

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Conservation: Building Partnerships to Take Action

December 9-10, 2009

Broad Street Ballroom, New York, New York

Program

Conference Objectives

1. Raise public awareness and build a broader constituency for ocean issues.
2. Solicit feedback and build support from the public, constituency groups and a broad base of key stakeholders for the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation and the initial actions identified and underway.
3. Identify any additional issues or priorities that stakeholders may have regarding ocean issues.
4. Identify programs, activities and resources that stakeholders will commit towards accomplishing the initial actions and remaining actions in the Agreement.
5. Create stronger, lasting partnerships among stakeholder interests across the region and identify steps that may be taken to continue to engage stakeholders.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Secretary of State, New York Department of State

1:30 Introduction to MARCO and the Governors' Agreement

George Stafford, Deputy Secretary of State, New York Department of State

1:50 Opportunities & Challenges: Water Quality & Climate Change Adaptation

Michael Snyder, Project Coordinator, Coastal Resources, New York Dept. of State

Ruth Ehinger, Manager, Coastal Management Office, New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection

Discussion: what does this mean for you/your organization?

2:55 Break

3:10 Opportunities & Challenges: Offshore Renewable Energy and Habitat Protection

Sarah Cooksey, Administrator, Coastal Programs, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

Laura McKay, Manager, Coastal Zone Management Program, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality

Discussion: what does this mean for you/your organization?

4:15 President Obama's National Ocean Policy Task Force

Paul Cough, Director, Oceans & Coastal Protection Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4:45 Regional Legislative Agenda

Gwynne Schultz, Senior Advisor, Coastal & Ocean Policy, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

5:00 Close

More on the other side...

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

- 9:00 Welcome Back and Setting the Stage for Day 2**
- 9:25 Shared Actions on Water Quality & Climate Change Adaptation**
How can you or your organization help advance these Shared Actions?
- 10:45 Break**
- 11:00 Shared Actions on Offshore Renewable Energy & Habitat Protection**
How can you or your organization help advance these Shared Actions?
- 12:20 Networking Lunch**
- 1:20 Increasing Understanding of Ocean Issues**
What are the opportunities and challenges for building “ocean literacy” on the Shared Actions?
- 2:20 Ongoing Regional Communication and Collaboration**
How shall we stay connected? How shall we expand collaborative partnerships?
- 3:20 Break**
- 3:35 Commitments to Advancing the Shared Actions**
What individual and/or collective commitments can you or your organization make now?
- 4:35 Preliminary Report**
Joe Goldman, AmericaSpeaks
- 4:45 Closing Remarks**
Eric Schwaab, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Nikki Rovner, Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources, Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
- 5:00 Close & Safe Travels**