



Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop: Summary of Workshop Discussions

Westin Arlington Gateway

Arlington, VA

April 4-5, 2013

Contents

Executive Summary	1
About the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop	4
About Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic	5
About this Document	7
Thursday, April 4, 2013	8
Welcoming Remarks	8
Welcome to Virginia	9
Welcome	9
Agenda Review	11
Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic: The Context and Motivation	11
National Initiatives Important for Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning	12
The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body	12
Panel and Plenary Discussion: Existing Groundwork for Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic Region	14
Breakout Group 1: Identifying Questions about Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning ..	16
Panel and Plenary Discussion: Discussion of Participant Questions	26
Panel and Plenary Discussion: Stakeholder Perspectives and Ensuring Meaningful Stakeholder Collaboration	29
Friday, April 5, 2013	34
Welcome Back, Day 2 Agenda Review, and Charge to Breakout Groups 2	34
Breakout Groups 2: Developing Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body	34
Report-out and Plenary Discussion: Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body	44
Key Themes and Outcomes	48
Next Steps	49
Appendices	51
Appendix A: Participant Meeting Materials	
Appendix A.1 Workshop Agenda	i
Appendix A.2 Workshop Participant List [Actual]	vii
Appendix A.3 Regional Context and Guide to Ocean Planning Entities	xv
Appendix A.4 Commonly Used Acronyms and Term	xix
Appendix A.5 Resources for More Information about Regional Ocean Planning	xxi

Appendix B: PowerPoint Presentations

Appendix B.1 Boesch.....xxv
Appendix B.2 Schultzxxviii
Appendix B.3 Gilmanxxx
Appendix B.4 Boatman.....xxxiii
Appendix B.5 McKayxxxv

Appendix C: Stakeholders/Groups/Meetings to Engage and Track: Ideas Generated

During Breakout Sessions.....xlii

Executive Summary

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop was convened on April 4-5, 2013 in Arlington, Virginia by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) in collaboration with the federal agencies engaged with ocean planning in the region. It was an initial step in the launch of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic and was designed to engage stakeholders in early thinking about the design of the planning process. Approximately 160 individuals participated in the workshop. They represented stakeholder interests and governmental entities from across the region. Stakeholder participants represented a number of important interests including ocean-based industries, ocean recreation, environmental and conservation groups, educational and research institutions, coastal communities, national security interests, and the general public.

Objectives of the workshop were to:

- Develop a common understanding about regional ocean planning and how it can help the Mid-Atlantic region establish and achieve shared goals for the use and conservation of its ocean resources.
- Involve stakeholders in developing recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, including strategies and mechanisms for robust stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process.
- Foster dialogue and commitment among stakeholders and governmental entities in the Mid-Atlantic to advance collaboration on ocean planning.

On the first day of the workshop, Thursday, April 4, participants heard opening remarks from state, federal, and tribal leaders, as well as scientific experts, who set the regional and national context for subsequent discussions about ocean planning. Participants then convened in facilitated, small groups to identify their top questions, concerns, and ideas about regional ocean planning. These ideas were brought to two panels in the afternoon: one panel of state, federal, and tribal leaders and a second of stakeholder leaders representing a range of interests. The panels offered their responses and reactions to the questions, concerns, and ideas generated by workshop participants. It was announced during this first day that appointees to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) representing Mid-Atlantic states, federal agencies, tribes, and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) had met in person over lunch and the MidA RPB was declared to be officially established.

On the second day, Friday, April 5, participants convened again in small groups to discuss and develop recommendations for the MidA RPB. Each breakout group then reported the highlights of its discussion to plenary participants and a panel of MidA RPB Members, who discussed the

ideas provided by the small groups. This was followed by brief summarizing and closing remarks.

Key themes of discussion throughout the workshop included:

- *Stakeholder engagement*: The MidA RPB was urged to operate in a transparent fashion and to find direct and formal ways to include stakeholder input in its decision making processes. Participants recommended being creative, inclusive, and flexible about stakeholder engagement to ensure that stakeholder input is sought and incorporated in meaningful ways. A key concept discussed was finding ways for stakeholders to contribute and vet data considered for decision making by ocean managers. It was urged that underrepresented groups be sought and included in the process. A key concern was a shortage of funding to implement a robust engagement process and lack of current interest in establishing an official Federal Advisory Committee. Implementing a variety of techniques for stakeholders to become involved will be essential to reaching a broad range of interests.
- *Data and information*: The need to coordinate all relevant data from across states, federal agencies, tribes, and the full range of interest groups was emphasized. The [Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal](#) was identified as a key tool and early successful product, but it was noted that even more work on data sharing is needed. Data quality and how data would be used in decision making were recurring themes throughout the workshop.
- *Improving governance*: It was emphasized throughout the workshop that the purpose of the MidA RPB is to provide a forum for all relevant governmental entities to coordinate more effectively, find efficiencies in decision making processes, share data and information, leverage resources, and offer a forum for stakeholders and the public to engage in the development and implementation of a comprehensive vision for the management of ocean resources in the Mid-Atlantic. Taking a systems-based approach was emphasized, particularly one that considers all components of the ecosystem, including humans, in a holistic manner. Establishing clear goals and metrics of success was viewed as a priority.
- *The role of the MidA RPB*: The workshop offered an opportunity to clarify that the MidA RPB will not have new regulatory authorities, nor establish new bureaucratic processes. Instead, it will serve as a coordinating entity between states, federal agencies, tribes, the MAFMC, and stakeholders. Members of the MidA RPB would be expected to reach consensus on all key aspects of the planning process and its products. Implementation of an ocean plan would involve individual states, agencies, tribes, and the MAFMC carrying out their existing responsibilities in the context of the plan. They would be expected to make decisions within their existing authorities that are consistent with the

plan that they will have helped to develop and agreed to carry out. While federal agencies are required by Presidential Executive Order to participate fully in the ocean planning process, states and tribes participate voluntarily. It was urged that the MidA RPB not only offer a forum for increased understanding and information sharing among governmental entities, but also for stakeholder views about the use of ocean space and resources. Providing stakeholders with a credible venue for dialogue and information sharing could lead to positive outcomes for all parties.

- *Building on existing efforts:* It was acknowledged throughout the workshop that there are many existing activities related to ocean management and stakeholder engagement underway in the region. The MidA RPB should build on those efforts and help coordinate them in moving toward a shared vision for the region.
- *Maximizing compatibility:* A number of stakeholders expressed a hope that ocean planning would allow for new uses, such as renewable energy development, while protecting existing uses of the ocean and improving ecosystem health. By creating a forum for information sharing and discussion, the process may avoid time consuming and expensive conflicts and instead maximize compatibilities in a common sense way.
- *Adapt to changing conditions and new information:* Participants emphasized that the planning process needs to be adaptable to changing conditions, including new technologies, new uses of the ocean, changing environmental conditions, and evolving societal priorities. This means that ocean planning should be a continuous and adaptive process that is refined over time.
- *Funding:* The lack of new long-term funding for ocean planning was seen as a concern. Participants expressed hope that, if the process proves to bring anticipated benefits and gains the trust of stakeholders, funding to ensure it is sustained and maximized will become available.

Next steps identified included convening an initial MidA RPB meeting, determining ways for stakeholders to become engaged in meaningful ways throughout the process, and developing both a work plan and communications plan to guide the regional ocean planning process. Participants in the workshop were urged to stay involved and share information about ocean planning with their constituencies as it becomes available so that a full range of input can be taken into account. A detailed summary of workshop discussions, which includes materials and PowerPoint slides from the workshop in appendices, was produced by Meridian Institute, which provided process design, meeting planning, and facilitation services to workshop conveners in support of the workshop. The full summary and all appendices, as well as video of all plenary sessions, are posted on the MARCO website at midatlanticocean.org.

About the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop was convened on April 4-5, 2013 in Arlington, Virginia by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) in collaboration with the federal agencies engaged with ocean planning in the region. It was an initial step in the launch of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic and was designed to engage stakeholders in early thinking about the design of the planning process. Approximately 160 individuals participated in the workshop. They represented stakeholder interests and governmental entities from across the region. Stakeholder participants represented a number of important interests including ocean-based industries, ocean recreation, environmental and conservation groups, educational and research institutions, coastal communities, national security interests, and the general public. The participant list for the workshop can be found in Appendix A.2.

Workshop participants had an opportunity to learn about regional ocean planning and provide input that will help shape the process in the Mid-Atlantic. They engaged with other stakeholders and representatives of state and federal agencies, tribes, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), who will lead the Mid-Atlantic ocean planning effort.

Objectives of the workshop were to:

- Develop a common understanding about regional ocean planning and how it can help the Mid-Atlantic region establish and achieve shared goals for the use and conservation of its ocean resources.
- Involve stakeholders in developing recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, including strategies and mechanisms for robust stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process.
- Foster dialogue and commitment among stakeholders and governmental entities in the Mid-Atlantic to advance collaboration on ocean planning.

Stakeholder engagement will be a cornerstone of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning process, and it will be essential for all perspectives and interests to be carefully considered. The information and input gathered during the workshop will inform and help lay the foundation for regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.

This detailed summary of workshop discussions was produced by Meridian Institute, which provided process design, meeting planning, and facilitation services to workshop conveners in support of the workshop. The workshop plenary sessions were facilitated by Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute, and breakout sessions were facilitated by Meridian staff and volunteers from

state and federal agencies. The full set of workshop materials that was provided to participants can be found in Appendix A.

About Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic

Regional ocean planning is intended to improve understanding of how Mid-Atlantic ocean resources and places are currently being used, managed and conserved, and to establish a broad vision that will guide the actions that need to be taken to address shared regional priorities. Information obtained through this approach is intended to guide resource conservation while supporting a growing number of uses vying for ocean resources and space.

Key elements of regional ocean planning include:

- Identifying shared, regional objectives to better focus decision-making.
- Engaging stakeholders and scientific/technical experts to ensure managers have the best available information for decision making about ocean use and conservation.
- Producing, coordinating, and analyzing data across jurisdictions and agencies to provide better understanding of the potential effects of decisions.
- Generating a regional assessment of ocean-related human uses, natural resources, and economic and cultural factors to provide a comprehensive context for decision-making.
- Developing and implementing coordinated management actions across jurisdictions using existing ocean management efforts and authorities.
- Using dispute resolution mechanisms that help Federal and States agencies and Tribes address inconsistencies across policies and other potential areas of conflict.

Through regional ocean planning, a broad range of stakeholders will work together to facilitate sustainable, safe, secure, and productive access to and use of the ocean. This approach considers a spectrum of economic, ecological, social, and cultural needs to ensure marine ecosystems are healthy and able to support the many goods and services that the people of the Mid-Atlantic want, now and in the future. The regional ocean planning process does not change existing authorities or create new mandates. Rather, it improves the way those authorities and mandates are implemented.

The Mid-Atlantic states are already working through established partnerships – with one another, federal agency partners, and stakeholders – to better coordinate, share data, and plan for new and expanding uses in an already crowded Mid-Atlantic ocean. These collaborations have laid a strong foundation for regional ocean planning.

Regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region is being led by state, federal, tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council partners, with the close involvement of local

communities, businesses, and other stakeholders. The following are key entities engaged in ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region:

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) was formed in 2009 by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia to work together on shared ocean issues that benefit from a regional response. These five coastal states work on shared issues that are best addressed through interstate regional collaboration and provide a collective voice for the region. The five MARCO states have built a solid foundation for promoting greater federal and private investment, generating more attention to shared priorities in the Mid-Atlantic, and communicating and advancing the states' interests at the national level. This regional approach better positions the Mid-Atlantic to address the existing and emerging challenges facing its ocean and coastal communities, resources, and ecosystems.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)

In 2010, a Presidential Executive Order established a National Ocean Policy (NOP) to guide the protection, maintenance, and restoration of America's oceans and coasts. The NOP requires federal agencies to work in a more coordinated, goal-oriented framework with states, tribes, and stakeholders. The NOP also calls for the creation of Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) to coordinate and implement regional ocean planning with state, federal, tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives.

The Mid-Atlantic RPB (MidA RPB) was formally established in April 2013. It will leverage existing efforts underway by states and regional entities, and engage stakeholders and technical experts at every key step. The MidA RPB is composed of representatives from:

- The five MARCO states, which are New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia
- Pennsylvania
- Federally-recognized tribes in the region, including the Shinnecock Indian Nation and the Oneida Indian Nation
- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- The nine federal agencies collaborating in support of the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop*:
 - Department of Agriculture (represented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

- Department of Commerce (represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- Department of Defense (represented by the U.S. Navy and the Joint Chiefs of Staff)
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security (represented by the U.S. Coast Guard)
- Department of the Interior (represented by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
- Department of Transportation (represented by the Maritime Administration)
- Environmental Protection Agency

Mid-Atlantic Stakeholders

Partnerships with regional stakeholders are critical to the success of regional ocean planning. The workshop was an initial step in establishing lasting relationships with businesses, academic institutions, and nongovernmental entities to ensure all perspectives and interests are heard and that management actions reflect the economic, social, cultural, and ecological needs and goals of the Mid-Atlantic region.

About this Document

This document summarizes discussions and presentations at the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop*. It is organized according to the workshop agenda and major themes covered in each session. It is a best effort by Meridian Institute to capture the major insights, recommendations, and questions provided for consideration by participants and panelists during each session. Supplementary materials, including presentations used during the workshop and workshop materials, such as the agenda and participant list, are included as appendices. This summary and all appendices, as well as video of all plenary sessions, are posted on the MARCO website at midatlanticocean.org.

Thursday, April 4, 2013

On the first day of the workshop, Thursday, April 4, participants heard opening remarks from state, federal, and tribal leaders who set the regional and national context for discussions about ocean planning. They then convened in facilitated small groups to identify their top questions, concerns, and ideas about regional ocean planning. These ideas were brought to two panels in the afternoon: one panel of state, federal, and tribal leaders and a second of stakeholder leaders representing a range of interests. The panels offered their responses and reactions to the questions, concerns, and ideas generated by workshop participants.

Ms. Laura Cantral of Meridian Institute facilitated all plenary sessions at the workshop. She began the workshop by briefly welcoming participants and introducing the series of opening speakers, starting with Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Welcoming Remarks

Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Chair Sutley opened the workshop by welcoming participants. She offered special thanks to MARCO and the federal agencies for advancing ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic and ensuring that the process is informed by those who have an interest in ocean resources. She commended participants for coming together to find ways to collaborate in these fiscally challenging times, saying that this endeavor captures the spirit of the NOP, which is to bring people together to work on tough ocean-related issues to create a stronger future. She explained that efforts to establish the NOP spanned many years and began with the work of two bi-partisan ocean commissions, and that it outlines the Administration's commitment to the health and productivity of the oceans.

The NOP aims to help the federal government focus on science-based decision making, better management of the natural resources that drive our economy, and ways to collaborate more effectively with a variety of state and local partners. She emphasized the importance of identifying on-the-ground issues, explaining that one of the nation's strengths is the innovative spirit of the people working in our communities to solve problems. She explained that more information, across sectors and ocean users, will help promote healthy oceans, a healthy economy, and will help build more resilient coastlines and communities. She underscored that federal agencies were at the workshop to participate and should be viewed as colleagues who want to engage and support the success of the effort. She concluded by complementing participants for being national leaders with whom she and her federal colleagues are looking forward to working.

Welcome to Virginia

Douglas W. Domenech, Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia

Secretary Domenech opened by offering workshop participants a warm welcome to Virginia, providing a brief overview of the state's rich history and connections to the ocean. He shared his personal affection for the ocean and experiences working on ocean issues. He listed several examples of Virginia's many uses of the ocean and ocean resources, noting the wide range of sectors reliant upon their connection to the ocean. These include national defense, tourism, boating, parks, the seafood industry, and offshore wind energy industry. He noted that many inland activities and industries are also reliant upon oceans for transportation and that Virginia is hopeful for oil and gas production. He emphasized that respect for all ocean uses along the coast is important for the economies of the Mid-Atlantic states, explaining that federal activities need to be cognizant of state efforts and that establishing strong lines of communication between states and the federal government is imperative.

Welcome

During this session, state, federal, and tribal leaders welcomed workshop participants and provided context for the meeting. Panelists were:

- *Maureen A. Bornholdt, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Sarah W. Cooksey, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Programs; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Gerrod Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*

Sarah W. Cooksey

Ms. Cooksey welcomed participants to the workshop on behalf of MARCO. She explained that MARCO is a collaborative partnership of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia that was formed in 2009, before the establishment of the NOP, to address shared priority ocean and coastal issues and increase collaboration across states. She explained that MARCO has always embraced the notion that better coordination across jurisdictions and data sharing are important for better management of both natural and man-made resources. It will be critical for grasping new economic opportunities while respecting the needs of existing ocean uses and protecting the health of ocean ecosystems. MARCO agrees that collaboration across authorities at the regional level is the right approach and that the participants in the workshop are some of the people who best know the ocean and coasts of the region. She encouraged

participants to share information with the state and federal workshop co-conveners to ensure that the planning effort is a success, emphasizing that the regional ocean planning process must be grounded at its core is meaningful stakeholder engagement. She concluded by saying that the workshop is an important step, and that there will be more opportunities for stakeholder engagement in the coming months.

Gerrod Smith

Mr. Smith welcomed participants on behalf of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, the only federally recognized coastal tribe in the region. He explained that the Shinnecock are pleased to represent the voice, perspective, and deep understanding of natural resources of the region's native peoples. He noted that the Shinnecock also wish to serve as a voice in the process for state recognized tribes in the region. He noted that the Shinnecock Nation is interested in all elements of sound ocean management and then identified areas that are of primary concern that the Shinnecock hope can be addressed through the ocean planning process. Important issues include climate change; food security; open ocean aquaculture; fisheries management, particularly in the context of ocean acidification, shifting migratory patterns, and ocean renewable energy development; habitat restoration; and sea level rise. He concluded by saying that working as partners in this way is new for all groups involved and underscored that everyone must come together and become better stewards of our shared ocean and coastal resources for the sake of this and future generations.

Maureen A. Bornholdt

On behalf of the federal family, Ms. Bornholdt echoed the welcome of previous speakers and thanked participants for taking the time to attend the workshop. She underscored the importance of knowledge brought to the process by meeting participants. She said federal agencies have taken the President's directive very seriously to work together across jurisdictions, coordinate, share data, bring stakeholders into the process as partners, and to think ahead in order to ensure that ocean resources and spaces are managed in an efficient and effective manner going forward. She explained that, while there have been actions taken by the federal government to lay the groundwork for ocean planning, the planning effort comes with no preconceived notions of how to move forward. This workshop is happening early in the process and is an initial effort to engage the expertise of stakeholders in the region to inform the design of the process. She invited the participants to share their ideas and questions openly and work with the conveners to identify the processes and substantive issues on which the ocean planning effort should focus.

Agenda Review

Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute

Ms. Cantral provided a review of the workshop agenda. She explained that the morning would include a number of introductory presentations, the purpose of which was to ensure that all workshop participants could engage in discussions with the benefit of shared understanding of the context for regional ocean planning. She explained that hearing input from participants was paramount and, therefore, following the first morning, the workshop agenda was devoted to small group discussions and dialogue with panelists responding to participant-generated questions and recommendations.

Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic: The Context and Motivation

Donald Boesch, President, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Dr. Boesch referred to a set of slides throughout his presentation, which can be found in Appendix B.1. He opened by explaining that he aimed during this presentation to help participants visualize some of the complexities that need to be taken into account in the ocean planning process. He clarified that ocean planning is not only about spatial management, but also the ecosystem services that provide food, jobs, natural defenses, and weather control for the region. He referenced the bi-partisan U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy that issued a bold and important recommendation to implement an ecosystem-based management approach that is adaptable, precautionary, and integrated across multiple uses, resources, and environments that humans are simultaneously trying to exploit and sustain. He explained that these concepts have advanced in the past decade and are now in the process of being implemented.

Dr. Boesch noted that every region of the nation is unique and regional ocean planning efforts will need to be tailored accordingly. He then explained some of the characteristics and dynamics of the Mid-Atlantic ocean ecosystem and features of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that need to be taken into consideration when planning. He described how the Gulf Stream has great influence on the region, moving cold water from the north and helping to create temperature gradients, both horizontally and vertically, which have implications for nutrient cycling. There are large bays and estuaries, fed by large rivers, that are highly affected by nutrients such as nitrogen. Accelerated sea level rise has been documented along the coast and the region is also very susceptible to ocean acidification. The region has complex ocean bathymetry that has consequences for offshore development activities such as wind and sand resources for beach nourishment. He emphasized that planning is neither a beginning nor an end, but rather a process. He concluded by sharing his enthusiasm for the efforts to date,

acknowledging that it will take a concerted effort of science and education to make the effort a success.

National Initiatives Important for Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning

Deerin Babb-Brott, Director, National Ocean Council Office

Mr. Babb-Brott opened by thanking everyone for their attendance. He shared his observation that there was high energy and enthusiasm in the room and challenged participants to channel that energy into the delivery of an effective product grounded in collaboration. He applauded significant progress currently underway in the Mid-Atlantic and shared his sense that the MidA RPB will develop a better understanding of the interactions between human uses and ecosystem services, which will be the foundation for better decision making about ocean resources into the future.

Mr. Babb-Brott asked participants to consider this effort an opportunity to improve management in ways that meet the interests of many sectors. Currently, there is a tremendous body of knowledge within the Mid-Atlantic and the MidA RPB should assemble this information so that key data gaps can be identified and filled. The MidA RPB's work will then be to gather input from stakeholders and determine a path forward. This should include identifying regional priorities, the scope, scale, and content of which will be defined by the region. He emphasized that the aim of the MidA RPB should be to build on the good work already underway in the region and help channel efforts towards regional goals that will be established.

It will be critical that all stakeholders have the capacity to participate in the decision-making process for regional planning and Mr. Babb-Brott stated that the MidA RPB should be both creative and opportunistic about engaging and leveraging intellectual resources. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of engaging the expertise of stakeholders and by stating that the MidA RPB can serve as the framework for which existing stakeholder groups and management efforts can engage and coordinate with one another.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

During this session, state, federal, and tribal leaders of the MidA RPB described the charge for this new entity and its role in carrying out regional ocean planning, followed by a plenary opportunity for questions and answers. Panelists were:

- **Maureen A. Bornholdt**, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- **Sarah W. Cooksey**, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Programs; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- **Gerrod Smith**, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Maureen A. Bornholdt

Ms. Bornholdt began by providing an overview of the structure for the MidA RPB. The MidA RPB will have a membership representing nine federal agencies, six states (with two representatives per state), federally-recognized tribes in the region, and the MAFMC. The MidA RPB is in the process of finalizing its membership roster, which will soon be shared publicly. Building off of input from workshop participants, the MidA RPB will begin to scope out a series of future meetings. Ms. Bornholdt called on the group to raise questions and help the MidA RPB to identify the key components of its work plan. She closed by stating that much of the workshop agenda was designed to gather ideas and receive feedback from participants.

Sarah W. Cooksey

Ms. Cooksey opened by emphasizing the significant amounts of food and wealth that the sea provides and the great uncertainties surrounding how best to manage this resource. She then explained the role of MARCO in laying the ground work for ocean planning and stated that having the MAFMC involved on the MidA RPB is important for effective collaboration. She emphasized the need for a sustainable, vibrant, and prosperous future for the Mid-Atlantic ocean, and called on workshop participants to help the MidA RPB identify specific ways it can become engaged with the communities of interest they represent and to design meaningful processes for stakeholder collaboration.

Gerrod Smith

On behalf of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, Gerrod Smith expressed his enthusiasm for working with the MidA RPB. Mr. Smith expressed that the “ocean is in us” and that the Shinnecock are looking forward to working together to improve ocean stewardship. He noted that regional ocean planning is a new process and the MidA RPB a new structure, and that engaging partners in collaboration is hard work. However, Mr. Smith stated his view that this effort is worthwhile to improve management of our important oceans and coast. The Shinnecock people have the practice of taking into account the wellbeing of seven generations into the future and he emphasized the importance of thinking ahead through this planning process. He concluded by informing participants of the Shinnecock Nation’s willingness to serve as a conduit for other tribes to become engaged in the process.

Panel and Plenary Discussion: Existing Groundwork for Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic Region

During this session, a panel of state and federal representatives described activities underway that set the groundwork for regional ocean planning, including progress related to interagency coordination, science and data, and stakeholder engagement, followed by a plenary opportunity for questions and answers. Panelists were:

- *Gwynne Schultz, Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Member, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Patrick Gilman, Wind Market Acceleration Lead, U.S. Department of Energy; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Mary Boatman, Environmental Studies Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*
- *Laura McKay, Program Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program; Member, MARCO Management Board*

Gwynne Schultz

Ms. Schultz provided a presentation about the progress that has been made by MARCO to prepare the region for ocean planning. She referred to a set of slides, which can be found in Appendix B.2. She described four shared priorities that have been identified by the MARCO states:

- Protect important marine habitats, including sensitive and unique offshore areas;
- Support the sustainable development of renewable energy in offshore areas;
- Prepare the region's coastal communities for the impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal resources; and,
- Promote improvements in ocean water quality.

She noted that, since its inception, MARCO has served as a source for stakeholder coordination and engagement and has convened a number of meetings with stakeholders to discuss ocean-related opportunities and challenges in the region. Ms. Shultz shared her hope that, with MARCO's assistance, stakeholder outreach and engagement in management decisions will increase through the ocean planning process. She stated that MARCO will continue to engage in ongoing dialogues about its priorities while serving as a forum to share lessons learned and identify new and innovative research and management strategies.

With an emphasis on fostering partnerships, MARCO has been successful in acquiring new funds that have helped to enhance communications and maintain operations and outreach. With assistance from a number of partners, MARCO has also developed the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, which is intended to improve access to information for decision making. MARCO also released a report regarding offshore wind energy development that will help streamline regulatory processes and explain implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act and a number of other important authorities.

Patrick Gilman

Mr. Gilman referred to slides during his presentation, which can be found in Appendix B.3. He opened by stating that the purpose of his presentation was to inform participants of federal activities that lay the groundwork for successful regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. Different agencies have different missions and priorities, and this planning effort is the first effort to coordinate the full suite of federal, state, and tribal management activities in a common sense manner on a regional basis. Through this process, the federal government aims to better understand and coordinate the activities and decisions of the agencies involved in ocean management. He shared a hope that this would lead to both smarter and timelier decision-making. He emphasized a strong interest among the federal agencies in learning from and engaging the stakeholders in the region, including those attending the workshop, and to have that input inform and guide development of the planning process, as well as the outcomes of the planning process. Working with the full range of constituencies to identify regional goals and coordinated actions to achieve those goals will be a key element of ocean planning.

Mary Boatman

Dr. Boatman referred to a set of slides, which can be found in Appendix B.4. She opened by describing a need for ocean-related data to be readily available and accessible. She explained that Ocean.data.gov is part of a larger transparency effort that aims to make all non-classified government data available to the public. Data sharing will be a key link among members of the MidA RPB and it will serve as one way to communicate ideas and lessons learned. Dr. Boatman noted a need for data to be posted online, managed, and kept up-to-date. Ocean.data.gov serves as a catalogue for agencies to register their data, which can then be used by the MidA RPB. Geoplatform.gov is another website which Dr. Boatman referenced that provides a wealth of geospatial knowledge and through which regions can create their own geospatial maps. Another website that was highlighted is marine.cadastre.com which provides information specifically relevant for wind energy planning. Each of these data portals can help improving coordination and decision-making in the Mid-Atlantic and bolstering transparency.

Laura McKay

Ms. McKay referred to slides during her remarks, which can be found in Appendix B.5. She opened by explaining that when the states first signed on to the agreement establishing MARCO, one of the first needs they identified was consolidation of regional information and data. This led to creation of MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. Ms. McKay stated that the primary goals of the portal were to provide a resource where all ocean user activities could be logged and where data could be analyzed in a way that stakeholders trusted and through which they could provide input. Compiling and integrating the data for the portal has been the responsibility of a team consisting of state and federal agencies and partners. Throughout the compiling process, important benefits have included new relationships and better communication across agencies.

Ms. McKay explained that after the initial set of data had been integrated, data gaps became clear. The data gaps identified related to marine mammal migration, cold water corals, military restricted areas, sand resources, and recreational uses, among others. One of the key data gaps that MARCO worked initially to fill was information about recreational uses of the ocean. MARCO engaged recreational users by having them identify on a map areas where they recreate in the ocean. Ms. McKay explained that by identifying the areas important for all ocean users, decision makers can overlay maps of those uses and identify where there may be competing interests and where there may be opportunities for new or expanding activities. The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal allows users to learn about, explore, and visualize ocean data while allowing criteria-based selections. Ms. McKay encouraged participants to explore the portal at portal.midatlanticocean.org and submit feedback on ways in which it can be further improved.

Breakout Groups 1: Identifying Questions about Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

During the session Breakout Groups 1, participants were divided into eight small groups with diverse representations from a range of interests in ocean planning and geographic affiliation across the region. Participants were asked, through facilitated discussion, to identify priority questions and concerns they wished the panels on the afternoon of Day 1 to address. They were free to identify questions on any topic they wished about Mid-Atlantic ocean planning, and were also asked specifically to consider any question they might have about stakeholder engagement. At the conclusion of discussions, each group was asked to prioritize its top four questions to pose to the afternoon panels. Even though groups were asked to prioritize their questions for panel discussion, all comments made during discussions were captured in detail

by notetakers and incorporated in the development of this summary. Specifically, the content of discussions was synthesized across the eight groups and categorized thematically as follows.

Stakeholder Engagement in Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning

Participants identified a number of questions and concerns about stakeholder engagement, including those related to overarching principles of engagement that should form the basis for design of any stakeholder engagement strategy for Mid-Atlantic ocean planning, ensuring the right people are engaged in the process, strategies and mechanisms for engaging people in meaningful ways, and details related to building on existing stakeholder engagement processes.

Principles for stakeholder engagement in Mid-Atlantic ocean planning: The overarching principles of engagement that were discussed in small groups included the need for maximum transparency, effective communication about the purpose of the effort, and information about how and when exactly people can become involved and bring their input into the process. An additional high-level principle included the MidA RPB finding ways to clarify how input is being used in decision making. The MidA RPB was also encouraged to ensure that it creates a platform for stakeholders to learn from one another. Questions were posed about what kind of forum the MidA RPB could create for such cross-sectoral dialogue that allows stakeholders with differing perspectives to better understand one another's interests. In other words, the process should not only create a platform for government to better understand stakeholders, but also for stakeholders to better understand each other.

Engaging the right people in the process: Participants focused significant discussion on identifying stakeholder groups or categories of interest in ocean planning that should be closely engaged, as well as meetings, processes, or other activities in the region that should be coordinated with the ocean planning process. These were captured on flipcharts during the discussions and a detailed list of ideas generated can be found in Appendix C. Some key categories of interest mentioned in dialogue as critical to engage include:

- The general public, including those with no financial interest in ocean resources
- Local governments
- The emergency management community
- Businesses and chambers of commerce
- Aquaculture industries
- Oil and gas industries
- Offshore wind energy and marine hydrokinetics developers
- Submarine cable industries
- Mining

- Shipping, towing, and ports
- Commercial fishing
- Recreational boating
- Recreational fishing
- Non-extractive recreational uses of the ocean
- Tourism-dependent industries
- Real-estate developers
- Coastal watershed groups
- Environmental and marine wildlife protection interests
- Native American tribes, including state-recognized
- Scientific communities

Questions were posed about how the MidA RPB would ensure that all relevant interests have a meaningful opportunity to provide information and feedback into the planning process.

Participants noted that in many cases an interest group has sub-categories that cannot necessarily be lumped together accurately nor considered as a homogenous group of people with common perspectives. For example, there are many different kinds of commercial fishermen (e.g., fishermen with different target species, gear, sizes of boats, and geographies in which they fish) and many different kinds of recreational users of the ocean (e.g., swimming, surfing, kayaking, power boating) which may disagree about the use and conservation of the ocean areas important to them. Each of these sub-categories is likely to have important information and perspectives to share and should be engaged individually.

Questions were also asked about at which level stakeholders would be engaged, that is, whether they would be high-level representatives of associations, members of organized groups, or perhaps this would also include input from members of the general public. It was noted that every single stakeholder in the region cannot be engaged in the ocean planning process, so participants wondered at which point the MidA RPB will be confident that it has taken into account the full breadth of viewpoints. It was suggested that perhaps different people should be engaged at different points in the process. A careful plan for who to engage at which points would need to be developed. Perhaps, if the MidA RPB takes a sub-regional approach, stakeholders could be engaged at the sub-regional level on topics that are closest to their geographic area of interest.

Developing strategies and mechanisms for meaningful engagement: Many questions posed in small groups related to the strategies and mechanisms through which stakeholders would be engaged. A number of participants wondered about the timelines, milestones, and decision points for engagement that the MidA RPB would develop. In the meantime, participants wished

for clarity about to which entity—MARCO or the MidA RPB—they should provide input about ocean planning at this point in time.

Participants had questions and ideas about how specific kinds of stakeholders could be engaged most effectively. They noted that state legislatures, governors, and local governments should be consulted during the process.

It was noted that contacting people personally will be important. Many stakeholders can't be reached effectively over email, so successful outreach will require a colleague from their interest group to encourage them to participate. Regarding engagement of commercial fishermen specifically, it was noted that lessons can be learned from the United Kingdom where fishermen realized that they needed to share accurate information about where they were fishing in order to increase the chances of being able to protect their access to those ocean spaces during planning for renewable energy development. In that situation, planners first worked with the industry leaders in each port, and then asked those leaders to reach out to other fishermen who were then more comfortable sharing information. This type of tiered process could be used to reach out to commercial fishermen in the Mid-Atlantic, as well as other stakeholders.

Several groups discussed how to engage members of the general public, particularly those who are not involved in organized groups. Many stakeholders in this category have important input to share, but are unable to attend meetings during the day or travel for meetings. Questions were posed about how the MidA RPB plans to reach these stakeholders and keep them engaged in the long term. In addition, many such people may not yet realize that this process could be important to them and their community or livelihood.

Another important theme for questions was how the MidA RPB would use the information gathered from stakeholders. Specifically, participants were interested in better understanding how the MidA RPB would capture, organize, prioritize, and act on the feedback that stakeholders provide. Informing people who have taken the time to share their input about how their input was used will be important for showing transparency and demonstrating that their feedback was appreciated and then carefully considered.

Participants expressed interest in direct stakeholder participation in the MidA RPB process. They noted that the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) appears to be a major source of concern and a reason why the MidA RPB membership includes only government representatives and not stakeholders as well. There are options for how advice could be provided to the MidA RPB. The MidA RPB could set up a FACA-compliant advisory committee or more informal advisory groups of stakeholders. Concerns were expressed about significant costs associated with setting up and managing a FACA committee of any sort, particularly in these challenging fiscal times. However, there was a strong sense among participants that the

fundamental requirements for transparency and inclusiveness established by FACA should be generally adhered to as guidelines for good process, even if the MidA RPB decides to develop less formal working groups of stakeholders. A point was also made that identifying the right representatives for any given stakeholder interest group will be challenging, so being inclusive and capturing as many perspectives as possible in the advisory structure will be important.

Building on existing engagement processes: Participants emphasized the importance of building on and leveraging existing stakeholder engagement processes. Reasons for doing so include limited new funding to support ocean planning and the risk of engagement fatigue if key individuals who are already engaged in providing sector-specific input are then asked to participate in many additional meetings devoted exclusively to this process. In addition, there are abundant existing processes that could very effectively be tapped into to reach important stakeholders. A detailed list of such efforts that were mentioned by stakeholders at the workshop is provided in Appendix C. Examples that emerged in discussion included various Sea Grant Programs, National Estuary Programs, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s state renewable energy task forces, etc. In addition, participants expressed an expectation that state, MAFMC, federal, and tribal member entities on the MidA RPB would tap into the extensive stakeholder networks they maintain and serve as strong conduits for information to those constituencies.

Details of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Process

Participants posed many questions and shared a number of concerns and ideas related to the details of the planning process itself. Questions, concerns, and ideas focused on understanding the overarching process and the decision making authorities of the MidA RPB, connections with existing planning processes, taking into account changing conditions, fostering an ecosystem-based approach, and establishing planning priorities, among others.

Understanding the overarching process: Participants expressed a desire for greater understanding of the decision making processes, timeframes, milestones, and roles of the MidA RPB, MARCO, and the National Ocean Council. They also sought clarity on the scope, geographic scale, and overarching vision of the ocean planning process. Several groups discussed the importance of setting firm deadlines to stimulate action and progress. In addition, it was noted that the MidA RPB cannot address all challenges in the ocean and will need to focus on those on which it can have a meaningful impact.

Regarding the roles of MARCO and the MidA RPB, participants observed that there is, at this point in time, a close informal relationship and many of the state MidA RPB Members are individuals who are also engaged in MARCO. While the MidA RPB is charged with carrying out regional ocean planning, MARCO may play an important role by providing information,

engaging stakeholders, and serving as a forum for inter-state collaboration on matters not requiring the attention of the full MidA RPB, among other contributions. It was acknowledged that the relationship is still under development and there will be more clarity in the coming months as the MidA RPB begins its work.

Understanding decision making and legal authorities of the MidA RPB: Participants posed many questions about the legal authority, or lack thereof, of the MidA RPB. During discussion it was clarified in some breakout groups that the MidA RPB does not have regulatory authority, but serves as a coordinating entity between federal agencies, states, the MAFMC, and tribes. Each member entity would retain its existing authorities and responsibilities under current laws. The benefit of the MidA RPB is that the member entities would carry out their activities and make their decisions in the context of higher quality and better coordinated information about ocean resources and governmental activities, and stronger communication among the entities about decisions being considered and how those might impact other sectors. It was noted that the MidA RPB decision making process is intended to be by consensus.

Building on, learning from, and coordinating with existing planning processes: A number of groups discussed the importance of taking into account existing planning processes. This includes building on the work of existing plans that agencies, states, tribes, the MAFMC, and various ocean industries have undertaken in the region. It requires coordinating with and building on those efforts to ensure there is no duplication of effort and that any potential inconsistencies are resolved. One plan in particular that was mentioned is the Obama Administration's recently released habitat climate change adaptation strategy, and ensuring the regional planning effort and work under this plan are coordinated. In addition, participants noted that there are many existing spatial planning processes for the ocean—both in the U.S. and around that world—and that the Mid-Atlantic region should strive to learn from those processes and best practices that have been developed. It was suggested that an inventory of existing planning processes be sought, in the event it already exists, or to create one if necessary.

Taking into account changing conditions: Participants posed a number of questions about how ocean planning would take into account changing conditions. This includes changes to the political, social, environmental, and economic conditions of the region, as well as any new uses and technologies that are introduced over time. A number of groups discussed the changes underway in our oceans due to carbon pollution, including climate change and ocean acidification, and how ocean planning might evolve in the face of changing ocean conditions and contribute to adaptation efforts. It was noted that while ocean planning must be iterative and incorporate new data and reflect changing conditions, it also should provide industries with sufficient predictability for investment in activities that support jobs, working waterfronts, and local coastal economies in the region.

Implementing an ecosystem-based approach: It was stated in several groups that the overarching purpose of the effort should include fostering a coordinated, ecosystem-based approach to management. This approach would take a systems perspective on all components of the ocean, including plants, animals, physical components, and human activities and interests in the ocean. Participants posed questions about how the full range of ecosystem services would be taken into account in decision making. Related to this were questions about how the land-sea connection would be taken into account. There was a sense among some participants that ocean planning should start in ocean waters and not become involved in activities occurring in the bays, estuaries, or on land. However it was recognized that there are important connections between the land and sea that the MidA RPB should be cognizant of and responsive to those connections wherever appropriate. Examples of land-sea connections that were mentioned included marine water quality impacts of activities on land and impacts of decisions about ocean-based activities on coastal communities, working waterfronts, and shoreside infrastructure. It was also stated that Regional Planning Bodies in adjacent regions should coordinate with one another to share data across boundaries, coordinate planning at the borders of regions, and trade lessons learned.

Establishing priorities: Participants posed questions in several groups about how priorities would be established, and what establishing priorities would actually mean for planning and operating in the context of a regional ocean plan. Participants discussed both process priorities and substantive priorities. For example, in terms of process priorities, it was asked how the work of the MidA RPB would be prioritized into immediate and long-term goals, objectives, and tasks. Participants also asked how established priorities in existing regional processes would be taken into account, and how the decisions of the MidA RPB might impact national-level ocean and coastal priorities.

Regarding substantive priorities, participants wondered how the MidA RPB would identify and prioritize the ocean and coastal issues it can address, and how non-consumptive uses and conservation would be valued among the many current and potential uses of the ocean. During these discussions, it was noted that the purpose of the ocean planning process is not to have certain activities or interests be considered more or less important than others, but to bring together the best possible data about the full range of activities and underlying environmental conditions, bring decision makers together to communicate and coordinate, and collaborate with stakeholders more effectively as decisions about permitting new and expanding uses are made.

Other questions: A question was posed about whether or not the MidA RPB plans to conduct ocean planning pilot projects. It was noted that this has not yet been determined, and that smaller scale planning would mean that such pilots are not regional in nature, which would not

be consistent with the regional approach of this endeavor. However it was seen as an interesting idea worth further exploring.

Another question posed related to whether or not ocean planning would provide for mitigation for displaced existing activities as new ocean activities are developed. It was noted that the ocean planning process might be a forum for bringing industries together for those kind of discussions early in planning for any given project so that more expensive and time-consuming conflicts can be avoided.

Implementation and Outcomes

Participants asked a number of questions and shared perspectives related to the implementation and outcomes of regional ocean planning. These included questions about the substantive goals and metrics of success that might be established, specific process outcomes and products that might be developed, and what implementation of ocean planning might involve.

Establishing goals and metrics of success: A number of groups had questions about what the overarching goals of the process would be, and asked specifically about economic development, conservation, and sustainability. They wondered what the metrics of success would be. They posed questions about what specific value would be added through ocean planning and what the outcomes would be for specific interest groups, businesses, and everyday people living in coastal watersheds and along the coast. Some wondered if this process would lead to improved health of the ocean environment or rather strive to maintain the current environmental condition while supporting growth of economic activities. It was noted that there are some important and highly sensitive places in the region that would benefit from protection.

Identifying process outcomes and products: Participants asked questions about process outcomes, that is, how decision making would be improved as a consequence of ocean planning. They wondered if this would lead to increasing consistency of policies across jurisdictions, including across federal agencies and across states. They also hoped this would lead to greater flexibility as decisions are made based on better, shared data, and that the process would lead to more efficient regulatory processes with fewer bureaucratic steps while still ensuring that all factors are considered and the public is engaged in decision making. Participants asked whether this process would go beyond simply trying to avoid expensive and time consuming conflicts and actually find compatibilities and maximize benefits that can be derived from the ocean over time without further degrading the overall ecosystem.

Some participants asked if this would be a zoning process that would benefit some to the exclusion of others. It was noted that workshop organizers had made the point that this is not

intended to be such a zoning process and is instead focused on coordination and working with stakeholders to ensure their interests are taken into account as ocean activities are proposed. Participants were interested to know how the process could make decision making more transparent.

Regarding products that emerge from the process, participants asked if this would result in development of a comprehensive ocean plan. If so, they were eager to understand the details of what that might include. Some participants were interested to know how interim work products could be used to inform current decision making as an ocean plan is being developed. They wondered how current processes, such as BOEM's wind power planning efforts, would be informed by an in-progress regional ocean planning process.

Understanding implementation: Participants were eager to understand how implementation, that is, operating in the context of an ocean plan, would work. They asked what kind of authority a plan would have and whether or not it would be enforced. It was explained during discussion that the entities on the MidA RPB would be expected to reach consensus on all key aspects of the planning process and its products, and would be asked to commit to the outcomes of the plan. Members would be expected to conduct their activities consistent with the plan that they had helped develop in partnership with all other important management authorities in the region. In other words, every entity on the MidA RPB would be involved in implementation of the plan as they make decisions about ocean use and conservation under their existing authorities. The federal agencies have been directed by Executive Order to participate in the planning process, but states and tribes are engaged voluntarily. States and tribes would not be bound to the plan in a legal sense. Rather it would strongly inform and hopefully guide the decision making of all entities represented on the MidA RPB.

A number of specific questions arose about implementation and timing related to the planning for and development of offshore wind power. It seemed to some participants as though offshore wind power planning has already taken place in the absence of a broader ocean planning effort. They wondered whether wind power was the real driver behind ocean planning and, if so, whether the fact that wind areas had already been identified made this ocean planning effort moot. Other participants shared the perspective that perhaps the areas BOEM has identified for wind energy are relatively small initial spaces identified as suitable for wind energy at this point in time. Maybe wind power areas will be refined as a consequence of a broader planning effort and the additional information and stakeholder engagement that the process will provide. It was also observed that there are numerous issues and conflicts that should be addressed through ocean planning, aside from wind energy development. Some participants expressed the belief that ocean planning would still be needed, even without the obvious, high-profile driver of wind energy development.

Science and Data

Participants discussed science and data needed to support the planning effort. The questions they posed focused on how the MidA RPB would ensure that data is compiled and made useful for ocean planning so that the process truly takes into account the full range of perspectives and interests in the ocean and is grounded in the most accurate and relevant information possible. Questions related to sources of the data and how data would be used in decision making.

Sources of the data that will be used for planning: A number of participants posed an overarching question about what the sources of data would be for ocean planning. Participants also wondered how the MidA RPB would ensure that it was using the most up-to-date data available and vetting that data with users of the ocean for accuracy. It was noted that there are industry associations that hold or can act as conduits to secure some of the most updated information that businesses they represent would be willing and able to share.

Several groups asked questions about remaining important data gaps, data that exist but need to be identified and brought into the process and data that still need to be collected. Several participants asked about cultural resources on the OCS, how they would be identified and taken into account in planning. Data quality was also a recurring topic of concern, and the idea of peer review for data quality and standardization protocols was offered.

It was noted that stakeholder engagement processes can be important for vetting and collecting data. There may be existing processes that would serve as models and technologies that could be used to collect information from a large number of stakeholders in forms useful for decision making.

How data will be used in decision making: Several participants posed questions about how data would be used for ocean planning and decision making in the context of an ocean plan. They specifically wanted clarification about how ocean planning would make data and information more valuable for decision making. They wondered how data at different scales would be used, whether some data sets would be weighted more heavily than others, and how ocean planners would handle conflicting data sets. Other questions included what kind of decision support tools would be used, whether cumulative impact assessments and risk assessments would be conducted, and how traditional knowledge would be used. It was stated in several groups that stakeholders who are asked to provide or vet data will want clarity about how that information is going to be used. It was noted that this offers opportunities for those asking for the data to then have conversations with stakeholders about the ocean planning effort, what it is hoping to achieve, and how it might impact their interest.

A number of questions were posed related to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. Specifically, participants sought clarification as to whether the purpose of the data portal is to inform ocean planning. Some shared a sense that the portal is an important tool for bringing together data and engaging stakeholders for two reasons: so that they can share and vet information and also as a mechanism for submitting comments about ocean planning more broadly. An idea was suggested wherein agencies could use the portal's bookmarking function to send specific maps to stakeholders for feedback. It was recognized that this is not the way federal agencies normally operate, but it would be powerful and consistent with the intention of the NOP to empower regions and better engage stakeholders. An example was offered of a SeaSketch project used in the Santa Barbara area of California, which might provide some lessons learned on the mechanics of such an approach.

Funding

A number of groups discussed funding for ocean planning. They noted that funding for regional ocean planning is limited and MidA RPB member entities will be expected to support the effort with existing resources. This will require creative leveraging of resources and innovative strategies and mechanisms for conducting the planning work and engaging stakeholders. Some participants stated they felt that coordinating with one another, sharing data, and providing opportunities for stakeholder input should be considered part of the basic job descriptions of resource managers, and therefore agency budgets should reflect this work as fundamental priority. Concern was expressed about the lack of consistent new resources over time, and it was noted that updating data and engaging stakeholders consistently and meaningfully will require additional funding in order for the effort to maximize its potential.

Panel and Plenary Discussion: Discussion of Participant Questions

During this session, panelists who are engaged with ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic addressed questions and concerns that emerged from Breakout Groups 1, followed by plenary discussion. Panelists were:

- *Gerrod Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Richard Robins, Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*
- *Sarah W. Cooksey, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Programs; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Gregory Capobianco, Ocean and Great Lakes Program Director, Division of Coastal Resources, New York State Department of State; Member, MARCO Management Board*

- *Maureen A. Bornholdt, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*
- *Thomas Bigford, Chief, Habitat Protection Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body*

Prior to starting the panel discussion, an announcement was made that, during the lunch break, the MidA RPB appointed Members had met in person for the first time and that during that meeting the National Ocean Council had officially declared the MidA RPB established as of this day.

Ms. Cantral then introduced the panelists. In moderating the panel, Ms. Cantral drew from a series of questions generated during Breakout Groups 1, which had been synthesized into common themes. She posed a selection of these questions to the panel. Themes of the questions included establishing a regional vision, the relationship between MARCO and the MidA RPB, data management, establishing trust and credibility, outcomes, and operations.

Establishing a Regional Vision

Panelists were asked what they thought the MidA RPB's role should be in establishing a vision for the region and if such a vision can encourage stakeholders to become engaged. Panelists responded that the MidA RPB can and should engage stakeholders in identifying a common vision for the Mid-Atlantic ocean and that doing so will be critical to the success of the effort. Several panelists noted that there are challenges to identifying a shared vision that adequately represents the full diversity of stakeholders in the Mid-Atlantic. It was stated that simply producing a vision statement will not be enough and that the MidA RPB needs a strategic plan for engaging stakeholders and for identifying groups that can help address critical data gaps. The importance of the MidA RPB forming external partnerships was stressed, and panelists expressed the need for more funding and strong leadership in order to carry out a sufficiently robust visioning process.

Relationship between the MidA RPB and MARCO

Panelists were asked about the formal relationship between the MidA RPB and MARCO going forward, and whose responsibility it would be to consult with state governments. Panelists responded that the current vision was for the Chair of MARCO to serve as the state Co-Lead for the MidA RPB, that MARCO and the MidA RPB would be closely coordinated, and that much of the work of MARCO would feed into the decision making of the MidA RPB. In addition, panelists suggested that there is likely to be tremendous overlap between the priorities

identified by the MidA RPB and MARCO. Actions taken by the MidA RPB and MARCO are also likely to build on one another. For example, MARCO's stakeholder outreach efforts, including its previous work with state and local communities, will serve as a foundation for outreach efforts of the MidA RPB.

Data Management

Panelists were asked which entity they thought should be responsible for filtering and managing data that is used for ocean planning and how conflicting data sets should be addressed. Some panelists suggested that it is the responsibility of the agency that provided the data to continually manage and update it, while the filtering of data will depend in part on input from users. It was stated that there will be quality standards, but there are currently no plans to appoint a special data "judge" who would determine good versus bad data. The panel suggested that more work needs to be done to address scale variations across data sets and that integrating some finer-scale data will pose challenges going forward. Panelists emphasized the importance of clearly acknowledging uncertainties around data sets and seeking additional stakeholder outreach to validate the accuracy of data with people who spend their time in and on the ocean.

Establishing Trust and Credibility

In response to a participant question about how the RPB will establish trust and how the public can be assured that their voices are heard, panelists remarked that there are many criteria that need to be met to establish trust and that they hoped workshop participants would provide recommendations for how to best engage the public. Recognizing that the MidA RPB will not be able to directly contact every interested group or individual in the region, panelists asked workshop participants to help engage their constituencies. Panelists also asked workshop participants to inform the MidA RPB of existing networks, communities, meetings, and other opportunities to engage the public. It was suggested that MidA RPB members can serve as conduits for stakeholders with whom they regularly interact as they carry out their existing responsibilities.

Panelists were asked how the MidA RPB will establish credibility with existing agencies and other authorities. One panelist responded that through collaborating with existing agencies, taking incremental steps, and showing meaningful progress, the MidA RPB will establish credibility.

Outcomes of Ocean Planning

Panelists were asked what they thought the end product for regional ocean planning would be and what doing business with the MidA RPB will look like. Panelists suggested that because the MidA RPB is so new, it is hard to know at this point exactly what the end product will look like – whether it is to enhance regulatory efficiency, review and evaluate conflicts, or to make data more readily available. No matter the end product for regional planning, panelists emphasized the need for the MidA RPB to be flexible and adaptable going forward and to ground its work in stakeholder input.

Panelists were asked how the regional ocean planning process should be integrated with other planning processes. Panelists proposed that ongoing efforts and plans be identified and then intentionally built on and used to inform the MidA RPB process.

Operating in a Dynamic Environment

Panelists were asked how the MidA RPB plans to operate in a dynamic political and financial environment and how ecosystem-based management will be implemented through the planning process. Panelists responded that regional planning will be the product of information exchange and dialogue, and will be adaptive in nature. The fundamental purpose of the ocean planning efforts is to coordinate across sectors and incorporate systems thinking into management of ocean resources and spaces, all of which is consistent with an ecosystem-based approach. The basic geographic boundaries of the region are also consistent with this approach. Panelists stressed that the MidA RPB is not intended to reinvent existing jurisdictions, but that instead it will foster clarify and coordinate across existing jurisdictions.

Panel and Plenary Discussion: Stakeholder Perspectives and Ensuring Meaningful Stakeholder Collaboration

During this session, panelists representing key interests in the management of Mid-Atlantic ocean resources engaged in plenary discussion with participants about their perspectives on ocean planning and strategies and mechanisms to engage stakeholders in meaningful ways throughout the ocean planning process. Panelists were:

- **Dick Brame**, *Atlantic States Fisheries Director, Coastal Conservation Association*
- **Eric Johansson**, *Executive Director, Tug and Barge Committee, Port of New York and New Jersey*
- **Jim Lanard**, *President, Offshore Wind Development Coalition*
- **Sam Martin**, *Vice President of Operations, Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc.*

- *Steve W. Ross, Research Professor, Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina at Wilmington*
- *John Weber, Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, Surfrider Foundation*

Ms. Cantral invited each panelist to share brief opening remarks, reflecting on the following:

- What characteristics will a Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning process need to have in order to provide meaningful benefits to your stakeholder/interest group?
- What general reflections do you wish to share about what you have heard so far at the workshop?

Dick Brame

Mr. Brame reflected on the difficulties of acquiring accurate data from recreational fishermen. He stated that commercial fishing data is relatively much easier to collect and manage, but further efforts should be made in the Mid-Atlantic to gather sound data from recreational fishermen. Recreational fishing is a powerful economic driver. He stated that continued access to fisheries for recreation is paramount.

Eric Johansson

Mr. Johansson opened by stating the importance of the commercial maritime and shipping industries for trade that supports our economy. He emphasized the importance of decision-making that takes into account the long-term needs of these industries. Mr. Johansson noted that trade and U.S. gross domestic product are directly proportional and that it will be important to maintain that linkage through regional planning. He shared his sense that ocean planning can be an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to work together and learn how to share the ocean in constructive ways that maximize benefits.

Jim Lanard

Mr. Lanard opened by remarking how, as supporters of the NOP, the offshore wind industry has testified before Congress in favor of regional ocean planning. Mr. Lanard recognized that the offshore wind industry is one of the newer ocean users and that part of its support for ocean planning is in part so that it can find common ground with existing and traditional ocean users. One of the benefits he hoped for in particular is the siting of wind turbines in such a way as to minimize conflict with existing interests such as fisheries, marine mammal protection, and shipping.

Sam Martin

Mr. Martin opened by sharing with participants his family's long history of involvement with the commercial fishing industry. He stated that the MidA RPB needs to be insightful, patient, and reasonable. Mr. Martin emphasized the importance of data management and remarked

how the commercial fishing industry is well-managed and provides a lot of useful data. He called on fishermen to engage in the process, be informed, and attend meetings to help fill data gaps. Fishermen need direct and clear involvement in the process and, in order to do so, he stated that fishermen need to feel that their input will help shape the outcomes of regional ocean planning. By engaging in this process, Mr. Martin hopes to better comprehend the needs of other user groups so that decisions can be made based on accurate and shared knowledge and understanding.

Steve Ross

Mr. Ross began by stating that scientists are in the business of generating and providing information and that the scientific community is more of a resource, rather than a user, in the Mid-Atlantic. He remarked that the scientific community is charged with understanding ecosystem functions and the roles of various users. As a representative of the scientific community, Mr. Ross suggested that the role of science is to provide accurate information to guide decision-making and to help identify and fill data gaps. Mr. Ross pointed out that, while there is a tremendous wealth of scientific data and infrastructure already in place for the Mid-Atlantic, more work is needed to collect and summarize data and it is the responsibility of the scientific community to do so.

John Weber

Mr. Weber opened by stating that, despite the presence of many different stakeholder groups, everyone participating in the workshop is involved with ocean recreation to some degree. The Surfrider Foundation and the non-extractive recreational users it represents would like regional ocean planning to be a transparent process that is easy to understand and grounded in stakeholder input. He stated that regional ocean planning should lead to ecosystem protection and protection of recreational uses. He shared that the Surfrider Foundation is developing a survey of non-consumptive recreational uses, which aims to collect spatial demographic and economic data in state waters. He noted that most members of the general public do not know what the NOP or MARCO are and that they simply want to go out and use the ocean on the weekends. In conclusion, he emphasized that the MidA RPB should include input from recreational users in its decision-making.

Ms. Cantral then posed to the panel a series of questions that emerged from Breakout Groups 1 and which were the result of synthesizing a large number of questions emerging from those breakout groups into key topics. Topics included ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement, engaging stakeholders at the right level, and capitalizing on stakeholder expertise.

Ensuring Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement

Panelists were asked what the MidA RPB can do to ensure that stakeholders are aware that their views are adequately being taken into account. Panelists replied that this will be an ongoing challenge that the MidA RPB will need to address. It will require creativity and flexibility to engage certain groups whose daily work commitments may conflict with regular weekday meeting times. This includes interests such as commercial fishermen, a group that is fairly vocal and yet often feels disillusioned. As such, the panel called for increased engagement of these and other stakeholders who feel under-represented and disenfranchised. Panelists suggested conducting interviews with these users in order understand their views and gather their ideas for how to best incorporate them into the planning process. It was stated that public comment sessions at MidA RPB meetings alone would not be sufficient. It was proposed that the MidA RPB create a stakeholder advisory panel that would allow for direct involvement and for real-time information sharing and report back to constituents.

Panelists emphasized the importance of transparency throughout every step of the process and stated that not only does information need to be shared regularly with stakeholders, but the process should also allow for groups to provide meaningful input to the MidA RPB at every step of decision-making. While acknowledging the challenges of engaging every stakeholder group in the region, panelists emphasized that increased outreach and transparency in decision-making would build confidence in the planning process among stakeholders. In order to build confidence, information must be both accurate and timely. Some panelists remarked that stakeholder outreach should start at the local level and that a clear identification of which local groups to engage is needed to ensure the MidA RPB can engage the maximum number of people.

A participant posed a follow up question, asking whether the MidA RPB is missing a crucial opportunity by not having actual stakeholders as part of its membership. The panel responded that they agreed that by not having non-government stakeholders on the MidA RPB, the planning body may be missing some important input.

Engaging Stakeholders at the Right Level

Panelists were asked what they believe is the right level of stakeholders to engage and involve—leaders of major associations, smaller stakeholder groups, members of the general public, etc. Panelists replied that the individuals involved in providing direct input and advice to the MidA RPB must be reasonable minded and open to compromise. They will also need to be seen by their peers as leaders of their interest group. Having an advisory panel of such stakeholders would allow for a broad spectrum of representation and direct and important input to the MidA RPB. It was suggested that those on the advisory committee should also be

willing to serve as ambassadors for ocean planning to the interest groups they represent, providing information back and forth and engaging constructively in dialogues. The creation of a code of conduct was proposed as a means to ensure that advisory group members have met with and properly shared planning information with their constituents, sought their honest feedback, and represented it accurately back to the MidA RPB.

Capitalizing on Stakeholder Expertise

Panelists were asked to share their ideas about the most important thing ocean planning can do to ensure the process benefits from the knowledge and experience of stakeholders. Panelists replied that data from all pertinent user groups needs to be examined, vetted, and applied where most appropriate by the MidA RPB. Some panelists remarked that, while not every stakeholder group will be happy with every decision the MidA RPB makes, it will be their responsibility to provide the best data available to help influence decision-making and ensure their interests have been accounted for accurately. There was an acknowledgment that collaboration among stakeholder groups is needed to fill some key data gaps. Offshore wind was highlighted as a topic around which data sharing is needed, specifically data related to commerce and navigation, so that wind energy development can move forward in parallel with the ocean planning process.

A participant asked panelists whether they thought that offshore wind energy development or climate change was the bigger threat to the fishing industry. One panelist responded that the biggest challenge going forward will be a changing climate. It was stated that climate change will have long-term impacts on species distribution, which in turn will impact both recreational and commercial fishermen.

In closing the session, Ms. Cantral thanked the panel. She then summarized key ideas emerging from the day and adjourned the workshop until the following morning.

Friday, April 5, 2013

On the second day of the workshop, participants started the day by meeting briefly in plenary to hear a charge to Breakout Groups 2. They were then divided into small groups to discuss and develop recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body. Each breakout group then reported the highlights of its discussion to plenary participants and a panel of MidA RPB Members, which engaged in plenary discussion about the ideas provided by participants. This was followed by brief summarizing and closing remarks.

Welcome Back, Day 2 Agenda Review, and Charge to Breakout Groups 2

Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute

Ms. Cantral reviewed the agenda for the day and provided instructions for the morning breakout sessions. She explained that participants were assigned to different groups from the previous day and a volunteer spokesperson from each group would be selected to provide a brief report-out to the plenary following the breakout sessions. The groups would discuss the following questions and generate ideas/recommendations for the MidA RPB to consider as it starts its work:

1. What are the major opportunities and challenges in the Mid-Atlantic region that regional ocean planning could address?
2. What do you want the regional ocean planning process to achieve for the Mid-Atlantic?
 - Substantive outcomes: How do you want ocean resources and human use of those resources to improve as a consequence of regional ocean planning?
 - Procedural outcomes: How should government entities (states, federal agencies, tribes, the MAFMC) interact as a consequence of the regional ocean planning process? What changes do you hope ocean planning will bring to current governmental processes?
3. How can your sector/interest contribute to the ocean planning process?

Breakout Groups 2: Developing Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

During the session Breakout Groups 2, participants were divided into eight small groups with a diverse representation from a range of interests in ocean planning and geographic affiliation from across the region. Participants were assigned to different groups of individuals from those they met with during Breakout Groups 1. They were asked, through facilitated discussion, to

develop recommendations for the MidA RPB about opportunities and challenges in the region that ocean planning could address, desired outcomes for regional ocean planning, and ways the RPB could achieve those outcomes. All of the Breakout Group discussions were documented by notetakers, incorporated in the following summary, and synthesized and organized here according to the discussion questions posed by breakout group facilitators.

What are the Major Opportunities and Challenges in the Mid-Atlantic Region that Regional Ocean Planning Could Address?

Breakout group participants identified a variety of opportunities and challenges in the Mid-Atlantic that regional ocean planning could address. The role of the MidA RPB in addressing these opportunities and challenges was often inferred or explicitly referenced. Synthesized input from across the groups is summarized below by opportunities and challenges.

Opportunities

Opportunities identified by participants included roles the MidA RPB can play, improvements to stakeholder engagement, better decision making and mitigation processes, enhanced coordination and communication, improved data management and use, smarter uses of the ocean, and implementation of ecosystem-based planning.

Role of the MidA RPB: As participants learned about and discussed the newly formed MidA RPB, they asked questions and commented on its mission, role and function, composition, and mode of operation. They discussed that the MidA RPB is comprised of federal, state and tribal government entities but is not a new regulatory authority. Comprised in this way, the MidA RPB would likely become subject to FACA if a non-governmental individual were to become a Member. FACA would clearly define the way in which the MidA RPB would engage public interests in its deliberations and decision making, but would also limit public engagement options and be costly and time consuming. For this reason, it was speculated that as the MidA RPB determines its process for engaging critical stakeholders and the public going forward, it may seek other methods of public engagement, at least in the near-term.

Looking forward, some participants identified an opportunity for the MidA RPB to serve as a hub for all ocean-related entities to communicate, coordinate, and connect on a variety of ocean issues including planning processes, regional issues, management of overall ecosystem function, and human impacts. It could also:

- Convene effective and fair ways for stakeholders to be informed and engaged in the ocean planning process.

- Coordinate among existing planning entities within the region and encourage them to work together more efficiently and effectively.
- Provide a forum for addressing and resolving conflicts arising in the ocean with fair and transparent dispute resolution processes.
- Catalyze public outreach, education, and engagement in ocean issues in a way that raises awareness for stewardship and action.

Stakeholder engagement and convening: Many participants agreed that broad stakeholder involvement in the regional ocean planning process will be important. They felt that, in its role as the convener, the MidA RPB should be responsible for inviting the right people to inform and advise the planning process. At the same time, the MidA RPB should encourage input from all interests in ways that foster respect for all. Some participants observed that the breadth of stakeholder involvement needed to be substantially greater than that represented at the workshop and include more people from the general public and local government.

Options suggested by participants for enhancing stakeholder engagement included:

- Adding non-governmental stakeholder(s) to the MidA RPB.
- Creating stakeholder advisory panel(s) and science advisory group(s) to advise the MidA RPB. There are models of this approach working (e.g., Western Governors Association “enlibra doctrines” to deal with land use planning). Some measure of deliberate outreach to these interests would likely be necessary. Among other responsibilities, stakeholders on the advisory panel would be charged with communicating back and forth to their constituencies.
- Holding stakeholder meetings.
- MidA RPB members seeking and finding opportunities to educate and engage the public.
- Using social media to communicate with and engage the public.

Other participants observed that, through stakeholder engagement, people representing different interests get to know each other. Relationships and understanding grow, thus laying the foundation for more coordinated and sustainable growth among industries and the possibility of new sustainable economic development. In addition, it is through stakeholders that understanding and discussion about regional ocean planning will be taken outside the MidA RPB and the confines of a workshop setting.

Decision making and mitigation: A number of participants thought there was a role for the MidA RPB in providing a forum for making planning decisions that will impact stakeholders and for resolving or mitigating conflicts between different ocean sectors and uses. In providing

this forum, many wanted to know how the MidA RPB would bring conflicting interests to the table and what the decision making process would be. They also wanted to know how the public would be made aware of conflicts, how the conflicts could be resolved, and what the resolution was at the conclusion of the process.

The MidA RPB was encouraged to begin developing a structure for its decision making process. It was suggested that the MidA RPB look at different ways to engage stakeholders in making decisions that affect the public (e.g., look into public decision making processes around industrial growth), including alternative dispute resolution. In addition, it was seen as an opportunity for the MidA RPB to tap into decades of knowledge about effective stakeholder engagement. It was suggested that the decision making guidelines be flexible, nimble, and adaptive.

One participant stressed that expanding the decision making process to include a broader set of interests further informs the discussion and the decision(s) made. Another noted that mitigating conflict among interest sectors could then result in the growth of an industry (e.g., fishing or energy) once the conflict is resolved.

Enhanced coordination and communication: Many participants saw the value of regional ocean planning and the MidA RPB improving coordination and communication between planning efforts, regulatory agencies, and ocean users. Serving as the hub of connectivity, the MidA RPB would be in a position to look across ocean activities and draw on the data resources from the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal to help prioritize, coordinate, and synchronize previously overlapping or competing ocean uses. Through its coordination efforts, the MidA RPB would also be in a position to help to minimize duplication of efforts and potentially help to move projects (e.g., energy or fisheries pilots) forward more quickly.

Data: Participants shared a number of ideas about data, ranging from data sharing, gaps, validity and credibility, traditional knowledge, sector specific data, scale, and use of data. Some saw data as providing a common language, facilitating communication and dialogue, and a sound basis for decisions about ocean resources and ecosystem health. Stated another way, having a robust and credible process for managing, vetting, and using data and information allows for better communication, coordination, and decision making.

Stakeholders also discussed the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and its potential use in pilot projects. In addition to providing a clearing house for data, it is also a source of tools for data analysis, synthesis, and visualization. Some recognized its additional utility as a decision making tool to assess the potential for conflicts early in an ocean use endeavor.

On a related note, many participants recognized value and opportunities resulting from data sharing. Specifically, it can:

- Provide the scientific basis for ocean planning.
- Lead to the discovery of redundancy and overlapping efforts.
- Help identify and fill data gaps and needs.
- Lead to the discovery of serendipitous data.
- Provide the opportunity to resolve space use and conflicts.
- Lead to better understanding of lesser known issues (e.g., ocean trash).
- Be used to establish a more comprehensive baseline of ocean conditions from which to monitor change.

Participants discussed the important role of data in assessing ocean conditions and resources. They talked about the need to establish baseline conditions, many recognizing the challenge that baseline conditions will fluctuate due to climate change. Some noted the need to collect and construct historical conventional scientific information, as well as information from ocean industries (e.g., fishing, energy, recreation) and tribes to better understand ocean dynamics and resources as informed by various data trends.

One individual noted that it may be necessary to modify data collection approaches and tools to successfully integrate less conventional data into data portals and the ecosystem assessment process, and that there will be questions about data validity and quality to address. Another suggested that this was a great research opportunity and cautioned against potentially losing the information at the expense of protocol. It was also noted that establishing data standards and ways to handle data uncertainty would ultimately lead to better informed decisions.

Uses of the ocean: Participants discussed management of ocean uses in the context of regional ocean planning. There was recognition that management decisions are not currently integrated or comprehensive, but instead are made sector-by-sector. Through regional ocean planning, it is hoped that we will gain a more comprehensive understanding of the ecological composition and function of the ocean in the region and that this will inform location-specific decisions. One participant encouraged including a means to better integrate socioeconomic measures.

Participants highlighted opportunities for the MidA RPB to address issues specific to certain ocean uses, some of which are listed here:

- Assist fisheries management to include consideration of habitat and nutrient management.
- Work with fisheries interests to maximize fishing around wind facilities and aquaculture.
- Help to improve fisheries management drawing on more recent data.

- Maintain access for fishermen and recreational users.
- Assist with improving shipping efficiency and navigation.
- Provide for the location of an export facility of natural gas.
- Allow the siting of renewable energy.
- Allow energy to move through the region.

Several participants discussed the linkage between land use and ocean management. It was recognized that factoring in land use and the land-sea interface added a layer of complexity to ocean management, but in many locations land use had a substantial impact on the health of estuaries and the ocean. Cross-jurisdictional issues further complicate the interface.

Planning and Ecosystem-Based Management: Many participants talked about the MidA RPB's approach to regional ocean planning in the context of ecosystem-based management. They anticipated the process would protect marine habitats, help to identify and protect those areas in the Mid-Atlantic that are important to a properly functioning ecosystem. Ecosystem-based management would also facilitate planning that is adaptable to climate change impacts and also provide a framework for taking into account the value of a healthy ocean ecosystem. In this way, planning might provide a pathway to economic development via the concept of ecosystem services.

Challenges

Challenges identified by participants included uncertainty about a number of details about the goals and processes of the MidA RPB, shortage of funding, challenges related to communication and ensuring truly meaningful stakeholder engagement, data collection and management, and incorporating climate change into planning.

Uncertainty about the MidA RPB: Many participants agreed with the need for and the concept of the MidA RPB, however a number of individuals raised concerns and noted challenges because so little was known about its mission and goals, and how it will be organized and operate. At the time of the workshop the MidA RPB was in its naissance and was untested.

A number of participants were concerned about the composition of the MidA RPB, with many arguing that representation on the MidA RPB should include stakeholders, as well as additional levels of government. For some, this concern was exacerbated because they also saw a relative lack of diversity and underrepresentation of certain interest sectors at the workshop.

In addition, the legal framework in which a regional ocean plan would be implemented is not clear. They were also concerned that the fragmentation of federal management was so strong

that it would be difficult for the MidA RPB to overcome in any meaningful way. Some participants expressed concern about the ability of the MidA RPB and ocean planning to withstand political change. A suggestion was made to find a way to institutionalize the MidA RPB more firmly.

Funding: The lack of dedicated funding in support of regional ocean planning was considered a substantial challenge to many participants. Without secure funding it seemed unclear how the process would be implemented and for how long after the first year. In addition to the funding necessary to firmly establish the MidA RPB and support its activities, the funding necessary to support a meaningful level of stakeholder engagement was in question.

Communication: Some participants indicated that communication about regional ocean planning will be challenging. Using the examples of local governments and the tourism industry, both of which spend a lot of time communicating and interfacing with the public, the MidA RPB will need to make significant efforts to communicate effectively. It will need to tailor its communication to different stakeholder groups and spend time communicating. For an underfunded entity, this will be difficult.

Stakeholder engagement: All factors considered (e.g., underfunding, solely government membership, unclear organization, mission, operation, etc.) some participants thought it was going to be difficult for the MidA RPB to provide stakeholders with authentic opportunities for input into the planning process. Some participants are concerned about the transparency with which the MidA RPB will operate and to what degree it will consider stakeholder input in its approach to ocean management.

Data: Participants noted a number of potential challenges with data and data collection. One individual observed that, while data collection techniques are improving, as is the quality of data, in general the state of our data and data collection is lacking. It was also recognized that a lot of data collection has occurred and continues by various federal agencies (e.g., BOEM, NOAA, the U.S. Navy), industry (e.g., energy, fisheries) and others for a variety of purposes. However, in general, the data collection efforts occur independently and the data are not shared. The lack of sharing may be in part because the different organizations are not aware of the data being collected, the data are not requested, and/or there is concern about data security. With more communication, coordination, and exchange of information, these organizations could avoid duplication of efforts and benefit from access to each other's data.

Climate change: One individual observed that it might be a substantial challenge for the MidA RPB to adapt an ocean planning process to environmental changes that will occur as a result of

climate change. Species distributions will shift, the nation may need to dramatically ramp up its plans for wind energy development, and shipping patterns may need to change.

What Do You Want the Regional Ocean Planning Process to Achieve for the Mid-Atlantic?

Participants were asked to discuss what they hoped would be the outcomes and achievements of the regional ocean planning effort in the Mid-Atlantic. They were asked to consider both substantive and process-related achievements, and their input is summarized according to those categories as follows:

Discussion Question: (Substantive Outcomes) How Do You Want Ocean Resources and Human Use of Those Resources to Improve as a Consequence of Regional Ocean Planning?

Participants described many desired outcomes related to improvement of our use of ocean resources. These focused on conservation, data, economics, ecosystem-based management, public awareness, and a number of other important topics as summarized here:

Ecosystem-based management: Several participants expressed a hope that ocean planning would lead to better ecosystem health, protection of important habitats (including deepwater corals), migratory species, and improved management of invasive species. They also hoped that it would lead to greater consideration and protection of ecosystem functionality and result in an adaptive process that factors in new information over time. Some stated a hope that planning would be precautionary in nature. Several participants hoped that ocean planning would encourage leaders of both government agencies and stakeholder interests to adopt a more holistic view of the use and conservation of ocean resources.

Data: Participants hoped that the process would lead to minimized delay in information sharing among governmental entities. They also desired the creation of a “one stop data shop” of public and private data that should inform regional ocean planning (e.g., “mega” portal). Enhancing transparency related to data was broadly viewed as a priority and gaining consensus on data sets, standards, and application for decision making and planning as a key potential benefit.

Economic benefits: The importance of protecting the livelihoods of people who depend on the ocean, as well as economically vibrant and secure coastal communities was offered as a priority outcome by many. It was recommended that the MidA RPB develop a business plan for the region that is grounded in collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

Education, outreach, and public awareness: A number of participants hoped the process would lead to greater public awareness of the value of ocean resources with an understanding of the

consequences of various impacts and decisions, as well as lead to a greater sense of individual stewardship among residents of the region. They recommended the MidA RPB develop a communication and education plan.

Local connections: In order to achieve a number of the substantive outcomes identified, participants noted a need to understand and engage at the local level. This may require links to local governments, businesses, conversation groups, etc.

Military readiness: A number of small group discussions focused on military readiness. It was requested that the planning process protect military access to ocean areas and allow for military agility. Retaining areas for military operation was seen as a key outcome, as well as defining the geographic and environmental conditions necessary for military use, impacts, and communication.

Allow for multiple uses: Participants discussed a desire to achieve shared understanding of needs, uses, user perspectives, and values in ways that respect all perspectives. This greater understanding should lead to finding ways for multiple ocean users and conservation interests to meet their interests and needs in the context of ocean planning, while achieving overarching ocean planning goals. Specific recommendations related to this included:

- Preserve offshore sand and gravel mining.
- Establish energy development targets.
- Facilitate responsible renewable energy development.
- Facilitate responsible oil and gas development.
- Ensure efficient access to ports.
- Recognize the critical value of ports/maritime activities to the regional and local economies.
- Delineate clearly all sectors that need consultation/integration in regional ocean planning.
- Use the planning process to identify specific actions that should be taken to protect non-commoditized resources, particularly in federal waters.
- Minimize stakeholder restrictions.

Discussion Question: (Process Outcomes) How Should Government Entities Interact as a Consequence of the Regional Ocean Planning Process? What Changes Do You Hope Ocean Planning Will Bring to Current Governmental Processes?

Participants offered a number of suggestions for outcomes of ocean planning related to improving governmental processes. These related to coordination, decision making processes, funding, and governance.

Coordination: Participants expressed a desire for ocean planning to achieve better coordination of bureaucratic processes. It should also lead to better coordination between stakeholders, interest groups, and governmental entities.

Decision making: Decision making in the context of ocean planning should be greatly improved, according to many participants. This should include utilizing a fair and balanced decision making process and creating better information flow between governmental entities, and between government and stakeholders, in order to inform decision making. Ocean planning should also provide a forum for resolving conflicts. For many participants, better decision making includes implementing ecosystem-based management that is goal driven, flexible, and takes into account non-commoditized resources. It also involves aligning with actions and regulations already in place in an efficient and effective manner, and potentially agreeing to a set of standards for decision making and application of those standards across government entities. The MidA RPB should operate in a highly transparent manner and work to establish trust in the process.

Funding: Participants hoped that an outcome of the process would be for the benefits to become clear quickly and for long-term funding to then become available so that the process can be institutionalized. Developing a transparent budget for MidA RPB operations was seen as important.

Governance Framework: Participants expressed a desire for ocean planning to improve the overarching governance of ocean resources. This includes:

- Ensuring that cumulative impacts are assessed and taken into account at a regional scale.
- Clearly defining the roles and relationships between MARCO and the MidA RPB and other related entities. Coordinating closely with existing entities doing related work.
- Using a variety of forms of technology to communicate data and information. Developing a communications plan and designating responsible parties for communication to the public. Looking at opportunities to use new and emerging media as part of the planning process.
- Requiring greater government transparency.
- Clarifying the applicability of FACA and finding creative ways to work within its structure.
- Developing clear guidance about local government involvement.
- Serving as a forum for other groups working on ocean issues and using the ocean to come together and share perspectives and information.

How Can Your Sector/Interest Contribute to the Regional Ocean Planning Process?

In discussing ways that their particular sectors or interest groups could contribute to the planning process, participants identified the following:

- Potentially all sectors: data, working with existing stakeholder processes, contributing data and local knowledge collection, identify existing activities; generate and maintain data; increase more funding by informing Congress about the importance of ocean planning.
- Wind energy sector: data and surveys.
- Fishermen: biological and biophysical data, research opportunities on vessels.
- Tourism industry: communication and awareness, bringing people to the table.
- Regional/local governments: promote or preserve access through zoning and/or incentives.
- Grassroots conservation groups: collect data, use digital support tools.
- Tribes: act as the moral compass for ecosystem protection.
- Academic institutions: research and data.
- Industries: data and information, ideas, advice, support, cautions, etc.

At the conclusion of the Breakout Groups 2 session, a volunteer spokesperson from each group summarized the major ideas and recommendations discussed.

Report-out and Plenary Discussion: Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

During this session, representatives of each breakout group presented to plenary participants the highlights and outcomes of discussions during the Breakout Groups 2 session. The ideas presented are listed here and organized according to the discussion questions posed during Breakout Groups 2.

Report out by Volunteer Spokespeople

What are the Major Opportunities and Challenges in the Mid-Atlantic that Regional Ocean Planning Could Address?

Opportunities: Encourage stakeholders to talk outside of these forums; improve communication and coordination; integrate climate adaptation into the various planning processes; analyze and review current legal authorities and frameworks; gain more comprehensive understanding of regional uses, overall ecosystem function, and human impacts; act as a catalyst for public outreach to create a more conscious and educated public; share data; be a forum for alternative

dispute resolution; identify critical habitat for protection and protect it; create a dedicated ocean trust fund; create a transparent process that is publicly accessible and adaptable; and set goals.

Challenges: Develop an effective framework for including stakeholders; identify and fill data gaps; engage all relevant user groups (not every interest is represented at this workshop); attract media coverage; develop an actionable plan with existing funding; acquire full time staff and dedicated funding; find the right balance between top-down and grass-roots operations; create a process to address actions not consistent with the plan; identify a clear way for stakeholders to share data; validate data; address issues that affect the ocean from land (e.g., through estuaries); create compensation systems for decisions that adversely affect existing user groups; avoid exacerbating conflicts between user groups; effectively communicate the role of the MidA RPB; ensure that this is not just another level of bureaucracy; and maintain flexibility.

What Do You Want the Regional Ocean Planning Process to Achieve for the Mid-Atlantic?

Substantive outcomes: Work to de-conflict uses; foster better coordination within agencies in the federal government, within the states, and between the states, federal government, and tribes; identify areas where small changes can lead to big gains; educate the public; fill data gaps; involve stakeholders and agencies earlier in the process; reduce the complexity of decision making; leverage resources; provide a forum for data sharing; support traditional and new ocean uses; generate greater respect across sectors for other uses; protect habitat and ecosystems; develop energy opportunities; support needs of the military; prevent invasive species; protect migration routes; protect shipping lanes, fishing grounds, and other discreet uses; and make data relevant.

Procedural outcomes: Improve government agencies' ability to come together to reduce conflict; act as a common voice from the government; incentivize stakeholders; identify best practices; create greater efficiency and cost saving after initial investment; establish a clear decision making process; make the link between human, economic, and environmental resources clear; create legal mechanisms that support the process; establish a business plan; establish trust; establish a baseline plan; identify mechanisms for existing agencies to fund regional activity; align guidelines with existing standards; and establish communication that includes social media.

How Can Your Sector or Interest Contribute to the Ocean Planning Process?

Identifying data gaps; identifying the best representatives for each sector, either as representatives on the MidA RPB, as members of advisory bodies to the MidA RPB, or as key contact for reaching out to specific sectors; stakeholder engagement; technical resources;

environmental expertise; public outreach; legal knowledge; policy analysis; volunteer networks; regulatory authority and frameworks; access to the academic community; research and development; traditional knowledge; data management and maintenance; advocacy to Congress about regional ocean planning; and creative new ideas.

Plenary Discussion

Following the report-out, a panel of representatives from MidA RPB Member states, federal agencies, and the tribe discussed the ideas presented with one another and with the plenary participants. Panelists included:

- **Jose Atangan**, *Joint Staff Representative, Atlantic Regional Planning Bodies, U.S. Fleet Forces Command*
- **John Clark**, *Fisheries Administrator, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control*
- **Thomas Morgart**, *Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- **David Noble**, *Director, Environmental Planning and Conservation, Navy Mid-Atlantic Region*
- **Renee Searfoss**, *Ocean and Dredge Disposal Team Lead, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3*
- **Gerrod Smith**, *Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation*
- **Jack Travelstead**, *Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission*
- **John Walters**, *Section Chief, Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District*

Ms. Cantral moderated the panel, asking the panelists to respond to what they had heard. In opening, one panelist observed that many challenges identified could also be viewed as opportunities and vice versa.

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach

Panelists highlighted that most breakout groups identified the primary importance of stakeholder engagement and public outreach in the ocean planning process. Panelists commended the diversity of user groups represented at the workshop, explaining that this is a significant improvement over past meetings and demonstrates progress, but panelists recognize that there are still sectors not represented and that more outreach is needed. Another key theme identified by panelists was ensuring that, in addition to making sure the right stakeholder groups are represented, the right people also need to be involved in the process to adequately represent their sectors and stakeholder groups. The role the Shinnecock can play to engage other tribes was highlighted. Stakeholders need to be highly engaged in the process and willing to commit to participation. Members urged participants to stay engaged in order to help build

the process to ensure its success. It was also suggested that current stakeholder engagement opportunities be analyzed and that the MidA RPB should take advantage of opportunities to link and leverage efforts.

Communication

Panelists noted that a strong and recurring focus on stakeholder engagement during discussions highlights the importance of developing a robust communication process and need to demonstrate success to stakeholders and the public. One potential role that was identified for the MidA RPB to play is facilitating communication between stakeholder groups and providing a forum for discussion. The idea that a stakeholder advisory committee be created to facilitate communication with the MidA RPB and among stakeholder groups resonated with members of the panel. It was suggested that a potentially effective structure could involve subcommittees on different topics or sub-regions for relevant and meaningful engagement.

Building trust in the process was also underscored as imperative for success. It would require overcoming a fear of change. Panelists explained that some user groups are fearful that more data sharing may be used against them, resulting in changes to their access to ocean resources, or that there will be a negative consequence associated with sharing information. It was explained that the needed openness can only be achieved through trust and effective communication.

Data and Information

Panelists recognized the importance of using the best available science and data to make decisions and emphasized that stakeholders play an important role in filling data gaps. Panelists identified a need to gather and consolidate information and increase engagement, both externally with stakeholders and the public, as well as internally within the government. The panelists recognized that the MidA RPB needs to play an important role in disseminating data, but that it also needs to be informed by stakeholders and incorporate the variety of knowledge and information resources available through the many interests represented at the workshop, as well as those interest not yet brought into the discussion. Tribal knowledge was identified in particular as a key component.

The Planning Process

Panelists identified several characteristics of the planning process itself that seemed to be highlighted as particularly important by participants. These included the need for a transparent process that will involve developing and communicating a clear framework for decision

making. An ocean plan must also remain flexible to new information, including taking into account developing uses, improved technologies, and changing environmental conditions. The process must be forward thinking to try to identify conflicts and start important discussions before conflicts even arise. Finally, there is a need to maintain a broad view of ocean planning, but also identify discrete and easily addressed problems that the MidA RPB can tackle to demonstrate success quickly and work up to bigger challenges. Pilot projects are one idea that could demonstrate benefits of the process.

The Coast Guard Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS) was offered as an example of how to carry out these concepts. In this study, an attempt to minimize user conflicts has highlighted some key data gaps, the importance of data sharing across sectors and groups, and the challenges and importance of trying to plan for unknown future conditions. It was noted that MARCO has already been helpful to the Coast Guard by filling important data gaps in this process; a good example of collaboration already underway.

Key Themes and Outcomes

Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute

Ms. Cantral summarized key recurring themes that emerged over the course of the workshop. She reminded participants that the purpose of the MidA RPB is to achieve smarter, timelier, and more efficient decisions that balance competing uses in order to benefit ocean and coastal users and economies. Much discussion at the workshop focused on the need for a regional vision that people can become engaged in developing and in which they can feel a sense of ownership.

She reminded the participants that an important outcome from the workshop was that the MidA RPB is now official and ready to start its work. The MidA RPB plans to provide an opportunity for stakeholder engagement that is meaningful, participatory, and transparent. It can provide a forum and opportunity to ground-truth data and facilitate engagement across sectors and interest groups. There is a need to figure out the framework for how the work will be accomplished.

She noted that the process must remain flexible and lead to improved relationships and communication, both internally among government entities and externally with stakeholders in the region. There is a need to build trust between the MidA RPB and stakeholders. The MidA RPB should move quickly to demonstrate success by effectively addressing a few discreet problems. Early success could help the MidA RPB withstand political variability by demonstrating the value of the process in this resource constrained environment. Funding,

time, and energy are all needed to carry this process forward in the long term. She concluded by sharing a sense among participants that there is an opportunity for the MidA RPB to address ocean management in a way that is transparent, forward looking, enduring, and adaptive.

Next Steps

The workshop concluded with closing remarks and a review of next steps for regional ocean planning in this region and how stakeholders can stay engaged as the process moves forward.

Closing remarks were provided by:

- **Maureen A. Bornholdt**, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- **Sarah W. Cooksey**, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Programs; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- **Gerrod Smith**, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Maureen A. Bornholdt

Ms. Bornholdt emphasized how insightful and reenergizing she found the workshop. She explained that the next step for the MidA RPB will be to hold its first business meeting, reiterating that the MidA RPB is ready to start its important work. She reminded participants that there are still many considerations about the mechanics, timeframe, and location of that first meeting that need to be determined. She highlighted the need to use social media to reach out to those stakeholders unable to travel to the meeting and the importance of utilizing existing networks to connect with people going forward. She assured participants that information gathered at this workshop would be carefully considered and taken into account as the first MidA RPB meeting is designed. She highlighted the potential she saw in participatory mapping approaches to engage ocean users and capture their knowledge. She explained that the MidA RPB can play a role in addressing many of the concerns identified at the workshop, such as building partnerships through trust and respect between divergent authorities and users. She views the MidA RPB as a forum to debate, to plan, and to set goals to achieve a healthier ocean and to support economic activity. She concluded by thanking all who participated, with special thanks to MARCO.

Gerrod Smith

Mr. Smith said that the workshop had been educational and that it was very helpful to hear from so many diverse perspectives and interests. He observed a great deal of energy and

appetite for collaboration. He shared his sense of looking forward to a long term and lasting dialogue, particularly with those engaged with fisheries management, to provide food security and jobs into the future. He stated that he will bring a positive message to the Shinnecock Nation and that the Shinnecock plans to engage with other tribes on outreach. In concluding, he stated that the Shinnecock look forward to helping to plan a successful first MidA RPB meeting.

Sarah W. Cooksey

Ms. Cooksey expressed her appreciation for the engagement and dedication of workshop participants and extended thanks on behalf of MARCO. She observed that there had already been polite disagreements, and that they had been thoughtful, informative, and honest. She explained that ocean planning cannot and would not solve every problem, but that it can help the region make great progress towards improving the management, use, and conservation of ocean resources. She charged participants with helping to foster ocean leadership and to leave the oceans in a better state for the next generation. She welcomed stakeholders to contact the MidA RPB through MARCO and its communications team and asked them to share with their networks their knowledge of what the collaborative MidA RPB process hopes to accomplish and to point them to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal as a resource. She encouraged stakeholders to stay involved as the MidA RPB starts its work and to attend its meetings, stating that this workshop should be seen as the beginning of an ongoing and important conversation.

Ms. Cantral then declared the workshop adjourned.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

Agenda

Dates: April 4-5, 2013

Location: Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, VA

Draft Meeting Objectives

- Develop a common understanding about regional ocean planning and how this tool can help the Mid-Atlantic region establish and achieve shared goals for the use and conservation of its ocean resources.
- Involve stakeholders in developing recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, including strategies and mechanisms for robust stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process.
- Foster dialogue and commitment among stakeholders and governmental entities in the Mid-Atlantic to advance collaboration on ocean planning.

Day 1: Thursday, April 4

8:00 am **Registration Opens**

9:00 am **Welcome**

- *Maureen A. Bornholdt*, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Sarah W. Cooksey*, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Program; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Gerrod Smith*, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

9:15 am **Welcome to Virginia**

- *Douglas W. Domenech*, Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia

- 9:30 am** **Agenda Review**
- *Laura Cantral*, Meridian Institute
- 9:45 am** **Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic: The Context and Motivation**
- A regional leader sets the context for discussions about Mid-Atlantic ocean planning, including describing regional and national trends that point to ocean planning for addressing important regional challenges.
- *Donald Boesch*, President, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- 10:00 am** **National Initiatives Important for Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning**
- A presentation about relevant national initiatives, including the President’s National Ocean Policy, that set the national context for regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.
- *Deerin Babb-Brott*, Director, National Ocean Council Office
- 10:30 am** **The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body**
- State, Federal, and Tribal leaders of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body describe the charge for this new entity and its role in carrying out regional ocean planning, followed by a plenary opportunity for questions and answers.
- *Maureen A. Bornholdt*, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Planning Regional Planning Body
 - *Sarah W. Cooksey*, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Program; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
 - *Gerrod Smith*, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- 10:45 am** **Break**
- 11:00 am** **Panel and Plenary Discussion: Existing Groundwork for Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic Region**
- A panel of State and Federal representatives describes activities underway that set the groundwork for regional ocean planning, including progress related to interagency coordination, science and data, and stakeholder engagement, followed by a plenary opportunity for questions and answers.

- *Gwynne Schultz*, Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Member, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Patrick Gilman*, Wind Market Acceleration Lead, U.S. Department of Energy; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Mary Boatman*, Environmental Studies Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior
- *Laura McKay*, Program Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program; Member, MARCO Management Board

11:55 pm Charge to Afternoon Breakout Groups

- *Laura Cantral*, Meridian Institute

12:00 pm Lunch (on your own)

1:30 pm Breakout Groups 1: Identifying Questions about Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

Participants work in small groups to identify and discuss their top questions and concerns about regional ocean planning that will be addressed in the subsequent panel.

2:45 pm Break

3:10 pm Panel and Plenary Discussion: Discussion of Participant Questions

Panelists engaged with ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic address questions and concerns that emerged from Breakout Groups 1, followed by plenary discussion.

Panelists:

- *Gerrod Smith*, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Richard Robins*, Chair, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- *Sarah W. Cooksey*, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Program; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Gregory Capobianco*, Ocean and Great Lakes Program Director, Division of Coastal Resources, New York State Department of State;

Member, MARCO Management Board

- *Maureen A. Bornholdt*, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Thomas Bigford*, Chief, Habitat Protection Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

4:10 pm Panel and Plenary Discussion: Stakeholder Perspectives and Ensuring Meaningful Stakeholder Collaboration

Panelists representing key interests in the management of Mid-Atlantic ocean resources engage in plenary discussion with participants about their perspectives on ocean planning and strategies and mechanisms to engage stakeholders in meaningful ways throughout the ocean planning process.

Panelists:

- *Dick Brame*, Atlantic States Fisheries Director, Coastal Conservation Association
- *Eric Johansson*, Executive Director, Tug and Barge Committee, Port of New York and New Jersey
- *Jim Lanard*, President, Offshore Wind Development Coalition
- *Sam Martin*, Vice President of Operations, Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc.
- *Steve W. Ross*, Research Professor, Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- *John Weber*, Northeast Regional Manager, Surfrider Foundation

5:15 pm Adjourn Day 1

**5:15pm – Cash Bar Reception at Westin Arlington Gateway
6:30pm**

Day 2: Friday, April 5

8:00 am Doors Open

8:30 am Welcome Back, Day 2 Agenda Review, and Charge to Breakout Groups 2

- *Laura Cantral*, Meridian Institute

9:00 am Breakout Groups 2: Developing Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Participants work in small groups to develop recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body about opportunities and challenges in the region that ocean planning can address, desired outcomes for regional ocean planning, and ways the Regional Planning Body could achieve those outcomes.

11:00 am Break

11:15 am Report-out and Plenary Discussion: Recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Report-out to plenary participants about the outcomes of discussions during the Breakout Groups 2 session, followed by plenary discussion with participants and a panel of representatives from Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Member States, Federal Agencies, and Tribe.

- *Jose Atangan*, Joint Staff Representative, Atlantic Regional Planning Bodies, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
- *John Clark*, Fisheries Administrator, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- *Amy Cradic*, Senior Policy Advisor, New Jersey Office of the Governor (invited)
- *Thomas Morgart*, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- *Douglas Pabst*, Chief, Dredging, Sediments, and Oceans Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
- *Gerrod Smith*, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation
- *Jack Travelstead*, Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- *John Walters*, Section Chief, Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District
- *Andrew Zemba*, Director, Interstate Waters Office, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

12:20 pm Key Themes and Outcomes

Review of important themes and outcomes of the workshop.

- *Laura Cantral*, Meridian Institute

12:30 pm Next Steps

Review of next steps for regional ocean planning in the region and how stakeholders can stay engaged as the process moves forward.

- *Maureen A. Bornholdt*, Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Federal Co-Lead, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Sarah W. Cooksey*, Administrator, Delaware Coastal Program; Chair, MARCO Management Board; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- *Gerrod Smith*, Chief Financial Officer, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Member, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

12:45 pm Adjourn

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

April 4-5, 2013

Jennifer Adkins | Partnership for the Delaware Estuary | jadkins@delawareestuary.org

Jonathan Andrechik | National Ocean Council Office, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President | jonathan_a_andrechik@ostp.eop.gov

Jose Atangan | U.S. Fleet Forces, Environmental Readiness | joe.atangan@navy.mil

Lars Axelsson | F/V Flicka & F/V Dyrsten | fvflicka@comcast.net

Deerin Babb-Brott | National Ocean Council | deerin_s_babb-brott@ostp.eop.gov

Miriam Balgos | University of Delaware | mbalgos@udel.edu

Laura Bankey | National Aquarium | lbankey@mac.com

Chris Bason | DC Center for the Inland Bays | chrisbason@inlandbays.org

Alison Bates | University of Delaware | abates@udel.edu

Thomas Bigford | NOAA Fisheries Habitat Office | thomas.bigford@noaa.gov

Dave Blazer | Maryland Port Administration | dblazer@marylandports.com

Mary Boatman | DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management | mary.boatman@boem.gov

Don Boesch | University of Maryland, Center for Estuarine Science | boesch@ca.umces.edu

Maureen Bornholdt | DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management | maureen.bornholdt@boem.gov

Dick Brame | Coastal Conservation Association | dbrame55@gmail.com

Nicole Bransome | U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary | nicole_mehaffie@ios.doi.gov

Kent Bressie | Wiltshire & Grannis | kbressie@wiltshiregrannis.com

Leann Bullin | DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management | leann.bullin@boem.gov

Steve Bunker | The Nature Conservancy | sbunker@tnc.org

Merritt Burke | Town of Fenwick Island, Delaware | townmgr@fenwickisland.org

Greg Capobianco | New York Department of State | Gregory.Capobianco@dos.ny.gov

Don Chapman | G4i Development Corp | dchapman@govg4i.com

Alison Chase | Natural Resources Defense Council | achase@nrdc.org

Sarah Chasis | Natural Resources Defense Council | schasis@nrdc.org

Kristine Cherry | Governors' South Atlantic Alliance | kristine.cherry@gsaalliance.org

Charles Chesnutt | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Charles.B.Chesnutt@usace.army.mil

Biliana Cicin-Sain | University of Delaware, Mangone Center for Marine Policy | bcs@udel.edu

Christopher Clapp | The Nature Conservancy | cclapp@tnc.org

John Clark | Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control/Division of Fish and Wildlife | john.clark@state.de.us

Dennis Coker | Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware | lenapedelaware@comcast.net

Darci Connor Maresca | Strategic Earth Consulting | darci@strategiearth.com

Sarah Cooksey | Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control/Coastal Program | sarah.cooksey@state.de.us

Amy Cradic | New Jersey Governor's Office |

Gwynn Crichton | The Nature Conservancy | gcrichton@tnc.org

Forbes Darby | NOAA | forbes.darby@noaa.gov

Jeff Deem | Virginia Marine Resources Commission | deemjeff@erols.com

Michael Deering | Long Island Power Authority | mdeering@lipower.org

Allison DePerte | Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation | achaillet@riverheadfoundation.org

Amardeep Dhanju | Avanti at BOEM Environmental Studies Program | amardeep.dhanju@boem.gov

Patty Doerr | The Nature Conservancy | pdoerr@tnc.org

Doug Domenech | Office of Governor McDonnell, Commonwealth of Virginia |
Doug.Domenech@governor.virginia.gov

Jennifer Dorton | Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association | jdorton@secoora.org

John Ewart | University of Delaware, Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service | ewart@udel.edu

Luke Fairbanks | Duke University | lwf3@duke.edu

Ned Farquhar | Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior | Ned_Farquhar@ios.doi.gov

Fort Felker | National Renewable Energy Laboratory | Fort.felker@nrel.gov

Darlene Finch | NOAA Coastal Services Center | darlene.finch@noaa.gov

Jeremy Firestone | University of Delaware | jf@udel.edu

Robin Fitch | Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy | robin.fitch@navy.mil

Lauren Fitton | Monmouth University, Urban Coast Institute | lfitton@monmouth.edu

Kate Fleming | Delaware Coastal Programs | kate.fleming@state.de.us

Matt Fleming | Maryland Department of Natural Resources | mfleming@dnr.state.md.us

Patrick Gilman | U.S. Department of Energy | Patrick.Gilman@ee.doe.gov

Scott Glenn, Ph.D | Rutgers University/Institute of Marine and Coastal Science |
pgillen@marine.rutgers.edu

Andrew Gohn | Maryland Energy Administration | agohn@energy.state.md.us

Matt Gove | Surfrider Foundation | govematthew@gmail.com

Brent Greenfield | National Ocean Policy Coalition | brent.greenfield@oceanpolicy.com

George Hagerman | Virginia Tech | hagerman@vt.edu

Michele Hallowell | Kelley Drye & Warren LLP | mhallowell@kelleydrye.com

Troy Hartley | Virginia Sea Grant | thartley@vims.edu

Monty Hawkins | Party/Charter Fish | mhawkins@mediacombb.net

Arlo Hemphill | Maryland Coastal Bays Program | arlo@arlohemphill.com

Roselle Henn | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division | Roselle.E.Henn@usace.army.mil

Jeanne Herb | Bloustein School, Rutgers University | jherb@ejb.rutgers.edu

Carolyn Holland | Ecotrust | cholland@ecotrust.org

Karen Holm | Delaware County Planning Commission | holmk@co.delaware.pa.us

Terry Holman | Department of the Interior | terry_holman@ios.doi.gov

Susan Holmes | NOAA National Ocean Service | susan.holmes@noaa.gov

Robert Howatt | Delaware Public Service Commission | Robert.howatt@state.de.us

George Jackson | USDOT Maritime Administration | george.jackson@dot.gov

Rhonda Jackson | Fishermen's Energy, LLC | rhonda.jackson@fishermensenergy.com

Todd Janeski | Virginia Commonwealth University | tvjaneski@vcu.edu

Eric Johansson | Tug & Barge Committee, Port of New York and New Jersey |
cjohansson@sunymaritime.edu; safemariner@me.com

Stephanie Kavanaugh | NOAA National Ocean Service | stephanie.kavanaugh@noaa.gov

Edward J. Kelly | Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey |
themaritimeassoc@erols.com; administrator@nymaritime.org

John Kraeuter | Rutgers University/Haskins Shellfish Research Lab | kraeuter@hsrl.rutgers.edu

Gerhard Kuska | MARACOOS | kuska@maracoos.org

Bob LaBelle | DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management | robert.labelle@boem.gov

Jim Lanard | Offshore Wind Development Coalition | JLanard@OffshoreWindDC.org

Richard Lathrop | Rutgers University/ Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Natural Resources |
lathrop@crssa.rutgers.edu

Captain Dean Leech | U.S. Navy JAG Environmental Law Division | dean.leech@navy.mil

Michelle Lennox | Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) |
mlennox@midatlanticocean.org

Alfonso Lombana | The Nature Conservancy | alombana@tnc.org

Christopher Long | American Wind Energy Association | clong@awea.org

Richard Lutz | Rutgers University/ Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences | rlutz@marine.rutgers.edu

Pam Lyons Gromen | Wild Oceans | pgromen@mindspring.com

Tony Macdonald | Monmouth University, Urban Coast Institute | amacдона@monmouth.edu

Andy Manus | The Nature Conservancy in Delaware | amanus@TNC.ORG

Rick Marks | Garden State Seafood Association | rem@hsgblaw-dc.com

Sam Martin | Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc | smartin@atlanticcapes.com

Meghan Massaua | U.S. Department of Energy | meghan.massaua@ee.doe.gov

Catherine McCall | Maryland Department of Natural Resources | cmccall@dnr.state.md.us

Cliff McCreedy | National Park Service | cliff_mccreedy@nps.gov

Leslie-Ann McGee | Battelle Memorial Institute | MCGEEL@battelle.org

Laura McKay | Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program | laura.mckay@deq.virginia.gov

John McMurray | Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council | johnmcmurray@optonline.net

Clint Moore | Ion | clint.moore@iongeo.com

Thomas Morgart | USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service | thomas.morgart@md.usda.gov

Fredrika Moser | University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science | moser@mdsg.umd.edu

Kathy Moser | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation | kmmoser@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Laura Muhs | U.S Navy | laura.muhs@navy.mil

Mary Munson | Coastal States Organization | mmunson@coastalstates.org

Angela Neilan | Virginia Department of Environmental Quality | angela.neilan@deq.virginia.gov

Dave Noble | Department of Defense/U.S. Navy | william.d.noble@navy.mil

Thomas Noji | NOAA NMFS Sandy Hook Laboratory | thomas.noji@noaa.gov

Ginger North | Delaware Nature Society | ginger@delawarenaturesociety.org

Nicolette Nye | National Ocean Industries Association | nicolette@noia.org

Jay Odell | The Nature Conservancy | jodell@tnc.org

Kris Ohleth | Atlantic Wind Connection | kohleth@atlanticwindconnection.com

John Oliver | U.S. Coast Guard and National Ocean Council | john.t.oliver@uscg.mil

Suzanne Orenstein | Udall Foundation/US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution |
orenstein@ecr.gov

Nicholas Paraskevas | U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center | nicholas.paraskevas@navy.mil

Linda Parkowski | Delaware Economic Development Office | linda.parkowski@state.de.us

Margo Pellegrino | Blue Frontier Campaign | outriggerone@mac.com

Christina Pinkerton | Delaware Coastal Programs | christina.pinkerton@state.de.us

Jacob Powell | Virginia Conservation Network | jacob@vcnva.org

Andy Radford | American Petroleum Institute | radforda@api.org

Bonnie Ram | Ram Power, LLC | bonnie@rampowerllc.com

Rick Robins | Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council | richardbrobins@gmail.com

Amy Roe | Sierra Club | amywroe@gmail.com

Martin Rosen | Office of Coastal & Land Use Planning, New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection | martin.rosen@dep.state.nj.us

Steve W. Ross | Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina at Wilmington | rosss@uncw.edu

Nikki Rovner | The Nature Conservancy | nrovner@tnc.org

Peter Rowe, Ph.D | New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium | prowe@njseagrant.org

Salvatore Ruggiero | Shinnecock Indian Nation | sal_ruggerio@live.com

David Russ | DOI U.S. Geological Survey | druss@usgs.gov

Frank Salley | Verizon | Frank.salley@one.verizon.com

Kelly Sayce | Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) | kelly@strategiearth.com

Gwynne Schultz | Maryland Department of Natural Resources | gschultz@dnr.state.md.us

Renee Searfoss | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 | searfoss.renee@epa.gov

Joe Sieber | Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection | josieber@pa.gov

Dyashua Silvester | Shinnecock Indian Nation | wabush1@aol.com

Taobi Siva | Shinnecock Indian Nation | cochise316@aol.com

Curtis Smith | Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission | csmith@a-npdc.org

Gerrod Smith | Shinnecock Indian Nation | wabush1@aol.com

Eileen Sobeck | Department of the Interior | eileen_sobek@ios.doi.gov

Charles Steinback | Ecotrust | charles@ecotrust.org

Nancy Sutley | White House Council on Environmental Quality; National Ocean Council |

Mark Swingle | Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center | mswingle@virginiaaquarium.com

Bruce Tackett | Resource Access International | bruce.a.tackett@gmail.com

Jack Travelstead | Virginia Marine Resources Commission | jack.travelstead@mrc.virginia.gov

Earl Waesche | National Boating Federation | ewaesche@comcast.net

John Walters | U.S. Coast Guard | john.r.walters@uscg.mil

Bob Wargo | AT&T | rw1791@att.com

John Weber | Northeast Regional Ocean Council | jweber@northeastoceancouncil.org

John Weber | Surfrider Foundation | jweber@surfrider.org

John Williamson | Sea Keeper Fisheries | john@seakeeper.org

Dave Wilson | Maryland Coastal Bays Program | dwilson@mdcoastalbays.org

Kate Wing | The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation | Kate.Wing@moore.org

Heather Wood | Virginia Port Authority | hwood@portofvirginia.com

Kateryna Wowk | NOAA | katya.wowk@noaa.gov

Andrew Zemba | Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Interstate Waters Office |
azemba@pa.gov

Cindy Zipf | Clean Ocean Action | zipf@cleanoceanaction.org

Anna Zivian | Ocean Conservancy | azivian@oceanconservancy.org

Workshop Staff

Laura Cantral | Meridian Institute | lcantrol@merid.org

Christina Carlson | Meridian Institute | ccarlson@merid.org

Ingrid Irigoyen | Meridian Institute | irigoyen@merid.org

Timothy Mullin | Meridian Institute | tmullin@merid.org

Sarah Walen | Meridian Institute | swalen@merid.org

Danielle Youngblood | Meridian Institute | dyoungblood@merid.org

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

Regional Context and Guide to Ocean Planning Entities

This document is a resource for participants in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning workshop, held on April 4-5, 2013 in Arlington, VA. It describes the purpose of the workshop, offers a description of regional ocean planning, and provides descriptions of key regional entities that will be engaged in the planning process.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

The *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop* is being convened by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean [MARCO] in collaboration with the Federal agencies engaged with ocean planning in the region. It is an initial step in the launch of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic, and is designed to engage stakeholders in the planning process.

The *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop* will provide a structured forum for focused dialogue among stakeholders and workshop conveners. Stakeholders from across the region have been invited to share their diverse perspectives and interests in the ocean planning process. They represent a number of important interests including: ocean industries (e.g. commercial fishing and waterborne commerce); ocean recreation; environmental and conservation groups; educational and research institutions; coastal communities; national security; and the general public.

Workshop participants will have an opportunity to learn about regional ocean planning and provide input that will help shape it. They will engage with other stakeholders and representatives of State and Federal agencies, Tribes, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, who will lead the Mid-Atlantic Ocean planning effort. Throughout this regional ocean planning workshop, participants are invited to:

- Enhance their understanding about regional ocean planning and how this tool can help the Mid-Atlantic region establish and achieve shared goals for the use and conservation of its ocean resources.
- Develop recommendations for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, including strategies and mechanisms for robust stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process.
- Engage with other stakeholders and governmental entities in the Mid-Atlantic to advance collaboration on ocean planning.

Stakeholder engagement will be a cornerstone of the Mid-Atlantic’s regional ocean planning process, and workshop conveners want to ensure that all identified perspectives and interests are carefully considered. The information and input gathered will inform and help lay the foundation for future regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. Following the workshop, a detailed summary and all presentations will be posted on MARCO’s website (<http://midatlanticocean.org/workshop.htm>).

Regional Ocean Planning

The Mid-Atlantic States are already working through established partnerships –with one another, Federal agency partners, and stakeholders –to better coordinate, share data, and plan for new and expanding uses in an already crowded Mid-Atlantic Ocean. These collaborations have laid a strong foundation for regional ocean planning.

Regional ocean planning will improve our understanding of how Mid-Atlantic ocean resources and places are currently being used, managed and conserved, and to establish a broad vision that will guide the actions needed to address shared regional priorities. Information obtained through this approach will guide resource conservation while supporting a growing number of ocean users and uses vying for ocean resources and space.

Key elements of regional ocean planning include:

- Identification of shared, regional objectives to better focus decision-making.
- Engagement of stakeholders and scientific/technical experts to ensure managers have the best available information.
- Production, coordination, and analysis of data across jurisdictions and agencies to provide better understanding of the potential effects of decisions.
- Generation of a regional assessment of ocean-related human uses, natural resources, and economic and cultural factors to provide a comprehensive context for decision-making.
- Development and implementation of coordinated management actions across jurisdictions using existing ocean management efforts and authorities.
- Use of dispute resolution mechanisms that help Federal and States agencies and Tribes address inconsistencies across policies and other potential areas of conflict.

Through regional ocean planning, a broad range of stakeholders will work together to facilitate sustainable, safe, secure, and productive access to and use of the ocean. This approach considers a spectrum of economic, ecological, social, and cultural needs to ensure marine ecosystems are healthy and able to support the many goods and services that the people of the Mid-Atlantic want, now and in the future. The regional ocean planning process does not change existing authorities or create new mandates. Rather, it improves the way those authorities and mandates are implemented.

Regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region will be led by State, Federal, Tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council partners, with the close involvement of local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders. The following provides an overview of key entities engaged in ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) was formed in 2009 by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia to work together on shared ocean issues that benefit from a regional response. These five coastal states work on shared issues that are best addressed through interstate regional collaboration and provide a collective voice for the region. The five MARCO states have built a solid foundation for promoting greater federal and private investment, generating more attention on the shared priorities in the Mid-Atlantic, and communicating and advancing the states' interests at the national level. This regional approach better positions the Mid-Atlantic to address existing and emerging challenges facing its ocean and coastal communities, resources, and ecosystems.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB)

In 2010, a Presidential Executive Order established a National Ocean Policy (NOP) to guide the protection, maintenance, and restoration of America's oceans and coasts. The NOP requires Federal agencies to work in a more coordinated, goal-oriented framework with States, Tribes, and stakeholders.

The NOP also calls for the creation of Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) to coordinate and implement regional ocean planning with State, Federal, Tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives. The Mid-Atlantic RPB will leverage existing efforts underway by States and regional entities, and engage stakeholders and technical experts at every key step. The Mid-Atlantic RPB is composed of representatives from:

- The five MARCO states (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia)
- Pennsylvania
- Federally-recognized Tribes in the region (Shinnecock Indian Nation)
- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- The nine Federal agencies collaborating in support of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop:
 - Department of Agriculture (represented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

- Department of Commerce (represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
 - Department of Defense (represented by the U.S. Navy and the Joint Chiefs of Staff)
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Homeland Security (represented by the U.S. Coast Guard)
 - Department of the Interior (represented by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
 - Department of Transportation (represented by the Maritime Administration)
 - Environmental Protection Agency
-

Mid-Atlantic Stakeholders

Partnerships with regional stakeholders are critical to the success of regional ocean planning. The workshop conveners wish to establish and nurture lasting relationships with business, academic, and nongovernmental entities to ensure all perspectives and interests are heard, and that management actions reflect the economic, social, cultural, and ecological needs and goals of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms

ACUMEN	Atlantic Canyons Undersea Mapping Expeditions
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CMSP	Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
CSC	NOAA Coastal Services Center
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DOC	U.S. Department of Commerce
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GCC	Governance Coordinating Committee
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
MARAD	Maritime Administration
MARCO	Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
MARACOOS	Mid-Atlantic Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observation Systems
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NCCOS	National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOC	National Ocean Council
NOP	National Ocean Policy
NOS	NOAA's National Ocean Service

NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service
OCLA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
ORAP	Ocean Research Advisory Panel
PGIS	Participatory Geographic Information Systems
RPB	Regional Planning Body
SAP	Site Assessment Plan
SLA	Submerged Lands Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VTR	Vessel Trip Report (for Fishing Vessels)

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop

Resources for More Information about Regional Ocean Planning

The following selected resources about ocean planning are provided for reference and additional information, and are not officially endorsed by workshop conveners.

Ocean Planning

Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

(http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf) and the associated **Executive Order** (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/2010stewardship-eo.pdf>)

The recommendations describe a need for the first National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes; a strengthened governance structure; a targeted implementation strategy that identifies and prioritizes nine categories for action; and a framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP). The Executive Order adopts a National Policy and principles for management decisions and actions toward the vision of “an America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.”

Step-by-Step Approach for Marine Spatial Planning toward Ecosystem-based

Management, Ehler, C., and F. Douvère (2009). Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Manual and Guides No. 53, ICAM Dossier No. 6. Paris, UNESCO --

(<http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/goto.php?id=ac1dd209cbcc5e5d1c6e28598e8cbbe8&type=docs>)

The guide provides general information on marine spatial planning; insights into the consecutive steps and tasks of setting up a successful marine spatial planning initiative; and a review of what has worked and what has not in marine spatial planning practice around the world.

Best Practices for Marine Spatial Planning. Beck, M. W., Z. Ferdaña, et al. (2009). Arlington, VA, The Nature Conservancy. (http://www.marineplanning.org/pdf/msp_best_practices.pdf)

This document focuses on key issues and critical points in the planning process to identify lessons learned and best practices from the extensive practical experience of the participants in the development of marine spatial plans.

Key Elements and Steps in the Process of Developing Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning. Gilliland, P. M., and D. Laffoley (2008). *Marine Policy* 32(5): 787-796.

<http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/uploads/documentenbank/8cf812b55b75940b4a2bb51462e1c017.pdf>

This article focuses on the key steps in the planning process of developing ecosystem-based MSP. The importance of setting specific objectives, including as a context for the full range of relevant spatial data, and determining priorities is emphasized. It is also suggested that stakeholder engagement, including the way it is undertaken, is critical to different stages of the process.

Data Portals

Ocean.Data.gov (<http://www.data.gov/ocean>)

This is the National Ocean Council's portal for Federal data, information, and tools to support planning for the future of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. The portal's goal is to be a one-stop hub to support planners and to provide useful information to the public.

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/portal/>).

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Portal is an online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables state, federal and local users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information (e.g., fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites.). The Portal serves as a platform to engage all stakeholders in ocean planning for the five state Mid-Atlantic regions—putting all of the essential data and state-of-the art mapping and visualization technology into the hands of the agencies, industry, and community leaders engaged in ocean planning.

Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (<http://www.marinecadastre.gov/default.aspx>).

The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (MMC) is an integrated marine information system that provides ocean data, offshore planning tools, and technical support to the offshore renewable energy community. The project was designed specifically to support renewable energy siting on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf but is also being used for other ocean-related efforts. The MMC has three primary focus areas: Web map viewers and ocean planning tools; spatial data registry; and technical support and regional capacity building. The MMC was developed in a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Involvement in Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Principles and Guidance. U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (2011)

www.ecr.gov/pdf/StakeholderPrinciplesCMSP.pdf.

This guide provides an overarching set of principles and guidance for effectively engaging all stakeholders in regional ocean planning processes.

Coming to the Table: Early Stakeholder Engagement in Marine Spatial Planning. Gopnik, M., C. Fieseler, L. Cantral, K. McClellan, L. Pendleton, L. Crowder (2012). *Marine Policy* 36(5):1139–49. (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X1200019X>)

The authors engaged a variety of U.S ocean stakeholders in a series of dialogs to: share information about what MSP is or could be, to hear stakeholder views and concerns about MSP, and to foster better understanding between those who depend on ocean resources for their livelihood and ocean conservation advocates. The stakeholder meetings were supplemented with several rounds of in-depth interviews and a survey. Project participants agreed on a number of issues related to stakeholder engagement in MSP: all felt strongly that government planners need to engage outsiders earlier, more often, more meaningfully, and through an open and transparent process.

The Engagement of Stakeholders in the Marine Spatial Planning Process. Pomeroy, R., and F. Douvère (2008). *Marine Policy* 32(5): 816-822.

(<http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/uploads/documentenbank/a7c08c25e6fcea567c27ca564135f65a.pdf>)

This article focuses on the various types and stages of stakeholder participation in a marine spatial planning process, and will illustrate how to conduct a stakeholder analysis that allows the involvement of stakeholders in an adequate way that is sustainable over time.

Stakeholder Participation in Massachusetts Ocean Management Planning: Observations on the Plan Development Stage. Consensus Building Institute and Massachusetts Ocean Partnership (2009). Boston, MA.

(http://www.env.state.ma.us/eea/mop/tech_reports/stakeholder_report.pdf)

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) expended considerable effort in outreach to the general public and ocean-use stakeholder groups over a 12-month period from June 2008 through May 2009. These efforts provided numerous opportunities for stakeholder participation during the initial, formative stage of the Massachusetts ocean management planning process. This report lists the primary stakeholder involvement vehicles used and the overarching themes that emerged.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning and the Role of Regional Fishery Management Councils in Multi-Sector Spatial Planning. Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum (2011). Stanford University.
(<http://www.fisheriesforum.org/sites/www.fisheriesforum.org/files/WCF%202011%20Summary%20Final.pdf>)

The 2011 West Coast Forum explored the topic of coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) and the role of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) in multi-sector spatial planning. The Forum's curriculum was structured around three basic questions: Why? What? And How? This document provides a summary of the individual presentations as well as the themes that emerged from the panel and case study discussions.

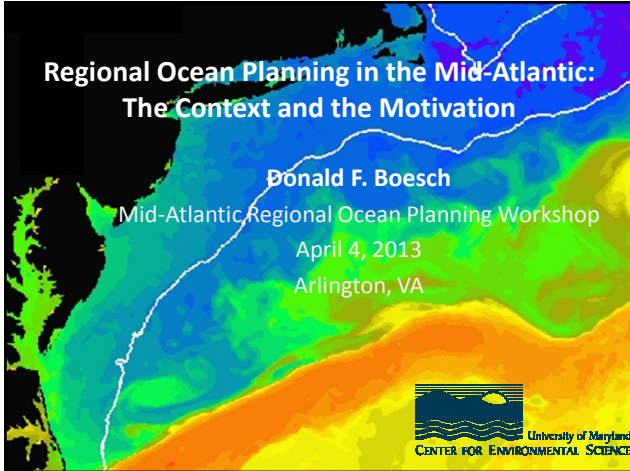
Background Online Resources

- **Open Channels** – Open Channels is designed to be highly focused on user needs. They want to provide access to all the information that ocean planners and managers need to do their jobs most effectively, including existing high-quality content and new information products and services.
(<http://openchannels.org/>)
- **EBM Tools Network** – The EBM Tools Network is an alliance to promote awareness, use, and development of tools that can help implement ocean planning in coastal and marine environments.
(<http://www.ebmtools.org/msptools.html>)
- **Center for Ocean Solutions** – COS has worked with a diverse array of partners and stakeholders to understand existing challenges, as well as to identify scientific and institutional innovations that could make MSP a good solution at various geographic scales. They provide marine planning fact sheets and Decision Support Tools.
(<http://www.centerforoceansolutions.org/initiatives/marine-spatial-planning>)
- **Ocean and Energy Planning** – The NOAA Coastal Services Center also provides several tools being used by public- and private-sector organizations who are trying to make smart decisions about the management of ocean resources.
(<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cmspl/>)

Appendix B.1.

Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic: The Context and the Motivation

Donald F. Boesch
Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop
April 4, 2013
Arlington, VA

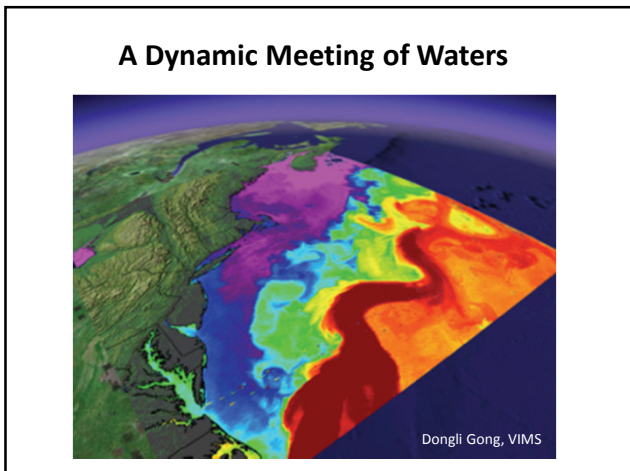


University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

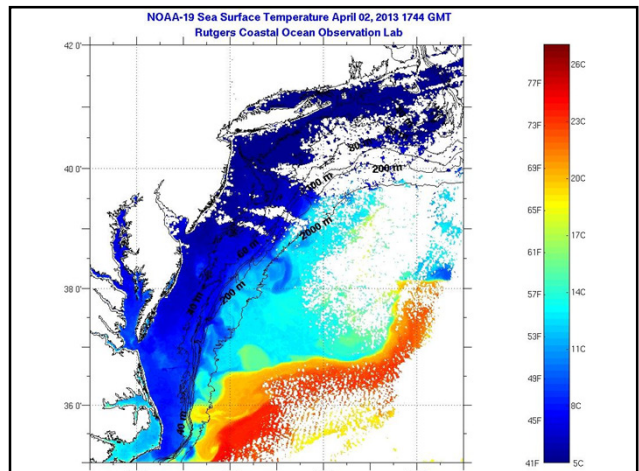
Motivation for Regional Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic



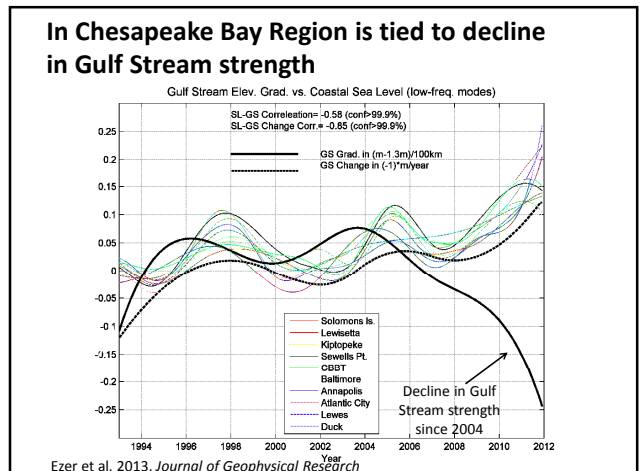
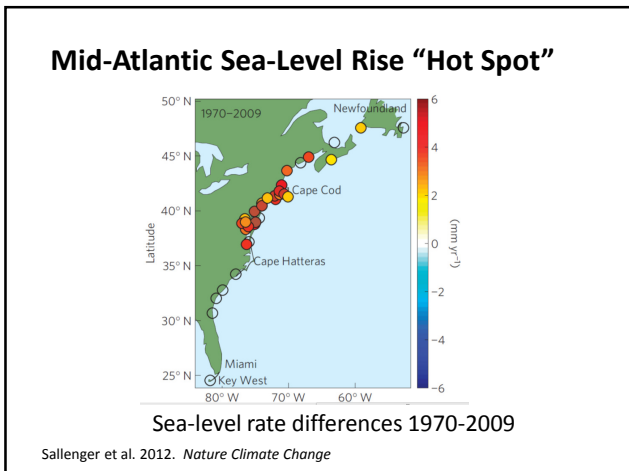
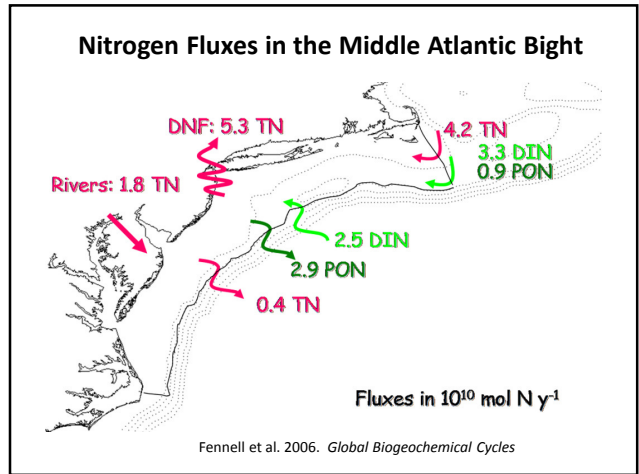
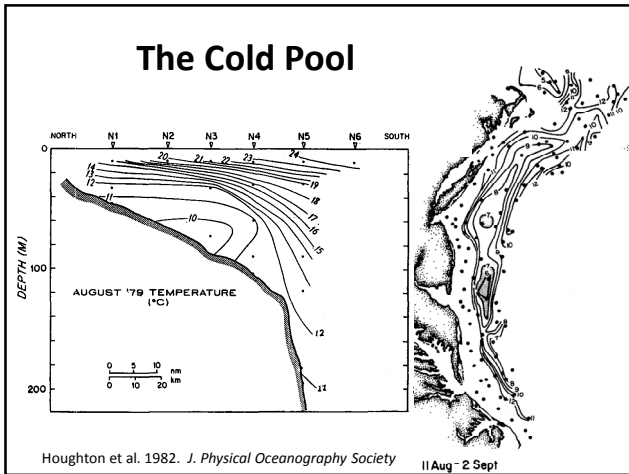
A Dynamic Meeting of Waters



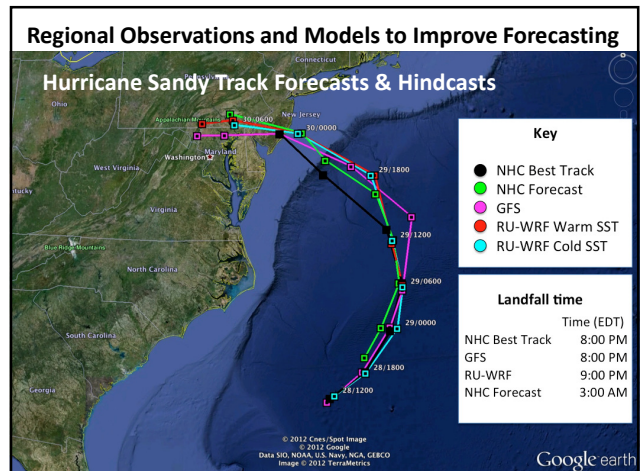
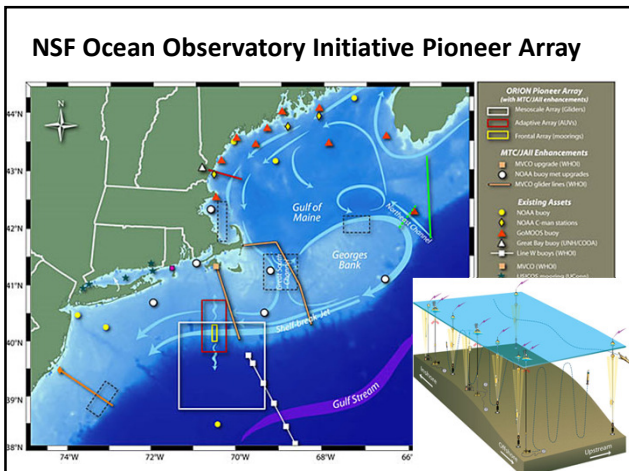
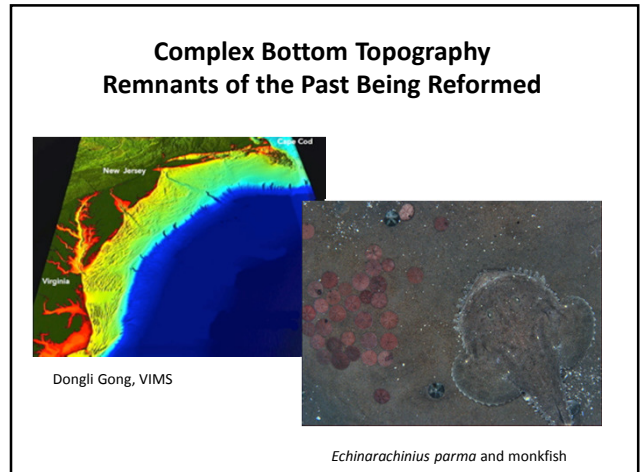
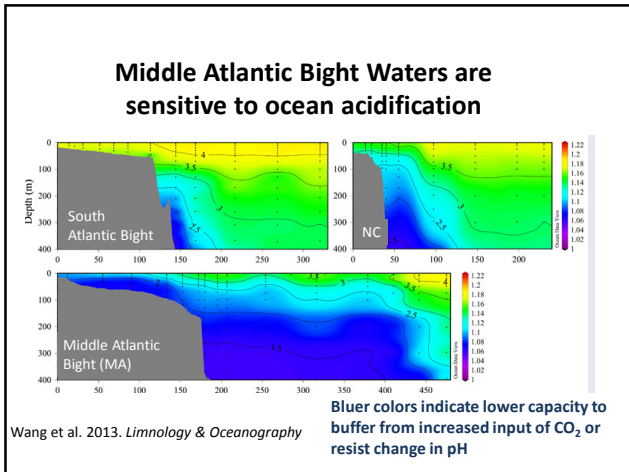
Dongli Gong, VIMS



Appendix B.1.



Appendix B.1.




Appendix B.2.

States Promoting a Healthy and Productive Ocean

Gwynne Schultz
Maryland Department of
Natural Resources

MARCO
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

April 4, 2013



State Leadership

Through...

- Individual State Efforts
- Multi-state Regional Ocean Partnership (MARCO)
 - New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland & Virginia
- Regional Ocean Planning



MARCO

Shared Regional Priorities

- Protect important marine habitats, including sensitive and unique offshore areas
- Support the sustainable development of renewable energy in offshore areas
- Prepare the region's coastal communities for the impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal resources
- Promote improvements in ocean water quality



MARCO

Coordination & Engagement

MARCO states are working together to:

- Advance Our Issues
- Chart a Path Forward
- Share Lessons Learned
- Engage Stakeholders



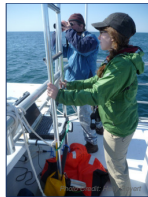
MARCO

Appendix B.2.

Better Decision Making

Collaborative efforts and partnerships have led to:

- New Data and Information
- New Investments
- Regulatory Coordination and Efficiency



MARCO

Partnerships

Financial Support:

- Mid-Atlantic States
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation

Creative Partnerships:

- MARCO Data Portal Team
- Coastal States Stewardship Foundation
- Communications Team - Strategic Earth
- Meridian Institute



MARCO

MARCO Contact Information

Mailing Address

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
Attn: Michelle Lennox
580 Taylor Avenue, E-2
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

MARCO Website

www.midatlanticocean.org

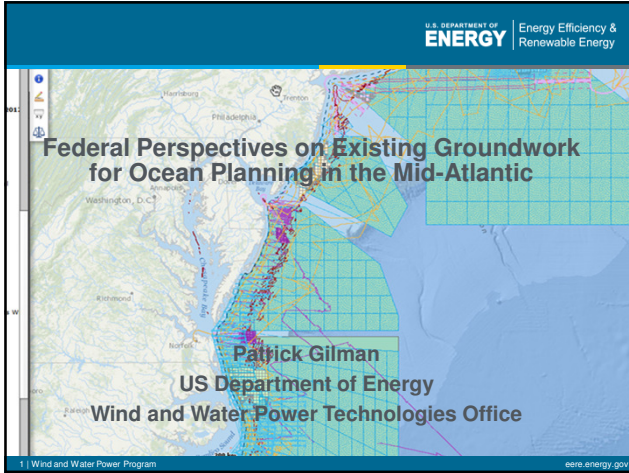
E-mail

info@midatlanticocean.org



MARCO

Appendix B.3.



A History of Collaboration

Mid-Atlantic Federal Partners have been meeting since early 2012 to discuss their shared interests in the ocean.

- Agencies have many different perspectives and priorities

Conservation	Defense	Shipping and Transportation
Mapping	Human Uses	Fisheries
Navigation	Renewable Energy Development	Preservation
- But they're coming together to achieve common objectives

3 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov

Different Priorities for Each Agency

WATERWAYS AND MARITIME TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
Coast Guard and Army Corps responsible for navigation safety

OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT
BOEM – Established Wind Energy Areas
DOE – Funded Demonstration Projects

MILITARY TRAINING AND OPERATIONS
DOD: Operational sustainment on training and testing ranges, Special Use Airspace, Military Training Routes, and Operating Areas

CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE USE
NOAA, EPA, USGS, FWS, and NPS all work to understand our natural resources and preserve them for future use

4 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov

Appendix B.3.

Collaborative Solutions U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy


USCG Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study

- Determines USCG actions to modify or create safety fairways, Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs) or other routing measures
- Provides data and tools to determine future waterways suitability for proposed projects
- Develops AIS products to assist Districts with all emerging coastal and offshore energy projects.

Resource Assessment and Design Conditions Working Group

DOE, DOD, NOAA, USACE, BOEM, BSEE, NASA, OSTP, AMS

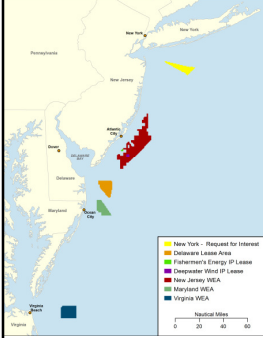
- Collaboration to characterize offshore energy resources and design conditions
- Make metocean data, specialized instrumentation, and tools available
- Developed a gaps analysis for offshore resource assessment and design conditions to inform future research



5 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov


Collaborative Solutions U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Atlantic OCS Wind Energy Planning Areas



BOEM State Task Forces

- BOEM working closely with 10 Atlantic states for offshore energy development
- Task forces in NY, NJ, DE, MD, and VA
- Comprehensive, transparent planning processes
- Extensive stakeholder outreach
- Developed Wind Energy Areas
- Collaboration with other regulatory agencies



DoD Siting Clearinghouse

U. S. Department of Defense

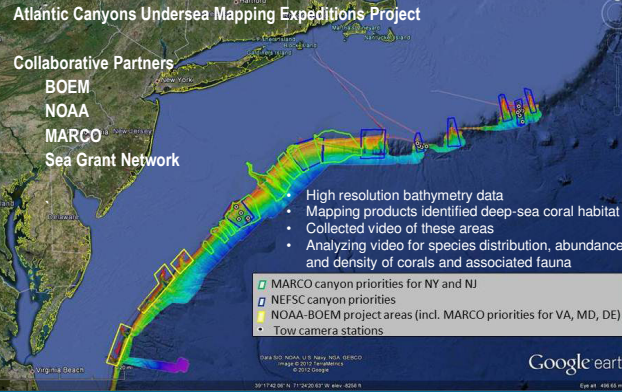
- DOD engaged with BOEM and State task forces
- DOD reviews offshore lease areas for compatibility while minimizing impacts to military training and readiness.

6 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov

Collaborative Solutions U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Atlantic Canyons Undersea Mapping Expeditions Project

Collaborative Partners: BOEM, NOAA, MARCO, Sea Grant Network



High resolution bathymetry data

- Mapping products identified deep-sea coral habitat
- Collected video of these areas
- Analyzing video for species distribution, abundance and density of corals and associated fauna

7 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov

Collaborative Solutions U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

First Integrated Pelagic Survey of the Northeast U.S. Shelf

Comprehensive data collection for whole-ecosystem understanding


Data collected on: plankton, fish, invertebrates, marine mammals, sea birds, sea turtles, nutrients, light levels, distribution of currents

Information collected inform:

- fisheries stock assessments,
- ecosystem status reports,
- satellite development, and
- offshore energy planning.

Collaborative Partners:

NOAA
BOEM
CUNY
NASA




8 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov

Appendix B.3.

Overall

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy



Widespread benefits from regional ocean planning may include:

- Enhanced coordination and improved decision-making
- Developing geospatial information and tools
- Improved access to data
- Collaboration with partners that outweighs challenges

Ocean planning may lead to smarter, timelier, and more efficient decisions that balance competing uses and benefit coastal communities and economies

Traditional uses (fishing), offshore renewable energy, ecosystem-based approaches to management, marine transportation, and offshore aquaculture are examples of some early beneficiaries of our foresight.


9 | Wind and Water Power Program eere.energy.gov

Appendix B.4.

BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

**Gathering and Sharing of Information:
Federal Activities to Support Regional Planning**

Mary C. Boatman, Ph.D.
Environmental Studies Chief
Office of Renewable Energy Programs



BOEM Federal Resources
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- Ocean.data.gov
- Geoplatform (formerly geo-spatial one stop)
- Multi-Purpose Marine Cadastre

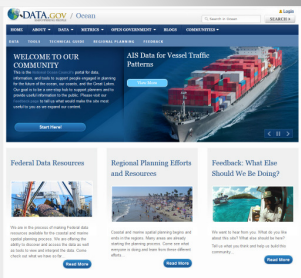
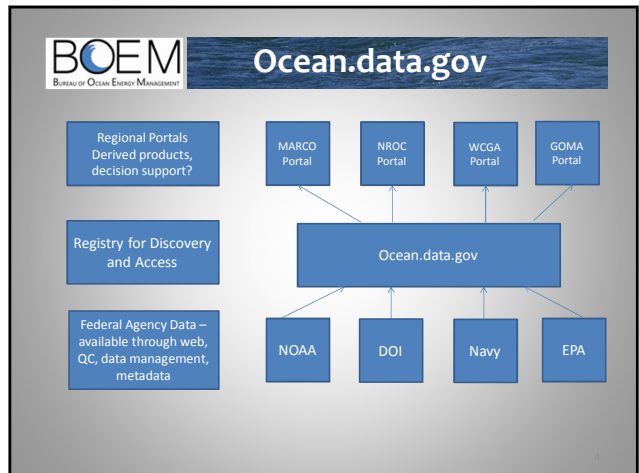
BOEM Ocean.data.gov
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

National Information Management System to support ocean planning

Community on Data.gov

Links to Data, Tools, Regional Efforts, Technical Information


Marine Planning Portal Network

Appendix B.4.

BOEM **Geoplatform.gov**
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- Evolution of Geospatial One-Stop
- Federal and non-Federal Data sources
- Integrated/connected to ocean.data.gov



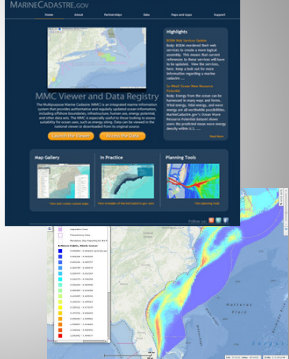
BOEM **Multi-Purpose Marine Cadastre**
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Marine Information System to support offshore renewable energy planning - EAct 2005

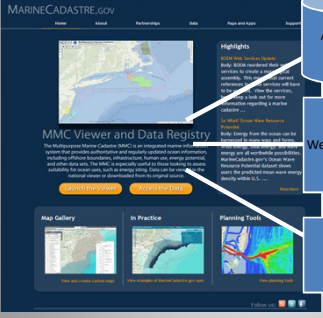
Co-led by BOEM and NOAA

Provides authoritative data, map viewers, tools for the renewable energy community

Requirements driven

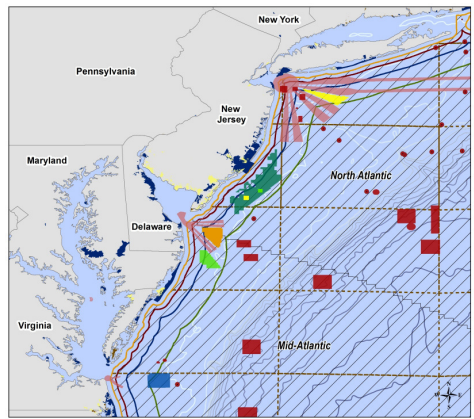


BOEM **Multi-Purpose Marine Cadastre**
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT



- Authoritative Ocean Data**
 - Data Catalog
 - 148 data sets
 - Web services
- Web Map Viewers**
 - Visualize data
 - Share maps
 - Plot and draw
- Tools**
 - Data processing
 - Site suitability
 - Query and display

Mid-Atlantic Data Themes



- Bathymetry
- Planning Areas
- Protractions
- Maritime Boundaries
- Traffic Separation Scheme
- Marine Protected Areas
- Dumping Grounds
- Wind Planning Areas

Appendix B.5.

Engaging Stakeholders
to Build the Mid-Atlantic
Ocean Data Portal

Laura McKay
Program Manager
Virginia CZM Program

MARCO
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

April 4, 2013



“Build it and they will come.”



Overview

1. Data development:
 - Compiling existing data
 - Identifying critical gaps
 - Engaging stakeholders to create new data to fill gaps
2. Portal tour
 - Data themes
 - Portal functions
3. Coming attractions
 - Interactive mapping



MARCO

Building the MARCO Portal: The MARCO Ocean Data Portal Team

State and federal agency /academia coordination

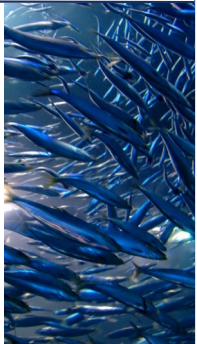
- MARCO Ocean Planning Action Team and Data Review Team

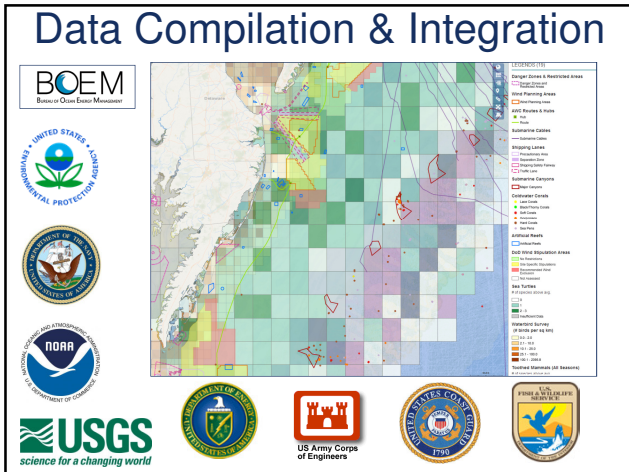
NOAA support for Portal Development

- Monmouth University Team

Stakeholder input

- Participation from a wide range of ocean interests





Identifying Gaps

High Priority Examples:

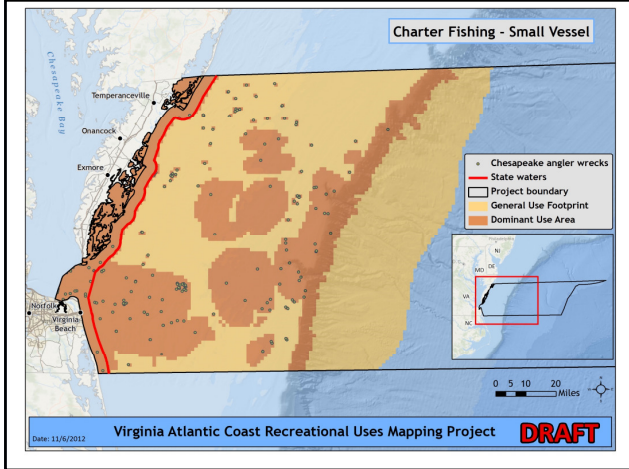
- Marine mammal migration paths
- Cold water corals
- Seabird hotspots
- Military restricted areas
- Ship traffic density
- Sand resources & mining
- Recreational use

Filling Gaps

- Marine mammals: **AMAPPS/BRI/CZM projects**
- Corals: **ACUMEN & Nancy Foster Cruises/NCCOS projects**
- Seabirds: **Several new studies & modeling efforts by NCCOS and others**
- Military: **Provided by Dept. of Defense**
- Ship density: **New map, coming soon**
- Sand: **Initial coordination underway**
- Recreational use: **3 new projects started!**

Engaging Recreational Users

Appendix B.5.



Tour the Portal

MARCO
MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

NEWS ABOUT THE PORTAL VISIT MARCO

Resources for Mid-Atlantic ocean planning
Launch Marine Planner >

LEARN
Understand the range of regional ocean planning needs.

EXPLORE
Access our current data and see future information needs.

VISUALIZE
Launch our Marine Planner mapping application along with other maps and tools.

CONTACT US info@midatlanticoceanportal.com CONNECT WITH US

Learn about Key Sectors

MARCO
MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

NEWS ABOUT THE PORTAL VISIT MARCO

Visualize Mid-Atlantic ocean uses and resources
Launch Marine Planner >

Learn

- Administrative
- Fishing
- Marine Life
- Maritime
- Recreation
- Renewable Energy
- Security

Explore

- Data Catalog
- Data Priorities

Visualize

- Marine Planner
- Cartography
- Collaboration
- Interactivity

Learn more about ocean planning's key sectors

With competing demands on our oceans at an all-time high, finding ways to engage all stakeholders in coastal and marine planning has never been more important. With the Portal, MARCO has created a robust ocean data and information management system that includes a wide range of human use, environmental, socioeconomic and regulatory data that will provide the building blocks for multi-use, regional-scale ocean planning. The Portal enables state, federal and local users to

Explore the Data

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Data Catalog

The Data Catalog gathers available data and recruits new data about ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites. Data falls into one of eight themes. You can explore the data available under each theme, and you can also see the MARCO Portal's key new data needs under Data Priorities.

[Explore Data Catalog](#)

Data Priorities

The MARCO Portal is actively seeking new data in order to comprehensively inform the regional ocean planning process. The list highlights the Portal's top priorities at the moment. Please contact us if you have existing data we could use or would like to partner with MARCO in developing one or more of the data sets mentioned. And check back regularly for new requests.


[Explore Data Priorities](#)

Appendix B.5.

Visualize the Data

MARCO
MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

NEWS ABOUT THE PORTAL VISIT MARCO



Learn Administrative Fishing Marine Life Maritime Recreation Renewable Energy Security

Explore Data Catalog Data Priorities

Visualize Marine Planner Cartography Collaboration Interactivity

Visualize. Interact. Interpret. Supporting regional ocean planning for the future

MARCO Marine Planner is a dynamic online tool to engage stakeholders in ocean planning in the five-state Mid-Atlantic region. Marine Planner consolidates essential data onto a state-of-the-art mapping and visualization platform that allows state, federal, and local users to visualize, query, map, and analyze ocean and coastal data. By placing these resources directly in the hands of regional ocean stakeholders, Marine Planner supports collaborative decision making and robust

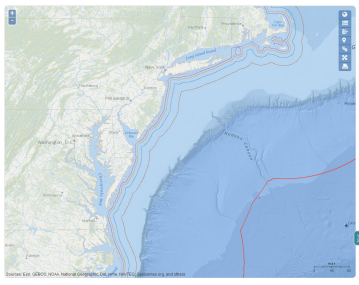
Administrative Theme - Boundaries

MARCO

DATA DESIGNS ACTIVE (3)

Administrative

- Federal/DC Administrative Boundaries
- State Administrative Boundaries
- County Administrative Boundaries
- City Administrative Boundaries
- Water Body Administrative Boundaries



Fishing Theme – Artificial Reefs

MARCO

DATA DESIGNS

Administrative

Fishing

- Artificial Reefs
- Commercial
- Fathom Lines
- Recreational

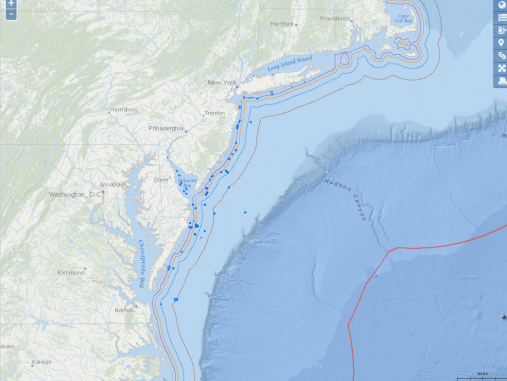
Marine Life

Maritime

Recreation

Renewable Energy

Security



Fishing Theme – Commercial (all gear types)

MARCO

DATA DESIGNS ACTIVE (3)

Administrative

Fishing

- Artificial Reefs
- Commercial
- Fathom Lines
- Recreational

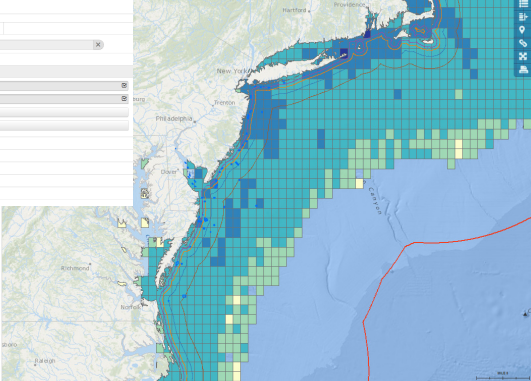
Marine Life

Maritime

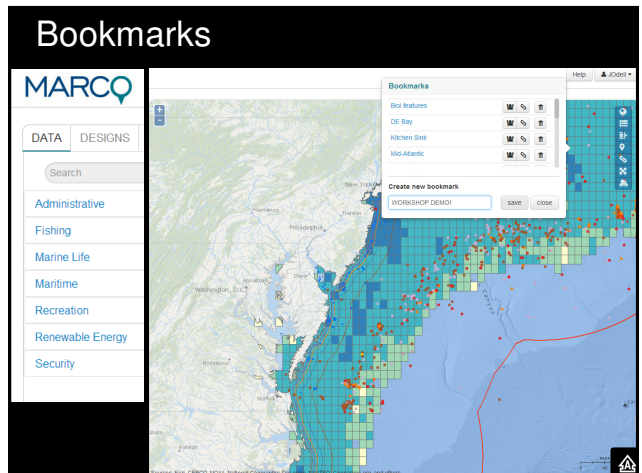
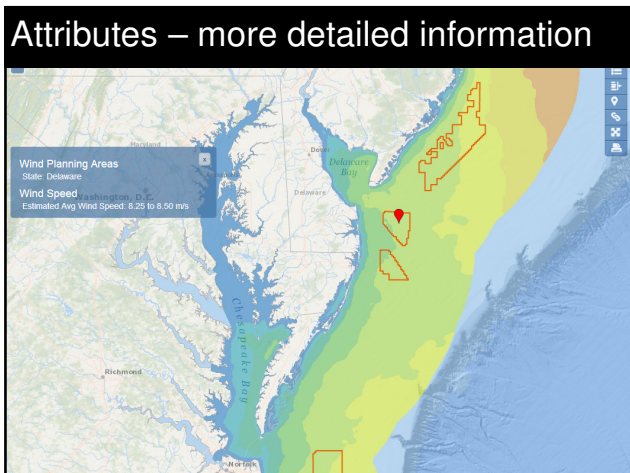
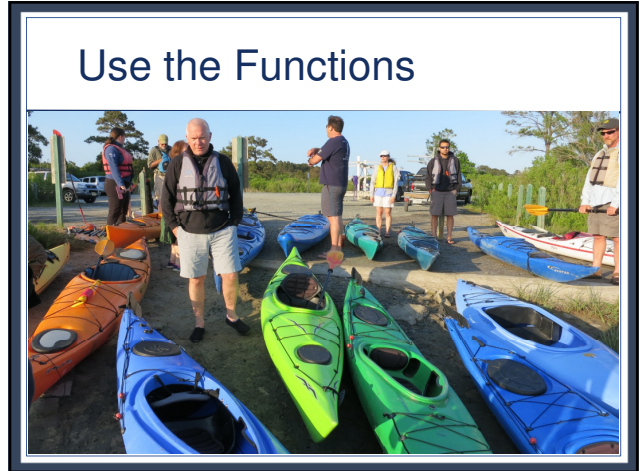
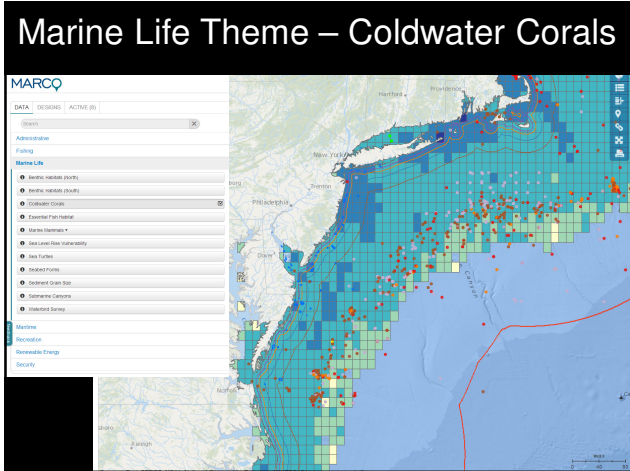
Recreation

Renewable Energy

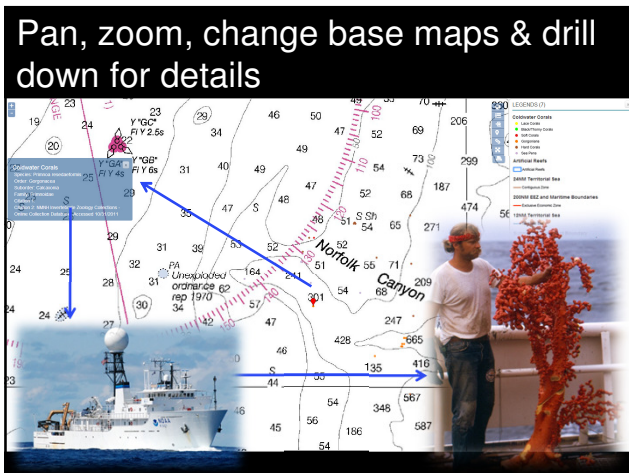
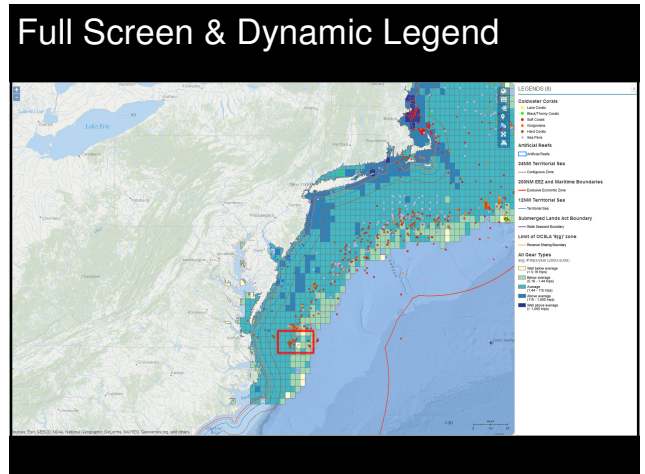
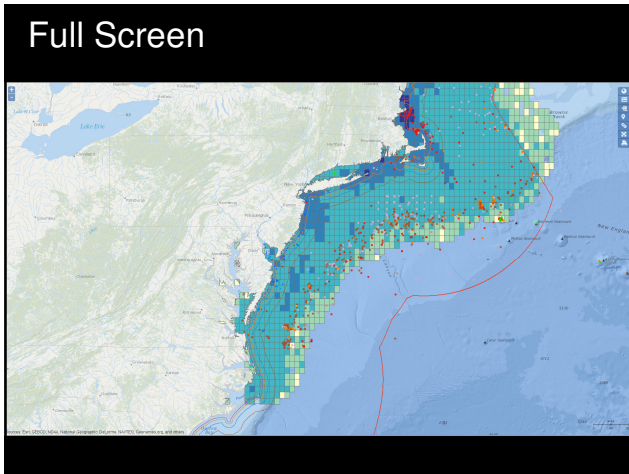
Security



Appendix B.5.



Appendix B.5.



Other features

- Download data in several formats including Google Earth
- Change map layer order and transparency levels
- Print and export custom map images and files
- Share!
 - Bookmarks
 - Stable web links
 - Embed live maps on your website
 - Social media

Appendix B.5.

Coming Soon!

- Several new and improved map layers
- Interactive design features
 - Criteria based selection
 - Draw and save shapes
 - Create and save OCS Block Selections
 - Custom reports
- Other features TBD based on your input and Regional Ocean Planning needs.

Criteria Based Selection – Spatial Filtering

The screenshot displays the MARCO Wind Energy Siting interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'DATA', 'DESIGNS', and 'ACTIVE (5)'. Below this, the 'Wind Energy Siting' section is active, showing 'Step 1 of 3' and 'Select 1 or more criteria for this sector'. Under 'Wind Energy', there are several filter options: 'Wind Speed' (checked), 'Potential' (set to 'Suboptimal'), 'Min Avg Speed (m/s)' (set to 8), 'Show Wind Speed Data' (checked), 'Distance to Coastal Substation' (checked), 'Maximum Distance (in miles)' (set to 34), 'Distance to Proposed AWC Hubs' (unchecked), and 'Lease Blocks Remaining' (checked). A 'Cancel' button is located at the bottom left. On the right, a map of the Mid-Atlantic region shows various colored zones and a grid overlay.

Register for a personal account!

The banner features the MARCO logo (Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal) on the left and the text 'RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING' on the right. Below the text is a composite image: the left side shows a coastal city skyline with a boat in the water, and the right side shows a map of the Mid-Atlantic region. At the bottom, it says 'Tour the portal at portal.midatlanticocean.org'.

Appendix C: Stakeholders/Groups/Meetings to Engage and Track

The following is a list of stakeholders, existing groups, and meetings that workshop participants specifically identified during breakout sessions as important to engage during regional ocean planning. This list does not include all important stakeholders, groups, and meetings, but captures those that were specifically named during breakout sessions.

Stakeholders

- Fishermen
 - Sport
 - Charter
 - Commercial
- Industry
 - Offshore industries
 - Real estate industry
 - Sand/gravel mining
- Scientists
 - Academia
 - Private
- State government
 - State commerce and transportation agencies
 - State regulatory agencies
 - Governor's office
 - State legislatures
- Environmental NGOs
 - Conservation groups
- Tribes
 - State recognized tribes
 - Non-federally recognized tribes
- Energy firms
 - Wind
 - Oil
 - Liquefied Natural Gas
- General public
 - Coastal communities
 - Recreational users
 - Residents
 - Oceanfront property owners

- Local government
 - Officials
 - Coastal chamber of commerce
- Ports
 - Docks
 - Marinas
- Tourism (both coastal and offshore)
 - Ecotourism
 - Cruise lines
 - Hotels
- AM waterway operators
- Estuarine representatives
- Farming Community
 - USDA
 - Aquaculture

Groups

- Nanticoke Indian Tribe of Delaware
- Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indian Tribe of New Jersey
- CleanOceanAction.org
- Urban Waterfront Action Group
- State Joint Evaluation Committee
- NASA
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Openchannels.org

Meetings

- Blue Vision Summit May 13-16, Washington D.C.
- AWEA Offshore Conference, October 2013
- Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meetings