

2023 Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety Work Group Work Plan and Progress Report

Reporting Period: January 2023 – December 2023

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
Green*	Ryan	Virginia DEQ CZM
Vilacoba	Karl	MARCO Data Portal/Monmouth UCI
Watts	Jes	MARCO

* 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 - June 2023

The Coast Guard published an update to its Consolidated Port Approaches and International Entry and Departure Transit Areas Port Access Route Studies (CPAPARS) report in March. The CPAPARS included a series of recommendations and alternatives for shipping lanes, anchorages and other routing measures from the coasts of Rhode Island to Florida, which were made available for viewing with a map layer on the Portal. In a Federal Register notice, the Coast Guard encouraged members of the public to use the Portal to review the recommendations and submit comments throughout a 90-day comment period.

At the direction of Coast Guard NAVCEN, the Portal team also retired a series of older map layers depicting recommendations made by the individual PARS reports between 2019 and 2022.

A1 Progress Period: July 2023 - December 2023

The Portal’s Aids to Navigation (ATON) map layer was replaced with a new version published by [MarineCadastre.gov](https://www.marinecadastre.gov) containing the latest locations of buoys, lights, signals, and other infrastructure intended to guide mariners and warn of dangers/obstructions.

The Portal Team began evaluating potential data additions from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Data Center. The ASACE’s Docks layer was identified as a more current and regularly maintained alternative to the Portal’s Port Facilities (by ownership and commodities) map layers, which were retired due to old/inaccurate information. In addition, the USACE Ports and Port Statistical Areas was identified as a potential addition for the Maritime or Administrative themes. These layers will be presented to the OMDT for consideration in early 2024.

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 2023 - June 2023

None in this reporting period.

A2 Progress Period: July 2023 – December 2023

None in this reporting period: work plan in developmental stage

