



— The Third Annual —

# MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN FORUM

May 3-6, 2021

## Preliminary Agenda

*Note: Sessions, topics and times may change as plans for the Forum are finalized.  
For further information, see updates on the Forum website*

### GOAL

Build and maintain a resilient Mid-Atlantic ocean environment and economy by planning collectively for the future.

### OBJECTIVES

- Generate awareness of the issues and shared responsibilities of state, federal, tribal groups, and the fishery management council in regional ocean actions.
- Review the state of emerging issues in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic: accomplishments and next steps.
- Connect partner agencies and engage diverse ocean stakeholders while identifying opportunities to coordinate and collaborate on ocean actions throughout our region.

### Monday, May 3

12:30 - 1:00 PM **Welcome and Tribal Blessing**

1:00 - 2:20 PM **Opening Plenary**  
*Federal, State and Tribal priorities for regional ocean planning*

2:30 - 4:00 PM **Climate-Induced Ocean Changes: The Big Picture**  
*Observed and anticipated impacts in the ocean waters off the Mid-Atlantic region*

## Tuesday, May 4

- 9:30 - 11:30 AM **Time to Get Real: What We Have Learned and What We Need to Know to Inform Offshore Wind Siting**  
*Part I: Lessons learned about offshore wind energy siting and decision-making*  
*Part II: What we need to know to better inform decisions regarding offshore wind siting*
- 12:00 - 12:50 PM **Networking Luncheon**  
*BYO lunch to a themed breakout room*
- 1:00 - 2:30 PM **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice in Ocean Planning**  
*Keynote and panel: Defining ocean justice in the context of ocean planning and management*  
*Breakout rooms for themed discussions*

## Wednesday, May 5

- 9:15 - 11:15 AM **Innovative Technologies and Approaches for Understanding Ocean Changes**  
*New and non-traditional technologies which could be applied to comprehensive sampling on ocean changes and help fill information gaps for management applications*
- 11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Public Listening Session**  
*Stakeholder input on Ocean planning issues and opportunities for MACO collaboration*  
*What are the issues and the opportunities for collaboration?*
- 12:45 - 1:45 PM **Poster Session**  
*Featuring the research of students and early career professionals*  
*on topics relevant to ocean science, policy and socioeconomics in the Mid-Atlantic*

## Thursday, May 6

- 9:30 - 11:20 AM **Conservation and Living Marine Resource Management in the Face of a Changing Climate**  
*Learn about ongoing research designed to help managers understand the changes species are experiencing in the marine environment and explore how ocean mapping tools and data tools support planning and management*
- 11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Closing Plenary**  
*Perspectives on moving forward*