2024 Coastal Carbon Collaborative Work Plan and Semi-Annual Progress Report

Reporting Period: July 2024 to December 2024

Work Group Webpage:
https://www.midatlanticocean.org/ocean-planning/work-groups-collaborative-efforts/coastal-carbon-collaborative/

Work Group Leads: Paul Ticco (NYDOS) and Kari St. Laurent (NOAA NCCOS)

MARCO Staff: Janet Reimer

Work Group Members: The Coastal Carbon Collaborative (CCC) work group membership continues to grow since the first work group meeting. The membership list reflects those members that have attended throughout this calendar year.

Current Work Group Members Include:

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Work Group Goal: Foster collaboration and coordination across sectors and states in the Mid-Atlantic regarding coastal carbon related issues.

Outcomes:

- Build an understanding of the existing blue carbon stocks in the Mid-Atlantic, to inform coastal and ocean management, planning, and restoration efforts.
- Build an understanding of accelerated marine carbon dioxide removal through human interventions.
- Prepare the region to plan for responsible implementation of CDR technologies once they become more widely available.

Activity 1: Scope project with VIMS to create a carbon stock assessment with Blue Carbon Identification

VIMS has provided a [summary of the scope of work](), which will employ a cross-calibration method to statistically standardize methods used to quantify carbon in sediment cores for total and organic carbon content. The total stock assessment will open the door to determining the Blue Carbon potential for the entire coastal zone of the Mid-Atlantic region. Ultimately, the data produced through this collaboration with VIMS will result in a heat map of carbon concentration in the coastal zone to be added to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal.

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Project status: Ongoing, expected completion December 2025
This project was approved for funding through BIL though is currently under review for a special award condition (SAC). MARCO staff are working with the NOAA NEPA review office to satisfy informational requirements.

Activity 2: Building awareness around mCDR projects in the Mid-Atlantic

The CCC would build on the work MACAN has been doing with regards to gaining and sharing knowledge of emerging technologies, fields of study, and evolving state-of-the-science of carbon in the coastal zone and open ocean. While closely related, MACAN does not cover topics such as blue carbon or solutions to climate change due to carbon dioxide. While many of the relationships built, and partners maintained, through MACAN could be involved in this effort, the CCC would require additional input, expertise, and coordination support outside of MACAN's scope and is thus being proposed as a separate collaborative effort. The CCC will partner with MACAN to organize and promote webinars about mCDR and monitoring, research, and validation (MRV) needs of mCDR projects in the second half of 2024.

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Project status: Ongoing, expected completion December 2025
The CCC collaborates with MACAN regularly through topic discussions between MARCO Staff and MACAN co-leads.

Activity 3: Footprints of projects in the Mid-Atlantic

The CCC will compile a data layer of various different types of carbon-related research, monitoring, and restoration projects within the Mid-Atlantic. The layer will be for display on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and will identify the location of the project and the type of project (mCDR, carbon stocks, carbon flux, carbon stock exchange, dissolved inorganic carbon). The goal of this layer is to allow state-level planners to see where projects are being conducted in order to reduce conflicts that may arise surrounding the use of the area.

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Project status: Ongoing, expected completion January 2025
Approximately 100 different project locations have been identified by work group members. The collection of information is currently with the Portal Team for staging. It is expected that this layer will be live in January of 2025. This layer will be updated bi-annually.