

2022 Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety Work Group Work Plan and Progress Report

Reporting Period: January 2022 – December 2022

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, Coast Guard

Work Group Members: Work group membership is open to government and non-governmental entities operating in the five Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that are willing to participate in work group activities. Members are expected to contribute on monthly work group calls and assist with project implementation.

Current Members Include:

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Creelman*	Matt	US Coast Guard

* Lead

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.

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 2022 - June 2022

An anchorage area first proposed by the Coast Guard in 2020 to accommodate vessels near the approaches of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina was amended on the Portal in March to reflect a reduction in its footprint. A Federal Register notice published in June announced the anchorage area would become official as of July 21, 2022.

A map showing the boundary for the U.S. Coast Guard-led Approaches to Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts Port Access Route Study (MNMPARS) was added to the Portal in April. The Coast Guard invited public comment through May 15 on the impacts to navigation in the area of study resulting from factors such as offshore development, increased vessel traffic, changing vessel traffic patterns, weather conditions, or navigational difficulty.

The First Coast Guard District completed a Northern New York Bight Port Access Route Study (NNYBPARS) in January to evaluate the adequacy of existing vessel routing measures and determine whether additional ones are necessary for port approaches to New York and New Jersey and international and domestic transit areas in the district's area of responsibility. A map added to the Portal displays a network of shipping safety fairways leading to and from the port area and an anchorage area off the coast of Long Island that were proposed in the final report.

Per the request of a user from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, two data layers showing the Mid-Atlantic's network of ferry routes and terminals were added to the Maritime theme in Marine Planner. Both datasets are provided and maintained by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

A1 Progress Period: July 2022 - December 2022

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 2022 - June 2022

A panel session was organized at the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum on May 6 titled, “Accommodating Future Demands for Ocean Space to Sustain Port Access and Maritime Navigation.” Moderated by Wright Frank of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the panel included presentations by John Stone, marine transportation specialist, U.S. Coast Guard; Sean Kline, director of maritime affairs, Chamber of Shipping of America; and Nick Napoli, MARCO senior advisor and NROC executive director.

A2 Progress Period: July 2022 – December 2022

