



## 2021 Maritime Commerce and Navigation Work Group Plan and Progress Report

**Reporting Period:** January 2021 – December 2021

**Work Group Webpage:** <https://www.midatlanticocean.org/ocean-planning/work-groups-collaborative-efforts/maritime-commerce-and-navigation-safety-work-group/>

**Work Group Leads:** Matt Creelman, U.S. Coast Guard

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**Work Group 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.

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**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 2021 - June 2021

The Coast Guard in June announced the availability of a draft report for its Port Access Route Study (PARS) for the Approaches to the Chesapeake Bay, which was first launched in November 2019. [A map layer published on the Portal](#) showed a network of shipping safety fairways proposed by the report to accommodate vessels navigating to and from the Chesapeake Bay and around the Virginia offshore wind energy lease area. Another map layer was created showing a 15-square-mile anchorage area proposed by the Coast Guard off Long Island to accommodate future vessel traffic to port facilities in New York and New Jersey. The [USCG Proposed Ambrose Anchorage Ground](#) map can

be accessed by clicking on the USCG Proposed Areas and Studies dropdown in the Portal's Maritime theme. The Coast Guard is considering formally establishing an anchorage ground at this location, possibly with regulations governing its use, if doing so will improve navigation safety and enhance safe and efficient flow of vessel traffic and commerce.

In April, an article was posted in the Portal's news section that provided an update about a Coast Guard supplemental notice of study to seek additional information related to the Northern New York Bight Port Access Route Study (NNYBPARS). Following a review of comments and materials received, the USCG identified several areas of additional inquiry related to the study and invited new comments and responses to the proposed questions and information requests through May 12. Members of the public could use the Portal's previously published NNYBPARS map layer to study the area and inform their comments.

**A1 Progress Period:** July 2021 - December 2021

In August, [the Portal published a map](#) showing routing measures proposed by the First Coast Guard District's NNYBPARS to accommodate vessels heading to and from the New York Harbor area and around proposed offshore wind energy areas off the coasts of New Jersey and New York. The article announcing this data was later updated to reflect the extension of public comment period for the study.

In October, [a map was published](#) showing a network of shipping safety routes and anchorage grounds proposed by the Fifth Coast Guard District's Port Access Route Study: Seacoast of New Jersey Including Offshore Approaches to the Delaware Bay, Delaware draft report.

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

**Expected Completion Date:** Ongoing

**A2 Progress Period:** January 2021 - June 2021

Members of the work group helped organize and take part in multiple sessions at the May 2021 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum. The session "Time to Get Real: What We Have Learned and What We Need to Know to Inform Offshore Wind Siting" featured a presentation by George Detweiler, Marine Transportation Specialist, Navigation Standards Division, Office of Navigation Systems, U.S. Coast Guard. Jerry Barnes also hosted a lunchtime Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety Work Group breakout

session which offered attendees an informal opportunity to ask questions, learn more about current and planned activities and offer input for consideration in future work planning. In April, the Coast Guard held two virtual public meetings to provide an opportunity for oral comments regarding the possible establishment of the Ambrose Anchorage ground (see A1 above).

**A2 Progress Period:** July 2021 – December 2021

In the Sept. 14 edition of the Portal's "How Tuesday" webinar series, presented in partnership with the Coast Guard and Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Coast Guard personnel presented information on findings, public comment opportunities and next steps for the PARS. Demonstrations were provided for Coast Guard GIS web tools and map data on the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast ocean data portals that can be used to explore the studies and their recommendations in further depth. A recording was posted on YouTube and the Portal's blog. The presenters were John Stone, Marine Transportation Specialist, Office of Navigation at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; Capt. Maureen Kallgren, Coast Guard District 5; LCDR Michael Wysong, Coast Guard District 1; Coast Guard LCDR Ian Hanna; Karl Vilacoba, Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute; and Emily Shumchenia, Northeast Regional Ocean Council.

