

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean**

**“Building Partnerships to Take Action”**

**New York, New York • December 9-10, 2009**

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<i>TABLE INTRODUCTIONS</i> .....	3
<i>OPPORTUNITIES &amp; CHALLENGES: WATER QUALITY</i> .....	9
<i>OPPORTUNITIES &amp; CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTA</i> .....	19
<i>OPPORTUNITIES &amp; CHALLENGES: OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY</i> .....	28
<i>OPPORTUNITIES &amp; CHALLENGES: HABITAT PROTECTION</i> .....	36
<i>DAY TWO TABLE INTRODUCTIONS</i> .....	43
<i>ACTIONS: WATER QUALITY</i> .....	47
<i>ACTIONS: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION</i> .....	58
<i>ACTIONS: OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY</i> .....	69
<i>ACTIONS: HABITAT PROTECTION</i> .....	80
<i>INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF OCEAN ISSUES &amp; THE SHARED ACTIONS</i> .....	92
<i>ONGOING REGIONAL COMMUNICATION &amp; COLLABORATION</i> .....	105
<i>COMMITMENTS FOR ADVANCING THE SHARED ACTIONS</i> .....	118

## **TABLE INTRODUCTIONS**

### **What do you hope we achieve in our work together over the next two days?**

#### **Themes**

- Understand the overall MARCO agenda and where the states stand on regional issues
- Identify partners to collaborate toward advancing ocean governance/MARCO agenda
- Build a consensus among stakeholders on ocean issues
- Identify data gaps, fill them to build the foundation for science based management
- Formulate ideas and regional goals for Marine spatial planning
- Understand how to better support MARCO organizational commitments, leverage partnerships to ensure implementation occurs
- Identify & define roles & responsibilities, funding & other resources
- Understand what actions my organization can take to support the MARCO agenda
- Leverage resources for implementation
- Develop a legislative action plan
- Ensure stakeholder voice is considered & incorporated in to MARCO Actions – keep it real

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 test understand the meaning of life
- 002 -update the offshore wind initiatives
- 003 Confirm MARCO agenda, identify partners.
- 004 Protection of Habitat & Conservation of Resources
- 005 validation on selected issues, achieve consensus amongst attendees
- 006 understand how industrial fishing by-catch may be mitigated by MSP
- 007 Find collaborators and partner to move objectives forward.

- 008 What people to understand what ocean observation is all about and what the data needs are.
- 009 consensus on whatever we do here -- make sure protection of living resources in the ocean has prominent place in discussion
- 010 achieve understanding of MARCO, figure out where MARCO stands on regional and local offshore energy topics
- 011 better job of monitoring bycatch; work on ecosystems based management of resources; wind energy siting decisions
- 012 Balanced approach for users and resources
- 013 Are people in support of the objectives of MARCO as formulated (or not); what are stakeholders interested in?
- 014 get up to speed in understanding regional ocean concerns for state government
- 015 How to move forward on key MARCO issues across the region; ideas for moving forward NY MSP
- 016 would like to see monitoring component -- rules set up that are consistent across the states
- 017 have the data we need to move forward.  
 learn about what the issues are; offshore wind projects are v expensive so v. important to have clear guidance on regulatory landscape  
 wants to move the MARCO states & stakeholders forward on common goals for offshore grid & has a project on offshore wind he'd like to coordinate on
- 018 Concrete actions that have teeth and substance to protect natural resource of ocean, habitat and protect water quality.
- 019 involve stakeholders in government decisions; get clarity on who is doing what
- 020 achieve understanding of where MARCO stands nationally, hold conversations on climate change, develop ecosystem management and coastal development plans
- 021 Broad discussion about MSP & better understanding of it, toward multi-perspective planning; protecting biodiversity & habitats
- 022 Trying to facilitate offshore wind project in DE that's legislatively enabled; interested in cooperative effort to make this a project not just federally based but regionally based.
- 023 How to best support MARCO moving forward
- 024 seek commitments from each state to work on issues in a timely way
- 025 looking at governmental, social and economic strategies concerning marine issues
- 026 set focus on what marine spatial planning is and what it's going to be
- 027 maintain ocean fisheries consistent with offshore drilling issues
- 028 I hope to learn and also to understand how my NGO can contribute to MARCO.
- 029 Looking beyond learning issues, organization focused on solving climate change & safeguard natural resources/communities at same time; how can regional policy be coordinated and how can NGOs participate?
- 030 interested in meeting the community constituting MARCO, their themes, and the partnering in these areas; the coordination of the role of feds in conjunction with the states -- what are the states expecting
- 031 How to better link MARCO priorities with National Priorities.
- 032 get up to speed on who stakeholders are, priorities, issues, strategic goals;
- 033 discussion on water quality including non-point source pollution, adapt the climate change section of the document to include additional data

- 034 to learn about opportunities for partnerships and what NYS Parks Dept can be involved in
- 035 Key next steps for moving MARCO priorities forward, especially in energy and climate change adaptation
- 036 Building support for ocean habitat conservation and develop consensus and a more coordinated approach to wind or other renewable energy management.
- 037 identify key regional coastal ocean issues of concern to a broad constituency and fins areas of interest to me and to which I can contribute
- 038 Better insights into interests/directions states are going with this initiative. As an advocate, making sure right priorities are reflected in states' agendas and priorities (i.e. conservation).
- 039 Would like to gain a better understanding of what MARCO is all about and to identify how EPA can implement objectives.
- 040 - Gather allies to develop and promote offshore wind power
- 041 identify regional priority water quality data gaps and develop methods for approach to filling these gaps
- 042 Group identify objectives for ocean policy and then the policy initiatives for achieving objectives. First focus on what we agree upon. Maybe 1 or 2 objectives.
- 043 Understand interest and needs of 5 states regarding offshore wind energy - historical and future use and concerns. Create set of best practices/agenda to pursue best practices for future MARCO policy.
- 044 Leverage federal and regional resources, introduce "coastal into the ocean discussions. building partnerships on research priorities without duplicating available resources
- 045 1) Real clear framework for stakeholder participation (not just input);  
2) Clear statement of what vision is for ocean;  
3) What are top 3 issues that can and should be addressed by MARCO regionally? What needs regional partnerships?
- 046 interagency water quality nutrient enrichment/algal blooms, DO depletion floatables and their integration within agency mission .
- 047 interest in doing marine life conservation in MARCO states - through Wildlife Conservation Society(Bx.Zoo/Coney Island Aquarium
- 048 looking for commonality of issues in states around estuaries and restoration; commonality of planning principles..work collaboratively and go to Congress to get money to restore great lakes
- 049 Would like to hear stakeholders perspective on what are major issues affecting the ocean.
- 050 how wind will affect fish
- 051 Provide an opportunity to follow up from last years meeting, identifying additional actions and developing a broader consensus on ocean issues.
- 052 Interested in hearing how other areas in the region will be dealing with SLR. interest in how proposed wind energy will be permitted. Interested in how Chesapeake Bay TMDL may be coordinated with other states. Stormwater mgmt. permit updates cost ramifications.
- 053 Identify direction for the group. Maybe identify legislation. Key issues are water quality and habitat protection.
- 054 Confirm MARCO priorities/direction and how to leverage skills, people, organizations, actions, etc for MARCO's success.
- 055 Interested in various positions of various offshore energy projects.
- 056 identify, develop and manage protocol to protect natural oceanic resources
- 057 Would like to see an agreement that if we pursue ocean zoning that it is premised by supporting a clean economy.

- 058 establish and strengthen interagency relationships  
Move forward with milestones of previous meetings
- 059 Want to find out what consensus there is with other groups and governments -- what is and is not appropriate in these waters? Would support offshore renewable energy but not gas/oil development; would support marine spatial planning. Want to cooperate on policies affecting all five states.
- 060 Identify common interests. Focus on water quality and find out who key contacts in other states are on these issues. What are the regional issues.
- 061 Understanding opposition to offshore wind development. See a more comprehensive approach to commanding public opinion.
- 062 Identify how can MARCO help to achieve sea level rise and nearshore coastal issues.
- 063 learning more about what other states are doing re mapping and data collections and stakeholder process
- 064 Maintain access to fisheries and use existing structures. Makes sure renewable resources don't interfere with traditional fisheries.
- 065 feedback from stakeholders that can be brought to the MARCO process
- 066 Recognition for the need to address data gaps. Would like to better understand other interests.
- 067 -Stakeholder buy-in needed for plan and corrective action if that buy in is not there.
- 068 Consensus building because there is likely to be offshore energy development in an effort to preserve ocean resources.
- 069 to assure that the Eastern Shore of Virginia's resources are represented by MARCO
- 070 involve input from the PUBLIC on priorities.
- 071 Identify where we can complement each other.
- 072 Make sure that ocean management is dedicated to conservation to the natural resources we currently have.
- 073 Introduction to regional stakeholders and discussion of multiple uses of ocean resources.
- 074 -need for coastal monitoring effort
- 075 Identify actions that we can take at regional level to address major stakeholder concerns.
- 076 Raise public awareness about ocean issues
- 077 debunk myths regarding wq and fisheries management
- 078 Understand how regional ocean governance will affect and influence the management of marine habitats and the critters that depend on them.
- 079 How my federal agency can contribute and learn what MARCO is.
- 080 Identify what is possible given staffing and gather key issues from other participants.
- 081 -Understand big, broad policy issues
- 082 Networking with new partners and get most current information on ongoing initiatives.
- 083 storm water filtering information to promote business of treatment
- 084 Raising awareness of climate change impact on oceans and communities
- 085 Find consensus for protection of avian species, turtles and marine mammals regarding wind power regarding wind energy so that we can better understand the benefits of mitigating impacts to these species.
- 086 Table consensus -- what issues require regional cooperation and how will that work?

- 087 private interests (marine contractors) can provide their perspectives
- 088 better understanding of problem we are trying to solve - what level of fisheries quality sustainability we are trying to reach
- 089 We have an enthusiastic audience here today and I think this is a significant opportunity to begin working together to achieve MARCO's objectives.
- 090 Identify near-term actions to start momentum early.
- 091 how nj sea grant can support the effort
- 092 -develop policies that maintain, protect and preserve ocean habitat and while allowing for sustainable energy development
- 093 Seek buy-in from stakeholder community about MARCO objectives and identified action strategies.
- 094 make connection between watersheds and oceans
- 095 Identify environmental items to monitor and develop information flow to general public
- 096 Develop and facilitate partnerships in an effort to benefit offshore wind development in the mid atlantic states.
- 097 question concerning the effects of wind power on wildlife from fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, birds?
- What's coming after this in terms of structure and future involvement.
- Is MARCO real or not? Virtual, or really going to do something?
- 098 how do we get the feedback from what is discussed today?
- 099 Start spreading the news... let MARCO sing!
- 100 Securing funding to adapt to climate change and sea level rise
- 101 Comprehensive approach to ocean protection, both land and ocean components. Federal options to protection. More networking. Mgmt for biological diversity.
- 102 Open discussion about major ocean issues and seek buy-in from stakeholders about scientific decision-making regarding ocean management.
- 103 discussions, sharing of perspectives, who we can work with, partnerships in order to advance MARCO priorities
- 104 See if this group can address and build accountability specifically for marine restoration efforts.
- 105 Recognition that zoning in ocean does not equate to zoning on land.
- 106 Sharpen the collective focus - focusing ideas; broadening collaboration between the in the process; learning how MARCO will be involved with other policies
- constituencies and entities involved
- What assessments (specific information) are needed to form the foundation of MARCO's actions - and assign responsibility for that.
- Actions needed to protect seabirds:
- Sand mining
  - Overfishing of forage fish
  - Bycatch of seabirds
  - Alternative energy research needs
  - Integrating mitigation (e.g. into the royalty system)

Come to an agreement on achievable goals, with more specific actions than have currently been delineated.

Performance measures to evaluate success

Science-based decisionmaking

Tying together the idea that environmental sustainability can be good economically

Learn more about existing opportunities and emerging partnership opportunities for wetland protection

Move forward with collecting and compiling data

Public education

107 would like to know how enviro NGOs can play a role in the MARCO process?

Where is the funding coming from for the proposed workplan?

108 Responsible offshore energy development

109 Seeing that state of MD develops policy around off-shore waters Push state and region to develop plan about marine spatial. - where certain resources are that need to be protected.

110 see if MARCO will be carried out

111 a product that would be most helpful is a list and description of all the gov't agencies, acronyms, laws and regulations to help keep all this straight -- lots of names being thrown around at the table.

What is the organizational construct of something like MARCO and how do you fund?



## **OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES: WATER QUALITY**

### **What OPPORTUNITIES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

#### **Themes**

- Linking WQ to habitat restoration and protection: sea grass and shellfish beds
- Redefining standards and indicators to include both human and biological health criteria
- MARCO actions: legislation; public educational opportunities; influence state coordination; link stakeholders; data sharing; build capacity; portal for info sharing; leverage resources
- Opportunities for the public to support water quality infrastructure improvements
- Using federal stimulus funds, market-based solutions, and financial incentives to improve stormwater and waste water mgmt and infrastructure
- Building shared regional priorities, networks, partnerships
- Inventory of regional assets: biological habitats and environmental data,
- New emphasis on social sciences to understand opps and challenges

*New and available technology to measure, report, and share data*

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 green infrastructure -- green roofs, permeable pavement, etc
- 002 Restoration of Great South Bay & shellfish
- 003 Have MARCO protect mid-atlantic coastal bays and lagoon habitat
- 004 Restoration of eel grass/seagrass beds toward recovery of Great South Bay & enhancement of habitat for other species through improved water quality
- 005 public access to water & education can provide support for infrastructure development
- 006 MARCO - 5 states speaking with one voice can make a difference in terms of federal policy.
- 007 Lobby Congress for federal legislation and funding to improve the control of point and non point source pollution
- 008 Opportunity to refocus water quality standards on biological/ecosystem health and not just human health.
- 009 coordinated analysis of diff of state water quality standards  
Is marine debris really an important issue in this region  
large opportunity to control invasive species in the region,

- better characterize the state of water quality
- 010 jobs bill stimulus 1 &2 as an opportunity to create jobs around water quality infrastructure
  - 011 Creating a nutrient balance for the region
  - 012 addressing marine debris, better collaboration with partners
  - 013 Balanced harvest of shellfish (avoiding overharvest)
  - 014 states could take on mgt authority for wetlands as NJ has done  
conf in late Jan in MARCO region that will help characterize water quality issues -- USGS & MACOORA in MD water science center of USGS
  - 015 Replacement/improvement of septic systems and other water quality infrastructure through stimulus dollars
  - 016 Comprehensive water quality plan, including shellfish oyster reintroduction in NY Harbor -- implementation opportunities
  - 017 need end of pipe treatment  
need to look at using less water to reduce sewage flow
  - 018 Get MARCO to lobby for funding. Help communicate across users groups. MACROO helps get user groups together talking among one another to address needs.
  - 019 incentives to move to biodegradable plastics and through stormwater permitting
  - 020 ability for data gathering, sharing & compatibility of information so states can work together better
  - 021 Adding human-based component into data -- anecdotal data/on the ground data
  - 022 Reestablish shellfish bed inventory for region (NOAA traditionally did this)
  - 023 use public concern about marine debris to drive changes in production of many of these non degradable and toxic products
  - 024 Addressing nonpoint source pollution (urban/ag)
  - 025 Partnerships provide opportunities to leverage federal funding to upgrade infrastructure.  
Investing in waste water facilities treatment plants and NPS BMPs will help water quality.
  - 026 states and towns changing stormwater mgt regs get infusion of funds from feds to develop appropriate infrastructure & green technologies
  - 027 Can we develop regional BMPs to address water quality.  
Support research to support better monitoring tools and technology to address treatment.
  - 028 Local organization to capture marine debris - spread this concept across region to reduce marine debris.
  - 029 - New federal leadership that cares  
- Technology exists to capture good data quickly  
-
  - 030 more information on the Water Security Act
  - 031 sharing best models to address water quality.
  - 032 - Army Corps is getting federal funding to become active on this issue and gather information  
- Opportunity to cost share among state and federal agencies
  - 033 improve infrastructure (WWT, Greywater, Stormwater, rainwater), monitoring, data exchange, building data networks, improve strategies & BMPs, understand short-term and long term impacts have different priorities

- 034 Partner to support relevant federal legislation to address MARCO priorities (stronger as a group)
- 035 what quality is an issue important for recreation and parks -- marine debris and public education on water shed; partnerships;  
 NY water bill now includes water bottles -- positive impact on debris;  
 recycling of used fishing equipment into energy being done
- 036 - MARCO could help reduce redundancies and ensure consistency  
 - MARCO as a forum to align federal programs that may be conflicting
- 037 1). Coordinated action to reduce air pollution that ultimately affects our water quality.  
 2).
- 038 There is an opportunity for building shared regional priorities for infrastructure upgrades.
- 039 - MARCO website could be a place to share information that we all could use
- 040 - There is some momentum to move forward  
 - States can learn from each other
- 041 Storm drain awareness programs.
- 042 build an OCean Ethic! Build knowledge, how we are connected to ocean
- 043 sharing data to learn and better understand
- 044 marco and gov entities, non profits speak with one voice to get additional resources/funding
- 045 use new technologies to measure, report, share data
- 046 Decrease noxious emissions through more stringent air quality standards, installation of scrubbers and enforcement of existing regulation.
- 047 support MARCO in federal legislation that improves point and non point source pollution
- 048 MARCO could help develop some social science on why people continue to litter and negatively contribute to water quality.
- 049 SLR a huge issue at Hampton Roads. Wetland systems are not allowed to migrate due to existing development.
- 050 Urban River restoration, in NYC - and beyond.
- 051 ditto
- 052 step up performance standards
- 053 keep water quality as a priority
- 054 enforce the clean water act - we have the law, we need to use it; urge EPA to help the States implement the Act
- 055 use MARCO to push to upgrade wastewater sewage treatment
- 056 MARCO being used to reinforce and support water quality challenges and actions in the existing watershed partnerships (Chesapeake Bay = example)
- 057 Understanding the connections between policy direction and climate change.  
 Use data in appropriate ways.
- 058 address problems relating to water quality on a regional rather than locally
- 059 government raising public awareness
- 060 Find ways to reverse the "denial" nay sayers. The sea is rising -- hello. Ever seen a polar bear floating on an ice chuck.

- 061 Waste water infrastructure: everyone has the same problems: Need stricter regulations and unified approach with federal funding.
- 062 ARRA Money for water and wastewater infrastructure.
- 063 improve filter feeders(menhaden in Ches Bay) & shell fish fisheries to clean up water quality.
- 064 Link impacts of aging sewage treatment and run-off to job creation.
- 065 include estuaries, marshes and wetlands and coastal oceans in discussions and focus energy these environments
- 066 State and federal Incentives for "good behavior" around water quality - Transportation Funding -
- 067 Increase in revolving funds for waste water.
- 068 Human behavior influences pollution a great deal. How should MARCO educate the "publics"? MARCO needs to do some social marketing.  
Assign to folks what the benefits of actual change are.
- 069 Advance data measurement in coastal environments
- 070 Lots of great cities and towns that have great infrastructure rather than other places.
- 071 Broader framing of issue in terms of human health -- people care about human health, that's what led to Clean Water Act -- need to educate people that water quality affects them individually
- 072 collaboration between agencies.
- 073 More important not to build in the wrong areas in the coastal zone. Habitat protection (forest) are important to maintaining and promoting good water quality.  
Need non structural approaches to NPS control. DO NOT pipe and plumb the mid-atlantic under the guise of NPS "control".
- 074 Linking federal, state and local funding and initiatives to create and maintain alignment with initiatives.
- 075 educating maritime industry and public about marine debris and adverse effects
- 076 Actions in existing water quality sections lack substance for example: marine debris. Need a regional network to work on it. Reduce nutrients will have a greater impact to water quality improvement.
- 077 Storm water and combined sewage overflows is an opportunity to advance low impact development.
- 078 open dialogue with the marine transportation industry concerning water pollution issues
- 079 Issue advocacy; science-based approach of WQ reporting and dissemination to the public in an understandable way; real-time data; health agency data and announcements; measurement tools; local coordination of nonpoint source issues; infrastructure investment and jobs; improving efficiencies and upgrading infrastructure - decrease operating costs; federal investments in regional infrastructure; incentives for towns and communities to improve and upgrade infrastructure; better coordination to highlight issues to federal government and provide solutions for member states and regions; better management of resources;
- 080 Need to work on harmful algal blooms. They are related to climate change.  
How to get the MARCO focus on this issue -- bring the developers into the process.  
TDRs are a good mechanism to focus development where it more appropriately done.
- 081 education concerning water quality, sewage treatment and its effects and impacts
- 082 VA has a TDR program up and running -- give it a look.
- 083 Tie federal and state (SRF) funding to performance and local commitment in addressing regional water quality initiatives. I.e. if communities partner together to address a local problem they can qualify/better compete for funding. Reward pro-activity.
- 084 Need market based solutions to help direct development to the appropriate areas.

- 085 collaboration among the states and local governments to educate with respect to tourism
- 086 Aquaculture development as wq improvement tool
- 087 advocate national water quality monitoring network
- 088 Incentivizing collaborations and partnerships. For example, educating stakeholders so they prioritize protection, and increase opportunities for the targeted sector.
- Reef development for filtering bivalves.
- Conserve water and reduce discharges to prevent combined sewage overflows.
- Looking at new financing mechanisms at the local and state level. For example, creating a regional version of state revolving loan funds.
- Promoting low-impact building.
- Financial incentives (such as a nitrogen tax or a subsidy) to prevent nutrient runoff by implementing best management practices.
- 089 Clearly a tremendous national and regional impetus towards ocean energy -- but how to harness private resources interested in ocean energy to help fund research -- until someone wants to use it to make money off it, no impetus to understand resources
- 090 Wind energy may enhance habitat (creation of artificial reefs), def. better than drilling for oil and gas -- but open question as to whether artificial reefs are beneficial or not
- 091 Marine protected areas -- benefit much larger area's fish populations -- on a regional basis, regional marine protected areas would benefit states at lower political cost (?) than single state efforts
- 092 Fish species are migratory -- states can't protect on their own -- regional protection allows protection across life cycles
- 093 MARCO should take marine spatial planning approach -- foundational layer of critical habitats/fisheries and biodiversity BEFORE you start siting wind farms etc.
- 094 Want more particularized plan for developing information necessary for ecosystem-based management in oceans
- 095 Prioritizing stock assessments -- need to find common cause between fishermen and regulators -- need to coordinate with fisheries council

## **What CHALLENGES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- Addressing lagoon and coastal bays as well as ocean waters and land-based sources of pollution to them
- Effectively addressing threats such as invasives, sea level rise, and marine debris (plastics); aging sewerage systems and CSOs to coastal and ocean water quality
- Adequate funding and prioritizing projects for funding
- Better and more consistent monitoring, assessment, data collection and analysis (site specific and regional)

- Enforcement of WQ regs; use of existing authorities
- Redefining standards and indicators to include both human and biological health criteria
- Addressing new and recurring threats: biomedical, salt-water intrusion into coastal waters; dredged material disposal
- Determining who actually controls threats to water quality (eg atmospheric deposition)
- Building capacity and consensus locally to support smart development (even housing) and infrastructure changes
- So many “nay-sayers” how to educate, influence, increase understanding- also changing behavior to lessen individual impacts on WQ

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 power plant entrainment & interactions with wildlife
- 002 Getting MARCO to address threats to water quality in coastal bays and lagoons
- 003 Deteriorating water quality in coastal lagoons.
- 004 Getting the dollars appropriated in a busted economy
- 005 Sea level rise and climate change will impact septic systems in low-lying coastal areas.
- 006 dealing w invasive species
- 007 I question the importance of MARCO's focus on marine debris. A greater focus should be on nutrients and eutrofication.  
Public awareness of individual impact on water quality.  
Enforcement of existing laws.
- 008 need analyses of water quality, loading nutrients, etc
- 009 States have ability under current ability to regulate water quality but to see dramatic improvements in water quality federal govt. needs to take stronger stand.  
There is a budgetary balancing act between \$\$ and water quality.
- 010 remanent deposits of sediments -- superfund sites -- no one taking responsibility for until they go on superfund list; unregulation of pharmecuticals in treated sewage waste -- harm to fish; water quality...; urban issue - combined sewage plants
- 011 biggest challenges is identifying the game players-- who are the folks that use the data.  
how do we define local needs for data?  
How do we relate data across boundaries  
are data necessary going to be attainable?
- 012 determine sources and sinks for marine debris in the areas -- trace with markers
- 013 need to be conscious of how water changes/quality issues are effecting fish
- 014 Use existing data to implement policy changes. Keep it simple.
- 015 problem finding areas to put dredging materials; finding beneficial uses for dredging materials

- 016 - Effects of power plants.
- Poor coordination btw state and federal agencies, leading to missed opportunities and unnecessary redundancies.
  - Develop consistent ways of assessing ecosystem health in ocean environments, both for humans and wildlife.
  - Reduced state funding is leading to even worse coordination btw/within states and federal agencies.
  - Changing public behavior through better education and outreach.
  - Reaching agreement among different parties about what the water quality goals should be.
  - Cost/benefits of BMPs to water quality and of clean water.
- 017 Pollutants from outside the region affecting mid-atlantic
- 018 With increased development in coastal areas need to help localities and municipalities develop ordinances to minimize NPS. Low impact developments need to be encouraged. ID the NPS polluters.
- 019 contraction in developing areas to balance desire for sewer infrastructure against the zoning regs on lower density housing -- sewers allow for more houses/acre but that results in more impermeable surface, less recharge & more non-point surf polln
- 020 - Education of elected representatives.
- 021 - Population growth
- 022 Consensus from Table: Preferable to incorporate measures beyond "swimmable" to set water quality goals. Shifting development of standards to standards based on biological criteria to ensure protection of sensitive species at consecutive life stages.
- Public awareness is a major challenge. We need to educate the community about waht impacts and actions mean.
- Mismatch between \$ needed to undertake infrastructure upgrades and the \$ that may be available.
- 023 New suite of biomedical contaminants going into waterway - not being captured or addressed
- 024 climate change will bring more rainfall -- how will infrastrcture account for this
- Sea level rise will change water salinity & affect on local species
- 025 saltwater intrusion, protection of aquifers,
- 026 new development patterns in areas where no development should be allowed.
- Retro fitting old developments.
- Legacy pollutants are and issue such as PCBs -- cost mucho \$\$
- 027 Water Quality Parameters are too narrowly monitored and regulated (ex: pH, DO, nutrients, thermal pollution, litter, etc.). Education (getting public involved). Lack of resources. Costs to retrofit infrastructure. Some current regs are not focused--flexibility needed.
- 028 a lot of marine debris doesn't start in the water -- need to look at more ways to address this issue;
- do better job of enforcing fisherman/crabbers to take equipment out of the water
- 029 1). Source of air pollution from outside the region.
- 030 Lack of political will to step up. The tools are there but there isn't political will.
- 031 large lot zoning: DEP going to attack larger CSOs; higher taxes on water access; affordable housing is a challenging
- 032 mid-atlantic states can't control some sources of polluiton (atmospheric deposition of pollutants from mid-west)

- 033 protection of public health at beaches, improving evaluation methods of water quality and tracking of pollution, management of nitrification and dissolved oxygen in bays and nearshore waters
- 034 adequate funding for upgrading infrastructure
- 035 Alternative power sources are not yet in place to replace the removal of hydrocarbon based energy energy sources.
- 036 public awareness of the issue of "casual pollution". have folks buy into behavior changes.  
Do not rebuild after storms especially on barrier islands.
- 037 infrastructure and resources for infrastructure; guidelines from the EPA to set parameters based on regional imperatives
- 038 protection of seagrasses
- 039 groundwater quality, protection of lagoonal systems, public health
- 040 Engineered solutions are not the answer and could end up exacerbating the situation.  
Getting buy-in to strategic retreat.
- 041 Getting public to understand the implications of climate change.  
Educate school children regarding the issues of climate change
- 042 need a unified education message
- 043  
to treat water in order to reuse it -- technology is ahead of the regulations; recognize that clean fresh water is a threat to confined ecosystems; best management practices for storm water regs of leading states;
- 044 keeping water quality as a major priority
- 045 Need clarification of where boundaries are for estuaries, Chesapeake watershed, other watersheds does it fall under the purview of MARCO?
- 046 plastic shopping bags and plastic debris in coastal waters, limiting and managing municipal ocean discharges
- 047 improving sewage treatment in the region
- 048 civil works projects - having the science to understand it  
what regulatory programs/permitting actions will have to do with water quality/wetlands/etc
- 049 Only 7% of folks present have climate change built into their work -- education very important.  
Ensuring that longitudinal sustainable data collection and observation systems are in place.
- 050 water quality issues resulting from urban sprawl and land development
- 051 reauthorization of the Beach Act, pollution source tracking, pharmaceuticals, managing non-point source pollution, storm water management, raise awareness towards impacts of plastic debris in ocean
- 052 Naysayers have undue influence.
- 053 identify and manage non-point source pollution, needs for infrastructure, identify needs for water quality improvement, recognize interconnection between water quality and climate change, need for filling data gaps
- 054 management challenge to improve WQ based on infrastructure improvements/non-point source/management
- 055 including estuaries, marshes and wetlands and coastal ocean in discussions and policies involving water quality



- 056 State funding: the states need to also commit to these initiatives as well as asking the federal government to commit to it.
- 057 One commenter -- calling it floatables, ocean debris, marine debris -- it's a euphemism for plastics -- plastics are the biggest problem
- 058 Floatables, DO depletion, Alga Blooms, nutrient enrichment, drinking water threats due to salt wedge advancement up tributaries and ground waters
- 059 Virginia's concerns on water quality are slightly different than the other 4 states since it is focused on Chesapeake Bay
- 060 Impacts of nutrient runoff, land-based sources of pollution were completely underplayed in MARCO's assessment of priorities
- 061 Continued growth and impact of additional sewer sceptivc, conversion of forest land, water quantity, aging sewer systems - overflow
- 062 Not effectively using existing authorities to address land-based non-point source pollution
- 063 protection of freshwater supply and coastal aquifers
- 064 collecting enough data to come to a conclusion. funding and resources needed to support data collection and analysis, interagency data sharing
- 065 addressing problem of marine debris
- 066 Wastewater infrastructure is very important -- but how does it fit into/relate to climate change -- we have to look at non-traditional pollutants incl. pharmaceuticals -- but also you're going to get saltwater intrusion and facilities being underwater with sea levels rising, so siting of new infrastructure will be crucial
- 067 Hydrology issues are much more important than people recognize -- intrusion and inundation
- 068 Information gap on ocean impact beyond the near-shore - nutrification and whether it is having an impact. acidification, air-borne toxins -how far pharmaceutical impacts off-shore - how far does it create contaminants.
- 069 addresssing water pollution issues resulting from marine transportantion and teh shipping industry
- 070 Reliable, real-time data; beach closures; fishery management; debris; stormwater management & TMDLs; local sewer system issues; updating infrastructure; atmospheric deposition; nitrogen buildup; source of atmospheric nitrogen, mercury, etc.; CAFOs; extenstion of sewage outfalls; septic systems; costs to update/expand sewer districts; carrying forth objectives in action plan; effluent impacts to water quality; pubic health data and decisions; nonpoint source pollution and regional approaches; local land use issues; enabling sprawl and innapropriate growth; funding; data; NOAA interaction with states on ecosystem-based management in coastal areas;
- 071 funds necessary to upgrade and maintain sewage treatment plants. Education of populace to reduce littering. Recreation boating bilge discharges. Size of recreation fleet discharges to harbors. Resources to regulate discharge of human waste into harbors.
- 072 There's an unknown problem of contaminated marine sediments contributing to water quality degradation -- i.e. PCBs -- impacts fish, human health -- there's a need to focus on the contaminated sediments along our coasts
- 073 Eutrophication promoting algae growth contributes to reduced ability to absorb CO2
- 074 Building compact communities will help reduce green house gases.
- 075 ensure that state data sets are comparable, develop a national water quality monitoring network that would improve parity amongst data sets
- 076 Too populated on the coast -- things are going to get worse -- therefore we need to understand how to protect what we want to save.

- 077 Collection of right data to support WQ characterization and analysis. Manage and treat and capture storm water nitrogen and other nutrients before getting to estuaries and waterways. Deal with water quality as currently exists.
- 078 Long Island sound isn't included in the boundaries of MARCO. Comes under Connecticut.
- 079 Authority and funding: for example, the Clean Water Act does not regulate non-point sources, nor are there sufficient available resources to do so.  
Combined sewage overflows.  
Aging water infrastructure.
- 080 We don't know a lot about where the habitats are -- what are the ecological processes? It's all one system out there but we don't really understand it. Good first step is identify, catalog, characterize resources -- but what are interrelationships and what are risks of utilizing resources?
- 081 Fisheries are becoming compressed because of climate change -- not just habitat intrusion by pollutants but also habitat shift
- 082 Focus on relationships between estuaries and offshore -- we're degrading water quality in estuaries, that has impacts on offshore habitats

# **OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTA**

## **What OPPORTUNITIES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- Provides an opportunity to update policies and make changes to support low impact development (i.e. transit & coastal development)
- Develop common regional message to educate stakeholders and provide opportunities for new & existing partnerships (i.e. collaboration between military, universities, economists, etc.)
- Opportunity for states to learn from each others “best management practices” or enact common laws to harmonize the region and collectively govern the Mid-Atlantic
- Opportunity to fill/address regional data needs or models consistently across the region
- New opportunity to acquire funding for water quality infrastructure, land and water conservation, etc.

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 ensure current environmental bills are properly implemented and representative of pressing environmental needs
- 002 1) local adaptation plans  
2) coastal habitat & restoration plans  
3) coastal infrastructure funding plans  
4)inter-agency risk communication/federal/state/NGOs  
5) ecological data-gathering esp. on ocean acidification
- 003 increased human awareness and consensus development to address issue of climate change
- 004 develop planning framework for climate change
- 005 rewarding homeowners for adaptation to climate change efforts
- 006 drill down to smaller issues tiering down from the larger issue of climate change.
- 007 clean up shore
- 008 MARCO should support regulatory & policy changes to support low-impact development and to encourage coastal restoration (perhaps treat it differently than other projects)
- 009 Impacts, community outreach, adaptation issues, National Climate Service, Supporting research on local impacts and adaptations; local climate change models, and modeling impacts; academic collaboration for MARCO states; public information and awareness; soft engineering solutions to

shoreline stabilization; protection of wetlands, dunes, habitats; understand consequences for ecosystems; ecosystem change predictions; cleantech, cleaning up environment and business opportunities; uniformity of policies; best practices; economic development tied to climate change adaptations; keep economic opportunity tied to wetland areas;

- 010 Transit-oriented development -- freight, rail, marine "villages" -- sustainable development based on existing infrastructure concentrations
- 011 use local issues involving climate change (e.g, changes in fisheries, sea level change, habitat destruction) to educate a wide range of constituents on climate change
- 012 Make issue concrete - ie. This is the impact on
  - Roads, power lines, wastewater treatment, Transportation- Amtrak
- 013 infrastructure reconfiguration
- 014 The need to develop a land protection strategy that facilitates an upward and inward migration of coastal habitats
- 015 initiate coastal planning involving stakeholders
- 016 Education - Scientific proof of what has actually happened in the past and currently happening - the problem exists no - matter what.
- 017 Great opportunity to being organized as a region. Working together on messaging and a region.
- 018 educate political leaders using scientists, social scientists, economists
- 019 Creating greater engagement of all involved in the region. There are some grants that could be better accessed through greater collaboration.
- 020 collaborations with military, universities across region to gather information and provide a strong voice
- 021 pilot projects (similar to Long Island sea level rise project) to educate communities on natural adaptation
- 022 use the issue of coastal land use to educate on climate change
- 023 develop the science of climate change and predictability of landscape changes, collaboration of agency efforts
- 024 look at the natural features that protect human interests such as barrier islands
- 025 DE has enacted Coastal Zone Protection Act -- other states need to enact their own coastal zone protection acts
- 026 educate communities of importance of resiliency planning - ex: opportunity for retreat post-storm
- 027 use MARCO to deal with issue of upgrading water treatment facilities;
- 028 better understand impact of climate change on storms and affect on coastal environments
- 029 increasing LIDAR coverage & make LIDAR data available
- 030 change regulations concerning coastal development and flood insurance policies
  - Climate Bill -- adaptation aspects to make sure the Mid Atl states get their fair share of funding; powerful Senators from MA region
- 031 get states to harmonize their rules and regs on how mitigate or adapt to sea level rise -- MARCO could try to seek some kind of agreement on rules -- when protect, when walk away; consistency on priority setting
- 032 beach erosion replacement -- supreme court ruling on this is it a threat or opportunity -- depends how it rules
- 033 Put regional weight behind local decisions.
- 034 develop tools to better model climate change

- 035 "and marine" gets tagged onto the end of land-based conservation efforts -- MARCO should prioritize ocean conservation efforts, oceans should not be secondary to terrestrial conservation efforts
- 036 development of models that can be used at the local scale
- 037 making sure that CC is not used as an excuse against effective fisheries mgt and wildlife protection claiming that declines are due to water temps & regime shifts; issue of shifting baselines  
agencies are looking to understand what affects will be on wildlife so that we can better respond  
move the valuable equipment to the 2nd and higher floors as adaptation to SLR
- 038 create model for planning and zoning based on vertical set backs and disincentive building in these areas thru changes to fed flood insurance program;  
set model for building big gov projects to consider these issues; disengage sealevel rise from political issues from global warming and pointing the finger
- 039 Public awareness and education. Identify critical habitats and migration corridors to allow them to be sustainable.
- 040 develop infrastructure for egress in case of calamity (e.g. storms); invest in pumps and piers
- 041 Best management practices for coastal design management, etc. -- develop earlier and share.
- 042 -
- 043 renewable resources (tidal, wind, hydrogen, solar) and energy conservation
- 044 Opportunities to integrate restoration efforts - and preservation of ecosystem services generally - into any climate change legislation coming out of local, state or federal governments.  
There may be new opportunities to slow down climate change and increase time to devise innovative adaptation solutions.  
Non-profits have an opportunity to engage in outreach and education to ensure public awareness of the problem.  
Opportunity to enact federal legislation to address climate change generally (e.g. a carbon tax).  
Opportunity to incorporate sea level rise (and climate change effects generally) into coastal permitting and licensing processes.  
Threat of sea level rise may decrease the value of farmland, which creates an opportunity for land acquisition and conservation.  
Opportunity to think about ocean and coastal governance and partnerships in new ways - it is an issue of such magnitude and will bring so many changing and emerging uses that it affords a chance to think about ocean and coastal management from a new perspective.  
Technological opportunity to connect with long-time coastal residents and communicate with them in an entirely different way than we did decades ago. (For example, coastal education and local modeling via an iPhone application.)  
Opportunity for states to communicate beyond their own boundaries to jointly manage migrating and straddling fish stocks and seabird populations.
- 045 development of green - blue infrastructure
- 046 funding for adaptation for water quality infrastructure, need to look at CC adaptation at the same time -- look for synergies
- 047 Develop data base that can be shared across states;  
funding -- land and water conservation fund
- 048 LIDAR data for planning at a local/regional level in terms of SLR to allow for better land use planning;  
USGS provides opportunity for groups to put in requests for LIDAR data in the Mid Atl region

- 049 stakeholders need to help marco
- 050 use of new technologies to collect and share data regarding regional impacts of climate Change. Also, develop more sensitive (precise) monitoring instruments. important to see trends and to forecast (forecast flooding, changes in water parameters, impacts on wildlife and habitat)
- 051 - Dept of Transportation (federal) could play a bigger role in coordinating state efforts
- 052 Establish regional policy ensure consistency to address protection of property rights and resulting ramifications therefrom.
- 053 Support planning in coastal areas in the upcoming climate change legislation
- 054 - Such a massive problem that it requires collaboration
- 055 - More federal funding this year
- 056 The natural resources that support and serve as nursery grounds for shared resources (off-shore fisheries, migratory fisheries) should be viewed as a common resources and assured additional attention and protection at the regional level.
- 057 - Coordinated public outreach would be more effective, should include legislators
- 058 prioritize adaptation strategies regarding infrastructure especially transportation.
- 059 Build on existing collaborative partnerships (i.e. Chesapeake Bay Program) and agreements.
- 060 - Comprehensive messaging program btw states is required
- 061 Oyster restoration - warming may allow 2 harvests
- 062 Partner with non-ocean based organizations that are feeling the effects of climate change as well
- 063 green infrastructure as a way to mitigate local climate & reduce urban energy needs (cooling, heating)
- 064 best practices -- so many out there-- need to compile
- 065 A single, coordinated website to consolidate state reports on climate change would be helpful
- 066 Many states have their own adaptation plans, MARCO could help coordinate dissemination of this information
- 067 impetus to support better mass transit systems to reduce C
- 068 How these relate: infrastructure, lack of knowlege, acidification of ocean, priorities, resources, spend money we have smarter. education needed.
- 069 Potential for MARCo - data gathering Ocean impact - create a network of researchers.

## **What CHALLENGES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- Improving proactive planning to avoid and minimize any future impacts of sea level rise – reduce overdevelopment of high risk areas
- Consider multiple impacts of climate change, not just sea level rise (temp, salinity and ocean acidification)
- Need to fill data gaps related to increase ocean acidification, increased ocean temp, sea level rise, etc. – need for better data i.e. maps

- Lack of education and understanding is reducing public support for action
- Balancing the protection of the built environment vs. protecting natural resources
- Current planning and policy promote short term decisions that ignore future problems
- Need tools to better visualize the impacts of sea level rise
- Complexity of adaptation requires a new level of coordination across organizations and disciplines
- How do we prioritize and allocate limited financial resources

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 impacts on coastal ecosystems, specifically shellfisheries, effects from increased ocean temperatures
- 002 improve tools for assessing ocean environments, ecosystem response to sea level rise, develop planned approach to climate change management, helping communities plan for climate change
- 003 economic and infrastructure needs response to sea level rise and climate change
- 004 underrepresentative of business in this forum raises a risk of slanting any recommendations developed  
- strong view by one person
- 005 reducing overdevelopment in coastal areas, enforcing and implementing standards for coastal development, address flood insurance issues, restoring and preserving wetlands, preserve freshwater resources
- 006 sealevel rise will drive increase interest in storm level reduction - challenge to corps of engineers
- 007 convince government officials that the effects from climate change are serious, develop proper criteria for decision making process,
- 008 data base collection and analysis do the science right to support civil works development and implementation that may be related to sea level rise.
- 009 security for offshore energy infrastructure, maintaining economic infrastructure
- 010 How to retreat from the beaches -- the beaches will take care of themselves if we give them room, but we need to stop the bleeding by stopping/slowing coastal development
- 011 conservation of marine fisheries in response to reduced salt concentration/increased acidity.
- 012 adaptation for environmentally sensitive industries, aquaculture, preservation of ground water quality
- 013 What are financial incentives encouraging over-development of coastal areas -- e.g. federal flood insurance -- what can region/states do re: private property rights vs. public needs
- 014 accepting adaptation to climate change instead of mitigation
- 015 ocean acidification, increased ocean temperature, fill data gaps related to climate change, adaptation to sea level rise for habitats, incorporating climate change into local planning framework
- 016 The failure to use the authorities we have to discourage risky practices -- we haven't used legal, political, and management tools available effectively
- 017 We've identified areas such as retreat zones for wetlands, but we haven't used authorities to implement them
- 018 Public education and understanding the impact on communities and states -  
Sea-level rise and ocean acidification

- Serious economic loss due to climate change
- ie. loss of species -salt-marsh species
- potential infrastructure loss.
- 019 questions regarding science of climate changes, questions of deification of the environment may be misdirecting policy development and increased costs to society
- 020 educating and involving public, accurate and precise updating of FEMA flood maps
- 021 We have perverse incentives -- through regulations that allow developers to buy their way out of conservation requirements
- 022 habitat change
- 023 Monitoring and better information to lead to difficult decisions especially in light of budgetary constraints- better planning for what's vulnerable vs. developing and protecting infrastructure.
- 024 Inability of government to devote resources appropriately rather than being taken captive by special interests
- 025 ocean acidification; species migration; coastal communities, flooding; utility-based climate change solutions; wetlands inundation; solutions to regional wetlands loss; economic impact of losing wetlands; coastal community land use practices; awareness; national security and data accessibility issues for stakeholders; climate change fatigue; NGO focus on adaptation; harder to understand adaptation; adaptation costs to local, coastal communities, states and the region; polarization of debate/discussion; behavior modification; coastal hazards; land use regulations at state and local level;
- 026 educating public, government officials, stakeholders, etc on climate change
- 027 coastal infrastructure and development  
validity of the science
- 028 coastal development and habitat protection
- 029 Movement of species b/c of water temperatures & changes in ecosystem as a result
- 030 misconception by political leaders on issue of climate change
- 031 not enough public passion on this issue
- 032 Following education with behavioral changes
- 033 articulating benefits of natural structure as protection to climate change effects
- 034 need for more research and data on impact on species, regional climate changes, sea level change, habitat destruction
- 035 adaptation is not a priority for this organization -- but diff perspectives at the table
- 036 coastal land use
- 037 identify agency position on climate change issue, habitat losses/buffer zone and to develop strategic plan
- 038 economy dependent on carbon
- 039 - Adaptation may not be the appropriate issue, rather we should concentrate on avoiding the problem  
- States need to coordinate development guidelines to reduce effects of sea level rise
- 040 public interest in allowing shoreline to migrate v. private interest in maintaining land
- 041 concern here is only on infrastructure and not on habitats; protecting natural features & endangered species that depend on these habitats
- 042 - Such an immense problem is causes the public to feel powerless leading to indifference  
- No buy-in from the public



- 043 upgrading sewage treatment
- 044 the flood planning
- 045 - Identifying the impacts, need better baseline data to determine effects
- 046 What can MARCO do to marshal resources across the region to combat rate of climate change -- is there an appropriate role for MARCO not just in adapting to climate change but also working to ameliorate it
- 047 - conflicting views/beliefs on the problem
- 048 threat that national climate bill doesn't undermine state or regional planning and standards on climate
- 049 - Management will require long-term effort which does not gel with political cycle  
- Misinformation campaign and scientific uncertainty
- 050 Combination of sea level rise and subsidence is going to create new problems - particularly to water quality - inundation of septic systems, contaminated sites.  
  
If your only goal is to protect built environment you are going to see damage to natural resources.  
  
Don't see planning to help natural resources maintain or move inland in response to sea level rise.
- 051 - Hard to handle long-term problems when present-day problems are pressing
- 052 getting communities to envision a different future for the community (post-storm, that community might look different than pre-storm)
- 053 Where are intersections -- climate change is an organizational challenge for govt. and non-govt. organizations -- how do organizations intersect and coordinate regional efforts -- everyone has a niche and how do we communicate across niches
- 054 - Develop tools for showing how climate change effects us now, including economically
- 055 Insurance encourages rebuilding in unsafe areas, exacerbating problems
- 056 MARCO needs to look at everything going on in various regional organizations -- there's a lot of overlap in terms of organization and responsibility -- need to know what others are doing
- 057 - Uncertainty about baseline information
- 058 MARCO Action plan should more strongly emphasize risk to blue and green infrastructure and those should be mapped out.  
  
Outreach piece around values of healthy natural shorelines and tidal marshes provide inherent protection against climate change. Restoration of the natural resources to buffer against storm damage.  
  
MARCO could help produce a map to the human responses to sea level rise. Map out areas with solutions (inland migration of salt marshes)  
  
Need for regional LIDAR data. Existing data is not conducive to assessing sea level rise vulnerability on a regional basis.
- 059 Fossil fuel use is having a major impact on ocean acidification.
- 060 - Poor messaging does not bring the issue home for everyone
- 061 conflicting messages re: engineered responses v. natural processes such as using beach renourishment to protect private homes
- 062 Connection between fossil fuel use and production and how much we are going to need to respond to sea level rise.
- 063 political nature of shoreline management
- 064 - Lack of consistent information on climate change effects across all states

- 065 Making sure all the stakeholders are at the table (such as the Chamber of Commerce, land use agencies, recreational industry, marine commerce, local governments and planning entities).
- Need to analyze the impact of climate change on life-cycle water supply (in addition to water quality), in light of changing frequency and duration of drought and flood events/cycles and shifting population patterns.
- Need to strengthen and modify existing infrastructure.
- Incentivizing the creation of innovative and non-traditional partnerships. Challenge of identifying the commonalities and differences between interested parties.
- Political reality: new governors coming into New Jersey and Virginia, with different political perspectives than their predecessors.
- Lack of baseline and historical information on which to base adaptation actions.
- Prioritizing resource allocation - e.g. limited federal funds for USACE activities, thus need to decide where to begin.
- Connecting with the public and sustaining public interest in climate change and both its immediate and long-term effects. The need to personalize the issue for people (e.g. the Prius lowers your gas bills first, and reduces GHG emissions second).
- Different federal agencies providing differing information - need to collate and clarify existing government data on climate change. Finding ways to work together and possibly develop a central repository for climate change information.
- 066 Don't have good data on elevations along the coast - can't evaluate potential impacts -- need in uniform format to look at on regional basis -- central data base; lack of uniform info on natural habitat, tide lands, wet lands ; marco only focusing on the hard infrastructure now -- need to focus on natural infrastructure
- 067 need for increased preparedness to increased storm activity, prevent sewage spills into coastal waters, identify unique situation of offshore energy resources in response to climate change, plan for climate change adaptation, identify situations that cannot be realistically adapted to and cannot be solely mitigated, define roles of MARCO in terms of environmental adaptation versus environmental mitigation, clarifying roles and responsibilities in MARCO
- 068 Lack of a mitigation plan to prepare for inevitable sea level rise.
- 069 is marco willing to take the necessary actions to get the work done under coordinated effort
- 070 salt water intrusion in public waters supplies in coastal areas in region
- 071 good data need on elevations, habitats, etc.
- planning and zoning regulations are important;
- conflicting regulations
- 072 develop better tools for ecosystem assessment to evaluate water quality, relocate existing tools to nearshore environments to more accurately assess issues, raise awareness of existing water quality data
- 073 CSOs overwhelmed w/ increased storm events and SLR -- how deal with it
- 074 anticipate new offshore energy technologies and plan accordingly
- 075 too much emphasis on adaptation -- we should focus on mitigation and reducing GHG
- 076 personal private rights compounds issues.
- 077 water quality - frequency and intensity of storms -- directly impacts storm standards -- need to improve; don't think one size fits all
- how to take into insurance industry resources -- who pays and who is protected;

resiliency -- life saving and emergency response -- not just infrastructure development

078 the threat of clean coal technology re ocean acidification problem

079 Climate variations can cause change agricultural practices and irrigation - that leads to water quality issues. Potential longer growing seasons - warmer seasons may allow some invasive species to proliferate

# **OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES: OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

## **What OPPORTUNITIES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- Promote new job creation and economic growth
- MSP for wind energy development will also provide data, information and support for improved habitat protection, water quality, research and monitoring
- Unique opportunity to coordinate regional planning, technical capacity and regional policies
- “Offshore renewables reduce our reliance on carbon based fuels”
- Develop efficient energy supply chain regionally, rather than individual or state by state distribution
- Regional approach can more equitably distribute new revenues (leasing, tariffs, user fees, etc.) to maximize benefits

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 remove unnecessary barriers yes, but all offshore alternative energy siting must be done in a thoughtful and thorough way that addresses the important environmental issues.
- 002 opportunity for jobs to build wind infrastructure ships
- 003 WIND CAPACITY
- 004 coordination opportunities amongst mid-atlantic states
- 005 PUBLIC INTEREST AND AWARENESS
- 006 explore other renewable energy options in conjunction with wind to understand the most feasible economically and environmentally.
- 007 Offshore renewable energy will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.  
Need to site offshore wind is creating an interest/rationalle for identifying offshore habitats.  
Support green jobs and industry growth in region.
- 008 LEASE FEE FOR RENEWABLE SITES USED TO FUND MONITORING
- 009 - Vast offshore wind resource that has not been best captured. Great opportunity for clean energy  
- Offshore is where the energy is around here  
- Great benefits are possible
- 010 for states to establish feed-in tariffs to purchase offshore power; we want the technology and we'll pay for it

- create a regional public power authority to buy the wind power (diff from purchase agreements)
- 011 LEARN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES
- 012 - National level interest is significant, more funding and coordination possible
- 013 - Offshore wind is the only large-scale renewable energy potential closest to the major US population concentration
- 014 to change the competition provision in the energy policy
- 015 SHARING LEASING REVENUES BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES
- 016 GREEN JOBS
- 017 standard coordinated guidelines as a region for monitoring of impacts a (pre-construction and post-construction)
- 018 We have the ports and infrastructure to support a wind energy industry; have the labor force and electrical grid infrastructure at Hampton Roads.  
Mid-Atlantic has the opportunity to grow the industry.
- 019 - Data collected for wind energy is useful for other aspects, such as water quality
- 020 CLEAN SLATE FOR IMPROVED ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE
- 021 price externalities on a life cycle basis to make wind more economically competitive
- 022 MMS task forces to coordinate efforts among task forces of among the states so there is an understanding of what other task forces/states are doing.
- 023 Additional economic benefits to produce, install and maintain the wind infrastructure
- 024 use offshore platforms for scientific research (beyond energy related)
- 025 Land-based operations that wind entails are a positive economic outcome  
Challenges can be overcome
- 026 Can the wind infrastructure be coupled with other economic activities, such as aquaculture
- 027 SHORT DISTANCE TO LOAD CENTERS
- 028 MSP can help sort out competing interests?? Helps visualization of other options.
- 029 need cap & trade and reduce; need to recognize all uses
- 030 RENEWABLES GIVE A CHANCE TO GET CMSP OFF THE GROUND
- 031 Regional offshore renewable collaborative to develop a regional supply chain, rather than individual and inefficient supply chain.
- 032 develop standard uniform regulatory and technical coordination -- consistent and not state by state. to bring power on shore and distribute it too.
- 033 MSP is an opportunity going forward if it doesn't hold up a project
- 034 consistent revenue certainty amongst the states where wind farms are developed.
- 035 Offshore renewable energy is linking energy source with end user.  
Appropriate siting of offshore projects can provide habitat benefits and protection (ie. no trawl zones).  
Linking marine spatial planning and aquaculture.  
Wind energy is a driver for marine spatial planning.  
Marine spatial planning for wind should also support spatial planning for the protection of marine living resources.  
Potential to reduce GHG emissions.

- 036 coordinate regional projects prioritization
- 037 energy offshore transmission has regional focus -- lowers costs, increases value of the wind; offshore trunkline is important, investments needed from feds as states will want to avoid the development costs
- 038 Marine Spatial Planning - Implementation and utilization of MMS/NOAA Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, an interactive GIS mapping system.
- 039 coordinating planning (mapping and siting)
- 040 need data storage area that has consistency and get environmental groups involved
- 041 NEAq and U Del is mapping marine mammals and seabirds, bathymetry etc. to look at impacts to look at where to put the transmission lines and then; looking also at cost allocation; regional lines vs individual tie-ins  
NOAA is already doing seafloor habitat but not sure if in this region
- 042 MARCO needs to be a vehicle for spatial planning for wind energy
- 043 collaborative environmental research and studies, including MMS environmental studies program.
- 044 Offshore renewables reduce our reliance on carbon based fuels.
- 045 restate public interest re reduction of fossil fuels and electric reduction
- 046 Five states working together to design and site one wind farm in the Mid-Atlantic.
- 047 maximize use of mutually compatible uses, including commerce.
- 048 prioritizing renewable versus traditional energy forms - involvement of MARCO in this prioritization; include energy in marine spatial planning
- 049 Look to the RI SAMP for how wind farms should be sited in the Mid-Atlantic.
- 050 MARCO be advocate for siting of extractive versus renewable energy; take habitat protection into account when siting offshore energy extraction (renewable or extractive)
- 051 Have MARCO identify what habitats in the region are worth saving.
- 052 Creates need for multiple use planning.
- 053 Under CZMA, states have authority to plan around siting of offshore energy facilities -- states need to coordinate to use authorities effectively and consistently whether it's on oil/gas, wind, or other. Need to engage federal agencies -- need affirmative efforts for states collectively and individually to influence off-shore siting.
- 054 study impact of carbon sequestration on ocean bottom habitats
- 055 States have an opportunity to influence actions in federal waters that they don't otherwise have and should use those authorities consistently and effectively.
- 056 clustering opportunities together.
- 057 marine spatial planning should include carbon sequestration as a possibility
- 058 Develop the off shore transmission infrastructure and determine the associated cost allocations for these renewable technologies close to east coast load centers.
- 059 create a vision for the uses of coastal ocean vis a vis ocean energy
- 060 funding for research
- 061 keep an adaptive component for energy and new technologies
- 062 greenhouse gas reduction programs and legislation; RGGI; federal climate change legislation; make policy restrictions into economic opportunity; carbon economy; LNG vs. oil; need different approach/perspective to strategize siting/implementation of energy projects; public information/awareness; analysis from MARCO - which energy options make the most sense or provide

the biggest benefit; analysis of alternatives; holistic approach; integrated/board EIS; cumulative impacts analysis; precise assessment of needs; criteria/analysis for siting projects - small vs. large;

063 Regionally map important habitat areas .

064 Possibility of levying a fee on offshore alternative energy projects to fund habitat research and preservation efforts.

There is a tension between the need to move forward with offshore renewable energy facilities in a timely fashion, in order to reduce GHG emissions and prevent future climate change, versus the need for more information about the projects' projected impacts. There may be an opportunity to undertake key pilot-scale projects to provide short-term assessments and monitoring efforts. Offshore alternative energy companies may be amenable to funding research efforts.

Engage the public and educate them about the issues: the need for pilot projects to generate more information about offshore alternative energy and the full extent of the policy choices that are being made (e.g. building an offshore turbine to enable the closing of a coal-fired power plant located near an urban population).

Opportunity to increase domestic energy production through offshore energy projects (linking economic benefit and environmental sustainability).

## **What CHALLENGES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- Permitting process needs enough resources to be dedicated to it at the federal/MMS level to expedite offshore wind
- Better clarification of who benefits from offshore energy other than developers (i.e. jobs, revenues) “What’s in it for the public?”
- MSP needs to be completed for purposes other than only wind-power siting. Conservation of marine resources & habitat & fishery areas are key components
- How to mitigate use conflicts caused by energy siting that would displace other uses i.e. fishing industries, livelihoods, living resources/habitat, shipping
- Engaging stakeholders is challenging, but critical “stakeholders want dialogue even if consensus doesn’t result”
- Aesthetic issue: How far away from shore to place turbines? “NIMBY”
- Expensive – need to understand resources needed and how to produce them domestically
- Need better & uniform data and mapping across the region
- Need to consider other offshore energy, not just wind i.e. hydro kinetic, oil & gas

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

001 high price of offshore energy

- lack of infrastructure, boats to put them in: Jones Act -- must have US construction vessels
- 002 understanding the impacts, putting in place long-term monitoring for wind energy facilities and require adaptive management for these facilities. Applies also to other off shore energy technologies.
- Do MSP that is more than just an energy facility siting exercise -- conservation of living marine resources and their habitats are a key component to MSP.
- Better understand the large foot print that wind energy will cast over the Mid-Atlantic. Evaluate and contrast and compare conservation and weatherization.
- 003 Evaluating the feasibility of other techniques.
- 004 lack of a clear regulatory regime
- more resources to MMS to help move process along
- 005 no one talking about cash benefits to local community with off shore renewable energy-- this needs to happen to get community back in
- 006 Understanding the permitting process at the federal level.
- CZM consistency process needs to be better understood.
- Understanding this new era for this new renewable energy option.
- Who benefits beyond simply the energy companies. What's in it for the public.
- 007 - User conflicts, e.g., with the shellfish industry
- 008 NEPA and permitting process is very long and doesn't work well for offshore renewables where the infrastructure has environmental benefits
- 009 No coordination between activities in adjacent states and potential for boom/bust situation. Inefficient utilization of resources. Need coordinated project development.
- 010 Siting of land-based distribution centers is difficult
- 011 How to streamline process that is effective and efficient and does no ecological harm.
- Wind power may not be a high MARCO agenda item.
- Understanding migratory corridors.
- Being sensitive to commercial fishing interests.
- 012 what is the public interest served by renewable energy off shore - doesn't reduce the carbon footprint; utilities will make money...
- local conflicts -- need to recognize existing infrastructure ;lack of planning framework
- 013 Do MSP so that it does not put small commercial fisherman out of business.
- Wind power siting will put commercial fishing interests and dragnets out of business.
- 014 WIND TECHNOLOGIES NOT AS ADVANCED AS EXPECTED
- 015 MSP -- controversy whether its for single vs multiple use
- 016 lack of data/data planning; need to know what to do with data once you get it and rules to govern it; conflicting interests
- 017 Overcoming the suspicion of MSP. Too many absolutes exist about the concept.
- 018 Multiple use of offshore energy sites.
- Better define what is meant to remove unnecessary barriers.
- We think that we will probably have limited involvement in the siting and design of first few projects. need adaptive learning process built into the permitting process so we can modify future projects based on lessons learned from first - need clear feedback loop.



- 019 Wind industry could displace commercial fishing vessels in existing ports and docks.
- 020 Too much blowing in the wind.
- 021 marine spatial planning needed
- 022 How well do we understand what the trade-offs are? Argument that wind power is a net benefit environmentally as well as economically -- do we have the science to support that assumption? What are impacts on marine mammals, fish, migratory birds, habitats? What are trade-offs of putting a lot of structures in the ocean?
- 023 - Policy challenges at state and federal level. Can't move forward without state financial incentive policies.  
- Regulatory structure at the federal level needs to be more coordinated.
- 024 Footprint of wind farms will displace traditional uses and destroy benthic habitat and fishing areas.
- 025 ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT AND SITING OF RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGY AT UTILITY SCALE
- 026 impact on fishing
- 027 Are advantages of renewables as simple as they are portrayed? Does substituting renewable energy for non-renewable energy fundamentally change how energy is used and impacts of that consumption?
- 028 - Financing mechanism needs to come from the states  
- Assessment, monitoring and mitigation of environmental impacts
- 029 Need open public process in the development of rules for offshore wind permitting. Getting public involved is very important.  
  
Need to committ to reducing energy usage not just having offshore projects "feed the grid"  
  
Offshore wind is going to create a huge onshore need for development/infrastructure and we need to plan for it. Need to address landside capacity to support offshore wind.
- 030 port facilities and equipment large enough to handle movement (install and maintain)
- 031 BEST WIND SITES CONFLICT WITH OTHER USERS OF SAME SITES
- 032 locations of farms 6-15 miles offshore may pose interaction issues for inshore migratory species
- 033 Gloucester Times running anti-MSP stories. Claims MSP will put commercial fishing out of business.  
  
How do you take competing uses and negotiate a reasonable plan. Need to lay-out the four dimensional ground work.  
  
Wind farms create huge spatial conflicts than need to be mitigated.
- 034 - Effects on marine mammals of large footprints, need better baseline information  
- Effects on commercial shipping and fishing, plus recreational fishing  
- Increased vessel traffic may have effects on marine mammals
- 035 Environmental data gaps.
- 036 Our rush to develop and permit offshore wind should not be done at the expense of good planning.
- 037 NIMBY, DON'T BUILD IN MY VIEW
- 038 Lack of attention to any other facilities/energy source besides wind -- have to have conversation about other types of facilities that can be built in the ocean such as liquefied natural gas. We don't want to see industrialization of oceans -- need to focus on building structures that reduce greenhouse gases but need to have a complete conversation
- 039 Significant data gaps on effects on fish and wildlife
- 040 Govt needs to better understand what is needed for manufacture, construction and maintenance. How to promote it, give incentives, create jobs HERE. Attract manufacturing and jobs in US

- 041 Need for better siting processes and the data needed to support those processes
- 042 urgency in deploying offshore energy, need for offshore spatial planning to more efficiently develop offshore energy resources, handle offshore energy differently from offshore drilling
- 043 What's the proper distance from shore to locate a wind farm?
- 044 engage industry in this issue; reducing regulatory barriers cannot be done without engaging industry in the process
- 045 Need consistent decision processes
- 046 Oil and gas development offshore is a real issue -- it's not on MARCO's agenda -- it's an issue that needs to be on the table. Issues should still be discussed even if states can't come to a consensus. Stakeholders want dialogue even if consensus doesn't result. MARCO should not be paralyzed by areas of disagreement but should move forward on areas of agreement.
- 047 if develop off shore wind energy it should be consistent with carbon reduction;  
trying to displace fossil fuel use in order to reduce electricity -- challenges;
- 048 Understanding the stakeholders concerns.
- 049 streamline permit process for MMS
- 050 be able to adapt to needs of offshore energy industry
- 051 View obstruction.  
Reduced use by commercial fishermen.  
Additional global energy uses other than wind that may have impacts (hydro- connectic).
- 052 focus on renewable energy over extractive energy
- 053 Not just focus on the wind energy, look beyond that at hydro kinetics also...
- 054 Finding an agreeable area that is mapped and agreed to by all stakeholders.
- 055 Developing the interconnection between the wind production off shore, to the transmission grid.
- 056 assess impacts on offshore energy on ecosystems, develop a realistic timeline for developing offshore energy projects
- 057 Intermittent nature of wind resources: still gathering data to determine and support the reliability requirements.
- 058 make sure that extractive energy siting in ocean does not conflict or take priority over renewable energy; develop comprehensive energy plan
- 059 Cost. Technological costs not comparable to fossil fuel
- 060 Lack of understanding among stakeholders regarding why MSP needs to be done.
- 061 Understanding the impact of every user of the ocean environment.
- 062 educate the public on offshore energy opportunities, environmental impacts, aesthetic qualities, and logistics
- 063 Offsetting impacts on habitat.
- 064 Get  
better and uniform mapping across the region.
- 065 Best sites to use are the ones that will have the most negative impacts on habitats/organisms.
- 066 How to deal more effectively with industrial discards in the fisheries. No incentive to control this waste.
- 067 identifying potential future uses of the coastal ocean and plan for it

- 068 Regulatory by-catch results in thousands of fish being wasted and thrown back. Need to address this issue in more enlightened fisheries management plan.
- 069 gathering fisheries data, streamlining the development process, assessing information needs to narrow down potential development sites, need for additional studies on EMF and impacts
- 070 Building energy efficiency into the new technology of renewable energy generation, there by lowering associated cost.
- 071 Big misunderstanding that MSP will result in dedicated leases for commercial fishing.
- 072 Regulatory process; lack of MARCO discussion of offshore natural gas fuel projects; utility concerns about greenhouse gas reduction goals; explore full range of energy options then choosing option with lowest economic costs;
- 073 There needs to be transparency and accountability in the data collection processes.
- 074 work out economic logistics for offshore energy projects, recreational and offshore fishing industry

# **OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES: HABITAT PROTECTION**

## **What OPPORTUNITIES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- New and improved Information Sharing capabilities;
- New opportunities for adaptive mgmt; learning from the successes of existing marine protected areas and developing benchmarks for success
- New educational opportunities i.e. a flagship species;
- Using and integrating local knowledge into decision making;
- Multiple users can lead to broad-based partnerships and collaborations: seeing and incorporating many perspectives
- Opportunities to maximize the use of existing successful Federal-State programs/authorities, and regulatory provisions to protect and acquire habitat;
- New marine spatial planning frameworks
- Opportunities to use new technologies to collect data to assess and protect ocean habitats

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 highlight offshore habitats and identify all offshore habitats
- 002 better mapping of seafloor to identify habitats and sharing information among agencies and universities
- 003 allowing States to assess needs for new policy and policy changes
- 004 Learning from other areas where they are successful in educating people and protecting habitats.
- 005 supplying additional focus to dataset needs
- 006 Integration, mapping, data sources, visualization - surveying
- 007 protect what we know is important now as well as acquiring more data - precautionary principle
- 008 Mapping of different areas of the ocean - and the habitats above and below and then linking with mapping closer in,.
- 009 Engage students -
- 010 Use a flagship species to educate people and drive protection: whales, dolphins, coral.... use it to work toward a sanctioned protected area.
- 011 Keep focus on terrestrial as well as aquatic habitat protection.

- 012 prioritizing habitat protection, marine spatial planning that include identifying conservation areas, buffer areas and marine sanctuaries
- 013 identifying differences in outlooks amongst states regarding offshore development, the Clean Ocean Zone bill which intends to zone out high impact offshore development practices
- 014 create a regional framework for marine spatial planning including estuaries, inshore and offshore areas
- 015 Multi-state/regional network for monitoring, migration patterns and having unified influencing federal legislation, funding, protection. And to create unified efforts around adapting federal legislation to the changing needs of the habitats - climate change impact.
- 016 Tortugas and Biscayne has protected marine research national areas: Learn from what they have done and what they are doing - benchmark off other successes.
- 017 Multi-dimensional (levels of the ocean) and seasonal data collection
- 018 help local agencies develop and implement marine spatial planning
- 019 education opportunity
- 020 ecosystem restoration
- 021 Comprehensive approach to Marine Spatial Planning; Data/asset/resource coordination with MARCO states; data re: habitat protection policies and actions exists - need to be used for educational, communications; Quantify economic value of habitat; valuation of ecologic services/resources; potential compatibility of energy projects and habitats;
- 022 Funding from new uses of marine environment - some of the fees should go toward habitat protection.
- 023 ability to provide other agencies with data collected
- 024 FIND SYNERGIES BETWEEN FISHERIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION
- 025 Multiple users mean there is an opportunity for broad stakeholder collaboration and broad-based partnerships.
- Opportunity to define marine protected areas and possibly identifying marine migratory corridors, especially within state waters.
- Current mapping technologies make it possible to engage in spatial planning efforts (which then ties into siting of renewable energy facilities).
- Using research conducted in coastal national wildlife refuges, national parks, and national estuarine reserves for public education.
- "Treasured landscapes" - integrating terrestrial reserves with subaqueous protected areas, recognizing their interconnections and interrelated value.
- Ensure we maximize the utility of existing federal-state consultation and coordination provisions.
- Integrating regional data collection and mapping efforts with the NOAA Coastal Services Center multi-purpose marine cadastre.
- 026 submarine canyons (study in Science on methane emphasizes imp of this habitat: deep sea corals, areas of upwelling)
- 027 Audubon has already started atlantic flyway initiative looking at key flyways for migratory birds, identifying key species and habitats that need protection: use this info.
- 028 EXISTING PROGRAMS TO PROTECT AND ACQUIRE HABITAT
- 029 Redesign grid to accommodate wind instead of fossil fuels. ie. offshore transmission backbone.
- 030 deepwater coral protection opportunities against trawling-- work with councils to promote these protections
- MAFMC has already protected 4 canyons from trawling

- 031 - Opportunity to bring information together and make good siting decisions, possibly establishing marine protected areas
- 032 additional information helps to explain the necessity to preserve habitat
- 033 More interest in habitat now, relatively prioritized by state and federal agencies
- 034 PROTECTING CANYONS PROTECTS MANY IMPORTANT SPECIES. FILL EXISTING KNOWLEDGE GAPS RE CANYONS.
- 035 USGS has done sea floor mapping to show imp habitats; more mapping needed; marine cadastre is not necessarily looking at the best data
- 036 Convergence of interest, new money and new partners, coupled with demand for offshore energy
- 037 Work together for responsive federal regulatory system -minerals management system is developing a regulatory process not in place - The five states interest in efficient regulatory
- 038 FOCUS ON BENTHIC HABITAT WILL HELP DELINEATE IMPORTANT BIODIVERSITY
- 039 The great wind resources at shallow depths along with the jobs factor.
- 040 STRATEGIC PROTECTION OF HABITAT REGION WIDE RATHER THAN STATE BY STATE
- 041 Considerable amount of data exists that could be consolidated
- 042 Opportunity to take advantage of Obama marine spatial planning framework.  
Marine spatial planning must have explicit goals for marine habitat protection.  
Marine spatial planning presents an opportunity to work directly with regional fishery management councils.
- 043 regional MPAs identification and designation; national marine sanctuary
- 044 - We know enough now to identify some priority areas  
- We are at the beginning stage, so have an opportunity to learn about areas that are previously unexplored  
- we have an opportunity to save what is left - we can intervene before habitat is decimated
- 045 Include commercial fishers and fisheries in the process, without being redundant. Separation of duties between MARCO and regional fishery organizations.
- 046 oil and gas drilling; need to characterize the sites that may be leased, such as the sea floor
- 047 Possibility to zone areas in the ocean
- 048 Could provide needed support for a "clean ocean zone."
- 049 Utilize MSP to identify and protect habitats.
- 050 windmill can eliminate a lot of the energy needs of the public  
can provide excellent fishing habitat  
clean energy  
impacts are minimal compared to present options
- 051 opportunity to study the use of habitats of protected and other marine species in the region through genetic and acoustic tagging, etc. as part of a MSP effort
- 052 marco could address data re offshore habitat
- 053 Opportunity to use new technology to collect new information
- 054 Protection of canyons can be used to demonstrate the success of a regional partnership.
- 055 need to know what the habitat is so that we know what's at risk; ID important ecological areas; need investments to do this

- 056 MARCO should be empowering states to be bolder in framing policies vis a vis feds -- preemptive policy making at state level will empower states to be equal partners with feds
- 057 coordinate marine spacial planning efforts
  - support eco-system based management of natural resources
- 058 MA is an important ecological transition area; has the widest temp ranges in terms of water
- 059 data respository
- 060 protection of estuaries & barrier islands: what aer the priorities
- 061 Consistency of state policies makes it less likely that feds will intrude in a way that states don't prefer
- 062 huge opportunity to protect ocean for future generations. MARCO can play a huge role in this.
- 063 Involve fishing industry and all users
- 064 opportunity to marco to work with fishers commissions
- 065 Regional transmission grid/corridor to limit impact to coastline, habitat, and minimize cables.
- 066 protection of the migratory corridor for marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, etc; need to map wildlife in region (NJ is doing a nice study);
  - Utilize the new TNC ecological assessment to help in decision-making and priority setting
- 067 OPPORTUNITY TO LINK HABITAT AND OFF SHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
- 068 gov't and NGO work together and communicate to improve effectiveness

## **What CHALLENGES facing the region are most important to you and your organization?**

### **Themes**

- Including near shore habitat protection into mgmt
- Research and assessment of habitat protection mechanisms on industry/commercial development and advancement
- Managing Different perspectives among states and stakeholders
- Managing Habitat protection within other uses; managing user conflict and competing interests
- Prioritizing ecosystem/habitat restoration
- Incorporating local knowledge; Engaging and hearing the fisheries perspective (they're not here today) and coordinating with councils
- Raising awareness that the issues aren't mutually exclusive, they are all linked together
- Determining how much data are needed to make "good enough" management decisions; addressing gaps when they do exist

- Understanding and addressing the wind vs habitat dilemma
- Addressing habitat protection within the context of climate change and sea level rise

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 need research to supply data including offshore habitats
- 002 assessing cumulative impacts on offshore habitats, focusing on habitat protection with funding intended specifically for that purpose
- 003 collaboration among stakeholders to identify habitats
- 004 developing baseline datasets for assessing impacts
- 005 Educating people on the importance of marine protective areas and why it is especially important in certain areas: it's working in some parts of the world - what can we learn from them?
- 006 Balancing off shore energy and marine protected areas.
- 007 collaboration involving local knowledge and identifying sensitive areas including fisheries, archaeology.
- 008 need to narrow down our definition and/or focus on habitat protection on coast  
 need more attention focused towards habitat protection in the inland bays and estuaries  
 creation of ocean sanctuaries can have negative effects on industries (fishing and shipping)
- 009 changing habitat protection to include shellfish seagrass and coastal habitats
- 010 including nearshore environments into offshore habitat classification, managing fisheries impacts on offshore habitat protection
- 011 making MARCO an advocate for protection as well as a data gathering agency
- 012 limiting offshore fossil fuel production,
- 013 management of marine protected areas and if and when it recovers that the resource can be utilized again  
 protection of spawning areas  
 recognizing that the commercial and recreational fishing industry has a stronger voice than other constituents
- 014 defining the size of a watershed, coordination with fishery councils, change Virginia's political landscape
- 015 coordination amongst agencies including data acquisition and sharing
- 016 Continue to educate marine users on how their licensing fees help to protect those areas they are using and species they are fishing.
- 017 Expense and continuity of research in remote locations.
- 018 Lack of information of the habitats- coral reefs etc.
- 019 involvement of scientific tools to predict change that we can all agree on (striped bass and Chesapeake Bay)  
 linking authorities to upland watershed areas and the effects of the watershed on the resource  
 don't focus enough on the activities in the upland areas  
 funding to implement ecosystem restoration
- 020 Lack of clarity on how habitat protection relates to fisheries management.



- 021 Near-shore habitats - jurisdictional issues/leads; using Marine Spatial Planning approach for habitat protection and other uses; habitat data; prioritization of research; fishing techniques; impact from commercial anglers; conflicts between habitat protection and energy projects; across-the-board exclusion zones for recreational/commercial anglers;
- 022 educating local governmental officials on offshore habitat concerns
- 023 Lack of representation/engagement here of the fishing industries
- 024 integration of diverse data sets to create meaningful information.
- 025 Loss of beach and nesting birds due to climate change - storms
- 026 ocean acidification but the more healthy the system the better it can resist these kinds of challenges
- 027 We don't know enough about the migratory corridors and patterns of fish/birds/mamals
- 028 sharing that collected information and integrating it into more accurate models  
linking watersheds to estuaries and oceans  
prioritization of habitat restoration
- 029 competing interests
- 030 Public awareness and caring/engagement about Habitats in the ocean
- 031 Need to fill existing habitat data gaps, both to support general spatial planning and to identify and ensure protection of critical habitats. There are extensive gaps in species-specific and ecosystem-wide data sets. Need long-term data to account for annual and seasonal variation.
- 032 finding habitat to protect (diminshing and/or not discovered)  
for example, sea grass beds in Delaware Bay that were newly discovered  
balancing man vs. nature
- 033 Lack information
- 034 education is key to identifying and preserving habitats (chicken farming)  
realizing other factors beyond major industries
- 035 Understanding how much data is needed to make reasonable decisions. How much data is enough for the decision that needs to be made.
- 036 Need more public attention for ocean habitat protection issues.
- 037 people don't appreciate unsightly windmills  
NIMBYs
- 038 idenitfying habitats that will be effected by climate change inconjunction with sealevel rise (also opportunity)
- 039 lack of protection for marine canyons and ecosystems they support
- 040 Need to look at full habitat interconnectiveness of system.
- 041 Putting the windsmills/turbines and transmission lines in the right places - siting - impact/conflict with fishing sites and habitats - appropriate sitings - need data to make those decisions. Location effects efficiency, cost, habitats - gets complex quickly
- 042 Funding is always a challenge
- 043 Need to streamline regulatory processes
- 044 where they are placed in ocean  
avoiding shipping channels  
placement of cable for windmills

- 045 What authorities do states have over offshore canyons? Feds control those areas -- can influence through fishery management council process -- but what should overall state ocean conservation management strategy be?
- 046 Impact on bird species of wind farms
- 047 DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE AND AGREEING WITH FISHERMEN ON MOST IMPORTANT HABITAT TO PROTECT
- 048 Must look at habitat in the context of climate change
- 049 LACK OF HABITAT DATA
- 050 Acoustic environment in the ocean and its impact
- 051 want commonality of habitat regulation across states -- must be ecosystem based
- 052 offshore sand mining for commercial purposes
- 053 Getting the public and elected officials to recognize the importance of underwater habitats
- 054 Wind is capital intensive and requires incentives and investment.
- 055 Identify effective strategies to protect valuable resources that need protection.  
We need Science, good data
- 056 look at corridors and not isolated habitat areas
- 057 INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFORMATION BASELINE FOR DECISIONMAKING
- 058 Expensive to connect off-shore windpower to the grid
- 059 utilities are run by gov.  
no competition amongst the utilities  
concern regarding parcing up the coastal waters into individual pixels - need to look at holistic approach
- 060 need more data
- 061 data needs to be submitted to a central place
- 062 Difficulty to gain consensus between environmentalists/habitats - to wind energy promoters..
- 063 identify WHAT and Where the valuable habitats are. Not just the bottom (benthic)
- 064 Industrialization of ocean is a very slippery slope.
- 065 How to incorporate regional input to transmission grid across the states.

## **DAY TWO TABLE INTRODUCTIONS**

### **What did you learn yesterday that was interesting or surprising?**

#### **Themes**

- Positive attitude & comments about Polling; hopeful that other ideas don't get lost
- Diverse interest in the region but also some common ground "Diverse views, but we all got along"
- How much people didn't know about certain issues like sea level rise
- Need to do more to reach out to certain key groups (fishing sector, ports)
- So much education to do even among ocean interests
- How passionate everyone is about ocean issues, no matter what the interest is

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 life is entertaining
- 002 number of groups and organizations that were here
- 003 Scientist listening in on policy issues
- 004 liked the polling and seeing consensus and opinions of others
- 005 diverse views but we all got along...
- 006 liked the polling; worried about losing other ideas being raised; fish extraction issues missing
- 007 passionate about issues affecting the oceans by different stakeholders
- 008 marco planning not ideal as this event coincided w/ mid-atlantic fishery mgmt conference - missing stakeholders
- 009 pleased with clear energy and interest in collaboration across regions
- 010 learning what MARCO is all about
- 011 diversity amongst stakeholders and challenges that arise as result in regards to stakeholders
- 012 similarities of group , reflected in polling
- 013 acquiring knowledge about the various processes
- 014 the ideas from the theme team were interesting--sometimes big things WEREN'T listed
- 015 perception of barriers on offshore energy, but a lot happening
- 016 beach renourishment continue thru COE year to year, short range - no long range plan; no analysis of long term cost benefit of renourishment vs retreat
- 017 how little people knew about sea level rise.
- 018 So much info people don't know. Diverse perspectives.

- 019 noticed some folks were concerned that the priorities are already defined, before the stakeholders have a say. so the process of stakeholder involvement is important
- 020 interesting group of people attending that one rarely sees working together
- 021 have a lot of work to do around educating around sea level rise.
- 022 realize how hard it will be to get everyone working together to accomplish tasks. bring all parties together no turf battles.
- 023 Too many environmentalists.
- 024 Impressed with instant feedback and process.
- 025 lack of plotting/plan to site where we will put offshore wind power
- 026 port and maritime shipping interests and groups not represented - needs to be included
- 027 energy states are putting into issues, not just fed role.
- 028 Good conversation. Different perspectives. What info people knew about MARCO at this point and how to fit in.
- 029 mix of people was great
- 030 searching for the data that will become the body of knowledge for MARCO and my state agency
- 031 learned a lot/surprised at the level of regional collaborations already going on and encouraged by the process now
- 032 Impressed with support from Governors. Crucial to success. Need to find mechanism to keep them involved.
- 033 No representation from the fishing sector participating.  
 No as much emphasis on data collection as I anticipated.  
 Learned that such a thing as MARCO exists and the four theme areas are great.  
 Came home how serious ocean acidification is over time.  
 How fast paced the process is and how doing one's homework in advance counts for alot.  
 Lack of interest in how land planning effects the estuaries and ocean.  
 Need for more conservation incentives to improve land use planning.  
 Enjoy hearing different ideas aimed at designing incentives for conservation planning.  
 Need for a big picture approach to identify the most important items.
- 034 Bullets - did not translate the true core of the conversation. So there is hope that perhaps there were other substantial conversations that did not translate quite so well into the bullets.
- 035 a lot of outreach is still needed related to climate change, not a huge consensus
- 036 recreational and commercial fisherman not well represented at meeting, more input needed from fishing community
- 037 Neat process of using AmericaSpeak teechnology, not the old flip chart/dot process.
- 038 common thread of awareness to form coalitions across states, organizations
- 039 Surprised a lot of climate change discussions were on water quality, this group needs more education on climate change issue. Individuals should have more of a dialogue role. Diversity at table (fishing, NGO, state, federal) impressive.
- 040 interesting process
- 041 focus on "sea-level rise" and resiliency, not "climate change"... to contentious
- 042 We're all liars.

- 043 Heard a lot about offshore canyons, which are nondevelopable anyways. Waiting to hear what are those unnecessary regulations.
- 044 translating issues to new Virginia governor will be challenging, need for marine spatial planning
- 045 liked format - interesting and interactive and positive; pleased with prioritization process
- 046 focus on climate change resilience or avoidance rather than simply climate change
- 047 How difficult it will be to solve the transmission infrastructure problem for off-shore
- 048 Saw many people I didn't expect to see, but was glad to see them. I don't usually get to convene with them. Seems like we're talking together and interacting together.
- 049 good facilitators, conversations were fun
- 050 difference between states
- 051 reinforced focus on things that can be achieved and that have consensus first and foremost, should that be all
- 052 observing how we can create multi-state efforts with a diversity of participants
- 053 Overall conversations yesterday were very engaging and interesting.
- 054 diversity of folks that came and showed interest in oceans; good turnout and mix
- 055 good collection of experts at the tables
- 056 Good business networking opportunity, and opportunity to find contacts for interests.
- 057 wind energy received a surprising amount of focus
- 058 how far was the hotel

such diverse representation at the table and the conversation was excellent -- folks were really good about building a coalition and having conversations -- interesting that industry and environmentalists agreed on so many things

disconnect between NGO groups that work on oceans and groups that are working on climate change -- need to do a better job of figuring out the connections

learned more about MARCO than had been known before -- public needs to know much more about climate change and MARCO and federal agency folks don't even know -- need to do better internal communication and getting information out to the public (advocacy and public relations)

-- how few advocacy work strictly on ocean issues (many involved but not their main mission) -- surprised about how much consensus on some issues that are pretty contentious -- can we make a difference on some of these really tough issues -- consensus in this room is easy but once you take it outside and get more specific, it gets easier

-- wind industry interested in working hand-in-hand to get information on potential impacts and do the right things

- refining objectives and actions should have been that point of this meeting, but there seems to be a disconnect between what the discussions are at the table and what the actions, priorities (is there going to be a revised plan) -- instead of talking about issues in general, why not more focus on refining the actions, timelines

language that has been used is 'this is what exists' versus modifying it

very difficult to get five governors to sign off on a consolidated set of actions, so it's difficult for folks to open it up for modification -- this process needs to evolve but this is the start and we were looking for key folks to get us to help

- 059 positivity and momentum; good opportunities
- 060 Question that was unanswered interest in water quality is near shore or off shore -- no plastic disposals not being used at the conference - breath of consensus around ocean

- 061 Glad that some of the conversations were about actions and implementable steps.
- 062 lack of familiarity amongst states
- 063 1- only small percent looking at climate change adaptation.  
2- key themes were more involved with sociological issues and management rather than science.  
3- low percentage of fishing interests. the commerical fisheries will be dramatically affected by policy and change with marco.  
4- what does "industry" mean with relation to organization? not defined.  
5- need to raise awareness to public with MPA.  
6- need to focus more on socio-economic issues related to coast
- 064 lack of representation for offshore non-renewable energy, lack of representation for commercial and recreational fishing industry
- 065 listened to the disparate viewpoints that make up our consolodated efforts
- 066 polling was fun and instant, but on wed. perhaps full potential was not demonstrated
- 067 too much emphasis on spatial planning mapping

## **ACTIONS: WATER QUALITY**

### **Gems**

- Long-term: Build public support in urban areas by increasing access to water for recreation and education
- Legislation: Create a national/regional clearing house to create and update a list of existing and proposed legislation related to water quality

## **What actions should private and non-profit organizations take?**

### **Themes**

- Advocate for increased funding, stronger regulations, and enforcement
- Develop messaging and educate agencies, partners, and the broader public – inform them of “the cost of failing to take action versus the cost of action”
- Help broaden research to include social elements – e.g., why do people litter?
- Provide monitoring to fill gaps on water quality data
- Find partnerships with new groups – industry, academia
- Build local capacity for action (universities, local gov’t)
- Identify and promote successful partnerships as models

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 existing programs: SEA Grant - portion of program dedicated to WQ issues - educate officials about non-point source pollution (NEMO program)....large scale program looking at watershed issues. Funding a fair amount of research on WQ issues, problems and impacts.
- 002 Advocate for increased funding for existing programs
- 003 On ocean acidification:they can advocate for stronger controls.
- 004 Advocate for fair share of federal funds for MARCO states based on population and need
- 005 NJ existing programs: State Universities - land grant institutions, capacity at these institutions to assess WQ. Experts at Rutgers work with local communities to mitigate WQ. National Estuary programs (i.e. Hudson and Delaware) guided by CCMP's with top priorities dedicated to WQ. National Estuarine research reserves. in NJ...coastal training programs which aim to build capacity in coastal communities to deal with WQ issues.
- 006 More pro-active educational activity (rather than reactive)
- 007 Pvt and NGO's partner on common messages.
- 008 Make current legislation effective by better enforcing what exists
- 009 nutrient best management practices-propose plan of actions for same.

- 010 Engage pvt and no-profits to "be at the table" when watershed planning, trib teams are developing WQ protection plans.
- 011 existing programs: most WQ issues are within 3 miles of shore...but MARCO is offshore? other groups are studying inshore WQ issues...what is MARCO focusing on? Different issues depending on state vs. federal waters. We need to define area of focus better.
- 012 Engaging the public about the importance of the oceans - put together major campaign and public message
- 013 Education on the cost of failing to take action
- 014 target people on boats especially with problems concerning debris.
- 015 Universities and research focus on public perception; socio-economic research;
- 016 build capacity at local level to help academics, public sector carry out WQ protection
- 017 there are numerous ecological, physical, and biological interactions that don't recognize state vs. federal water boundaries...we should consider interactions between both. MARCO should be focused on partnerships and building collaborations on problems that don't recognize state boundaries.
- 018 Education on the cost of failing to take action compared to cost of taking proposed actions
- 019 Choose Clean Water Coalition. 80 - 100 non-profits. Regional groups focused on one issue can have great opportunity to implement policy.
- Bring together non-traditional groups together - offshore renewable energy and fisheries for example. This will identify important differences as well as common interests.
- We have a consensus at our table that watersheds need to be recognized by MARCO as sources of pollution but we shouldn't lose the focus on the oceans. We need clarification on where MARCO is focused geographically. Coastal waters/estuaries & Oceans?
- 020 Polling and data collection on public perception of certain issues - influenced politicians; good packaging of data (public relations)
- 021 Sacrifice own turf for good of the bigger whole...
- 022 EPA sets standards for discharge...redundancy with MARCO? what changes if we make it a regional approach?
- 023 Deliver similar messages, but with context of own organizations..
- 024 they must contribute to the general education of the populace to raise awareness of issues.
- 025 Fill gaps that governments (state and federal) can't do such as demonstration projects
- 026 continue doing what they do
- 027 municipality actions: storm drain marking programs, public educations, putting filters in storm drains (depends on funding), establish buffer zones around fresh water lakes. Best practices.
- 028 better communication and rallying public support and understanding of coastal issues
- 029 provide feedback on contaminants to better understand problems with water quality: i.e. provide monitoring of a floating buoy and pass data onto relevant agency.
- 030 lobbying is more effective as larger group. we have common problems in our region that need resolution.
- lobby to put more money into education and SEA Grant's programs
- 031 monitoring beach access
- 032 SEA Grant has vehicle to vet science, bring people to table, public education, extension work, fund research. National program, but there is a limit to what they can do.
- 033 Education - these are all social issues. Science based research and activities.



- 034 advocate for resources to existing structures.
- 035 collaborate with them to monitor the data that they provide: i.e. agency plan of action must specify the efforts.
- 036 take advantage of MARCO to help endorse or create partnerships btw non-profits/private and state/fed government that were not possible or resisted before MARCO
- 037 use MARCO to highlight successful partnerships in order to encourage creation of others - good models
- 038 Need to define role in Bays or vision...should they be preserves, harvestable resources, etc? preserve vs. restoration
- 039 Find New ways for waster water reuse. Grey water may have nutrients that may have some other uses.
- 040 help bring together interested and involved parties; help bring port facility managers, shipping interests and marine transportation interests into teh discussion
- 041 Assist in promoting market based solutions to conservation challenges.  
 Advocate for clean water programs, legislation and funding.  
 Sierra Club educating on the harm to the environment due to coal plant expansion and the building of new plants.  
 Expand public education programs related to water quality issues (pros and cons of spray irrigation v. ocean outfall).  
 Need better enforcement of laws for stormwater mgmt (overflows). Need to educate on the need to better manage stormwater. Need legislative and agency outreach. Need credible argument.  
 NGOs and MARCO need to think strategically about the issues that they advocate actions for so as not to dilute and distract from more important issues.  
 Present alternatives when lobbying against issues.  
 Provide objective research and alternatives on critical environmental issues.
- 042 citizen edication especially at K-12 education
- 043 nonpoint source pollution education from nonprofits, such as for nitrogen
- 044 education, legislation and innovation; help change behavior through education; sharing data; on the ground implementation of best practice
- 045 Blue Sheet - Ghost pot busters - go after derelict crab pots.
- 046 Volunteer water quality testing programs to fill gaps where states don't have money. Help collect data.
- 047 non-point source pollution education (K-12, general public)
- 048 Lobbying against bad projects like fossil fuels. Educate marco and assist them on this.
- 049 help identify and implement innovative approaches to improving water quality
- 050 stop calling trash or plastics - Marine Debris. It is trash and we are putting it in the ocean.
- 051 help identify existing education programs
- 052 NGOS plan significant role in putting issueso nthe table --agenda setting by NGOs
- 053 private can help support marco but developers are dealing with a lot of different entities. private industry like offshore wind is very new and dealing with a lot of different issues so still developing where it can fit in.
- 054 pollution tracking efforts
- 055 help coordinate research and obtain funding

- 056 develop open space; adopt a habitat or shoreline; but into a portion of the region and protect it; restore downtowns to combat sprawl
- 057 public education of homeowners and planning boards, zoning boards
- 058 look at impacts of degraded water quality on wildlife populations
- 059 raise awareness towards pollution runoff effects on coastal populations, invest funds towards public awareness of impact of actions
- 060 lead efforts to protect watersheds
- 061 Find commonality between private and nonprofit and then take those common issues to marco and governors' offices.
- 062 mediate between states that share watersheds
- 063 Create solutions that address the bigger issues - Tax the things that cause the problems (Plastics) and make the things that help solve the problem (alternative energy) cheaper.
- 064 raise local awareness towards water quality, tie consumer behavior to environmental impacts
- 065 Negative push from Agriculture community re TMDLs
- 066 Look for ways to reduce what goes into the sewer system. Create education and ideas for communities and individuals to reduce water use and what goes into sewers.
- 067 Prioritize list of projects like CSOs that need funding.
- 068 engage with local governments to improve land use policies in coastal areas,
- 069 Develop a consistent message, states, MARCO and non-profits and legislative
- 070 MARCO could help add better definition of the Mid-Atlantic region --
- lots of laws on the books and programs in existence that are not enforced (14 STPs in NJ that discharge into ocean), need better understanding of adverse impacts and there is not actual impacts
- real time water quality monitoring stations but are not well funded -- every body wants the data but nobody wants to fund
- MACOORA should incorporate near-shore monitoring into their ocean observations
- need to clearly define what our coastal assessment needs are for MARCO
- recognize that other habitat actions have water quality benefits (e.g., shellfish restoration) -- link habitat health to water quality indicators
- TNC over 5 states -- DE watershed wide looking at water quality and land use, looking at prime areas for protection and restoration (over a year old)
- NFWF funding to TNC to do a study to prioritize best restoration activities in the Delaware Bay
- need to look at water quality impacts from septic systems
- when we put together messages, we have to get better at linking environmental health, economic vitality and community wellbeing -- that's how to reach people and get folks to care/think about this
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- economic impacts of water quality problems (beyond just sediments) -- we really need better information -- great argument for NY harbor about how it costs but need to get beyond -- come up with some grounded extrapolations and be able to use that data -- return on investment to state and local governments that was done for Great Lakes (Brookings Institute did)
- really need to focus on social sciences -- perceptions of the public and better understanding of what will make them act -- need social science research and polling -- must have in order to reach the public
- 071 educate fishing organizations and encourage outreach to constituents regarding reducing marine debris

- 072 lobby as a unit on wate treatment plants recasting needs into more unified approach.
- 073 NGOs could raise public awareness--the value of the coastal habitats and the impacts of poor water quality, the affects of climate change on water quality, etc...  
More incentives and education to reduce non-point sources (agriculture, homeowners, etc...)

## What legislation should be passed?

### Themes

- Better address non-point sources: upland, watershed, land-use and impacts on coastal water quality
- Better funding, enforcement of existing legislation
- More timely reauthorization of existing legislation to address new sources of impairments (Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, BEACH Act)
- Legislative support for regional organizations like MARCO
- Provide for periodic review of water quality standards, broaden list of "pollutants"
- Add incentives tied to improving water quality
- Address marine debris sources (e.g., NY's water bottle bill) and tie to water quality standards

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Need more funding and enforcement of:  
Clean Water Resoration Act  
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWC)
- 002 Legislation (state and/or federal) directed to control of non-point source pollutants
- 003 Stronger enforcement of existing laws.
- 004 Upgrade WQ standards
- 005 state and/or federal legislation to evaluate govt spending in relation to sprawling development
- 006 Review legislation periodically and "repackage".
- 007 Reauthorized CZMA with greater focus on these issues and support for regional governance approaches
- 008 land use - no bill exists now to address landscape conservation and management
- 009 support activies that already exist.
- 010 Federal legislation on air quality focussed on improving ecosystem health in addition to human health in the airshed.
- 011 MARCO could work across states to develp framework for addressing land use/coastal use across region
- 012 Existing legislation isn't adequately enforced - enforce existing legislation and likely don't need new

- 013 Adding incentives to legislation if WQ standards are achieved.
- 014 Marine debris and waste; water bottle deposit refund bill - similar to NY State bill
- 015 Educate legislators on using science when drafting legislation
- 016 May not need new legislation but getting right partners involved (e.g., non-profits)
- 017 regional clearing house(maybe MARCO) to inform and up-to-date resume of all legislation.
- 018 clean water act - state revolving fund, more \$\$
- 019 Other regional governor programs didn't go after legislation
- 020 restrict non-renewables with detailed acts
- 021 clean ocean zone legislation  
reauthorization of clean water act
- 022 First respect the rule of law. Advocate for enforcing existing laws and statutes. Apply and implement laws that have already been enacted.  
NPS loading thru TMDLS. Need more cross agency cooperation on addressing the NPS issue.  
Need legislation on smart growth and energy efficiency and conservation, transmission and generation.
- 023 Out of season fishing equipment - if conservators had permission to remove them.
- 024 Reauthorization of BEACH Act: it's been pending a long time. It allows for use of federal money by states for source tracking of pollution/beach monitoring.
- 025 continuing to support the natural balance, increased protection of filter-feeders, continue to address water quality issues, regulate chemical runoffs
- 026 There are a lot of laws in place regarding floatables, but they are not being enforced.
- 027 enforce Clean Water Act
- 028 streamline Superfund funds to be properly applied to water quality issues
- 029 desalination -- updating and keeping the calen water act
- 030 provide more funding to fully implement Clean Water Act and enforce it
- 031 update Clean Water Act and increase funding
- 032 create local ordinances to help protect water quality
- 033 legislation to where appropriate to use alternate septic systems
- 034 Need to have more legislation about pollution run-off - to keep in mind nutrient load.
- 035 legislation for solids, plastics, streamlined TMBL for litter and trash
- 036 protection of groundwater
- 037 BEACH Act reauthorization to increase money for testing, rapid testing, more timely public notification, source tracking. help prioritize worst areas that need immediate attention.
- 038 require EPA to require TMDLs for Cheapeake Bay
- 039 A Healthy Beach Initiative that could be regional. Immediate notification.
- 040 impact on shoreline development; broaden the scope of parameters that define water quality - for example, incorporate litter, pharma ceuticals, hormone disruptors
- 041 delaing with Superfund sites
- 042 better energy policy and waste streams
- 043 Clean Water Act updated

- 044 reauthorize Beach Act to track sewage and polluters; better public health
- 045 Great greener ways to process sewer run-off
- 046 more teeth in Clean Water Act; update water quality standards to more realistic values
- 047 Non-point source funds and regulations. CWA does not have as direct control of non-point and hasn't been applied much in coastal areas. TMDLs for estuaries.
- 048 CWA; promote green construction;
- 049 Support Clean Ocean Zone, bill for NY Bight to prohibit increased point source pollution and fossil fuel facilities.
- 050 Upgrade wastewater and sewer treatment facilities.
- 051 producer responsibility; coastal development management strengthened
- 052 reassess what should be included in Clean Water Act; add "modern" pollutants
- 053 more comprehensive approach to Clean Water Act to address multiple tyoes and sources of pollution
- 054 Ocean noise pollution legislation
- 055 better monitoring for invasive species and mitigation for invasive species
- 056 Create greater opportunities for reuse for water treatment facilities
- 057 Create tougher storm-water regulations
- 058 no matter what legislation, there needs to be funding connecting to education -- must get information out to the public to engage them in the process and convince them to acdt  
 Binghaman bill on Land and Water Conservation Act (LWCA) that would privde land acquisiton funds for adaptation  
 CZMA  
 Great Waters idea -- very specific authorizations -- all fighting for a dwindling pot of money -- new coalition started this week (probably is that we are dominated by Long Island Sound and Chesapeake Bay)  
 fertilizer regulations and guidelines  
 need to deal with septic systems and water quality impacts -- problem that extends throughout the region -- replacing septic with sewage  
 Clean Ocean Zone is a federal efforts - coalition of lots of organizations, template for protenting and preserving water quality in the New York Bight  
 Clean water jobs coalition -- working with industry to get funding at the federal level for clean water revolving fund and other initiatives -- started on long island sound and -- lots of data on what's needed for next level of water infrastructure
- 059 use new Farm Bill to use funds to target areas of high nutrient loading and reduce fluxes of contaminants into streams.
- 060 CZM Act -- reactization of BEACH Act -- making sure water quality is safe for swimmers
- 061 Clearer non-point source authority either through CWA (EPA) or CZMA (NOAA) and funding.  
 Incentives (tax-relief, grants) for adopting BMPs for water quality

## Over the long-term, what additional actions should be taken by the states and federal partners?

### Themes

- Continue to engage stakeholders, public, and local governments and find a role for them
- Work with existing groups (e.g., ocean observing groups) to develop a coalition on water quality monitoring to improve collection, coordination, and data management
- Find market-based solutions to address sources of water quality impacts
- Improve enforcement of existing regulations
- Update/modernize sewer and wastewater systems
- Increased attention to near-shore water quality
- Increased attention to non-point source pollution

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Support Non point pollution control program and act - exists to support coastal wide nonpoint pollution control mechanisms at state level but not adequately funded
- 002 Coordinated coastal management programs across states
- 003 Seed additional federal support to address CSO's
- 004 encourage states to use next 7 day forecasts provided by the US weather service
- 005 watershed scale..what is the federal authority to drive shchange...how does federal gov't help states work together.
- 006 Make sure that as offshore energy development occurs, it will affect other aspects of oceans (shipping, water quality) as well as coastal communities
- 007 MARCO - forum to bring all stakeholders together, identify critical issues: support of marine resources (what has failed in the region), beach closures, flotables.
- 008 Build public support in urban areas by increasing access to water for recreation & education
- 009 Campaign to eat less chicken and plant more shell fish
- 010 Funding by feds/states for monitoring WQ long term.
- 011 Better water quality monitoring (esp pH, Hg) in ocean outside 2 or 3 miles offshore
- 012 Need regional entity for states to come together and lobby federal gov't- but need better definition of issues that need regional collaboration. Restore natural resources. Need to be very clear.
- 013 Mechanism for using long-term data sets
- 014 opportunity to make actions personal that support personal safety and security and environment (coasts and land)
- 015 Need to demonstrate to all sectors the value of long-term monitoring

- 016 Research and public education on sources & cures for floatables in ocean.
- 017 Share w/ MARCO group the report "Ocean Water Quality in New Jersey: Redirecting the Management Effort" (see Benson Chiles)
- 018 advocate for appropriations to support MARCO priorities, MACORRA, investment in infrastructure and science to enhance understanding of ocean.
- 019 Money for research and education
- 020 Need flexibility by legislators to modify laws based on new information from long-term monitoring results.
- 021 various regional groups should coord. efforts to reduce redundancy to increase efficiencies
- 022 need more monitoring and more data (baseline) for what's happening offshore in terms of water quality - USGS, EPA, NOAA
- 023 Long-term coordination and integration of data
- 024 Clearing house for pending acts
- 025 stricter enforcement of state permitting
- 026 Create incentives for good behavior. Punish bad behavior (fines).  
Get USDA more involved in the NPS game!
- 027 Encourage states to interact/help address needs through IOOS groups. Not all top-down.
- 028 MACOORA is good system to help with regional monitoring and long-term data collection.
- 029 Complements MARCO with citizens role -- limit watershed development -- best practices use of water for water supply -- keeping wetlands wet- clean ocean zones
- 030 States: More consistent capture of floatables from CSO's
- 031 Cities/states need to enforce litter laws and have enough receptacles/infrastructure for litter/water contaminants.
- 032 streamline Superfund funds to be properly applied to water quality issues
- 033 Provide resources/assistance to cities and local municipalities to prevent and clean up coastal run-offs - estuaries -ocean access points
- 034 clean marine prog, water quality rain garden
- 035 Better training/education for school kids to understand the flow of litter and it's impact: how it gets from where they put it and how it gets to the ocean and it's impact on fish/mamals.
- 036 People don't understand storm water impacts on water quality.
- 037 Gap analysis.
- 038 making state and federal regulations applicable to local actions
- 039 clean marine prog. assisting MARCO
- 040 If most pollution is coming from one area, figure out how to equitably share resources.
- 041 MARCO did not include on agenda -to have states push to work together on non-point source pollution
- 042 increase federal funding for clean water and wastewater infrastructure, older Mid-Atlantic cities have greater need for funding to update and modernize sewer and wastewater systems
- 043 Water nutrients needs additional focus by states: nutrient enrichment, oxygen depletion, harmful algae blooms, ocean acidification, toxins from watersheds: need to connect land/watershed to estuaries, to oceans. Need to address pharmaceuticals getting into the system too. Also sedimentation.
- 044 We need to stop being short-sighted - we need to have longer term focus. 20-40 year plan.

- 045 Enforce clean water act -- underfunded programs --significant cuts some -- Uni Conn NEMO prog, brings local officials in to help provide information and support
- 046 Large water quality workshop taking place next month sponsored by USGS and MACOORA. Talking about national water quality monitoring network. Should have all MARCO states present. In January in Baltimore.
- 047 We have data on estuaries and offshore, but not on near shore regarding water quality parameters and nutrients monitoring.
- 048 federal flood insurance program needs to be able to adapt to climate change in the future, MARCO states should clarify areas they should be weighing in on including their stance on Clean Water Act
- 049 enforcement issues and funding for enforcement to implement at local level
- 050 Coastal fish habitat water quality issues and protecting resources are main focus.
- 051 address bypassing storm drain effluent; supporting research; ocean pH change funding for data collection; more data repositories
- 052 facilitate data exchange and sharing
- 053 NOAA used to do shellfish inventory, hasn't been done since 1990. NOAA should re-do for this region so we can know where to restore and prioritize because shellfish help improve water quality.
- 054 increase funding for research
- 055 perhaps marine debris has too much attention in this document -- definitely gets the public attention, so why not (mileage) -- gets the public involved -- not problem starting with marine debris but needs to go beyond that into other issues -- NPS a higher priority from a pollutant stand point
- biological indicators of water quality needs to be done -- what's the impact on habitat and species (beyond chemical indicators) -- sea grass indicators
- need to look more at groundwater -- especially detrimental impacts of septic systems (have done modeling on fire islands) -- what is working it's way from septic systems into Long Island Sound and the ocean -- what is being transferred
- Oceans and Human Health -- how do we brand and support this focus in the region (e.g., impacts on shellfish)
- 056 EPA should summarize the data from the national coastal assessment (NCA) program for the MARCO region. Some folks don't know it exists, how to get it.
- 057 Funding for shellfish aquaculture.
- 058 moving toward realistic costs for water
- 059 Fish and Wildlife as methods to deal with runoff, etc. but there's a lack of funding to enforce buffers, etc. Need money to buy easements.
- 060 support education
- 061 Need better integration of all data that exists from multiple agencies. Delaware estuary has initiated this and could be benchmarked off of.
- 062 increased coordination with local governments, development of local ordinances that address protection of water quality
- 063 Get funding to support cities to contain the amount of trash floating into and to test and monitor the nutrient content as water enters the estuaries.
- 064 Link climate change with water quality (e.g., SLR impacts septic systems and other infrastructure; precipitation changes freshwater runoff, ocean acidification). Set standards now and plan for changes in the future.
- MARCO could help coordinate regional regulation of atmospheric deposition issues (e.g., nitrogen)
- EPA needs to do a better job of regulating non-point



065 Recognise the negative impact of clean fresh water into near-shore salt-water ecosystems due to salinity shifts. ie. when a big snow storms hit, Phili will dump the snow into the deleware and it causes lower salinity and causes changes in eco-system for crabs and they move (and causes a poorer crab season).

## **Other**

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

001 New legialation Clean Ocean Zone introduced in House of Reps

## **ACTIONS: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

### **Gems**

- NGO: Align RFPs to MARCO objectives
- Legislation: "Include land use adaptation planning requirements to federal legislation and tie to federal support for infrastructure & adaptation funding"

### **What actions should private and non-profit organizations take?**

#### **Themes**

- Education for everyone at all levels (governors, government officials, organizations, and the public at large)
- Identify key habitats at risk and direct protection measures
- Provide funding for research, pilot projects, and monitoring & assessment
- Develop a common message then advocate and lobby
- Improve Data Integration to reduce redundancy
- Provide expertise and local knowledge

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Climate Ready Estuaries provides small grants to Assist municipalities with climate change initiatives
- 002 citizen education at local level; identify and engage those most likely to be affected; identify key habitats to be protected
- 003 wetlands monitoring and assessment in Delaware Bay
- 004 educate public and local government officials, fund additional research to fill data gaps
- 005 education major; not only that it is happening but provide good information about likely changes and what areas will be vulnerable - identify and educate those most likely to be affected
- 006 Blue Sheet - Atlantic Capes Fisheries Organization - also promoting the education of Offshore renewable resources - wind-energy. Need for additional education - funding to increase public awareness - There are mascots - ie smoky the bear -forest fires, what about water quality/protection, sea-level rise etc.
- 007 emphasize acquisition of coastal lands, public education on real time impacts in response to climate change
- 008 Education piece needs to be done on a national level. Organizations that collect that data - need to collaborate, synthesize and share that info on a national basis.
- 009 education to memberships need for rude awakening coming and their role in mediation and recollection from the need to turn of lights to buying lands to let the ocean come in
- 010 Be proactive to reduce factors that contribute to climate change.

- 011 identify risk to freshwater resources from saltwater intrusion
- 012 include climate change skeptics in the dialogue
- 013 Keep lobbying and promoting renewable energy projects and fighting against bad energy projects like liquefied natural gas import facilities.
- 014 Need greater research on infrastructure and people near the coast- education piece - Habitat protection Needs a future orientation - especially in the context of sea-level rise
- 015 public education; make information accessible and real in people's lives; speak with one voice; create tools for public outreach; long-term monitoring of local organisms
- 016 Need to get our issues on the table to be able to participate. Offshore drilling shouldn't be excluded because of Virginia. Non-profit issues have to be on table for them to be involved.
- 017 be willing to work together to achieve desired solutions, stakeholders should speak up, additional research to fill data gaps, greater adoption of natural gas offshore development
- 018 Need to do more education on why LNG is bad given the large amount of fossil fuel lifecycle emissions.
- 019 education; acquire local knowledge
- 020 Need greater advocacy on energy-conservation - to pre-empt degree shifts that could speed sea-level rise.
- 021 Private wind has been meeting with nonprofits and educating but MARCO is a growing opportunity for more education.
- 022 serve as a viaduct between scientists and the public
- 023 Nonprofits need to educate public in addition to lobby government to help make government actions feasible.
- 024 cross training between different non-profits - cross-issue education; help identify issues that cross environmental issues
- 025 nonprofits can lobby governor as to how important marco is and private industry can help too. keep it on front burner.
- 026 help create a network of regional experts on a variety of issues
- 027 First lobby marco for inclusion of programs, then represent marco to governors office and educate that office.
- 028 Providing pilot projects and tools on climate change to advance science and importance of coastal resilience. Especially on habitat piece.
- 029 help educate decision makers
- 030 help marco with decision support tools with regard to habitat and climate
- 031 Need to do greater research on where will the people go - where will they need to migrate to, should the coasts go under water. Concept called Sister Cities - idea where people could move. Connecting coastal cities with cities further inland and begin strategizing together.
- 032 messages from private FOX etc is a large belief that undercuts the truth.. e...g post hurricane planning where people just did not believe that anything would happen to them
- 033 Data integration and accessibility for coastal change data, water quality, habitat, etc.  
 There is a lot of redundancy within data portals "stove pipe", there is need for a centralized location.  
 IWGOO - consortium for ocean leadership
- 034 increased involvement from local governments and planning departments, increased education and outreach to raise public support for changes in zoning planning and awareness towards climate change
- 035 data development

- helping MARCO advance legislative agenda
- finding new ways to talk about/communicate coordinated message of climate change
- private organizations will respond to government incentives--MARCO could help guide state incentives (coordinated missions)
- government can't lobby--that is the role of privates and non-profits
- non-profits often have good expertise in communication, outreach, education, extension
- aligning RFPs with the MARCO priorities
- involve organizations on coastal land use planning for SLR (e.g., insurance agencies, FEMA, planning jurisdictions working together to move developments away from SLR)
- 036 Need to also analyze impact of shifts in ocean currents
  - Also relates to sea-level-rise, subsidance- glaciers bounce up and falling down again - warmer water expands .
- 037 organizations can do things internally to reduce their climate foot print
  - need to knit together some of the inundation projects
  - grants to gain a better understanding of the impacts . . on the communities and the habitat impacts
  - messaging (consistent), communicating, building coalitions
  - need web portals (MD shorelines online, Storm Smart Coasts)
  - great opportunities to share among and across the states -- combining the data and the tools and activities we are
  - Seems like NOAA should be a good source of information
  - MARCO could look across and assess some of these tools (working with the federal agencies) and improve the information exchange
  - working with local communities and folks that need information and tools -- need teo get to local community decision makers -- NOAA can help feed that back to all the states -- local, state, NGO and feedback loop on what is working (TNC example from Long Island) -- how can we vet and share so that we do a better job of helping local communities address the climate change challenges
  - none of us are doing a good enough job getting information out to the public on what the government is edoing related to climate change (it has to be some body's job -- someone within MARCO needs to be dedicated to communicating -- good advisory board that can get the word out)
  - is there a consistent approach to local adaptation plans (some guidelines would be really helpful, what are the standards)
- 038 grassroots efforts to enforce current laws, reduce human impacts on climate warming/change. what we are doing to impact climate also has other negative impacts.
- 039 create a climate institute for the Mid-Atlantic region to provide help for decision makers and a repository for regional information, make all data available to all stakeholders, include data from academic community
- 040 Lead by example - they can choose where they locate, how they invest, how they design and build their facilities, business practices
- 041 Technical resources have to be leveraged out over the next 20 years. Can't wait til the last minute to address it all at once as prices are much higher (i.e., post Katrina fix-ups)
- 042 insurance companies need to be at the table
- 043 education of climate change by this group

- 044 address current problems: flooding, storms, etc. Extrapolate climate change on top of existing problems. Projecting forward is hard for municipalities. storm surge research.
- 045 Education of public on scientific understanding of metrics of climate change
- 046 educate policy makers and public  
use as third party resource
- 047 helping connect with local community leaders to help them understand information specific to their community, how to make decisions on adaptation, how to bring the local public to contribute to decisions
- 048 outreach programs with partnerships
- 049 grassroots organizations can effect change broadly and at individual level e.g., NRA capacity; waterkeepers
- 050 Academia should help educate/awareness of public about potential impacts of CC.
- 051 Research focused on helping communities prepare for and respond to storm events, etc. LIDAR, etc. Help communities developing adaption strategies to sea level rise, but many are still not coming to the table.
- 052 increase funding for research - social science and other sciences.
- 053 link state/federal advocacy with granting to these groups
- 054 Education of public on expected impacts of climate change and what individuals can do to help mitigate effects, lessen impact
- 055 NGOs have strong advocacy voices to deliver to general public.
- 056 education and outreach targeting disperate interests groups
- 057 Climate change message too broad and complex to understand. Make messages personal to citizens.
- 058 People have problems looking forward 50 years...they don't see immediate effects of climate change.
- 059 Big problems for urban centers. need to educate people that there is a problem. storm surge research groups...storm surge barriers...
- 060 Private sector needs to consider ramifications of CC and make decisions (eco) accordingly.
- 061 education, targeting textbooks in state selections for next generation knowledge
- 062 Get issues out on the table. Some problems have solutions, some solutions create other problems. We provide information so that policy makers can make decesions. Public doesn't get science message. Need more outreach effort to educaiton people and communieies on the science. Support existing efforts and organizaitons.
- 063 NGOs serve an essential function as educating the public on policy matters.
- 064 Politics...politicians don't want to make difficult decisions based on just science, especially those that look far into the future. how do we educate people.
- 065 insurance industry should be at the table. they are invested in this and are way ahead of the curve on climate change.
- 066 Revise design standards to consider SLR projections, storm inundation, etc.
- 067 Note:  
Climate Change Adaptation assumes human adaptation...it can mean a totally different thing with habitat and varied species adaptation.
- 068 Focusing on impacts to economics, jobs, in explaining the impacts and importance
- 069 temp. and salinity changes are going to be critical for aquatic species and invasives. How do we accomodate future temp. change in marine spatial plans and resource management decesions. Identify possible future habitates that will be important with sea level rise, etc.

- 070 Promote investment in clean energy economy--promote good "green" jobs and increase public support. Disincentives for continued fossil fuel use.
- 071 need and emergency or tragedy to make change happen. science and management plans need to be ready for when that happens and creates political will. Science is there, models are there, decision support tools exist...but politicians are unwilling to make difficult decisions.
- 072 Developing messages that take complex ideas and bring to an individual or groups interest; then can explain the bigger picture once you start with what makes sense economically
- 073 Cooperative agreement with google to have simulation of water level rises at their local address. bring maps to local levels.
- 074 Cooperative extensions for different Universities, Chesapeake Bay association, Baymen's associations, conservation groups
- 075 research on discharge of powerplants on temperature of water - has that been looked at? those areas are very productive for fishing in winter.
- 076 Ocean acidification, predicting change in precipitation on regional scale.
- 077 Some public education. Doing marsh ditch plugging to allow the marshes to recover from grid ditching. Use natural shoreline protection measures v. hardening the shore.
- Modelling the impact of climate change on important habitats.
- Advocating for better LIDAR data.
- Developments should consider the environmental impacts on climate change.
- Education on the impacts of SLR.
- Survey the public on actions that may be taken to address SLR.
- Learn some adaptation lessons from the military actions taken at Hampton Roads.
- Business entities should stop expecting to have bad decisions subsidized.

## What legislation should be passed?

### Themes

- Support Integrative Planning e.g. building codes, population shifts, beach development
- Provide incentives to conserve energy
- Support organization of region's efforts to focus federal and state legislation
- Amend building codes & regulations to consider Climate Change & Sea Level Rise
- CZMA reauthorization w/ provisions for Climate Change adaptation
- Remove incentives & create disincentives for developing in vulnerable areas

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 limit outer beach developments, identify areas most at risk and protect these areas, identify risk to freshwater resources from saltwater intrusion

- 002 Look for the tiny steps that can be taken: simple, easy painless (as well as the big projects).
- 003 other than climate change legislation -- fossil fuels --reform natural relief policy where areas that are rebuilt that should be
- 004 MARCO less involved in federal legislation
- 005 Legislation at all levels needs to be more hard-nosed. Strengthen some of the existing laws in terms of limiting new development in flood prone areas.
- 006 when the data shows that areas are prone to flooding public \$\$ should be used --if the private sector wishes to pay that's fine
- 007 include land use adaptation planning requirements to federal legislation and tie to federal support for infrastructure and adaptation funding
- 008 when 300 million is spent to defeat an issue there is not much that can be done
- 009 Integrative Coastal Management  
Groundwater Protection
- 010 Laws that make energy sappers (phone chargers, electronic picture frames) more expensive - taxes and costs things on the will harm us. Give people incentives to conserve.
- 011 Regulation within building code for future changes
- 012 investment need to take climate change adaptation into account
- 013 Ratify Copenhagen treaty if it's good.
- 014 Need someone in charge of sea-level rise - ie. Amtrak through Delaware will be underwater. Someone to keep an eye on all the issues.
- 015 changing existing protection activities
- 016 facilitates offshore energy development
- 017 enforce existing laws !!!
- 018 Look at climate change bills and add or identify provisions that support regional adaptation for coastal environment.
- 019 establish a national climate service
- 020 Governors supporting climate change adaptation is important in addition to marco support.
- 021 laws that facilitate renewable energy that includes protection of living organisms and habitats
- 022 Coastal Zone Management Act could support regional adaptation.
- 023 Where are the MARCO states on regs compared to states like CA. What about surrounding states that carry pollutants to the oceans. How do we expect to hold other states to higher standards than we hold ourselves to.
  
- Regional Green House Gas Initiative
- 024 find other incentive based approaches to be included in federal legislation
- 025 establish a regional approach to legislation - be in the same page
- 026 Water Resources Development Act - authorized to provide the mapping technology that helps understand sea level rise. Army Corps does some but they need to be authorized to do it better and across the full the region for consistent data. Lidar technology.
- 027 Legislation supporting studies shouldn't be used to support bad projects.

- 028 federal legislation -- need to get funding to do adaptation and research and modeling and on the ground restoration work -- great thing to rally around and how do we build the coalition to do that -- need to build a coalition
- Feds can have a role in righting for more funding and more of an emphasis on adaptation
- need regional and locally relevant data for inundation and sea level
- legislative initiatives one-pager
- want to build a better legislative agenda that makes the most sense for the Mid-Atlantic and provides a strong voice for the region
- have the governors of other states passed an Executive Order? NY has -- what are the states doing at the state level might be a good self-assessment in the region on what states are working on
- states should probably get a bit more organized in terms of federal legislation -- things at the federal level that are not necessary moving at the state level -- need to build the power of the voice
- regional restoration laws in other parts of the country but not in the mid-Atlantic -- need one focused piece of legislation on restoration in the Mid-Atlantic -- multistate restoration agenda
- clean ocean zone legislation -- some principles for preserving water quality
- 029 right to rebuild (after loss) in coastal areas needs to be addressed
- 030 Building codes and regulatory codes need to be amended to take into consideration climate change/sea level rise: create a long term plan.
- 031 Legislation has been passed, needs to enforcement. Regulations need to be looked at for updating and/or changing for new issues.
- 032 legislation at the state level on public access/ownerships of beaches (public trust legislation, or strengthening existing legislation)
- National Flood Insurance Program needs legislation to improve pace/scale of updating flood maps
- state legislation that removes barriers to renewable energy and issues with interconnecting power grids across states (mitigation legislation is important, too!)
- energy bill provides opportunity to find funds to do regional adaptation planning and to provide incentives to private land owners and developers
- CZMA reauthorization could include request for regional-scale climate change adaptation plans
- 033 no federal subsidies for development in vulnerable areas
- 034 Legislation needs to be translated to the public as a function of public awareness.
- 035 Update siting laws to facilitate renewable energy facilities on land & marine spatial planning.
- 036 cap and trade program: carbon tax --each and every state should participate and support
- 037 Promote investment in clean energy economy--promote good "green" jobs and increase public support. Disincentives for continued fossil fuel use.
- 038 Repeal legislation that encourages or enable people from rebuilding or building inappropriately
- 039 Assure funds from fed appropriations are used for adaptation planning.
- 040 get insurance companies to offer plans to cover adverse effects from various climate change damage
- 041 Assure existing laws being reauthorized include attention to CC adaptation.
- 042 Zoning & bldg codes for shorefront adaptive architecture, providing for flood-safe uses exclusively on lower floors in areas of existing built infrastructure.
- 043 Give tax break to companies that want to get wind power going in federal waters; an incentive; rather than charging leasing fee



044 Repeal state and federal legislation that ensures beach front property.

Advocate for habitat restoration programs and legislation that pro-actively addresses climate change impacts.

Amend/enforce/pass state laws so that private developers must address the cumulative impacts of climate change.

Need NJ to pass an environmental policy act.

CEQ needs to amend regs makes clear that cumulative impact assessments includes climate change.

Fix jurisdictional impact of the CWA. Support the CW restoration act currently pending before Congress.

Energy efficiency legislation needs to be passed by the all Mid-Atlantic states.

Support federal funding for adaption efforts.

## **Over the long-term, what additional actions should be taken by the states and federal partners?**

### **Themes**

- Provide enhanced coordination amongst diverse groups and various levels of government
- Re-evaluate post-storm rebuilding laws and policies
- Establish a baseline of current conditions so we can identify shifts & impact of Climate Change
- Prepare long term adaptation plans for communities
- MARCO should work with new Landscape Conservation Cooperative out of Interior

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

001 proper environmental planning, prepared to adapt

002 implement proper zoning in coastal areas to properly prepare for sea level rise

003 Work regionally to be more proactive in actions that can be taken.

004 pushing cap and trade ...forest reset...impacts sea grants severe as extension agents on the ground with NOAA moving

005 identify risk to freshwater resources from saltwater intrusion

006 marco isn't institutionalized enough. Partly institutionalize it, which will help with changing governors.

MARCO should be the regional group to fit into Obama's national ocean policy and marine spatial planning framework. marco should be co-leads for federal-state relationship.

Starts with states. They need to take lead and develop perspective.

Partnership needs to be with Governor's office specifically as opposed to lower group.

007 increased coordination amongst stakeholders, additional regional planning, including local elected officials

- 008 need good data when youre making your push for aware
- 009 Raise awareness of people away from the oceans on how their actions impact things beyond them/down stream
- 010 must be careful that disincentives for new entrants to area must not be put in place
- 011 local land use planning in regards to climate change adaptation
- 012 Change federal flood insurance so we are not subsidizing the choices of building in flood areas.
- 013 what are the cost benifit to wealth home owners to federal and state grants after a natural event -- can we turn this into an opportunity
- 014 Federal and state funding of transporation projects should be limited in flood prone areas. If looking at long term may see it's better to move project elsewhere.
- 015 Feds and states are given crutchs when natural events occur - not enabling those who are generally not honest
- 016 increased involvement from local governments and planning departments, increased education and outreach
- 017 More coodination of diverse groups. This is an opportunity for MARCO to bring together.
- 018 How do all the different entities coordinate? What's going to be the working relationship with other existing entities. Governance must be addressed to make sure everyone's communicating.
- 019 Funding and support can help bring existing entitites together.
- 020 actions taken to protect wetlands ---best management practices -- where is the economic incentives to protect wetlands ... builders are not interested in what happens 20 yrs down the road.
- 021 be proactive in deciding waht to save and what to sacrifice and start educating those who will be affected
- 022 global approach and intergenerational approach
- 023 Educate people on other aspects of environmental issues for those who do not believe in climate change (drinking water intake/salt water intrusion etc.) and couple with planning.
- 024 Lanscape Conservation Coopertive (LCC)  
An example of a collaborative effort between Fed, State, NPO
- 025 states work together to plan and identify shoreline vulnerability - be consistent from state to state; ongoing good monitoring and assessment;
- 026 Need to
- 027 need to consider protection of habitat as well . . . would be easier to engage if had a better sense that changes would be made . . . focus not just on hardened shorelines but also some other critical issues concerned about focus on adaptation - and not prevention
- climate friendly parks -- reducing carbon footprints -- also help public figure out what they can do -- kind of difficult for public to understanding, but parks develop a set of goals for reducing carbon footprints (392 parks in system and only 25 parks have signed into program) -- very challenging to get folks to buy into it
- offer webinars to communities on resilience, working with state on resilience indicators, developed a habitat GIS assessment tools for estuaries in NJ (ID areas for wetland retreat), remote sensing on inundation issues (Princeton and Rutgers), inundation scenarios for Barnet Bay
- funding from Dupont to model hobitat change in response to sea level rise on Delaware Bay to determine inland migration, how might the coast evolve on the Delaware Bay and the challenge is a lot of the shoreline is hardened by Delaware Bay is soft and can retreat

north shore of Fire Island is suffering from serious erosion so have a research project on using dredge material to stabilize the shoreline so it doesn't erode into critical habitats, but challenge is NY regulations that restrict tidal wetlands

inundation needs around the country -- Tony has a needs assessment of what's out there and SLR needs (for country but has a regional perspective)

- 028 We need to lead by example (MARCO) states and encourage other states to meet that high bar. Federal Partners need to work together.
- 029 Educate the general public - example, sea-level change mapping for future.
- 030 establish baseline of ecosystems in coastal waters, because we don't have a good handle on the current conditions, so how will we identify shifts and impacts of climate changes.
- 031 establish long-term assessment of coastal and estuarine habitat health and shoreline before the baseline change; more research on longterm ecosystem health
- 032 Need someone to be in charge and coordinate federal partners.
- 033 more funding for research on offshore environments (e.g. canyons)
- 034 encourage those involved with renewable energy and helping them share the technologies with developing countries.
- 035 need to start education now; provide more funding for education
- 036 better data coordination and sharing
- 037 Climate variability and change is additional stressor that communities are dealing with. Understand current challenges and how climate with exacerbate or reduce that stress. Climate change should be overarching among other goals but shouldn't be on its own. Understand local and state concerns for climate change. How will different community respond to sea level rise, WQ and ocean acidification.
- 038 MARCO should work to combine with newcoming LCC (Landscape Conservation Cooperative)
- 039 Education of public on scientific understanding of metrics of climate change
- 040 Education of public on expected impacts of climate change and what individuals can do to help mitigate effects, lessen impact
- 041 is there going to be an effort to protect private properties on the water? this question would get people to the table.
- 042 climate change objectives should focus on natural features on land vulnerable to SLR and not only infrastructure and built environment
- 043 Public education.
- 044 Making long-term adaptability plans for sea-level rise and catastrophic storms
- 045 need for retreating grounds for marshes and wetlands - should be incorporated in this climate change priority and not assumed that this issue will be addressed in Habitat priority
- 046 storm surge barriers need to be looked at now, especially for NYC.
- 047 Work with DOT on their effort to reduce vehicle miles travelled and future planning that supports MARCO concerns
- 048 climate change adaptation plans (at the state level) coordinated regionally to allow for ecosystem-based management  
  
address relocation of towns and other very difficult coastal land use planning decisions related to SLR  
  
Minimize the need to adapt by pushing mitigation. MARCO Needs to get involved in mitigation--push states to join more regional cap-and-trade agreements for example.
- 049 streamlining permitting/removing barriers to renewable energy across states and between feds and states

- 050 Elevate importance of mitigation strategies in MARCO to avoid risk that adaptation policies will facilitate increased climate-change-causing activities. Don't let adaptation strategies provide false sense of security.
- 051 emergency planning for coastal areas
- 052 Making "it" real to people - climate change adaptation loses people, however tying climate change impacts to everyday issues (storms, septic systems, flooding, emergency response, etc)
- 053 on-going effort to be prepared to make decision. need disaster event to make people pay attention and change political will. be prepared for that moment.
- 054 Insurance and re-insurance companies should be part of MARCO process
- 055 need provisions for controlling new growth in addition to addressing re-building older development
- 056 more attention to resource management in the ocean in the context of climate change (fisheries)
- 057 Promote investment in clean energy economy--promote good "green" jobs and increase public support. Disincentives for continued fossil fuel use.
- 058 What should we do as a region to address climate change
- 059 more and better messaging and communication that emphasizes the economic impacts and implications of not addressing climate change
- 060 coastal services center...need high resolution LIDAR mapping on local level. Need good high-definition regional mapping.
- 061 Park service - climate friendly park initiative. NEP - climate ready estuaries program. Reserve system - sentinel site program. Seamless network initiative - share information on the federal level.
- 062 need to highlight more examples of effects of SLR/climate change rather than just catastrophic events - use these examples to make it more "real" for politicians/legislators.
- 063 Support all types of energy development - traditional oil and gas, nuclear, wind
- 064 go to marco and set up lobbying efforts to directly influence and persuade legislatures who will implement the acts/statutes that are necessary
- 065 explore potential for job creation from climate change adaptation
- 066 Ecosystem adaptability planning, acquiring & protecting suitable adjacent uplands for coastal habitats to migrate inland and maintain ecosystem functions.

## **ACTIONS: OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

### **Gems**

- Legislation: “Jurisdictional authorities need to be determined”
- Long Term “Regional coordination of guaranteed purchase of renewable energy so that no state is at a disadvantage”

### **What actions should private and non-profit organizations take?**

#### **Themes**

- Private industry and NGO's should play unique roles in providing data & research to support regional efforts and MSP
- Create opportunities for new & expanded stakeholder engagement throughout the entire process - make sure all are included, provide neutral space
- Clearly articulate cost-benefit analysis of energy sources/natural resources & incorporate into regional strategic plan
- Serve as environmental watchdogs
- Education, lobbying & advocacy
- Emphasize energy conservation along with renewable energy
- Balance habitat concerns along with energy siting
- Establish task forces to assist MARCO

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Non-profits/private organizations have a larger role to play -- new grouping of stakeholders around an emerging issue -- new forums need to be created to engage these stakeholders
- 002 Protect Vistas and Viewsheds.
- 003 generate research and knowledge base to support regional efforts
- 004 Renewable energy developers have a real role in providing data and information on areas they're interested in developing -- they're going to profit for many years to come so they need to understand and accept that they need to spend the money to research the areas they're interested in to inform government permitting/decision-making. I.e., spend money (on research) to make money
- 005 Ensure proper MSP for placement of turbines.
- 006 private industry involved in process to inform on what areas are suitable, what is needed, etc.
- 007 Educate legislators
- 008 combine both with academic to form a research consortium to better fund and set a plan of action

- 009 do background work to support legislation - data, information, writing assistance, write draft legislation, and include economic and other impacts
- 010 Information gathering, research about citing, etc.
- 011 generate public demand for policy, legislation, action
- 012 Advocacy groups need to take a strong watchdog role to ensure that environmental, non-financial values are protected.
- 013 Citizens are interested in the view-shed, transmission lines, etc....siting and view shed is very important to citizens. Economic boost or hinderance?  
Footprint of windmills and impact on fishing boats. Transmission lines and dredging impacts. Electric signals from transmission lines and effects on fish and fishing. May hurt or help fishing.
- 014 Provide public forum for discussion of issues that is more independent of vested interests (using Coastal learning centers and other educational institutions, centers of expertise)
- 015 join state agencies with utilities to implement actions such as wind farms offshore
- 016 Consensus from conservation groups
- 017 Advocacy groups should get together with industry/development groups up front to identify issues, work the process together from the beginning -- NGOs get values taken into account, developers save money. Stakeholders need to come together up front before development process is too far underway.
- 018 Is there going to different juristictions relating placement of wind turbines (state or federal waters). Does MARCO address the possible conflicts that arise between states' relative to wind turbines in their juristictions?
- 019 Env. impacts considered and allow for adaptiver mngt, ensure property monitoring
- 020 Continued advocacy for renewable energy, educate public on impacts and how tools like "marine spatial planning" can help minimize impacts.
- 021 Structures should be research platforms with sensors, etc.  
Education is broader than just non-rpofits (Universities, Sea Grant, etc.)
- 022 Comprehensive view of cost-benefit
- 023 have governors sign an executive order to support funding for offshore projects
- 024 Promote offshore renewables emphasizing avoided costs of climate change impacts.
- 025 Data-gathering and analysis has to take place up front to understand cost-benefit analysis -- need to have marine spatial planning done to inform siting issues. We have general information about many areas but need more site-specific, high-resolution detail in the data.
- 026 If wind we are adding wind turbines, we should be reducing carbon producing energy generation stations.
- 027 Make sure stakeholders are at the table (recreational users, fishing, etc.)  
What will be the benefit of a wind farm to the community or to the region.  
How do we sell it and market it.
- 028 have them help with base line data  
partnership with state/federal agencies
- 029 Provide greater incentives for technology to reduce carbon footprints.
- 030 Expand coalition by educating on potential economic benefits and returns, eg green job creation, local manufacturing opportunities--involve labor as well.
- 031 critical habitats in upfront process

- 032 Have a role in consensus building
- 033 Lobby task force member to have their interests represented.
- 034 mechanisms in place for public to be included in permitting process.
- 035 advocating for energy efficiency with these groups
- 036 Need an analysis of alternatives for energy. Some technologies have more potential than others. Which alternatives should we persue.  
Answer question: What is in it for me? Need to create benefits for incentives.
- 037 Integrate NGOs through task forces. Make venues more transparent, including public involvement.
- 038 advocate for protection of migrating species against impact of offshore wind projects
- 039 coordinate messaging between national and state ngo's
- 040 be more realistic with future energy goals. does placing turbines really address future energy needs related to reducing pollution and carbon footprints?
- 041 Nonprofits can help provide baseline of info to support decision making on site selection.
- 042 Nonprofits can advocate first to marco then governors office for renewable energy.
- 043 Regional coordination of NGO's, utilize MARCO to engage stakeholders into the siting process.
- 044 Costs and benefits of different energy sources.
- 045 Where do nonprofits direct their advocacy? NJ DEP or Governor for example? What's the process?
- 046 illicite the participation and media support of notable celebrities to foster various programs, issues, etc. use faith based orgs as well.
- 047 NGOs and industry can highlight areas of importance to governors office for issues like ecosystem protection as we move to build offshore renewables.
- 048 NGOs need to work to get on same page to help marco move forward on this agenda item.
- 049 Accumulate information on public perception, based on data through polling and other means, to make case.
- 050 Make sure habitats are defined for recreational/commercial fishing based on local knowledge input. The installation of wind turbines creates habitat as well for the fishing community.
- 051 Move and grow with the times to go from being opponents to supporters
- 052 We need a strategic plan to reduce CO2 emissions in this country, and energy plan that fits into national goal. Should we focus on other technologies like solar vs. wind, which would be better? What is the research - does it exist?
- 053 better collaboration between academia, ngo's, inter- agencies etc. around research RFP's to support research.
- 054 identify potential adverse effects and serve as environmental guardians in area of oceanic renewable energy extraction
- 055 five states work together to develop a consistent set of standards for collecting data, how, where, standards -- science-based set of consistent standards for collecting data to improve our unstanding of these coastal/ocean ecosystems -- fundamental to doing regional mapping and planning
- 056 serve as environmental wacthdog on offshore renewable energy
- 057 push for allowing the fishing industry access to fishing grounds at wind farm locations
- 058 educate the public and raise public awareness
- 059 identify cost and benefits for offshore renewable energy

- 060 Be a sounding board or clearinghouse for industry partners can come to MARCO for lessons learned, lobbying of Feds to help understand the process, steps needed, work with competing interests: seek ways to make this easier and quicker
- 061 Construction impacts of wind relatively known compared to wave and tidal. Understand these gaps.
- 062 discuss research and habitat impacts and possible benefits from offshore renewable energy
- 063 Need to advocate for overall reduction of green-house gases.
- 064 develop regionalized offshore energy planning
- 065 improve regional data sharing to best determine a plan for offshore energy development
- 066 No-action alternatives need to consider that there will be continued coal extraction and burning etc. and it's impact. Lobby for action.
- 067 help educate general public on their energy responsibilities
- 068 states to form a science advisory panel/technical ctte -- bring in the best experts across the states to come up with consistent information  
  
need to bring in outside NGO groups who have expertise and have a certain level of buy in up front on proposals -- way to get interested public engaged and part of the process
- 069 reframe the issue as coal versus wind energy
- 070 Educate around Viewshed of an windmill vs. Taking off mountain tops
- 071 educate public on downsides of offshore renewable energy
- 072 present tradeoffs on offshore renewable energy
- 073 NGOs have to find a way that they can get involved in the MMS taskforce via a stakeholder role and marco could try to help with that. Is there a way to get involved?
- 074 determine if existing baseline data is sufficient for future planning - consider potential negative impacts for offshore energy
- 075 establish task forces to protect marine mammals, combat noise pollution from renewable energy plus research in these areas
- 076 some kind of coalition of outside groups that feed into the stakeholder process -- has to be a connectivity beyond the states with MMS -- how do we do this? -- nothing that will hold the states back from engaging NGOs in the process and allowing for transparency
- 077 Take advantage of and utilize the NEPA process.
- 078 MARCO states need to coordinate their efforts and investment capital of their supply-chain in renewable energy.
- 079 deliver the message that the ocean is a living system - biological significance of these waters - include in considerations of renewable energy
- 080 education of public on all aspects of offshore renewable energy
- 081 Need to coordinate the transformation of the transmission and interconnect grid across the MARCO states and beyond.
- 082 funding research on environmental effects of offshore renewable resources
- 083 If you are going to grow the industry, there needs to be as much consistency as possible: rules don't change at state lines.
- 084 guide people through energy transition through education and coordination
- 085 Take advantage of the offshore platforms for monitoring and data collection of offshore water quality and habitat monitoring.
- 086 getting the right people and all stakeholders to the table



- 087 --
- 088 reaching constituents who are underrepresented (e.g., fisherman)
- 089 Fishing industry can help explain different impacts that can result from renewable projects and help develop more appropriate projects.
- 090 collect and share meteorological data and off shore use data and combine into a larger collection across the region for industry use.
- 091 If all of these projects go into production in the water at the same time, you will create a boom-bust cycle in region. Task-forces need to support a staged approach to roll-out to create long-term jobs. Implications on supply-chain as well.
- 092 Need to coordinate the developers as well.
- 093 Demonstrate benefits for the local communities. Financial benefits.
- 094 - Allow for and promote data collection and sharing between industry, NGOs, government, etc... to allow for the building of a much better dataset. Public-private partnerships, such as European models.
- Advocate for incentives for "green energy".
  - Advocate for clear processes and criteria for siting renewable energy facilities.
  - Development of standard monitoring protocols to maximize feedback and adaptive management, to improve siting of new projects in the future.
- 095 Educate and Out-reach to gain support from the citizenry (who will benefit) for these programs so that elected officials will also do their part to support legislation etc.
- 096 Potentially promote cooperative revenue sharing models.
- 097 Ensure recognition of habitat impact and migratory patterns are taken into consideration.

## What legislation should be passed?

### Themes

- Develop or amend policies & incentives for exploration, developments and energy conservation (including a reduction in C-based energy)
- Enact legislation that sets up funding for MSP
- Address funding & revenue sharing issues of offshore development
- Provide consistency across MARCO states for: regulatory programs, data collection & standards
- Provide for data production & stakeholder involvement before siting
- Process to decommission fossil fuels as renewables develop

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 provide incentives to private companies for offshore renewable exploration and development
- 002 Decommission fossil fuel sources of energy as we replace with alternative sources of energy
- 003 Coordination between states and/or feds

- 004 Tax and incentive rather than cap and trade
- 005 Ensure proper data before citing
- 006 Financial incentive  
s for energy conservation and fully funded
- 007 revisions to federal level.-Fed Power Act Reg. Commission defends status quo  
ends status quo
- 008 Jurisdictional authorities need to be determined -- federal legislation or regulations or MOAs to allocate jurisdiction and set up rational permitting process. Need to establish certainty in process.
- 009 Energy policy that includes conservation, generation, transmission plus env. externalities
- 010 Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies
- 011 Demand-side mgmt within  
in National Energy Policy Act  
plus incentives for offshore wind
- 012 Focus on/promote renewables vs. extractive energy uses in area.  
Create incentives (tax breaks, mitigation funds for sea-level rise, etc.) for renewable energies.
- 013 States have own conservation legislation, new regulatory program
- 014 Regulatory protection for migrating species in offshore renewable energy regulation
- 015 Don't need legislation to having marine spatial planning work
- 016 Incentives for renewable businesses.  
MARCO should call for strategic national and regional energy plan.
- 017 NJ DEP is considering wind rules for state waters. NJ can bring other states up to speed.
- 018 federal RPS(Renewal Portfolio Standards)  
need comprehensive federal policy  
More focus on energy efficiency
- 019 Congress' national energy legislation should include marine spatial planning language  
focused/emphasis on ecosystem protection.
- 020 Codify Obama's marine spatial planning results into legislation.
- 021 New/improved siting laws to facilitate appropriate siting of offshore energy facilities
- 022 regional transmission planning  
reduce emission/mitigation in way that protects critical habitats
- 023 Tax incentives for offshore renewable energy development.
- 024 change revenue sharing rules for offshore projects
- 025 Funding/appropriations for MSP, baseline studies, mapping of existing uses and future uses.
- 026 funding for MSP.
- 027 coastal management programs have consistent standards across states (so private industry doesn't  
play off across states)
- 028 Legislation to level the playing field with fossil fuels.
- 029 Ensure that all means of energy production pay the full cost of their impacts (public health,  
environmental degradation)

- 030 MARCO states should be advocating for permanent long-term federal incentives
- 031 consider the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act in regards to offshore energy development
- 032 federal legislation to create these regional councils? is that needed? Oceans 21  
federal legislation to fund these regional councils  
need for legislation to regional efforts and funding to support planning and implementation
- 033 create federal funding incentives to states for marine spatial planning efforts
- 034 Federal level - need to have some sort of revenue certainty, that the energy you produce, there will be buyers for.
- 035 lots of emphasis on regional entities to move the coastal/ocean agenda forward -- need to support -- would an official legislation designation help this  
  
we all want this to be better -- we need to support the actions that are being undertaken, we need to be positive if this group and our friends don't support the effort
- 036 include protection of habitats
- 037 habitat and species protection
- 038 should include funding for research into adverse environmental effect and habitat destruction
- 039 federal purchase of renewable energy (provide a guaranteed market)
- 040 Potential feed-in tariff incentive structure that allows small off-shore pilot projects that help make them financially viable. That also serves as pilots for best-practices and products (to prevent disaster -large-scale projects)
- 041 MARCO can lobby to change the Federal/state revenue sharing formula for off-shore wind. To share with affected coastal communities .
- 042 -CZMA needs to clearly define policies for permitting offshore energy that isn't developed in state waters but is transmitted through state waters.

## **Over the long-term, what additional actions should be taken by the states and federal partners?**

### **Themes**

- Coordination between states on regional power and MSP issues, including inter-border transmission & connection projects
- Assess Cumulative Impacts (e.g. energy load balance among communities, transmission, figure into cost-benefit, MSP for multiple needs not just energy, pre & post monitoring, mutual benefits of siting & fishing)
- Mine existing data as available and identify gaps that exist – don't wait for the "perfect data" to make decisions
- MARCO should collaborate with MMS state task groups
- Accountability for MARCO "Actions" listed on the website for public tracking

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 encourage participation in MMS's Environmental Studies Program
- 002 once MD and NY MMS renewable task forces are up-and-running, the states' task forces should collaborate with MARCO, and through MARCO collaborate with each other
- 003 accelerate and streamline the permit process - too complicated and bureaucratic right now
- 004 By-state energy agreements. Electricity is considered a commodity that is not inter-state regulated. Currently, states can restrict export of energy across state lines. Need to remove impediments to export of energy.
- 005 Decommission fossil fuel sources of energy as we replace with alternative sources of energy
- 006 Have a role in consensus-building
- 007 Ensure that there are long-term monitoring plans in place to gather data on impacts
- 008 Need to have regional coordination plans in place for load balance -- to ensure that development takes into account need to ensure adequate, continuous power. I.e. if one area isn't getting sufficient wind, another will to ensure continuity of power supply
- 009 Cumulative impacts assessments
- 010 Take a marine spatial planning approach to all kinds of renewable energy development rather than a piece meal approach
- 011 Do need a vision for what the mid-atlantic should look like - how can coastal property owners envision the benefits of a future with offshore renewable energy
- 012 We should create a national energy policy to help guide the development of renewables, we don't strategically look at costs and benefits of different energy sources. We don't have a strategic plan of how we provide energy and what sources.
- 013 Make the process more clear for how nonprofits can participate with marco
- 014 Power of MARCO coalition is to help achieve the vision without legislation
- 015 Accumulate information on public perception, based on data through polling and other means, to make case - power of MARCO.
- 016 Feds and developers need to coordinate with states in terms of land-based and near-shore siting needed to support off-shore energy facilities (transmission corridors, etc.)
- 017 Increase monitoring & documenting of species migration (air & ocean) for responsible siting & regulating of offshore energy facilities
- 018 Get states to work together to work on federal projects and those on borders.
- 019 MARCO needs to be strengthened and viable over the long-run to ensure coordination between states on these regional power and marine spatial planning issues
- 020 More outreach to allow NGO's to learn what is going on on the Atlantic OCS.
- 021 Siting of transmissison lines
- 022 Expand "renewable energy standard" programs
- 023 long term ecological monitoring including adaptive management in permitting
- 024 Find no go areas then look at cumulative impacts then do pre- and post-construction studies to see changes in behavior among birds and marine life. Then see how to mitigate.
- 025 cummulative impact assessment
- 026 integrate MMS task forces with MARCO.
- 027 Longer term studies and consider changes from climate change.
- 028 Monthly integrated task force telecons so various states know what's going on.

- 029 connection to the grid.
- 030 TRANSMISSION GRID CONNECTIVITY ON THE ATLANTIC BIGHT! NEED BACKBONE TRANSMISSION CABLE ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF TO CONNECT MULTIPLE WIND FACILITIES TO DECREASE TO SHORE CABLING AND MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.
- 031 Take advantage of momentum behind offshore renewables to help get marine spatial planning off the ground.
- 032 Transmission grid N-S on Atlantic OCS.
- 033 Stream-line the permit process and create standards for federal off-shore leasing for alternative energies.
- 034 build upon GIS portal -- all this needs to be based off natural resources parameters -- shouldn't let the discussion be framed by the oil and gas industry
- 035 Get everyone at the table early for marine spatial planning when eliminating areas for protection to help with permitting for renewables. All stakeholders must be involved early and often and continue through the process.
- 036 Get MMS State task-forces that have been formed that they share best-practices and interact and integrate and coordinate interstate. Learn from each other.
- 037 all kinds of other habitats (beyond canyons) that we need information about  
need to be careful about asking for too much science and too much research -- precludes things happening within the required timeframe -- we need to mine existing data and use it to make the best decisions we can (e.g., climate change is on the way)
- 038 Construction impacts of wind relatively known compared to wave and tidal. Understand these gaps.
- 039 it's going to happen whether we like it or not...so it's behooving for all to work cooperatively.
- 040 Government, Industry and NGO'S Need to learn from each other
- 041 Need to ensure consistency across the region: what is required in one state is required in another.
- 042 More demonstration/pilot projects to help with testing and monitoring before going commercial.
- 043 Funding for cumulative impact and effects.
- 044 can't wait for the perfect pile of information to make decisions -- measured ways to move forward based upon existing data and mining information -- use as an analytical tool to make responsible decisions
- 045 Integration of MSP data, such as MMS/NOAA Multipurpose Marine Cadastre.
- 046 need to consider public trust resources and take a precautionary approach -- let's not inadvertently create private rights
- 047 Where will the wind powered turbines..staging area will be located ---- educate people -- must determine if it is impact free
- 048 how do we determine impact vs need/drive to put turbines in the water
- 049 NJ programmatic study -- seems like only state doing it -- how successful is it, how would we change -- good model to expand to other states in the region -- what assumptions can and cannot be made
- 050 Improve coordination of coastal zone management program and federal approval processes for offshore wind projects
- 051 question if a state buys renewable from one state do they get credit from the FEDs
- 052 Taskforces focused on issues beyond regulatory issues?
- 053 marco can help represent at a regional level for issues beyond the regulatory framework.
- 054 Clarify purpose of marco and distinguish its role from other entities.

- 055 use a NEPA-type scoping process to engage the public  
let's not just focus on wind -- let's look at all the other sources of renewables (e.g, tidal)
- 056 Funding and support of N-S transmission cables to service wind farms.
- 057 MARCO has the opportunity to coordinate the efforts of the states (ie. the 3 state agreement) for coordinated supply chain.
- 058 no clean plans - policy or data as to how renewable will contribute to reducing the brown energy  
MARCO needs to tie offshore state energy policy to brown energy issues
- 059 states should collaborate regarding federal permitting regarding offshore energy
- 060 states should collaborate on a regional approach on reorienting the grid to accommodate offshore renewable instead of importing coal
- 061 states should collaborate in advocating for federal incentives for renewable energy
- 062 make sure we continue to support -- write letters --- constructive criticism but make sure it's clear we support this regional effort  
  
are folks actually completing actions that have been identified in the "Actions" document? have just compiled a base tracking mechanism and many activities have been completed but not all -- would like to put on the website so there is public accountability -- need to show what MARCO has completed to use as a tool to get folks more involved -- lots of work to do here (MARCO had a big stakeholder meeting within 6 months while it took CA 2 years to have a major stakeholder meeting)
- 063 Marco: Work through issues of state line and regional lines: there are questions of where the lines are.
- 064 states individually need to promote long term contracts, specifically power purchasing agreements, for financing offshore renewable energy production
- 065 MARCO need to tie energy policy to renewables -- MARCO need to get in on the planning of transmission --- supergrid plans may have been made without their knowledge
- 066 make sure that MARCO accomplishments are highlighted on the web site (e.g., OPTF comments) -- want to use the website as a way to maintain dialogue
- 067 Need to develop construction specifications, compliance and monitoring standards in concert with MMS and other agencies.
- 068 educate local governments
- 069 regional coordination of guaranteed purchase of renewable energy so that no state is at a disadvantage
- 070 regional coordination of siting of renewable energy
- 071 encourage regional job growth by setting up renewable energy manufacturing, research and development
- 072 evaluate the cumulative impacts from offshore renewable energy across the entire region
- 073 acknowledge the need for a diverse energy portfolio and plan accordingly
- 074 incentives and subsidies for use of renewable energy
- 075 research funding for development of new and improved renewable energy ideas
- 076 perhaps MARCO website should become a good point for uploading/downloading of useful data -- part of what is going on with the TNC efforts to create a regional GIS portal  
  
NY is creating and investing in more GIS data -- designed for public to get access to GIS data on economic, social, environmental data -- Ocean and Great Lakes Atlas as part of the Ecosystem Conservation Council -- ramping up in the near future to make easier for public to use
- 077 Have MARCO be a clearing house of information for the public on offshore renewable energy: get unified education/information for the public

- 078 invest in more public transportation
- 079 invest in the next generation of renewable energy
- 080 -MARCO could facilitate the development multi-state (not state by state) clear processes (principles, for example) for siting new renewable energy facilities and transmission lines.
- Coordination and communication among the MMS task forces in each state.
  - Provide incentives to build renewable energy facilities.
  - Develop a process for monitoring results to feedback into permitting process, so that future permitting improves.
  - Ensure that future renewable energy development (wave, tidal) is considered in permitting processes (flexibility of permitting processes).
  - Develop more certainty for renewable energy development; for example, evaluate MARCO's role in pushing for extending renewable tax credits.
- 081 need to hold more public discussions on energy issues and policies that are perceived as controversial
- 082 Other emerging technologies also exist and should be explored (hydro-kinetic, etc.)
- 083 MARCO should include Oil & gas issues along with renewables

## **Other**

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

## ***ACTIONS: HABITAT PROTECTION***

### **Gems**

- NGOs: Education should include the value of the region's offshore activities (commercial fishing, renewable energy)
- Legislation: Create a Mid-Atlantic Regional Restoration Act with dedicated funding for regional conservation and management
- Legislation: Define disturbances to the seafloor and have regulations to restore them
- Long-term: Consider economic impacts of habitat protection as part of decision-making
- Long-term: Create a pilot project for restoration and conservation programs then scale up for larger habitats
- Long-term: Coordinate standards for geo-spatial data

### **What actions should private and non-profit organizations take?**

#### **Themes**

- Identify most important habitats and advocate for their protection; play an active role in marine spatial planning
- Use new approaches such as social marketing to educate and raise awareness of the public, government officials, and affected user groups on how biologically productive offshore habitats are and the importance of their protection.
- Engage local communities and user groups (e.g. commercial fishers, recreational users) to seek their knowledge of habitats and understand how habitat protection affects their activities
- Support more research to characterize key habitats and understand the impacts of offshore activities
- Advocate for more resources and funding for habitat identification and protection

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Sharing information from the Nature Conservancy's regional eco-assessment to help in better decision making. Share benthic habitat info. Will help marco prioritize.
- 002 Blue-sheet -EPA - Comprehensive Restoration Plan - Regional habitat restoration plan - 2 states, Comprehensive habitat preservation- Model for coast - ID broad eco-system characteristics we would



like to see restored, and then work towards creating it. Would like to see it broader to expand into whole region. ie. Bird breeding ground, eel grass,

- 003 Help support Canyons through advocacy and education.
- 004 Advocacy and education generally. Particularly public education.
- 005 identify key habitats to be protected and work with local communities to obtain protection
- 006 Protect natural reef systems like Cholera Banks off NY/NJ.
- 007 Bringing community involvement in habitat restoration, and involve them afterwards in monitoring/observing the habitats: helps in educating people on wildlife and their needs.
- 008 get public more involved -- need to focus on coastal habitats that the public sees and understandings and connects to
- 009 Protect areas closer to shore, not just canyons. E.g., Hudson Canyon/Mud Hole closer to NY/NJ
- 010 sharing user and non-profit knowledge of local waters to help marine spatial planning
- 011 marine protected areas -- for fisheries, for habitats -- national parks that extend into marine areas are kinds of MPAs -- restricting damaging activities and need to work with public to gain public acceptance -- great examples of how they work
- 012 blue sheet - beyond 3 miles, is not under MARCO purview and MARCO should not duplicate efforts of Federal programs, National Marine Fisheries, NPA, etc.
- 013 bringing together various data bases and sources of knowledge
- 014 folks don't think of the region as being biologically productive -- incredible biological value of habitats in the Mid-Atlantic
- 015 participate in local fishing conservation meetings; promote habitat protection related to fisheries
- 016 partner with academic organizations in research and data sharing
- 017 provide funding for research
- 018 lobby to limit development in sensitive coastal habitats
- 019 play a role in pulling together resources and data
- 020 increase coordination amongst stakeholders
- 021 push for more investments from the state; support legislation in issue
- 022 Biggest thing MARCO could do is to channel funding and push legislation to provide funding to provide additional research in science-based to be used by all existing programs in all the 4 areas. We have such a lack of data (off-shore canyons)
- 023 assess how marine spatial planning will effect MARCO
- 024 support marine reserves especially near shelf break
- 025 build awareness of the offshore continental shelf regions -- resources moving across those areas -- really valuable for fisheries -- what can MARCO contribute to what fishery management council efforts HAVE underway (near shore habitats)
- 026 help establish total exclusion corridors in the nearshore and offshore
- 027 fund and coordinate complete biological survey off the coast
- 028 continue monitoring to properly plan and manage for habitat protection
- 029 coordinate research
- 030 educate
- 031 educate public and raise public awareness

- 032 Better educating decision makers on the linkages of benthic habitats.
- 033 start with marine spatial plan as a foundational element on habitats/natural overlays/natural resources -  
- that will get you where you need to go
- 034 More resources to make habitat protection a priority.
- 035 MARCO can Continue to work, collect, collaborate and disseminate data - habitat specific data.
- 036 education
- 037 increase participation from recreational and commercial fishing industries by having them monitor to  
increase habitat protection
- 038 identify and map habitat and mitigation problems
- 039 increase opportunities for data sharing amongst stakeholders
- 040 help bring fisherman to the table
- 041 Nature conservative is putting together data -to for a basis for marine spatial planning
- 042 change negative public perception of fishing industry and increase fishing industry participation
- 043 Private industries should be given incentives to assist with data monitoring of habitat  
structures/use/migration/etc. Partner for win-wins!
- 044 Local knowledge can be tapped into to assist and coordinate mining local knowledge: i.e., when  
needing to release a sea turtle and unsure if the water temp was ok, a local fisherman reported that  
he'd seen turtles the week before.
- 045 Advocacy for conservation of unique habitats and goals
- 046 Assist in the Data Management in marine spatial planning
- 047 More we can improve the data collection the better we'll be: tap into knowledge of fishermen and other  
water users.
- 048 Create pilot programs for restoration programs and then look for ways and relationships to scale those  
up.
- 049 data collected by states and NGOs could use this to develop marine spatial plans--- ID hot spots
- 050 development of information repositories to be shared amongst stakeholders
- 051 Advocate for identification of nearshore habitat priorities
- 052 Need to engage fishing industry more. ( we need to find ways to get it on their radar screen and need  
to understand their commercial realities of the fisherman.
- 053 Opportunity to bring together traditional and non-traditional groups to address conflicts and resolve  
them - also address similar goals. For example, fisheries with environmental groups.
- 054 Public education
- 055 ID interoperability and common process/standards for geo-spatial data. \*\*\*\*\*
- 056 Manage our resources and Work towards best available science.
- 057 Identify critical habitat along the coasts and information about nontarget species
- 058 Public education from different sectors to increase knowledge and awareness.
- 059 Getting images to people on areas so they can better appreciate them
- 060 Advocacy organizations need to advocate for habitat and communicate their messages in ways to  
enhance success and mutual understanding/common goals, i.e. marine protected areas can benefit  
fishing yields even if they decrease fishable areas
- 061 Submarine canyons -

- 062 MARCO recognition that what happens on land and in estuaries affects offshore
- 063 Build consensus among themselves as much as possible
- 064 Private sector elements, such as charter fishermen, whale watching cruise operators, etc. can educate the public and enlist support for habitat protection. Non-profits can work with groups to educate them to get general public engaged
- 065 Bring together various data sources and collect new data to define protected areas
- 066 participate in marine spatial planning goals for habitat protection
- 067 Demonstrate what works in other states or does not work
- 068 Educate general public to spark awareness of habitat and species diversity in deep-sea canyons -- through media and advocacy
- 069 Link habitat protection for fisheries with MARCO goals and objectives
- 070 Education. Awareness.
- 071 -Outreach and advocacy
- Scientific data and research support; identifying, describing habitats, setting stage for marine spatial planning.
  - All stakeholders need to be at the table for marine spatial planning to be successful; private and NGOs should engage in this process.
  - Private sector can provide funds and do additional data collection (e.g., for siting new offshore wind farms)
  - NGOs could identify critical gaps in information and determine priorities for mapping
  - Could advocate that the federal government create high-resolution benthic maps for the entire MARCO region from shore to at least 30 miles.
- 072 Facilitate collection and dissemination of information and data.
- 073 Gather information from resource users such as fishers and boaters to communicate to scientists, data and information sharing
- 074 Need more scientific research to validate (or not) artificial habitat creation's effects on species abundance and distribution
- 075 Monitoring data and results need to be shared throughout the region
- 076 There are sensitivities on regulating fisheries, they are scared about more red-tape.  
MARCO should be venue to create/advocate for marine spatial planning.  
Understand social issues - need vehicle to put social issues and concerns into process.
- 077 Become more savvy to identify means to attract and go after Federal funds for research.
- 078 Engage different groups to endorse regulation in Marine Protected Areas.
- 079 Promote data gathering by commercial entities -- partnerships to gather data for ex. side-scanning sonar on commercial vessels
- 080 Raising public demand for policies, legislation, whatever is decided for habitat protection
- 081 qualitative benefits must be emphasized in order to more broadly protect the habitat, especially the recreational areas (beaches, parks, fishing, etc).  
fight offshore drilling and LNG issues.  
engage academic community
- 082 How do will use the shelf - what uses do we want to see...vision.

- How do we get people to the table who work (i.e. fishermen, baymen, recreationalists)
- 083 do a cumulative impact study
- 084 Advocate for meshing different federal funding sources for single-purpose projects in habitat restoration, acquisition, protection.
- 085 Look across region to identify commonalities among habitats and problems.  
Research on threats to habitats and species, and restoration efforts.
- 086 Funding and research on marine spatial planning on the regional and local levels.
- 087 In near term all players should be thinking about economic rationale for different approaches to habitat protection, including use of aquaculture
- 088 Identify key ocean habitats and identify which activities are compatible or incompatible with their protection
- 089 Look at data from existing MPA's to plan for change over time.  
What are the ecosystem services.
- 090 Explore partnerships with land-based conservation and interest groups; make sure that oceans and terrestrial groups are exploring commonalities esp. re: how climate change affects habitat
- 091 Use social marketing to make the point of the benefits of protecting habitat
- 092 What uses should be allowed in MPA's (or critical habitats) - how much should we limit use in these areas.  
Research on important habitats (SAVs, seagrass, eelgrass) and restoration
- 093 Understand multiple stressors on important habitats and identify/promote restoration and protection efforts.

## What legislation should be passed?

### Themes

- Seek greater opportunities to protect nearshore and upland habitats
- Advocate for a specific legislative designation to protect an important habitat area
- Increase restrictions on certain activities known to damage important and vulnerable habitat types
- Recognize opportunities to protect habitat through legislation that targets specific activities (commercial fisheries, renewable energy)
- Broaden ocean observing to include all data (physical, chemical, biological, other)
- Increase funding authorizations for habitat protection activities
- Create a framework for marine spatial planning

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Council paper is talking mostly about off-shore, and needs to keep focus near shore also.

- 002 need some
- 003 Essential Fish Habitat - support this designation in the region
- 004 Marine Sanctuary somewhere in region once most important area is determined. Canyons would be an easier possibility but near shore will be more controversial.
- 005 to establish coastal ocean Biosphere Reserve
- 006 Magnuson-Stevens act - MARCO needs understand and to advocate for flexibility of Act - rebuilding of fisheries
- 007 Renewable Energy legislation should include habitat and environmental protection
- 008 Clean Ocean Zone
- 009 Invasive Species Act - include resources to address effects on habitats and protection of habitats
- 010 protection of benthic environments from bottom fishing and bottom trawling
- 011 protection of living resources included in exploration and exploitation of mineral resources legislation
- 012 protection for aquaculture nurseries
- 013 comprehensive federal program that protects the living resources of the coastal ocean
- 014 increased restrictions on dragging and trawling
- 015 renewable energy legislation needs to include habitat and living resource protection
- 016 zoning regulations to include habitat protection
- 017 emphasize protection of coastal lagoons, bays, and other nearshore habitats
- 018 integrative protection from uplands to the ocean
- 019 land use decisions made with a state or federal overlay
- 020 development and implementation of habitat friendly bottom-harvesting equipment
- 021 regional habitat protection rather than local only
- 022 revenue sharing from offshore renewables for habitat conservation and natural resource protection and management
- 023 need for funding for marine spatial planning -- ways to get states \$\$ for Marine spatial planning
- 024 Mid-Atlantic Regional Restoration Act
  - Dedicated funding for ocean conservation and management -- and for regional councils
  - Clean Ocean Zone -- key habitat protection and water quality
  - MPAs have been established -- perhaps CMSP would help identify additional marine protection areas
- 025 considering current financial situation last thing states could do look to feds for more \$\$ Re-map data
- 026 Climate change legislation with adaptation provisions
  - Ocean Observing laws -- get beyond the physical information to include the biological information -- move beyond the mapping -- really don't capture near shore observations
- 027 entities obtaining funding from states or FEDs need to be transparent
- 028 Whenever advocate for habitat legislation need to have proof of need
- 029 -Fully fund Integrated Coastal Mapping Act (authorization without appropriations!)
  - Legislation that allows sustainability and capacity of MARCO (durability and resources for MARCO to be relevant into the future.) More formal framework.
- 030 Identify and protect inshore and offshore habitats

- 031 There should be legislation to define disturbed seafloor and have regulation to allow them to be restored over time.
- 032 Incentivize inventorying and prioritization of habitat protection
- 033 Increase funding in Fed Land & Water Cons. fund to provide additional resources for coastal land acquisition for habitat protection
- 034 Better incorporate marine habitat into state wildlife action plans and provide funding through state wildlife grant program
- 035 Redefine coastal zone to incorporate upstream flow
- 036 Legislation to further protect habitats, assuming more areas are identified from the 5 year oil and gas plan. If planning areas are identified, NGOs would support a bill to provide greater protection of marine mammals and habitats.
- 037 Fill data gaps related to increased shipping from offshore gas and oil extraction
- 038 Protect cold water reefs
- 039 Regional ocean-research grant program tied to state wildlife grant program to facilitate research & conservation in ocean with ability to tie to other federal funding (eg NOAA national marine sanctuary program).
- 040 Criteria for identifying areas in need of protection and restoration for regulation
- 041 legislation -marine protection areas, sanctuaries, and more research of same.
- 042 Framework for marine spatial planning.
- 043 near shore habitat protection funding
- 044 Tie required mitigation for habitat loss or negative impact to permitting and/or action that causes it.

## **Over the long-term, what additional actions should be taken by the states and federal partners?**

### **Themes**

- Work with fishing community to understand how MARCO's habitat protection goal relates to them
- More research and monitoring to determine long-term impacts of offshore uses on habitats – tie to spatial planning efforts
- Designate marine protected areas for targeted sites
- Standardize data collection efforts to compare relative "value" of habitats
- Build capacity for action - engage user groups, managers, researchers, the public at large to develop a shared vision for habitat protection
- Seek funding increases for habitat identification, characterization, and protection

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 TNC freshwater assessment and NFWF for Delaware estuary

- 002 Bay shoreline restoration work for Fire Island national seashore -- work with NY DEC -- pilot project so it falls within regularity constraints
- 003 modeling project to see how habitats evolve as coast recedes
- 004 Audubon from Maine to Florida -- Atlantic flyway initiative -- priority species and habitats to facilitate information sharing -- out of Audubon NY
- 005 protecting canyons -- fishermen are nervous about that -- protection for future sustainability -- need to do more to sustain the fisheries --
- 006 Sharing mapping info that exists and prioritize future mapping areas. Shellfish grounds, fishing breeding areas.
- 007 Increase understanding of near shore habitats
- 008 Find out where blank areas are for info. Data gaps. Then from there protect most important habitats.
- 009 need to think about sediment issues -- a function of shoreline management framework -- how does that fit in the MARCO framework
- 010 Partner with marco in that everyone should agree on important special management areas or sanctuaries. Management could involve state-fed participation when regions overlap water boundaries.
- 011 Marine spatial planning coming to the forefront --lack science regarding for e.g., the impact on OIL platforms in the Gulf of Mex on shrimp...long term
- 012 As large projects come up, consider the impact on habitat and shared marco values. MARCO might want to take stands on protecting habitats when threatened by large projects. This ties back to education.
- 013 Build upon the multi-purpose marine cadastre as a framework for a regional habitat mapping system
- 014 More science needs to be put into decisions to protect areas to ensure it is the right spot to protect, focusing also on the interests of local fisheries: what will be the impacts on them?
- 015 Educate people, politicians, everyone that there are things under the ocean's surface and there are many different important habitats.
- 016 Look for appropriate balance.
- 017 Marco needs to collaborate with what already exists, and does not need to take on things that have already been done/responsibilities of other groups/agencies.
- 018 need to create a use map of how people are using the oceans -- NY is developing an offshore uses map -- smart maps and then asking folks how and where and what they are using the oceans for -- huge building block
- 019 More resources to make habitat protection a priority.
- 020 Consider productive shell fish beds as key priority habitats for protection.
- 021 Develop regional integrated baseline information on habitat so we can find priorities.
- 022 working with the fisheries council...put data collected on website
- 023 unified/standardized data collection methods
- 024 MARCO should engage with MARCOOS to figure out how to use the data that is being generated  
way to display information that is useful for EBM -- how EBM is a functional tool within marine spatial planning  
challenge is with fishermen not telling folks where they fish, but they are critical -- figure out how to deal with this problem are other data limitations
- 025 Also focus on the migratory pathways of fish, birds and mammals: establish steps to protect migratory corridor.

- 026 Support Atlantic Coast joint venture
- 027 Water quality improvements near shore will protect habitats.
- 028 how do we use federal and state laws to protect critical habitat for fish (e.g., canyons) -- MARCO has an opportunity to emphasize this priority to their fishery reps.
- how do we understand the extent of the canyons to protect -- that needs to be discussed and agreed to in the future -- allow long line fishing, which preserves habitat, by restricting trawling
- 029 Support Marine Spatial Planning framework that is due out next week.
- 030 Cumulative impact assessments instead of case by case basis
- 031 essential fish habitat is one of the ways to protect the canyons -- also the coral bill -- fishery management councils are really busy and don't focus as much as they should on habitat
- continental shelf edge is going to be the area of greatest conflict
- how do we keep the fisheries community support of what MARCO is trying to do --
- 032 really important issues that are not on the table -- how about oil and gas leasing offshore -- you want folks to fight for MARCO, have to add some more issues to table -- might want to recognize the important of issues and share information, although there might not be a united position
- 033 While Magnuson Stevens protects the commercial sector, MARCO must also encourage protection of those areas that are not commercial based. Encourage eco-system based mgmt. vs. species-based protection and mgmt. Also nurseries and what feeds those nursery habitats. Preserve Habitat corridors
- 034 considering all mid-atlantic canyons equally
- 035 coordination with regions and internationally
- 036 have to make sure that as we look to site infrastructure in the open ocean, we are recovering revenue and using for habitat conservation and protection (LWCA)
- 037 establishment of coordinated body to address habitat issues
- 038 developing chemical restrictions
- 039 regional approach to marine spatial planning
- 040 use data to make decisions to protect habitats
- 041 more studies on effects on fish populations
- 042 establish a marine sanctuary or protected areas such as migration corridors, submarine canyons
- 043 scientific assessment of marine areas before policy developed
- 044 comprehensive plan to establish protection areas - "zoning" rules
- 045 Many organizations/agencies are collecting data, but it isn't always being shared and synthesized well. Access needs to be improved so that people know the data exists and where to go to get it.
- 046 development of information repositories to be shared amongst stakeholders
- 047 identify places that deserve some protection for ensuring long-term value of habitat -- should be one of the outcomes of CMSP
- bring in MPA opponents to design comprehensive marine spatial planning
- 048 provide funding for research on offshore critical areas such as submarine canyons, seamounts
- 049 provide funding and resources to study offshore habitats
- 050 shifting nature of species habitat in the face of climate change -- where the fish depends now may not be the same in the future
- 051 Educate public and government agencies about canyons and the importance and impacts



- 052 increased data acquisition and integration of data into decision making
- 053 take advantage of technologies that are out there now to improve our understanding of coastal/ocean habitats
- 054 regional coordination and communication concerning data and linkages among habitats and habitat management
- 055 cluster impacts within the coastal ocean
- 056 Federal partners coordinate messaging and public education from different groups.
- 057 recognize and protect underwater open space
- 058 Educate people on artificial reefs: what is it attracting, how does it grow,
- 059 clear vision for a robust and healthy eco-system --all working for the next generation...not just to get short term industrial use
- 060 National Marine fisheries Service - already involved with critical habitats, mechanism for fishermen to provide input.
- 061 Need states to come together to identify critical habitats and decide on management strategies and regulations.
- 062 Marine spatial planning framework that brings together all stakeholders and players.
- 063 Awareness of research awards, grants, projects. Reference MMS Environmental Studies and Environmental Assessment Branch.
- 064 -Develop the CAPACITY for an integrated database for all coastal habitat data; the authority is there, but the funding is not. MARCO could push for this.
  - MARCO could support and offer consensus-building processes to allow state-level marine spatial planning to be coordinated and push for federal regional MSP)
  - MARCO could encourage the development of a baseline and clear process for siting new projects in the ocean across the region
  - Include other types of energy development and uses (for example, oil and gas, LNG) in MARCO priorities because they are so critical to MSP and habitat protection
  - MARCO should have a conversation with stakeholders about the structure and future of MARCO.
- 065 MARCO - engage fishing community with respect to values they will derive from habitat protection and restoration
- 066 Obtain comprehensive data to assess cumulative affects and impacts.
- 067 Increase flexibility of use of designated federal funds for habitat protection (matching requirements, use across federal programs and agencies)
- 068 Link ecosystem-based fisheries management and EFH (essential fish habitat) with MARCO goals and objectives
- 069 Expand data and look at regional impacts among 5 states
- 070 Deal directly with inclusion or non-inclusion of Fishery Management Councils and Commissions in MARCO framework
- 071 Fill in scientific gaps
- 072 Work with coalition of states vs. individual.
- 073 Reach out to NGOs to offer funding (ex. NY whale research/tracking was cut due to funding). Federal funding could allow these programs to continue.
- 074 Take next step of EFH priority areas with MARCO support to nominate habitat areas as MPAs or marine sanctuaries

- 075 Promote data-sharing from federal agencies (e.g., NMFS fisheries data gathered from fishermen) -- promote partnerships with commercial fishing interests for data-collecting and sharing (not just on fish but also water quality sampling, marine debris -- explore synergies)
- 076 Assimilate east coast issues with what is going on in west coast to show wider, more national benefits; also what has worked with other regional governance initiatives
- 077 Set targets for habitat protection for the region and national level goals
- 078 Fisheries Council already exists - how would MARCO intersect with that and existing efforts.
- 079 Need to explore long-term ramifications between state and federal govt. of designating marine protected areas. MARCO should play a role in examining roles and missions of MPAs.
- 080 Regional ocean-research grant program tied to state wildlife grant program to facilitate research & conservation in ocean with ability to tie to other federal funding (eg NOAA national marine sanctuary program).
- 081 Utilize studies (i.e. Exploration and Research of North-and Mid-Atlantic Deepwater Hard Bottom Habitats with Emphasis on Canyons and Coral Communities).
- 082 Include economic and ecological impacts of habitat protection & build in future options for reopening areas for use after habitat protection is successful
- 083 Maps to identify key habitats that take into account climate change and changes in habitats and biological interactions.  
Manage adaptive component in Marine spatial plan.
- 084 Bring in military, fishing interests
- 085 Use marine spatial planning in a way that captures range of uses, costs, and benefits to make planning decisions
- 086 Need follow-up, education, and enforcement when certifications and designations are put in place (no-discharge bodies of water, marine protected areas) to ensure conservation actually occurs, not just a meaningless feel-good political photo op
- 087 Reduce biological pollution, invasives and make EPA general permit more stringent
- 088 Offer competitive grants for restoration work of habitats.
- 089 Need more information to make better decisions on policy, etc.
- 090 Integrate with other agencies such as regulatory processes and procedures (such as DOI and FERC) with regard to the # of Environmental Impact Statements, or Environmental Assessments) and streamlining the leasing and liscencing processes of energy development.
- 091 MARCO lobby for funds.
- 092 Reach out to foundations with \$ for partnerships.
- 093 States should not discount habitat protection tools short of MPAs for protecting habitat -- habitat protection can't be an all-or-nothing approach for political reasons
- 094 Identify future potential for offshore aquaculture and build into the MARCO discussions
- 095 Identify key ocean habitats and identify which activities are compatible or incompatible with their protection
- 096 shared visions and shared goals.
- 097 identify priority areas and legislate those first
- 098 Reach out to foundation to create priorities to decide where \$\$\$ will be focused.
- 099 marco committment to marine spatial planning process

- 100 MARCO needs to have clear action items and needs with a one stop shop. Show small success, information sharing, which will lead to larger successes.
- 101 MARCO needs to define it's process. Take a coordinated position on an aspect or problem to show intent and that it's serious about it's agenda.
- 102 Regulators are not in touch with existing habitat conditions.
- 103 As process is defined it may be easier to support the need for dedicated staff.
- 104 Establish marine sanctuaries on the model of land-based protected areas & refuges.
- 105 Integrate State planning initiative (RI Special Area Management Plan, and MA Ocean Management Plan) into the federal process.

# **INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF OCEAN ISSUES & THE SHARED ACTIONS**

## **Gems**

- Get Ocean Policy Task Force into the next State of the Union speech
- Use technology to connect classrooms to vessels
- Create a volunteer “Blue Corps”
- Use non-traditional educators & educational opportunities – like the National Park Service or Boat Captains - BUT also Education experts

## **What are the opportunities and challenges for increasing public understanding and support for addressing ocean issues in our region?**

## **Themes**

- Finding a way to convey the importance of the ocean in people’s lives even when they don’t live near the ocean or have limited access “out of sight out of mind”
- Challenge of measuring effectiveness of efforts
- Creating consistent messages across region & between states
- “Information Overload”
- Instill the value of the ocean in younger generations who have no pre-conceived ideas
- Use existing resources: aquaria, tour boats
- Launch social marketing campaign (frame message to audience, connect to everyday life, use mascots & celebrity, perhaps one issue at a time, connect with schools, use tv & new media, connect to the economy)

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 President's State of the Union Address should include Ocean Policy Task Force, and recognize an audience member who has been involved in ocean regions.
- 002 Ocean is a shared resource - no definite "property" boundaries to define interests/stake in management, use and protection
- 003 Need to get ideas from MARCO to CEQ

- 004 Need to get general public aware of ocean issues, and have them care about it. It's a challenge to educate public and raise awareness. Need to target messages based on people's values.
- 005 Identify who we are speaking to and what we want to say to clearly communicate/reach the audience. How do we get this to stand out above the many other causes
- 006 Public sees ocean as just water.
- 007 Opp: Regional Public Outreach/Meetings in response to governmental actions such as Chesapeake Bay Exec Order
- 008 NGOs have a lot on their plate, fighting a lot of battles. coastal issues are on the back burner and reactionary.
- 009 public access - don't get to the water and don't understand (example - smell of cso outlet)
- 010 Educate non-coastal portion of population about the importance of ocean in their lives.
- 011 Reaching people who aren't traditionally at table: those with less direct connection to nature, and ocean; limited resources to do outreach on large scale, person to person, engage underserved communities of people
- 012 Use/engage non-government venues to convey messages (aquarium, ball games, etc.) They may be listened to more.
- 013 Opp: Use of Aquaria and Museums for outreach - reaching new people and seen as a trusted source
- 014 Tap into the passion of the users of the ocean to support the MARCO, State, Federal and NGO efforts
- 015 Need for regional action to address ocean issues.  
 Needs support to make effort sustainable.  
 Targeted marketing and advertising campaign around these issues.  
 Integrated k-12 education process on ocean literacy and how what we do affects the ocean - requiring curriculum in each state.  
 Look at BMP's for ocean literacy education in each state.
- 016 challenge - consistency of messages, especially across govt agencies
- 017 Opp: use of TV - such as Thank You Ocean Campaigns (challenge is to measure effectiveness)
- 018 Challenges include reaching the majority of the public in all sectors of our society while simultaneously recognizing that the issues of everyday life are more challenging to many people.
- 019 ON land we have a history of land use planning in public space, addressing values, aligning human uses with ecologically compatible places. Not so in ocean.
- 020 A big challenge is that many of the people that need to be educated do not live in close proximity to the coast and need to be informed of how their actions affect the resource.
- 021 challenge -- "out of sight out of mind" -- public is not thinking about it
- 022 Make connections between "non ocean" communities and ocean
- 023 a lot of stakeholders and different interests - balancing - sound science may be opportunity to address
- 024 Important moment to understand importance of ocean ecosystems and promote understanding - what is at stake with industrialization of our oceans? short and long term.
- 025 ID already existing stakeholder groups and develop outreach strategies around off-shore wind-energy, why fishing industry is getting onboard.
- 026 Challenge: how to measure effectiveness of outreach efforts
- 027 The things that many of MARCO priorities are not necessarily high on the priority list of the general population.

- 028 challenge - public interest not where it needs to be, so may be aware but doesn't rank highly among other issues - opportunity is to raise that ranking up
- 029 A significant challenge exists when dealing with the oceans as opposed to, for example, protecting a national treasure like the Grand Canyon.
- 030 Lack of data.  
But, we can start making decisions based on the data we have now.
- 031 Opp: "Street Education" - go to where the people are; Challenge: expensive & measuring effectiveness
- 032 New fishermen (foreign) don't have same values and history of protecting habitat (corals).
- 033 increase awareness of general public -- e.g., environmental ed programs, local NGOs connected to the public
- 034 Break through concerns about economy to reach folks regarding ocean; opportunity is to educate, stress, highlight economic importance of ocean/ocean uses
- 035 Utilize scientific information and evidence to help determine and clarify what the message should be conveyed to the public.
- 036 aggressive marketing, media events, like political campaigns - opportunity to increase importance among people
- 037 Opportunities: this meeting  
Challenges: this meeting
- 038 Opp: Capitalize on the current trend toward "green is good" and move it toward "blue is good"
- 039 Opp: find MARCO's charismatic species & capitalize on it
- 040 Might take a look at "issue-driven" that captures the public's imagination... the energy issue might be the one to get people's attention. Must be thoughtful about a public outreach program.
- 041 Internal disfunction of management community.  
Don't have a grand champion that resonates with the general public. Not just a celebrity. Need some one with authority and power.
- 042 Why should it matter and why should they care?
- 043 challenge to figure out how to impart to younger people value of sea resources in way that gets invested
- 044 Opp: how to use new social networking on internet - facebook, twitter, etc.
- 045 Talk beyond climate change or other concepts that people may resist/not believe to convey good ecological choices and how they impact them personally.
- 046 Opportunities exist because millions of people visit our coasts every year and, yet, it remains a challenge to figure out how to educate and inform those people.
- 047 opportunity to sell idea that there is a wilderness off our coasts, a fantastic local resource environment and energy
- 048 challenge : disconnection of the public with the shoreline and coastline - even in coastal communities
- 049 people don't think about what they can see --
- 050 Public doesn't understand science and scientific process. What is MARCO's role in validating correct and incorrect information?
- 051 lack of utilization of existing ocean education institutions... (Aquarium, parks, etc.)
- 052 Get past the negative with the public - try to find best practices; local heroes that can change perspective

- 053 Defining audiences trying to reach: farmers, kids, business is a challenge; challenge to develop one consistent message
- 054 We don't want to overextend MARCO.  
Regional conglomerate of states.  
Least effective regional caucus is the mid-atlantic right now.
- 055 energy development discussion is the pathway for engaging the public
- 056 challenge: how to make people feel personally responsible -- even when it's so big that people think it can't be harmed
- 057 Help public understand trade offs and understand possible personal sacrifices but opportunities to do better
- 058 challenge: people who live inland are disconnected
- 059 opportunity - high school and middle school curriculum - use historical stories (lobster) to develop educational modules
- 060 Help public wade through the "green thing" -
- 061 lack of an "ocean ethic" - particularly missing in New York - need constituency for the ocean
- 062 Educate legislators to understand the resource
- 063 President's Ocean Policy Taskforce -- Fed opportunity
- 064 need for investment and infrastructure, including may need taxes.
- 065 Opportunities: creating an entity or consortium to bring together diverse stakeholders. Need a specific organization to reach these stakeholders, as there is a vacuum now in doing this, and MARCO could provide the framework to achieve this, or spur such an entities engagement.
- 066 The MARCO Governors have to raise the ocean issues in the priorities of their respective states. Need to push to get appropriate coverage in the papers and news media
- 067 Public attitude towards climate change is determined by political party and religion. If you belong to a group that doesn't believe in it it's hard to change their mind. Group mentality makes it hard. Science has become political. Data is criticized and people think it may be tainted. Not just better
- 068 challenge - so many hard lines between interests/groups - only way to soften to get younger people involved who don't have an agenda
- 069 Broader education for folks even those not in the coastal zone.
- 070 Take advantage of existing museums and aquaria to get message out.
- 071 challenge: social justice aspect - must have unique outreach and efforts for low income communities whose issues may be violence, literacy, schools, etc.
- 072 opportunity - can we learn from the chesapeake on how to socially market the ocean? (Ie. "save the crabs campaign")
- 073 Develop consistent substantive messages (more than slogans) to be heard on a regional basis for education on ocean literacy.
- 074 We need to set standards for what "green choices" means so public can understand what is real and what is not.
- 075 Opportunity: MARCO is probably the best option currently to facilitate the collaboration between interests that must occur. The Oceans are the last frontier.
- 076 challenge: building interconnections between institutions to leverage impact of actions
- 077 Public does not connect ocean health to their every day lives.
- 078 challenge - benefits of ocean are not very tangible, very abstract, benefits of protecting are indirect

- 079 When we are looking at the different ocean issues people already have preformed opinions and it is hard to shift people's opinions.  
Maryland's challenge is that its ocean coast is small in comparison to its Bay shoreline and it is hard to get people to pay attention to ocean issues.
- 080 Develop a coordinated Ocean message that could be used by MARCO and use it to drive awareness.
- 081 Hard to see problems in the ocean just looking from the shore. Need to increase ocean literacy for the general public.
- 082 education campaign should encourage people to make sacrifices (e.g., change behavior)
- 083 opportunity - 50% of population live near the coast - matter of how to connect to daily lives
- 084 challenge - instilling knowledge, understanding, and importance to younger generations (school, girl scouts, etc.)
- 085 Education is important; need campaigns geared to adults and children
- 086 Engage social scientists to identify impediments to conveying ocean issues and then use media/marketing experts to better convey information and engage actions and choices of the public.
- 087 challenge - hear about "collapse" but can still go to the supermarket and get it - need to way to connect
- 088 Challenges: what does it take to bring the fisheries to the table, and overcome the notion that current fisheries management programs are already running well enough.
- 089 Opp: Use "No Child Left Inside" to increase exposure to ocean & coastal issues
- 090 Develop good tools and materials for teachers to use in schools.
- 091 Opportunity: come up with catchy analogies between fish production value of habitat. Like trying to get same amount of corn out of a field after having half of it turned into a mall.
- 092 Opportunity : Need to trigger "emotional response" in public awareness campaign - linked to a tangible easy action
- 093 Elevate profile of MARCO to empower it to do its job
- 094 opportunity - smokey the bear, charley the tuna, crying indian, of past worked - people relate to that kind of marketing
- 095 challenge -- public apathy because those in power unwilling to do the unpopular (e.g. off shore drilling) -- need to discuss/partner to address these issues
- 096 Opp: return to idea of "Sea Scouts" to expose young people to oceans & coasts
- 097 problem - you can't see the bottom of the ocean, hard for people to care about - need more visualization tools to help people connect
- 098 Use National Marine Fisheries Service and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council to address issues consistent with MARCO's goals.
- 099 Opp: educate teachers in order to take it back into the classroom such as NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program
- 100 People are hungry for new experiences, and if we can expose them to the shore, boating, fishing we may be able to get them more involved and engaged in the issues.
- 101 Challenge: people are disconnected from the impact of their everyday behavior (consumption, fertilizer, choices, etc....)
- 102 Overcome public mistrust of science on climate and ocean issues.
- 103 Opportunity: anticipate large scale transition to renewable energy in near future - will elevate need for MARCO



- 104 Challenge, people don't think of oceans too much unless they are impacted by them directly. they don't have a personal connection.  
Opportunity: renewable energy and climate change provide important avenues to facilitate increased awareness of general public to ocean issues and all the other threats to the health. Marco adds important weight.
- 105 What is the pocketbook issue for the public? How does increased expenditure on ocean issues return their tax value?
- 106 Working together to get a brochure about the value of the ocean to hand out into schools. Incorporate watershed education into education standards.
- 107 problem - people don't understand ocean as shared resource the way do with land - need to do a better job of articulating - what one person does affects others - more tangibility
- 108 Brochure or pamphlet about conservation should be handed out with saltwater fishing permits.
- 109 Opp: use of technology to connect classrooms to vessels
- 110 problem - the way we describe the ocean is so technical - need to articulate stories in lay person terms
- 111 Challenges - problems originate from far away, from other regions, watersheds, atmospheric; don't see immediate response; everyone owns it but noone owns it, so who takes responsibility; range of regulatory bodies and players, overlapping jurisdictional issues
- 112 Create a campaign, PR, Advertising - Need to connect people to the national parks and hi-light the connection between those parks and the ocean ie. water trails
- 113 There are a lot of impediments to raising awareness to ocean issues. Jacque Cousteu in the 60's, Sylvia Earle are great examples and there are others. We need to capitalize on these, particularly those that bring ocean issues into the classrooms (ie., COSEE, BWet).
- 114 Challenge is mutual understanding of the metrics and acceptance of the metrics used to manage the fisheries.
- 115 Campaign to put together existing education providers (tour boat operators) to show people the value of oceans.
- 116 Opp: use consumer-based education to increase support for ocean health
- 117 Challenge: Lack of value of people have on the ocean, and they don't understand the value of ocean and natural resources to everyday quality of life.
- 118 use marco to continue the discussion among the states to move issues, priorities, etc. forward
- 119 Opportunity : Connect people through seafood they eat (2-3 sustainable local species : striped bass, etc..)
- 120 environmental community needs much more information about the costs and value of the natural resources, quantification - Latest data is 2004
- 121 Challenge - educate and complete actions through unique approachest o grab peoples attention; interesting stories that we can mine to portray issues (march of penguins, smokey the bear, celebrity spokespeople)
- 122 Opportunity: climate change is a unifying issue getting national attention that can be tapped into to spur more interest in oceans through discussions of renewables and sea level rise.
- 123 Competing information that needs to be put out to the public and they can get overwhelmed.  
Simple statements on important challenges for public.  
Present in context of opportunities not just challenges.  
Show results: return on investment.  
accurate data, coalitions, presentaitons, etc.

PR campaigns

- 124 Draw on regional ocean celebrities (Cousteaus, Bob Ballard) to help promote issues. Have a Bob Ballard special on offshore canyons.
- 125 Google ocean mapping.. get Google involved. Celebrity spokespeople.. e.g. Ted Danson, Leonardo DiCaprio
- 126 Opp: How to tap into imagination of next generations to generate support - (such as NASA & space for previous generations)
- 127 Opportunity : There used to be a robust clamming/fishing industry - and those jobs are lost - potential to rebuild in order to reconnect?
- 128 The public is unaware that the midatlantic coast is a vibrant and productive ecosystem. They are unaware, for example, that the spot they go to to build sand castles and eat hot dogs also supports plovers.
- 129 challenge - haven't identified the specific actions for people to do
- 130 Mapping re: seal-level rise. Need a fine detail Google type map that identifies peoples homes. Impacts level of personal commitment.
- 131 the public needs to understand the value (monetary) of the actions taken or not taken (e.g., cost benefit analysis)
- 132 Hard to get people to know that corals and canyons actually exist off the Mid-Atlantic. Place-based experiences are great, but can't reach everyone that way. Aquariums and visualizations have a role to play.
- 133 Public access can be a challenge - getting to the beach, parking when you get there. If people don't have the connection it's hard to get them to care.
- 134 Passage of Climate Change legislation will drive people to think about responding to consequences of how to implement (e.g. where will we put those turibines?)
- 135 opportunity - work with/through NOAA education office as forum
- 136 Event driven messaging - do a better job of framing events during natural disasters - Scenario planning and have coordinated communications/messaging with the policy solution. ie. water quality, brown tides
- 137 Opportunity: economic impact of Tourism, and this industry can help facilitate greater attention and awareness.  
  
Opportunity: begin creating a conversation on coastal renewables to facilitate a first step of getting more attention to issues and promoting siting of offshore renewable energy.
- 138 SeaGrant has a role in raising awareness. Smithsonian is conspicuously absent. They need to be involved.
- 139 Marine protected areas may restrict use of ocean areas and could lead to decreasing interest by the public.
- 140 New interest in ocean issues creates opportunities for education and for seeing convergence of issues and areas of interconnection & coordination (as in this conference)
- 141 Opportunity - lots of groups already using waterfronts as classrooms, could pull together, develop common curriculum
- 142 Problem is poor public understanding of the economics of renewable energy; conventional wisdom is that renewables are nice idea but will cost a lot of money; some distorted messages about costs and benefits of renewable energy
- 143 Seek to develop consistent messages across regions and develop mechanisms for the private sector to be incentivized to participate and contribute to those messages as well as the national park service to be involved in that process.
- 144 Head boat captains have a lot of knowledge about where coral and valuable habitats exist.

- 145 Get Governors to be champion's of Ocean Protection.
- 146 Challenge: lack of ocean access prevents understanding - especially in urban areas, difficult for average citizen to have access to waterfront.
- 147 challenge - things trying to protect more than one action - makes difficult to figure out what to tell people to do
- 148 Challenge: How to measure public support; address different audiences. Simple soundbites that impact behavioral changes backed by real science.
- 149 National Geographic underwater photographers can film hi-def video. A picture is worth a thousand words.
- 150 Opportunity: make connection to job creation potential for renewables; challenge: limited staff resources available
- 151 Opportunity: National Attention and presidential interest is helping facilitate greater awareness and a change to capitalize on this momentum.
- 152 challenge - prior generations of people who "ran away from" the oceans, waterfronts
- 153 Need to educate the decision makers - there is a monetary value, that it means something to the economy and the state.
- 154 Influence the national park services to educate the general public regarding "climate friendly parks" and extend those initiatives to all parks in states and cities.
- 155 Challenge: identify the cost of not doing anything to solve existing problems. It's not cheaper to do nothing, i.e, status quo.
- 156 State of Delaware has new ROV, getting good video.
- 157 Challenge and Opportunity: creating a national energy plan that will guide efforts and siting
- 158 challenge - some communities close to water but don't have good way to get to it
- 159 Challenge - competing with big issues, immediate issues that are very important to John Q public
- 160 Opportunity: Use Aquarium Network to communicate local ocean issues across the Mid-Atlantic Region
- 161 Challenge: preaching to the choir. Need to reach people who have not heard our message. Develop messages to specific demographics.
- 162 Many different agencies & organizations with separate data pools; need central location, more availability, sharing & transparency of data.
- 163 Challenge: creating regional entities and state and local framework through a national ocean policy.
- 164 tying economic benefits to conservation/ management efforts, and to a productive ocean.  
Understand range of ecological/ecosystem services.  
How much can the ocean handle..  
"Thankyouocean.org" California ocean campaign is a good model for something we can use in our region.  
consistant messaging.
- 165 Although challenges with readiness of technologies, technology develops very quickly. Gain a little bit of technology every day but it will take a little while be technologically ready.
- 166 Need to link watershed to the estuary to the coast to the ocean. What happens upstream affects the resources downstream.
- 167 Opportunity : develop "blue core" of ocean volunteers...

- 168 Need to identify constituents, who visits the shore (even from far away). Target constituency based on demographic info.
- 169 The public has become accustomed to its lost resources. In the New York area, the shell fishing industry is dead 100 years. It died too early. We're used to it being dead.
- 170 A problem exists when we recognize that there is "too much information"/information "overload" and these efforts to educate the general public are competing with the constant bombardment of information from multiple sources, therefore, the message may be more effective if it is generated from more than one state or source.
- 171 A major challenge is figuring out how do we take the passion that is in the room and make it resonate to the general public.
- 172 Opportunity : The oceanic history of the place is rich and the ecosystems are complex - there is a rich story to tell...
- 173 Frame changes in terms of opportunities for the private sector.
- 174 Opportunity: Enlist communications staff from the relevant federal and state agencies to help support development and delivery of effective messages (proceed by survey; social marketing); stress community/personal connections to oceans
- 175 There is no political champion in some/most/all states for ocean issues as there was in Maryland for Chesapeake restoration.
- 176 Opportunity : consider set of ecosystem services that the ocean delivers to people : food, beaches, etc..
- 177 Need to reach voters and elected officials. Campaign to elected officials would look different. And a different campaign targeted to folks inshore who aren't ocean literate. Different messages for different audiences.
- 178 Education is a challenge and an opportunity.
- 179 Disconnect between support for renewable energy and steps in actually making it happen. Folks don't understand process.
- 180 Invite community to participate - beach cleaning, to talks
- 181 Quantify economic benefits of pilot projects and compare to costs of inaction.
- 182 All the governors need to take an active and prominent role in broadcasting MARCO issues.
- 183 Need to include actions people can take on an individual level to help.
- 184 Put more money into education programs in the schools as part of their curriculum - relating to marine education.
- 185 Opportunity : 100% of Chesapeake Bay school kids have to have a "meet the bay" - Opportunity to link to state departments of education...
- 186 Arranging for better public awareness using schools, fishing licenses, brochures of ways public can affect ocean.
- 187 Consensus on few things and focus on those as a region.  
MARCO should take a stand against extractive energy activities and push for renewables.
- 188 People don't care about loss of shellfish because they can purchase at the store.
- 189 Public awareness of the Mid Atlantic resource similar to the public consciousness of the Great Lakes or the Chesapeake.
- 190 Tough and pricey media market
- 191 Need for coordinated messaging, unite around common themes.

- 192 Have a section of the MARCO website dedicated to kids and a section to educators - tools and curriculum's to incorporate
- 193 How do you get consensus on Marine spatial planning and allowed uses in the regional marine environment.
- 194 opportunities: public uses are being impacted: beach closings on the rise, fish stocks decreasing.

## **What are the most important actions to take advantage of the opportunities and address these challenges?**

### **Themes**

- Reach out to high level officials and non-coastal officials – ocean is not just a niche issue
- Focus on visually connecting people to the ocean – e.g., find charismatic species or spokespeople to represent the ocean, compare offshore canyons to Grand Canyon
- Connect the ocean to everyday life - human health, what people buy or eat, the homes they live in, jobs creation, other values
- Develop ways to educate people at an early age: school curricula should include ocean awareness
- Connect ocean stewardship as part of the “green” movement that is increasingly popular (measuring actions based on how they impact the environment)
- Work with communication specialists, education associations, institutions like aquaria, and other partners to build on existing efforts and develop a communication strategy for the region
- Increase access to the ocean and educate non-coastal residents who visit the coastal area, such as beachgoers and tourists

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 Once you get access - what you do with - education in school curriculum, especially in urban areas
- 002 Use MARCO to educate government officials (state and local) who are not from coastal areas about the impact of non-coastal activities on the ocean and vice-versa
- 003 People love the oceans. Use charismatic mega fauna to take advantage of what will resonate.
- 004 Great opportunity to excite people about what is in the ocean. The oceans regulate our climate, provide oxygen we breath, etc. If we take the canyons and visually depict them through pictures could be exciting to the general public.
- 005 Use social scientists and their research as well as marketing professionals to figure out how to make the oceans the functional equivalent of the Grand Canyon.
- 006 Make a campaign directed to people's impulse for consumption (example, ChesBay blue crab campaign) - make more specific to them

- 007 Public service broadcasts connecting the ocean resource to every-day life. Little Suzie stepped on a hypodermic needle! Little Jimmy ate some lead sand!
- 008 Create such an entity to bring stakeholders to the table to advance collaboration on ocean conservation issues
- 009 Provide/find sufficient funding for groups like coastal learning centers.
- 010 Public school system, and especially science standards should include ocean science in all public schools. You can teach all levels of high school science in the context of the ocean.
- 011 Advocacy for Smart Growth, Smart house, having an energy efficient house
- 012 Form careful partnerships with businesses - restauranteurs, recreational fishing - to explain the nexus between ocean health and the goods and services provided.
- 013 Begin educating children at the earliest levels regarding issues of significance to the oceans and the organizations and groups like MARCO with abundance of knowledge should be included in curriculum development. For example ,teaching that our oceans and the natural, valuable resources associated with our oceans are not "infinite" or limitless.
- 014 There are education programs that exist but there is an opportunity to expand them to support MARCO objectives.
- 015 Integrate ocean literacy as a standard for education.
- 016 Have MARCO well defined, prepared and ready to respond to increased demands on ocean: define structure
- 017 Need more funding for education. Difficult to measure impact of education. Develop national curriculum.
- 018 MARCO should organize and coordinate the construction of a regional communication strategy for addressing these challenges.
- 019 Take advantage of people's interest in wildlife by informing them of what wildlife use their coast as habitat. If people know there's a plover there, they will assign value to it continuing to be there.
- 020 Reconsider federal governance structure; i.e., create Department of Oceans
- 021 Advocate for new resources to support existing education programs.  
MARCO could help to identify existing education programs and support scale-up.
- 022 Marketing campaign that influences public support.
- 023 Use the opportunities to educate people when they are physically present in the coastal areas and educate people regarding the connections between actions taken across different regions and how such actions impact upon resources in other regions.
- 024 MARCO could sponsor inspiring speakers to educate adults.
- 025 creating a good national Ocean Policy
- 026 creating a national energy plan.
- 027 Partner with entertainment industry to educate kids and adults (e.g., Finding NEMO, Little Mermaid)
- 028 Collaboration is essential for addressing these challenges.
- 029 MARCO could support a civilian ocean corps.
- 030 Follow through on the US Commission Policy on Ocean Literacy - no need to reinvent the wheel
- 031 MARCO needs to have a focused staff to collect data, coordinate efforts and to report on accomplishments
- 032 Gathering of outreach/communications experts to generate a regional strategy/plan
- 033 Increase public education and stakeholder involvement.

- Real meaningful public participation from grassroots level in decision making.
- 034 Develop multiple messages that relate to multiple constituencies.
  - 035 Getting messages communicated through smaller groups may be more effective in getting the message across and getting citizens involved.
  - 036 Range of ecosystem services.
  - 037 Work with associations focused on public outreach/education such as NMEA (National Marine Educator's Association)
  - 038 Increase access to the water - important to get them to care about, leads to further action
  - 039 Mobilize across MARCO with educational and public relations campaign; at the sound bite level to be competitive;
  - 040 Educating the larger community on solutions - Here are things you, your community, your local leaders can do to help.
  - 041 create vision for outreach - such as Chesapeake Bay "America's Treasured Landscape"
  - 042 Need to link terrestrial and ocean folk. Don't limit ourselves.
  - 043 Find and publicize local hero concept to connect with public
  - 044 Get Google to provide layered information on Google maps to teach people about oceans
  - 045 Coordinating data and facilitating translation into forms comprehensible & useful to public and to government & planning agencies.
  - 046 Convene a blue ribbon panel to develop an agenda for ocean literacy.
  - 047 Find congressperson somewhere who sees political value in championing ocean issues.
  - 048 Reuse water that is getting dumped into oceans and bays. Create business opportunities, frame in terms of job creation.
  - 049 Tie environmental well-being, to community well-being and economic well-being in coordinated public regional communication.
  - 050 Many interested entities but may not be working well enough together (Foundations - Packard, Pew, Turner, NFWF); add them as partners so they can work together and with MARCO; finding the appropriate role;
  - 051 National curriculum K-12 federally required - oceans literacy campaign
  - 052 MARCO should create a broad based public education/social marketing initiative to connect people to the ocean ecosystem, using renewable energy, climate change, charismatic species, or other compelling issue to kick this off.
  - 053 Marco should identify what actions are being taken already -- why are they unique, what gaps are they going to fill, etc.
  - 054 NOAA Develop relationship with Dept of Education for oceans education
  - 055 create place-based name for special area in the MARCO region that people/educators/outreach can galvanize behind
  - 056 Feds should provide support for engaging professional social marketing experts to help define and promote messages that work well (save the crabs, then eat them!)
  - 057 New governors in NJ and VA can be sold on the MARCO issues.
  - 058 Need clearing house for vetting data - lots of data come in from different sources that may have their own slant; need clearing house to make sure people have vetted data
  - 059 MARCO should give stakeholders some advance notice and opportunity to allow them to become actively involved and MARCO should be actively involved in all major events, forums, or initiatives that

affect oceans, climate change and further the objectives that have been identified as well as learning what other areas are doing.

- 060 MARCO needs to facilitate public engagement through working with aquaria and other institutions that have the ability to reach the broader public.
- 061 Empower nongovernmental orgs (nonprofits, schools, etc) to deliver message
- 062 Education of the public and decision-makers about ocean issues beyond the coastline.
- 063 marine spatial planning is the gap area where MARCO can make it a priority and have a major impact
- 064 MARCO should take a leadership role in educating the public regarding specific focus areas.
- 065 commit money to advertising and marketing..
- 066 Get the Governors engage - it has to be their priority and program (MARCO)
- 067 use current existing monuments/sanctuaries/sites to galvanize public understanding
- 068 visual images in advertising
- 069 Who is the message coming from? If it's the gov't it may not be listened to as much as from another source.
- 070 Energy bills should be tailored to show how their money is used to support energy efficiency and renewables.
- 071 MARCO to create public outreach/education subcommittee to (1) find out what efforts are out there and (2) develop plan
- 072 Connecting technical and academic work to the public at large, including making sure it is reviewed and accessible.



# **ONGOING REGIONAL COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION**

## **Gem**

- Governors of NY, DE, & MD write welcome to MARCO letter to new governors of NJ & VA

## **What kinds of things must be done to support ongoing regional collaboration to achieve the Shared Actions?**

### **Themes**

- Create & share a strategy to continually bring new elected officials up-to-date
- Demonstrate achievements, success and progress
- Formalize MARCO w/ dedicated funding, staff & work teams – insure that MARCO survives through changing administrations
- Form smaller workgroups of stakeholders & state staff to work through greater details of actions/theme areas
- Have common goals, vision & benchmarks across interests groups and the region
- Identify key players and build a constituency of support e.g. “Friends of MARCO” – take advantage of interested parties and their strengths to maximize mutual benefits
- Maintain opportunities for stakeholder engagement and allow for partners to change as issues adapt – convene meetings in affordable yet central locations
- Create a user-friendly portal to share information

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 more funding
- 002 Sustaining level of interest/engagement of Governors since Govs lead this effort. Esp. with new governors on board. Raise profile at National Governors Assoc. through comparison with other regional organizations. Becomes common interest with all governors.
- 003 formalize MARCO, make it recognized by federal gov for continued funding and support
- 004 Need to show value added through the collaboration, and that it is not repetitious of other groups.
- 005 need to have accomplishments resulting from funding, legislative initiatives, MARCO's efforts
- 006 centralized coordinator role - dedicated staff - supported by various states - who is the key individual accountable? how are they funded

- 007 Regular engagement with stakeholders through meetings and/or outreach materials, web.
- 008 each state should have a team designated to work on MARCO
- 009 Need a user-friendly communication portal.
- 010 Leverage new resources.
  - Bring existing capacity to table.
  - Develop efficient means to share data/information.
- 011 Need to periodically showcase successes to the public.
- 012 finding the common nexus for mutual benefits: environmental, economic and social benefits.
- 013 MARCO needs to connect with results of Ocean Policy Task Force to get funding right away.
- 014 Hold issue based meetings/dialogues to drill down on issue areas (working groups, etc.)
- 015 build political support particularly with newly elected officials.
- 016 State government teams working on MARCO should be on web site -- list the people working on MARCO
- 017 Need dedicated staffing and support and targeted work teams to work on specific issues.
- 018 MARCO needs to have some dedicated permanent staff to be points of contact for all the collaborators and keep the organization moving!!!
- 019 Financial incentives - federal funding to MARCO, which can be shared with states to give them the capacity for collaboration (like dedicated staff) Example - Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- 020 Allocate resources including dedicated staff to MARCO and its activities.
- 021 If the states are working on this, there needs to be more communication with other states about what is discussed and accomplished.
- 022 Each state must create staff and fund a MARCO Office (separate from a specific agency), which would coordinate all state agencies efforts on ocean conservation and report to the Governor as well.
- 023 centralized list linked to websites organized in categories under academia, nonprofits, etc - where do you go for the information - potential action points - centralized to reduce overwhelm - listing all the players, laws, resources, databases
- 024 MAke sure "whats in it for me" is answered.
- 025 MARCO needs to have more structure and authority, be able to make recommendations. Panels within MARCO.
- 026 Need federal money.
- 027 Ensure in-coming governors have equal buy-in and support of MARCO
- 028 To have a cohesive message.
  - To identify the key decision makers and opportunities at federal level.
  - Advancing regional priorities in response to federal priorities.
- 029 Work within separate states to continue the discussions of issues and objectives then periodically "meet" in combined regional groups via Webinars or conference calls.
- 030 involve MMS staff & fisheries & state energy managers more in meetings like this
- 031 Federal Authority - help MARCO to be more secure/consistent across gubernatorial administrations
- 032 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (North Atlantic) - coordinating with MARCO - providing info and support fo MARCO - helping MARCO
- 033 Need to be thoughtful about working collaboratively - don't have to do everything together

- 034 What will happen when 2 of the governor's are replaced in a few months.
- 035 This is a Governor-based collaboration, and we need to ensure there will be public participation and accountability in the ongoing process.
- 036 set timeframe for actions - be specific and follow-through
- 037 MARCO needs to provide funding for meetings for people to get together to drive action agendas on important issues that need to get done.
- 038 Governors change - we need to ascertain and renew each Governor's commitment to the Council.
- 039 develop two-way information sharing
- 040 Need to identify actions that are common denominators. Identify data gaps.
- 041 communicate progress of MARCO meetings (done by state staff) to others who are interested (stakeholders). Regular way to communicate -- List serve
- 042 NGOs need to see their input/interest incorporated in the process in order to continue to participate
- 043 Need common goals/vision that all partners support
- 044 Have another list of "friends of MARCO" to ensure others interested in working together have that opportunity - to work together and be kept informed.
- 045 each state should have a state meeting in preparation for the larger regional meeting...
- 046 We need to ensure that the regional collaboration aspect of success stories is emphasized.
- 047 each state to take the lead on one particular issue and then convene larger groups to drill more in-depth into that issue & work collaboratively around it
- 048 states take the info out on a more local level - more initiative from state and local govts to more local legislative bodies
- 049 Need workgroups/task forces for goals and leaders for each theme, someone to be held accountable
- 050 Increasing communication between key agency staff on specific issues in other states. Have each state identify key players within the MARCO framework and share with other states.
- 051 Some groups have interest in one or two of the priority issues, not all four. Folks should be able to choose their level of participation targeted to the issues so that it's not all or nothing.
- 052 Create opportunities for ongoing involvement for all stakeholders (for example, working groups on each of the MARCO priorities & actions) which could include but not be limited to participants in today's program.
- 053 support/advocate for funding for MARCO
- 054 We need a federal incentive to state Governors - for the Governors to receive a federal message that regional collaboration is critical.
- 055 Keep track of the progress of each state in achieving the "initial actions" that the states have committed to achieving in the MARCO report; in other words, FOLLOW UP don't just let these "action" items linger with no accountability. The results of any conference calls or reports on progress should be disseminated so people such as everyone in attendance today can be kept in the loop.
- 056 hold local-stakeholder meetings on a state by state basis... - bring technology of this meeting out...
- 057 Governors offices must be very involved.
- 058 clear goals and benchmarks
- 059 Organize committees formed by stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, corporations, military etc.) targeted toward MARCO initiatives.
- 060 Having each partner responsible for a theme - division of labor/responsibility (like Gulf of Mexico)

- 061 talk about MARCO to other conferences and gatherings of water-related or ocean-related associations and groups
- 062 determine what structure MARCO will/should use in order to meet its goals, level of communication, work groups, committees, etc.
- 063 Rather do a couple things really well - keep goals/actions simple.
- 064 need for dedicated funding
- 065 There needs to be an on-going commitment to stakeholder engagement for the long-term.
- 066 Stakeholders need to feel like they are actively engaged in developing and implementing to keep involved - fed, state, ngo, etc.
- 067 determine how partners can work within the MARCO structure to advance the shared actions
- 068 develop organizational framework for MARCO within each state, first look at other regional initiatives and how they have organized to follow the good models.
- 069 MARCO must have adequate funding. May be possible to have a dedicated funding source (e.g. through state public initiative).
- 070 need for horizontal collaboration at Federal Level - including engaging military, army corps, upstream-relevant groups, Fish and Wildlife, NOA
- 071 use web-based resources to pool members together...
- 072 MARCO needs to focus on information collection and dissemination.
- 073 Identify How stakeholders can take action on goals that have already been identified.
- 074 how to ensure MARCO survives political changes in Governors
- 075 How to set up a process for engaging the public and stakeholders in designing the next action plan.
- 076 alignment of geographic focus areas across agencies
- 077 MARCO should seek federal funding to support its efforts.
- 078 Need to find a way to get through "red tape" of coordinating among agencies and with funding
- 079 How do we keep tabs on who is doing what and what the levels of accomplishment are.
- 080 including key federal leaders in meetings, discussions such as SIMOR, Interagency Task Force, etc.
- 081 regular meetings (annual of whole MARCO) and also state wide MARCO meetings so more stakeholders can participate and learn
- 082 MARCO must develop recommendations on structure/framework so states can identify appropriate staff leads on the various issue areas.
- 083 Have the governor that initiated MARCO send a letter to the new governors welcoming them, informing them of MARCO and encouraging their continued support.
- 084 involve group of NGOs from region to assist in MARCO shared actions
- 085 institutionalize MARCO.
- 086 Get out in front of "push back" against green initiatives and "big gov't" - get cohesive block of states that speak as one - need big push early on to support even without all of the details figure out - can't afford to fracture
- 087 get good mapping done and data for region - regional policy questions on renewable energy.  
Support ongoing regional collaboration.  
Marine spatial planning - agreement on vision for offshore uses.
- 088 As governors change, make sure each new governor's transition team knows MARCO is important

- 089 High level governors buy-in critical
- 090 Form a non-profit coalition to deal with issues that state/gov. cannot get involved in....
- 091 Articulated strong and broad support WITH statement of need for funding
- 092 expanding MARCO to include federal steering committee and NGO subgroup
- 093 Need one point person/office of people to guide MARCO efforts in each state. Need to identify the expertise that will be needed to achieve success in each of the issue areas. Stakeholders must also have a voice
- 094 work with existing regional collaborations such as federal agencies who regularly meet regionally
- 095 Bring in more NGOs and industry (Include PORTS and shipping ) into MARCO -- make it about economics and not just "tree huggers"
- 096 Have a communications portal for the 4 Goal areas.... ie. a list-serve, for people that want to know what's going on. A separate list for each of the Goal areas. Determine best tool.
- 097 There are lots of people who would be supportive that are not in this conversation - need to get them involved
- 098 NGOs can be watchdog to keep MARCO moving, transparent
- 099 connect sectors (government, NGO, industry) via MARCO themes through convening sectors together around a particular issue
- 100 Ensure Marine Fisheries Commissions and fisheries stakeholders must be included in discussions to be properly educated
- 101 encourage federal money to support this regional effort, hire staff, etc.
- 102 Need to improve communication outwards about MARCO for future events - "mailing lists?"
- 103 create opportunities for NGOs to create a platform that NGOs & MARCO can both advance
- 104 identified partners who can be tapped for their expertise - provide MARCO with a list of what they have to offer to provide coordination - offering specific resources as part of a larger list to coordinate activities (who has boats that can be used for research activities, etc)
- 105 Report should be widely disseminated....
- 106 MARCO must develop specific consistent messaging to educate and inform the public and other interests.
- 107 information on each participating organization's areas of concern and expertise.
- 108 MARCO website should be feature rich, and provide materials and research to web users.
- 109 create MARCO declaration for public education that MARCO states & partners can endorse & move forward
- 110 We need a set of targets and indicators so that we can evaluate the progress and success of MARCO
- 111 Annual reporting meeting on indicators/achievements - performance evaluation/accountability
- 112 structure various levels of possible participation depending on relative commitment, engagement, interest of various groups
- 113 ensure MARCO is not an added bureaucratic layer, that it doesn't duplicate others' work - specifically Marine Spatial Planning, set up systems that allow ongoing work through changes in administration
- 114 Improved communications across states/agencies/MARCO/etc. May benefit from a clearly defined resource that stays updated regarding who's involved from what agencies to help coordinate info and avoid duplication.
- 115 Need to consolidate action on concrete ideas/ priorities, don't want to take too long or you might lose people.

- 116 A web site for MARCO that coordinates information: a one-stop-shopping resource for information.
- 117 Figure out mechanisms to address genuine conflicts between states who are likely to take the approach "what's in it for me" before they agree to collaborate on a project.
- 118 Expedite efficiency - look for areas of overlap and redundancy and minimize those.  
Optimization of resources.
- 119 create networks of resources around the 4 themes (either use existing networks or create regional ones)

## **Who else needs to be better represented in the regional conversation and how should we bring them in?**

### **Themes**

- Other federal agencies, Congressional delegations
- Commercial industry and user groups - commercial fishing, maritime/shipping, wind energy, oil/gas, utilities, insurance industry
- Recreational users and related businesses - fishing, tourism associations, chambers of commerce, marinas
- Academic and learning institutions, associations - colleges, aquaria, educators associations
- Local governments, other state governments (i.e. Pennsylvania, Washington, DC)
- Diverse audiences - different ethnic groups, economic backgrounds
- Military
- Foundations
- On-shore groups - planning agencies, watershed associations, agriculture
- .....and many, many more!

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 User Groups: IE Rec and Commercial Anglers, Charter Boat Captains, Ports,
- 002 Environmental Education Organizations IE Nature Centers, Aquaria, etc.
- 003 fishing community
- 004 energy sector - not represented...
- 005 Key federal groups: DOT, DOD, Coast Guard, FEMA (via invitation)
- 006 Additional Academic Institutions from each state
- 007 Industry & other user groups: energy, fisheries

- 008 Ensure collaboration/inclusion with Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
- 009 People of color
- 010 Next generation/younger generation
- 011 MARCO should have in-state meetings to allow for these additional organizations to attend
- 012 Meet with individual user groups in their home territory (ex: maritime industry in NY/NJ)
- 013 Port Authorities, River Pilots
- 014 Chamber of Commerce
- 015 Under represented fisheries interest. Very bad idea to schedule this meeting at the same time as the MAFMC meeting.
- 016 Local Governments
- 017 Private industry. Shipping, cargo. Military, DOD. Dredging operations.
- 018 Include state assembly's in process and engage them (not just governors office) - float resolution for each state assembly to enagage them.
- 019 local governments, local elected officials, recreational fishing, recreational divers, ecotourism, swimmers, boaters, K-12 educators, congressional delegtions or staff  
Other regional ocean councils
- 020 Tourism, recreationalists.
- 021 recreational/commercial fishing reps need to be more involved
- 022 Smithsonian. Baltimore and National Aquariums.
- 023 Diversify locations of meetings - have other states besides NY host event.
- 024 More colleges and universities involved in renewable energy research.
- 025 United Boatmen, CCA, RFA (fishing interest groups). Seafood industry, more seafood processing.
- 026 industry (port facilities, shipping, etc.) needs to be involved
- 027 expand how people meet and encourage other states to do the same and pull together these ideas
- 028 state-wide groups (water monitoring groups, watershed groups,
- 029 The recreational and commercial fishermen/fisherwomen/fisherpersons should be represented and the hospitality industry should be involved.
- 030 Timing of the meeting was bad for academics.
- 031 Fishermen, marina owners: they can't afford time off with no money to attend a meeting like this: deploy smaller meetings/info gathering/facilitations near where they work: i.e., one at the Jersey Shore, one on Long Island, etc. This could be one day, or a couple of evenings (after work)
- 032 REcreational fisheries
- 033 oil and gas
- 034 webinars from different sites  
have a mixed group
- 035 shipping and port community
- 036 Pennsylvania & DC government & populations
- 037 Tribal governments, industry, military, ordinary people, local government,
- 038 coast guard, navy, military
- 039 natural resource extraction (e.g. fishing)

- 040 bring in recreational groups - Surfrider, beach-goers, boating, etc...
- 041 More energy industry representatives, oil & gas and all renewable energy stakeholders should be involved.
- 042 FERC
- 043 energy development (wind, natural gas, current)
- 044 government agencies should be reaching out to groups not here
- 045 invite various stakeholders, include background on market.
- 046 more Marine industry / dredging / pipelines /shipping/ marine services
- 047 foundations focused on oceans
- 048 Get Governors involved at meetings ! Make this important and in the press
- 049 Port & Harbor government organizations & industries, transit, shipping, tourism industry, insurance industry, FEMA
- 050 whalewatching, scuba diving, beachgoers, other recreational ocean users
- 051 Get feedback from the groups that didn't attend to find out why they didn't come so that can be addressed at future interactions.
- 052 fisherman don't get paid to go to meeting...timing is important.  
     more energy people need to be at table.  
     tourism, real-estate, insurance.  
     might need sub-groups.  
     FEMA and FERC
- 053 Stronger representation from commercial & recreational fishing industry & organizations
- 054 In addition to telling stakeholders about these initiatives, it is important to let them know how they can connect, for example, give the MARCO web address to them so they can become engaged.
- 055 urban planning
- 056 Shipping industry - their engagement should be incentivized by an interest in maintaining their routes and channels in spatial planning efforts.
- 057 need to keep in mind that some of the organizations not here and who should be may not have environmental responsibilities so they shouldn't be given an equal vote to agencies that do
- 058 maritime transportation
- 059 maritime transportation
- 060 A media action plan should be developed so MARCO can get the word out to as many stakeholders as possible.
- 061 Port authorities - they should be incentivized to engage in order to address the impacts of sea level rise and maximize the efficiency of their commitments.
- 062 staffers for congressional districts and state legislative staff  
     bring them in by inviting them
- 063 Dept of Defense
- 064 Fishermen
- 065 Coastal America - invites corporate donations on this issue, involves aquaria, deals with coastal habitats
- 066 Recreationalists



- 067 Tourism industry
- 068 USGS, MACOORA, NPS, Dep. of Education, Dep. of Energy, Consortium for Ocean Regional Education, Shipping Industry, Port Authorities, Commercial & Recreational Fishing, State & Federal Emergency Management, Planning Boards
- 069 state agencies who are related to MARCO
- 070 State emergency management agencies.  
Chipping and commerce.  
\$50 fee could restrict some people (especially those not getting re-inbursed from agencies)  
Planning agencies should be represented.
- 071 Educators - approach the school systems in the area
- 072 More racial, ethnic, economic diversity
- 073 Cabinet level interest/involvement
- 074 Ports
- 075 Agriculture
- 076 Navy, NASA, and Coast Guard - Important to include the Navy as they possess significant data sets (spatial and species-specific).
- 077 other feds - FEMA, more Army Corps,
- 078 Shipping and DOT
- 079 Shippers, Dept. of Defense, Marine Construction and Marine Trades, Fisheries Commission, Local Governments, Avian interests. Recational and commerical fishing, tourism and recreation entities
- 080 Industry - wind, shipping, oil companies/refineries
- 081 Green entrepreneurs who could help identify creative solutions
- 082 Developing working groups
- 083 Local Governments
- 084 Pay for them to come
- 085 Companies that make wind turbines (GE?)
- 086 Local
- 087 Academic institutions - researchers/scientists
- 088 It is important to invite members of the media to in-depth workshops so they truly understand the issues they're reporting on. Targeted media personnel should be invited, if not a general press release issued. There are pros and cons to including them throughout the process, or waiting to include them after consensus on priorities and actions has been reached. (This is in addition to our own media outreach efforts that should be undertaken, through popular mediums such as Facebook, etc.)
- 089 Public utilities
- 090 Buisness interests, econonmic development agencies.
- 091 Insurance industry!!!!
- 092 We need to identify other at-risk stakeholders - particularly the insurance industry (both insurers and re-insurers) and individual home-owners.
- 093 Greater inclusion of Academia, Fisheries council - commercial fisheries, Industry, Coast guard, developers, local officials, insurance and tourism.
- 094 National Charter Boat Operators Assoc. (NCBO)

- 095 Watershed associations and agriculture
- 096 Insurance industry - create a specific venue on specific issues that they would be most interested in.
- 097 We need to ensure fishermen are part of the dialogue. Part of the reason they have not attended similar meetings in the past is a distrust that these sorts of efforts will not result in area or season closures. In addition, they're individual contractors thus they aren't paid for such attendance.
- 098 To bring in the many stakeholders listed, MARCO must set up meetings with specific interests to brief them on the initiative and solicit their buy in and feedback.
- 099 We need to have oil and gas at the table.
- 100 We need to include recreational fishermen at the table (in addition to commercial fishing interests).
- 101 educational organizations ! example: state wide organizations of Science Teachers, etc
- 102 Got to some of their forums and invite them.
- 103 Have more transparency on data to get more buy in from groups not involved now
- 104 MARCO needs a broad education initiative with interest groups within each state about what MARCO is, it's key principles, objectives, etc, and why people need to be involved.
- 105 Get some "influencer" representatives to reach out to others in their stakeholder group.
- 106 Diversity -- we need a diversity of cultures, for example, fishermen
- 107 Local Civic Groups, local organizations.
- 108 more professors
- 109 Representation of Universities and marine science programs.
- 110 broader outreach generally
- 111 Other Sierra Club chapters?
- 112 Seafood industry
- 113 your mom

## **How would you or your organization prefer to remain involved with MARCO to advance the Shared Actions discussed this morning?**

### **Themes**

- Participate in MARCO Task Forces and Work Groups
- Target organization's involvement on 1 or 2 of the issues
- Sponsor meetings in each State, local meetings
- Share information through phone conferences, website, list-serves
- Provide support and advocate for MARCO and related actions, legislation
- Provide input and relevant information during the decision-making process
- Find local ways to apply the regional priorities

- ...and many good recommendations on how MARCO can help keep you involved!

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 many NGOS and industry others would be willing to serve on Task Forces for MARCO -- help shape mission,
- 002 be able to participate in specific issues, not all or nothing involvement in MARCO. Some priorities are more important to some groups.
- 003 have working groups targeted to interested people based on topics
- 004 have phone conferences to share information on a regular basis
- 005 have meetings within each state to get more stakeholders involved
- 006 Take ideas back to our organizations, see which priorities complement our programs.
- 007 first identify interest around 4 or 5 issue areas and then set up a process who are interested in the same area and have listserv
- 008 will make sure MARCO is informed about LCC's - (Landmark Conservation) to see if there is collaboration - Scott Johnston USFWS
- 009 email...
- 010 MSP is a good way forward. Good to get all the groups together at the table even if we don't all agree.
- 011 New York State Marine Science Consortium (Dowling College - John Tanacredi)
- 012 via a forum where we can hold our state accountable to the larger goals expressed by MARCO -- maybe quarterly updates with regional rep
- 013 Organizations with email addresses of constituents will disseminate information via email to their memberships.
- 014 Choose locations that are less expensive: the hotel costs in NYC may limit future participation by smaller agencies/groups.
- 015 Electronic communication, ability to respond to data calls
- 016 TNC is helping with mapping, developing data, making it available in 5 state region
- 017 websites - access to information - links to other resources related to other activities
- 018 NGOs can support federal funding of MARCO (advocate and lobby for MARCO)
- 019 identify need areas and then send out opportunities for participants to participate
- 020 Meetings located in remote areas may also limit participation, especially higher level officials who might attend for short period of times.
- 021 Participation in sub-groups
- 022 Monmouth University - Urban Coast Institute should be able to help out...
- 023 use regional coordination group to determine level of involvement on various issues
- 024 please keep us (attendees, stakeholders) informed
- 025 Rutgers University - Coastal Threads...
- 026 Members of private nonprofits and NGO's can lobby whereas governmental officials cannot; therefore, it is important for nonprofits to reinforce with their members the value of participating to obtain MARCO'S objectives via these conduits.
- 027 Keep MARCO website updated so people will stay engaged and updated on topics.

- 028 create subcommittees/work groups around the themes & shared actions - to identify specific proposals for MARCO principles to consider
- 029 MARCO must have individual, focused stakeholder meetings on the MARCO initiative to illicit Specific feedback from those interest, and make transcripts available for the rest of MARCO.
- 030 Clean VA Waterways and similiar state wide groups can take materials and move them to the smaller watershed level.
- 031 If we are not a part of the decesion making then there isn't a point. We don't want to be involved after the important decesions are made.  
  - Clear formal mechanism for engagement.
  - External advocate for regional governance, and academic resources.
- 032 some states in MARCO (VA and MD) have Water Monitoring Councils -- use these to futher involve people in MARCO goals
- 033 Avoid tendency to think that MARCO will address every ocean issue. We need to be pragmatic, nurture its growth, and not expect it to fix all problems right away.
- 034 Meetings on appropriate subject areas; web meetings; MARCO Facebook; Kevin Hassell will do all of this, he volunteered; Email listserve; directory of experts;
- 035 NEP programs - allocate time and match money...priorities are set depending on funding.
- 036 regular communication based on issue areas that have already been identified
- 037 more participation at MMS Task Force meetings by NGOs, industry, etc.
- 038 Research at the University level - graduate students and reseachers.  
  - MACCORA partnership
- 039 share opportunities for taking action
- 040 Participating in working groups
- 041 use meetings, forums, conferences to convene people to share ideas
- 042 Political/legislative advice
- 043 MARCO should have a list of lead contacts in the various regions who are involved so that any recommendations for further action can be communicated to those lead contacts for dissemination to their consituencies via agency heads and lead contacts.
- 044 Opportunity to comment on plans developed
- 045 Opportunity to provide information, tools, data to support MARCO activities
- 046 environmental/MARCO cacus in state assemblies
- 047 sharing actions that have taken place: successes and failures
- 048 briefing legislative committees on MARCO's efforts
- 049 collect polling results from various organizations to help identify what motivates people, public opinion
- 050 Wildlife Conservation Society/New York Aquarium - HAbitat Protection, Education, Outreach, Public/Policy engagement
- 051 stay informed
- 052 state pulling stakeholders together to report actions and identify opportunities
- 053 Providing access to/request participation in the National Monitoring Network for Coastal Waters and their Tributaries of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network
- 054 Need to be able to identify clear of our work (which is largely land-based and coastal) with MARCO needs to devote resources to participation

- 055 Keep website up to date and have some kind of e-mail mechanism. Set some time-lines for some of the goals.
- 056 Support consensus efforts through: advocacy, public education and outreach.
- 057 Keep us on the mailing list and keep us apprised of funding advancements.
- 058 Open concrete action items to stakeholder comment.
- 059 ensure robust and up-to-date MARCO website
- 060 Winter are the best months for Recreational Fishing for next get together.
- 061 Allow each entity to have feedback on all the goals and objectives based on the meeting today, before finalization. This would help them understand the future approach MARCO will take.
- 062 Research and education
- 063 NGO - to determine level of involvement first need to know where we are on MARCO actions/tangible results - don't want more bureaucracy
- 064 Participate in state-level efforts, and participate in MARCO activities as possible.
- 065 work with other 5 regional ocean partnerships to leverage power, take advantage of their successes
- 066 Need more concrete actions to see exactly where our group fits in
- 067 Ideally there would be a dynamic, engaging user portal through which to access information on MARCO-related activities.
- 068 Allowing multiple types of feedback meetings. ie. State meetings prior to this meeting. Roll-up.
- 069 It might be useful to have subgroups on the four major themes that could meet and discuss individually.
- 070 suggestion -- MARCO put progress report of actions/accomplishments online with email reminder
- 071 Allow others not able to attend, a window of opportunity to provide feedback on the proceedings of meetings.
- 072 suggestion -- MARCO blog to update on actions/accomplishments
- 073 develop workgroups on the 4 specific areas to continue focused discussions.
- 074 MARCO should hold follow-up periodic stakeholder meetings.
- 075 create communities of practice to maintain contact via online
- 076 Need more linkages between the bays and land-based activities/challenges and the ocean (example - diadromous fish, pollutants) to inform involvement
- 077 A contact list of which representatives from which states are working on which issues.
- 078 established a framework where state level meetings were held more regularly and culminated in an annual or biannual regional meeting.
- 079 Have a list of fact sheets on each of the issues for different stakeholders to use.
- 080 Be kept informed of MARCO priorities and research needs to monitor if there are areas where I can contribute.

# **COMMITMENTS FOR ADVANCING THE SHARED ACTIONS**

## **What commitments will you make to take action out of today's discussions?**

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 go back and share ideas from this conference and also opportunities for others to be involved
- 002 Make presentation to general assembly-DE
- 003 Bring back information to new job
- 004 We will share the information obtained in this conference with others within agencies are larger groups that are related to these issues.
- 005 follow-up with state leads to identify next steps
- 006 Liberty Natural Gas - Committed to continued attendance and engagement, and moving offshore energy discussion forward collaboratively
- 007 Support wholesale protection of oceans, not piecemeal.
- 008 Form a Virginia Oceans Task force of non-profits in VA interested in ocean issues.
- 009 Going to take datapoints and conversations to the new NJ governors transition team next week.
- 010 Supply GIS data & create GIS data base
- 011 I commit to take the MARCO initiatives and information about the Council and get my home organization involved in these activities.
- 012 Fulfill grant obligations to MARCO.
- 013 Commit to fighting fossil fuel interests.
- 014 Aligning research proposals to MARCO
- 015 Meet with Delaware Colleagues on MARCO, and meet with teh Governor on how to move this initiative forward in Delaware. - Report to the Delaware Council on this initiative as well
- 016 will review the documents from today and reach out to NJ DEP to share thoughts
- 017 Pay moree attention to all MARCO communications going forward wth better insights into what they are trying to achieve.
- 018 Will share this information with Great Lakes wind collaborative and the off-shore wind collaborative in New York.
- 019 I commit to try to work through MARCO to expand my home organization's marine debris program (which is currently focused on Maryland).
- 020 Review action items of MARCO and advise
- 021 Provide links to USGS data; connect MARCO to MARCOORA
- 022 go back to agency/office and communicate about the event.
- 023 In-kind support to data management, including staffing support
- 024 Keep up the same actions (clean ups, eel grass planting, fisheries management) Try to help MARCO with anything that comes up. Stay in touch.

- 025 To boldly go where no one has gone before
- 026 I commit to taking the action priorities articulated over the past two days and advancing them to the best of my abilities.
- 027 NGO continue to share data and priorities with other MARCO stakeholders
- 028 Investigate further opportunities to gather local knowledge of valuable habitats (corals, etc.). Such as from charter boat captains, others.
- 029 State of Maryland - We will take a direct lead on Water Quality, reach out to state partners, interested stakeholders, specific staff assigned to objectives on each of the priorities, furthering communications, website, publicity
- 030 Reporting back to local officials and planning committees.
- 031 Continue to stay in contact with MARCO on a weekly basis. Will do additional outreach to educate the public on the offshore canyons.
- 032 Better publicized support tools and Data that the Nature Conservancy has created, and facilitate better collaboration between other TNC state programs involved in MARCO
- 033 Wildlife Conservation Society is in process of deciding whether to establish a local marine conservation organization in the midAtlantic Region  
will look to MARCO to help connect local efforts to more regional efforts doing similar work
- 034 data-sharing & in-kind staff support (National Park Service, SE Region)
- 035 The National Weather Service will commit to support wherever it can when asked.
- 036 Think about and identify groups that should be apprised of the information and initiatives discussed in the past two days.
- 037 Support research and outreach activities
- 038 Work to connect MARCO with other Regional Ocean Partnerships for common vision
- 039 commit to completing various survey data sets
- 040 I commit to using my position on the MMS Virginia task force for offshore wind development to reach out to other MMS state task forces to encourage the sharing of development timetables, lessons learned, and collecting best practices.
- 041 Maryland DNR staff will continue active participation, and recommend to the Governor to establish and MMS Taskforce, which would then also feed into regional MMS Conversations.
- 042 Work with state and other groups in getting actions laid out. Better inform the passengers on charter boats about ocean issues. Investigate grants to get school kids out on boats.
- 043 Keeping on eye the overall progress that MARCO is making and hope to continue to stay involved in the renewable regulation process and monitoring programs and be an active participant in marine spatial planning. Continue Education efforts 0 Clean Ocean Action
- 044 I commit to finding and taking advantage of creative means of increasing public awareness of ocean issues.
- 045 will take this info back to Atlantic Cape Fisheries Inc and distribute it internally and to other fishing organizations coastwide to educate them as to what is currently taking place in the MARCO process
- 046 Commit to water quality improvement actions and land conservation/restoration especially with additional MARCO resources
- 047 advocate for collective priorities
- 048 share information heard with others
- 049 I commit to personally addressing my local, state and federal elected officials regarding my concerns and suggestions for actions on ocean issues.

- 050 discuss MARCO priorities at upcoming federal meeting
- 051 data sharing, staff support, interaction with landscape conservation cooperatives (Fish & Wildlife Service)
- 052 will make sure that MARCO is aware of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Bird Conservation Cooperative which has data layers for marine bird distribution and abundance
- 053 discuss linkages with other regional ocean partnerships
- 054 Will elevate "initiatives" to a higher priority status within the department where I work.
- 055 to actually read and stay abreast to whatever comes out of this process
- 056 I commit to publish and distribute a white paper on the consequences of nitrogen reduction as a strategy versus nitrogen management.
- 057 continue to serve as federal liaison with MARCO
- 058 will take MARCO back to Coastal America to be sure Coastal America is aware of what MARCO is doing
- 059 Weeks would like to continue to work in state and locally on this initiative, with an occasional trip to NYC. As MARCO develops more, weeks will try and work with other members to get them involved and interested.
- 060 To advocate for MARCO budget in Congress and the Administration
- 061 Write to Governors on importance of MARCO
- 062 Support enactment of marine spatial planning legislation or exec order
- 063 keep MARCO apprised of outcomes of upcoming conferences (upcoming water quality mtg) and occurrence of upcoming workshops
- 064 MMS (minerals management service)- Report on MARCO updates from this meeting, provide info on Multipurpose Marine Cadastre; provide info on results of numerous environmental studies; continued involvement. Fold task forces in with MARCO in some way? Each state taskforce will coordinate with MARCO
- 065 I commit to working with the NY coalition to meet with the Dept. of State and Dept. of Env'tl Conservation and other state agencies to discuss coordinated state-level follow-up.
- 066 will take MARCO back to Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to be sure they are aware of what MARCO is doing (came from US Federal Wildlife Service)
- 067 Support with data and decision support tools to prioritize ecosystem habitat protection
- 068 I commit to blogging this event in my local newspaper.
- 069 will take MARCO back to foundations to be sure they are aware of what MARCO is doing (came from US Federal Wildlife Service)
- 070  
individual organization will support MARCO legislation, funding, etc and help with advocacy
- 071 I commit to attending MARCO subgroup meetings if they get organized.
- 072 compare notes with colleague with similar governor's agreement taking place on the west coast
- 073 Align SeaGrant objectives even more with MARCO priorities. Publicize MARCO goals and work.
- 074 federal agency to look for opportunities to support MARCO themes during new responsibilities under National Ocean Policy and CMSP Framework
- 075 Education public officials (elected and unelected) to be aware of what's going on with MARCO (Governors and in State Capitals)
- 076 federal agency to help MARCO create profile of federal agencies in region



- 077 NYS Parks - report on meeting, discuss appropriate level of involvement, identify one or two priorities. Perhaps marine debris and/or legislative priorities. Identify other staff in agency who would be appropriate to work with MARCO.
- 078 will identify model programs for scale up  
scientist can share what they have found
- 079 Take information & report back to my state fish & wildlife agency.
- 080 Bring back information to NOAA
- 081 First born child, if a masculine child.
- 082 Work with NOAA to identify points of contact for each MARCO action
- 083 I commit to trying to increase USACE's consideration of nitrogen management strategies and habitat restoration programs.
- 084 Support communication with federal partners here and those not here
- 085 VA Aquaria rep will continue to educate members Marine Debris - especially Ballons and Monofilament line (creating a recycling program). report to Aquaria leadership. Continue education effort on renewable energy task force,
- 086 Bring information back to the organization. Figure out better how our programs align with MARCO priorities so we can respond to specific requests.
- 087 I commit to promoting the collaborative aspects of this forum for USACE's cooperation and the Coastal America Partnership.
- 088 Bring MARCO to attention of Atlantic Flyway Non-game tech section and Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
- 089 Write (as a journalist) story about MARCO
- 090 devote time and resources and energy to serve on committee's that come out of this conference
- 091 will stay in touch and in the loop (stay informed)
- 092 bring MARCO to attention of other environmental advocates in Delaware
- 093 SUNY Maritime - serve as contact btw MARCO and fishing industry; incorporate into a k-12 science education grant w/ NYC Board of Ed.
- 094 I commit to keeping up to date on MARCO activities, priorities, and action plans, and identifying information needs and gaps that I (and my organization) may be able to help fill.
- 095 Make more specific support letters for MARCO to governors and other state officials. Share info with my science and outreach directors.
- 096 Reach out to interest groups not present here.
- 097 Wildlife Conservation Society/New York Aquarium - Urban River Restoration, Public Education 4 million visitors per year, New Exhibit on local waters at Aquarium, New New York Marine Conservation Initiative
- 098 Help reach out to other interests back home
- 099 Write about MARCO and/or MARCO issues in newsletters
- 100 continue to raise other priority issues with MARCO so that they don't get lost (coastal hazards/storms)
- 101 Catherine McCall will lead the next stakeholder summit
- 102 NY/NJ Baykeeper is well along in applying for a sea grant legal research project to create a framework for regulating benthic marine development, especially of energy transmission infrastructure, within state jurisdictional waters.

- 103 continue to identify people to collaborate with for resources, information, understanding actions they are taking to possibly work together going forward, continue networking and build on connections made today (thanks for the contact list)
- 104 NYS DEC - even though DOS is the state's coastal program, DEC will continue to provide the technical expertise and involve the appropriate regional staff in these discussions.
- 105 Share info about MARCO with organization, members, and networks
- 106 Work with colleagues w/in TNC on legislative and policy initiatives
- 107 Audubon New York staff will brief the other Audubon State programs on MARCO and encourage their involvement in the initiative, and identify opportunities to coordinate on their Atlantic Flyway Initiative.
- 108 Audubon New York will continue to work with MARCO coordinators to identify boundaries of MARCO and push for inclusion of the Long Island Sound and the State of Connecticut in the MARCO Initiative

## **What actions could we take together out of today's discussion?**

*(Participants entered the following comments)*

- 001 letter from stakeholders groups to governors expressing support for MARCO and to continue action
- 002 press release or op-ed about this conference and the outcomes
- 003 letters to congressional delegations
- 004 Bring together diverse interests
- 005 Contact counterparts in sea grant programs to talk to them about MARCO. My main focus is research, so maybe we can see what research we are already doing that could be helpful to MARCO, and potentially focus in the future on a MARCO objective as a program.
- 006 After interests brought together, specifics fall into place
- 007 Continue to coordinate and share information with other interested parties and groups related to shared interests and objectives.
- 008 Research regional research agendas, and if there are some areas for partnering this could be a good forum for finding partners.
- 009 Would like to see a clear cut commitment to some specific actions. There are a significant number of specific actions ID'd throughout our time together. Put some of these into action and accomplish some early wins and successes and use to communicate with all stakeholders.
- 010 To the extent that MARCO is a pathway to clean and healthier oceans, we support but coalition must be built and all stakeholders heard-- clear vision.
- 011 This entire group should work to elevate the goal of "collaboration" to a higher priority status.
- 012 devote time and resources and energy to serve on committee's that come out of this conference
- 013 These issues need to be looked at internationally: perhaps look beyond US borders for initiatives and partnering opportunities with other countries.
- 014 provide positive feedback 2 Governor's (NJ, VA) that MARCO is a good initiative
- 015 Articulate clear vision
- 016 Joint Education Initiative across Aquaria, Parks, Schools etc...
- 017 Commitments to get together, take advantage of new partnerships.
- 018 Look to other countries for their initiatives, lessons learned and opportunities to not have to re-invent the wheel...
- 019 Collectively reach out to elected officials in states - especially new governors

- 020 create a capability profile (what the range of capabilities that already exist throughout the stakeholder groups) around each of the 4 focus areas.
- 021 Reach out to local governments
- 022 There should be a Task Force or Council created under the umbrella of the five governors of the states within MARCO.
- 023 assure the best and most accurate science is out there to inform decisions.
- 024 Don't leave door open for special interests to stay within MARCO guidelines while polluting, degrading ocean resources.
- 025 Expand MARCO beyond 5 governors.
- 026 Reach out to National Association of Counties
- 027 Get general assemblies involved.
- 028 Communicate
- 029 keep up communications; support MARCO agenda by working together; go get expensive NYC drinks.
- 030 Present MARCO to state legislature
- 031 After a white paper on nitrogen management techniques is produced, the stakeholders present today could peer review it. We have to recognize that estuaries need individualized management programs (the same model does not fit all, as demonstrated by the McConnick Estuary experience). If MARCO forms subcommittees, one could be focused on estuary management and identifying benchmarks and other accountability measures.