



# 2023 Non-Consumptive Recreation Work Group Progress Report and Ongoing Work Plan

**Reporting Period:** June-December 2023

**Work Group Webpage:** <https://www.midatlanticocean.org/ocean-planning/work-groups-collaborative-efforts/6720-2/>

**Work Group Leads:** Kevin Hassell (NJDEP)

**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:**

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Avalon	Bristow	MARCO
Matt	Coble	USCG
Kimberly	Cole	DNREC
Robin	Dunbar	Elizabeth River Project
Mary	Ford	MARACOOS
Amy	Freitag	NOAA
Matt	Gove	Surfrider Foundation
Susan	Guiteras	FWS
Lisa	Gutierrez	MDNR
Kevin	Hassell	NJ
Jeanne	Herb	Rutgers
Tony	Macdonald	Monmouth

Christie	Mazzeo-Pfoertner	NYDOS
Catherine	McCall	MDNR
Francis	McParland	NYDEC
Nick	Meade	VA DEQ CZM
Kristi	Lieske	DNREC
Casey	Personius	NYDEC
Michael	Snyder	NYDOS
Talya	ten Brink	NOAA
Karl	Vilacoba	Monmouth University
Jes	Watts	MARCO
Jennifer	Whytlaw	Old Dominion
Brenda	Davis	Assateague Coastal Trust
September	Meagher	MARCO
Kirstin	Wakefield	MARACOOS
Ally	Horan	NJDEP

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**Work Group Goals, Objectives and Actions:** MACO’s Non-Consumptive Recreation working group is conducting activities in continuation and support of the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan’s Section 2.4.7: Non-Consumptive Recreation, Objective 7, which states, *“Account for the importance of nearshore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses, and their local and regional economic contributions in the Mid-Atlantic; and in the management of other ocean uses and resources, consider impacts on non-consumptive recreational activities (e.g., surfing, boating, whale watching, birding, diving).”* The Non-Consumptive Recreation work group seeks to identify, characterize, and share information about measures to maintain the value of important non-consumptive recreational areas and the activities they sustain to users and the Mid-Atlantic economy.

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**ACTIVITY 1** - Create a Mobile Application for the Mid-Atlantic region for recreators. This app will include data from both the MARCO Data Portal as well as the MARACOOS Oceans Map. The Work Group is working in collaboration with MARACOOS on this activity

**Expected Completion Date:** June 2024

**A1 Progress Period:** June-December 2023

The Work Group was asked for input on mobile application development and an initial app planning team was created. A contractor was identified to develop the application. MARCO and MARACOOS staff have met with the contractor for initial planning phases and created a timeline.

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**ACTIVITY 2** - Identify and map data illustrating coastal recreation and tourism (boat launches, water trails, etc.)

**Expected Completion Date:** Fall 2023

**A2 Progress Period:** June- December 2023

In July of 2023 the Portal team launched a collection of new maps in the Recreation theme showing coastal water trails and public boat ramps in the Mid-Atlantic. Portal users can click on the "Boat Ramps" dropdown in the Recreation theme for a list of seven map layers showing sites in the five-state Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) region, plus additional points in Pennsylvania that offer convenient access to the Delaware Bay. The maps focus on ramps that are suitable for motorized vessels and located within 10 kilometers of the shoreline or the region's major estuaries (Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay and Long Island Sound).

Ten new maps show the routes for publicly designated and accessible water trails in coastal areas of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Users can browse the maps to plan canoeing, kayaking and boating excursions, and consult the Portal's thousands of additional data layers to learn about the marine life, maritime activities and other interesting features they'll encounter along the way. Users can click on the water trail routes for pop-up windows containing additional information about them, such as the route name, details about access points, and links to websites and brochures dedicated to them. (The types of information available varies from layer to layer, as the data was obtained from separate sources.)

The collection focuses on water trails that begin or end in coastal areas (within 10 kilometers of beaches or the shores of major estuaries) in the five-state Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) region. In some cases, data is included for routes that are located beyond that boundary, but connect to coastal water trails and therefore serve as extensions of them. Portal users can consult the links provided in the descriptions below to view the original source data, which may show additional water trails in non-coastal areas.

This collection will be updated periodically to incorporate additional data that becomes available.

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**ACTIVITY 3 - Convene the work group on collaborative calls on an as needed basis.**

**Expected Completion Date:** Ongoing

**A3 Progress Period:** June-December 2023

During this period, activities have been accomplished or are underway by the Portal Team and the NCR Work Group Lead. Work group members met twice during the period to begin planning for the Mid-Atlantic Recreation Application planned for release in Summer 2024.

