

2020 Non-Consumptive Recreation Work Group Progress Report and 2021 Work Plan

Reporting Period: June 2020 – December 2020

Work Group Webpage: <https://www.midatlanticocean.org/ocean-planning/work-groups-collaborative-efforts/6720-2/>

Work Group Leads: Kevin Hassell (NJDEP); Doug Simpson (USCG)

Work Group Members: Work group membership is open to government and non-governmental entities operating in the five Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that are willing to participate in work group activities. Members are expected to contribute on monthly work group calls and assist with project implementation.

Current Members Include:

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Bristow	Avalon	MARCO
Brown	Danielle	Rutgers
Campo	Matt	Rutgers
Clouse	Peter	NYDOS
Cole	Kimberly	DNREC
Darnell	Chris	FWS
Finch	Darlene	NOAA
Freitag	Amy	NOAA
Gove	Matt	Surfrider Foundation
Guiteras	Susan	FWS
Gutierrez	Lisa	MDNR
Haas	Krista	NYDEC

Hassell*	Kevin	NJ
Herb	Jeanne	Rutgers
Herrington	Tom	Monmouth University
Macdonald	Tony	Monmouth
McCall	Catherine	MDNR
McKay	Laura	VA
Meade	Nick	DEQ
Pereira	Sabrina	NJDEP
Rutkowski	Megan	NJDEP
Simpson*	Doug	USCG
Snyder	Michael	NYDOS
Steinback	Scott	NOAA
ten Brink	Talya	NOAA
Tucker	Judy	MARCO
Whytlaw	Jennifer	Old Dominion

* Co-Lead

Work Group Goals, Objectives and Actions: MACO's Non-Consumptive Recreation working group is conducting activities in continuation and support of the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan's Section 2.4.7: Non-Consumptive Recreation, Objective 7, which states, *"Account for the importance of nearshore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses, and their local and regional economic contributions in the Mid-Atlantic; and in the management of other ocean uses and resources, consider impacts on non-consumptive recreational activities (e.g., surfing, boating, whale watching, birding, diving)."*

ACTIVITY 1 - Finalize the development of a compiled database of states' public recommendations for reducing or avoiding human-wildlife interactions during non-consumptive recreational activities.

Expected Completion Date: Spring 2021

A1 Progress Period: July 2020 - December 2020

The work group has reviewed and made recommendations to the database on multiple occasions, and an internal version is near completion. The workgroup has added information from various sources, beyond the existing State information, such as NOAA's Ocean Etiquette information. The database will be formatted for public viewing and posted to the Non-Consumptive Recreation webpage on MARCO's website when it is finalized.

ACTIVITY 2 - Develop a whitepaper that synthesizes recommendations within the database (Activity 1), and recommends regional best practices for minimizing human-wildlife interactions during non-consumptive recreational activities.

Expected Completion Date: Spring 2021

A2 Progress Period: July 2020 - December 2020

Whitepaper drafting is underway. Due to COVID related setbacks to a student mentor program that was aiding in whitepaper development, the draft was further delayed. When the version is complete, it will be posted to the Non-Consumptive Recreation webpage on MARCO's website.

ACTIVITY 3 - Identify how the findings of the whitepaper could be incorporated into an easily accessible product.

Expected Completion Date: Winter 2020/2021

A3 Progress Period: July 2020 - December 2020

The work group continues to meet and discuss paths forward, including considering recommendations made during the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum. Details about products resulting from the whitepaper are anticipated in calendar year 2021.

ACTIVITY 4 - Continue convening the work group on collaborative calls, at a minimum on a quarterly basis.

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing

A4 Progress Period: July 2020 - December 2020

Post 2020 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum workgroup membership was expanded to move the effort beyond the OAP identified actions. The intent will be to further expand on issues identified at the Ocean Forum and through workgroup discussions, such as:

- Examine updating the recreational survey data on the portal with partners
- Incorporate/expand recreational related GIS work,
- Investigate development of a user facing app with mapping/reporting capabilities
- Examine the economic importance of tourism and the recreational use economy,
- Examine developing best practices for whale watching with the increase of juvenile humpbacks in the nearshore and the possibility of a certification program

