NEXT STEPS FOR CONSIDERATION BY MARCO's CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION TEAM
Preliminary Draft – Subject to Review by Workshop Participants and Further Development
December 18, 2012

1. <u>Conduct a regional vulnerability assessment</u>: Vulnerability assessments are a key element to successful climate change adaptation as they reveal what cultural and natural resources (including systems, species, populations, entities, etc.) are most vulnerable to expected climatic changes. This effort would build upon the about-to-be-completed Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts viewer, which provides estimates of sea level rise impacts based upon the most accurate elevation data available.
   a. More specifically, the assessment would look at regional infrastructure and coastal wetlands, as well as the potential impacts of ocean acidification.
   b. This effort would begin with a literature review and synthesis of what kinds of vulnerability assessments have already been completed in the region and what is in process.

2. <u>Inventory and Gap Analysis of Climate Policies and Activities in the Mid-Atlantic</u>: This would build upon the regional vulnerability assessment, and be used to gain a better understanding of climate relevant policies and activities (as well as gaps) in the Mid-Atlantic region.

3. <u>Develop and Promote a Climate Change Research Agenda</u>: There are gaps in our knowledge about coastal ecosystems and ecosystem processes that will need to be filled to support adaptation efforts (e.g., accretion rates for coastal wetlands). As a regional entity, MARCO could support the development of a research agenda that addresses critical climate change adaptation challenges, and advocate for research to support those priorities.

4. <u>Develop Common Messages and a Strategy about Sea Level Rise Impacts to the Mid-Atlantic</u>: Those working on climate change adaptation in the Mid-Atlantic would benefit from using common messages about sea level rise and anticipated impacts. A broader communication/messaging strategy about impacts would help local, state and regional efforts to adapt to sea level rise.

5. <u>Focus on Impacts to Coastal Wetlands</u>: Coastal adaptation efforts in the Mid-Atlantic are closely linked to our coastal wetlands. Would be worth building off wetlands assessment work currently underway in the region, and gathering information about these habitats and their ability to keep pace with sea level rise in the Mid-Atlantic.

6. <u>Advocate for Monitoring Funding</u>: A critical gaps is funding for long-term monitoring, which will increase our understanding of how coastal habitats are currently being

affected by sea level rise, as well as the successful of future adaptation efforts. MARCO might advocate for regional entities to get sustainable monitoring dollars

7. <u>Conduct Public Opinion Research</u>: This would support a regional vulnerability assessment and improve our understanding of the public's understanding of climate change and potential impacts.

8. <u>Develop Common Definition of Adaptation</u>: Develop a framework that specifies what is meant by 'climate change adaptation' (i.e., how we know we have advanced adaptation) and identify specific actions that could be undertaken to advance adaptation in the region.

    a. Green infrastructure could be on adaptation strategy (definition of what is meant by green infrastructure and how it can serve multiple purposes in storm water, clean water, and protecting communities from hazard events)

9. <u>Identify Transboundary Issues for the Mid-Atlantic</u>: Convene a work group that would specifically identify issues that must be addressed at a regional scale across the Mid-Atlantic region (e.g., railroad infrastructure, regional airports, etc.)

10. <u>Sediment Management</u>: The northern part of the Mid-Atlantic region is short of sand supplies. In addition, living shorelines should be considered on a larger than property-by-property scale to protect against sea level rise. It would be useful to explore what opportunities exist to manage sediment in the region so that living shoreline projects could be created at regional scale.