

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

April 7, 2023

MARCO
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

BACKGROUND

- ▶ MARCO is among four Regional Ocean Partnerships that were appropriated \$56 million over five years
- ▶ First funding period: 2 Years (December 2022 – December 2024)
- ▶ MACO Work Groups, MARCO Board developed the projects in the Plan in late spring 2022
- ▶ More information about the Regional Ocean Partnerships Awards can be found [here](#)



FOUR GOALS



Regional Ocean Planning

Provide a forum for inter-agency and cross-jurisdictional collaboration



Spatial Data

Provide the best available ocean and coastal spatial planning information to the public and decision-makers



Topic-specific workgroups

Collaborative efforts that advance shared priorities



Increase Capacity

Support new and existing contracts to achieve programmatic objectives



OCEAN PLANNING

Mid-Atlantic
Committee on
the Ocean



WORK GROUPS

Marine
Debris

Ocean
Acidification

Offshore
Wind

Non-
Consumptive
Recreation



SPATIAL DATA

Data product
enhancement

Portal operations
&
Communication



CAPACITY

Contractual
staff

Develop 5- year
work plan

Communications
enhancements



MID-ATLANTIC COMMITTEE ON THE OCEAN

Coordinate regional ocean planning and stakeholder engagement through MACO

- ▶ Regularly convene MACO members to advance regional ocean and coastal planning and management
- ▶ Host a public annual MACO Forum

Increase focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, & accessibility (DEIJA) in regional ocean planning

- ▶ Provide racial equity training opportunities and workshops
- ▶ Develop a MACO DEIJA vision & goals





MID-ATLANTIC COMMITTEE ON THE OCEAN

Expand Tribal participation and representation in ocean planning

- ▶ Conduct one-on-one outreach to all state and federally-recognized tribes in the region
- ▶ Compile and maintain a contact list of all tribes with interest in ocean and coastal issues
- ▶ Host in-person Tribal Listening Sessions

Explore regional collaboration opportunities around ocean conservation

- ▶ Convene a collaborative work group
- ▶ Host an ocean conservation symposium

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OCEAN AND COASTAL ACIDIFICATION

Identify regional ocean and coastal acidification monitoring opportunities and gaps

Mid-Atlantic ocean acidification “hot spot” analysis

Stakeholder engagement

- Annual webinar series
- Educational video series for high school and college audiences
- Refresh MACAN website

Workforce Career Mentorship Program – Ocean and Coastal Acidification

Host bi-annual Ocean and Coastal Acidification Regional State of the Science

MACAN

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MARACOOS
Ocean Information for a Changing World



OFFSHORE WIND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Focused outreach and engagement to commercial and recreational fishers

- ▶ Fisheries outreach liaison

Support efforts that coordinate offshore wind energy transmission planning to advance ocean and coastal management

MARCO also continues to co-host the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative in partnership with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)

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RWSC
Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative
for Offshore Wind



MARINE DEBRIS WORK GROUP

Community-Based Social Marketing Barriers Research

- ▶ Disseminate CBSM-based surveys for at least two consumer debris types, starting with plastic water bottles, in all 5 states

Water bottle refill station – capacity building for waterfront recreational zones

Document lessons learned and measure public perception of marine debris policies in the Mid- Atlantic

Host bi-annual regional Marine Debris Summit





NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Create a user-friendly, searchable tool to increase awareness by recreators of these best practices as a component of a regionally specific application.

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DATA ENHANCEMENTS ON THE MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

Update commercial fishing data

- ▶ Incorporate the NOAA fishing footprint data and related products characterizing the socioeconomic impacts of offshore wind development
- ▶ Continue regular VMS updates
- ▶ Update the Communities at Sea (CAS) data
- ▶ Reorganize all of the various products by fishery instead of the current organization by type of product.

Update marine life data

- ▶ Update existing marine life products on an annual basis, including those that are derived from the most recent cetacean and avian models.
- ▶ Develop new data products, including sea turtle maps based on new modeling efforts being done by NOAA AMAPPs and the US Navy.



MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Implement functionality enhancements like refreshing the website, improving search capability, improving printing support, etc.

Maintain Portal Technology infrastructure

Conduct Portal trainings and develop outreach products for tribes, communities, and stakeholders





INCREASE CAPACITY & ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS

**Support existing and new
MARCO Core Team
contracts**

Develop a 5-year Work Plan

**Refresh MARCO website &
graphics**



THANK YOU!

Please send questions to Avalon
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