Update on Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

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Presentation Outline

(1) Overview of MARCO and the MidA RPB
(2) Public and Tribal Engagement
(3) Science Support
(4) Ocean Data Portal
(5) Overview of Final Mid-A Ocean Action Plan
(6) Transitioning to implementation
MARCO-
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
Inter-state Partnership

Partnership of 5 states-

• Virginia
• Delaware
• Maryland
• New Jersey
• New York

Working to enhance the vitality of the region's ocean ecosystem and economy
Shared Regional Priorities

- Protect important habitat and sensitive and unique offshore areas
- Support the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy
- Prepare the region's coastal communities for the impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal resources
- Promote coastal water quality improvements
• 2010 Presidential Executive Order established a National Ocean Policy (NOP)

“to coordinate and implement regional ocean planning with state, federal, tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives.”

• Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body- founded in 2013

• Regional Ocean Action Plan- due before end 2016

• Northeast region has similar process and timeline
Overview of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

ESTABLISHED in April 2013 to design and implement collaborative Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning

PRIMARY PURPOSE is to improve coordination, share data, and build collaborative relationships to address regional ocean issues.
Includes representatives of:

- 6 Mid-Atlantic states: NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and VA
- 2 federally-recognized Tribes in the region: the Shinnecock Indian Nation and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- 8 Federal agencies with ocean interests

Connecticut serves as an ex-officio member
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<th>Science Support</th>
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<td>- Regional Ocean Assessment</td>
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<td>- Marine life and habitat analyses</td>
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<td>- Human use data synthesis</td>
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Development of a Regional Ocean Assessment

- Includes a baseline characterization and assessment of ocean uses and resources in the Mid-Atlantic

- Designed to be available primarily in a dynamic digital format that can be updated over time

- Available at: http://roa.midatlanticocean.org/
Marine Life Distribution and Abundance Products

- “Base layer” predictive model products for 29 marine mammal species or species guilds and 40 avian species, and distribution and abundance maps for 82 fish species

- “Reference library” of over 3,000 publicly available spatial data layers

- Includes summary aggregate products comprised of more than one species created to allow quick access to map summaries about potential biological, management or sensitivity groups of interest

Human Use Data Synthesis

- 64 data layers describing human activity or infrastructure
- Depict the number of uses in a given area
- Allow users to spatially identify the intensity of human uses across the different activity types
- Highlight locations where multiple uses occur
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<th>Public Engagement</th>
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<td>- Stakeholder Liaison Committee</td>
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Public input: a priority throughout Draft Plan development

- 5 in-person public RPB meetings with public comment sessions
- 4 public webinars to present and hear input about draft RPB products
- 3 public workshops to discuss input about draft RPB products
- 10 public listening sessions in Mid-Atlantic States
- 2 Tribal listening sessions in VA and NY
- Numerous additional sector-specific and data-focused outreach efforts
- Summer of 2016:
  - Release of Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan for 60 days of public comment in early July
  - Convening of 5 open house public listening sessions in the Mid-Atlantic States to share information about Draft Plan and receive public input
  - Over 34,000 public comments received
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<th>Stakeholder Liaison Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Commercial Fishing</td>
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<td>• Recreational Fishing</td>
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<td>• Submarine Cables</td>
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<td>• Coastal Tourism</td>
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Tribal Engagement

- Explored the development of geographic data layers based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to identify tribal resources, historical boundaries and current communities

- Two Listening Sessions & three Participatory Geographic Information System sessions were hosted (July-Nov 2015)
Tribes of the Mid-Atlantic Region

- Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware
- Nanticoke Indian Association, Inc.
- Piscataway Indian Nation
- Piscataway Conoy Tribe
- Powhatan Renape Nation
- Ramapough Lunaape Nation
- Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation
- Cayuga Nation
Tribes of the Mid-Atlantic Region (cont’d)

- Oneida Indian Nation
- Onondaga Nation
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Seneca Nation of Indians- Allegany & Cattaraugus
- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians
- Tuscarora Nation
- Unkechaug Nation
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<th>Tribes of the Mid-Atlantic Region (cont’d)</th>
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<td>• Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe</td>
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<td>• Chickahominy Tribe Eastern</td>
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<td>• Chickahominy Tribe</td>
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<td>• Mattaponi Tribe</td>
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<td>• Monacan Indian Nation</td>
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<td>• Nansemond Indian Tribal Association</td>
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<td>• Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia</td>
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<td>• Pamunkey Indian Tribe</td>
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Tribes of the Mid-Atlantic Region (cont’d)

- Pattawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia
- Rappahannock Tribe
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
MARCO Ocean Data Portal
http://portal.midatlanticocean.org

Every map tells a story. We help you share yours.
Maritime

The Mid-Atlantic ports are some of the busiest in the nation’s seaport network, which unloads $3.8 billion in goods each day.

Aids to Navigation

Source:

Notes: Structures intended to assist a navigator to determine position or safe course, or to warn of dangers or obstructions to navigation. This dataset includes lights, signals, buoys, day beacons, and other aids to navigation. These data are intended for coastal and ocean use planning. Not for navigation. The aids to navigation database is maintained by the US Coast Guard and is the basis from which NOAA Coastal Services Center created a geospatial database for display on MarineCadastre.gov.

AIS Shipping Data (2011)
AIS Data for 2011, 2012 and 2013
2013 AIS Data: All Vessels
2013 AIS Data: Cargo
2013 AIS Data: Tanker
Join a map group

Groups are an opportunity to share information and resources with like-minded ocean users. You can browse groups here and request to join groups that are open to the public. Don’t see the group you are looking for? Create your own group — anyone can start a group.

To create your own map group, click here.

Member Groups

05.2015

Tidewater
Interested in ocean uses and planning discussions around the tidewater VA area

06.2015

Routing measures and wind energy
This is for people who are interested in assessing the feasibility of wind planning areas as they relate to routing and safety

06.2015

Recreational Fishing areas
There isn’t a lot of data on recreational fishing. This group is for people to identify their most valuable recreational fishing areas.
Overview of Final Mid-A Ocean Action Plan
# Actions to Promote a Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

**Objective 1 – Discover**
understand, protect, and restore the ocean ecosystem

**Objective 2 – Account for**
ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks

**Objective 3 – Value**
Traditional Knowledge

| ACTION 1 | Identify ecologically rich areas of the ocean in Mid-Atlantic region and increase understanding of those areas to foster more informed decision making. |
| ACTION 2 | Map shifts in ocean species and habitats. |
| ACTION 3 | Develop a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network. |
| ACTION 4 | Develop a regionally appropriate strategy for marine debris reduction. |
| ACTION 5 | Develop, monitor and assess indicators of the health of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean ecosystem. |
| ACTION 6 | Incorporate Traditional Knowledge of Tribes regarding ocean health in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. |
Actions to Promote Sustainable Ocean Uses

33 actions address 9 objectives related to these ocean uses:

- National security
- Ocean energy
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Ocean aquaculture
- Maritime commerce and navigation
- Sand management
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Tribal interests and uses
- Critical undersea infrastructure
Transitioning to implementation

- The Mid-Atlantic Plan was certified by the National Ocean Council on December 7, 2016
- Implementation of actions directly supports existing agency missions, mandates, and priorities.
- Stakeholder engagement will continue to be a core priority for the RPB, as resources and opportunities allow.
- Examples of select actions
Ecologically Rich Areas

**Summary** – Identify and increase understanding of Ecologically Rich Areas of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

**Next steps**

- Finalize framework for identifying areas (step A) in collaboration with the Northeast as soon as possible.
- Virginia CZM submitted a grant proposal in November 2016. If funded, this would allow MARCO staff and MDAT to undertake steps B – F of this action beginning in October 2017.

**Stakeholder engagement**

- Stakeholder input will be solicited on refinements to the approach in Step A.
- Workshop to identify a pilot ERA if grant funds are secured.
Mapping Species Shifts

- **Summary** – Map shifts in ocean species and habitats.

- **Next steps**
  - MDAT completing literature review by end of 2016.
  - Complete formation of Work Group, conduct first call to review available data by spring 2017.
  - Work Group makes recommendations to RPB on how available data could be displayed in portal and provides a list of recommended priority data gaps to be filled.

- **Stakeholder engagement**
  - Convene stakeholders to preview data before posting and to identify any additional data gaps, as resources allow.
Ocean Acidification

• **Summary** – Develop a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network.

• **Next steps**
  - Identify and prioritize questions that the regional OA network should address - *Dec 2016-Mar 2017*
  - Compile list of current monitoring, research technologies and data gaps - *Dec 2016-Aug 2017*
  - Develop comprehensive plan for monitoring infrastructure - *June-Dec 2017*

• **Stakeholder engagement**
  - Webinar series will aid prioritization discussions and understanding research needs among stakeholders.
    - *Dec. 20; Jan. 17; Feb. 21; and March 21*
  - Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification workshop for all interested parties to present workgroup findings and gather stakeholder input to develop a comprehensive monitoring plan and infrastructure.
    - *May 2017*
Marine Debris

**Summary** – Develop a regionally appropriate strategy for marine debris reduction.

**Next steps**
- Create inventory of existing efforts in Mid-Atlantic in February 2017.
- Identify gaps/needs in March 2017.
- Host workshop to identify priority strategy to recommend to the RPB in June 2017.
- Secure RPB approval of recommended strategy in July 2017.
- Begin implementation in August 2017.

**Stakeholder engagement**
- Workshop to identify recommended marine debris strategy for full RPB approval.
Non-Consumptive Recreation

• **Summary** – To account for the importance of nearshore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses and their economic contributions to the Mid-Atlantic.

• **Next steps** – Survey non-consumptive recreational users to identify important areas and uses, develop best management practices that minimize potential conflicts with other uses and resources, and pursue opportunities for improvements in federal/state/tribal practices.

• **Stakeholder engagement** – Surveying, stakeholder meetings.
## Additional Information

- **MARCO**  
  [www.MidAtlanticOcean.org](http://www.MidAtlanticOcean.org)

- **Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body**  
  *(and 12/8 Public Webinar recording)*  
  [www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body/ov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body](http://www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body/ov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body)

- **Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal**  
  [portal.midatlanticocean.org](http://portal.midatlanticocean.org)
Thank you for your interest!

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