

2020 Maritime Commerce and Navigation Work Group Plan and Progress Report

Text in black represents the work plan, which is unlikely to change. Text in blue is the progress report, which will be updated semi-annually.

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DESCRIBE HOW THIS WORK SUPPORTS MACO (and/or 2016 OCEAN ACTION PLAN) GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTIONS:

This work relates to the OAP's Sustainable Ocean Uses Framework Goal, which is to "plan and provide for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner that minimizes conflicts, improves effectiveness and regulatory predictability, and supports economic growth," by improving awareness of maritime commerce and navigation in the Mid-Atlantic. Its primary intention is to increase institutional awareness of new maritime commerce and navigational information for consideration in regional ocean planning.

ACTIVITY 1 - Ensure that updated maritime commerce and navigational information is reflected on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal.

Expected Completion Date: ongoing

A1 Progress Period

January 2020 - June 2020

A1 Progress Description

The following layers have been added to the Portal since January 2020:

- An interactive [Fairways Map](#), which shows a potential system of fairways intended to ensure that traditional navigation routes are kept free from obstructions that could impact navigation safety.
- [Port Access Route Studies](#), which shows the boundaries for four U.S. Coast Guard-led Port Access Route Study (PARS) areas along the East Coast in a single consolidated map on the Portal. This includes the boundary for a new Northern New York Bight PARS that is currently subject to public comment (open until August 18, 2020).

Previously, the Portal housed individual layers for three PARS areas under study in the region: the New Jersey Seacoast/Delaware Bay approaches; the approaches to the Chesapeake Bay; and the North Carolina Seacoast, including the approaches to the Cape Fear River and Beaufort Inlet. Those individual maps have been retired.

ACTIVITY 2 - Host informational webinars to update institutions and the public about maritime commerce and navigational information.

Expected Completion Date: ongoing

A2 Progress Period

Example: January 2020 - June 2020

A2 Progress Description

Include: results for the period, stakeholder engagement, impediments to progress, and budgetary/resource needs

Two webinars were hosted in partnership with the Portal Team between January and June 2020:

1. **January 2020 How Tuesday, Coast Guard Data:** The Fifth Coast Guard District demonstrated how to use the Portal to analyze proposed anchorage areas in the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay vicinities, and a new Port Access Route Study area extending from North Carolina to Maryland.
2. **June 2020 How Tuesday, N.J./Delaware Bay PARS and Cape Fear Anchorage:** Information was provided about the Coast Guard Port Access Route Study (PARS) area extending offshore from Long Branch, NJ, to Ocean City, MD, and a proposed anchorage area near the Cape Fear River in North Carolina.

[View the webinars here.](#)