



— The Third Annual —

MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN FORUM

May 3-6, 2021

Preliminary Agenda

*Note: Session details and speakers may change as Forum plans 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

Welcome

Kisha Santiago-Martinez

Chair, MARCO Management Board

Deputy Secretary of State, New York State Department of State

Overview of Forum

Kevin Hassell

Chair, MACO Steering Committee

Environmental Specialist, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Tribal Blessing
Stephen R. Adkins
Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

1:00 - 2:20 PM

Opening Plenary
Federal, Tribal, Regional and State priorities for regional ocean planning

Moderator: **Kevin Hassell**

Federal Perspectives
(Participants TBD)

Tribal Perspectives
Dr. Kelsey Leonard, MACO Representative, Shinnecock Indian Nation

Stephen R. Adkins, Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Regional and State Perspectives
Mike Luisi, Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

Doreen Harris, Acting President and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Shawn M. LaTourette, Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Ellen Bolen, Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission

2:30 - 4:00 PM

Climate-Induced Ocean Changes: The Big Picture
A broad overview of climate-induced observed and potential ocean impacts, especially those we are seeing or anticipating in the ocean waters off the Mid-Atlantic region.

Moderator: Darlene Finch, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Dr. Robert (Bob) Halberg, Oceanographer/Ocean Group Head, NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

Dr. Denise Breitburg, Scientist Emeritus, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

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

Moderator: Darryl Francois, Chief Engineering and Technical Review, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Part I: Lessons learned about offshore wind energy siting and decision-making

Dr. Mary Boatman, Environmental Studies Chief, Office of Renewable Energy,
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

George Detweiler, Marine Transportation Specialist, Navigation Standards Division,
Office of Navigation Systems, U.S. Coast Guard

Nick Napoli, Senior Advisor, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

Part II: What we need to know to better inform decisions regarding offshore wind siting

Brian Zelenke, Surface Currents Program Manager, NOAA-IOOS

Dr. Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Executive Director, Responsible Offshore Science Alliance

12:00 - 12:50 PM

Interact with the Work Groups

BYO lunch to a themed breakout room for an informal opportunity to interact with the working groups and to learn more about current and planned activities, and offer input for consideration in future work planning.

Room #1:

Marine Debris: **Laura McKay**, Program Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Ocean Mapping and Data Team: **Laura McKay** and **Nick Napoli**, MARCO Senior Advisor

Room #2:

Ocean Acidification/Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network: **Mary Ford**, Director of Engagement & External Relations, Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System

Non-consumptive Recreation: **Kevin Hassell**, Environmental Specialist, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Room #3

Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety: **Jerry Barnes**, Marine Planner, U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District

Offshore Wind Regional Collaborative: **Michael Snyder**, Ocean and Great Lakes Program Manager, New York State Department of State

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Science, Knowledge, Equity and Justice for Regional Ocean Planning

Hear from scientists and other professionals about how their work contributes to justice in regional ocean planning and discuss best practices for achieving ocean equity and justice.

Moderator: Whitney Tome, Executive Director, Green 2.0 & Principal, The Raben Group

Symone Barkley, Manager of Education Programs, National Aquarium

Dr. Kelsey Leonard, MACO Steering Committee, Shinnecock Nation

Jeff Payne, Director, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Other panelists to be identified

Breakout Discussions - What does Ocean Justice mean in the context of:

- (1) science priorities and research (science)
- (2) community engagement and outreach (knowledge)
- (3) equitable benefits from ocean resources (justice)

Wednesday, May 5

9:15 - 11:15 AM

Innovative Technologies and Approaches for Understanding Ocean Changes

The ocean is currently undersampled and there is insufficient support for sustained observations to fill data needs for informed ocean management. This session will focus on new and/or innovative technologies and techniques for understanding ocean changes in a busy ocean, and examples of how these approaches can be applied.

Moderator: Dr. Josh Kohut, Professor, Rutgers University/ MARACOOS

Part 1: What are innovative tools and technologies with potential management applications?

Dr. Matt Oliver, Distinguished Professor, University of Delaware

Dr. Catherine Edwards, Associate Professor, University of Georgia (invited)

Dr. Ruth Perry, Business Environment Advisor, Shell Renewables and Energy Solutions

Part 2: Case studies to address data needs and management

Dr. Grace Saba, Assistant Professor, Rutgers University

Dr. Thomas Noji, Chief, Ecosystems and Aquaculture Division Director, James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, Northeast Fisheries Science Center - Sandy Hook, New Jersey

Dr. Jennifer Miksis-Olds, Director, University of New Hampshire Center for Acoustics Research and Education

Dr. Christian Reiss, Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division

Part 3: Panel discussion with all presenters

11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Public Listening Session to Inform MACO**
Stakeholder input on ocean planning issues and opportunities for MACO 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.

Moderators: Jessica Coakley, Fishery Management Specialist, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and **Megan Trembl**, Geospatial Consultant, Lynker at NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Part 1: Helping Managers Understand the Changes

Caleb Spiegel, Marine Bird Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Dr. Peter Corkeron, Senior Scientist, New England Aquarium

Dr. Malin Pinsky, Associate Professor, Rutgers University

Part 2: Policies, Data, and Tools to Support Ocean Planning

Dr. Sarah Gaichas, Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Chris McGuire, Marine Program Director, The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts

Mimi Diorio, GIS Manager, NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center

Video from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Closing Plenary**

Perspectives on the Forum and moving forward offered by governmental, academic, environmental representatives