

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Conservation: Building Partnerships to Take Action

December 9-10, 2009 Broad Street Ballroom, New York, New York

Draft Program

DESIRED OUTCOMES

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 *Getting Equipped for Work and Action on Day Two*****

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

1:30 Introduction to MARCO and the Governors' Agreement

Learn about how this event evolved and its significance for Mid-Atlantic ocean health by brief presentations on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation, and the four priorities that the five Mid-Atlantic States commit to collaboratively address.

2:00 Shared Actions to Address the Priorities of Water Quality & Climate Change Challenges Facing Our Region

First learn about the Shared Actions on these two priorities that the five Mid-Atlantic States commit to collaboratively achieve in the short and longer term. Then reflect on and discuss the challenges facing the region in the areas of water quality and climate change from the perspective of the interest/s that you are representing.

3:00 Break

3:15 Shared Actions to Address the Priorities of Energy and Habitat Challenges Facing Our Region

First learn about the Shared Actions on these two priorities that the five Mid-Atlantic States commit to collaboratively achieve in the short and longer term. Then reflect on and discuss the challenges facing the region in the areas of renewable energy and habitat protection from the perspective of the interest/s that you are representing.

4:15 President Obama's National Ocean Policy Task Force and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

President Obama has directed significant attention to ocean health. This session will inform us of how MARCO fits into this national context, including shared issues, partnerships for action, and how the President's National Ocean Policy Task Force will impact the region.

4:45 Wrap Up and Preparing for Thursday

Tomorrow, AmericaSpeaks will lead us in an exciting, productive process of lively, rich discussions and deliberations at 20 individual tables that will also be electronically connected to all the other tables. Each round of discussion will lay the groundwork for the next, leading to a very productive day and action outcomes for advancing the Governors' Shared Actions on the four priorities. www.americaspeaks.org.

5:00 Close

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009 Discussion, Deliberation, and Action

9:00 Welcome Back and Setting the Stage

9:30 Part I: MARCO Shared Actions on the Priorities of Water Quality & Climate Change

Guided by a series of questions, discuss how you or your organization can help advance the Shared Actions. What kinds of actions could you or your organization take to complement or partner with the States to achieve these actions, including possible legislative actions? What current programs and activities complement the Shared Actions identified by the Mid-Atlantic Governors for water quality improvement and adapting to climate change? What future steps can MARCO and/or stakeholders take to advance the Priorities?

11:00 Break

11:15 Part II: MARCO Shared Actions on the Priorities of Renewable Energy & Habitat Protection

Guided by a series of questions, discuss how you or your organization can help advance the Shared Actions. What could you or your organization do to complement or partner with the States to achieve these actions, including possible legislative activity? What current programs and activities might complement the Shared Actions identified by the Governors for renewable energy and habitat protection? What future steps can MARCO and/or stakeholders take to advance the Priorities?

12:45 Networking Lunch

1:45 Increasing Understanding of Ocean Issues and the Shared Actions

Ocean health depends on individual and collective understanding of ocean issues and the consequences of actions. What are the opportunities and challenges for building “ocean literacy” on the Shared Actions? What are the most important actions to take advantage of the opportunities and address these challenges? How can you or your organization contribute to this critical objective to advance the Shared Actions?

2:45 Ongoing Regional Communication and Collaboration to Advance the Shared Actions

Achieving and maintaining ocean health and the vitality of communities that depend on it require ongoing involvement, contributions, information sharing, and commitment. How would you or your organization prefer to remain involved with MARCO to advance the Shared Actions discussed this morning? How can we effectively build partnerships and collaborations among us? What kinds of things must be done to support ongoing regional collaboration to achieve the Shared Actions?

3:30 Break

3:45 Commitments to Advancing the Shared Actions

Based on this day’s lively discussions and knowledge-sharing, what specific actions can be taken to advance the Shared Actions? What will you report to your organization or others? What individual and/or collective commitments can you or your organization make now? What are you willing and able to contribute?

4:30 Preliminary report of Achievements, Conference Evaluation, and Closing Remarks

5:00 Close