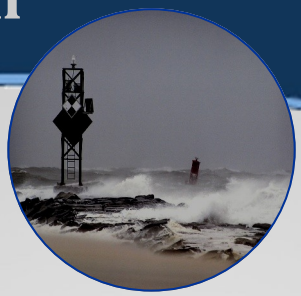
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

A Partnership in Ocean Conservation



Importance:

Climate change impacts in the Mid-Atlantic region are already being seen in the form of increased air and water temperatures, sea level rise and ocean acidification. These trends will have far reaching impacts such as an increase in frequency and intensity of coastal storms, increased coastal erosion, flooding of critical public infrastructure, inundation of coastal wetlands, and saline intrusion into coastal aquifers. The coastline is composed of sensitive habitats that may not be able to adapt to the rising temperatures and sea level. Likewise, the coastal population is supported by a significant transportation system, buildings, homes, and infrastructure that will be increasingly vulnerable to periodic flooding or even permanent inundation.

Objectives:

One of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean's (MARCO's) goals includes preparing the region for the impacts of climate change, primarily sea level rise impacts on regional infrastructure, coastal habitat and shoreline management. The MARCO objectives to address this goal are to:

- Identify regional transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to sea level rise and increased flood hazards.
- Acquire data needed to assess regional vulnerability to climate change and sea level rise impacts to infrastructure and coastal habitats.
- Create a means of storing and delivering the data needed to make decisions.
- Institute sharing of coastal vulnerability, community resiliency and management information.
- Initiate sea level rise adaptation measures to collectively reduce the region's vulnerability to climate change and sea level rise.

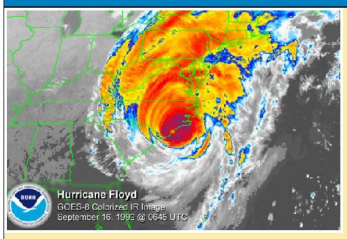
First Steps:

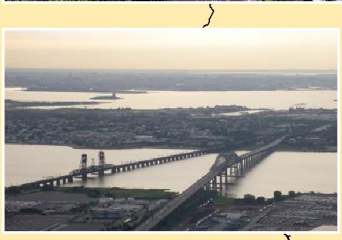
As a starting place for accomplishing these climate change objectives, the Mid-Atlantic States agreed to begin with the following tasks:

1. Identify opportunities to work with the federal government to promote adaptation and, where appropriate, integrate climate change and sea level rise planning measures into federal policies and programs.
2. Address data gaps for assessing regional vulnerability.
3. Facilitate a climate change and sea level rise information exchange between States.
4. Develop consistent communications and messaging to convey the information on climate change impacts to the public.

Climate Change

Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Climate Change





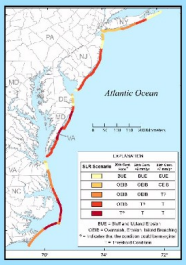
New York

New Jersey

Delaware

Maryland

Virginia



Coastal Vulnerability Index

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Thieler, E.R., and Hammar-Klose, E.S., 1999, 2000a, 2000b, National Assessment of Coastal Vulnerability to Sea-level Rise: Preliminary Results for the U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Coasts (Available on-line at http://http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/project-pages/cv

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1 0 0 1 0 20 Nautical Miles