

Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Regional Collaboration
2020 Semi-Annual Progress Report
Progress Period: January 2020 - June 2020

LEAD(S):

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MEMBER(S):

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OAP/MACO GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTIONS

There is extensive state and federal activity related to planning and siting offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic. An offshore wind energy focused group will provide a forum for interested MACO members to share and receive information about meetings and decision points related to offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic. The Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Regional Collaborative (OWRC) will work with the OMDT to identify data needs and how to obtain those data, will compile information about best practices and identify issues that would benefit from closer collaboration that are not already being addressed by other offshore wind working groups in the region.

Much of the work conducted by the Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Regional Collaboration will build on Section 2.4.2 in the 2016 Ocean Action Plan (“...facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic”) by creating a forum for regular inter-agency discussion around offshore wind development in the region. Additionally, the Collaboration’s work relates to Action 4 of the Ocean Energy chapter in the 2016 Ocean Action Plan: “...use the Data Portal to enhance access to data, environmental reports, and proposed offshore wind development activities.” For example: there are currently extensive data requests related to offshore wind, and agency coordination to boost the Portal for use as a resource could help address these.

ACTIVITY 1

Description (should include timeframe for completion and info on how/when stakeholders will be involved)

Convene bi-monthly calls to facilitate inter-agency information exchange that may include:

- Identification of topical areas/needs for regular discussion, and timely topics requiring more in-depth discussion
- Identify research and data needs, including those that can be communicated to the OMDT
- Updates from entities involved in offshore wind
- Identification of opportunities to work across organizational lines
- Timing of federal and/or state public input opportunities (both for input from MACO entities and public) -- incorporate in calendar
- Identification of potential webinar topics
- As needed, provide substantive input on a specific offshore wind data topic

Non-work group members may be invited to participate on these bi-monthly calls for topic-focused discussions, or additional calls may be scheduled as needed (for example, fisheries and related issues).

Stakeholder Involvement Scope and rationale

Members of the OWRC will share information and solicit stakeholder input during the Ocean Forum. The work group will also pursue additional opportunities for stakeholder engagement. (See Activity 2.)

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The work group has met on a bi-monthly basis, meetings were held on: February 11, 2020; April 14, 2020; and June 25, 2020. During these meetings, work group members have provided agency updates,

identified areas for potential collaboration with offshore wind efforts in the region, identified webinar topics for pursuit and planning, and reviewed feedback from the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum.

ACTIVITY 2

Description (should include timeframe for completion and info on how/when stakeholders will be involved)

Develop and host periodic webinars or other outreach activities as identified by the members of the OWRC. Topics may include:

- Status of current efforts and public outreach in advance of the Ocean Forum
- Information regarding different types of offshore wind technologies
- Regular stakeholder updates to be provided as needed

Stakeholder Involvement Scope and rationale

These webinars will either be open to the public and/or targeted to relevant interested groups. An opportunity for a Question and Answer session will be presented during each webinar.

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The work group has identified several topic-areas of interest for future webinars. Planning is underway, and it is anticipated that the first webinar will be held in early fall 2020, which will review Port Access Route Studies (PARS) and other routing studies, and how these relate to offshore wind development.

ACTIVITY 3

Description (should include timeframe and info on how/when stakeholders will be involved)

OWRC will work with MARCO to develop a shared calendar of events (e.g. BOEM Information Exchanges, state activities, major activities of the other offshore wind groups). The calendar will be posted on the MARCO website. Members of the OWRC will also share internal events deadlines as necessary.

Stakeholder Involvement Scope and rationale

The calendar will be posted to the MARCO website. This activity will involve regular coordination between the members of the Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Collaboration and other entities as appropriate to identify relevant events.

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Relevant events are regularly posted and updated on the [MARCO calendar](#).

ACTIVITY 4

Description (should include timeframe and info on how/when stakeholders will be involved)

Facilitate information exchange and coordination as needed with other regional offshore wind groups.

Stakeholder Involvement Scope and rationale

The OWRC will identify which external groups should be included within this effort.

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The work group meets on a bi-monthly basis and efforts to coordinate with other regional entities on offshore wind are underway.