Summary of Discussions
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting
March 22-24, 2016
Baltimore, Maryland

This document summarizes discussions and presentations at the fifth in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body. The meeting took place on March 22-24, 2016 at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards in Baltimore, MD. This summary was developed by Meridian Institute, which provides process design, meeting planning, and facilitation services to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Contents

Executive Summary

The fifth in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) took place on March 22-24, 2016 at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland. Meeting participants included State, Federal, and Tribal RPB members, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and appointed alternates. Approximately 67 members of the public were in attendance, and approximately 17 comments were offered during the public comment sessions. Additionally, the afternoon of March 22 was dedicated to a public workshop-style engagement opportunity around draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP) content. A complete roster of RPB members and alternates representing State, Federal, and Tribal members, and the MAFMC can be found here. The meeting was chaired by State, Federal, and Tribal RPB Co-Leads and facilitated by Meridian Institute, which also developed this summary document.

The objectives for the fifth RPB meeting were to:

- Consider and reach general RPB agreement on initial content for the draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP), prior to internal review by RPB member entities.
- Discuss and clarify next steps, including release of draft OAP in summer 2016.
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the RPB during a workshop-style public engagement session and formal public comment periods.

The first day of the RPB meeting was focused on reviewing the RPB's progress and a proposed timeline for RPB activities; hearing updates on working draft content of the OAP; identifying key discussion points for the meeting; gathering public input during interactive workshop-style sessions on topic areas related to proposed interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions; and reflecting on public input received.

The second day of the meeting was focused on discussing each proposed IJC action; hearing an update from the Northeast Regional Planning Body; discussing OAP draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making; discussing plan implementation; and hearing an update on Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)-supported efforts. The second day included one public comment session. This session was intentionally placed before the continuation and conclusion of RPB deliberations so that RPB discussion could be informed by public input.

The third day of the meeting focused on reaching general agreement on initial draft content related to IJC actions; draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making; and draft content related to plan implementation. This general agreement was informed by public input throughout the meeting as well as RPB discussions and refinements made to the draft content during the previous day. The RPB also discussed the timeline and steps forward, and there was one additional public comment session.

Next steps from the meeting include:

- The OAP drafting team will develop the next draft version of the OAP that reconciles edits received by March 31, 2016, and also addresses the comments from the March meeting. This will be the document sent to RPB entities for internal review in May 2016.
- RPB members will design and solidify their internal processes for home entity review, including scheduling any briefings as needed in May. The drafting team will develop some materials to assist with and ensure consistent messaging during the May entity review phase.
- MARCO will host public listening sessions in July 2016. RPB entities should plan to attend these sessions.

About this Meeting

The fifth in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) took place on March 22-24, 2016 at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting was attended by State, Federal, and Tribal RPB members, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and appointed alternates. Approximately 67 members of the public were in attendance, and approximately 17 comments were offered during the public comment sessions. Additionally, the afternoon of March 22 was dedicated to a public workshop-style engagement opportunity around draft OAP content. A complete roster of RPB members and alternates representing State, Federal, and Tribal members, and the MAFMC can be found here. The meeting was chaired by State, Federal, and Tribal RPB Co-Leads and facilitated by Meridian Institute, which also developed this summary document.

Meeting Objectives

The objectives for the fifth RPB meeting were to:

- Consider and reach general RPB agreement on initial content for the draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP), prior to internal review by RPB member entities.
- Discuss and clarify next steps, including release of draft OAP in summer 2016.
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the RPB during a workshop-style public engagement session and formal public comment periods.

The full suite of meeting materials can be found in Appendix A and the introductory slides presented at the meeting on Day 1 and 2 can be found in Appendix B (with the remainder of the slides included in Appendix A4). The slides for Day 3 can be found in Appendix C. Additional information about the RPB and Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning can be found on the RPB website.

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

The first day of the RPB meeting was focused on reviewing the RPB's progress and a proposed timeline for RPB activities; hearing updates on working draft content of the OAP; identifying key discussion points for the meeting; gathering public input during interactive workshop-style sessions on topic areas related to proposed interjurisdictional coordination actions; and reflecting on public input received.

Tribal blessing and welcome

Laura Cantral of Meridian Institute facilitated the meeting. She began by introducing Kelsey Leonard of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and Tribal Co-Lead of the RPB, who offered a Tribal blessing to open the meeting.

Introductions and agenda review

Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB Co-Leads and members for further introductions, and then reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives. She emphasized the importance of gaining general RPB agreement on the content of the draft Ocean Action Plan (OAP) before the conclusion of the meeting. She also outlined the opportunities for public input on all three days of the meeting, including the workshop-style session and two public comment periods.

Remarks from the National Ocean Council Director

Ms. Cantral next introduced Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council (NOC), and invited her to the RPB table to share some remarks. Ms. Kerttula recognized the RPB's work in building the foundation for ocean planning in the U.S. She noted that she and several colleagues would be in attendance during the entirety of the meeting and would like to interact with as many RPB members as possible. She underlined the commitment of the NOC to working with the region to achieve its goals.

Review of progress since last RPB meeting and timeline through 2016

During this session, RPB Co-Leads—Bob LaBelle, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and RPB Federal Co-Lead; Gwynne Schultz, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and RPB State Co-Lead; and Kelsey Leonard, Shinnecock Indian Nation and RPB Tribal Co-Lead—set the context for the meeting by providing a brief overview of RPB progress to date and a proposed timeline moving forward. Slides associated with this presentation can be found in Appendix B.

Ms. Leonard reviewed the RPB's mission to implement and advance ocean planning in the region through collaborative process among Federal, State, Tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council representatives in consultation with stakeholders. Ms. Leonard also directed members of the public to the RPB website to view a current membership roster.

Ms. Schultz reviewed the RPB's progress to date including four in-person meetings and stakeholder events such as webinars and public listening sessions. She described the RPB's major milestones which include approving the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*,

the *Mid-Atlantic RPB Charter*, and the *Proposed Approach to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan*. She reviewed activities since the fourth RPB meeting in September 2015 in Norfolk, Virginia including continuing workgroups to support OAP content development, drafting interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions, hosting a webinar to share those draft actions with the public in December 2015, and participating in MARCO's Forum on Ocean Assessment and Data Syntheses Products in January 2016 where MARCO-supported data and information products to inform the RPB were presented in Dewey Beach, Delaware.

Mr. LaBelle reviewed a timeline to guide the RPB's activities from this meeting through 2017 and beyond, referencing the *Updated Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Timeline for Ocean Action Plan Development (March 2016)*, included in Appendix A3. He reviewed planned activities for the remainder of 2016:

- April-May 2016: Continue refinement and internal review of draft OAP
- Late June 2016: Public release of draft OAP; Starts 45 days for public comment
- July 2016: Public RPB webinar and Public Listening Sessions hosted by MARCO
- August 2016: Refine draft OAP
- Mid-September 2016: RPB Meeting and delivery of final OAP to the NOC
- 2017 and Beyond: Implementation of OAP

Presentation about working draft content of Ocean Action Plan

Ms. Cantral then transitioned to the presentation of the working draft content of the OAP, led by OAP drafting team members Ingrid Irigoyen of Meridian Institute, and Deerin Babb-Brott, Senior Partner at SeaPlan under contract with Meridian Institute. RPB members championing IJC actions in ten topical areas presented actions they helped craft. Presenters were asked to provide context for the information presented on the slides in *Working draft content of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan,* included in Appendix A4.

Ms. Irigoyen emphasized that public input at this point in the development of the OAP is critical. She mentioned that comments from the public are welcome at any time, but that any input on discussions from this meeting would be especially beneficial if received by April 1, 2016. She described Chapters 1 and 2 of the OAP which provide context to readers and include descriptions of the region, the need for ocean planning, the planning process, OAP purpose and goals, and content of the rest of the draft plan.

Mr. Babb-Brott then gave an overview of Chapter 3: Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions. He explained that IJC actions are the heart of the OAP, including information about how the OAP will inform decision making under existing authorities. He said that lead entities identified for the actions will serve as the primary shepherds of moving the action forward, with support from other interested entities.

RPB members who championed the development of actions in various topical areas then proceeded to present on those topics as follows. The slides to which they referred during their presentations are included in Appendix A4.

Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

Laura McKay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, described the six actions related to the RPB's Healthy Ocean Ecosystem (HOE) goal. The content of her presentation is represented in the Healthy Ocean Ecosystem action slides in Appendix A4. Important information supplemental to that slide content included:

- Ms. McKay, in her capacity as Chair of the MARCO Management Board, informed participants that MARCO extended the contract of the Marine Life Data and Analysis team (MDAT) working on ecological synthesis products through December 2016. This continuation of MDAT efforts will include work to further clarify ecologically rich areas (ERAs).

- Ms. McKay emphasized the importance of continuing to coordinate with the Northeast Regional Planning Body (NE RPB) to further define ERAs and ensure consistency across regions.

- Clarification that the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network would be a comprehensive tool to provide information on ocean acidification efforts in the region, contribute data and information to a national network, and help make linkages across scales and from land to ocean. Ms. McKay said that MARCO will aid in this effort through a regional coastal resiliency grant it recently received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

- Ms. McKay referenced that the MDAT team will undertake work this year to look at historic trends of species shifts and how shifts in species distribution could potentially affect the locations of ERAs.

National Security

Joe Atangan, Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Fleet Forces Command, gave a brief overview of the two draft actions related to National Security. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Mr. Atangan explained the distinction between the three steps under Action 1, all of which will be taken internally by the Department of Defense. The first step is to identify the OAP as an important document for decision making. The second is to go beyond identification and incorporate the OAP into guidance to ensure its use in decision making processes. The third ensures the use of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (Data Portal) in agency activities.

Ocean Energy

Mr. LaBelle then outlined the six actions related to ocean energy. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Mr. LaBelle clarified that the intent behind Action 1 is to provide greater clarity about the offshore wind leasing process. The product will be a chart that describes those involved in the offshore wind leasing process, what role they play and at what points in the process, as well as the opportunities for public input.

- Mr. LaBelle explained that Step A in Action 4, linking the Data Portal with the BOEM Geospatial Environmental Studies Program Information System (Geo-ESPIS), has already been successfully completed in the Northeast Data Portal. It will be linked to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal as well.

Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Kevin Chu, NOAA, described the three draft actions related to commercial and recreational fishing. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Dr. Chu explained that the type of meetings outlined under Action 1 Step A and Action 2 Step A were recently convened and proved successful. Incorporating commitments in the OAP to continue these meetings will ensure their continuation in the future.

Offshore Aquaculture

Dr. Chu then gave a brief overview of the one action related to offshore aquaculture. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Dr. Chu explained that, because there is currently no ocean aquaculture in Federal waters the Mid-Atlantic, this topic is being touched on lightly in the first iteration OAP.

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Chris Scraba, U.S. Coast Guard, outlined four actions related to maritime commerce and navigation. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Mr. Scraba described that the main purpose of the actions in this topical area is to integrate maritime commerce with navigation and safety.

- He explained the importance of existing Harbor Safety Committees in the Mid-Atlantic as forums to discuss topics related to maritime commerce and navigation, and he emphasized that these actions will improve coordination among these committees, helping them take a more regional, collective approach.

Offshore Sand Management

Mr. LaBelle then outlined five actions related to offshore sand management. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Mr. LaBelle emphasized that the overall objective of these actions is to facilitate enhanced coordination among entities and stakeholders on the topic of offshore sand management.
- He noted that Action 2 can help the Mid-Atlantic avoid the kind of conflicts over sand resources that have occurred in other parts of the country.

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Mr. Scraba outlined the action related to non-consumptive recreation. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Mr. Scraba described the importance of non-consumptive recreation along the coast, as tourism is a large and important industry for many local communities.

Tribal Interests and Uses

Ms. Leonard outlined seven actions related to Tribal interests and uses. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Ms. Leonard provided additional context for Action 1, referencing an Executive Order that directed all Federal agencies to develop a Tribal consultation policy. The purpose of this action is to compile those policies, along with any State agency policies, and make suggestions for improvements.

Undersea Infrastructure

Ms. Schultz then outlined two actions related to undersea infrastructure. Important information supplemental to slide content included:

- Ms. Schultz emphasized that the purpose of the actions in this topical area is to gather, make accessible, and use the best available data and information to make better decisions. She noted that this is a common theme among actions in all topical areas.

Ms. Irigoyen then gave a brief overview of Chapter 4: Science, Data, and Tools to Inform Decision Making, explaining that the chapter would include a description of the Data Portal, descriptions of MDAT and Human Use Data Synthesis (HUDS) work, and IJC actions related to the Data Portal and science and research.

Ms. McKay then reviewed the IJC actions related to the Data Portal. She explained that the three actions focused on maintaining and updating the Data Portal. She described the Data Portal as a hub, with other OAP actions as spokes. She mentioned that MARCO is in the process of hiring an Ocean Data Information Manager to help in the transition from the Portal's current team at Monmouth University, but emphasized that developing a long-term funding and staffing strategy will be critical. Ms. Irigoyen then briefly described the action related to science and research, which includes building on existing efforts and working collaboratively to identify priority regional research needs.

Ms. Irigoyen then started the presentation of topics in Chapter 5: Plan Implementation, explaining that the chapter would include a description of plan administration, application of the OAP under existing authorities, and performance monitoring and evaluation. Mr. Babb-Brott then described best practices (Chapter 5.2 Action 1) as flexible but consistent guidance for intergovernmental coordination in the use of data and information under existing planning, management, and regulatory authorities. He then discussed the development of the action related to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (Chapter 5.2 Action 2). This action grew out of a white paper prepared by NOAA and would be the start of an RPB discussion on this topic with particular emphasis on input from State RPB membership.

Mr. Babb-Brott then described the action related to performance monitoring and evaluation (5.3 Action 1). He explained the distinction between this action and HOE Action 2. While HOE Action 2 relates to assessing ocean health, this action deals with evaluating plan performance as distinct from that for this first iteration of the OAP.

RPB identifies key discussion points

Ms. Cantral then transitioned the RPB to a session focused on identifying major discussion points for the remainder of the meeting. She outlined topics developed by the facilitation team, including discussion and general comfort with the content of the overall draft plan and specific proposed actions, lead entities, action implementation (including, working groups, work plan, and performance monitoring and evaluation), and a timeline and public engagement around the draft OAP.

RPB members added the topics of best practices, plan roll out strategy, and public listening session format to the list of discussion points.

Overview of interactive workshop-style afternoon sessions

Ms. Cantral then transitioned the group to a discussion of the logistics of the afternoon's public workshop-style sessions. She explained that there would be four breakout rooms and each room would address two topics. There would be two sessions in each room, so participants may

engage in multiple topics of interest if desired. She emphasized the purpose of these sessions to gather input from the public on draft plan content and incorporate this input into the following two days of meeting discussions.

Breakout groups and report outs

Participants self-selected into facilitated small groups to hear from IJC action champions and discuss their draft ideas represented in the slides in Appendix A4. Topics around which breakouts were organized included: Healthy Ocean Ecosystems actions, commercial and recreational fishing, ocean energy, offshore sand management, national security, maritime commerce and navigation, non-consumptive recreation, and Tribal interests and uses. Information gathered in breakout sessions on each topic is summarized and synthesized under each subheading below. Following these breakout sessions with the public, RPB champions of draft IJC action returned to plenary and provided summaries of what they heard to their RPB colleagues on the key themes and ideas discussed in the breakout groups they attended. These points are also reflected under the topical headings below.

Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

Clarifications made about the proposed actions

- In response to a question from the public, clarification was offered that the pilot area described in HOE Action 1 Step B would not be identified in the first iteration OAP to be released in draft version this summer. The pilot area would be chosen based on both the current MDAT work and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Further public comments included:
  - Request for further details on what the criteria for choosing a pilot area would entail.
  - Request for further clarity on what the public review process for identifying a pilot area would entail.
  - Concern about the idea of identifying only one pilot area as there are likely many worthy ERAs in the Mid-Atlantic.
  - Request for further clarity on how scale will play into the selection of a pilot area.

- Emphasis on the need for a clear strategy for identifying ERAs and for clarification about whether criteria for identifying ERAs would be outlined in the draft OAP to be released this summer.
- Request for artificial reefs to be included as potential ERAs.
- A comment that shipwrecks could also be identified as ERAs.
- Clarification was offered that the second phase of MDAT work will include exploratory work on identifying migration corridors, reviewing historical data and integrating expert knowledge.
- Clarification was provided that base-level data products are currently being used to inform regulatory review. The synthesized, regional-level data products are not currently informing regulatory review.

    - Suggestion that synthesized MDAT products should be used in regulatory review.
- Clarification was provided that the RPB intends to identify a full range of initial ERAs before selecting a pilot area for further assessment. Both the full suite and pilot area will be identified based on a robust public engagement process. Current thinking includes working on ERAs one-by-one and refining the process as experience dictates. It was noted that the full suite of ERAs could be identified and posted as a data layer on the Data Portal, potentially in early 2017.
- Request for OAP to include details of how each RPB entity intends to use the information generated in ERA reports.
- Clarification that Virginia has volunteered as a lead entity for HOE Actions 1, 3, 4, and 5.
- Clarification that HOE Action 2 involves considering a number of ocean health indicators, rather than a single ocean health index.
- Clarification that the RPB as a body would not make decisions based on its monitoring of ocean health indicators, but could use the RPB forum to discuss any trends observed in the data.
- Request for further clarification about the role of the RPB in reducing marine debris, as outlined in HOE Action 5.
    - An observation that engaging in marine debris reduction seems beyond the scope of the RPB.
    - Clarification that the Data Portal currently does not include data on marine debris.
    - Emphasis that this idea is action-focused as opposed to policy or planning focused.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Request for the RPB to have a discussion about how they could protect ERAs, once the full suite of ERAs has been identified.
- Emphasis on the need for robust review of selected indicators in HOE Action 2 by the scientific community and stakeholders.
- Need for RPB to discuss how locations of ERAs could shift based on changes in the layers that feed into their identification (e.g., marine life migration).

In plenary, Ms. McKay summarized input she heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Clarifications sought

- Request for further clarity on Action 3 related to essential fish habitat (EFH).
- Request for clarification on how RPB activities will help inform the placement of future offshore wind sites.
    - Emphasis that the RPB should be actively involved in these matters, providing recommendations to agencies about wind project placement.
    - Data Portal could be used by developers and agencies alike to inform their decision making.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- To include traditional knowledge of fishermen in RPB products, the RPB should start by reaching out to Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) members.
- Need a strategy for getting fishermen's voice to the table in conversations about non-fishing proposed activities in the ocean.
- The RPB should think beyond just gathering information from fishermen; the RPB should think about how that information will be used.
- Emphasis on the need for funds to integrate information from fishermen into a useable format.
- Suggestion that instead of providing additional training, the steps to achieve Action 3 should include changes in consultation guidance so that agencies confer with MAFMC earlier in the process of identifying EFH.

In plenary, Dr. Chu summarized input he heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Ocean Energy

Clarifications made

- Clarification that wind energy is the main focus in the ocean energy actions, but many parts will apply to any energy source.
- Clarification that Action 2 is a commitment that BOEM will institutionalize elements of the Data Portal in its decision-making.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Request that the lead entities on all actions related to ocean energy be the Northeast Fishery Management Council, MAFMC, and NOAA.
- Request for increased specificity in Action 2.
- Emphasis on the need for increased collaboration with the fishing community on wind siting projects.

In plenary, Mr. LaBelle summarized input he heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Offshore Sand Management

Clarifications made

- Clarification that these actions would help identify areas of least impact for dredging.
- Clarification that offshore sand management actions include a forum for States and Federal agencies to share information on sand resource locations and places in need of sand resources and collaborate on matching them.
    - Suggestion that this new forum should be a short-term action and include stakeholders.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Idea to collect information on restoration priorities and draw on local coastal restoration efforts for sand resources.
- Suggestion to include the interaction between the States and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) more clearly in the offshore sand management actions.

- Request for increased specificity in the actions, especially how exactly stakeholders would be involved.

In plenary, Mr. LaBelle summarized input he heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

National Security

Clarifications made

- Clarification that metadata related to national security data on the Portal will be available via supplemental narrative.
- Clarification that the points of contact identified under Action 2 will be representatives for all Department of Defense activities who can be contacted regarding issues inland as well as offshore.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Coast Guard to provide Command Center information to National Security action champion.
- Appreciation for the specificity of these actions. Suggestion to use these actions as examples for the level of detail to provide in the plan.
- Desire to have longer-term interagency collaboration regarding marine commerce and navigation.

In plenary, Mr. Atangan summarized input he heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Clarifications made

- Clarification that the Harbor Safety Committees include Coast Guard, NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, industry, port authority, State, and local membership. These actions entail utilizing these existing committees to create a marine transportation system regional group.
    - Emphasis on the need for industry groups to understand and participate in these actions.
    - Emphasis on the need to think through how to maintain this regional aspect.
- Request for further clarity about how the Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study is associated with the draft OAP.
- Clarification that submarine cables are related to marine commerce and navigation.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Appreciation for the specificity of these actions compared to other draft actions in different topic areas. Suggestion to use these actions as examples for the level of detail to provide in the plan.

In plenary, Mr. Scraba summarized input he heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Tribal Interests and Uses

Clarifications

- Clarification that Action 1 Step A involves compiling consultation policies (required of Federal agencies by a 2009 Executive Order). This action is intended to encourage those agencies that have not yet completed a consultation policy to do so.
- Clarification that these actions were not crafted based on a strong model from elsewhere in the country. The NE RPB does not have Tribal actions in their plan, so the RPB is a leader in this regard.
- Clarification that Federal consultation can be improved by encouraging agencies to carefully consider their processes and providing them with recommendations, as appropriate.
- Clarification that actions in the plan will increase participation of Tribes in fisheries management decisions.
- Clarification that Action 1 Step A has not yet been completed. Emphasis on the issue of staff turnover in creating consultation policies and the need for a mechanism to make sure the inventory of these policies is updated frequently.
- Clarification that the Tribal Ocean Planning Network outlined in Action 3 will likely be tasked with informing best management practices for consultations.

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Appreciation for the clear, measureable, and achievable nature of the draft Tribal actions.
- Emphasis on the need to articulate the lead entities for these actions. Possible that the lead entities could include a group of one Federal, one Tribal, and one State lead.
- Emphasis on the importance of utilizing the plan to drive resources for Tribal activities to the Mid-Atlantic.
- Question about whether there needs to be greater consideration of other forms of Traditional Knowledge (besides Tribal knowledge) in the OAP. Ensure consistency of this term across actions.
- Suggestion to include in the plan an action to identify locations of submerged cultural resources. Recognition that more resources are needed for this activity.
- Appreciation for the way the actions under Tribal Interests and Uses encourage meaningful consultation among entities.

In plenary, Ms. Leonard summarized input she heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Non-Consumptive Recreation

New Ideas and Other Comments

- Emphasis on the need for laying out the process for how the definition of "high-value" uses and areas for non-consumptive recreation will be determined.
    - The definition should include economic as well as intrinsic components.
    - The plan should include details of who will be involved in defining the term.

- Request for more details on the action including lead entities, clarification of timeline, and how the action will be implemented.
- Emphasis on the need for offshore sand actions to include references to recreational uses. Suggestion for more coordination between this non-consumptive recreation action and offshore sand actions.
- Suggestion to include an action under non-consumptive recreation that includes an outreach strategy to engage recreational users on IJC actions in other topic areas (e.g. offshore sand management).
- Need for more participation from the diving community in the ocean planning process.
- Emphasis on the need to measure recreational use in geographic areas over time and factors that may affect these changes.
- Objection to considering use of boats powered by petroleum products as non-consumptive recreational uses.
- Consider evaluating impacts of recreational uses on the environment.
- Suggestion that use of "willingness-to-pay" surveys in the region could help further collective understanding about the economic value of recreational uses.

In plenary, Kevin Hassel, New Jersey, summarized input he heard during the breakout sessions, reflected above.

Input Gathered During Breakout Sessions on Other Parts of the Plan

While the breakout groups were organized by topical area (as reflected in the organization above), members of the public were invited to provide input on any part of the plan during the breakout sessions they attended. Comments on other parts of the plan are summarized below:

Overarching Comments Related to the Entire OAP

- The overall OAP should be less stove-piped by topic area and more integrated, reflecting that the whole is better than the sum of the parts. The plan should be more forward-looking instead of describing the status quo.
- Suggestion to illustrate in the OAP examples of processes that are improved by regional ocean planning.
- Request for consensus on definitions of terms in the OAP (e.g., framework, component, criteria, ecologically rich areas) and for those definitions to be included in the plan.

Comments Related to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Process at Large

- Request for clarification on what the role of the RPB should be in providing input on decisions under the authorities of specific agencies. This should be clarified in the draft OAP.
- Recognition that showcasing the OAP's value-add to the region will help gain resources for this effort moving forward.
- Suggestion to create a working group to consider ways to secure the continuation of the RPB forum.
- Suggestion for the RPB to revisit its purpose and goals and consider refining them to reflect lessons learned during the process.

Comments Related to Stakeholder Engagement

- Request for a mechanism for stakeholders to raise issues that would benefit from discussion by the RPB.
- Request to gain RPB feedback on the current state of deliberations about suggestions stakeholders made for IJC actions in the OAP.

Comments Related to OAP Actions

- Request for a more specific timing scale for the actions in the plan. The process and timing for implementing the actions should be clear so that stakeholders know when there are opportunities for input.
- Lead entities for actions should be charged with identifying specific implementation timeframes and process steps.
- Suggestion to use national security and maritime commerce and navigation draft actions as a model of the level of specificity of actions in the OAP.
- Need for further articulation of intersections between the proposed actions, particularly between the HOE actions and the sustainable ocean uses actions.

Comments Related to the Data Portal

- Emphasis on the need to articulate why the data on the Data Portal is valuable, why it should continue, and how it will be used and applied. Emphasis on the need for the Data Portal to be maintained with relevant, legitimate, and updated data.
- Recognition of the need to apply consistent language about use of the Data Portal throughout the OAP.
- Request to improve the fisheries data included in the Data Portal.
- Clarification that the commitments to ensure contribution of data to the Data Portal, use the Data Portal, and engage stakeholders will be made in the Best Practices section of the plan rather than in each action individually.

Comments Related to Best Practices

- Request for increased specificity about the Best Practices section of the OAP.
- Suggestion to move the Best Practices section to a prominent position at the beginning of the OAP, making it clear that these are cross-cutting and describe how entity activities will change as a result of this ocean planning process.
- Request to understand which agencies will develop internal guidance for Best Practices and using the Data Portal.
- Recommendation to make it clear that Best Practices are voluntary for project proponents.
- Suggestion for the RPB to consider including pre-application as a best practice in the draft OAP.
- Emphasis on the need to involve all user groups of potential new project site areas as early as possible.

After RPB reflection on the workshop-style sessions, Ms. Cantral briefly summarized major points and adjourned day one.

Wednesday and Thursday, March 23-24, 2016

The second day of the meeting, March 23, was focused on RPB discussion in further detail of each proposed IJC action; hearing an update from the Northeast Regional Planning Body; discussing OAP draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making; discussing plan implementation; and hearing an update on Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)-supported efforts. The second day included one public comment session. This session was intentionally placed before the continuation and conclusion of RPB deliberations so that RPB discussion could be informed by public input.

The third day of the meeting, March 24, focused on reaching general agreement on initial draft content related to IJC actions; draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making; and draft content related to plan implementation. This general agreement was informed by public input throughout the meeting as well as RPB discussions and refinements made to the draft content during the previous day. The RPB also discussed the timeline and steps forward, and there was one additional public comment session.

Below is a summary of major outcomes from March 23-24, including refinements to actions and other sections of the draft OAP discussed during the meeting and generally agreed to at the end of day three. Slides used on day three to summarize many of these refinements can be found in Appendix C.

Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

Action 1: Identify ecologically rich areas and region-wide ecological features of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean and increase understanding of those areas to foster more informed decision-making.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Make clear that Tribal use data is not included in HUDs products (step C).
- Add the phrase Traditional Knowledge Holders (TKHs) to instances in the plan where the RPB references groups of experts, stakeholders, and the public (as in step A).
- Clarify that Virginia volunteered to serve as lead entity.
- Consider whether and how a framework would be developed to add clarity to the sub steps of Action 1.
    - Need for clarity about the definitions of the words “framework,” “components,” and “criteria”
    - Desire from stakeholders and RPB members for greater clarity and general consistency across regions.
    - The RPB should include an ERAs framework in the draft OAP now, if possible considering time constraints.

- Need for transparent public process and scientific review in development of criteria (for both identifying suite of ERAs and the initial pilot) and throughout the process of identifying ERAs.
- It was stated that the RPB should have a stakeholder engagement schedule for gathering input on the ERA process. This should be separate from the draft OAP stakeholder engagement process in summer 2016.
- Acknowledgment that there are recognized components for identifying such areas developed by other entities for other areas. The NE RPB's Important Ecological Area (IEA) Framework is based on those recognized concepts.
  - Recognition that the NE RPB's Ecosystem-Based Management workgroup includes some Mid-Atlantic membership.
  - The NE RPB IEA Framework includes:
    - Six components for identification of potential areas (areas of high productivity; areas of high biodiversity; habitat areas and distribution of species critical to ecosystem function and resilience; areas of spawning, breeding, feeding, and migratory routes; areas of functionally vulnerable marine resources; and areas of rare marine resources)
    - Identification of marine life and habitat data that could characterize components of potential areas
    - Longer term data needs
    - Immediate next steps for review and considerations for use

A next step based on above feedback

- Develop an appendix for the draft OAP that uses existing NE Framework concepts, offered in the draft OAP as a starting point for RPB discussion.
- This appendix should be referenced in HOE 1 Step A.
- This allows time for further consideration by the RPB and Mid-Atlantic stakeholders and scientists going forward, while being responsive to current stakeholder feedback.
- Going forward the RPB should:
  - Seek and carefully consider Mid-Atlantic stakeholder input throughout the ERA-related process design and implementation.
  - Work on a specific timeline (in a subsequent RPB work plan) that is responsive to public input and clarifies specific points for stakeholder involvement in HOE Action 1 process.

Action 2: Develop and publish indicators of the health of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean ecosystem.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Renumber this action as HOE Action 5.

Action 3: Develop a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network to address one aspect of climate change.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Strike the language "address one aspect of climate change."
- Add reference to MARACOOS.
- Virginia volunteered to serve as lead entity.

Action 4: Map shifts in ocean species and habitats to address one aspect of climate change.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Strike the language "address one aspect of climate change."
- Renumber this action as HOE Action 2.
- Virginia volunteered to serve as lead entity.

Action 5: Develop a regionally appropriate strategy for marine debris reduction.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Reference social marketing as a possible tool for this action.
- Renumber this action as HOE Action 4.
- Virginia volunteered to serve as lead entity.

Action 6: Incorporate Traditional Knowledge of Tribes regarding ocean health in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Cross reference step D with Tribal Interests and Uses regarding the creation of Tribal entities.
- Add language on research and ocean development projects relating to submerged cultural resources.

National Security

Action 1: Use the Mid-Atlantic OAP and Data Portal data to guide and inform Department of Defense programs, initiatives, and planning documents.

- No changes recommended.

Action 2: Identify Department of Defense points of contact for the range of national security data layers in the Data Portal.

- No changes recommended.

Ocean Energy

Action 1: Identify key intersections of relevant Federal programs and authorities that affect wind energy development.

- No changes recommended.

Action 2: Develop internal agency guidance on integrating the OAP-developed best practices for using the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.

- No changes recommended.

Action 3: Partner in on-going and planned studies, identify knowledge gaps, and increase access to BOEM research planning cycles.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Clarify the relationship between steps A and C.
- BOEM should seek to better engage States and Tribes in this action.

Action 4: Use the Data Portal to enhance access to data, environmental reports, and proposed offshore wind development activities.

- No changes recommended.

Action 5: Improve consultations and communication with Tribes in the region.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Suggestion to add an additional step C related to working to effectively communicate BOEM's science strategy on Tribal studies in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Action 6: BOEM better engage fishing industries through improved data and specific interactions.

- No changes recommended.

Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Action 1: Improve the sharing of information and ideas between governments on fisheries science and management.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Consider adding additional coordination with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Action 2: More actively engage stakeholders in fisheries science and management, and seek ways to make fishermen's knowledge available for planning.

- No changes recommended.

Action 3: Improve collaboration for the conservation of essential fish habitat.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Consider adding guidelines for EFH consultation process.
- Consider adopting NE RPB plan content regarding specific commitments on using portal information for EFH consultations and designations.

All Actions

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- More clearly define MAFMC as an entity that will help engage the fishing community in ocean planning.

Offshore Aquaculture

Action 1: Use data and information in the OAP and Data Portal to support offshore aquaculture siting and permitting.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Add reference to Tribes.
- Suggestion for new action:
  - Action 2: Improve collaboration to facilitate the development of ocean aquaculture.
    - Lead entity: NOAA
      - Step A: NOAA regional aquaculture coordinator will meet face-to-face with State aquaculture programs at least once per year and will annually offer to meet with Tribes.

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Action 1: Monitor marine commerce trends and traffic patterns to identify and address emerging commerce and navigation needs.

- No changes recommended.

Action 2: Maintain reliable ocean use data sets relevant to navigation.

- No changes recommended.

Action 3: Catalogue intersections between entities whose authorities influence marine commerce and navigation and identify opportunities for improved coordination.

- No changes recommended.

Action 4: Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion.

- No changes recommended.

Offshore Sand Management

Action 1: Promote strategic stakeholder engagement and regional partnering initiatives

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Add Tribes to step B.

Action 2: Develop a comprehensive inventory of sand resources to support planned and future restoration and resilience projects, provide availability for emergency use, and manage competing use challenges.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Identify habitat value.

Action 3: Conduct studies to support sustainable management of offshore sand resources.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Identify habitat value.

Action 4: Identify and improve existing State/Federal interactions and cooperative agreements in the Mid-Atlantic.

- No changes recommended.

Action 5: Engage fishing communities in planning and environmental review of proposed activities.

- No changes recommended.

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Action 1: Identify, characterize, and share information about measures to maintain the recreational value of important non-consumptive recreational areas and the activities they sustain.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- New Jersey volunteered to serve as lead entity.

Tribal Interests and Uses

Action 1: Identify, review and, if appropriate, recommend updates to tribal consultation policies as they pertain to ocean planning.

- No changes recommended.

Action 2: Develop tribal and agency 'marine planning' contact directories.

- No changes recommended.

Action 3: Work with Tribes to develop Tribal Ocean Planning Network (TOPN) to facilitate coordination between Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Tribes in the ocean planning process.

- No changes recommended.

Action 4: Enhance understanding of Tribal rights

- No changes recommended.

Action 5: Federal and State governments meet with Tribes to discuss issues related to tribal participation in regional ocean planning and management, including policy and technical matters and grant opportunities.

- No changes recommended.

Action 6: Account for historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Cross reference with other mentions of NHPA in the ocean energy section of the plan.
- Tribal consultation guidelines from the Northeast plan could be referenced here and incorporated as an appendix to the plan.

Action 7: Identify and address data gaps pertaining to tribal use of the ocean.

- No changes recommended.

Undersea Infrastructure

Action 1: Engage the submerged pipelines and submarine cables industries to understand their current and projected needs for ocean space, and conduct an inventory of obsolete structures.

- No changes recommended.

Action 2: Ensure early consultation with relevant undersea infrastructure interests in the regulatory review of marine development projects.

- No changes recommended.

Actions Related to the Data Portal

Action 1: Develop and implement a plan to sustain Data Portal operations and maintenance.

- No changes recommended.

Action 2: Maintain operational components including web services, data development and integration, outreach, content creation, management, and web maintenance.

- No changes recommended.

Action 3: Continue to engage in agency outreach and public engagement to enhance data and functionality to effectively support decisions related to ocean management as needed.

- No changes recommended.

All Actions

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Add reference to Tribes and Tribal data products in context paragraphs.

Actions Related to Science and Research

Action 1: Identify and prioritize applied science and research needs

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Add TKHs.
- Note the science and research action could/should address data collection, processing/analysis, and application related to HOE Action 3.

Action 2: Evaluate management options under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Refinements to this action discussed during the meeting included:

- Include in draft OAP continued discussion about opportunities related to: 1) enhance Federal notice to States and Tribes and 2) inform CZMA coastal effects determinations
- Remove: 3) streamline CZMA Federal consistency requirements.
- Consider moving the content of this action to a different location in the plan.

Action Related to Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

Action 1: Develop OAP performance monitoring and evaluation plan.

- No changes recommended.

Other Overarching Suggestions

Best Practices

Refinements to best practices in the plan included:

- Broad recognition of the importance of commitment in OAP to:
  - Use the data portal in decision making under existing authorities.
  - Implement best practices that describe how RPB entities will use data portal and coordinate with one another and with stakeholders early in review of proposed actions.
- Need for as much specificity as possible.
- Shared desire to move the best practices forward in the draft and emphasize that best practices connect the Data Portal to decision-making, as a core element of the plan.
- Account for cross-regional consistency.
- Clarify that best practices are integrated throughout the plan as part of the draft IJC actions, instead of a separate, unrelated set of ideas. Consider ways of representing this in the OAP.
  - Consider advantages of making the OAP into an interactive online tool that could help filter actions by best practice.
- Consider refining the term "best practices" to better convey meaning.
- Include examples that provide additional clarity and specificity.
  - Suggestion to include two specific examples: one on Delaware's recent efforts to inform seismic testing, and one on Virginia's efforts to collaborate with fishermen on wind energy siting.
- Consider including the best practices for Tribal consultation document generated via the NE RPB.

Data and Technology

Refinements to data and technology references in the plan included:

- Clarify long-term location for housing data and information online (RPB website, Portal, etc.).
- For future reference, pull out all instances in the plan where web-based platforms (e.g. dashboard in step D) are called for to help understand technology needs.

Other Plan Refinements

Other refinements to the plan included:

- Consider where to include in the plan reference to use of dredge material for resiliency purposes.

Updates from the Northeast Regional Planning Body

During this session, John Weber, Ocean Planning Director at the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, gave updates on the NE RPB process. He described that the NE RPB is currently undergoing internal entity review of that region's draft plan and recommended that RPB members start briefing their entities as early as possible to help with its upcoming internal entity review process in May 2016. He then gave an overview of the NE RPB draft plan, which includes 5 chapters:

- Chapter One describes the New England offshore environment and the importance of ocean planning.
- Chapter Two describes the New England ocean planning process, including stakeholder involvement, goals, and the development of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal.
- Chapter Three includes sections on regulatory and management context, marine life and habitat, restoration, cultural resources, and human uses.
    - The marine life and habitat section describes the NE RPB process for identifying important ecological areas (the NE RPB approach to identifying important places in the ocean, which the RPB is terming ERAs). This process included establishing a working group to develop a draft framework to further this effort. This draft framework is included in the NE RPB draft plan.
- Chapter Four describes plan implementation, including intergovernmental coordination, plan administration, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Chapter Five describes science and research priorities.

Following Mr. Weber's presentation, the floor was opened for RPB reflection. Major themes from that session included:

- Importance of showcasing how the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic plans are consistent, as appropriate.
- Importance of both regions continuing to work together during the plan implementation phase.
- Concern that there are some discrepancies related to Tribal interests in the two plans.

Public comment sessions

During the two public comment sessions, members of the public were invited to offer public comment on any topic. Comments focused on:

Overarching Comments

- Appreciation for the work of the RPB.
- Request to consider renumbering all the actions sequentially.
- Request to consider rephrasing some language to reflect consistent perspective and audience.
- Suggestion to better describe in the OAP how plan content will change the status quo, including how agencies will increase collaboration and change their current practices.

- Suggestion to include in the plan actions that have already been taken as a result of the regional ocean planning process as well as actions that will be taken in the future.
- Request for the RPB to clarify the definition of pre-application consultation.
- Request for further clarity on whether Federally-permitted activities need to be consistent with the National Ocean Policy.
- Concern that one use may be prioritized above another as a result of this process.
- In developing plan components, need for consistency across regions and a process for including input from fishermen who fish across regional boundaries (e.g., fishermen from the Northeast who fish in New York).
- The plan needs to be less stove-piped and more integrated. Actions within topic areas should be more collaborative in spirit, not just serving the particular activities within a given topic area.
- The foundational pieces of the RPB (vision, principles, goals, objectives, etc.) should be re-evaluated and updated based on experience and stakeholder engagement in ocean planning to date.
    - The mission should include a reference to the value in ocean planning (i.e., the sum is greater than the parts).
- The OAP should better underscore the value of the RPB as an unprecedented forum for collaboration and communication.
- The draft plan should comprehensively address how each of the actions that are related to relevant legal authorities would be carried out.
- RPB should publish final criteria that have guided identification of IJC actions in the draft plan.
- Emphasis on the need to gather information on compatibility among ocean uses and ecology.
- Request for more clarity on the existence and details contained in RPB work plans.
- Suggestion that use of the OAP should be strictly voluntary and contain no commitments for use of the OAP or related tools.
- Concern about potential regulatory impacts of RPB activities (e.g., identifying ERAs , developing interagency guidance, using Data Portal for activities related to undersea infrastructure, implementing best practices, content related to CZMA).
- Request for more specificity in OAP content (e.g., what are best practices proposed to enhance use of ocean plan data and information, how do agencies intend to use such data and information, how would BOEM use data in management and environmental and regulatory reviews).

Data and Information Products

- Concern about robustness of fish data used in MDAT and HUDS work. Request for peer review of this data.
- Request to involve stakeholders in establishing research priorities for improving fisheries data.
- Appreciation for the MDAT work.
- Request for the opportunity for public review of marine life and habitat raw data and summary products in advance of the draft plan release in summer 2016.

- Request for draft data and information products to be put on the Data Portal before they are finalized (with appropriate caveats).

Stakeholder Engagement

- Request for the RPB to more carefully consider all stakeholder comments.
- All agencies intending to use this plan should initiate their own public review and comment periods in addition to the 45-day comment period by the RPB.
- Consider expanding public comment period from 45 to 90 days.
- Expression of comfort with a 45-day public comment period.
- RPB should allow the public to review and comment on draft guidance on agency use of the OAP.
- RPB should think about fun and engaging ways to educate the public about the ocean planning process.
- The RPB should finalize a stakeholder engagement plan.
- The RPB should provide significant public review of any work plans it develops in advance of the draft plan release in summer 2016.
- Appreciation for holding the public workshop during the first day of the meeting and integrating public input into subsequent discussions.
- Suggestion to include a section on stakeholder engagement at the beginning of the plan.

Timescale Associated with Actions

- Request for more clarity and opportunities for public input on the timelines associated with actions in the plan.
- Request to consider changing the time-scale associated with actions (e.g., short-term, long-term) to specific numbers of years and clarify the order of steps associated with actions.
- Request to reconsider the amount of time associated with some actions. Many seem like they could be accomplished in a shorter period of time.

Traditional Knowledge

- Request to emphasize the importance of TKHs in the OAP.
- Traditional Knowledge should include perspectives of fishermen. Fishermen's knowledge should be adequately incorporated into all efforts of the RPB.
- Consider replacing the phrase "Traditional Knowledge" with "Stakeholder Knowledge."

Best Practices

- In terms of best practices, the RPB should include a baseline statement in the plan that outlines specific agency commitments.
- Support for moving best practices to the front of the plan.
- Support for using a matrix or system of symbols to visually represent how best practices are applied to the individual IJC actions.
- Consider new terminology for what is currently being referred to as "best practices." The new term should clarify that these are commitments.
- Include in best practices section language that indicates that the RPB is working together to try to improve the health of the ocean by identifying ERAs.

Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

- Regarding Action 1:

- Appreciation for the RPB's work to identify ERAs, recognizing the need for synthesis products to distill vast volumes of information into accessible products.
- Emphasis on the importance of identifying ERAs and acting to conserve and protect them.
- Request for more detail on steps to identify ERAs in the plan, including developing criteria to select a pilot ERA in a public and transparent way, as well as a timeline for identifying ERAs with robust stakeholder engagement opportunities.
- Opposition to the identification of ERAs.
- Encouragement for the RPB to remain consistent with the NE RPB by releasing a draft framework for identifying ERAs and ensuring stakeholder engagement in vetting this framework. The RPB should consider including this framework in the draft plan to be released for public comment in summer 2016.
  - Request for the RPB to use public input to identify full suite of ERAs in December 2016.
  - Encouragement to use the NE RPB's Ecosystem-Based Management Working Group as a resource.
  - Emphasis on the importance of consistency between the two regions.
- Need for the RPB to think about the application of ERA information beyond the pilot program identified in HOE Action 1 (e.g., how could places identified as abundance core areas be protected).
- Suggestion for the RPB to emphasize that ERAs are areas that help ensure natural functioning of our oceans.
- Request that the RPB identify a suite of ERAs and this action should be short-term.
- The RPB should use abundance core areas identified by the MDAT team to start discussions on how to protect these areas.

- Other actions
  - Emphasis on the need for a lead Federal agency to be identified as soon as possible for HOE actions.
    - MAFMC, NEFMC, NOAA, and BOEM should be lead entities on the HOE action related to indicators.
  - Suggestion that the mapping exercise in HOE Action 4 has already been completed for fisheries.
  - HOE Action 4, Step D should include "longer-term trends" and be folded into step F.
  - Mechanisms to monitor ecosystem health should include socio-economic indicators.
  - Indicators used to evaluate ecosystem health should meet minimum requirements on data and information quality. Any data and information reflected in the indicators should be based on sound science and subject to regular updating.
  - The timeline for the action related to indicators of ocean health should not change if HOE actions are reordered.

Ocean Energy

- Suggestion to review problems associated with the identification process of the recently announced New York Wind Energy Area, and think about ways the ocean planning process can mitigate those kind of issues in the future. Changes could include improving

consultation with the fishing community. Additional suggestion that the RPB should not wait for ocean planning to be finished before applying some of the reasoning behind it to identifying locations for wind energy areas.
- NOAA and MAFMC should be involved in every stage of determining areas for wind energy leasing.
- Ocean Energy Action 6 should be strengthened to include more robust participation of fishermen in all steps of wind energy siting. Step C should be broadened to include studies that include commercial fishermen.
- The RPB should use Virginia as an example for how to reach out and work with stakeholders. The RPB should work with Recreational Fishing Alliance and MAFMC.
- Fishery management councils should be involved in wind energy area location identification from the beginning.
- Emphasis on the importance of including perspectives of recreational users in ocean energy actions.

Offshore Sand Management
- NOAA should be a lead entity for Offshore Sand Management Actions 1, 3, and 5, as sand is important habitat for fish as well as an important material for replenishment.
- Offshore Sand Management Action 5 should be expanded to include application of sand to beach nourishment needs (currently focused on extraction).
- Support for the idea of a regional sand management working group and emphasis on the importance of articulating the purpose of this group clearly in the draft OAP.

Non-Consumptive Recreation
- Appreciation for the plan content on non-consumptive recreation and New Jersey's willingness to take the lead on that action.

Undersea Infrastructure
- Engagement of the fishing community with respect to undersea infrastructure actions is important because this topic area includes electric cables. The connection should be made between this section and the ocean energy section of the plan.

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
- The RPB should include details of plan performance monitoring and evaluation in the draft to be released for public comment in summer 2016.
    - The strategy should include evaluation mechanisms to determine the plan's impact on commercial and recreational activities in the region.
- There should be a strategy for evaluating and updating the plan every five years.

Update on MARCO-supported efforts

Kate Morrison, Executive Director of MARCO, shared updates on MARCO activities:
- MARCO, the Portal Team, and University of Maryland professor Don Boesch hosted a meeting of scientific experts on March 11, 2016 to orient participants to current completed marine wildlife models and data products and the opportunity to further develop these data to support Mid-Atlantic ocean planning; to elicit expert advice on the

criteria for the identification of ERAs and potential future approaches to improve MDAT data and products; and to identify potential scientific approaches for in-depth evaluation of ERAs to support ocean planning and effective ways to engage the scientific community. Ideas generated during this workshop will be shared with the RPB's Data Synthesis Workgroup to help inform the Workgroup's recommendations to the RPB. This workshop also helped inform the second phase of the MDAT contract.

- MARCO shared the scope of work for phase two of the MDAT contract. This scope will last through the end of 2016 and includes:
  - Updating and maintaining the marine life database and web services.
  - Updating models, model output, and uncertainty products of marine mammals, sea turtles, avian species, fish, and invertebrates (particularly scallops).
  - Updating abundance, richness, diversity, and core area products for species groups.
  - Developing products to illustrate migratory corridors.
  - Developing maps that illustrate shifts in representative species observations over time.
  - Supporting working group activities, including:
    - Creating the first iteration of ERAs in coordination with Northeast ocean planning partners and Mid-Atlantic scientists and stakeholders.
    - Identifying data needs to advance ERA mapping over the long-term.
    - Engaging experts to review and vet synthetic products and Biologically Important Areas based on NOAA's Cetacean and Sound Mapping Project and supplement and verify model outputs with additional information on life history factors not characterized by abundance data.
  - Supporting OAP development, including:
    - Providing marine life and habitat maps for the draft and final OAP and Data Portal.
    - Identifying monitoring priorities for each marine life group.
    - Identifying science and research priorities for each marine life group.
    - Supporting and attending public meetings and other ocean planning events.
    - Identifying methodologies for future work on the following:
      - Improving characterization of critical habitat areas for select species.
      - Improving spatial data products for distribution and abundance of diverse marine life, including large and small pelagic species.
      - Exploring four-dimensional modeling approaches.
    - Characterizing needs and costs for maintenance for data services, updating models, and updating OAP/Data Portal products.
- On March 22, 2016 MARCO hosted a Stakeholder Liaison Committee executive session working dinner. Topics included reviewing the public materials for the March 2016 RPB meeting.
- MARCO will host public listening sessions in the Mid-Atlantic States during the draft OAP public comment period, likely in mid-to-late July. MARCO is seeking commitments from RPB members to attend and input on format of the sessions. Confirmed dates include July 12, 2016 at the Virginia Aquarium in Virginia Beach,

Virginia and July 20, 2016 at the Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware. Tentative dates include July 14 at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey and July 19 in Maryland. New York is still scoping a date and location and Pennsylvania has declined to host a session. All sessions will be held in the evening hours.

- MARCO is in the process of hiring an Ocean Data Information Manager.

Following these updates from Ms. Morrison, Jay Odell, Technical Lead for the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, provided updates on the Data Portal. He reminded participants that the Data Portal is an information hub designed to support decision-making for diverse ocean planning processes by enabling shared access to the data layers. He then shared updates on Portal Team activities:

- Recently published and soon-to-be published new data layers and products include a suite of recreational information, the HUDS data layer, the beta oceanography theme, the Communities at Sea data, the Vessel Monitoring Systems data, and fishery management areas.
- In the spring, the Portal team will incorporate base-level products from the MDAT project into the Data Portal.
- In late summer, the Portal Team will incorporate links to the Environmental Studies Program Information System that includes BOEM-funded projects.
- In late summer/fall, the Portal Team will be implementing a new feature that allows users and stakeholders to upload their own data layers on a temporary basis.
- The Portal Team is currently actively developing new ocean stories to include on the Data Portal.

Clarify next steps and wrap up

Ms. Cantral summarized high-level next steps, including:

- The OAP drafting team will develop the next draft version of the OAP that reconciles edits we receive by March 31, and also addresses the comments from the March meeting. This will be the document sent to RPB entities for internal review in May 2016.
- RPB members will design and solidify their internal processes for home entity review, including scheduling any briefings as needed in May. The drafting team will develop materials to assist with and ensure consistent messaging during the May entity review phase.
- MARCO will host public listening sessions in July 2016. RPB entities should plan to attend these sessions.

Following brief closing remarks by the Co-Leads, Ms. Cantral adjourned the meeting.

Appendix A1

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Meeting Objectives

- Consider and reach general RPB agreement on initial content for the draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP). After the meeting, updated draft content will be reviewed internally by RPB member entities.
- Discuss and clarify next steps, including release of draft OAP in summer 2016.
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the MidA RPB during a workshop-style public engagement session and formal public comment periods.

Location: Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
Stadium Ballroom

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

8:30 am **Registration**

9:30 am **Tribal blessing and welcome**

- *Kelsey Leonard, Tribal RPB Co-Lead, Shinnecock Indian Nation*

9:40 am **Introductions and agenda review**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

9:50 am **Remarks from the National Ocean Council Director**

- *Beth Kerttula, Director, National Ocean Council*

10:00 am **Review of progress since last RPB meeting and timeline through 2016**

- *Kelsey Leonard, Tribal RPB Co-Lead, Shinnecock Indian Nation*
- *Gwynne Schultz, State RPB Co-Lead, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources*
- *Robert LaBelle, Federal RPB Co-Lead, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*

MidA RPB Co-Leads present brief updates of progress since the last RPB meeting in September 2015 and review a timeline through 2016.

10:15 am **Presentation about working draft content of Ocean Action Plan (OAP)**

The OAP drafting team and RPB members summarize content of the current working draft of the OAP, followed by RPB discussion.

11:15 am **Break**

11:30 am **RPB identifies key discussion points**

12:15 pm **Overview of interactive workshop-style afternoon sessions**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

12:30 pm **Lunch**

Lunch options are available outside of the meeting venue for public participants.

Public Workshop

The afternoon is devoted to an interactive workshop-style public engagement opportunity. The RPB will engage informally in small group discussion with the public around working draft content of the OAP. Input gained will inform RPB discussion during subsequent days of the meeting.

1:45pm **Breakout #1**

Members of the public provide input and pose questions to the RPB. Each breakout group will focus on specific topic areas to be covered by the OAP actions. RPB members will be listening and participating in discussion in each breakout.

*Note: The public is encouraged to provide input and ask questions about **any subject**, but facilitators may ask participants to provide input on specific topics.*

2:45 pm **Transition to next breakout**

3:00 pm **Breakout #2**

This second breakout session will focus on the same topics, and members of the public may choose to visit a different group or stay with the same group if they would like to continue to engage on the same topic.

4:00 pm **Transition back to plenary room**

4:15 pm **RPB members reflect on public input**

RPB members will reflect on informal discussion with the public and input gathered during breakouts, sharing with one another what they heard.

5:00 pm **Summary and wrap up day 1**

5:15 pm **Informal gathering**

Members of the public are encouraged to join RPB members in the Stadium Foyer for an informal gathering to network and share ideas (cash bar).

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

9:00 am **Registration**

9:30 am **Welcome back, summary day one, agenda review day two**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

9:45 am **RPB discussion of interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions**

The RPB discusses IJC actions.

11:00 am **Break**

11:15 am **RPB discussion of plan implementation**

The RPB discusses plan implementation.

12:30 pm **Lunch**

Lunch options are available outside of the meeting venue for public participants.

1:30 pm **Update on MARCO-supported efforts**

MARCO provides updates on Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning-related activities they anticipate supporting in 2016, followed by RPB discussion.

2:15 pm **RPB discussion of OAP draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making**

The RPB discusses science, data, and tools.

3:15 pm **Break** *(3:00 pm is the deadline to sign up for the 3:30 pm public comment session)*

3:30 pm **Public comment**

Interested members of the public are provided an opportunity to offer formal public comment on any topics they wish. All comments will be captured for the record. Depending on how many individuals would like to comment, the time limit will be between 2-3 minutes. A sign-up list and instructions will be available at the meeting registration table.

4:30 pm **RPB reflection on public comment**

5:00 pm **Summary and wrap up day 2**

5:15 pm **Adjourn day 2**

Thursday, March 24, 2016

8:30 am **Registration**

9:00 am **Welcome back, summary day two, agenda review day three**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

9:15 am **RPB generally agrees on initial draft content related to interjurisdictional coordination actions**

The RPB has further discussion and gains a general sense of comfort with draft plan content related to interjurisdictional coordination. This discussion is informed by the informal public engagement on day 1, RPB discussion on day 2, and the formal public comment period on day 2.

10:00 am **Break**

10:15 am **RPB generally agrees on initial draft content related to plan implementation**

The RPB has further discussion and gains a general sense of comfort with draft plan content related to plan implementation. This discussion is informed by the informal public engagement on day 1, RPB discussion on day 2, and the formal public comment period on day 2.

11:00 am **RPB generally agrees on initial draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making**

The RPB has further discussion and gains a general sense of comfort with draft plan content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making. This discussion is informed by the informal public engagement on day 1, RPB discussion on day 2, and the formal public comment period on day 2.

(11:30 am is the deadline to sign up for the 12:00 pm public comment session)

11:45 pm **Public comment**

Interested members of the public are provided an opportunity to offer formal public comment on any topics they wish. All comments will be captured for the record. Depending on how many individuals would like to comment, the time limit will be between 2-3 minutes. A sign-up list and instructions will be available at the meeting registration table.

12:30 pm **Lunch**

Lunch options are available outside of the meeting venue for public participants.

1:30 pm **RPB discussion of steps forward**

The RPB discusses next steps.

2:30 pm **Clarify next steps and wrap up**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

The RPB clarifies key outcomes from the meeting and next steps.

3:00pm **Adjourn**

Appendix A2

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Roster of Members and Alternates

March 2016

Federal Agency Representatives

Joe Atangan
Physical Scientist, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Navy, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
Email: joe.atangan@navy.mil
Tel: 757-836-2927

Alternate:
Christine Mintz
Natural Resource Specialist, Environmental Planning Branch, NAVFAC Atlantic
Email: christine.mintz@navy.mil
Tel: 757-322-8155

Kevin Chu
Assistant Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
Email: kevin.chu@noaa.gov
Tel: 410-267-5650

Alternate:
Darlene Finch
Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, National Ocean Service, Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
Email: darlene.finch@noaa.gov
Tel: 410-260-8899

Patrick Gilman
Wind Energy Deployment Manager, Wind and Water Power Technologies Office, U.S. Department of Energy
Email: patrick.gilman@ee.doe.gov
Tel: 720-356-1420

Alternate:
Lucas Feinberg
Offshore Wind and Ocean Renewable Energy Environmental Science and Policy Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy
Email: lucas.feinberg@ee.doe.gov
Tel: 202-586-9136

Terron Hillsman
State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Email: terron.hillsman@md.usda.gov
Tel: 410-757-0861

Michael Jones
Director, Environmental Planning & Conservation EV2 Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
U.S. Navy, Department of Defense
Email: michael.h.jones1@navy.mil
Tel: 757-341-1988

John Kennedy
Director, Mid-Atlantic Gateway Office,
Maritime Administration,
U.S. Department of Transportation
Email: john.kennedy@dot.gov
Tel: 202-366-0706

Alternate:
Jeffrey Flumignan
Director, North Atlantic Gateway Office,
Maritime Administration,
U.S. Department of Transportation
Email: jeffrey.flumignan@dot.gov
Tel: 212-668-2064

Robert LaBelle (Federal Co-Lead)
Senior Advisor to the Director,
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
U.S. Department of the Interior
Email: robert.labelle@boem.gov
Tel: 703-787-1700

Alternate:
Leann Bullin
Program Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Department of the Interior
Email: leann.bullin@boem.gov
Tel: 703-787-1755

Sherilyn Lau
Acting Team Leader
Ocean and Dredge Disposal Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: Lau.Sherilyn@epa.gov
Tel: 215-814-2786

Alternate:
Charles (Buddy) LoBue
Clean Water Division
Dredging, Sediments, and Oceans Section, Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: Lobue.Charles@epa.gov
Tel: 212-637-3798

Chris Scraba
Deputy Chief, Waterways Management Branch, 5th District, U.S. Coast Guard,
Department of Homeland Security
Email: chris.p.scraba@uscg.mil
Tel: 757-398-6230

Alternate:
Douglas Simpson
Marine Information Specialist, Waterways Management Branch 5th District,
U.S. Coast Guard,
Department of Homeland Security
Email: douglas.c.simpson@uscg.mil
Tel: 757-398-6346

State Representatives

John Bull
Commissioner,
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Email: john.bull@mrc.virginia.gov

John Clark
Environmental Program Administrator,
Fisheries Section, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware
Email: john.clark@state.de.us
Tel: 302-739-9914

Sarah Cooksey
Administrator, Coastal Programs,
Delaware
Email: sarah.cooksey@state.de.us
Tel: 302-739-9283

Kelly Heffner
Deputy Secretary for Water Management, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania
Email: kheffner@pa.gov
Tel: 717-783-4693

Alternate:
Joseph Sieber
Water Program Specialist, Office of Water Resources Planning, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania
Email: josieber@pa.gov
Tel: 717-787-4726

Ginger Kopkash
Assistant Commissioner,
Land Use Management, NJDEP
Email: ginger.kopkash@dep.nj.gov

Alternate:
Elizabeth Semple
Manager, Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning, NJDEP
New Jersey
Email: elizabeth.semple@dep.nj.gov
Tel: 609-984-0058

Catherine McCall
Director, Coastal and Marine Assessment Division, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland
Email: catherine.mccall@maryland.gov
Tel: 410-260-8737

Laura McKay
Program Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Email: laura.mckay@deq.virginia.gov
Tel: 804-698-4323

Cesar Perales
Secretary of State, Department of State, New York
Email: cesar.perales@dos.state.ny.us
Tel: 518-486-9844

Alternate A:
Gregory Capobianco
Director, Division of Community Resilience and Regional Programs, Office of Planning and Development, Department of State, New York
Email: gregory.capobianco@dos.ny.gov
Tel: 518-474-6000

Alternate B:
Michael Snyder
Policy Analyst, Department of State, New York
Email: michael.snyder@dos.ny.gov
Tel: 518-486-4644

Gwynne Schultz (State Co-Lead)
Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland
Email: gwynne.schultz@maryland.gov
Tel: 410-260-8735

Basil Seggos
Commissioner Designee, Department of Environmental Conservation, New York
Email: basil.seggos@dec.ny.gov
Tel: 518-402-8540

Alternate A:
Kathy Moser
Assistant Commissioner, Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, New York
Email: kathleen.moser@dec.ny.gov
Tel: 518-402-2797

Alternate B:
Karen Chytalo
Assistant Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Conservation, New York
Email: karen.chytalo@dec.ny.gov
Tel: 631-444-0431

Tribal Representatives

Robert Gray
Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Email: rgray58@hughes.net
Tel: 804-339-1629

Alternate:
Kathryn MacCormick
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Email: kmaccorm@gmail.com

Kelsey Leonard (Tribal Co-Lead)
Shinnecock Indian Nation
Email: kelseyleonard@shinnecock.org
Tel: 631-294-0671

Alternate:
Gerrod Smith
Chief Financial Officer/Natural Resource Advisor, Shinnecock Indian Nation
Email: wabush1@aol.com
Tel: 631-283-6143

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Representative

Michael Luisi
Member, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Director of the Estuarine and Marine Fisheries Division,
Maryland DNR Fisheries Service
Email: michael.luisi@maryland.gov
Tel: 410-260-8341

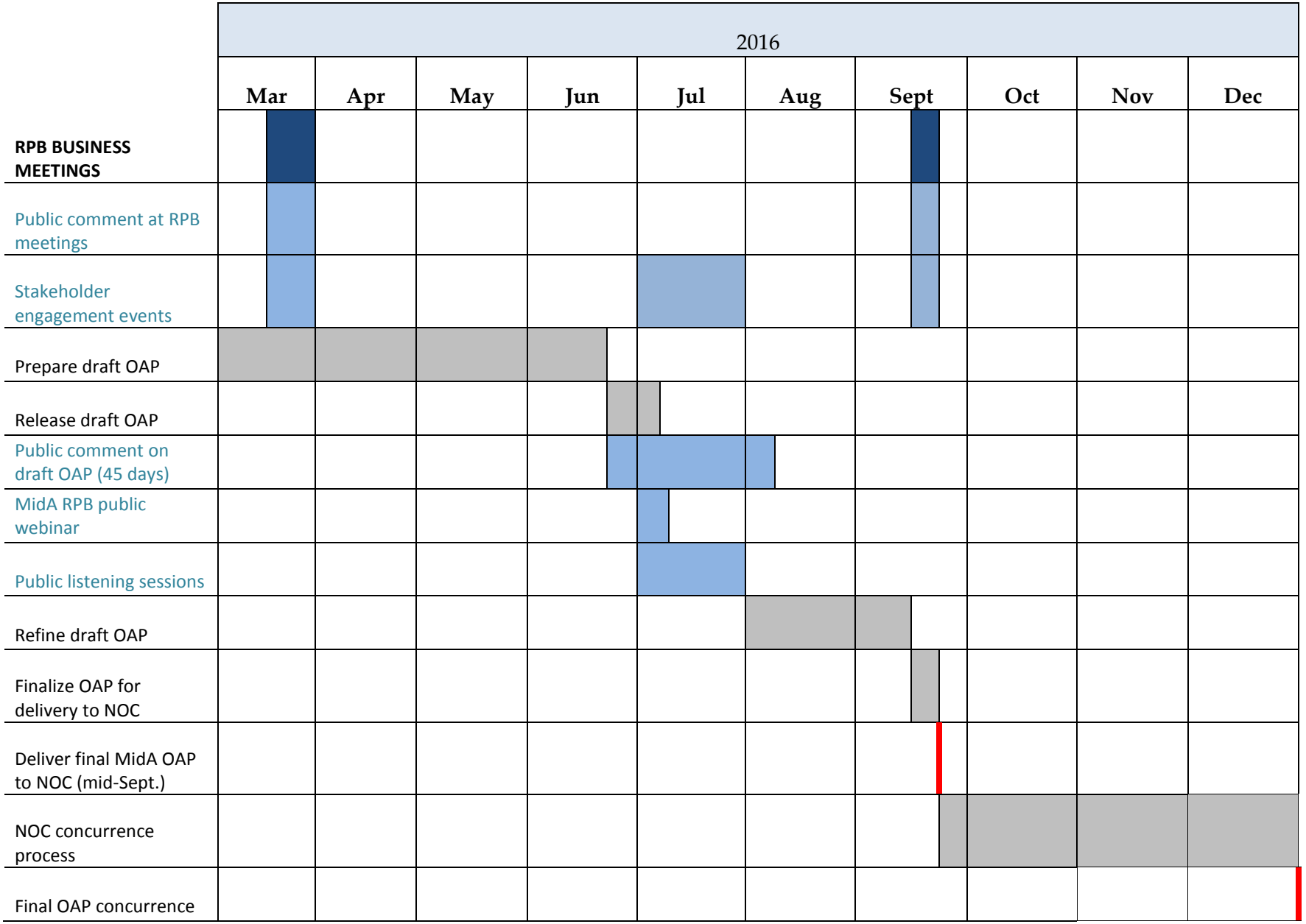
Ex-Officio Member

Brian Thompson
Director, Office of Long Island Sound Programs, Department of Environmental Protection, State of Connecticut
Email: Brian.Thompson@ct.gov
Tel: 860-424-3650

Appendix A3

Mid-Atlantic RPB Timeline for OAP Development (March 2016)

Notes: Timing subject to change; best current assessment. Light blue indicates stakeholder engagement. Red lines indicate deadlines, some of which are mid-month. After NOC concurrence at the end of 2016, focus will shift to plan implementation.



Appendix A4

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Working draft content of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP)

These slides will support RPB discussion during the March 22-24 meeting in Baltimore, MD and serve as the main meeting material. They also provide an update to the public about draft working content of the OAP.

This draft OAP content is still being considered and discussed by the RPB. Members of the public have opportunities to provide input on the content of these slides, specifically by:

- Submitting comments via email to the RPB at MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov.
- Providing verbal comments in informal small group discussion with RPB members during the Tuesday, March 22 workshop-style public engagement component of the RPB meeting.
- Providing formal public comment for the record during public comment sessions on Wednesday, March 23 and Thursday, March 24 of the RPB meeting.

Written comments to the RPB are welcome at any time. Public input on the content of these slides is encouraged by COB April 1, 2016.

Sections are numbered for reference only. Organization of the draft OAP may change.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

OAP Context

- The MidA Regional Planning Body recognizes the value of working across Federal, State and Tribal boundaries and believes success depends upon ongoing collaboration into the future.
- The OAP is not an endpoint -- it is a statement of what we care about and where we intend to go. This OAP is an initial investment in collaborative actions we can take to improve our collective management of the ocean.
- In some cases, we need to do additional work before we can decide what specific steps could and should be taken. As a result, the OAP also highlights a number of opportunities to work collaboratively to identify further specific steps in the future.

OAP Overview

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Regional overview (including Regional Ocean Assessment, brief description with link)

1.2 The need for ocean planning

Chapter 2: Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic

2.1 Planning process

- National ocean policy
- Establishment of the MidA RPB
- Key Partners in the regional planning process
- Stakeholders in the regional planning process

2.2 Ocean Action Plan (OAP) purpose and goals

- Geographic focus
- Principles
- Goals and Objectives
- Approach to the OAP

2.3 Overview of the OAP

OAP Overview (continued)

Chapter 3: Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Actions to promote a Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

3.3 Actions to foster Sustainable Ocean Uses

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Chapter 3 – Interjurisdictional Coordination Overview

The MidA RPB has identified actions that enhance the capacity of state, federal and tribal entities to carry out their missions, work together more effectively, and serve the needs of stakeholders. These actions support the ocean planning goals and objectives identified for the Mid-Atlantic.

- IJC actions **do not** change existing authorities or create new mandates at the federal, state, and tribal levels
- IJC actions work to 1) Increase early coordination for better and more predictable decision making 2) Increase awareness of RPB entity needs, interests, and resources and 3) Develop new products and practices
- IJC actions are organized by Goals and Objectives in the RPB Framework.
- In many cases, IJC actions support the achievement of multiple objectives. Because the OAP seeks to address management issues that typically involve multiple authorities, agencies, programs, and affected parties, there are in all cases direct or indirect linkages among the actions.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Chapter 3 – Interjurisdictional Coordination Overview (continued)

With regard to timing for implementation, sub-action steps are labeled according to the following definitions:

- Underway = has already commenced
- Short-term = to be completed within 2 years of approval of the OAP
- Long-term = to be completed within 5 years of approval of the OAP
- Ongoing = involves periodic maintenance into the future

Sub-action steps identified as "underway" or "ongoing" are also marked as either "short-term" or "long-term" to provide sufficient clarity about the timeframe for completion.

Throughout the actions described in this OAP, Lead Entities are identified, which will:

- Serve as the lead responsible party and point of contact
- Provide leadership for any related working groups
- Communicate implementation progress
- Support public outreach and communication on those specific actions

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Actions to promote a Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

Six IJC actions address three Healthy Ocean Ecosystem objectives:

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

Enhance understanding of ecosystem functionality and the key roles of Mid-Atlantic ocean habitats and physical, geological, chemical, and biological ocean resources through improved scientific understanding and assessments of naturally occurring processes and changes and the effects of ocean uses. Foster collaboration and coordination for protection and restoration of ocean and coastal habitats that are important for improving ecosystem functioning and maintaining biodiversity.

Objective 2 – Account for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks

Facilitate enhanced understanding of current and anticipated ocean ecosystem changes in the Mid- Atlantic. These include ocean-related risks and vulnerabilities associated with ocean warming (including sea level rise, coastal flooding/inundation), ocean acidification (including effects on living marine resources), and changes in ocean wildlife migration and habitat use.

Objective 3 – Value traditional knowledge

Pursue greater understanding and acknowledgment of traditional knowledge, along with other cultural resources and values, and incorporate such knowledge and values in the ocean planning process.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Action 1: Identify ecologically rich areas and region-wide ecological features of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean and increase understanding of those areas to foster more informed decision-making

Lead entities: *To be determined.*

Note: Stakeholder and scientific engagement is central to this action. Areas are not "established" or "designated" with permanent boundaries, but rather identified only for assessment purposes.

A. Define, evaluate, and refine the marine life data synthesis approach, including developing terms, references, and general components of ecologically rich areas/region-wide ecological features, in coordination with Mid-Atlantic scientific experts, stakeholders, the public, and the Northeast RPB. (**underway and short-term**)

B. Identify and recommend to the RPB at least one pilot ecologically rich area/region-wide ecological feature for more in-depth assessment. (**short-term**)

C. Assess the pilot area in greater detail in consultation with stakeholders by identifying and characterizing human uses and marine ecology in that area, as well as key authorities and current management practices. (**short-term**)

D. Develop a comprehensive factual report to inform management authorities in decision-making. (**short-term**)

E. Evaluate usage of the pilot report in informing decision-making and make any necessary improvements to the process. (**long-term**)

F. Identify additional ecologically rich areas/regional ecological features, conduct assessments, and develop reports, incorporating relevant new information and engaging scientific experts, stakeholders, and the public. (**long-term and ongoing**)

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Action 2: Develop and publish indicators of the health of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean ecosystem

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

A. Summarize existing and identify needed indicators of ocean health. Vet with scientists and stakeholders. (**short-term**)

B. Submit indicators to RPB for consideration and endorsement. (**short-term**)

C. Develop final indicators and details for a monitoring and assessment program. **(short-term)**

D. Create web-based "dashboard" to display indicators. **(short-term)**

E. Identify responsible parties that will continue to collect and post baseline data for indicators to the Data Portal, as appropriate . **(short-term and ongoing)**

F. Evaluate and update data and indicators. **(short-term and ongoing)**

G. Review progress, challenges, and opportunities and adjust the program as needed. **(long-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Action 3: Develop a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network to address one aspect of climate change

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

A. Identify questions a monitoring network should address. **(underway and short-term)**

B. Identify current regional ocean acidification monitoring efforts and technologies, research, and data gaps as well as opportunities for partnerships and funding. **(underway and short-term)**

C. Convene scientists, stakeholders, and the public to develop and vet options. **(short-term)**

D. Develop and launch a regional ocean acidification monitoring network. (**short-term**)

E. Review progress, challenges, and opportunities and adjust the program as needed. **(short-term and ongoing**)

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Action 4: Map shifts in ocean species and habitats to address one aspect of climate change

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

A. Identify information sources. **(short-term)**

B. Recommend ways to make current information more accessible to RPB members and the general public. **(short-term)**

C. Convene managers, scientists, and stakeholders to discuss (1) data and methodologies that can be used to create draft maps of existing, expected, or potential shifts in marine life distribution and habitats; (2) potential management applications of the maps; (3) additional data or information needed to enhance utility of draft maps; and (4) and caveats for their use. **(underway, short-term, and ongoing)**

D. Develop an approach to the production, peer review, and publication of draft maps that illustrate regional climate change-related biological and ecological changes. **(underway and short-term)**

E. Facilitate the publication of maps on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal ("Data Portal"). **(short-term)**

F. Recommend methods to support updates of maps. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Action 5: Develop a regionally appropriate strategy for marine debris reduction

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

A. Identify and prioritize options for regional marine debris reduction strategies. **(underway and short-term)**

B. Present options for strategies and implementation mechanisms to stakeholders and the RPB. **(short-term)**

C. Implement selected strategies with the engagement of responsible parties, as identified in the strategies themselves. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Action 6: Incorporate Traditional Knowledge of Tribes regarding ocean health in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic

Lead entities*: To be determined*

A. Document processes and identify barriers for including traditional knowledge in decision making. **(short-term)**

B. Identify measures to increase inclusion of traditional knowledge of ocean health in decision-making, while protecting sensitive information. **(short-term)**

C. Determine traditional knowledge documentation needs. **(short-term)**

D. Inform tribes and indigenous communities about proposed projects, prior to application/permitting, to enable traditional knowledge holders to provide input. **(short-term and ongoing)**

E. Develop training for best practices on integration of traditional knowledge. **(short-term and ongoing)**

F. Identify mechanisms to support engagement of tribes and Indigenous Peoples in federal ocean-related science investments and services. **(short-term and ongoing)**

G. Identify training for agency staff about working with tribes and Indigenous Peoples on ocean initiatives involving traditional knowledge. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Actions to promote Sustainable Ocean Uses

Thirty-one IJC actions address nine objectives related to:

- National security
- Ocean energy
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Aquaculture
- Maritime commerce
- Offshore sand management
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Tribal interests and uses
- Critical undersea infrastructure

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

National security

Objective: Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across RPB member entities.

Action 1: Use the Mid-Atlantic OAP and Data Portal data to guide and inform Department of Defense programs, initiatives, and planning documents.

Lead entity: Department of Defense

A. Identify the OAP and Data Portal to DoD agencies as important sources of information in decision making. **(ongoing)**

B. Consult the Mid-Atlantic OAP and the Data Portal in preparation of internal agency guidance, existing procedures, and environmental planning. **(ongoing)**

C. Use the Data Portal to obtain supplemental regional stakeholder information related to proposed actions and activities. **(ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

National security

Objective: Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across RPB member entities.

Action 2: Identify Department of Defense points of contact for the range of national security data layers in the Data Portal.

Lead entity: Department of Defense

A. Update the national security portions of the OAP and Data Portal on a 5-year Marine Mammal Protection Act permit cycle. **(ongoing)**

B. Identify appropriate points of contact for the national security data layers on the Data Portal and continually update. **(completed and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Ocean Energy

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic.

Action 1: Identify key intersections of relevant Federal programs and authorities that affect wind energy development.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Describe leasing, environmental review, and regulatory entities, including where and when relevant authorities play roles in decisions related to offshore wind energy. **(short-term)**

B. Identify intersections of key federal programs and statutes related to offshore wind energy. **(short-term)**

C. Post information and diagrams on above to the Data Portal and BOEM websites. **(short-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Ocean Energy

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 2: Develop internal agency guidance on integrating the OAP-developed best practices for using the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Using best practices developed in the OAP, BOEM will increase use of the Data Portal in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews. **(underway and short-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Ocean Energy

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 3: Partner in on-going and planned studies, identify knowledge gaps, and increase access to BOEM research planning cycles.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Solicit and consider regional input (including RPB members) to the BOEM annual national studies list. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Identify opportunities for collaboration on federal joint funding.**(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Work with the RPB member entities to develop a Mid-Atlantic regional studies list. **(short-term)**

D. Maintain up-to-date maps, data, and information that represent leasing areas on the Outer Continental Shelf, including authoritative data on administrative boundaries and results of completed environmental studies, and ensure those data are provided to the appropriate repository. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Ocean Energy

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 4: Use the Data Portal to enhance access to data, environmental reports, and proposed offshore wind development activities.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Link the Data Portal with the BOEM Geospatial Environmental Studies Program Information System (Geo-ESPIS). **(short-term)**

B. Place and maintain links to agency announcements about proposed offshore development activities on the Data Portal. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Ocean Energy

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic.

Action 5: Improve consultations and communication with Tribes in the region.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Continue to implement BOEM's internal renewable energy policy of inviting Federally-recognized Tribal partners to be cooperating agencies in the preparation of NEPA documents, requiring lessees to invite Federally-recognized Tribes to pre-survey meetings, and including Post-Review Discoveries Clauses with Tribal partners for each stage of BOEM's renewable energy process. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Coordinate closely with Tribal partners to protect sites from impact and resolve any impact in consultation with the Tribes, pursuant to the agreements. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Ocean Energy

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic.

Action 6: BOEM better engage fishing industries through improved data and specific interactions.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Supplement existing public engagement strategies, especially those associated with fishing activities and resources and offshore wind plans and projects. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Continue to work with fishermen and Atlantic offshore wind lease holders in the implementation of BOEM guidelines to lessees. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Communicate BOEM's science strategy for fisheries studies in its annual Studies Development Plan. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Objective: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid- Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Action 1: Improve the sharing of information and ideas between governments on fisheries science and management

Lead entities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

A. Convene annual meetings between regional NOAA leadership and state fisheries directors to identify shared interests and build collaboration. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Offer to meet with Tribes to discuss fishery management, and invite state officials to participate in meetings with Tribes. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Explore with the MAFMC the possibility of RPB members participating as technical advisors to the Council's Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee for the purpose of identifying and monitoring fishing impacts on the environment and the impacts of other human activities on fishing. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Objective: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid- Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Action 2: More actively engage stakeholders in fisheries science and management, and seek ways to make fishermen's knowledge available for planning

Lead entities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

A. Convene fishery managers and recreational fishing leaders to discuss concerns, provide information, and identify engagement opportunities. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Capture and reflect fishing community knowledge, including Tribal knowledge, in ocean management and data products and Data Portal as appropriate. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Objective: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Action 3: Improve collaboration for the conservation of essential fish habitat

Lead entities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

A. Provide additional training for Federal agencies in the identification and conservation of essential fish habitat. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Aquaculture

Objective: Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting in the Mid- Atlantic through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.

Action 1: Use data and information in the OAP and Data Portal information to support offshore aquaculture siting and permitting.

Lead entity: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

A. Refer potential applicants for offshore aquaculture permits to the Data Portal as a source of information about factors affecting siting decisions. (**short term and ongoing**)

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Objective: Enhance institutional awareness of the impact maritime commerce exerts on the national and Mid-Atlantic economies and ensure new and updated maritime commerce and navigational information is available at the local and regional levels for integration into regional ocean planning.

Action 1: Monitor marine commerce trends and traffic patterns to identify and address emerging commerce and navigation needs.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

A. Annually review "type of vessel" categories, density layers of vessel types, and provide findings to RPB member entities with authorities that influence marine commerce. **(underway and short-term)**

B. Develop a lifecycle process that provides timely, useable, relevant vessel traffic data for the Mid-Atlantic. **(underway and short-term)**

C. Determine whether enhanced data analysis is financially sustainable. **(underway and short-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Objective: Enhance institutional awareness of the impact maritime commerce exerts on the national and Mid-Atlantic economies and ensure new and updated maritime commerce and navigational information is available at the local and regional levels for integration into regional ocean planning.

Action 2: Maintain reliable ocean use data sets relevant to navigation.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

A. Develop processes to review available data layers and identify changes in marine commerce trends and needs. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Provide information regarding needed data updates to relevant RPB member entities. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Develop a lifecycle process that provides timely, useable, relevant ocean use data for the Mid Atlantic, and updates to the Data Portal as appropriate. (**short-term**)

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Objective: Enhance institutional awareness of the impact maritime commerce exerts on the national and Mid-Atlantic economies and ensure new and updated maritime commerce and navigational information is available at the local and regional levels for integration into regional ocean planning.

Action 3: Catalogue intersections between entities whose authorities influence marine commerce and navigation and identify opportunities for improved coordination.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

A. Catalog interagency coordination agreements that influence or are influenced by navigation. **(short-term)**

B. Provide to the RPB a list of coordination gaps and other information for review and further distribution to appropriate entities. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Develop a process to annually review RPB entity coordination practices to improve efficiency and stakeholder engagement. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Maritime Commerce and Navigation

Objective: Enhance institutional awareness of the impact maritime commerce exerts on the national and Mid-Atlantic economies and ensure new and updated maritime commerce and navigational information is available at the local and regional levels for integration into regional ocean planning.

Action 4: Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

A. Monitor marine commerce trends and traffic patterns to identify and address emerging commerce and navigation needs. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Identify and track Mid-Atlantic ports conducting deepening projects to assess impacts of marine commerce disruption or rerouting measures. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Assess coastal approaches against proposed port depths to predict whether offshore transit routes will change. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Sand Management

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 1: Promote strategic stakeholder engagement and regional partnering initiatives

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Promote strategic stakeholder engagements to improve coastal planning and information sharing, implement effective resource management strategies, and facilitate efficient processes to best serve the public's short and long term coastal resiliency needs. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Serve as a liaison among state and federal agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate communication, share information, and leverage resources to provide access to OCS resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Sand Management

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 2: Develop a comprehensive inventory of sand resources to support planned and future restoration and resilience projects, provide availability for emergency use, and manage competing use challenges.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Leverage BOEM's Marine Minerals Program geodatabase to serve as a central repository for OCS sand resource data it has collected and continues to collect through state cooperative agreements and environmental studies to better facilitate offshore sand management. Make information on borrow site and potential sand resource locations available for use in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. (**underway and short-term**)

B. Develop strategic approaches to optimize sand resources management. **(long-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Offshore Sand Management

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 3: Conduct studies to support sustainable management of offshore sand resources.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Routinely collaborate through BOEM's Environmental Studies Program with other Federal agencies with mutual study interests and the Mid-Atlantic states to leverage funds and maximize research project investments. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Work with RPB Federal agencies to develop an integrated regional ocean research agenda, including identifying opportunities as appropriate for coordination/collaboration with the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) on the overall agenda and working with the National Ocean Partnership Program (NOPP) to facilitate discussion and support of specific research projects. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Enhance access to a range of data and studies by linking the Data Portal to the BOEM Geospatial Environmental Studies Program Information System (Geo-ESPIS). **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Sand Management

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 4: Identify and improve existing state/federal interactions and cooperative agreements in the Mid-Atlantic.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Identify new and improve existing stakeholder relationships related to coordination for beach nourishment and coastal restoration projects. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Continue to collaborate with the USACE regarding coastal resiliency needs in the Mid-Atlantic region and identify priority investments. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Pursue future budget initiatives to continue Cooperative Agreements with Mid-Atlantic States to continue building the comprehensive inventory of OCS resources.**(short-term and ongoing)**

D. Collaborate with federal partners to leverage funding where applicable and align resources towards priority regional needs. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Offshore Sand Management

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 5: Engage fishing communities in planning and environmental review of proposed activities.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

A. Communicate BOEM's sand resource management strategy to avoid use conflicts with fishing grounds. **(ongoing)**

B. Communicate BOEM's science strategy for fisheries studies and solicit feedback from fishery stakeholders on priority research gaps. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Continue to inform and solicit feedback from NMFS and the MidA FMC and develop best management practices to avoid and/or minimize fishery impacts associated with dredging. **(ongoing)**

D. Use data and information from the Data Portal and OAP to support enhanced engagement with commercial and recreational fishermen in planning and environmental review of proposed activities. **(short-term)**

E. Identify potential conflicts or concerns through review of data used for scoping and environmental analyses and work with fishermen to identify high use areas early on to avoid use conflicts. **(short-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Objective 7: Account for the importance of near-shore 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).

Action 1: Identify, characterize, and share information about measures to maintain the recreational value of important non-consumptive recreational areas and the activities they sustain.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Define, in collaboration with stakeholders, what it would mean for uses and areas to be considered "high-value" for non-consumptive recreation. Complete identification and mapping of such uses and areas. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Identify and assess potential impacts and use conflicts to high value recreational use areas. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Identify and catalogue authorities, standards, and processes for maintaining recreational uses, and potential improvements to practices and processes. **(short-term)**

D. Convene stakeholders, the public, and RPB entities to review findings and improve communications to increase understanding of recreational uses. **(short-term and ongoing)**

E. Develop report(s) on potential improvements to practices and processes as determined necessary, feasible, and appropriate. **(long-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 1: Identify, review and, if appropriate, recommend updates to tribal consultation policies as they pertain to ocean planning.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Compile and review tribal consultation policies from federal and state agencies. **(short-term)**

B. Identify how agencies can improve existing policies, and provide outreach to tribes about how to engage with agencies under existing/improved policies. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 2: Develop tribal and agency 'marine planning' contact directories.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Develop a Tribal Directory of tribal contacts and a process for updating the current status of contact information for all state and federally recognized Tribes in the Mid-Atlantic region who wish to participate. **(underway and short-term)**

B. Develop a directory of contacts in federal agencies and state government to post on the RPB website and a process for updating the contact information. **(underway and short-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 3: Work with Tribes to develop Tribal Ocean Planning Network (TOPN) to facilitate coordination between Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Tribes in the ocean planning process.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Develop a Tribal Ocean Planning Network in coordination with the Northeast region. **(short-term)**

B. Identify delegates and alternates to the Network from all federally recognized and state recognized Tribes in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 4: Enhance understanding of Tribal rights

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Post historical, legal, and other documents detailing Tribal rights on the RPB website or similar media; documents will include a timeline of Treaties with tribes in the region specific to marine uses. **(short-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 5: Federal and state governments meet with Tribes to discuss issues related to tribal participation in regional ocean planning and management, including policy and technical matters and grant opportunities.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Federal agencies contact the Tribes in the Mid-Atlantic region to seek informal meetings. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Convene Federal and state governments for informal meetings with Tribal government officials. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Share reports of meetings with the RPB. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 6: Account for historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Engage Tribal historic preservation offices in updates of the OAP and ongoing regional ocean planning to ensure that historic and cultural resources are accounted for and to facilitate any NHPA consultations that may be needed. **(long-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Tribal Interests and Uses

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 7: Identify and address data gaps pertaining to tribal use of the ocean.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Conduct participatory GIS workshops for engagement of Tribes in generating geospatial data mapping. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Develop a plan for future cultural and natural resource research to address Tribal concerns. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Develop best practices on the appropriate use of tribal historical, archeological and spiritual information compiled during the ocean planning process. **(long-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Undersea Infrastructure

Objective: Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure, such as submarine cables, (e.g., for communication and electricity) and pipelines.

Action 1: Engage the submerged pipelines and submarine cables industries to understand their current and projected needs for ocean space, and conduct an inventory of obsolete structures.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

A. Obtain data to support regional ocean planning efforts, including the identification of "in-service" versus "out-of-service" pipelines, pipeline name, and owner information. (**short-term and ongoing**)

B. Reflect that information through the Data Portal. (**short-term and ongoing**)

C. Update NASCA cables data in the Data Portal as needed. **(long-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Undersea Infrastructure

Objective: Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure, such as submarine cables, (e.g., for communication and electricity) and pipelines.

Action 2: Ensure early consultation with relevant undersea infrastructure interests in the regulatory review of marine development projects.

Lead RPB entities: All RPB member entities

A. Use data and information from the Data Portal and OAP to inform regulatory review of marine development activities related to undersea infrastructure. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Chapter 4: Science, Data, and Tools to Support Decision Making

Data and information are the foundation of the OAP. The region has developed and continues to enhance a significant body of spatial data and other information that serves to frame and inform the IJC actions the RPB has developed. The MidA RPB has identified some specific tools and data that are needed to support IJC actions. The actions in this document are based upon best available data with recognition that additional information and research could further inform future actions.

4.1 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
- Overview and summary of content

4.2 Data Products and Tools
- Marine Life Distribution and Abundance Synthesis Products
- Human Use Data Synthesis Products

4.3 Actions related to the Data Portal and science and research
- Actions related to the Data Portal
- Actions related to science and research

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

4.1 Data Portal Content

The public Data Portal is vital to implementation of the OAP. The Data Portal contains: a marine planner with 8 data themes and 2 synthesis themes; data catalogue; data needs and priorities; Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment; Ocean Stories and Blog; joinable map groups; calendar of events; and links to other data sources.

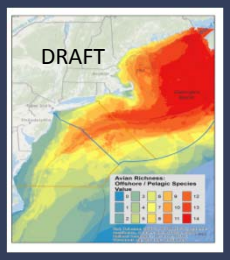
Data Theme	Types of Data Available
Administrative	Marine jurisdictions, administrative boundaries, federal lease blocks
Fishing	Commercial and recreational fishing concentrations, artificial reef locations, fathom lines
Maritime	Navigational aid locations, shipping data, anchorage areas, federal sand/gravel borrow areas, North Atlantic right whale management zones, submarine cable routes, disposal sites, port facility sites, shipwreck density
Recreation	Coastal recreation locations, recreational boating routes and destinations
Renewable Energy	Federal offshore wind planning areas, offshore wind lease areas, coastal energy facility locations, wind speeds
Security	Military danger zones/restricted areas, unexploded ordnance locations
Human Use Synthesis Products	Data synthesis products for five themes: Fishing, Maritime, Recreation, Renewable Energy, and Security (HUDS effort)
Marine Life	Benthic organism habitats, coldwater coral locations, essential fish habitats, seafloor topography, sediment grain size, submarine canyons, migratory fish, birds, sea turtles and marine mammals
Ecological Synthesis Products	Synthesis products for marine mammals, seabirds, and fish (MDAT effort)
Oceanography (coming soon)	Bathymetry, ocean fronts, sea surface temperature

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Marine Life Distribution and Abundance

Describes the first phase of MDAT work, completed in January 2016, which includes:

- New species level products for marine mammals, seabirds, and fish
- New synthesis level products for species groups (regulated, ecological, stressor sensitivity)
  - Abundance/biomass
  - Species richness and diversity
  - Core abundance/biomass area richness
- Initial steps toward identification of ecologically rich areas



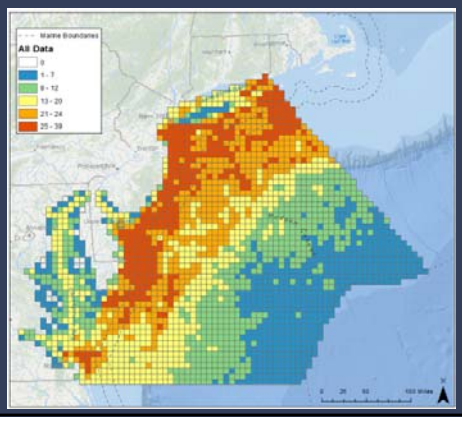
MARCO is pursuing a second phase of work with the MDAT team to further explore these themes.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Human Use Data Synthesis

Describes the HUDS work, completed in January 2016, which includes:

- The first time human use data have been synthesized in a comprehensive manner, highlighting what we do and do not know about ocean uses
- A step toward a quantitative, as opposed to anecdotal, understanding of overlapping human uses in the Mid-Atlantic
- A clear picture of data availability as well as data collection biases and gaps



This analysis was based on available information on human uses. In the future, new data addressing existing gaps could be added.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Actions Related to the Data Portal

Action 1: Develop and implement a plan to sustain Data Portal operations and maintenance.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

A. Develop a range of levels of Data Portal maintenance and updating options and associated costs ranging from the base level to addition of new features and stakeholder engagement. **(underway and short-term)**

B. Convene entities likely to support continued maintenance and updating of Data Portal to discuss funding options. **(underway and short-term)**

C. Identify funding and collaboration commitments. **(underway, short-term, and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Actions Related to the Data Portal

Action 2: Maintain operational components including web services, data development and integration, outreach, content creation, management, and web maintenance.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

A. Continue to develop and integrate new data and updated layers from a variety of sources in consultation with RPB entities and stakeholders. **(short-term and ongoing)**

B. Continue and/or expand efforts to manage and publish authoritative Federal agency data in a timely and readily useable form (web services), e.g., by developing data sharing agreements among RPB entities. **(short-term and ongoing)**

C. Further explore opportunities to capture Tribal data on the Data Portal. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Actions Related to the Data Portal

Action 3: Continue to engage in agency outreach and public engagement to enhance data and functionality to effectively support decisions related to ocean management as needed.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

A. Compile and post on the portal user success stories of applications of the portal to ocean planning decisions through engagement with RPB member entities and stakeholders, including but not limited to: ocean stories, news, calendar events, and other information for stakeholder engagement purposes. **(short-term)**

B. Expand Federal agency data managers' participation in the relevant RPB work groups and the MARCO Ocean Mapping and Data Team and help leverage their agencies' data assets. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Actions related to Science and Research

Action 1: Identify and prioritize applied science and research needs

Lead entities: *To be determined*

A. Identify applied science and research needs and review existing regional research agendas to identify areas of common interests, opportunities for collaboration, and other factors. **(short term)**

B. Convene scientists, resource managers, and stakeholders to review and prioritize applied research needs identified in step A that will help address management questions. **(short term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Chapter 5: Plan Implementation

5.1 Plan Administration

5.2 Application of the OAP under existing authorities (including best practices for agency coordination, use of data and information, and opportunities under the CZMA)

5.3 Performance monitoring and evaluation

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

5.1 Plan Administration

To support efficient implementation of the OAP, the RPB will:

A. Maintain coordination and administrative functions for plan implementation and updates
B. Continue to operate by consensus
C. Work with partners and stakeholders to leverage existing programs
D. Build on the efforts of other regional entities wherever possible

RPB member entities will continue to participate in RPB discussions and work collaboratively to meet their obligations as described in the plan.

RPB Co-leads will continue to provide leadership, oversight, and guidance and ensure the RPB convenes regularly.

Transparency and stakeholder engagement will continue to be priorities.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

5.1 Plan Administration (continued)

During implementation, the RPB is responsible for ensuring that:

- Progress is made in implementing the actions articulated in the plan
- Stakeholders are appropriately engaged in implementation and any plan updates/amendments.
- Coordination continues among RPB entities, with partners, and with adjacent planning processes; and expertise and resources from within and outside of governmental entities are being leveraged appropriately.
- Work plans for implementation are updated to reflect new information and evolving context.

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

5.1 Plan Administration (continued)

Lead entities identified for specific actions in the OAP will:

- Serve as the lead responsible party and point of contact
- Provide leadership, including staffing and other resources, for any related workgroups
- Communicate implementation progress
- Support public outreach and communication on those specific actions

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

5.2 Application of OAP Under Existing Authorities

Action 1: Implement best practices to enhance coordination and the use of data and information.

Best practices are flexible but consistent guidance for intergovernmental coordination in the use of data and information under existing planning, management, and regulatory authorities. They address: agency coordination, use of data and information, coordination with stakeholders, and federal-state coordination. (Best practices for federal-tribal coordination are also addressed under HOE 5 and SOU 7.)

A. Federal RPB members will implement best practices consistent with their existing authorities; states, Tribes and private applicants, where referenced, may do so at their discretion. **(on-going)**

B. The RPB will periodically review best practices, with stakeholder and public input, and make revisions as appropriate. **(short-term and on-going)**

Example: *Project proponents should seek to identify, engage, and incorporate information from stakeholders before filing a permit application or otherwise formally initiating the environmental review and permitting process to ensure that stakeholder information helps inform both the project application and subsequent public, stakeholder, and agency review.*

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

5.2 Application of OAP Under Existing Authorities

Action 2: Evaluate management options under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Lead RPB Entities: NOAA and Mid-Atlantic states

A. Assess potential opportunities to: 1) enhance federal notice to states and Tribes, 2) inform CZMA coastal effects determinations, and 3) streamline CZMA federal consistency requirements. **(short-term)**

B. Establish new practice(s) and implement as appropriate **(short-term/long-term)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

5.3 Performance monitoring and evaluation

Action 1: Develop OAP performance monitoring and evaluation plan.

"The MidA RPB will track progress towards meeting established planning objectives and use the information gained to modify and adapt MidA RPB actions." – Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Lead RPB Entities: *To be determined*

A. Develop, in consultation with experts and stakeholders, the components of an OAP performance and monitoring evaluation plan, including performance measurements or metrics, parties responsible for monitoring results, and a schedule and process for evaluating results and making recommendations to the RPB. **(short-term)**

B. Review draft components with experts, stakeholders, and the public. **(short-term)**

C. Develop and implement a final performance and monitoring evaluation plan. **(short-term and ongoing)**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Potential appendices

- Charter
- Framework
- Approach
- Stakeholder engagement report
- Regulatory context summary
- Summaries of actions (matrix)
- MARCO data and information products
- CZMA discussion paper

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Appendix A5

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

Regional Planning Body Meeting
Participant List

March 22-24, 2016 • Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards • Baltimore, MD

Regional Planning Body

Joe Atangan
Physical Scientist, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Navy, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
Email: joe.atangan@navy.mil

Leann Bullin
Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Department of the Interior
Email: leann.bullin@boem.gov

Gregory Capobianco
Director, Division of Community Resilience and Regional Programs, Office of Planning and Development, Department of State, New York
Email: gregory.capobianco@dos.ny.gov

Kevin Chu
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Email: kevin.chu@noaa.gov

Karen Chytalo
Assistant Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Conservation, New York
Email: karen.chytalo@dec.ny.gov

John Clark
Environmental Program Administrator, Fisheries Section, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware
Email: john.clark@state.de.us

Sarah Cooksey
Administrator, Coastal Programs
Delaware
Email: sarah.cooksey@state.de.us

Lucas Feinberg
Offshore Wind and Ocean Renewable Energy Environmental Science and Policy Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy
Email: lucas.feinberg@ee.doe.gov

Darlene Finch
Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, National Ocean Service, Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
Email: darlene.finch@noaa.gov

Terron Hillsman
State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Email: terron.hillsman@md.usda.gov

Michael Jones
Director, Environmental Planning & Conservation EV2 Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
U.S. Navy, Department of Defense
Email: michael.h.jones1@navy.mil

John Kennedy
Director, Mid-Atlantic Gateway Office,
Maritime Administration,
U.S. Department of Transportation
Email: john.kennedy@dot.gov

Robert LaBelle (Federal Co-Lead)
Senior Advisor to the Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Department of the Interior
Email: robert.labelle@boem.gov

Sherilyn Lau
Acting Team Leader
Ocean and Dredge Disposal Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: Lau.Sherilyn@epa.gov

Kelsey Leonard (Tribal Co-Lead)
Shinnecock Indian Nation
Email: treyleonard@gmail.com

Charles (Buddy) LoBue
Clean Water Division
Dredging, Sediments, and Oceans Section,
Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: Lobue.Charles@epa.gov

Michael Luisi
Member, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Director of the Estuarine and Marine Fisheries Division,
Department of Natural Resources Fisheries
Email: mluisi@dnr.state.md.us

Catherine McCall
Director, Coastal and Marine Assessment,
Department of Natural Resources,
Maryland
Email: catherine.mccall@maryland.gov

Laura McKay
Program Manager
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Email: laura.mckay@deq.virginia.gov

Christine Mintz
Natural Resource Specialist,
Environmental Planning Branch,
NAVFAC Atlantic
Email: christine.mintz@navy.mil

Gwynne Schultz (State Co-Lead)
Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Email: gschultz@dnr.state.md.us

Chris Scraba
Deputy Chief, Waterways Management Branch, 5th District, U.S. Coast Guard,
Department of Homeland Security
Email: chris.p.scraba@uscg.mil

Elizabeth Semple
Manager, Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning, NJDEP
New Jersey
Email: elizabeth.semple@dep.nj.gov

Joseph Sieber
Water Program Specialist, Office of Water Resources Planning, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania
Email: josieber@pa.gov

Doug Simpson
Marine Information Specialist, Waterways Management Branch 5th District,
U.S. Coast Guard,
Department of Homeland Security
Email: douglas.c.simpson@uscg.mil

Michael Snyder
Policy Analyst
Department of State, New York
Email: michael.snyder@dos.ny.gov

Participants

Deerin Babb-Brott
SeaPlan
Email: dbabb-brott@seaplan.org

Eva Barnett
Green Fire Productions
Email: films@greenfireproductions.org

Mary Boatman
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Email: mary.boatman@boem.gov

Sarah Bowman
Ecology and Environment
Email: sbowman@ene.com

Bonnie Brady
Long Island Commercial Fishing Association
Email: greenfluke@optonline.net

Aimee Bushman
Conservation Law Foundation
Email: abushman@clf.org

Meredith Cameron
National Ocean Council

Merry Camhi
Wildlife Conservation Society
Email: mcamhi@wcs.org

Alison Chase
Natural Resources Defense Council
Email: achase@nrdc.org

Sarah Chasis
Natural Resources Defense Council
Email: schasis@nrdc.org

Noah Chesnin
Wildlife Conservation Society
Email: nchesnin@wcs.org

Kelly Collins Choi
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Email: kelly.collins@maryland.gov

Jesse Cleary
Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University
Email: jesse.cleary@duke.edu

Jeff Deem
Recreational fishing
Email: deemjeff@erols.com

Amardeep Dhanju
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Email: amardeep.dhanju@boem.gov

Luke Fairbanks
Duke University
Email: lwf3@duke.edu

Brandon Faustini
OBG
Email: Brandon.Faustini@obg.com

Jennifer Felt
Conservation Law Foundation
Email: jfelt@clf.org

Jeremy Firestone
University of Delaware
Email: jf@udel.edu

Kaity Goldsmith
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
Email: kgoldsmith@midatlanticocean.org

Timothy Goodspeed
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Email: tim.goodspeed@noaa.gov

Simon Gore
US Department of Energy
Email: simon.gore@ee.doe.gov

Matt Gove
Surfrider Foundation
Email: mgove@surfrider.org

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

Katie Guttenplan
Ecology and Environment
Email: kguttenplan@ene.com

Kevin Hassell
NJDEP Coastal Management
Email: kevin.hassell@dep.nj.gov

Addie Haughey
Ocean Conservancy
Email: ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org

Anne Hawkins
Fisheries Survival Fund
Email: ahawkins@kelleydrye.com

Arlo Hemphill
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
Email: ahemphill@midatlanticocean.org

Roselle Henn
US Army Corps of Engineers
Email: roselle.e.henn@usace.army.mil

Kimberly Hernandez
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Email: kimberly.hernandez@maryland.gov

Lyndie Hice-Dunton
American Littoral Society
Email: lyndie@littoralsociety.org

Christine Hopper
Ocean Conservancy
Email: chopper@oceanconservancy.org

Todd Janeski
Virginia Commonwealth University
Email: tvjaneski@vcu.edu

Beth Kerttula
National Ocean Council

Rebecca Kusa
Wildlife Conservation Society
Email: rkusa@wcs.org

Celeste Leroux
National Ocean Council
Email: cleroux@ceq.eop.gov

Jill Lemke
Maryland Port Administration
Email: jlemke@marylandports.com

Matt Lurie
National Ocean Council
Email: mlurie@ostp.eop.gov

Tony MacDonald
Urban Coast Institute
Email: amacdona@monmouth.edu

Anne Merwin
Ocean Conservancy
Email: amerwin@oceanconservancy.org

Karen Meyer
Green Fire Productions
Email: karen@greenfireproductions.org

Kate Morrison
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
Email: kmorrison@midatlanticocean.org

Jay Odell
MidA Ocean Data Portal
Email: jodell@tnc.org

Kris Ohleth
Ecology & Environment
Email: kohleth@ene.com

Kristin Regan
EPA Region 3
Email: regan.kristin@epa.gov

Nicole Rodi
Delaware Coastal Programs
Email: nicole.rodi@state.de.us

Nikki Rovner
The Nature Conservancy
Email: nrovner@tnc.org

Sydney Sheridan
TE SubCom
Email: ssheridan@subcom.com

Sally Shoemaker
Shoemaker Consulting and Education
Email: Photo26naturalist@gmail.com

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

Paul Ticco
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Email: paul.ticco@noaa.gov

Megan Treml
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Email: megan.treml@noaa.gov

Amy Trice
Ocean Conservancy
Email: atrice@oceanconservancy.org

Karl Vilacoba
Urban Coast Institute
Email: kvilacob@monmouth.edu

Bob Wargo
AT&T
Email: rw1791@att.com

Sarah Winter Whelan
American Littoral Society
Email: sarah@littoralsociety.org

John Williamson
Sea Keeper Fishery Consulting
Email: john@seakeeper.org

Sarah Wise
Rutgers University
Email: swise888@gmail.com

Kristen Yarincik
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Email: kyarincik@oceanleadership.org

Peter Zaykoski
SeaPlan
Email: pzaykoski@seaplan.org

Meridian Institute

Laura Cantral
Partner
Email: lcantral@merid.org

Jeana Connaughton
Project Coordinator
Email: jeconnaughton@merid.org

Ingrid Irigoyen
Senior Mediator and Program Manager
Email: irigoyen@merid.org

Meghan Massaua
Mediator and Program Manager
Email: mmassaua@merid.org

Kara Runsten
Project Associate and Fellow
Email: krunsten@merid.org

Lucas Smith
Project Assistant and Fellow
Email: lsmith@merid.org

Appendix B

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Meeting Objectives

- Consider and reach general RPB agreement on initial content for the draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP). After the meeting, updated draft content will be reviewed internally by RPB member entities.
- Discuss and clarify next steps, including release of draft OAP in summer 2016.
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the MidA RPB during a workshop-style public engagement session and formal public comment periods.

Day 1 Agenda: Morning

- 9:30 am- Tribal blessing and welcome
- 9:40 am- Introductions and agenda review
- 9:50 am- Remarks from the National Ocean Council Director
- 10:00 am- Review of progress since last RPB meeting and timeline through 2016
- 10:15 am- Presentation about working draft content of Ocean Action Plan
- 11:15 am- Break
- 11:30 am- RPB identifies key discussion points
- 12:15 pm- Overview of interactive workshop-style afternoon sessions
- 12:30 pm- Lunch

Day 1 Agenda: Public Workshop and Wrap Up

- 1:45 pm- Breakout #1
- 2:45 pm- Transition to next breakout
- 3:00 pm- Breakout #2
- 4:00 pm- Transition back to plenary room
- 4:15 pm- RPB members reflect on public input
- 5:00 pm- Summary and wrap up day 1
- 5:15 pm- Informal gathering

Day 2 Agenda

- 9:30 am- Welcome back, summary day 1, agenda review day 2
- 9:45 am- RPB discussion of interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions
- 11:00 am- Break
- 11:15 am- RPB discussion of plan implementation
- 12:30 pm- Lunch
- 1:30 pm- Update on MARCO-supported efforts
- 2:15 pm- RPB discussion of OAP draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making
- 3:15 pm- Break
- 3:30 pm- Public comment
- 4:30 pm- RPB reflection on public comment
- 5:00 pm- Summary and wrap up day 2
- 5:15 pm- Adjourn day 2

Day 3 Agenda

- 9:00 am- Welcome back, summary day 2, agenda review day 3
- 9:15 am- RPB generally agrees on initial draft content related to interjurisdictional coordination actions
- 10:00 am- Break
- 10:15 am- RPB generally agrees on initial draft content related to plan implementation
- 11:00 am- RPB generally agrees on initial draft content related to science, data, and tools to support decision making
- 11:45 am- Public comment
- 12:30 pm- Lunch
- 1:30 pm- RPB discussion of steps forward
- 2:30 pm- Clarify next steps and wrap up
- 3:00 pm- Adjourn

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland

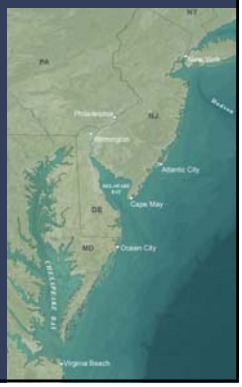
Context and Progress of the MidA RPB

Kelsey Leonard, Tribal RPB Co-Lead
Gwynne Schultz, State RPB Co-Lead
Robert LaBelle, Federal RPB Co-Lead

About the MidA RPB

- *Mission of the RPB*: To implement and advance ocean planning in the region through collaborative process among Federal, State, Tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council representatives in consultation with stakeholders.

- RPB Membership roster available at http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-RPB-Roster/



MidA RPB Activities to Date

Meetings, webinars, and events:

- Five in-person meetings (Sept. 2013, May 2014, Jan. 2015, Sept. 2015, and Mar. 2016)
- Public webinars to discuss draft documents and progress to date (2013/2014/2015)
- Two rounds of public listening sessions in DE, MD, NJ, NY and VA

Three major milestones include:

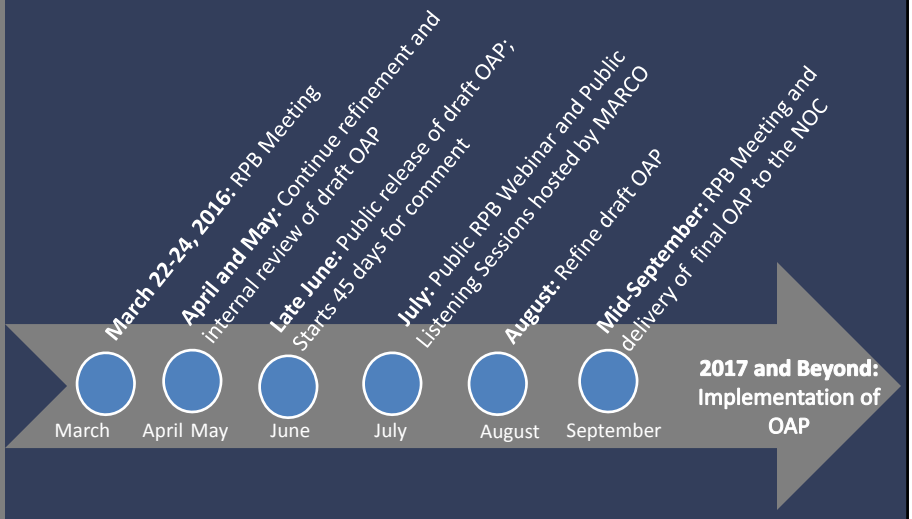
- Approved *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework (*May 2014)
- Approved *Mid-Atlantic RPB Charter (*September 2014)
- Approved *Proposed Approach to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan* (January 2015)

MidA RPB Activities to Date

Since September 2015:

- Continued workgroups to support Ocean Action Plan (OAP) development (interjurisdictional coordination, data synthesis, regional ocean assessment)
- Held a public webinar on draft interjurisdictional coordination actions (IJC) in December 2015
- IJC champions worked to develop draft content for the OAP
- MARCO hosted the Forum on Ocean Assessment and Data Synthesis Products in January 2016

Updated MidA RPB Timeline



Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Appendix C

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Best Practices Feedback

- Importance of commitment in OAP to:
  - use the data portal in decision making under existing authorities
  - Implement best practices that describe how RPB entities will use data portal and coordinate with one another and with stakeholders early in review of proposed actions.
- Need for as much specificity as possible
- Desire to move the best practices from 5.2 forward in the draft and emphasize as connection of data portal to decision making
- Account for cross-regional consistency

One potential approach

- Move discussion of best practices to earlier in OAP
- Include examples that provide additional clarity and specificity
- Continue RPB review and revision of specific best practices

What we heard about a framework for moving forward with ERAs

- Need for clarity asap about "framework" or "components" (general components), and then "criteria" (thresholds)
- Desire from stakeholders and RPB members for greater clarity and general consistency across regions. Hopes to include a framework in the draft OAP now, if possible considering time constraints.
- Need for transparent public process and scientific review in development of criteria (for both identifying suite of ERAs and the initial pilot) and throughout the process.
- Recognition that there are recognized concepts about identifying such areas.
- Recognition that NE EBM workgroup includes some MidA membership and concepts in their IEA Framework are based on those recognized concepts.

Existing Framework includes:

- Six components for identification of potential areas
- Categories of marine life and habitat data that could characterize components of potential areas
- Table of longer term data needs
- Immediate next steps for review and considerations for use

Six components in existing framework

1. Areas of high productivity
2. Areas of high biodiversity
3. Habitat areas and distribution of species critical to ecosystem function and resilience
4. Areas of spawning, breeding, feeding, and migratory routes
5. Areas of functionally vulnerable marine resources
6. Areas of rare marine resources

One approach

- Develop an appendix for the draft OAP that uses existing NE Framework concepts, offered as a starting point for MidA discussion.
- Reference appendix in HOE 1 Step A.
- This allows time for further consideration by the MidA RPB and MidA stakeholders and scientists going forward, while being responsive to stakeholder feedback now.
- During comment period:
  - Seek and carefully consider MidA stakeholder input
  - work on specific timeline (for 1st work plan) that is responsive to public input and clarifies specific points for stakeholderninvolvement in HOE1 process.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems - 1

Action 1: Identify ecologically rich areas and region-wide ecological features of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean and increase understanding of those areas to foster more informed decision-making

Lead entities: *To be determined.*

- Consider whether and how a framework would be developed and add clarity on these steps
- Make clear that tribal use data isn't included in HUDs products (step C)
- Add the phrase "traditional knowledge holders" to instances in the plan where we reference groups of experts, stakeholders and the public, as in step A

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems - 2

Action 2: Develop and publish indicators of the health of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean ecosystem

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

- NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED

To do: Pull out all references in the plan to a web-based platforms (e.g. dashboard in step D) to help understand technology needs.

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems – 3

Action 3: Develop a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network to address one aspect of climate change

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

- Strike the language "address one aspect of climate change"
- Add reference to MARACOOS

(Note the science and research action could/should address data collection, processing/analysis and application)

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems - 4

Action 4: Map shifts in ocean species and habitats to address one aspect of climate change

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

- Strike the language "address one aspect of climate change"
- Consider re-ordering so that this directly follows the ERA action and consider other ways to enhance the logic flow, like putting indicators last

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems - 5

Action 5: Develop a regionally appropriate strategy for marine debris reduction

Lead Entities: *To be determined*

- Reference social marketing as a possible tool for this action

Healthy Ocean Ecosystems – 6

Action 6: Incorporate Traditional Knowledge of Tribes regarding ocean health in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic

Lead entities*: To be determined*

- Cross reference step D with Tribal Interests and Uses

National security – 1 and 2

Objective: Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across RPB member entities.

Action 1: Use the Mid-Atlantic OAP and Data Portal data to guide and inform Department of Defense programs, initiatives, and planning documents.

Lead entity: Department of Defense

Action 2: Identify Department of Defense points of contact for the range of national security data layers in the Data Portal.

Lead entity: Department of Defense

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Ocean Energy - 1 and 2

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 1: Identify key intersections of relevant Federal programs and authorities that affect wind energy development.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Action 2: Develop internal agency guidance on integrating the OAP-developed best practices for using the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Ocean Energy – 3

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 3: Partner in on-going and planned studies, identify knowledge gaps, and increase access to BOEM research planning cycles.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- Clarify relationship between steps A and C
- BOEM and States consider how to better engage on this

Ocean Energy – 4

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 4: Use the Data Portal to enhance access to data, environmental reports, and proposed offshore wind development activities.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Ocean Energy - 5

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 5: Improve consultations and communication with Tribes in the region.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- Add a new step C for consultations between states and Tribes and considerations for studies that link to Tribal data

Ocean Energy - 6

Objective: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid- Atlantic.

Action 6: BOEM better engage fishing industries through improved data and specific interactions.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Commercial and Recreational Fishing - 1

Objective: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Action 1: Improve the sharing of information and ideas between governments on fisheries science and management

Lead entities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Consider adding additional coordination with ASMFC

Commercial and Recreational Fishing - 2

Objective: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid- Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Action 2: More actively engage stakeholders in fisheries science and management, and seek ways to make fishermen's knowledge available for planning

Lead entities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Commercial and Recreational Fishing - 3

Objective: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

Action 3: Improve collaboration for the conservation of essential fish habitat

Lead entities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Add guidelines for EFH consultation process
- Consider adopting NE plan content on specific commitments on using portal information for EFH consultations

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Aquaculture

Objective: Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting in the Mid- Atlantic through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.

Action 1: Use data and information in the OAP and Data Portal information to support offshore aquaculture siting and permitting.

Lead entity: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Maritime Commerce and Navigation – 1 through 4

Objective: Enhance institutional awareness of the impact maritime commerce exerts on the national and Mid-Atlantic economies and ensure new and updated maritime commerce and navigational information is available at the local and regional levels for integration into regional ocean planning.

Action 1: Monitor marine commerce trends and traffic patterns to identify and address emerging commerce and navigation needs.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

Action 2: Maintain reliable ocean use data sets relevant to navigation.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

Action 3: Catalogue intersections between entities whose authorities influence marine commerce and navigation and identify opportunities for improved coordination.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

Action 4: Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion.

Lead entities: U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Transportation

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Offshore Sand Management - 1

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 1: Promote strategic stakeholder engagement and regional partnering initiatives

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- Add Tribes to step B

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Sand Management – 2 and 3

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 2: Develop a comprehensive inventory of sand resources to support planned and future restoration and resilience projects, provide availability for emergency use, and manage competing use challenges.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Action 3: Conduct studies to support sustainable management of offshore sand resources.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- Identify habitat value

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Offshore Sand Management 4 and 5

Objective: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Action 4: Identify and improve existing state/federal interactions and cooperative agreements in the Mid-Atlantic.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Action 5: Engage fishing communities in planning and environmental review of proposed activities.

Lead entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

- NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Objective 7: Account for the importance of near-shore 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).

Action 1: Identify, characterize, and share information about measures to maintain the recreational value of important non-consumptive recreational areas and the activities they sustain.

Lead entities: *New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Tribal Interests and Uses 1 – 3

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 1: Identify, review and, if appropriate, recommend updates to tribal consultation policies as they pertain to ocean planning.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

Action 2: Develop tribal and agency 'marine planning' contact directories.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

Action 3: Work with Tribes to develop Tribal Ocean Planning Network (TOPN) to facilitate coordination between Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Tribes in the ocean planning process.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Tribal Interests and Uses - 4

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 4: Enhance understanding of Tribal rights

Lead entities: *To be determined*

- NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED

(To do: Clarify long-term location for housing data and information online (RPB website, Portal, etc.)

Tribal Interests and Uses - 5

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 5: Federal and state governments meet with Tribes to discuss issues related to tribal participation in regional ocean planning and management, including policy and technical matters and grant opportunities.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Tribal Interests and Uses – 6

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 6: Account for historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Lead entities: *To be determined*

- Cross reference with other mentions of NHPA in the plan(?)
- Tribal consultation guidelines from the Northeast plan could be referenced here and incorporated as an appendix to the plan

Tribal Interests and Uses - 7

Objective: Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

Action 7: Identify and address data gaps pertaining to tribal use of the ocean.

Lead entities: *To be determined*

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Undersea Infrastructure – 1 and 2

Objective: Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure, such as submarine cables, (e.g., for communication and electricity) and pipelines.

Action 1: Engage the submerged pipelines and submarine cables industries to understand their current and projected needs for ocean space, and conduct an inventory of obsolete structures.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

Action 2: Ensure early consultation with relevant undersea infrastructure interests in the regulatory review of marine development projects.

Lead RPB entities: All RPB member entities

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Actions Related to the Data Portal – 1 through 3

Action 1: Develop and implement a plan to sustain Data Portal operations and maintenance.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

Action 2: Maintain operational components including web services, data development and integration, outreach, content creation, management, and web maintenance.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

Action 3: Continue to engage in agency outreach and public engagement to enhance data and functionality to effectively support decisions related to ocean management as needed.

Lead entity: *To be determined*

- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

Actions related to Science and Research

Action 1: Identify and prioritize applied science and research needs

Lead entities: *To be determined*

- Add traditional knowledge holders

Meeting Material | March 22-24, 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

5.2 Application of OAP Under Existing Authorities

Action 2: Evaluate management options under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Lead RPB Entities: NOAA and Mid-Atlantic states

- Include in OAP continued discussion about opportunities related to: 1) enhance federal notice to states and Tribes and 2) inform CZMA coastal effects determinations
- Discomfort expressed on: 3) streamline CZMA federal consistency requirements (remove?)

Draft ideas under RPB deliberation

5.3 Performance monitoring and evaluation

Action 1: Develop OAP performance monitoring and evaluation plan.

"The MidA RPB will track progress towards meeting established planning objectives and use the information gained to modify and adapt MidA RPB actions." – Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Lead RPB Entities: *To be determined*

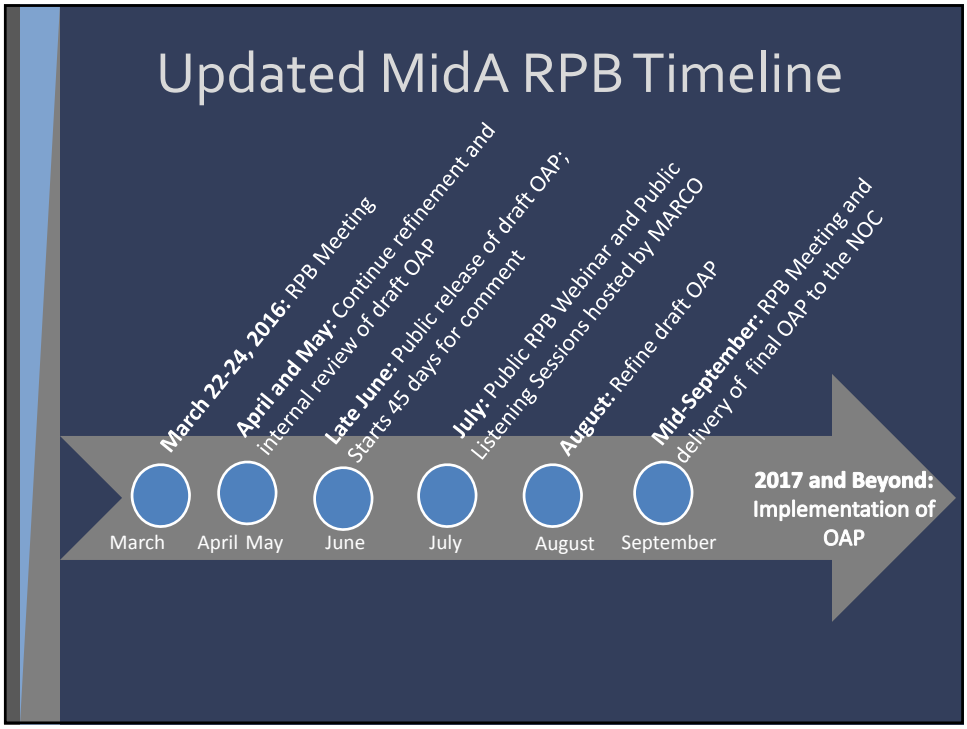
- **NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED**

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

March 22-24, 2016

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland


Updated MidA RPB Timeline
March 22-24, 2016: RPB Meeting
April and May: Continue refinement and internal review of draft OAP
Late June: Public release of draft OAP; Starts 45 days for comment
July: Public RPB Webinar and Public Listening Sessions hosted by MARCO
August: Refine draft OAP
Mid-September: RPB Meeting and delivery of final OAP to the NOC
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
2017 and Beyond: Implementation of OAP