



# 2024 Non-Consumptive Recreation Work Group Progress Report and Ongoing Work Plan

**Reporting Period:** July 2024 to December 2024

**Work Group Webpage:**

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

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

**Work Group Members:** Work group membership is open to government and non-governmental entities operating in the five Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that are willing to participate in work group activities. Members are expected to contribute on work group calls as needed and assist with project implementation.

**Current Members Include:**

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Avalon	Bristow	MARCO
Matt	Coble	USCG
Kimberly	Cole	DNREC
Robin	Dunbar	Elizabeth River Project
Mary	Ford	MARACOOS
Amy	Freitag	NOAA
Matt	Gove	Surfrider Foundation
Susan	Guiteras	FWS
Lisa	Gutierrez	MDNR
Kevin	Hassell	NJ
Tony	Macdonald	Monmouth
Christie	Mazzeo-Pfoertner	NYDOS
Catherine	McCall	MDNR
Francis	McParland	NYDEC

Nick	Meade	VA DEQ CZM
Kristi	Lieske	DNREC
Casey	Personius	NYDEC
Janet	Reimer	MARCO
Michael	Snyder	NYDOS
Talya	ten Brink	NOAA
Karl	Vilacoba	Monmouth University
Jes	Watts	MARCO
Jennifer	Whytlaw	Old Dominion
Brenda	Davis	Assateague Coastal Trust
Kirstin	Wakefield	MARACOOS
Ally	Horan	NJDEP

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

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**ACTIVITY 1** - Create a Mobile Application for the Mid-Atlantic region for recreators. MARCO staff and the Work Group Lead have been in discussion with MyCoast.org to develop a MARCO page that would track recreational activities across the five states. Data that would be collected would include, but not be limited to, the “report” (photo of the recreational activity), location (latitude and longitude), time, temperature of the water, salinity, and tide state.

**Expected Completion Date:** December 2024; On going

**A1 Progress Period:** July-December 2024

MARCO has contracted with [MyCoast.Org](https://www.mycoast.org) to create a regional MARCO page. A mock up of the page will be presented at a work group meeting planned for January 2025. The page is expected to collect information on how people use coastal resources for recreation purposes. "Recreation" could include, but is not limited to, swimming, boating, beach-going, recreational fishing, surfing, shelling, and paddle boarding. MyCoast collects background information that includes latitude and longitude, water temperature, salinity, tide state, and weather. It is expected that a social media campaign will also be developed when the page goes live in Q1 of 2025.

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

**Expected Completion Date:** Ongoing

**A2 Progress Period:** July 2024 to December 2024

No new collections were identified during this time.

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

**Expected Completion Date:** Ongoing

**A3 Progress Period:** July 2024 to December 2024

The work group did not meet during the reporting period. The group was polled for a meeting in January 2025.

