

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN
(MARCO)
AND
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL ASSOCIATION COASTAL
OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM
(MARACOOS)**

WHEREAS, MARCO was formed by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia in 2009 as a partnership to address shared regional priorities as determined necessary by the states, which currently include: habitat protection; water quality improvement; sustainable development of offshore renewable energy; and climate change preparedness.

WHEREAS, MARCO seeks to provide a collective regional voice to facilitate shared action to improve ocean health and contribute to the high quality of life and economic vitality of the region in accordance with the aforementioned regional priorities;

WHEREAS, MARACOOS, the Mid-Atlantic component of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) covering the areas from Cape Cod, MA to Cape Hatteras, NC, is a federally-certified, regional association of partners that collects unique real- and near real-time ocean and coastal data that are transformed into information products to support jobs, the economy, and the safety and well-being for the more than 79 million people living, visiting, and working in the Mid-Atlantic region;

WHEREAS, MARACOOS's mission to power understanding and prediction of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean, coast, and estuaries is implemented through efforts that benefit society within five overarching ocean and coastal thematic areas: maritime safety and commerce, coastal hazards, water quality, fisheries and natural resources, and energy;

WHEREAS, MARCO and MARACOOS have shared interest in informed use and management of coastal and ocean resources for the benefit of current and future generations, and a common geographic focus on the ocean area in the Mid-Atlantic extending from New York to Virginia;

WHEREAS, MARCO and MARACOOS provide separate, distinct, and complementary data products and services—directly and in partnership with others—to regional stakeholders through portals, websites, and direct data and product dissemination; and

WHEREAS, MARCO and MARACOOS have a strong interest in collaborating with each other in support of their missions and mutual interests.

NOW, THEREFORE, MARCO and MARACOOS agree that the following reflects principles of understanding, which are intended to encourage, facilitate and support collaboration efforts:

I. METHODS OF COLLABORATION

Our organizations recognize that each has unique, complementary expertise and share many areas of common interest, including coastal and ecosystem health, marine fisheries and habitats, and offshore wind energy, and agree to collaborate as follows:

Regional Priorities:

- Meet regularly to identify regional coastal and ocean data, information and management issues and priorities, and identify collaborative actions.
- Include collaborative actions identified and agreed to hereunder in their respective work plans.

Participation in Board and Work Group Activities:

- Periodically report to our respective Boards on progress on implementation of this MOU and solicit suggestions for other collaboration opportunities.
- The MARCO Chair and MARACOOS Executive Director, or their representatives, will be provided the opportunity to meet with each other's Boards to present updates and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Identify opportunities and invite organizational representatives to participate in each other's working groups and other activities and consider establishing specific MARCO-MARACOOS collaboration on topics of mutual interest (See *e.g.*, Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network.)

Organization Communications:

- Identify shared interests, including but not limited to complementarity and collaborative efforts (*e.g.*, communication materials, websites.)
- Identify opportunities to amplify and leverage organizational efforts and relationships to extend access, educate and engage the public and regional ocean stakeholders on ocean data, science and management priorities.

Ocean Data and Information:

- Continue cooperation and align mutual understanding regarding respective organizational roles related to development of data, data portals, data products and information, which inform regional ocean management and planning, improved ocean ecosystem health and a thriving sustainable ocean economy.
- Identify opportunities to coordinate on development of data, data products and information of mutual interest, including but not limited to collaboration on transformation of real-time data collected by or leveraged through MARACOOS to long term planning data hosted on the MARCO Ocean Data Portal.
- Discrete projects will be subject to contractual agreements related to ownership of data and intellectual property terms and conditions.

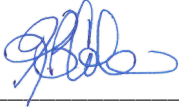
Potential Joint Projects:

- Work together to identify potential projects of mutual interest, and jointly develop proposals, seek funding, and implement projects subject to available funding. Discrete projects will be subject to contractual agreements related to ownership of data and

intellectual property terms and conditions.

II. Duration, Termination and Modification

The duration of the MOU will be for three (3) years. Renewal will be automatic unless specifically terminated on 30 day written notice to the other part. This MOU contains the entire agreement of the parties and cannot be changed or modified except by in writing and signed by both parties.



Kimberly Cole, Chair, MARCO

Date: September 1, 2021



Gerhard Kuska, Executive Director, MARACOOS

Date: September 8, 2021