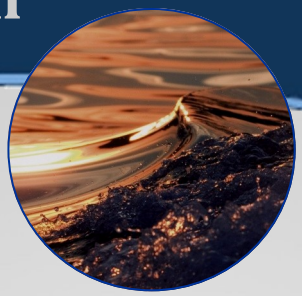
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

A Partnership in Ocean Conservation



Water Quality

Importance:

Over the last few decades we have become increasingly aware that the health of our oceans is tied to how we minimize or eliminate human related impacts to water quality. Aging and inadequate wastewater treatment infrastructure, urban and agricultural runoff, and airborne transport and deposition of pollutants impact recreational swimming, seafood quantity and quality, and the general ecological health of our ocean.

Objectives:

One of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean's (MARCO's) goals is to protect human and environmental health and increase the ocean-related economic value of the region's coastal waters by maintaining and improving the region's water quality. The MARCO objectives to address this goal are to:

- Promote greater and smarter federal investments for infrastructure upgrades to the nation's aging and inadequate wastewater treatment infrastructure.
- Peduce or eliminate trash and waste entering waterways and the ocean.
- Improve delivery of and expand collection of water quality data, which will improve water quality management.
- Develop a plan to address atmospheric sources of pollution.

First Steps:

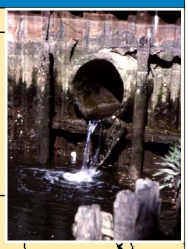
As a starting place for accomplishing these water quality objectives, the Mid-Atlantic States agreed to begin with the following tasks:

1. Call for changes to federal legislation that will provide opportunities to act regionally to improve water quality and to re-engage the federal government in addressing water quality issues.
2. Identify key water quality and ecosystem assessment information gaps, and develop regional strategies to address them.
3. Develop common background documents and issues messaging.
4. Identify region-wide efforts to control marine debris and floatables.
5. Explore non-point source pollution as a regional water quality issue needing further coordination through this effort.

Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Water Quality

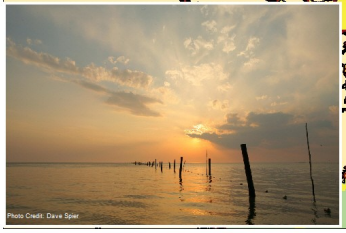













New York

New Jersey

Delaware

Maryland

Virginia

Photo Credit: Dave Spier

Human Impacts on the Ocean

Very Low Impact	Medium Impact	High Impact
Low Impact	Medium High Impact	Very High Impact

Per Halpern et al. February 2008

N

10 0 10 20 Nautical Miles