Mid-Atlantic Ocean Conservation: Building Partnerships to Take Action
December 9-10, 2009
Broad Street Ballroom, New York, New York

Program

Conference Objectives

1. Raise public awareness and build a broader constituency for ocean issues.
2. Solicit feedback and build support from the public, constituency groups and a broad base of key stakeholders for the Mid-Atlantic Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Conservation and the initial actions identified and underway.
3. Identify any additional issues or priorities that stakeholders may have regarding ocean issues.
4. Identify programs, activities and resources that stakeholders will commit towards accomplishing the initial actions and remaining actions in the Agreement.
5. Create stronger, lasting partnerships among stakeholder interests across the region and identify steps that may be taken to continue to engage stakeholders.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

1:00 Welcome and Introductions
Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Secretary of State, New York Department of State

1:30 Introduction to MARCO and the Governors’ Agreement
George Stafford, Deputy Secretary of State, New York Department of State

1:50 Opportunities & Challenges: Water Quality & Climate Change Adaptation
Michael Snyder, Project Coordinator, Coastal Resources, New York Dept. of State
Ruth Ehinger, Manager, Coastal Management Office, New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
Discussion: what does this mean for you/your organization?

2:55 Break

3:10 Opportunities & Challenges: Offshore Renewable Energy and Habitat Protection
Sarah Cooksey, Administrator, Coastal Programs, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Laura McKay, Manager, Coastal Zone Management Program, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
Discussion: what does this mean for you/your organization?

4:15 President Obama’s National Ocean Policy Task Force
Paul Cough, Director, Oceans & Coastal Protection Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4:45 Regional Legislative Agenda
Gwynne Schultz, Senior Advisor, Coastal & Ocean Policy, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

5:00 Close

More on the other side...
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

9:00 Welcome Back and Setting the Stage for Day 2

9:25 Shared Actions on Water Quality & Climate Change Adaptation
How can you or your organization help advance these Shared Actions?

10:45 Break

11:00 Shared Actions on Offshore Renewable Energy & Habitat Protection
How can you or your organization help advance these Shared Actions?

12:20 Networking Lunch

1:20 Increasing Understanding of Ocean Issues
What are the opportunities and challenges for building “ocean literacy” on the Shared Actions?

2:20 Ongoing Regional Communication and Collaboration
How shall we stay connected? How shall we expand collaborative partnerships?

3:20 Break

3:35 Commitments to Advancing the Shared Actions
What individual and/or collective commitments can you or your organization make now?

4:35 Preliminary Report
Joe Goldman, AmericaSpeaks

4:45 Closing Remarks
Eric Schwaab, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Nikki Rovner, Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources, Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

5:00 Close & Safe Travels