage all stakeholders** in ocean planning from the five-state Mid-Atlantic region—putting all of the **essential data and state-of-the-art mapping and visualization technology** into the hands of the agencies, industry, and community leaders engaged in ocean planning.”

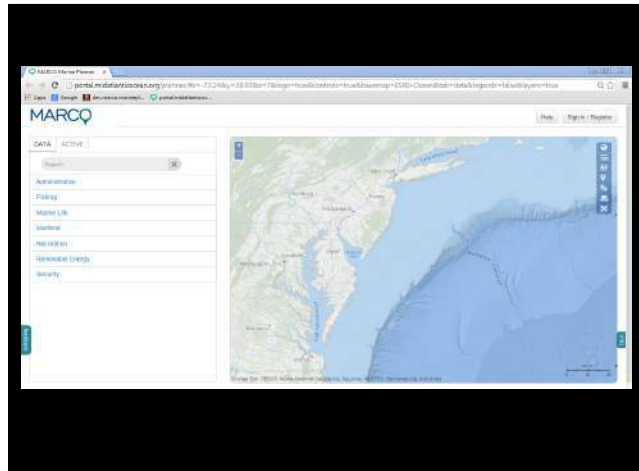
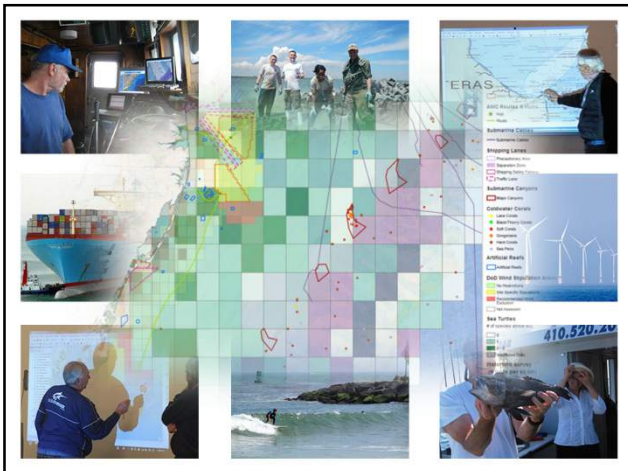


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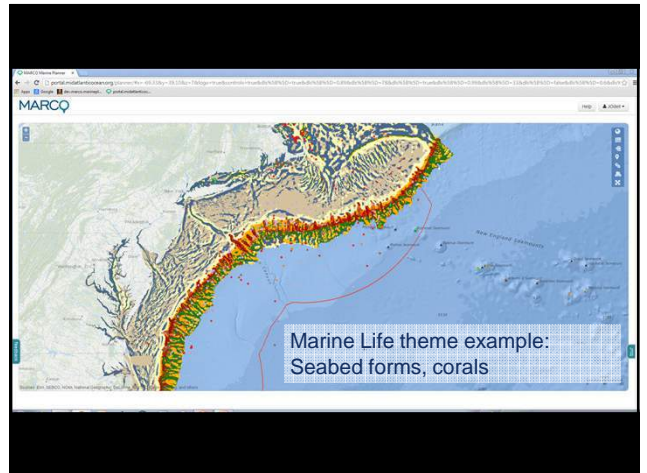
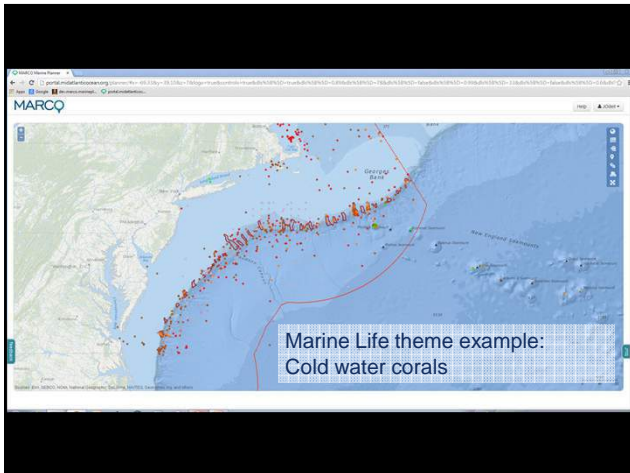
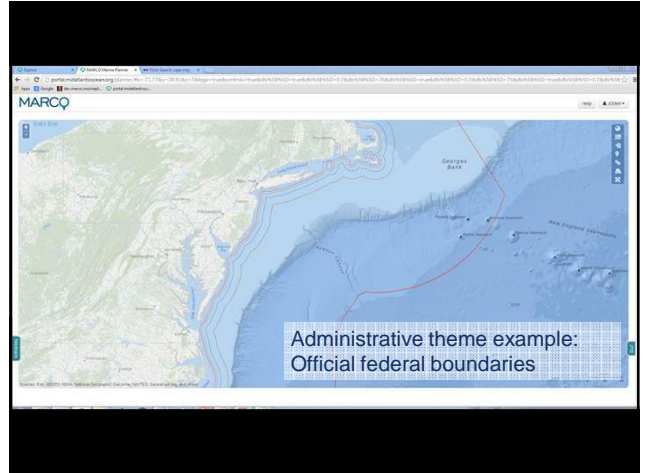
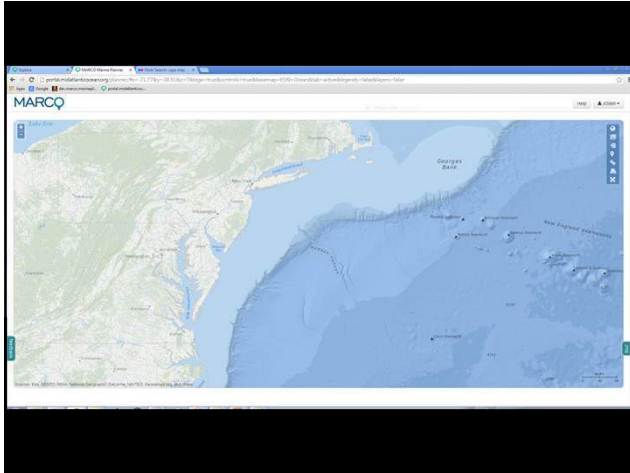


The Portal Team needs help from ocean users. So far, our outreach includes:

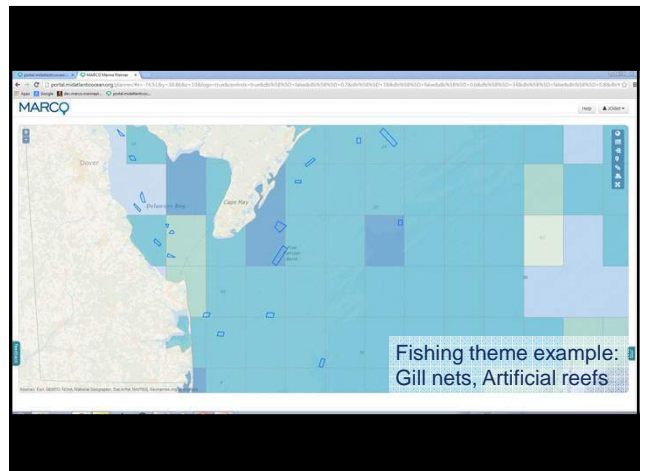
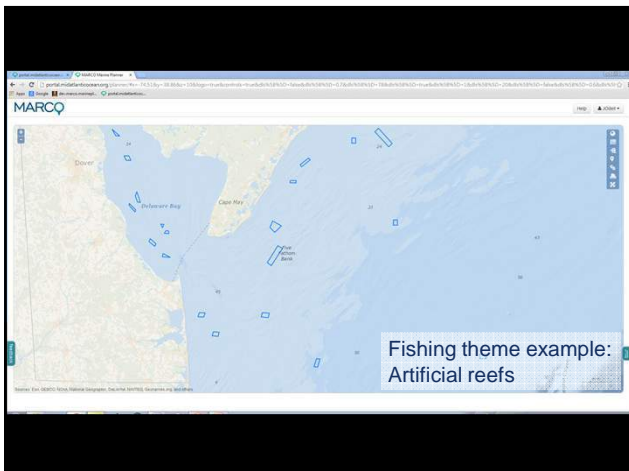
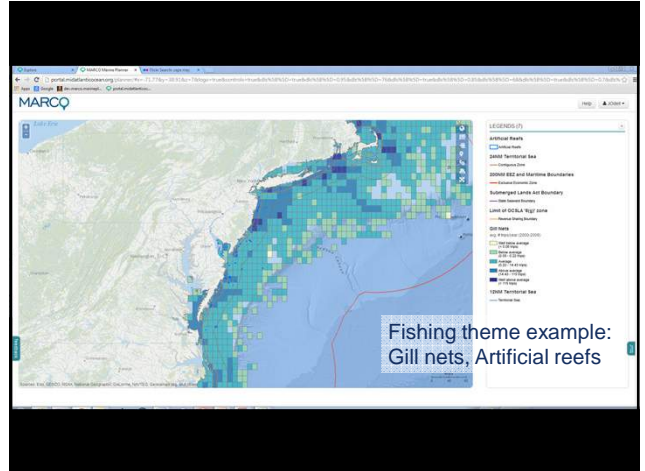
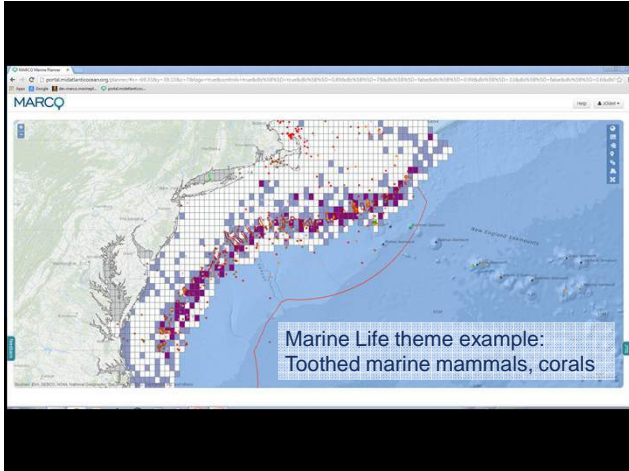
- Participatory Mapping Workshops
- Online Recreational Boater Survey
- Surfrider's Ocean Recreation Survey
- Comm. Fisheries Advisory Group
- Meetings w/ Environmental Groups
- Meetings w/ Five Major Ports
- Meetings w/ Wind Energy Companies
- Portal Data Review Group



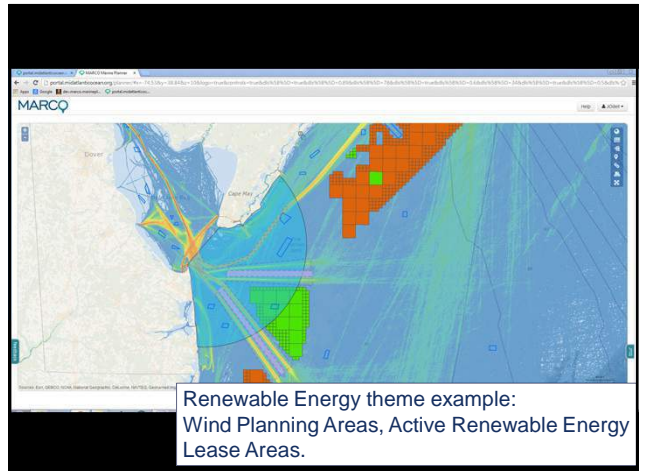
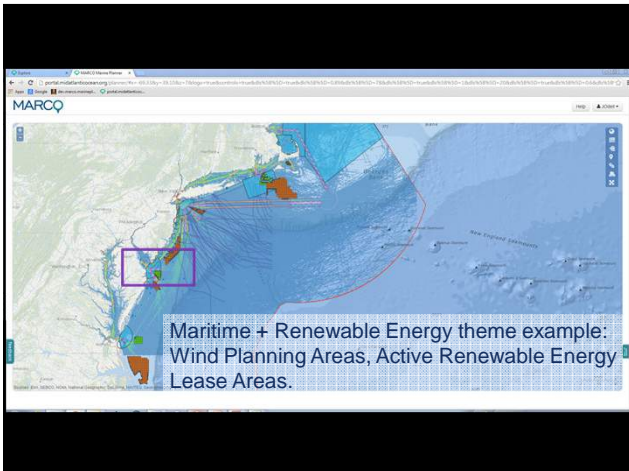
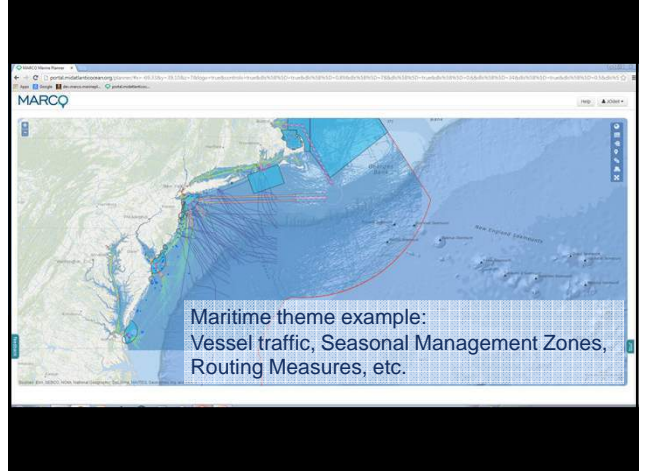
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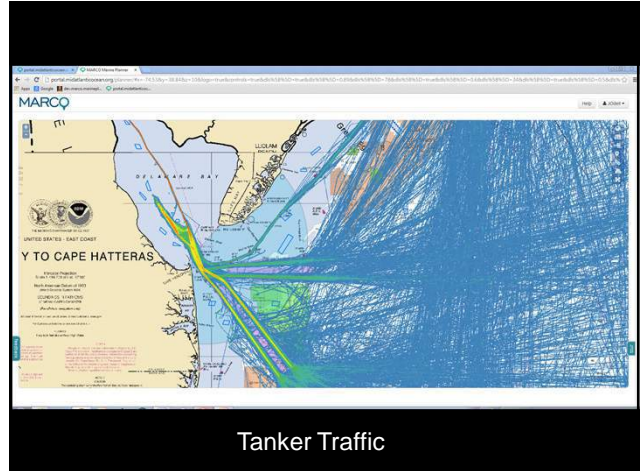
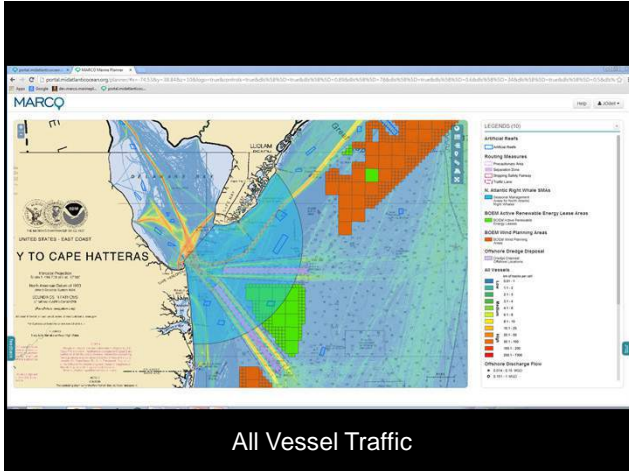
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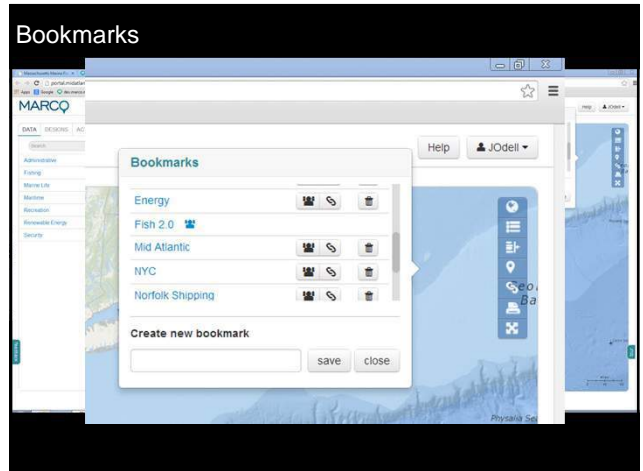


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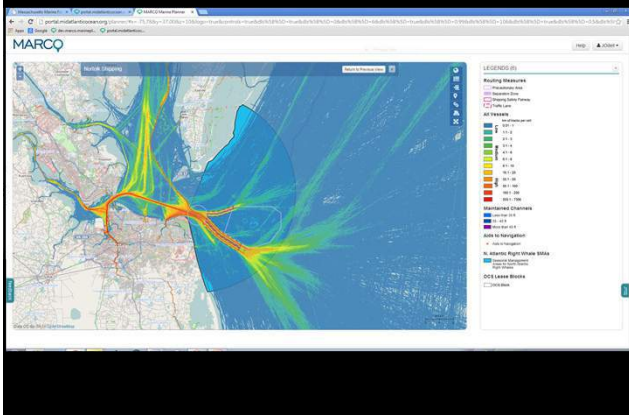
Registered users access portal features beyond simple data visualization

- Draw feature can be used to create new spatial data to highlight areas of importance or concern
- Lease blocks can be selected and saved, like drawings.
- A beta (demonstration) reporting feature is available to compare lease block groups
- Bookmarks saved with your account to be revisited or shared with others
- Many other account based features possible as needed to support a planning process

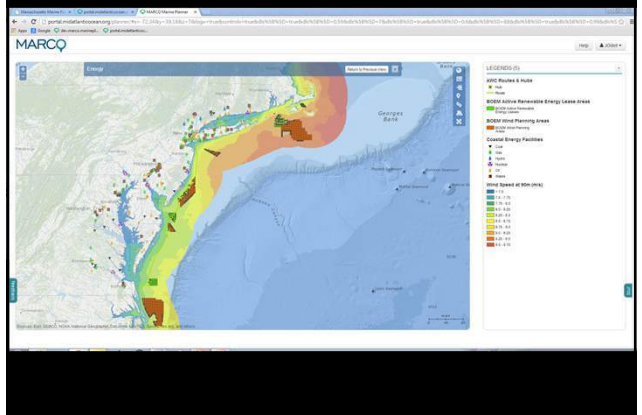


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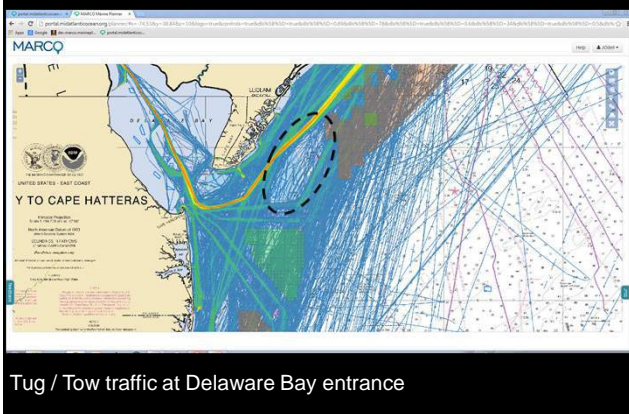
Bookmarks



Bookmarks

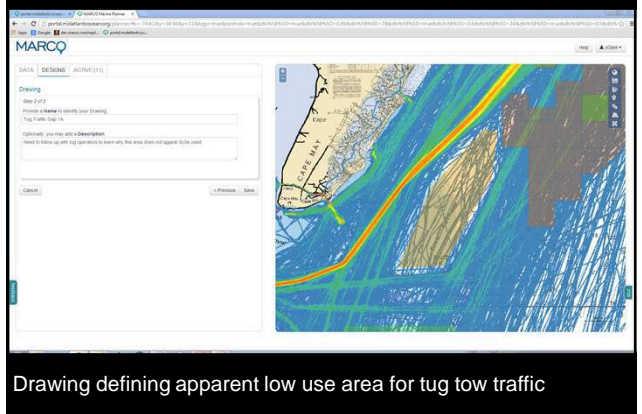


Drawing feature example



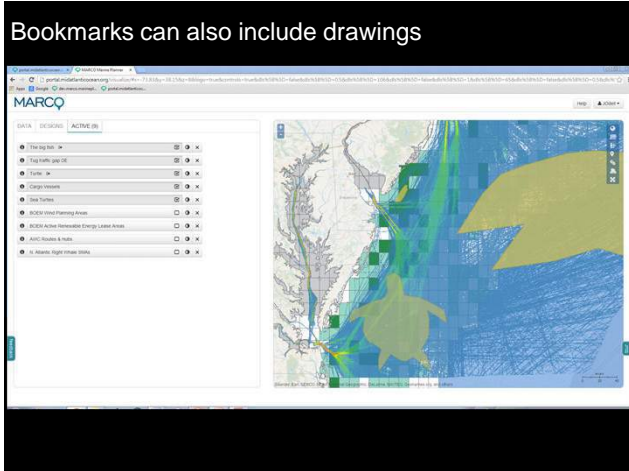
Tug / Tow traffic at Delaware Bay entrance

Drawing feature example



Drawing defining apparent low use area for tug tow traffic

Appendix D



Appendix E

Description of MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee

Since its inception in 2009, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) has engaged stakeholders from ocean industries, commercial fishing, ocean recreation interests, environmental and conservation groups, research institutions, and the public to help inform its activities. Recent stakeholder engagement efforts have focused on the development of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and providing opportunities via workshops and meetings to foster dialogue among stakeholders and Federal and State agencies to share ideas on ocean planning. For example, MARCO sponsored the recent Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop in April 2013, a gathering of 160 individuals representing industry, federal, state, tribal, and local government, academia, the fishing community, environmental NGOs, and the public.

In light of the increased focus on regional ocean planning, MARCO is convening a Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC) designed to strengthen its communication network and foster meaningful and ongoing stakeholder involvement in the Mid-Atlantic's regional ocean planning process. The SLC will serve as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among SLC participants. The SLC will also create an opportunity for participants to reach out to their industry, interest group, or sector to ensure that all interested constituents are informed and engaged in the regional ocean planning process. Insights and information gained through this new multi-sector engagement effort will (1) improve the Mid-Atlantic States' increased understanding of the issues and needs of the region's marine industries, commercial and recreational fishers, other recreational interests, the offshore wind industry, and conservation interests and (2) be shared with Federal, State, and Tribal members of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body to inform their work in ocean planning.

SLC Objectives

The objectives of the SLC are to tap into the leadership role and communication networks of SLC members to:

- Provide direct input and feedback to MARCO about design and implementation of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.
- Act as a conduit for information between stakeholders in the region and MARCO about regional ocean planning.
- Serve as a venue for increasing dialogue, understanding, and communication among stakeholders.

Stakeholder Liaison Committee Members

SLC members are individuals who are recognized as thought leaders and key nodes of communication by their communities of interest (e.g. their industry, interest group, or sector). SLC members understand and can represent a variety of perspectives and

interests in the region. They are credible representatives of a larger group of stakeholders who may be impacted by, involved in, or interested in ocean planning in various ways. Their membership in the SLC is an opportunity to provide direct, detailed input and feedback to MARCO throughout the ocean planning process.

For the purposes of the SLC, stakeholders are defined as those who:

- May be affected by decisions about use of the Mid-Atlantic ocean and its resources;
- Carry out activities that currently or in the future may use ocean resources of the planning area (e.g., water, space);
- Have an interest in the management of ocean resources in the planning area. This includes the full breadth of interests, including e.g., economic, environmental, historical, spiritual and cultural interests and includes interests that may be seasonal or specific to certain geographies.

MARCO strives to ensure that the membership of the SLC reflects the geographic and sectoral diversity and broad range of stakeholder perspectives of the Mid-Atlantic region. At the same time, it is MARCO's intention that the SLC remain sufficiently small in size to foster meaningful dialogue among its members. For this reason, ocean planners in the region view the SLC as one among a number of important mechanisms for stakeholder engagement about ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. Perspectives that may not be fully reflected in the membership of the SLC have a variety of opportunities to provide input throughout the regional ocean planning process, including public listening sessions being planned for across the region and submission of written and verbal public comments.

SLC Member Roles

- SLC members will strive to represent the issues and interests of the full diversity of their sector (i.e., not only their company, organization, community).
- SLC members will work with MARCO to tap into existing communication networks to (a) raise awareness about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the ocean planning process and (b) encourage input during those opportunities.
- SLC members will share information and perspectives with one another and with MARCO to foster constructive regional dialogue about ocean planning and how the planning process can meet the needs of multiple interests.
- SLC members will help shape the ocean planning process by reviewing and commenting on public drafts of ocean-planning related ideas and materials, providing relevant data and information, sharing information with others in their interest groups and conveying resulting input to MARCO, identifying major issues and concerns as early in the process as possible, and suggesting constructive alternative approaches for consideration.

SLC Member Anticipated Commitments

- MARCO is mindful and respectful of the time commitments of SLC members and will strive to use members' time most effectively and efficiently.
- It is anticipated that the SLC will meet either in-person or by teleconference on a quarterly basis. The manner, timing, and location of these convenings will depend on the nature and extent of input being sought and the most effective and appropriate timing for providing that input.
- Between and in preparation for convenings, the SLC may be asked to (a) seek input from others in their interest group about major draft ideas or materials related to regional ocean planning and (b) convey that input to MARCO in writing or verbally.
- MARCO is committed to managing and facilitating the SLC process during calendar years 2014-2015. Any activity extending beyond 2015 will be dependent on available resources and continued need. Members are asked to commit to this timeframe, if possible and appropriate. Should a member's role as a leader in a given sector change over the course of those two years (e.g., because of change in profession), members would be expected to relieve themselves of their role on the SLC and assist MARCO in identifying an appropriate replacement to represent their interest group.
- MARCO and its partners may be able to provide limited travel support for those SLC members who would otherwise not be able to participate in in-person meetings related to the process. Resources are not available to support the travel of all SLC members and there is no financial compensation for participation.

MARCO's Roles

In managing the SLC process, MARCO will:

- Provide for effective management, support, and facilitation of the process.
- Work to ensure participation in SLC cross-sector dialogue is fair and balanced and takes into account the perspectives of SLC members in the design and execution of the SLC process.
- Develop the objectives for and schedule of convening of the SLC, in consultation with the SLC.
- Ensure SLC members have the relevant draft ideas and materials related to ocean planning that will allow the SLC to play its role most effectively. In doing so, MARCO will seek ways to make provision of member input as easy as possible.
- Convey SLC input and feedback to ocean planners in the region, including the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body.

MARCO's Commitments

MARCO is committed to:

- Form a SLC that reflects the broadest range of interests possible.

- Ensure that input is sought from the SLC in a timely manner and allows a range of stakeholder input to be considered early in the development of ocean planning products.
- Ensure that SLC members have sufficient notice of meetings and advance materials to realistically and effectively participate.
- Ensure that SLC members have access to important ocean planning information and tools, including the *Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal* and its team.
- Work to ensure that any technical information is provided in a way that is understandable and clear to stakeholders and the public.
- Ensure transparency and openness throughout the SLC process.
- Post the names and contact information of SLC members to enable members of their sector constituencies to recognize SLC members as leaders and important conduits for input about ocean planning.
- Ensure that SLC member knowledge, input and data are conveyed to regional ocean planners, including the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, in a timely manner.

Appendix F

Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Since the formal establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) in April of 2013, the MidA RPB has been identifying needs and opportunities that can be addressed through regional ocean planning. This document offers, for public review, the MidA RPB's draft framework for regional ocean planning. The framework will inform how the MidA RPB moves forward with ocean planning by articulating a vision, principles, goals, objectives, example actions, and a proposed geographic focus.

Public feedback and ideas about this draft framework will help the MidA RPB ensure it is accounting for the full diversity of ocean interests in the region. To provide input on this draft framework, please send comments in writing to MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov by April 15, 2014. To facilitate a regional dialogue, the MidA RPB is planning a variety of in-person and online public input opportunities for early 2014. Details about these opportunities will be posted on the MidA RPB website at www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/ in the coming weeks. Members of the public can also request to receive email updates from the MidA RPB by sending a message to MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov.

Definitions of the terms used in this document are as follows:

- **Vision:** Desired future state for the Mid-Atlantic ocean.
- **Principles:** Basic or essential qualities or elements determining the intrinsic nature or characteristic behavior of regional ocean planning. Principles describe how the MidA RPB intends to operate.
- **Goals:** Statements of general direction or intent. Goals are high-level statements of the desired outcomes the MidA RPB hopes to achieve.
- **Objectives:** Statements of specific outcomes or observable changes that contribute to the achievement of a goal.
- **Actions:** Specific activities that Federal, State, and Tribal agencies may take, individually or together, to address the stated objectives.
- **Geographic Focus:** The area of focus for MidA RPB planning and coordination efforts.

About Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning

Regional ocean planning will improve our understanding of how the Mid-Atlantic ocean and its resources are being used, managed, and conserved; and guide planning to address current challenges and emerging opportunities. Regional ocean planning will help guide resource conservation and economic development by facilitating information sharing, fostering collaboration, and improving decision-making about a growing number of ocean uses vying for ocean resources and space. Partnerships with stakeholders will be critical to the success of this planning effort.

The regional ocean planning process **does not change** existing authorities or create new mandates. Rather, it aims to improve the efficiency of those authorities as well as effectiveness of the mandates being implemented by the Federal agencies with jurisdictions in the Mid-Atlantic ocean.

Key elements of regional ocean planning include:

- Identify shared regional goals and objectives to guide decision-making by Federal, State and Tribal entities, informed by stakeholder engagement and input.
- Provide participation by ocean stakeholders and the public.
- Build upon all relevant work at the regional, State, Tribal, and local levels.
- Identify emerging issues and account for the needs of both current and future generations, while remaining mindful of traditional uses.
- Efficiently use constrained public resources, while leveraging investments with private-sector partnerships.
- Consult scientists, technical, and other experts in conducting regional ocean planning and developing ocean planning products.
- Inform data collection and analyses to better understand the potential benefits and risks of decisions.
- Compile a regional assessment of ocean uses, natural resources, and economic and cultural factors to provide a comprehensive understanding and context for ocean planning.
- Use enhanced collaboration and coordination across jurisdictions and with stakeholders to avoid disputes and facilitate compatibility wherever possible. In order to resolve disputes that do arise, the MidA RPB will emphasize use of collaborative, mediative approaches in an effort to avoid costly, formal dispute resolution mechanisms and find solutions that meet the interests of multiple parties.

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is an online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) initiated and oversees the portal in close coordination with the Portal Project Team, using funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Ocean Partnership funding program. For more information, please visit: <http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/portal/>

About the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic is led by the MidA RPB, which includes representatives from Federal, State, Tribal, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council entities, as listed below.

- The six Mid-Atlantic States: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia
- The Shinnecock Indian Nation
- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Eight Federal agencies:
 - Department of Agriculture (represented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)
 - Department of Commerce (represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
 - Department of Defense (represented by the U.S. Navy and the Joint Chiefs of Staff)
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Homeland Security (represented by the U.S. Coast Guard)
 - Department of the Interior (represented by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
 - Department of Transportation (represented by the Maritime Administration)
 - Environmental Protection Agency

To learn more about the MidA RPB and to view recent and historic postings, please visit www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/index.aspx

Role of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

The MidA RPB provides a forum for coordination of ocean planning activities in the region. As part of the regional ocean planning process, the MidA RPB plans to do the following:

- Develop a work plan that describes strategies and activities designed to achieve the MidA RPB goals and objectives.
- Compile a capacity assessment to identify existing activities that are relevant to ocean planning.
- Complete a regional ocean assessment to provide baseline information for ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic that takes into account current trends and forecasts about changing ocean uses and ecosystems.
- Consider developing a forward looking ocean plan to foster enhanced coordination on ocean management and stewardship across jurisdictions. The purpose and content of such a plan would be determined by the MidA RPB in collaboration with stakeholders.

DRAFT Description of Initial Geographic Focus

The MidA RPB proposes that the primary geographic focus area for regional ocean planning at this time be the ocean waters of the region. This means:

- From the shoreline out to 200 miles (EEZ), which includes State and Federal waters
- The northern limit would be the NY/CT and NY/RI border
- The southern limit would be the VA/NC border

The RPB does not anticipate including in its planning efforts the major bays and estuaries of the Mid-Atlantic. However, where necessary, the MidA RPB will draw connections and coordinate with estuarine and terrestrial areas for planning purposes, particularly in such cases where ocean uses may impact coastal communities, estuaries, and ports or other shore side infrastructure. Coordination and collaboration with Regional Planning Bodies and other entities in the Northeast and South-Atlantic, including leveraging of resources, will also be essential for success. The RPB will consider further refining the geographic focus as goals and objectives are determined, as informed by public input.

DRAFT Vision

The draft vision is intended to articulate the RPB's desired future state for the Mid-Atlantic ocean:

A Mid-Atlantic ocean where safe and responsible use and stewardship support healthy, productive, resilient, and treasured natural and economic ocean resources that provide for the wellbeing and prosperity of present and future generations.

DRAFT Principles

The Mid-Atlantic ocean planning efforts would be guided by the following overarching principles:

Principle 1 (Recognize Interconnections) – The MidA RPB will facilitate an approach to managing ocean resources that recognizes and considers the interconnections across human uses and interests, marine species and habitats, and coastal communities and economies.

Principle 2 (Compatibility of multiple interests) – The MidA RPB will coordinate in making information available to support economic development and ecosystem conservation so that multiple interests can co-exist in a manner that reduces conflict and enhances compatibility.

Principle 3 (Improving resilience) – The MidA RPB will consider the risks and vulnerabilities associated with past, present, and predicted ocean and coastal hazards (e.g., erosion, extreme weather, and sea level rise) and predicted changes to temperature and ocean acidification to protect Mid-Atlantic ocean and coastal communities, users, and natural features.

Principle 4 (Sound science) – The MidA RPB will consider sound science and traditional knowledge in decision-making.

Principle 5 (Adaptive management) – The MidA RPB will apply a flexible and adaptive approach in accommodating changing environmental conditions, advances in science and technology, and new or revised laws and policies.

Principle 6 (Consistency with existing laws) – MidA RPB actions will be consistent with Federal laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and treaties, and with State laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and treaties where applicable.

Principle 7 (Coordination and government efficiency) – The MidA RPB will serve as a forum to increase inter-jurisdictional coordination to facilitate efficient and effective management of Mid-Atlantic ocean uses and resources consistent with regional needs. Such coordination will extend to partners and issues in adjacent uplands, in the Northeast and South Atlantic, and international waters to the east.

Principle 8 (Transparency and engagement) – MidA RPB processes and products will benefit from meaningful public input, be designed to be easily understood by all, and allow stakeholders to participate and understand when and how decisions are reached that affect their lives.

Principle 9: (Intrinsic value) – The MidA RPB will respect the intrinsic value of the ocean and its biodiversity, at the same time recognizing humans as part of the ecosystem and dependent on the health of the ecosystem for our own well-being.

DRAFT Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Goals and Objectives

Mid-Atlantic ocean planning goals will be high-level statements of the desired outcomes the MidA RPB hopes to achieve. Objectives will describe specific outcomes and observable changes that contribute to the achievement of ocean planning goals. They are intended to serve as guideposts for the focus and work of the MidA RPB. Draft ocean planning goals and draft objectives are offered below for public feedback, and include articulation of some example actions that could be taken by the MidA RPB to achieve the draft goals and objectives for illustrative purposes.

DRAFT Ocean Planning Goal 1:

Promote ocean ecosystem health and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.

Note: Goal #1 focuses on protecting and conserving our ocean and coastal resources through efforts that improve our understanding of ocean resources and habitats, account for ecosystem changes, consider traditional values and scientific data in regional ocean planning, and foster collaboration across jurisdictions around ocean conservation efforts.

Draft objectives:

- 1) (*Understanding, protecting and restoring key habitats*) Enhance understanding of Mid-Atlantic ocean habitats and physical, geological, chemical, and biological ocean resources through improved scientific understanding and assessments of the effects of ocean uses. Foster collaboration and coordination for protection and restoration of critical ocean and coastal habitats.

Example action: Map and characterize canyon habitats in the Mid-Atlantic region. Identify Federal, State and Tribal habitat protection and restoration initiatives to leverage partnerships that maximize the opportunity for success.

- 2) (*Accounting for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks*) Facilitate enhanced understanding of and take into account in decision-making current and anticipated ocean ecosystem changes in the Mid-Atlantic. These include ocean-related risks and vulnerabilities associated with ocean warming (including sea level rise, coastal flooding/inundation), ocean acidification (including effects on living marine resources), and changes in ocean wildlife migration and habitat use.

Example actions: Coordinate the collection and understanding of information needed to adjust human use activities in certain ocean areas in response to changing migratory pathways of marine life. Coordinate information sharing regarding sea level rise and ocean acidification in order to inform management of living marine resources and coastal communities and industries dependent on them.

- 3) (*Valuing traditional knowledge of the ecosystem*) Pursue greater understanding and acknowledgment of traditional knowledge along with other cultural values, and incorporate such knowledge and values in the ocean planning process.

Example action: Include traditional ecological knowledge and consideration of local cultural values in regional capacity assessment.

DRAFT Ocean Planning Goal 2:

Plan and provide for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner that reduces conflicts, improves efficiency and regulatory predictability, and supports economic growth.

Note: Goal #2 focuses on fostering coordination, transparency, and use of quality information to support accommodation of existing, new, and future ocean uses in a manner that reduces conflict and enhances compatibility. The MidA RPB has chosen to organize the draft objectives under Goal 2 by sector to facilitate initial data collection, future needs assessment, and highlight how the proposed actions will affect key stakeholders. During the subsequent phases of the ocean planning process, application of the principles articulated above calls for considering various sectors and concerns in an integrated, holistic, and collaborative manner. The MidA RPB intends to provide the means for decision-makers to implement their programs and authorities in an integrated way.

Draft objectives, organized by sector:

- 1) (*National security*) Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic through enhanced coordination and sharing of information across agencies.

Example action: Consider military needs and preferences early in decision-making processes to avoid potential conflicts with proposed ocean activities and current and planned military training and testing areas.

- 2) (*Ocean energy*) Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic.

Example action: Coordinate data collection for environmental assessment to inform development of new offshore renewable energy projects.

- 3) (*Commercial and recreational fishing*) Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Example action: Identify areas of high fish productivity and high usage to inform management of ocean uses and habitat areas.

- 4) (*Ocean aquaculture*) Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting in the Mid-Atlantic through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.

Example action: Facilitate interagency coordination regarding ocean aquaculture permitting.

- 5) (*Maritime commerce and navigation*) Enhance coordination to ensure new and updated nautical information and navigation practices at local, regional, and international levels are considered in regional ocean planning.

Example action: Coordinate information about new and proposed revisions to existing maritime corridors in the Mid-Atlantic, taking into account global and regional trends in maritime commerce.

- 6) (*Offshore sand management*) Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic.

Example action: Coordinate regional identification and prioritization of sand borrow sites in Federal and State waters.

- 7) (*Non-consumptive recreation*) Coordinate improved understanding of near-shore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses in the Mid-Atlantic to inform management of ocean activities and resources that may impact those activities (e.g., surfing, boating, whale watching, birding, diving).

Example action: Share data about ocean areas important for recreational activity and recreational user perceptions on issues such as siting of ocean renewable energy facilities.

- 8) (*Tribal uses*) Recognize and take into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Example action: Document and foster shared understanding of ocean and coastal sites important to Tribal use, beliefs, and values related to the Mid-Atlantic ocean.

- 9) (*Critical ocean infrastructure*) Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure, such as submarine cables (e.g., for communication and electricity) and pipelines.

Example action: Engage the submarine cables and submerged pipelines industries to understand their current and projected needs for ocean space, and conduct an inventory of obsolete structures.

*The MidA RPB encourages public input on this draft document. Please send comments in writing to MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov by **April 15, 2014**. To facilitate a dialogue, the MidA RPB is also planning a variety of in-person and online public input opportunities for early 2014. Details about these opportunities will be posted on the RPB website (www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/) in the coming weeks. Members of the public can also request to receive email updates from the RPB by sending a message to MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov.*