



MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN FORUM

MACO UPDATE & PRE-FORUM WEBINAR

February 27, 2020





MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN FORUM

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome and Overview
- ❖ MACO Organization and Stakeholder Engagement
- ❖ Reports on Collaborative Efforts
- ❖ 2020 Mid-Atlantic Region Ocean Forum
- ❖ Public Comments

MACO Organizational Structure

- ❖ Members
- ❖ Steering Committee
- ❖ Collaborative Work Groups
 - Ocean Mapping and Data Team
 - Marine Debris
 - Ocean Acidification (MACAN)
 - Recreational and Non-Consumptive Use
 - Offshore Wind Energy
 - Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety
- ❖ Stakeholders
 - Federal, State, and Tribal government agencies
 - non-governmental organizations
 - academic and research institutions
 - industry partners
 - fishing communities



MACO Membership & Steering Committee

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

State: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia

Federal: Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration); Department of the Interior through the US Geological Survey, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Parks Service; Department of Agriculture through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Department of Defense through the Joint Command, Navy, and/or Army Corps of Engineers; Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Transportation Maritime Administration; and Department of Energy.

Tribal: Shinnecock Indian Nation

Regional: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

STEERING COMMITTEE

Kevin Hassell (Chair), New Jersey; Laura McKay, Virginia; Mike Snyder, New York; Darryl Francois, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Roselle (Henn) Stern, US Army Corps of Engineers; Darlene Finch, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kelsey Leonard, Shinnecock Indian Nation; and Jessica Coakley, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

MACO Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Download at midatlanticocean.org

METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

- ❖ Briefings with MACO leadership and public webinars on special topics
- ❖ Engagement via work groups and collaborative efforts
- ❖ Opportunities for general stakeholder input
- ❖ Digital communications to share progress on MACO
- ❖ Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum events to be held annually





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DISCUSSION: MACO OCEAN ISSUES & FORUM SURVEY RESULTS



Question 1: Affiliation



Which of these best describes your affiliation:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Government	<div></div>		6	8.8 %
Industry/Business	<div></div>		7	10.2 %
NGO, Nonprofit or Advocacy Organization	<div></div>		22	32.3 %
Academic Institution	<div></div>		9	13.2 %
Public	<div></div>		21	30.8 %
Other	<div></div>		3	4.4 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
Totals			68	100%









Question 2: Forum Outcomes

What would you like to see emerge from the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum? (Select/identify three priorities.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Improved understanding and awareness of regional ocean activities	<div><div></div></div>		33	50.0 %
Identification of new opportunities for enhanced regional intergovernmental coordination and collaboration	<div><div></div></div>		28	42.4 %
Enhanced ocean data portal or other multi-use planning and management decision support tools	<div><div></div></div>		25	37.8 %
Greater opportunities for stakeholder engagement in regional ocean issues	<div><div></div></div>		37	56.0 %
Identification of priority science and research needs within the region	<div><div></div></div>		41	62.1 %
Other	<div><div></div></div>		4	6.0 %
Totals			66	100%

Question 3: Forum Topics

What current topics would you like to see discussed at the Forum? (Select all that apply.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Ocean and coastal mapping			25	37.3 %
Ocean and coastal acidification			23	34.3 %
Marine debris			33	49.2 %
Non-consumptive recreation			15	22.3 %
Maritime commerce and navigation safety			20	29.8 %
Offshore wind			44	65.6 %
Ocean habitat, wildlife and ecosystem-based management			53	79.1 %
Other			7	10.4 %
Totals			67	100%

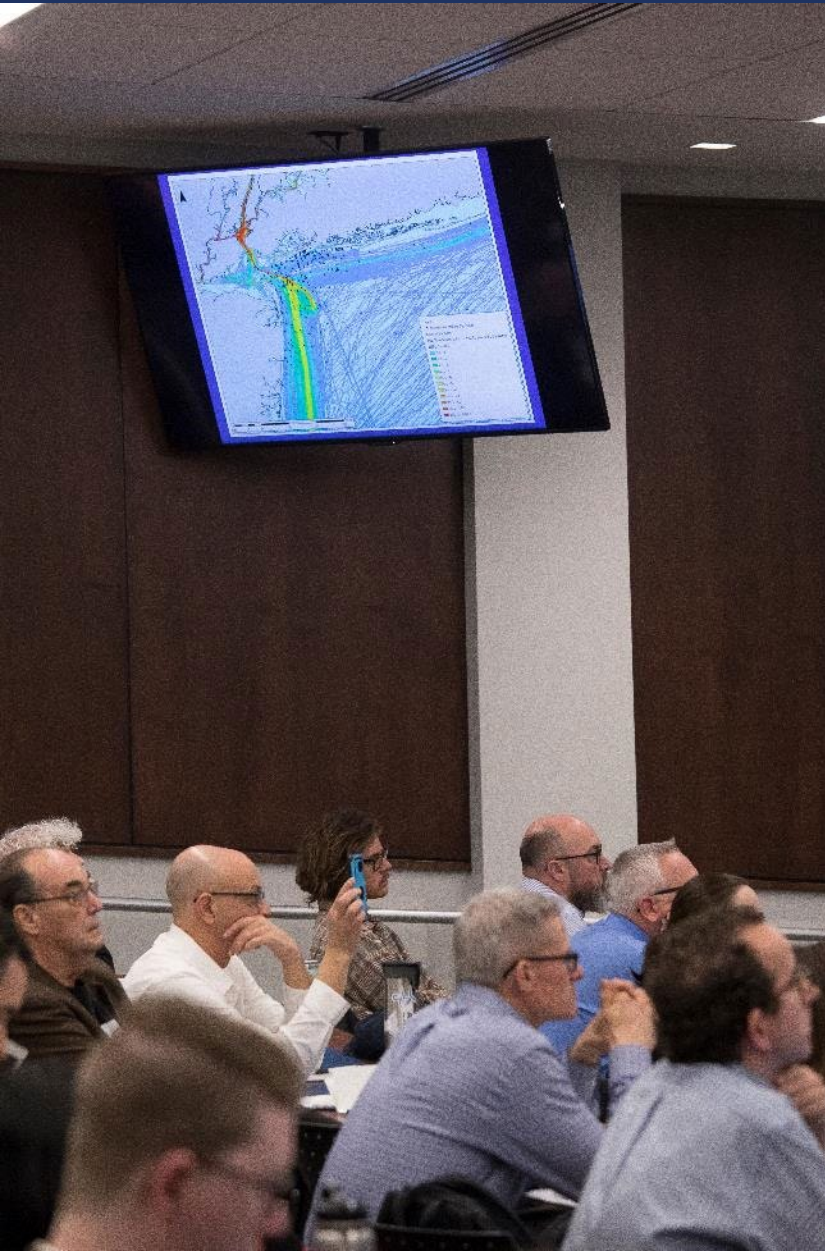
Text Questions: Future Vision & MACO Priorities

RECURRING THEMES

- ❖ Keeping the ocean clean, with particular emphasis on preventing/removing marine plastics.
- ❖ A range of views on offshore wind.
- ❖ Encouraging continued/improved coordination among agencies and all ocean users.
- ❖ Modernization of infrastructure to support ports, navigation and economies.
- ❖ Science and policy that support commercial and recreational fishing.



MACO Forum: Suggestions, Speakers, Changes



RECURRING THEMES

- ❖ Breakout Sessions: More time, more room, less conflict
- ❖ Poster session for regional researchers and universities
- ❖ Expert(s) who can speak to climate change impacts and species shifts in Mid-Atlantic



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QUESTIONS?



MACO Collaborative Efforts

- ❖ **Portal and OMDT**
- ❖ **Marine Debris**
- ❖ **MACAN**
- ❖ **Non-consumptive Recreation**
- ❖ **Offshore Wind**
- ❖ **Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety**





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MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL/OCEAN MAPPING DATA TEAM

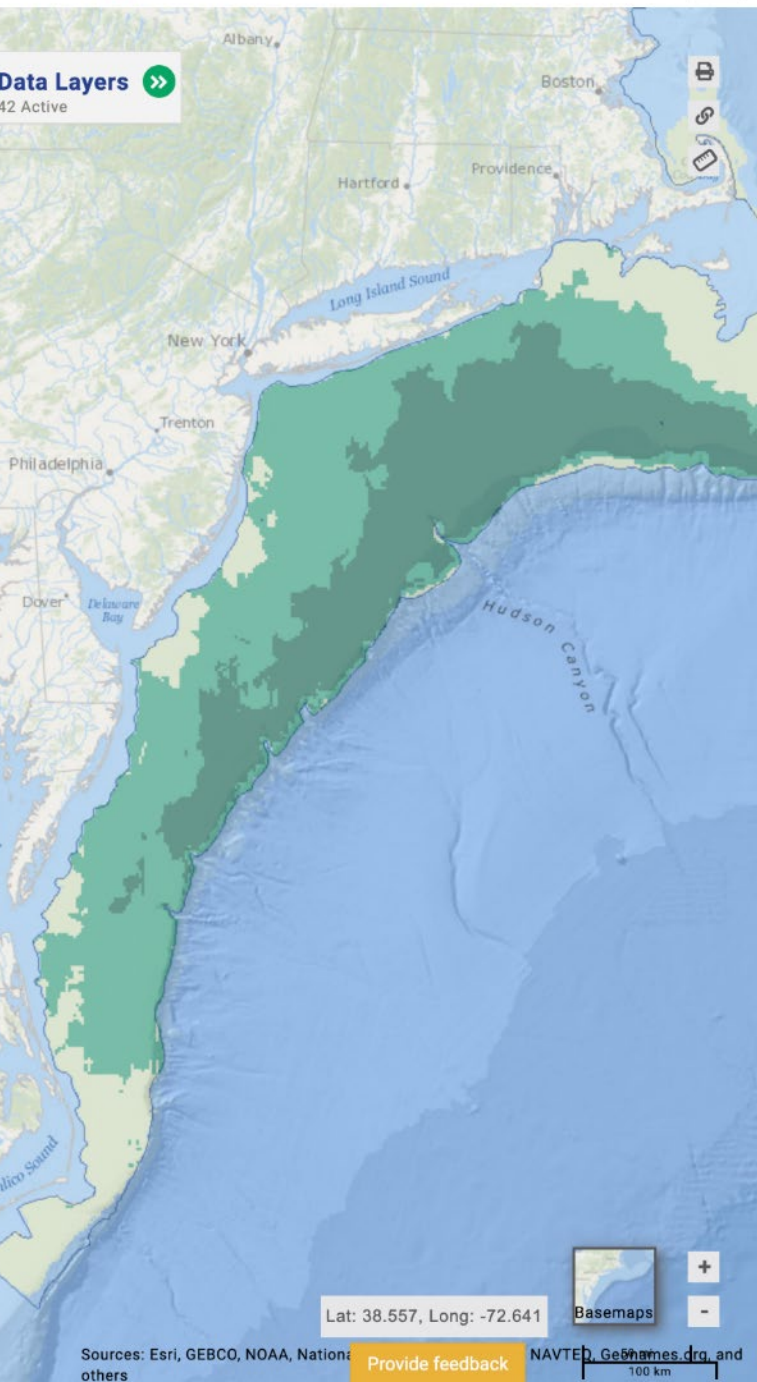
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Updates

- ❖ Increased use of the portal over the last year
- ❖ MARCO (with other regions) was recipient of federal funding for regional data sharing priorities
- ❖ Portal is managed by a Technical Team and MARCO's Ocean Mapping and Data Team – see the 2020 work plan on the MARCO website
- ❖ Select recent data updates:
 - ❖ Offshore wind, including more detail about lease and project areas
 - ❖ USCG proposed anchorage areas and port access route study area
 - ❖ Marine life updates – diving bird migration and loggerhead turtles from tagging data; biomass of catch in federal trawl survey



Next Steps

❖ Data:

- ❖ Fish species abundance over time (TNC, Rutgers, NEFSC)
- ❖ AIS for 2018 and 2019 (USCG and Marine Cadastre)
- ❖ Oceanographic products (MARACOOS)
- ❖ Commercial fisheries outreach and data updates (MARCO, NROC and RODA)
- ❖ Maintain data for proposed activities/management (e.g. offshore wind, telecom cables, waterways management)
- ❖ Outreach – webinars, trainings, conferences and trade shows



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MID-ATLANTIC MARINE DEBRIS WORK GROUP REPORT



Progress to Date

- ❖ **Balloon Release Reduction Campaign** co-funded by NOAA and states:
 - 2,352 balloon pieces collected; 15,587 non-balloon related marine debris pieces collected
 - 1,120 interviews conducted in-person and online across the 5 states to inform the development of campaign materials (anticipated distribution in summer 2020)
- ❖ **Created the “Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Collaborative” website with info on marine debris projects:**
midatlantic-mdc.diver.orr.noaa.gov/
- ❖ **Held first-ever Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit in June 2019**



Future Plans

- ❖ Distribute balloon release reduction campaign materials with help from aquariums in summer 2020
- ❖ Develop a Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan (led by NOAA Marine Debris Program)
- ❖ Pursue funding for a clean beaches social marketing campaign
- ❖ Continue monitoring beach segments for balloon and other debris types
- ❖ Plan Spring 2021 Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit





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MID-ATLANTIC COASTAL ACIDIFICATION NETWORK (MACAN)

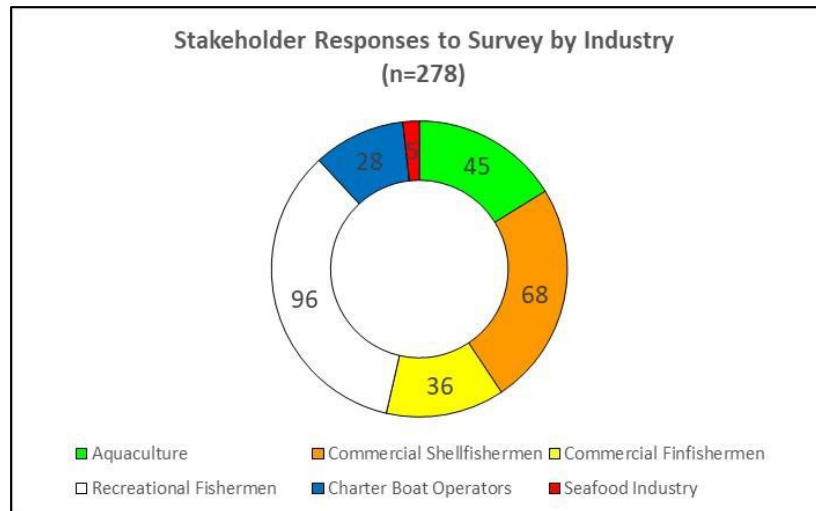
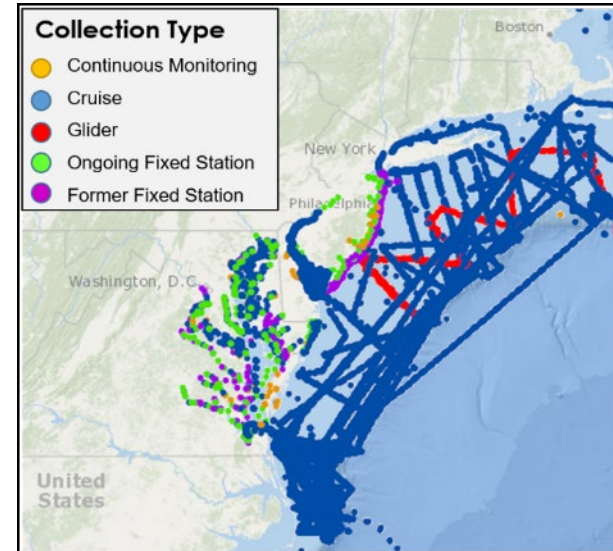
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MACAN: Current Updates

- ❖ Ecological research needs and priorities were related to OA in the Mid-Atlantic were identified, published, and discussed during a 2019 workshop.
- ❖ OA monitoring gaps in the Mid-Atlantic were identified and published, and discussed during a 2019 workshop.
- ❖ Stakeholder Outreach Survey was conducted to gain a better understanding of industry perspectives on acidification.





Current Updates Cont'd

The 2020 Webinar Series is ongoing:

- ❖ **January 23 (past):** *OA State and Federal Policy and Action*
- ❖ **February 12 (past):** *Coastal Acidification Impacts on the Atlantic Surf Clam fishery*
- ❖ **March 19, 12-1pm:** *Industry Perspectives on Ocean Acidification*
- ❖ **April (TBD):** *OA Action Planning*
- ❖ **May 28, 11am-12pm:** *The Next Decade of OA Science at NOAA: National and Mid-Atlantic Research Plans*



MACAN: Next Steps

- ❖ **MACAN is in the process of forming four work groups to help fill the research and monitoring gaps that have been identified:**
 - 1. Policy**
 - 2. Science**
 - 3. Industry**
 - 4. Outreach**
- ❖ **Please contact info@midacan.org if you'd like to join one (or more) of the work groups**



Next Big Initiatives

- ❖ **Updating MACAN's Outreach and Education Plan**
- ❖ **Potentially responding to the OAP's recent Education Mini-Grant call for proposals**

Visit our website for more information: www.midacan.org



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NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION (NCR)

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NCR: Progress

- ❖ **Recently reconvened workgroup**
- ❖ **Inventoried states' guidance to tourists for minimizing interactions with wildlife during non-consumptive recreational activities**



NCR: Future Plans

❖ **Wildlife interactions:**

- ❖ Further compilation of guidance on wildlife interactions
- ❖ Whitepaper describing recommendations and any gaps
- ❖ Web-based searchable recommendations, scalable to mobile
- ❖ Ocean Story or Story Map presenting the information
- ❖ **Scoping areas we should address next**



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OFFSHORE WIND REGIONAL COLLABORATION (OWRC)

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OWRC: GOALS

The OWRC will provide a forum for interested MACO members to:

- 1. Identify issues that would benefit from closer collaboration that are not already being addressed by other offshore wind working groups in the region;**
- 2. Discuss how the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal can be best used as a resource to meet data needs; and**
- 3. Share and receive information about meetings and decision points related to offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic.**

OWRC: NEAR-TERM ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Convene Bi-Monthly calls to facilitate inter-agency information exchange.**
- ❖ **Develop and host periodic webinars on relevant topics as identified by members of the OWRC.**
- ❖ **Develop a shared calendar of events to be posted on the MARCO website.**
- ❖ **Facilitate information exchange with other regional offshore wind groups.**



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MARITIME COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION SAFETY

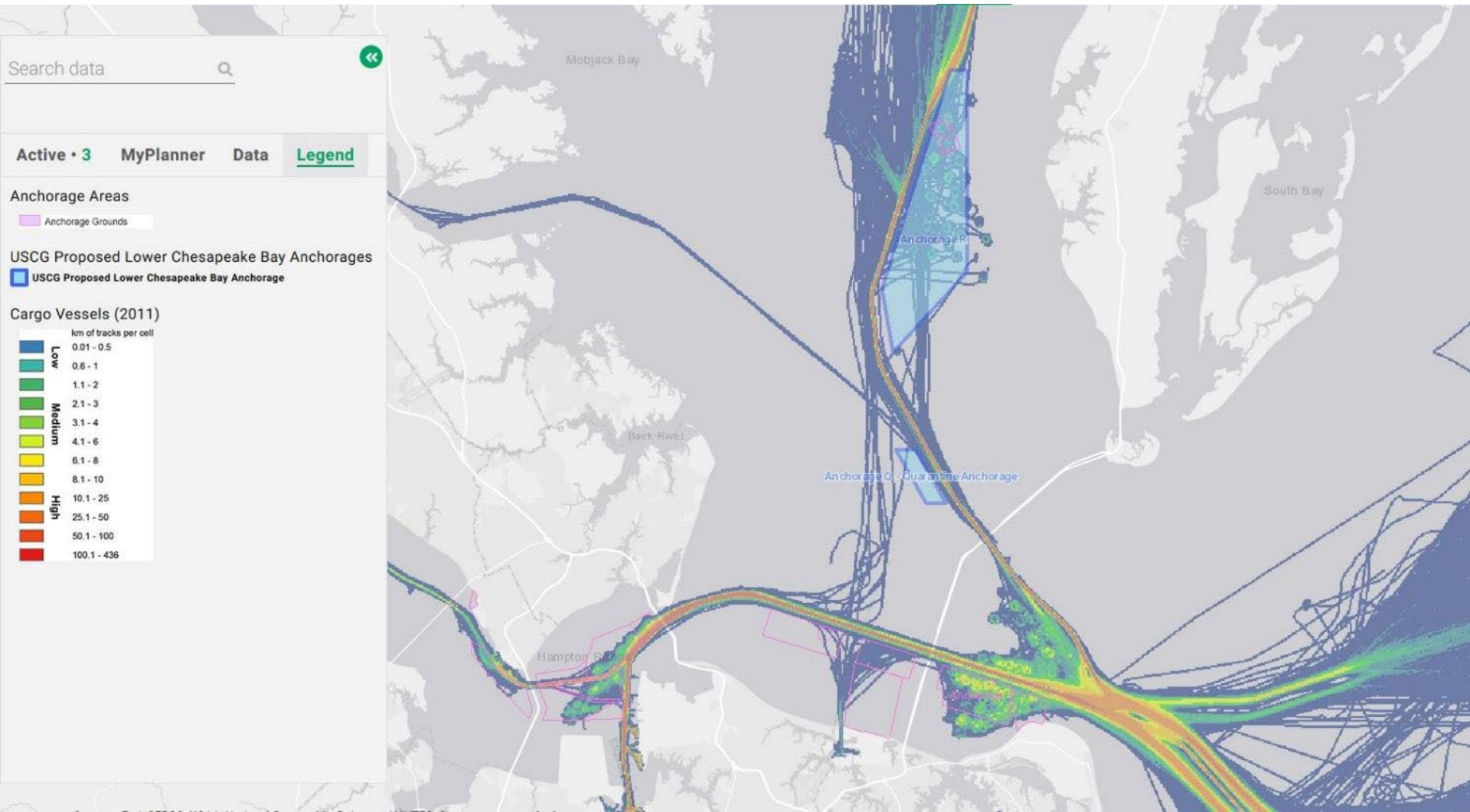
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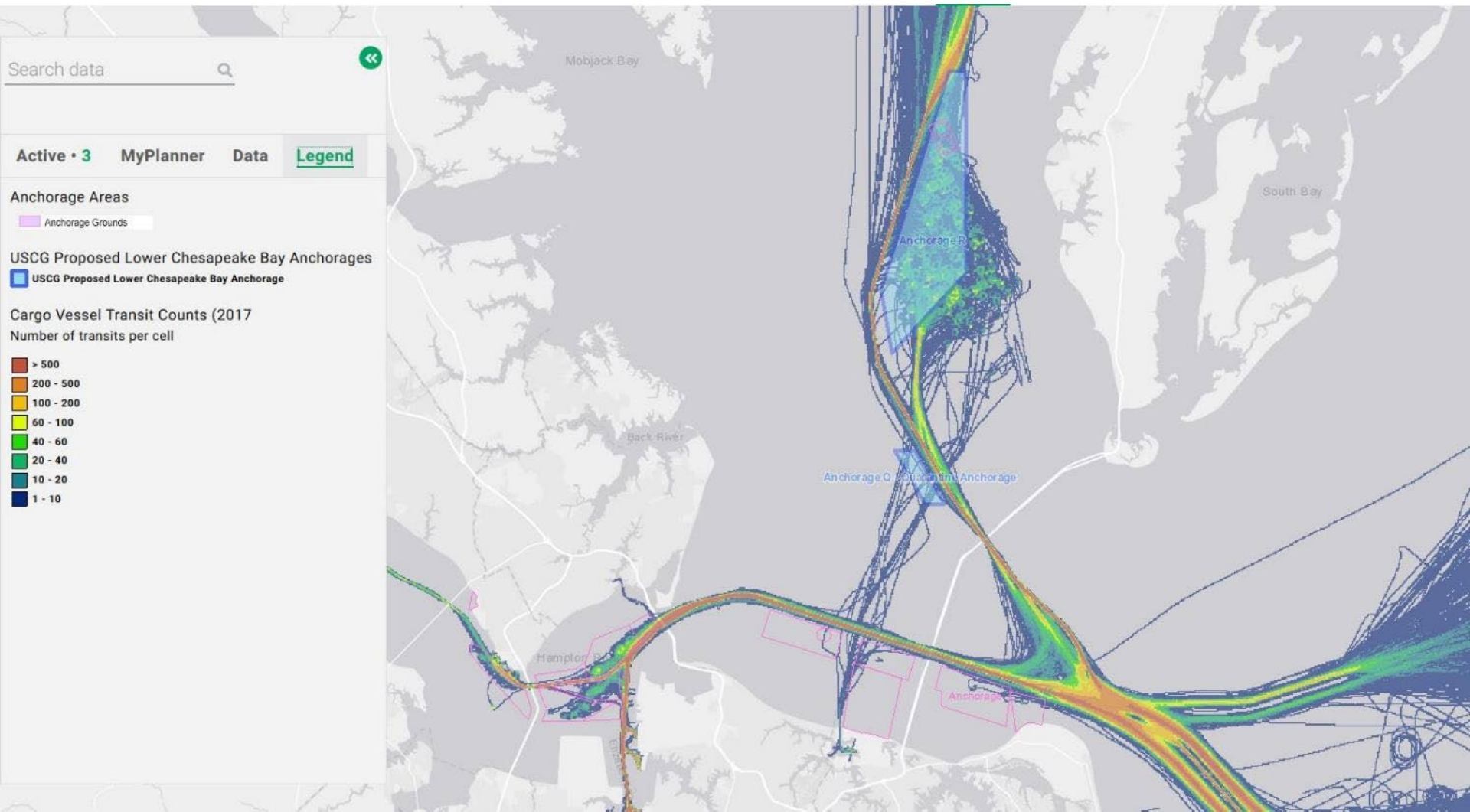
Maritime: Coast Guard ‘How Tuesday’

Chesapeake Anchorages Before (2011)

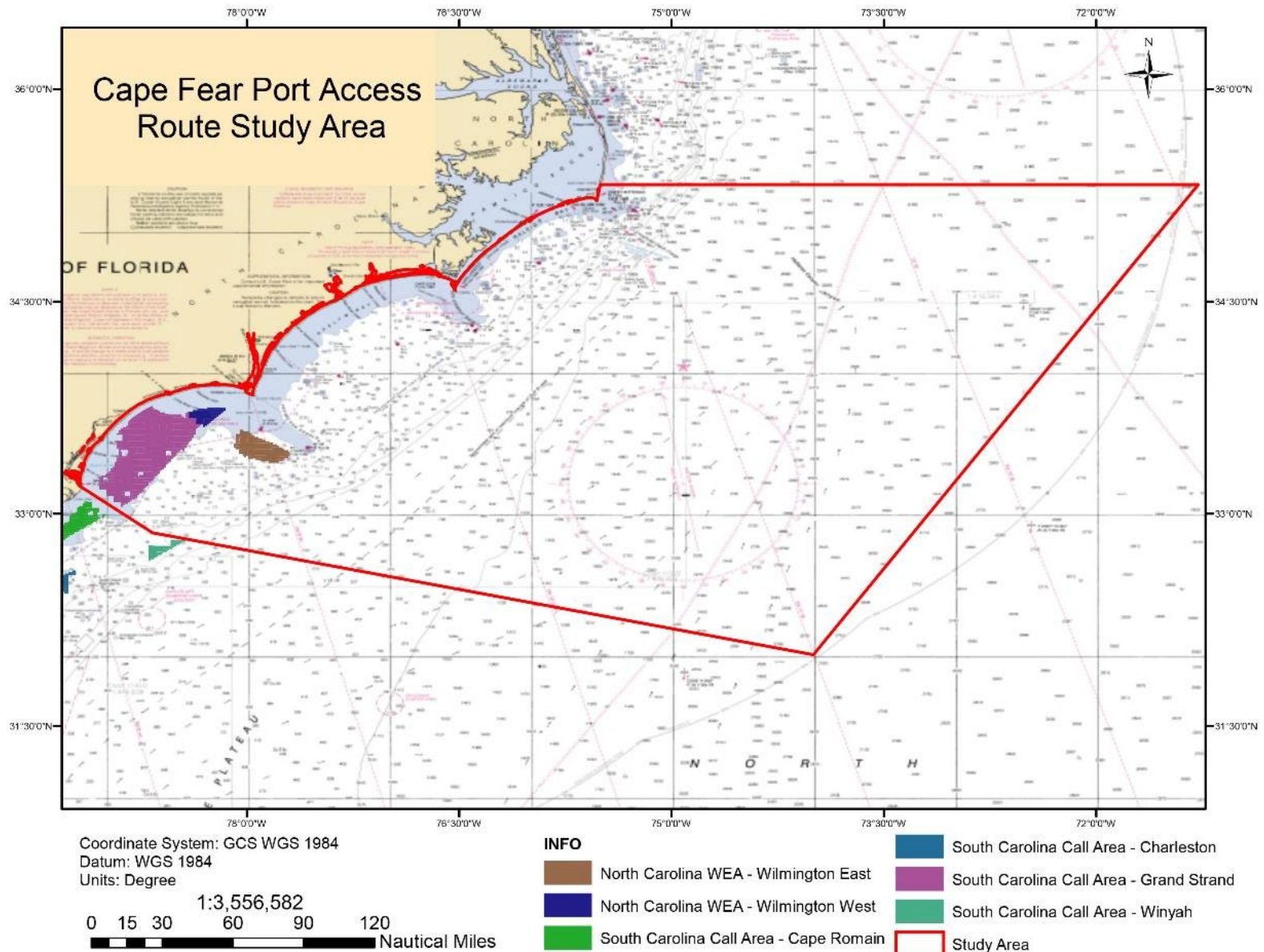


Maritime: Coast Guard ‘How Tuesday’

Chesapeake Anchorages After (2017)



Maritime: Cape Fear PARS Map





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Forum Objectives

- ❖ Generate a deeper understanding and awareness of state, federal, tribal and Fishery Management Council regional ocean activities and envision future needs.
- ❖ Review and discuss MACO progress on stakeholder input and identified collaboration opportunities, and collect input on future opportunities for MACO coordination and collaboration efforts.
- ❖ Identify and engage a more diverse range of ocean stakeholders interested in ocean collaboration efforts in the Mid-Atlantic.

Draft Forum Agenda

May 19, 2020

**Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House
1 Bowling Green, New York, NY**

- ❖ 9:30 AM Registration
- ❖ 10:00 AM Opening Plenary
- ❖ 12:00 PM Poster Session
- ❖ 12:30 PM Lunch (provided)
- ❖ 1:30 PM Breakout Sessions
- ❖ 4:00 PM Closing Plenary
- ❖ 5:00 PM Adjourn





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QUESTIONS?

Thank you for participating in today's webinar.

See you May 19 in New York City!

