

Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (MACO)

**2021 Non-Consumptive Recreation Work Group Plan and Progress Report**

**LEAD(S):** Kevin Hassell (NJDEP); Doug Simpson (USCG)

**MEMBERS:**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role in Group</b>
Avalon	Bristow	MARCO	Coordination Support
Danielle	Brown	Rutgers	Member
Matt	Campo	Rutgers	Member
Peter	Clouse	NYDOS	Member
Kimberly	Cole	DNREC	Member
Chris	Darnell	FWS	Member
Darlene	Finch	NOAA	Member
Amy	Freitag	NOAA	Member
Matt	Gove	Surfrider Foundation	Member
Susan	Guiteras	FWS	Member
Lisa	Gutierrez	MDNR	Member
Krista	Haas	NYDEC	Member
Kevin	Hassell	NJ	Lead
Jeanne	Herb	Rutgers	Member
Tom	Herrington	Monmouth University	Member
Tony	Macdonald	Monmouth	Member
Catherine	McCall	MDNR	Member
Laura	McKay	VA	Member
Nick	Meade	DEQ	Member
Sabrina	Pereira	NJDEP	Member
Megan	Rutkowski	NJDEP	Member
Doug	Simpson	USCG	Lead
Michael	Snyder	NYDOS	Member
Scott	Steinback	NOAA	Member
Talya	ten Brink	NOAA	Member
Judy	Tucker	MARCO	Member
Jennifer	Whytlaw	Old Dominion	Member

**MACO (and/or 2016 OCEAN ACTION PLAN) GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTIONS:**

## Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (MACO)

MACO's Non-Consumptive Recreation working group is conducting activities in continuation and support of the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan's Section 2.4.7: *Non-Consumptive Recreation*, Objective 7, which states, "Account for the importance of nearshore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses, and their local and regional economic contributions in the Mid-Atlantic; and in the management of other ocean uses and resources, consider impacts on non-consumptive recreational activities (e.g., surfing, boating, whale watching, birding, diving)."

**ACTIVITY 1** - Finalize the development of a compiled database of states' public recommendations for reducing or avoiding human-wildlife interactions during non-consumptive recreational activities.

**Expected Completion Date:** Spring 2021

### **A1 Progress Period**

*July 2020 - December 2020*

### **A1 Progress Description**

The work group has reviewed and made recommendations to the database on multiple occasions, and an internal version is near completion. The workgroup has added information from various sources, beyond the existing State information, such as NOAA's Ocean Etiquette information. The database will be formatted for public viewing and posted to the Non-Consumptive Recreation webpage on MARCO's website when it is finalized.

**ACTIVITY 2** - Develop a whitepaper that synthesizes recommendations within the database (Activity 1), and recommends regional best practices for minimizing human-wildlife interactions during non-consumptive recreational activities.

**Expected Completion Date:** Spring 2021

### **Progress Period**

*July 2020 - December 2020*

### **Progress Description**

Whitepaper drafting is underway. Due to COVID related setbacks to a student mentor program that was aiding in whitepaper development, the draft was further delayed. When the version is complete, it will be posted to the Non-Consumptive Recreation webpage on MARCO's website.

**ACTIVITY 3** - Identify how the findings of the whitepaper could be incorporated into an easily accessible product.

**Expected Completion Date:** Winter 2020/2021

## Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (MACO)

### **Progress Period**

*July 2020 - December 2020*

### **Progress Description**

The work group continues to meet and discuss paths forward, including considering recommendations made during the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum. Details about products resulting from the whitepaper are anticipated in calendar year 2021.

**ACTIVITY 4** - Continue convening the work group on collaborative calls, at a minimum on a quarterly basis.

**Expected Completion Date:** ongoing

### **Progress Period**

*July 2020 - December 2020*

### **Progress Description**

Post 2020 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum workgroup membership was expanded to move the effort beyond the OAP identified actions. The intent will be to further expand on issues identified at the Ocean Forum and through workgroup discussions, such as:

- Examine updating the recreational survey data on the portal with partners
- Incorporate/expand recreational related GIS work,
- Investigate development of a user facing app with mapping/reporting capabilities
- Examine the economic importance of tourism and the recreational use economy,
- Examine developing best practices for whale watching with the increase of juvenile humpbacks in the nearshore and the possibility of a certification program