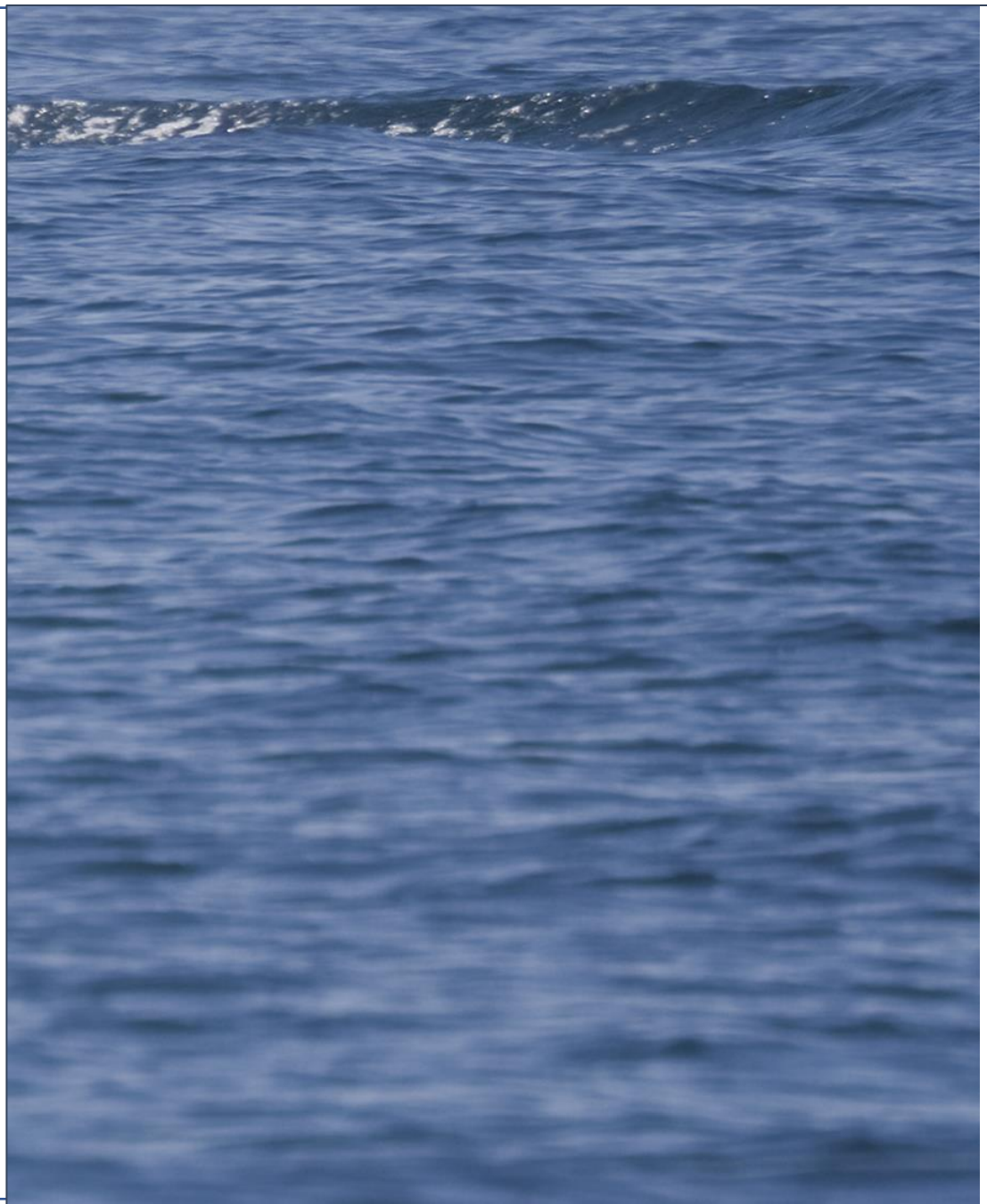


Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

**Regional Planning
Body (RPB) Meeting**

May 20-21, 2014

Charles Commons,
10 E. 33rd St
Baltimore, MD



Progress and Timeline

RPB Co-Leads:

Maureen A. Bornholdt, Department of the Interior

Gwynne Schultz, State of Maryland

Gerrod Smith, Shinnecock Indian Nation

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

RPB Progress Since September

- Draft Framework for Regional Ocean Planning
 - Developed and sought public input; revised based on input
- Public Listening Sessions for input on Draft Framework
 - Held in MD, DE, VA, NJ, and NY from February to April
- MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee
 - First met in March; provided input on Draft Framework
- Regional Ocean Assessment and Data Portal
- Charter

Proposed Process and Terminology



Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

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Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Douglas Pabst, Environmental Protection Agency

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Purpose of the Draft Framework

Guide the regional ocean planning process by proposing:

- An initial geographic focus
- A vision statement
- Principles
- Goals and associated objectives
- Example actions that could be taken to achieve the objectives
- Strategic document to guide our actions



Comment Period on the Draft Framework

- Draft Framework was posted for public comment on December 16, 2013
- In-person public listening sessions were held:
 1. February 24, 2014 – Annapolis, MD
 2. February 27, 2014 – Lewes, DE
 3. March 20, 2014 – Norfolk, VA
 4. March 27, 2014 – West Long Branch, NJ
 5. April 7, 2014 – Riverhead, NY
- Public comment period closed on April 15, 2014
- Approximately 170 members of the public attended the listening sessions and numerous written comments were received

Revising the Draft Framework

- All written and verbal public comments were reviewed and carefully considered by the RPB
- What follows are those comments that resulted in a suggested revision to the framework, as articulated in the Revised Draft Framework that was distributed as part of the meeting materials.

Revising the Draft Framework (cont.)

- Where feasible, modifications and additions were made to the document, especially for issues raised in multiple public comments
- To develop the latest draft, specific edits were facilitated by an internal workgroup working directly with the entire RPB to determine and integrate the revisions
- This RPB meeting provides an opportunity to discuss the Framework revisions, receive a final round of public comment, and approve the final Framework

Themes of Public Comments on the Draft Framework

- Estuaries and bays should be accounted for appropriately in regional ocean planning by the RPB
- Additionally, the RPB should coordinate with entities managing those water bodies as appropriate
- The RPB should develop an ocean plan and/or document its regional ocean planning process
- Clarify several terms and phrases used in the Draft Framework to facilitate consistent understanding with members of the public

Public Comments on the Ocean Planning Process

- Coordinate, cross-pollinate, and learn lessons from other regions that are also embarking on regional ocean planning and reach out to and engage other state and federal agencies and local governments who are engaging in ongoing planning efforts
- Clarify that the goals and objectives are considered of equal weight

Public Comments on the Ocean Planning Process

- Engage and communicate with stakeholders regularly by reaching out to them, soliciting their input, and providing information on the RPB's activities, documents, and actions
- Examine and account for the cumulative impacts of multiple projects in regional ocean planning
- Incorporate the value of nature and ecosystem services in both the planning and decision-making processes

Revised Draft Framework Edits

Revised Introductory Paragraph:

- Public comments recommended adding a sentence to the introductory paragraph to provide clarification on the overarching purpose of the ocean planning process

“At its core, regional ocean planning aims to achieve better coordination and collaboration between the numerous governmental agencies with existing management authority over our nation’s ocean and coastal resources to strengthen ocean governance and decision-making to ensure healthy, productive, and resilient marine ecosystems for this and future generations.”

Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

About Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

- Public comments noted the need to further describe the regional ocean planning process in the first paragraph, while also highlighting the importance of stakeholder engagement to regional ocean planning
- Public comments recommended adding scientific understanding and traditional knowledge to the first bullet to better align with the goals and objectives
- Added a statement that the RPB will develop a regional ocean action plan

Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Role of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body:

- Public comments recommended using an iterative and adaptive approach to regional ocean planning
 - A sentence was added to the first paragraph to address these comments
- Changes to the second and third bullets were recommended for clarification purposes



Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Description of Initial Geographic Focus:

- Public comments recommended clarifying the RPB's intention to coordinate with bays and estuaries in the geographic focus
- Verbiage was added to highlight that the RPB will draw connections and coordinate closely with entities responsible for bays and estuaries



Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Principles:

- Public comments recommended adding a principle on economic value
- To address numerous public comments, “sound science” was replaced with “best available science”
- Public comments also recommended the removal of the numbering of the principles

Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Principles:

- Public comments also recommended two separate principles for transparency and engagement. The revised principles are as follows:
 - Transparency: RPB products and information about processes will be made available to all interested parties in clear and accessible formats.
 - Engagement: The RPB will seek meaningful stakeholder and public input in the regional planning process using multi-faceted tools to encourage public participation and understand expressed needs.

Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Goals and Objectives:

- Removed numbering
- Goals are now entitled:
*Healthy Ocean Ecosystem
and Sustainable Ocean Uses*



Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Draft Objectives:

- To address public comments, “discovering” was added to the first objective and replaced “key habitats” with “the ocean ecosystem”
- Added naturally occurring processes and changes to the first objective
- Added cultural resources and values to the third objective, Valuing Traditional Knowledge

Revised Draft Framework Edits (Cont.)

Sustainable Ocean Uses Draft Objectives:

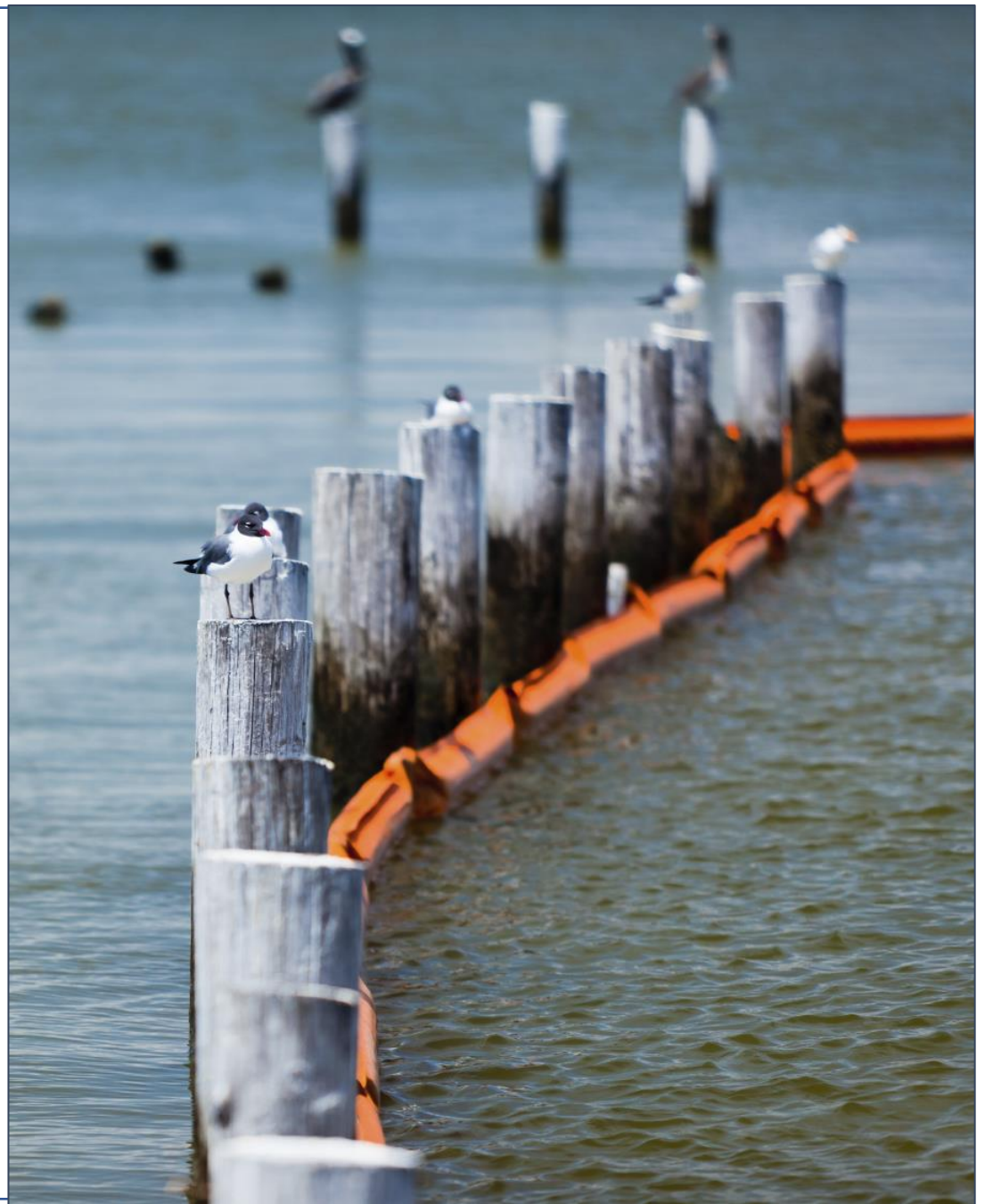
- Public comments recommended adding increased transparency to the National security objective
- The Offshore sand management objective was revised to address public comments on coastal adaptation and resilience planning
- Public comments recommended rewording the Non-consumptive recreation objective to highlight importance of and impacts on non-consumptive recreational uses

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The Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Renee Orr, Chief
Office of Strategic Resources
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
U.S. Department of the Interior

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

National Policy and BOEM's Mission

*“(T)he outer Continental Shelf is a **vital national resource reserve held by the Federal Government for the public**, which should be made available for **expeditious and orderly development**, subject to **environmental safeguards**, in a manner which is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs”*

**Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Sec 3(3)**

“Oversees development of the nation’s oil and gas, renewable energy and other mineral and energy resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.”

BOEM's Mission Statement

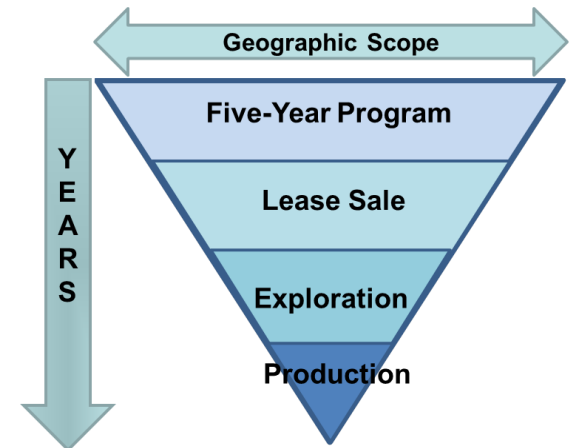
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

BOEM is responsible for development of the Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program

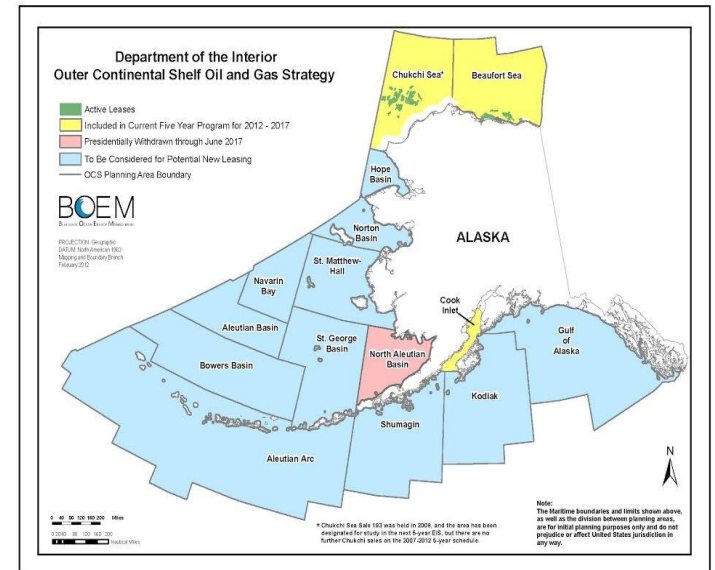
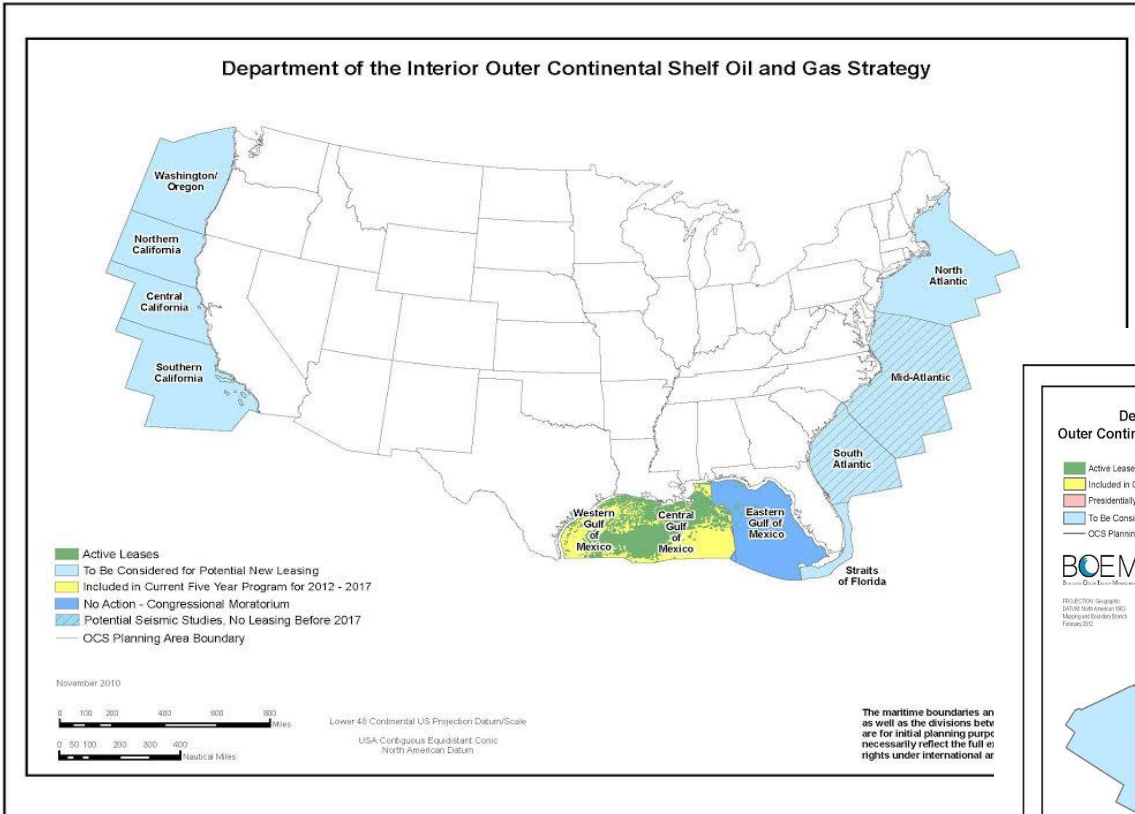
Foundational Oil and Gas Resource Management

Responsibilities:

- Assessing the oil, gas, and other mineral resource potential of the OCS
- Inventorying oil and gas reserves and developing production projections
- Economic evaluations and fiscal terms ensuring receipt of fair market value by U.S. taxpayers for OCS leases
- Planning, conducting, and executing individual oil and gas lease sales
- Reviewing and Approving Exploration and Development Plans
- Official Leasing Maps/Marine Cadastre

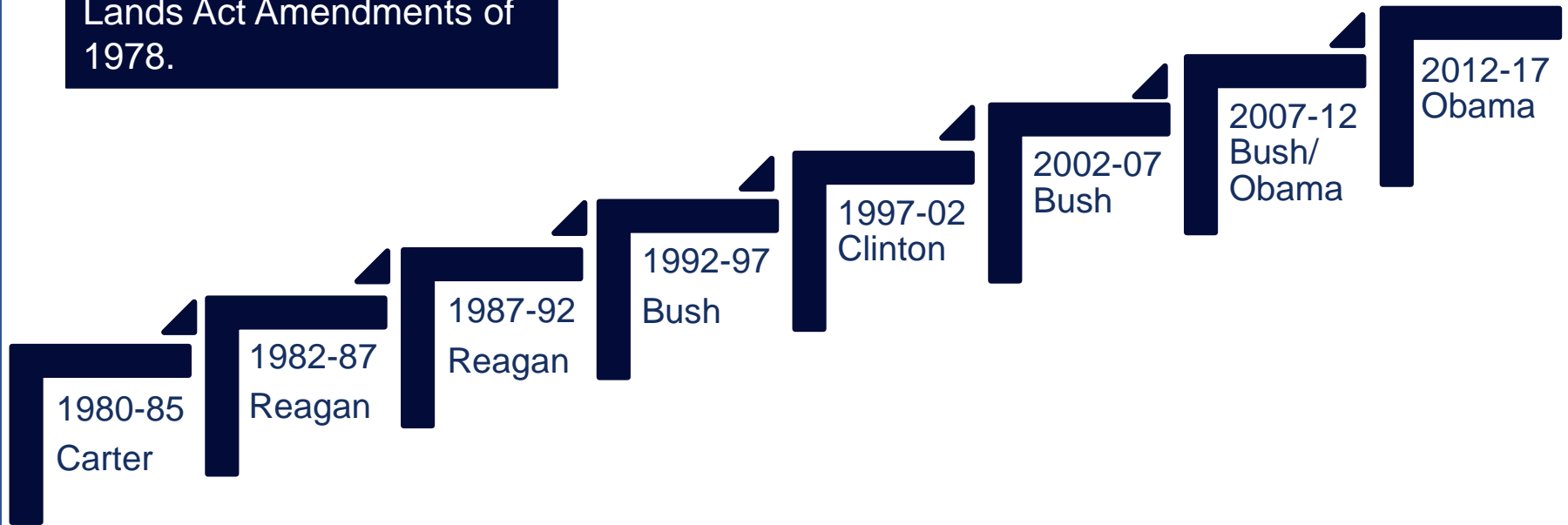


Current Leasing Status for the OCS Planning Areas



History of OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Programs

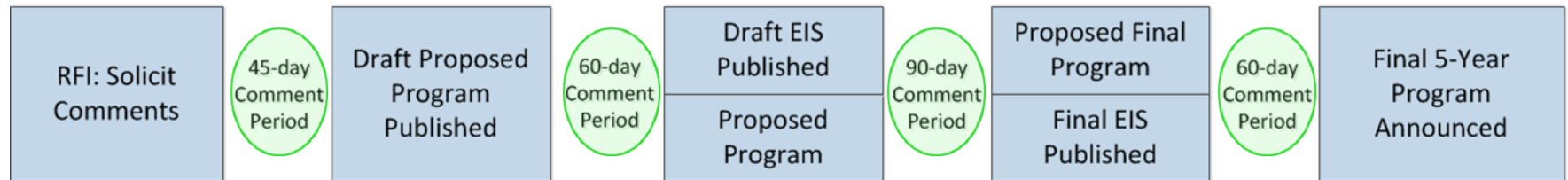
The current Program is the eighth Five Year Program since passage of the OCS Lands Act Amendments of 1978.



July 2007 Bush Program remanded by Court.
Obama Revised Program December 2010.

Leasing, Exploration & Development Processes

Develop 5-Year Program



- Incorporated approach: regulatory process and environmental analysis/review
- Request for Information (Summer 2014)
- **BOEM sees stakeholder and public engagement as a critical component of the leasing program**
- PEIS is developed for consideration by the Secretary of Interior in making Five-Year Program decisions and analyzes environmental impacts on a national scale.
- Comparatively analyzes impacts at a general level for size, timing, and location alternatives considered in the Five-Year Program
- Program Approval (new program in place prior to expiration of current program)

Stakeholder Engagement

- Opportunities for stakeholder and public engagement are built into the process at each stage
 - Comments are solicited in the environmental review process and the regulatory programs.
 - Comments are accepted online
 - BOEM interacts with stakeholders and partners in State, local and tribal governments
 - Taskforce and small community meetings are conducted on specific issues.



Input in the Leasing Process

- OCSLA
 - Local governments can provide comments on the leasing process independently or through the State Governors.
 - Comments submitted through State Governors carry more weight in the OCSLA processes.
- National Environmental Policy Act & Other Environmental Statutes
 - All public comments are carefully reviewed and considered equally under NEPA.
 - BOEM also receives input on programmatic issues and environmental analysis via consultations as required by the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammals Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other laws.
- Tribal & Native Community Consultations
 - NHPA Section 106 - potential impacts to historic properties, including tribal considerations
 - Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites

Mid- and South Atlantic G&G PEIS and Seismic

- The PEIS establishes a framework for subsequent environmental documents for site-specific actions while identifying and analyzing appropriate mitigation measures to be used during future G&G activities on the Mid- and South Atlantic OCS.
- The area evaluated in the Final Programmatic EIS includes the Mid-and South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf area and adjacent State waters.
- Mid/South Atlantic Geological and Geophysical PEIS was published March 7, 2014
- Public comments received from the 60-day review period will be summarized and incorporated into the ROD.
- Decisions on requirements and whether to allow oil/gas seismic surveys follow
 - If approved, surveys could begin in late 2014 (after site-specific environmental evaluation) and may take six months to a year to complete

Update on Offshore Renewable Energy

Maureen A. Bornholdt

Renewable Energy Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
U.S. Department of the Interior

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Dept. of the Interior, BOEM

- Oversees development of the nation's oil and gas, renewable energy, and other mineral and energy resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

Offshore Wind Authorization Process

- Stage 1: Planning and Analysis
- Stage 2: Leasing
- Stage 3: Site Assessment
- Stage 4: Construction and Operations

Stage 1: Planning & Analysis

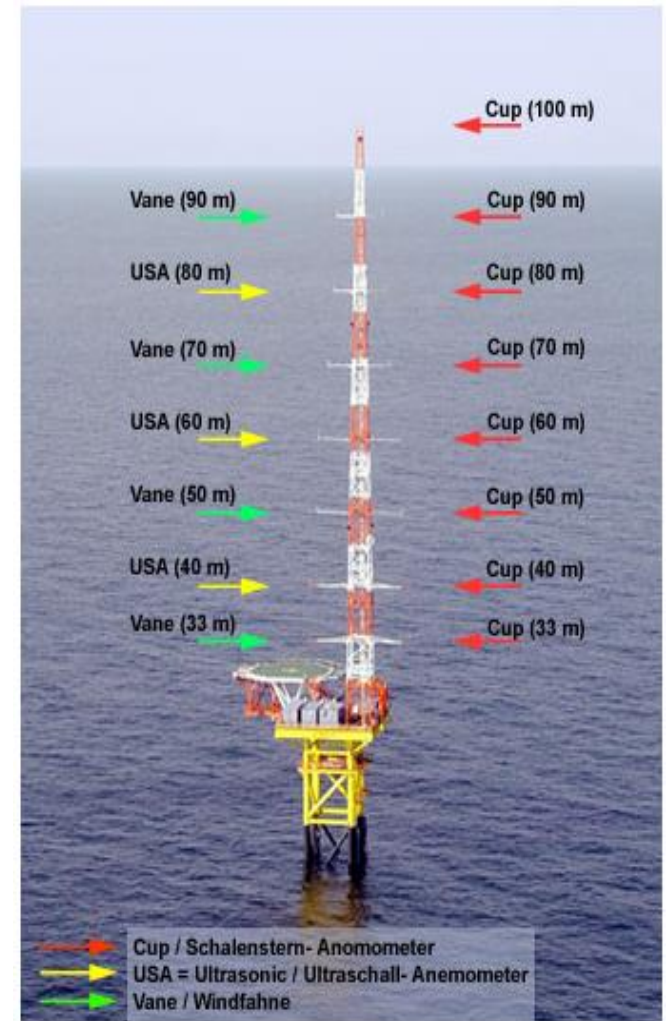
- Establish Intergovernmental Task Force, engage stakeholders
- Publish a Request for Information (RFI) / Call for Information and Nominations (Call)
- Announce Area Identification
- Conduct environmental compliance reviews

Stage 2: Leasing

- Publish leasing notices
 - Determination of No Competitive Interest (Noncompetitive)
 - Proposed and Final Sale Notices (Competitive)
- Issue Lease(s)
 - After environmental reviews are complete
 - Conveys right to submit plans for BOEM's approval
 - Negotiate with single developer (Noncompetitive)
 - Hold lease sale (Competitive)

Stage 3: Site Characterization and Assessment

- Lessee conducts surveys in the lease area (site characterization)
- If lessee intends to install a meteorological tower or buoy, it must submit a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) (site assessment) that BOEM must approve
- Lessee has up to 5 years to conduct these activities

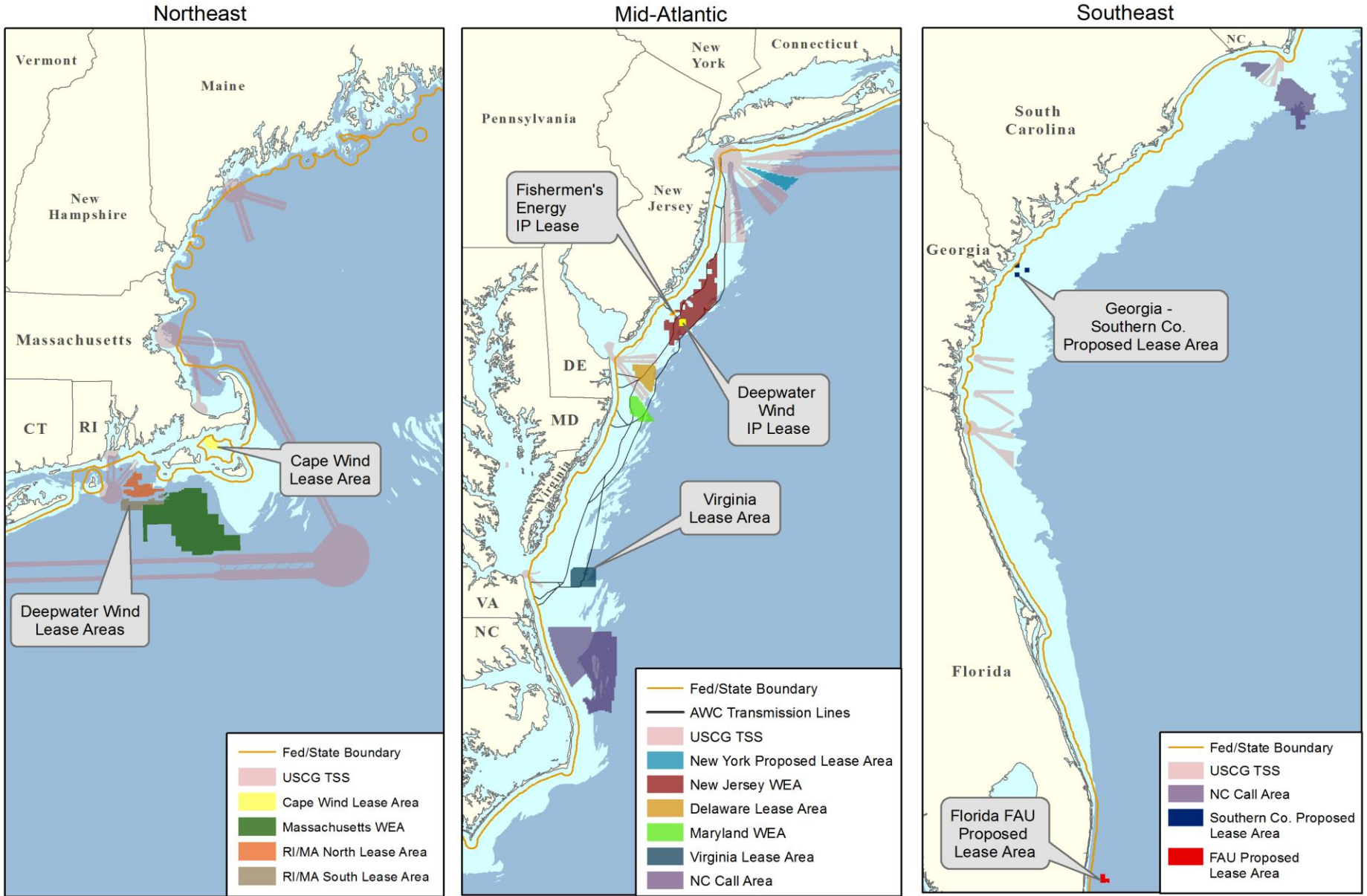


Stage 4: Commercial Development

- Lessee must submit a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) in the first five years of the lease that BOEM must approve
- COP provides details of the proposed project (turbine layout, size, etc.)
- Operations term is typically 25 years

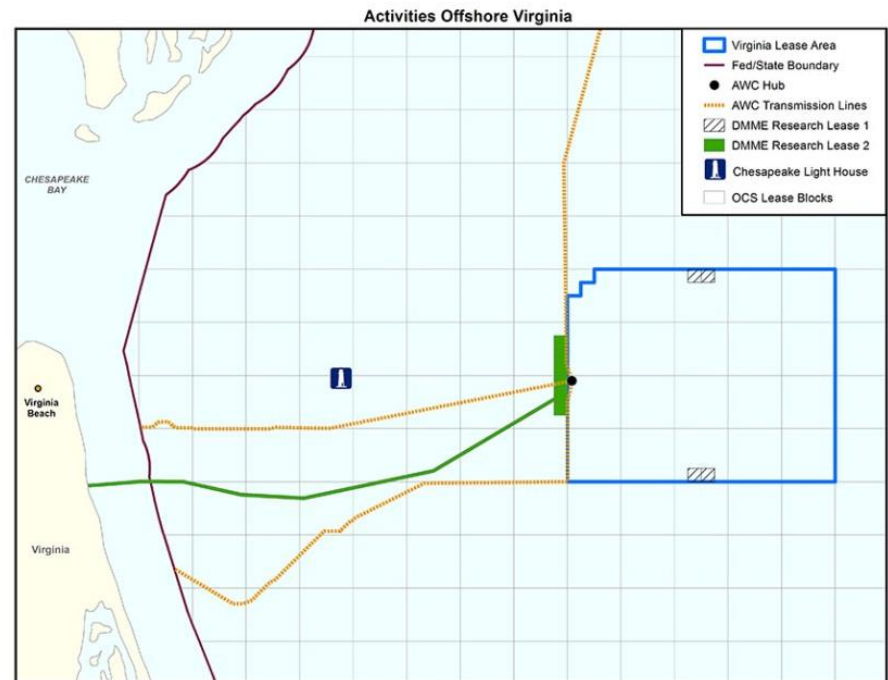
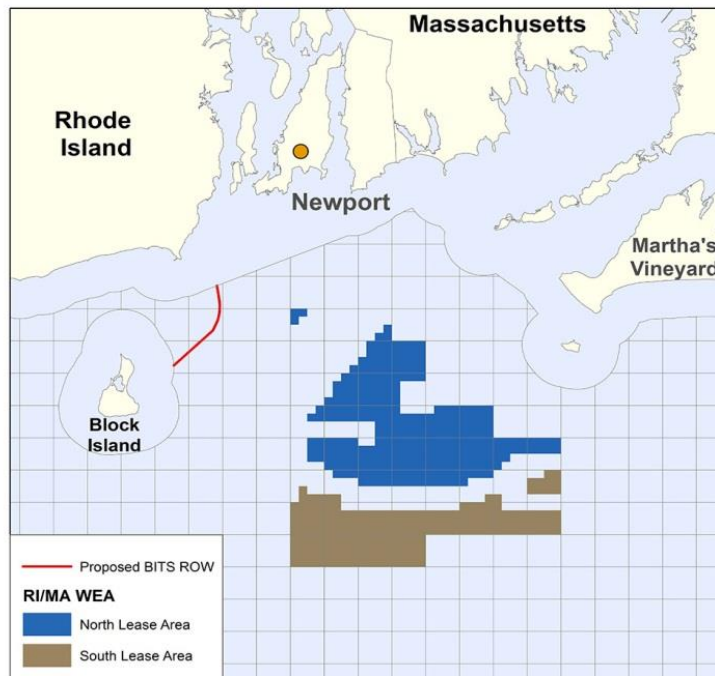


Atlantic OCS Renewable Energy - Massachusetts to Florida



Offshore Wind Lease Sales

- BOEM held its first two offshore wind lease sales in 2013:
 - Rhode Island/Massachusetts - 2 leases issued to Deepwater Wind
 - Virginia - 1 lease issued to Dominion Virginia Power



NE Planning & Leasing Activities

- Recent:
 - Maine – Application from StatOil withdrawn in November 2013.
 - Massachusetts – NREL completed assessment of options for wind leasing areas.
 - Rhode Island/Massachusetts - Held auction for commercial leasing for wind power in July 2013.
- Upcoming:
 - Publish Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for MA WEA.
 - RI/MA SAPs due April 2014, DWW has requested an extension.

Mid-Atlantic Planning and Leasing Activities

- **Recent:**

- New York - Published Request for Interest (RFI) in January 2013.
- New Jersey – NREL completed assessment of options for wind leasing areas.
- Delaware - Issued a commercial wind lease in Nov. 2012, received SAP in Nov. 2013.
- Maryland – Published PSN in Dec. 2013.
- Virginia -
 - Published DNCI for research lease area within VA commercial lease area in March 2013.
 - Held auction for commercial leasing for wind power off VA in Sept. 2013.
 - Published DNCI for research lease area outside VA commercial lease area in Dec. 2013, held EA scoping meeting in April 2014.
 - VA commercial lease SAP received from Dominion in May 2014.

MidA Planning & Leasing (cont'd)

- **Upcoming:**

- Publish Call for Information and Nominations (Call) for NY area.
- Publish PSN for NJ Wind Energy Area (WEA).
- Finish review of Delaware SAP and approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove.
- Publish Final Sale Notice (FSN) for MD WEA.
- Issue research leases for areas within and outside VA commercial lease area.
- Finish review of Dominion's SAP and approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove.

SE Planning & Leasing Activities

- Recent:
 - North Carolina - Published Call for areas offshore NC in Dec. 2012.
 - Georgia - Announced availability of Interim Policy (IP) lease Environmental Assessment (EA) for site assessment activities in April 2014.
 - Florida - Finalized an EA and reached Finding of No Significant Impact for MHK technology testing offshore Florida in Aug. 2013.
- Upcoming:
 - Issue IP lease to Florida Atlantic University for MHK technology testing offshore Florida.
 - Announce Area Identification establishing NC WEAs.
 - Finalize GA IP lease EA.

RPB Engagement Opportunities

- Dialogue to:
 - Increase understanding of each institution's ocean-based interests;
 - Identify multiple uses and other issues to address early in the process;
 - Work with state, federal, tribal partners; share information, leverage resources and data
- Task Force meetings
- NEPA scoping meetings and hearings
- *Federal Register* notices:
 - RFI; Notice of Proposed Lease Area and Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI); Call; PSN
 - Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a NEPA document; draft NEPA document

Goal: Achieve efficient, safe, and environmentally sound ocean energy development.

Enhanced Efficiencies

- By engaging in BOEM's leasing process, the RPB membership can:
 - Provide a regional perspective to all four stages of the leasing process;
 - Engage federal, state, and other entities in long-term resource planning;
 - Facilitate site selection through stakeholder coordination;
 - Promote issue identification and mitigation of potential impacts;
 - Collaborate on the use of scientific research and information; and
 - Enhance environmental monitoring and mitigation strategies

Questions?

- Thank you!
- Maureen A. Bornholdt
 - maureen.bornholdt@boem.gov
 - 703-787-1300



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Habitat-related Activities in the Mid-Atlantic

Mary C. Boatman, Ph.D.

Environmental Studies Chief

Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Department of the Interior

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Studies Overview

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Environmental Studies Program
- 40 years along the Atlantic
- ~\$26 Million in past 5 years
- Baseline Information
- Targeted studies to inform decisions

Bird Distributions



data.noaa.gov

DATA CATALOG (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)

Organizations / National Oceanic and ... / Atlantic Offshore Seabird ...

Dataset Activity Stream Related

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and... read more

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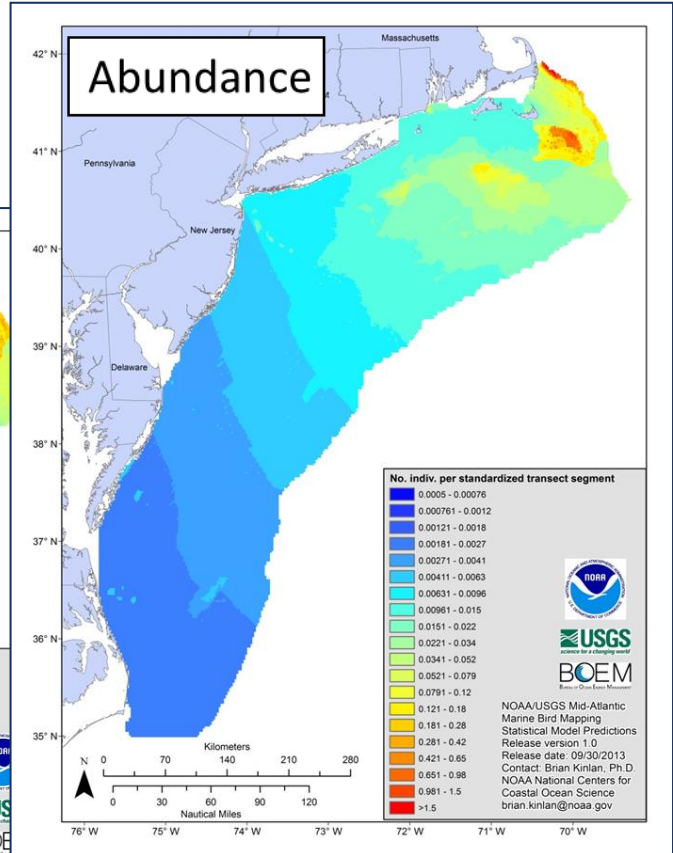
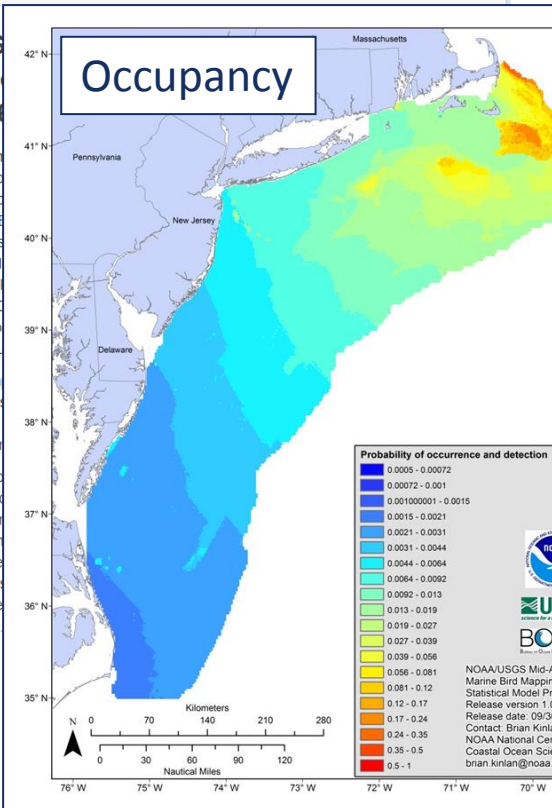
Dataset extent

Atlantic Offshore Seabird Coast and Outer Continental Shelf Accession 011535

Several bureaus within the Department of Commerce have collected datasets from the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf research and informing coastal and Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Stewardship/Environmental-Studies (USFWS) Division of Migratory Bird Survey's (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Atlantic Offshore Seabird Dataset that have been collected across several datasets from 1906-2013 with about

The data archived at NODC is complete observation records. This archive is where the scientific design was not National Audubon Society's Christmas

The full archive of scientific data collected. Each observation record has a unique ID. There may also be biological information survey effort information (i.e. weather) but was more often recorded at the dataset contains data primarily for bird sightings and were not discarded other boats, fishing gear and trash



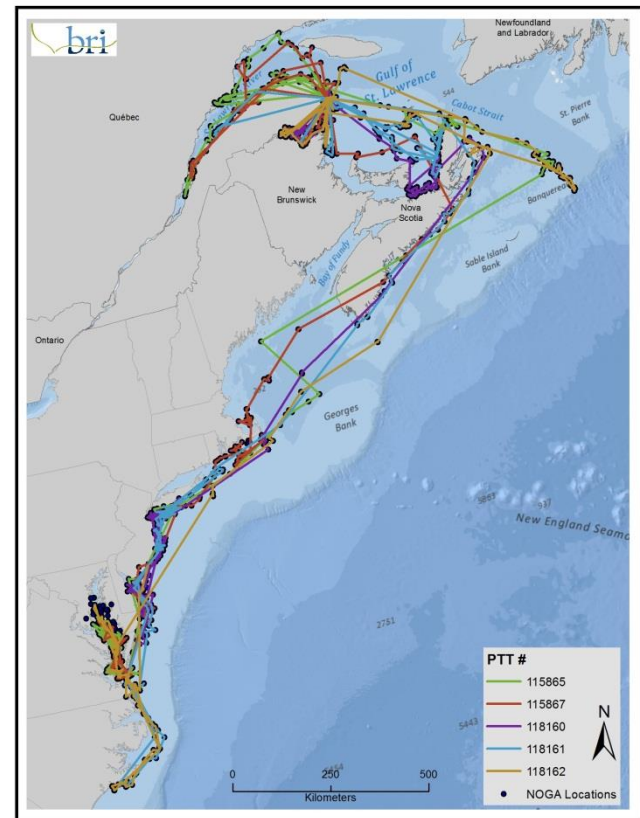
Fulmar



Tracking Diving Birds



Northern Gannett Tracking



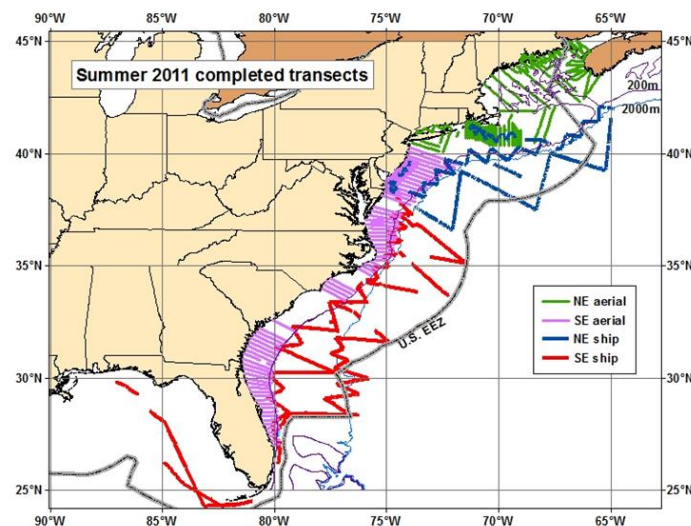
Marine Mammals, Turtles, Birds

Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (AMAPPS)

Quarterly collect distribution and abundance data via visual shipboard, aerial and acoustic surveys

Tag turtles, seals and seabirds to correct visual abundance data for animals not seen

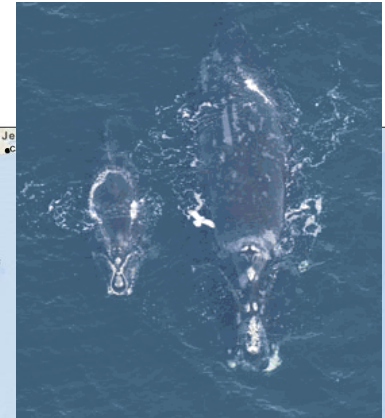
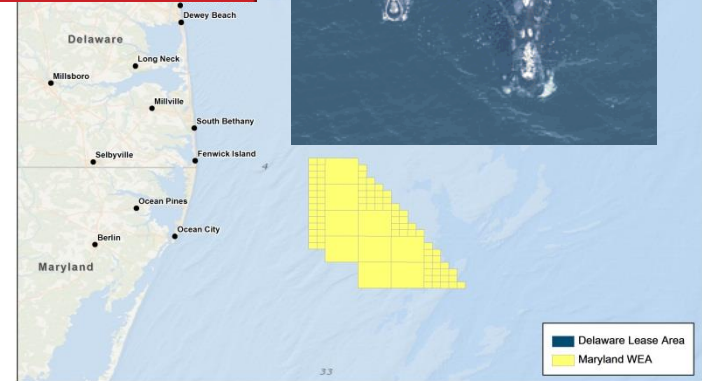
Incorporate habitat characteristics to model seasonal, spatially-explicit density estimates



Passive Acoustic Monitoring



MARU's - Cornell Bioacoustics Research Program



Graphic: Michael A Thompson

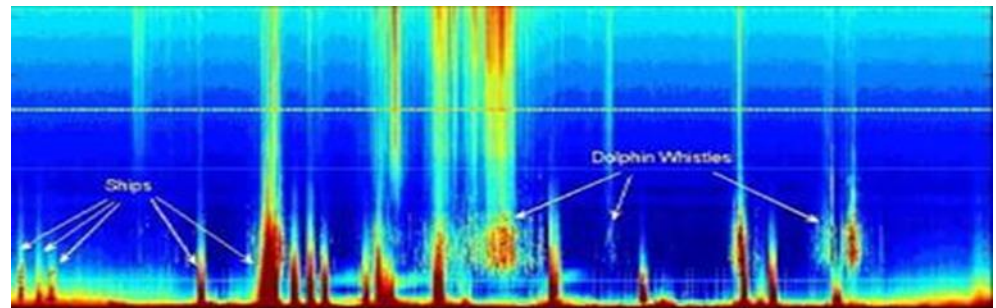
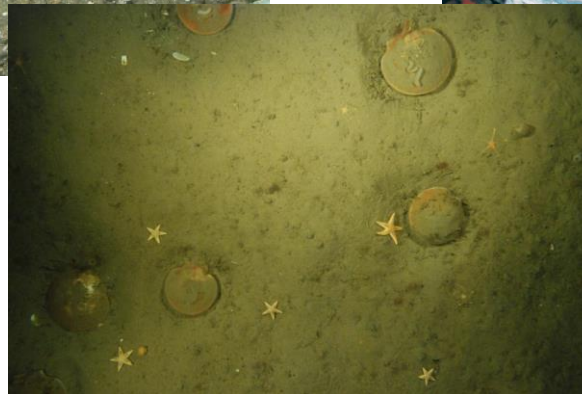
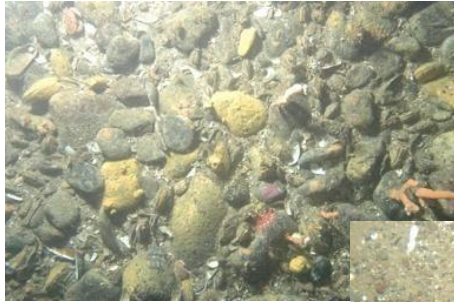


Image by Dr. John Hildebrand, Scripps Institute of Oceanography

Fish Habitat

Fishery Physical Habitat and Epibenthic Invertebrate Baseline Data Collection



Summary

- Collecting information about important species and habitats
- Partnering with states and other Federal agencies
- Addressing key questions to inform decisions about offshore wind siting and operations

www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy/

Report on NMFS Habitat Activities

Kevin Chu, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Overview

- Conservation of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Identification and Protection of Critical Habitat for Endangered Species
- Scientific Investigations of Ocean Ecosystems and their Components

Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act



Federal Agencies must consult with NOAA when actions could adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

- NOAA provides recommendations to Federal agencies on ways to conserve EFH.
- NOAA can also provide advice to states.
- Federal agency must provide a written response to NOAA within 30 days of receiving a recommendation.

Essential Fish Habitat Examples

- FERC/Hydropower – Fish Passage
- Wind Farms
- Non-conventional Hydrokinetic Power Generation
- Expansion Of Natural Gas and Electrical Lines
- Oil Or Natural Gas Transport Tankers and Pipelines
- Deepening Major Ports
- Installing Offshore Terminals
- Sand and Gravel Mining



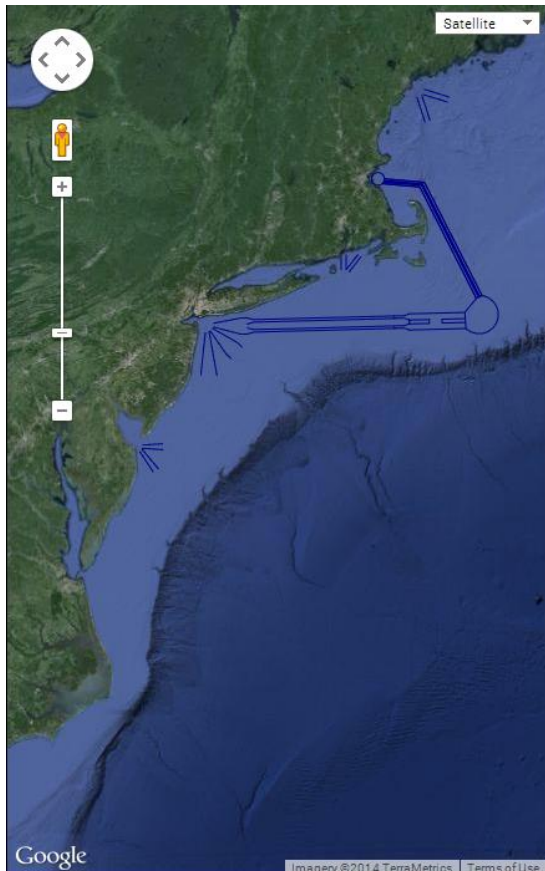
Key Federal Partners



- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- US Coast Guard
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- NOAA



Endangered Species Act Critical Habitat



- Specific areas where the species is found, if they contain physical or biological features essential to conservation
- Specific areas outside where the species is found, if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation.

Ecosystem Research at the NE Fisheries Science Center

- Monitor and assess living marine resources
 - Ecosystem approaches to fishery management
- Study changes in the ocean and responses to those changes
 - Warming trends
 - Acidification
- Understand habitat and ecology



A view from the NOAA Twin Otter aircraft as it flew over Cape Cod headed for the survey area on May 5. To learn more, visit the [NEFSC Field Science Blog](#). Photo credit: Christin Khan, NEFSC/NOAA

NEFSC Research Theme 1: Monitor and Assess Marine Populations and Ecosystems



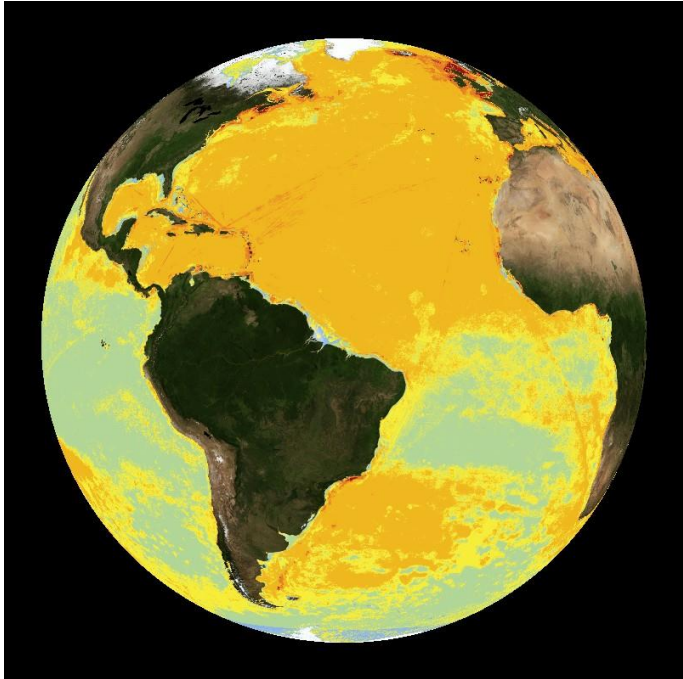
- Provide data and analysis to support fisheries management and endangered species conservation
- Support ecosystem approaches to fishery management
- Investigate integrated ecosystem assessments

Research Theme 2: Understand effects of environmental change on marine ecosystems and human communities



- Understand ecological interactions
- Study effects of human-induced and natural changes on marine ecosystems
- Forecast effects of change on marine life and human communities

Research Theme 3: Understand the Role of Habitat



- Assess the importance of specific habitat types
- Evaluate impacts of human activities
- Support marine and coastal planning



Research in support of Sustainable Aquaculture



- Developing integrated multi-trophic culture techniques

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council: Habitat Activities

Michael Luisi

Director, Estuarine and Marine Fisheries Division

Maryland DNR / MAFMC



MID-ATLANTIC | FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

May 20, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
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Overview of Talk

- Council Vision
- Current Council Habitat Activities
 - Deep Sea Corals
 - EFH Updates
 - EAFM Initiatives
 - Other Habitat Activities



MID-ATLANTIC | FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Council Vision

- New Strategic Plan (2014-2018) now incorporates explicit Ecosystem and Habitat Objectives and Strategies
- <http://www.mafmc.org/strategic-plan/>



Council Vision

- "Healthy and productive marine ecosystems supporting thriving, sustainable marine fisheries that provide the greatest overall benefit to stakeholders."
- This requires habitat protection to maintain and/or enhance fish and ecosystem productivity



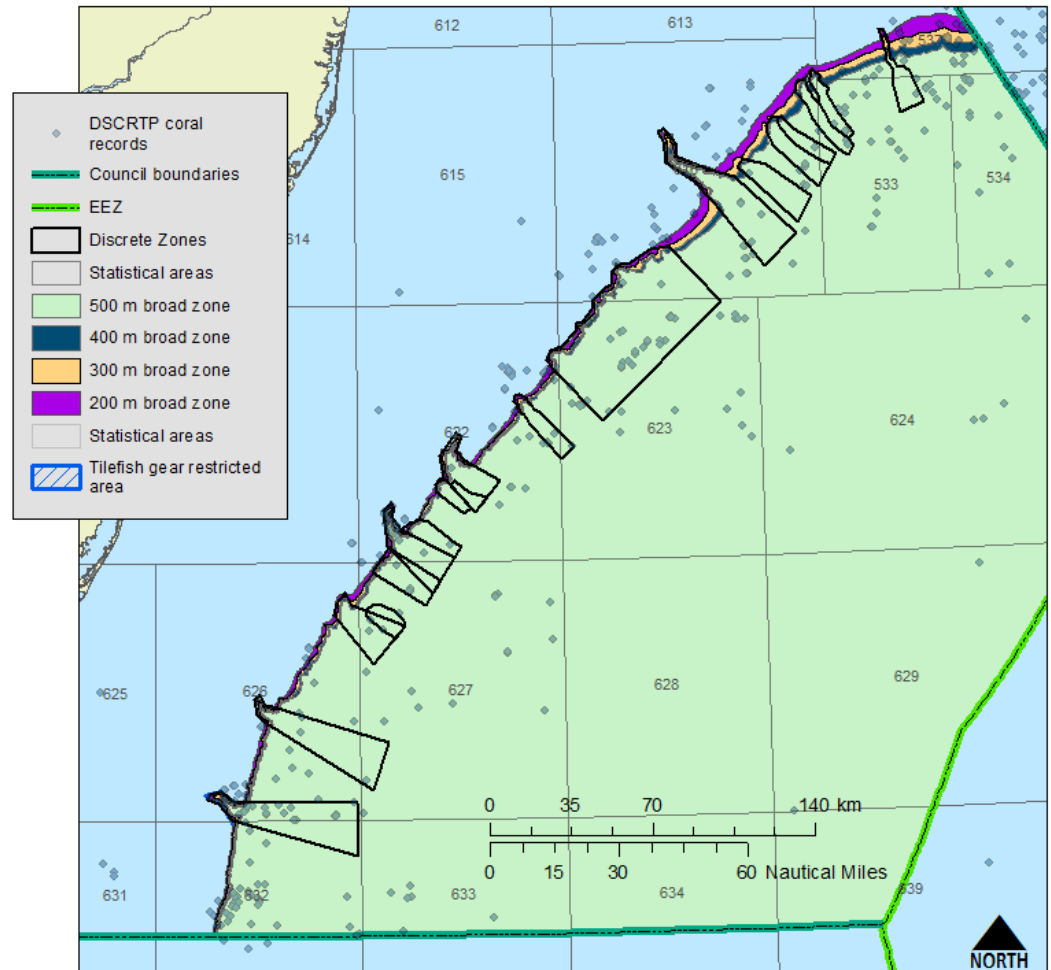
Deep Sea Corals

- Amendment 16 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Plan
- Magnuson-Stevens discretionary authority: "deep sea coral zones"
 - Added via 2007 reauthorization
 - Flexible provisions for protecting corals from fishing gear impacts



Deep Sea Corals

- Broad Coral Zones
 - Large areas excluding most current fishing effort
 - “Freeze the footprint of fishing”
- Discrete Coral Zones
 - Smaller areas
 - Areas of known/likely coral presence and hardbottom habitat
 - Individual canyons, slope areas



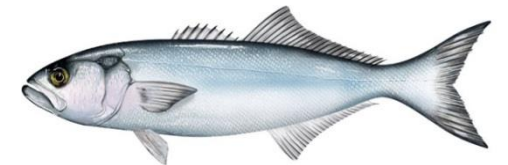
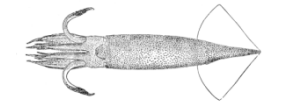
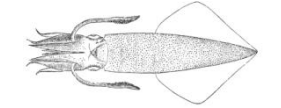
Deep Sea Corals

- Considering prohibitions on all bottom-tending gear or all mobile bottom-tending gear
- Incorporating results of recent research surveys in Mid-Atlantic + outputs from a deep sea coral habitat suitability model
- <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/msb/am16>



EFH Updates

- Council manages 13 species throughout their range
- Designates EFH (and optionally HAPCs) for all managed species life stages
- Periodically, review and updates designations to respond to best available science
- Ocean quahog and surfclam EFH updates are in the works in Am. 17
- Will begin addressing these across FMPs/species (more holistic approach)



EAFM Initiatives

- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Document
- Overarching guidelines/objectives that will drive actions across fishery management plans
- Will include guidelines/objectives in terms of addressing habitat issues
- Will also include a transition strategy for how to begin integrate aspects of this plan into the fisheries management process



Other Habitat Activities

- Ongoing discussion about a potential habitat pilot project with the Council and NOAA Fisheries Habitat Division to develop habitat objectives for Council
- Looking to expand the role of the Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee, related to habitat
- Staff engaged with habitat related partners - Chesapeake Bay Goal Implementation Team, BOEM, MARCO, MARACOOS, NOAA Marine Protected Areas, ASMFC Habitat Committee, National Habitat Partnership Program, etc.

Questions



Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning
Body (RPB) Meeting

May 20-21, 2014

Charles Commons,
10 E. 33rd St
Baltimore, MD

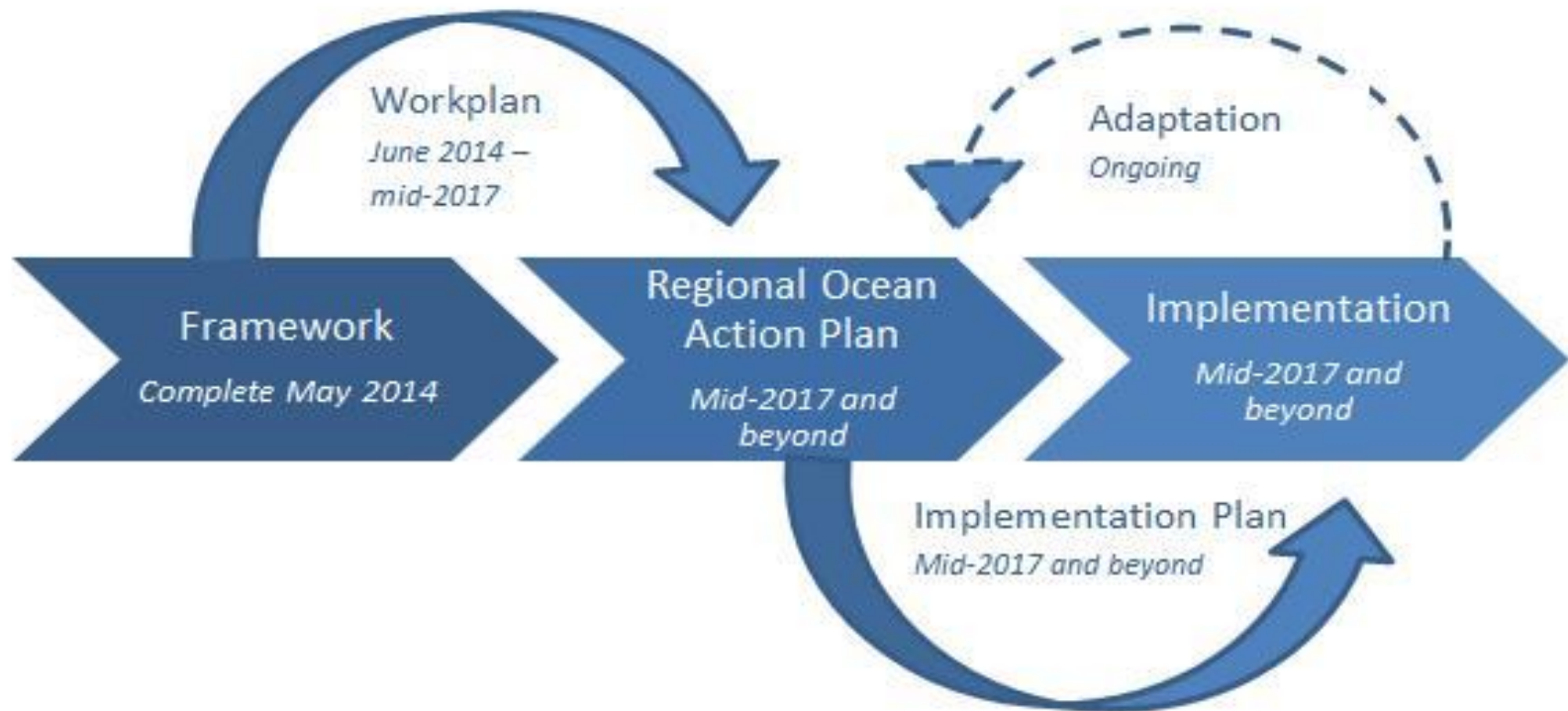


RPB Workplan

Maureen A. Bornholdt, Department of the Interior
Gwynne Schultz, State of Maryland

May 21, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Proposed Process and Terminology



Proposed RPB Timeline

2014:

Workplan Development

June 2014 to October/November 2014

- Workplan under development.
- Possible engagement with technical experts and stakeholders

October/November 2014

- Target for public release of a draft workplan.

Late November/Early December 2014

- RPB in-person public meeting to discuss and refine workplan and determine the nature and purpose of a regional ocean action plan.

2015 – 2016

Regional Ocean Action Plan Development

April/May 2015

- RPB meeting to discuss progress and workplan modifications.

Remainder of 2015 and 2016

- Development of regional ocean action plan and refinement of workplan as needed. In-person public RPB meetings could be held 2-3 times per year.

Mid-2017 and Beyond

Implementation and Adaptation

2017

- First iteration regional ocean action plan completed.
- Possible implementation plan is developed, and implementation is underway.

Note: Implementation means carrying out existing mandates and authorities in the context of and informed by a consensus-based regional ocean action plan, which is periodically updated by the RPB to account for new information/technology.

Continuous: Stakeholder Engagement, Data Collection/Sharing/Integration, and Refinement of Products and Processes

Purpose and Process

- The RPB workplan will:
 - contain actions, timelines, and capacities needed to develop a regional ocean action plan;
 - include other actions informed by the goals and objectives in the Framework; and
 - identify timeframes for upcoming RPB decisions and information needed to support those decisions.
- Content of the workplan will be developed by workgroup(s) composed of RPB members/alternates/staff and informed by stakeholder input.
- The workplan will be a living document that is updated, as needed,

Regional Ocean Action Plan Options

- A team of RPB members, alternates, and staff will provide the RPB with information about the nature and purpose of a first iteration of a regional ocean action plan.
- From June to November 2014, this team will:
 - Identify questions the RPB needs to consider in deciding what kind of plan to develop;
 - Gather information to help answer those questions;
 - Develop new ideas about the nature and purpose of an action plan that would meet the needs of the Mid-Atlantic region; and
 - Ensure key milestones for gathering information and RPB decision making are reflected appropriately in the workplan.

Connections to Estuaries, Bays, and Coast

- The interconnections between the ocean and the Mid-Atlantic estuaries, bays, and coastal lands are important and should be accounted for in ocean planning.
- A small RPB team will develop initial products that identify:
 - important and relevant connections between the ocean/estuaries/bays/coastal lands that the RPB should account for in ocean planning;
 - trends that will change these connections over time;
 - existing management entities that may need to be coordinated with; and
 - ideas for how technical advice on this question would be sought.

Inter-jurisdictional Coordination

- An aim of regional ocean planning is improved inter-jurisdictional coordination to support more informed and effective decision making.
 - RPB products (i.e., Regional Ocean Assessment, regional ocean action plan, etc.) will be tools to help.
 - RPB will identify specific processes and mechanisms to improve coordination, leverage resources, and make better decisions that benefit ocean users and ecosystem health – within their institutions' existing mandates and authorities.
- Groups of RPB members will initiate discussions on one or more topics that would benefit from enhanced coordination.



MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

Laura McKay, Virginia CZM Program, MARCO
Management Board, VA RPB Rep

Tony MacDonald, Monmouth University Urban Coast
Institute, Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Team

May 21, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/portal/>



LEARN

Understand the range of regional ocean planning needs.



EXPLORE

Access our current data and see future information needs.



VISUALIZE

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

7 Themes

MARCO

Help

Sign In / Register

DATA ACTIVE (6)

Administrative

Fishing

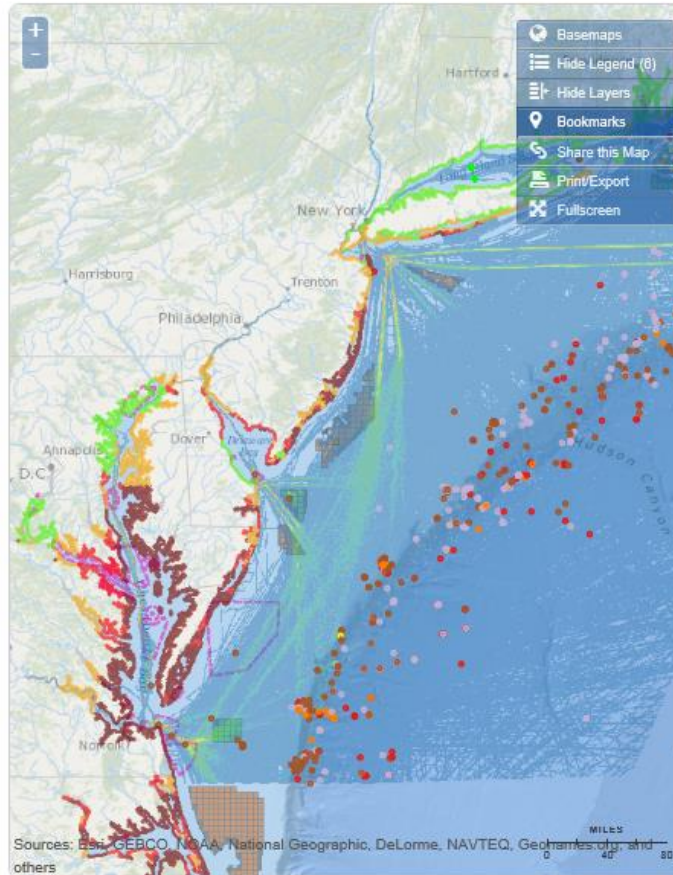
Marine Life

Maritime

Recreation

Renewable Energy

Security



LEGENDS (6)

Sea Level Rise Vulnerability

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

Coldwater Corals

- Lace Corals
- Black/Thorny Corals
- Soft Corals
- Gorgonians
- Hard Corals
- Sea Pens

Cargo Vessels

- km of tracks per cell
- | Level | Range |
|-------------|------------|
| Low | 0.01 - 0.5 |
| | 0.6 - 1 |
| | 1.1 - 2 |
| Medium | 2.1 - 3 |
| | 3.1 - 4 |
| | 4.1 - 6 |
| High | 6.1 - 8 |
| | 8.1 - 10 |
| | 10.1 - 25 |
| | 25.1 - 50 |
| 50.1 - 100 | |
| 100.1 - 436 | |

BOEM Wind Planning Areas

- BOEM Wind Planning Areas

BOEM Active Renewable Energy Lease Areas

- BOEM Active Renewable Energy Leases

Danger Zones & Restricted Areas

- Danger Zones and Restricted Areas

feedback

tour

Many Functions



Bookmark Function

Help

lauramckay

DATA DESIGNS ACTIVE (4)

Drawing

Step 1 of 2

Click the button below to begin drawing your polygon.

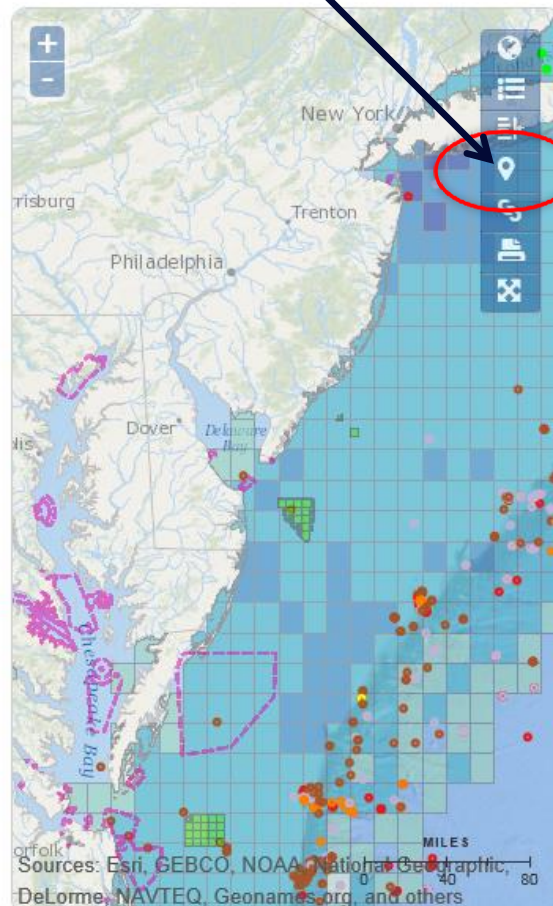
Draw Shape

Click on the map to add the points that make up your polygon.

Double-click to finish drawing.

Cancel

Next >



LEGENDS (4)

Danger Zones & Restricted Areas

Danger Zones and Restricted Areas

BOEM Active Renewable Lease Areas

BOEM Active Renewable Energy Leases

Coldwater Corals

- Lace Corals
- Black/Thorny Corals
- Soft Corals
- Gorgonians
- Hard Corals
- Sea Pens

Bottom Trawl

avg. # trips/year (2000-2009)

- Well below average (< 0.08 trips)
- Below average (0.08 - 0.5 trips)
- Average (0.5 - 30 trips)
- Above average (30 - 233 trips)
- Well above average (> 233 trips)

Data Priorities & Standards

Visualize Mid-Atlantic ocean
uses and resources

Launch Marine Planner >

Data Catalog

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

Explore Data Catalog

Data Priorities

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

Explore Data Priorities

External Resources

The External Resources page provides a directory of other selected data sources and mapping tools for ocean planning in the mid-Atlantic region.

Explore External Resources

Data Evaluation Criteria

This page provides summary information about the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Team's process for evaluation of potential new data (map layers).

Explore Criteria

Learn

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

Explore

- Data Catalog
- Data Priorities
- External Resources

Visualize

- Marine Planner
- Cartography
- Collaboration
- Interactivity

Adding Data & Functions to the Portal

1. Ongoing review of available data, data quality, and data gaps:

Monmouth Portal Team

MARCO Ocean Mapping & Data Team

2. Requests for inclusion of data:

MARCO Management Board

MARCO Ocean Mapping & Data Team

Mid Atlantic Regional Planning Body

MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee

3. Additional review of data quality, if needed:

Data Review Team

4. Approval to include data in portal:

MARCO Board

5. Update portal:

Monmouth Portal Team

MARCO Ocean Mapping & Data Team: Federal Reps

- **NOAA:** C. Caldow, D. Finch, V. Guida, S.Tuxbury
- **BOEM:** M. Boatman, B. Hooker, C. Taylor
- **USCG:** J. Walters, E. Benard, M. DeSautels
- **EPA:** B. Lobue, R. Searfoss
- **DOD:** TBD
- **DOE:** TBD
- **DOT/MarAd:** TBD
- **Dept Ag:** TBD



MARCO OMDT: Tribal/State MAFMC/Academia/NGO Reps

- **Shinnecocks:** TBD
- **NY:** J. Herter
- **NJ:** K. Hassell
- **DE:** C. Pinkerton
- **MD:** C. Cortina
- **VA:** L. McKay
- **MAFMC:** J. Armstrong
- **Monmouth:** T. MacDonald
- **Rutgers:** R. Lathrop
- **TNC:** J. Odell
- **MARACOOS:** E. Howlett, J. Kohut

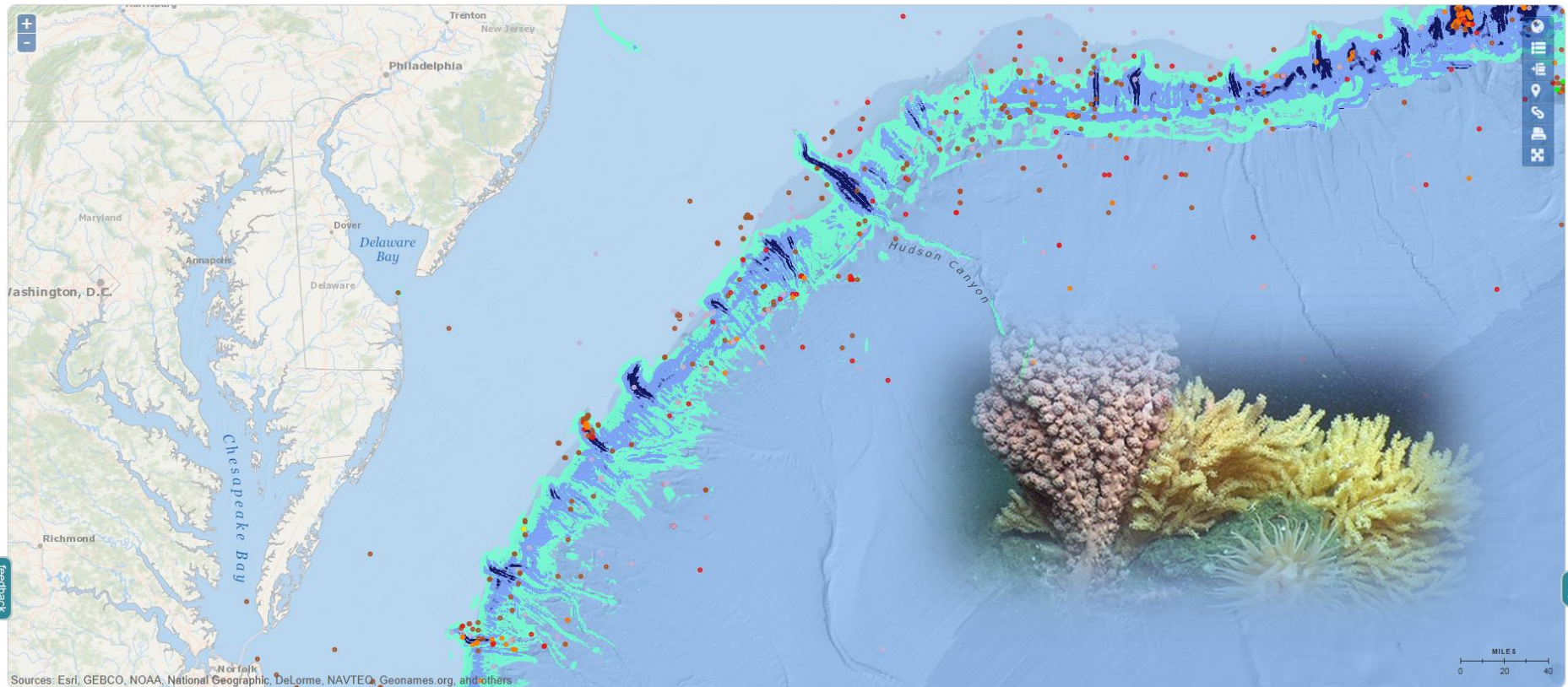


Recent Portal Data Development Activity

Deep-sea Coral Predictive Model

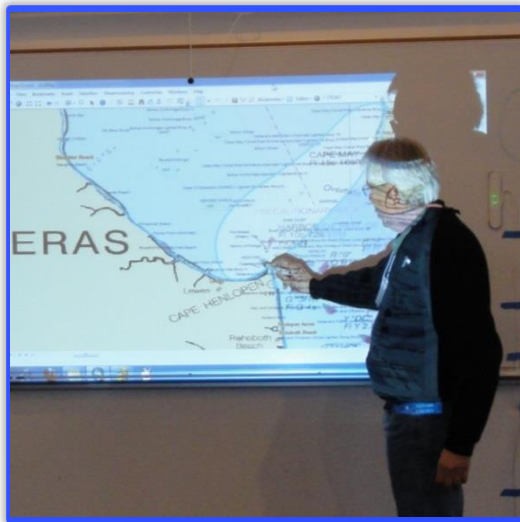
MARCO

Help Sign In / Register

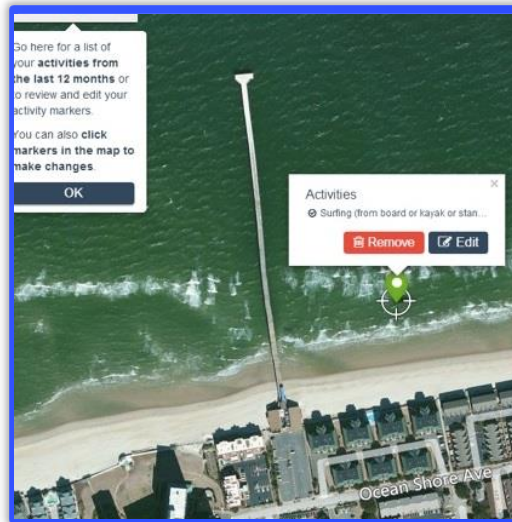


NOAA-NCCOS Contributed Data

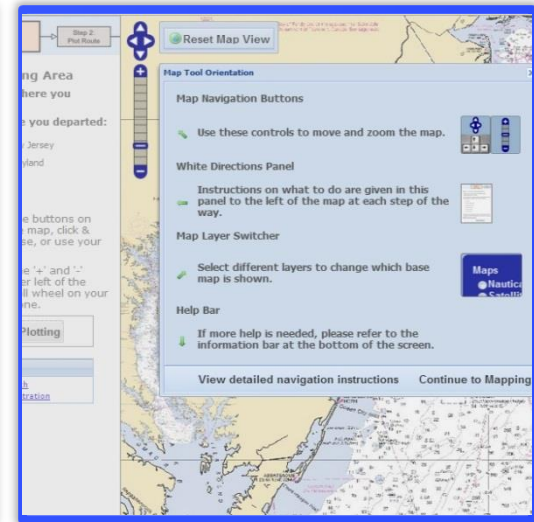
Recent Portal Data Development Activity: Recreational Data Integration



Participatory
Mapping
Workshops

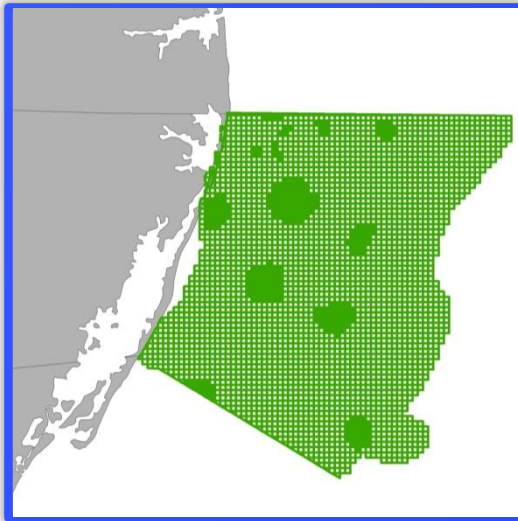


Surfrider
Online
Survey

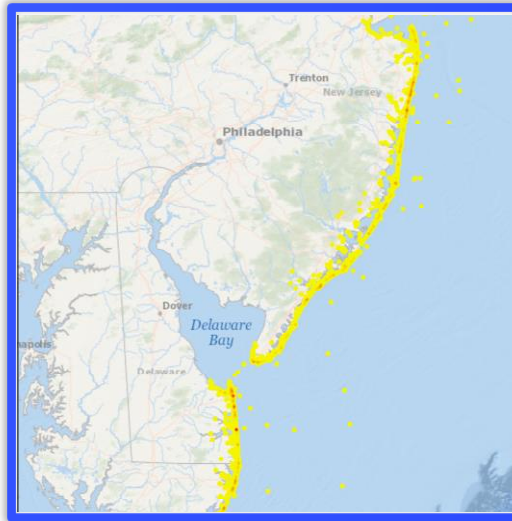


Recreational
Boater
Survey

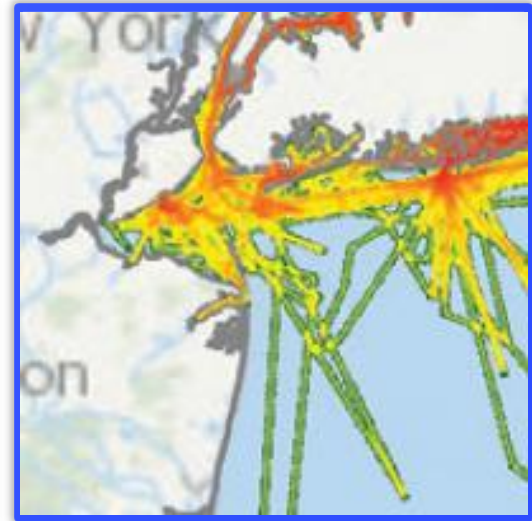
Recent Portal Data Development Activity: Recreational Data Integration



Participatory
Mapping
Workshops

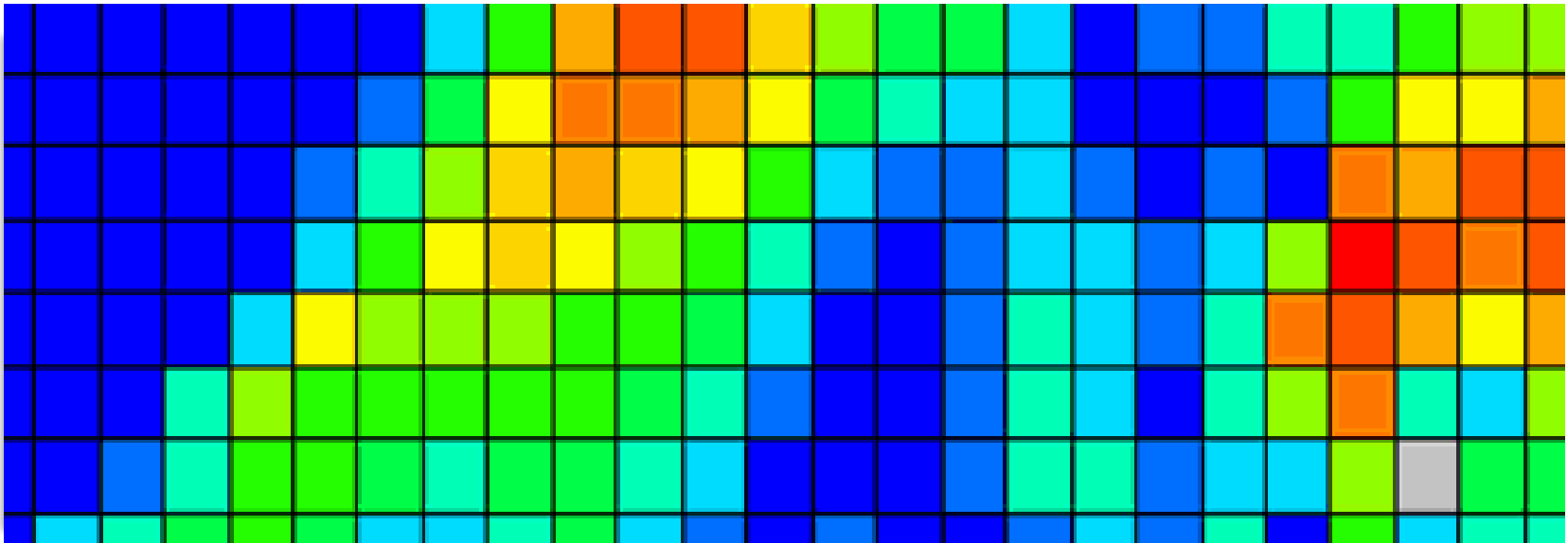


Surfrider
Survey



Recreational
Boater
Survey

Recent Portal Data Development Activity: Recreational Data Integration



Integrated layer at regional scale and
Individual surveys and detailed use categories
Expected addition to Portal in Fall 2014

Portal Interface Mockup for Recreational Data Selection and Display

Regional Activities

All Activities

Fishing

Hunting

Boating

Diving

Surface Water Sports

Wildlife Viewing and Sightseeing

Shore-based Activities


Recreational Use Surveys (2011-2013)


Participatory Mapping Workshops

Online Recreational Use Mapping

Online Boater Survey

Portal Interface for Recreational Data Selection and Display (2 of 2)

 Regional Activities

 Recreational Use Mapping

Participatory Mapping

Charter Diving

Charter Transport

Charter Party Cruise

Charter Fishing Large

Charter Fishing Small

Sailing

Recreational Shore Fishing

Recreational Shellfish Harvesting

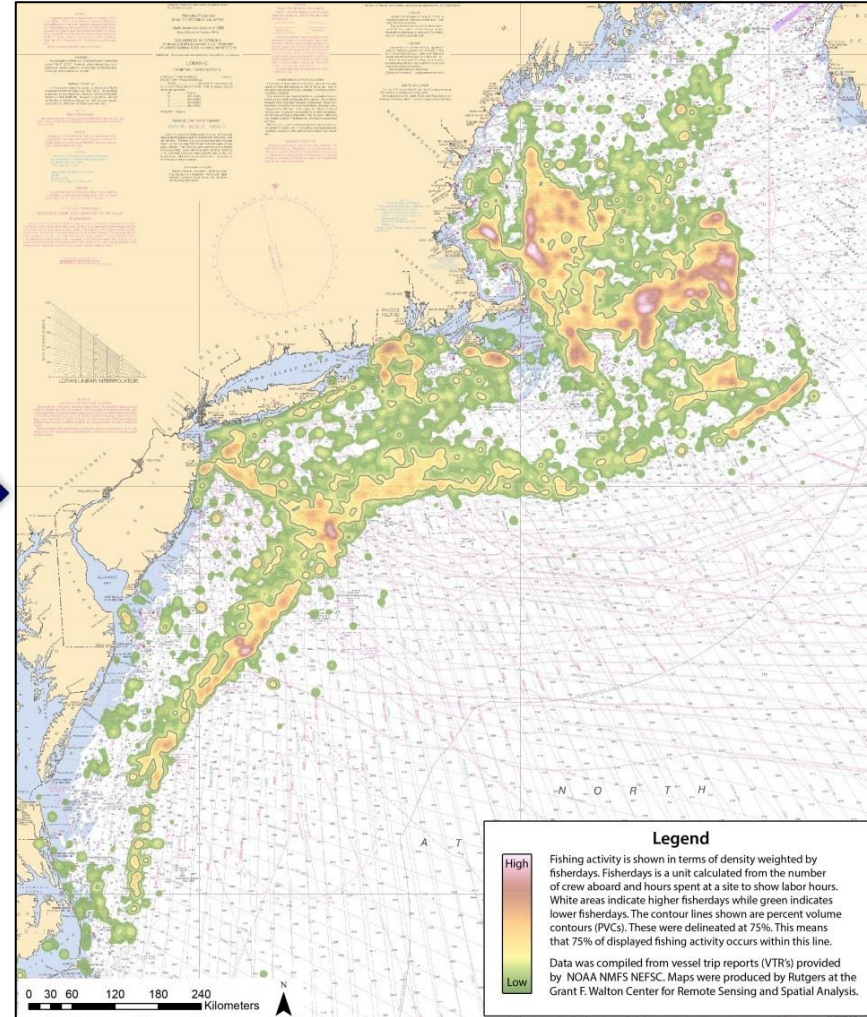
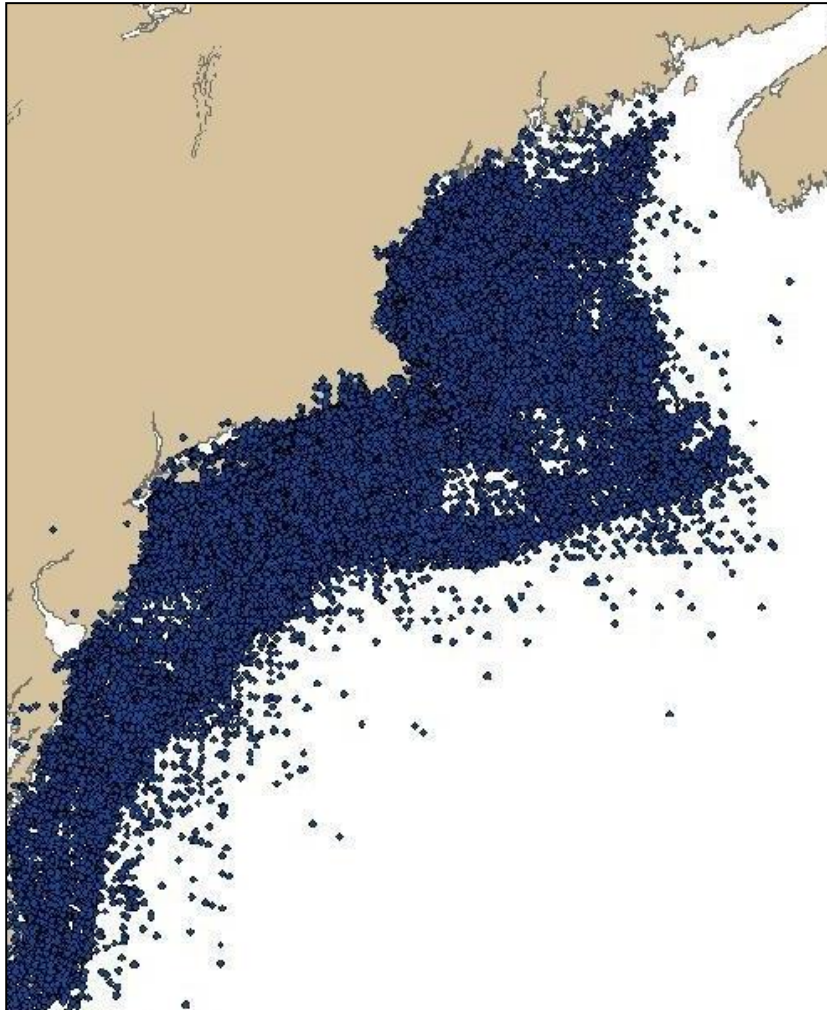
• • •

Online Recreation Survey

Online Boater Survey

Recent Portal Data Development Activity

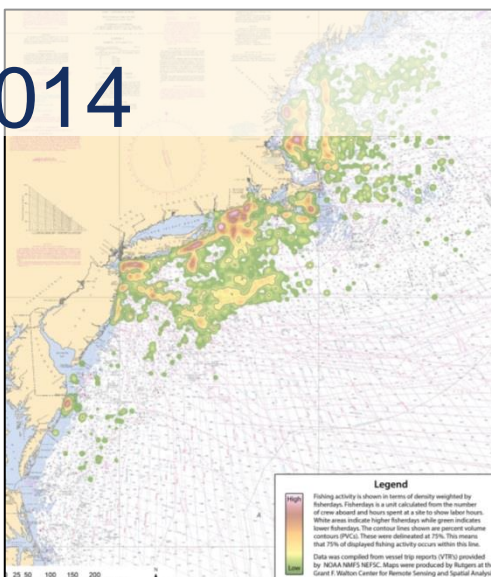
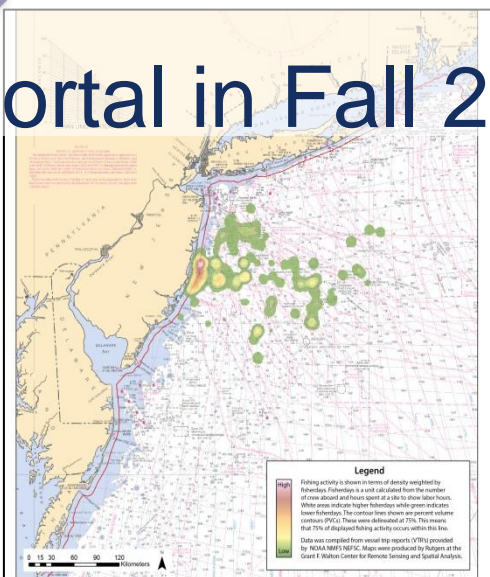
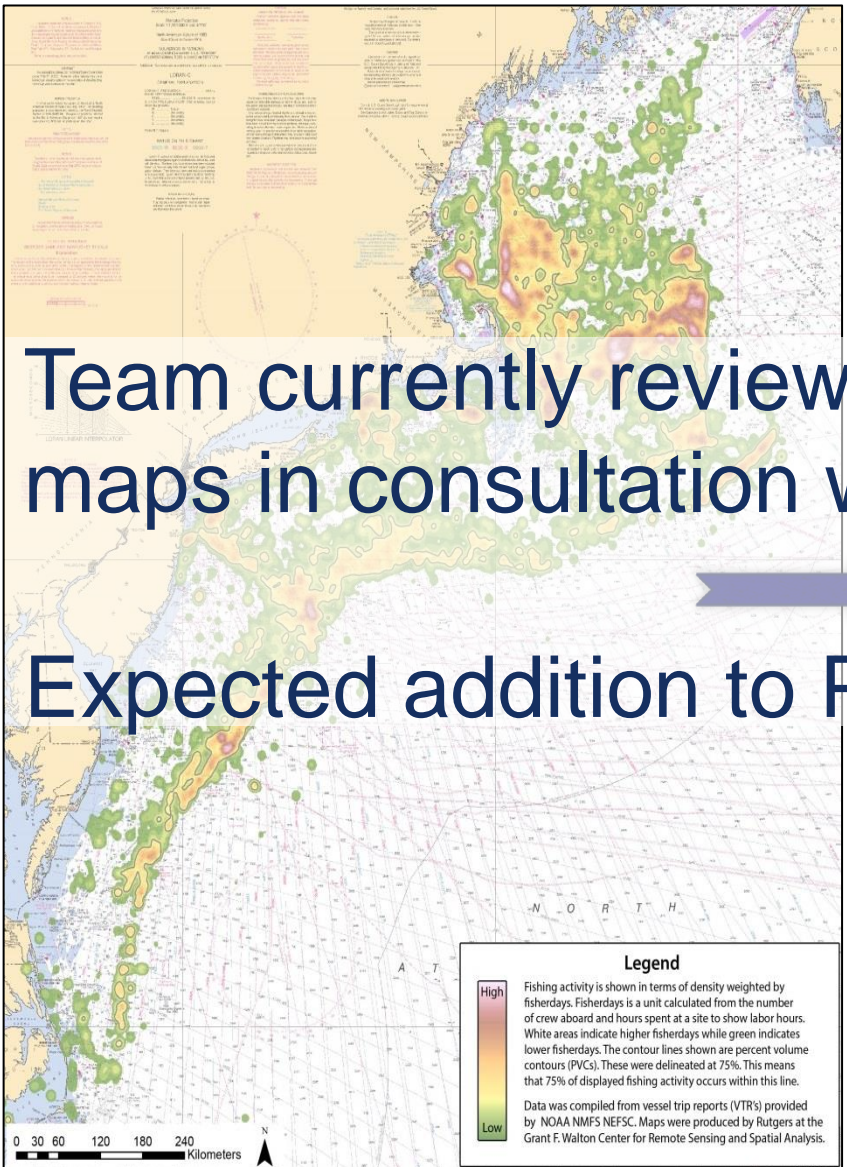
Communities at Sea Project



“Communities” = Home Port & Gear Combinations

Team currently reviewing and improving draft maps in consultation with fishing communities

Expected addition to Portal in Fall 2014



Data Priorities

Marine Life Data Needs

The Mid-Atlantic region is well known for nutrient-rich and highly productive waters. Its estuaries, salt marshes, sea grasses, barrier islands, cold water corals, and submarine canyons provide spawning, nursery, and forage habitats that support diverse resident and migratory marine life including invertebrates, seabirds, fishes, and marine mammals.

[Learn More...](#)



Coldwater coral predictive distribution model

A high resolution, predictive model of coral habitat and distribution.

Source: Multiple sources

Status: Efforts underway to incorporate authorized data into Portal

Contact: Brian Kinlan, NOAA Biogeography Branch

Expected Date of Upload to Portal: May 2014

Notes: NCCOS and NEFSC working on a predictive model for the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Atlantic. The Portal's separate coral point data set will continue to be updated as new survey data are released.

Important coastal bird and bat habitat

Atlantic Coast Joint Venture habitat focus areas in the Mid-Atlantic Bird Conservation Region for landbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl, respectively. Bat habitat focus areas not yet established regionally.

Source: Atlantic Coast Joint Venture U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Status: Bird Focus Area data developed; awaiting authorization for posting on Portal. Bat data to be developed.

Contact: The Nature Conservancy

Expected Date of Upload to Portal: July 2014

Notes: TNC working with USFWS to ensure data is properly licensed before displaying and making available on Portal.

Learn

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

Explore

- Data Catalog
- Data Priorities
- External Resources
- Data Criteria

Visualize

- Marine Planner
- Cartography
- Collaboration
- Interactivity

Portal Redesign

Voices of Mid-Atlantic

A Web Page

Logo | Key Sectors | Ocean Data | In the Know

Voices from the Mid-Atlantic

Long-time Fisherman Keeps Watch Over Maryland's Coral

Recent Posts

Get Involved!

When you book a trip on the Morning Star out of Ocean City, Maryland, there are some rules:

"No radios or boom boxes allowed," says Captain Monty Hawkins. "I'm trying to get as close to old-time fishing as I can get. It's about the people around you and the quality of experience."

Of course, part of that quality experience is being able to find fish for his clients and help them land a solid catch. In the nearly 35 years Captain Hawkins has been fishing off Maryland's coast, he's seen an increase in some fish populations as well as a decline in others. From the mid-1990s to

© 2012 MARCO

Regional Ocean Assessment

A Web Page

Logo | Key Sectors | Ocean Data | In the Know

Regional Ocean Assessment

Visualize | DATA | ACTIVE | LEGEND | FILTER

- SCENARIOS
- SECTOR MAPS
- ROA
- STATE MAPS
- COMMUNITY STORIES
- NEWS

Map Search

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Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning
Body (RPB) Meeting

May 20-21, 2014

Charles Commons,
10 E. 33rd St
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Report on Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment

Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA) Workgroup
Co-chairs:

Kevin Chu, National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

Sarah W. Cooksey, Delaware Department of
Natural Resources and Environmental Control

May 21, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

What is a Regional Ocean Assessment?

- “A regional assessment ... uses maps and information to describe the marine environment and human activities”
 - (Marine Planning Handbook)



Proposed Purpose

- Assist decision-makers to identify factors and issues that should be considered when making management choices about the Mid-Atlantic ocean.
- Provide the general public with a description of issues of interest to the Mid-Atlantic RPB and facilitate further understanding of those issues.

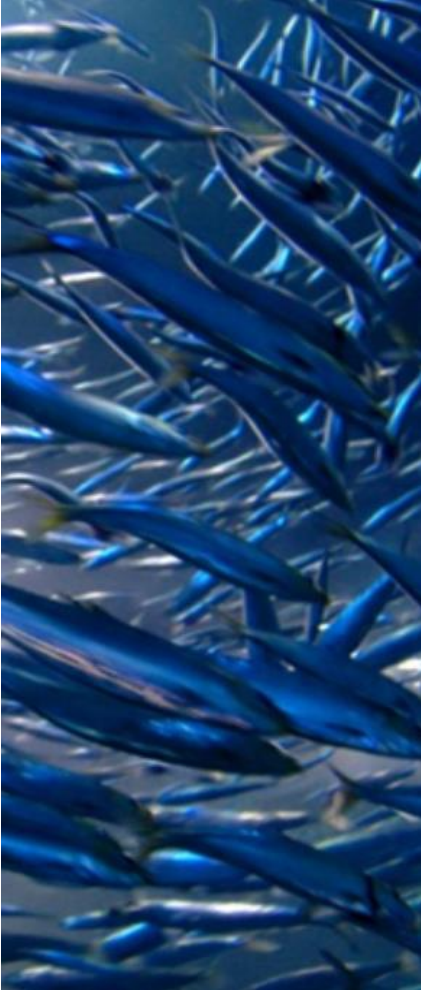


Outline of ROA, part 1



- Introduction and Summary
- Physical Characteristics
- Biological and Ecological Characteristics
- Areas of Particular Ecological Importance
- Connections between Mid-Atlantic and other Areas
- Ecosystem Services

Outline of ROA, part 2



- Current Uses of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean (including cultural and economic value)
- Potential Future Uses of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean
- Potential Conflicting Uses
- Relevant Laws and Regulations

Examples of Current Uses

- Security
- Marine transportation
- Tribal uses
- Fishing
- Sand and gravel mining
- Dredge waste disposal
- Underwater cables
- Wind energy
- Mineral extraction
- Historic preservation
- Non-consumptive uses



Concept



- Brief, clear descriptions of factors and issues
- Links and references to more comprehensive, authoritative sources

Why this Approach?

Advantages of Approach

- Provides a quick reference for decision-makers
- Relatively easy to update and keep current
- Does not duplicate comprehensive sources of information
- Can be done with existing resources
- Achievable within one year
- Builds momentum



Next Steps

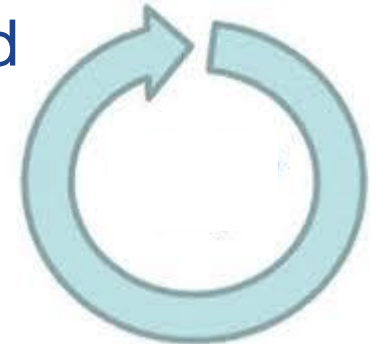
1. Approval by RPB of concept
2. Development of a draft ROA
3. Public review of draft ROA
4. Improvements based on public comment
5. Release Final Regional Ocean Assessment



Questions for the RPB

Should the primary purpose of this document be to provide decision-makers with a source of information about the key elements of the marine environment and human uses of the Mid-Atlantic ocean, and help them become aware of issues and potential conflicts?

Shall we proceed to develop a document that has brief summaries of factors and issues and provides links and references to other documents?





Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement and transparency are priorities of the RPB.
- A workgroup of RPB members, alternates, and staff will provide leadership on stakeholder engagement by:
 - developing a stakeholder engagement strategy;
 - ensuring stakeholder engagement actions and milestones are reflected appropriately in the RPB workplan;
 - coordinating with MARCO, the Portal Team, and potentially other close partners on their stakeholder engagement activities related to ocean planning; and
 - developing RPB materials for major public engagement opportunities.

Moving Forward with Stakeholder Engagement

Darlene Finch, NOAA (Alternate)

MidA RPB Communications and Messaging Work Group



May 21, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Overview

- Effective stakeholder engagement is fundamental to moving forward with ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.
- The RPB has consistently and repeatedly emphasized its commitment to stakeholder engagement.
- Next step -- Development of a comprehensive strategy that defines, develops and ties together the full range of engagement and outreach efforts being conducted in support of ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.



Today's Discussion

- Recommend the RPB support the described process for moving forward with the development of a *Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Stakeholder Engagement Strategy*



Proposed Process:

- Clarify engagement goals and objectives, including timeframes (*we are here*)
- Identify and analyze stakeholders
- Decide upon level of engagement appropriate to each stakeholder
- Identify specific activities/strategies
- Determine available resources and current efforts
- Consider risks or potential pitfalls
- Develop an engagement plan
- Obtain RPB member commitments
- Evaluate and modify as necessary



Discussion: *Is this process logical and comprehensive? Does it need to be modified?*

Overarching Goal for Stakeholder Engagement:

- To provide Mid-Atlantic stakeholders with meaningful opportunities for engagement with and input to the MidA RPB throughout the regional ocean planning process in the Mid-Atlantic.
-- OR --
- To provide Mid-Atlantic stakeholders with a fair, thorough and open opportunity to influence and guide the ocean planning process and outcomes.



Discussion: Does the overarching goal describe what the MidA RPB wants to achieve by engaging stakeholders?

Specific Goals:

- Provide many opportunities for frequent, meaningful, transparent, inclusive and robust stakeholder engagement.
- Clearly acknowledge how stakeholder participation has guided and affected the ocean planning process and outcomes.
- Gain a better understanding of past, current and anticipated human uses and influences.
- Obtain significant and diverse stakeholder and public input.
- Have stakeholders understand and support RPB actions.
- Enhance stakeholder understanding, input to and support of key RPB products (e.g., Framework).

***Discussion:** Do the goals describe what the MidA RPB wants to achieve by engaging stakeholders? Do they need to be modified?*

Objectives:

- Identify, assess, engage and establish partnerships with key stakeholders in regional ocean planning.
- Strengthen mutual and shared understanding about relevant problems and opportunities.
- Build the knowledge, skills, and understanding of regional ocean planning.
- Capitalize on previous related efforts (e.g., state ocean planning activities).

Discussion: Do the objectives describe what the MidA RPB wants to achieve by engaging stakeholders? Do they need to be modified?

Opportunities



Next Steps:

- Should the RPB move forward with the process (as discussed and modified today) for developing a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy?
- Who can help with collecting information and developing the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy?



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Ocean Planning and Navigational Considerations

Mr. John Walters, U.S. Coast Guard, Fifth District

Mr. Joe Atangan, U.S. Navy, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Ms. Lorraine Wakeman, U.S. Dept. of
Transportation, Maritime Administration (MARAD)

May 21, 2014 | Baltimore, MD
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Balancing Competing Navigational Interests

Atlantic Coast Port Access
Route Study (ACPARS)



Recreational Fishing



Maritime Shipping



Post Panamax Vessels



Offshore Renewable
Energy



Military Uses



Maritime Highway



Submarine Cables

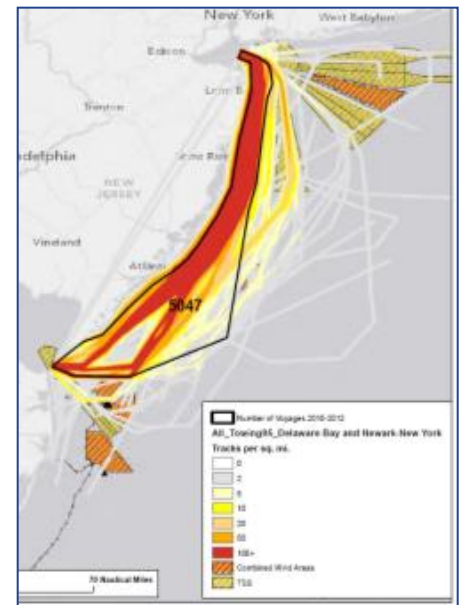
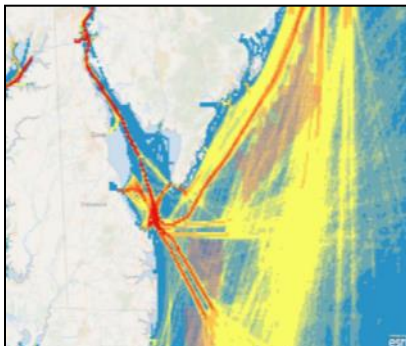


Commercial Fishing



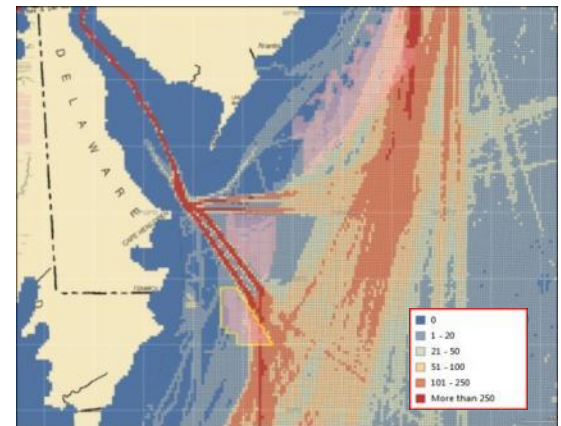
Maritime Shipping

- Coast Guard is responsible to waterways users for the safe and efficient operation of the Marine Transportation System (MTS)
 - Coast Guard assists with identification of navigational risk concerns and conflicts with existing navigational routes, as well as identifying potential mitigation options
 - Marine Planning must consider maritime safety and maritime mobility (management of maritime traffic, commerce, and navigation)

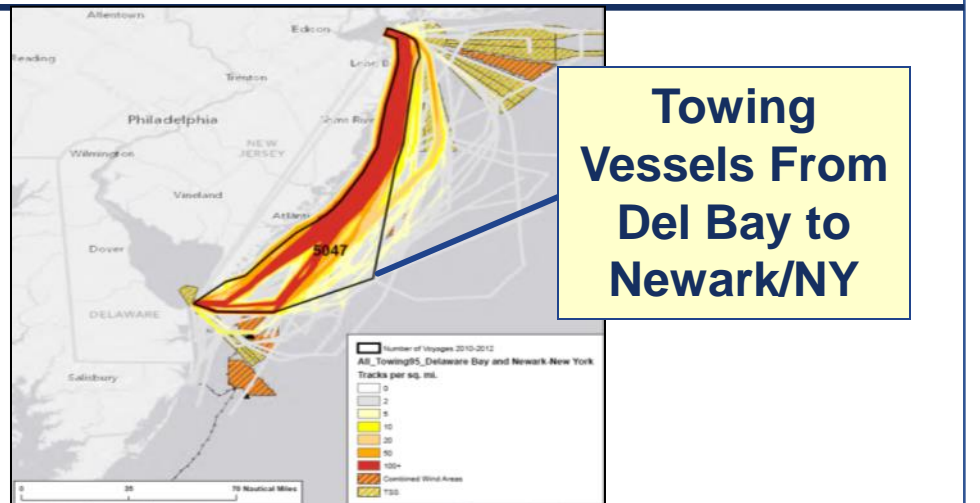
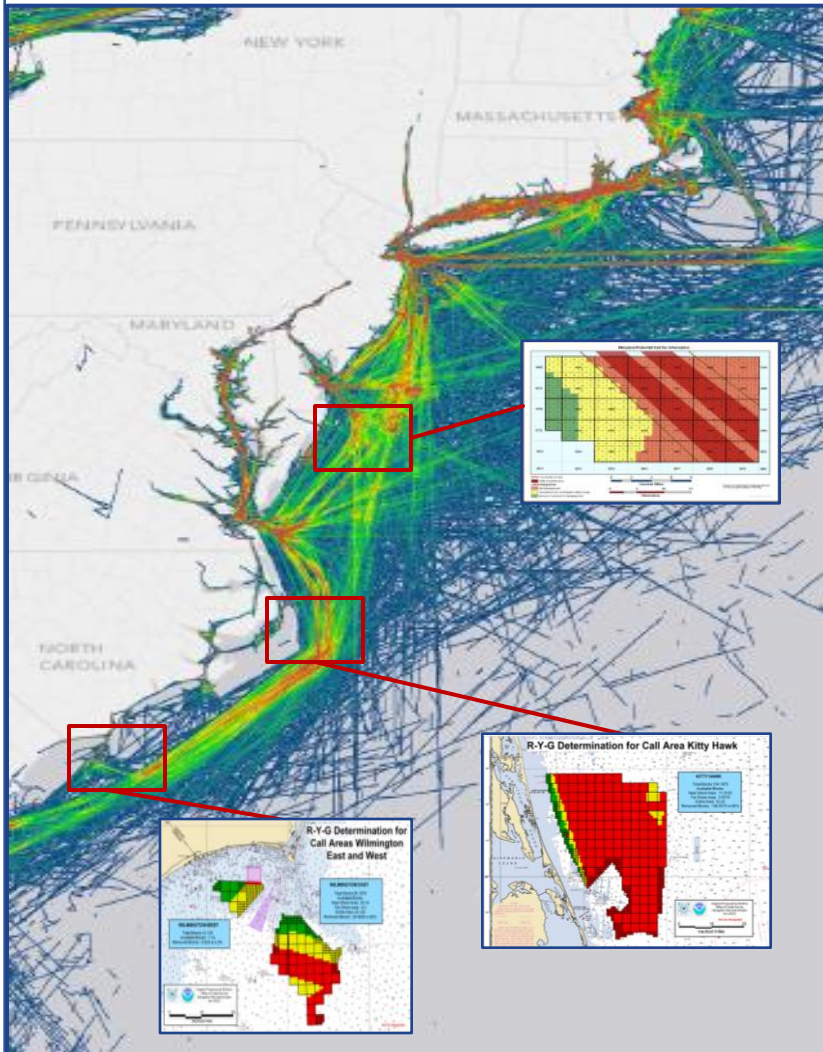


Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS)

- Determine need to modify or create safety fairways, Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs), or other routing measures
- Provide data, tools, and/or methodology to assist in future determinations of waterways suitability for proposed projects
- Develop Automatic Identification System (AIS) products and provide other support to assist with assessing multiple waterway conflicts
- ACPARS process is a major tool for Marine Planning - Characterizes existing MTS/shipping routes, balances multiple uses, and ensures safe access routes



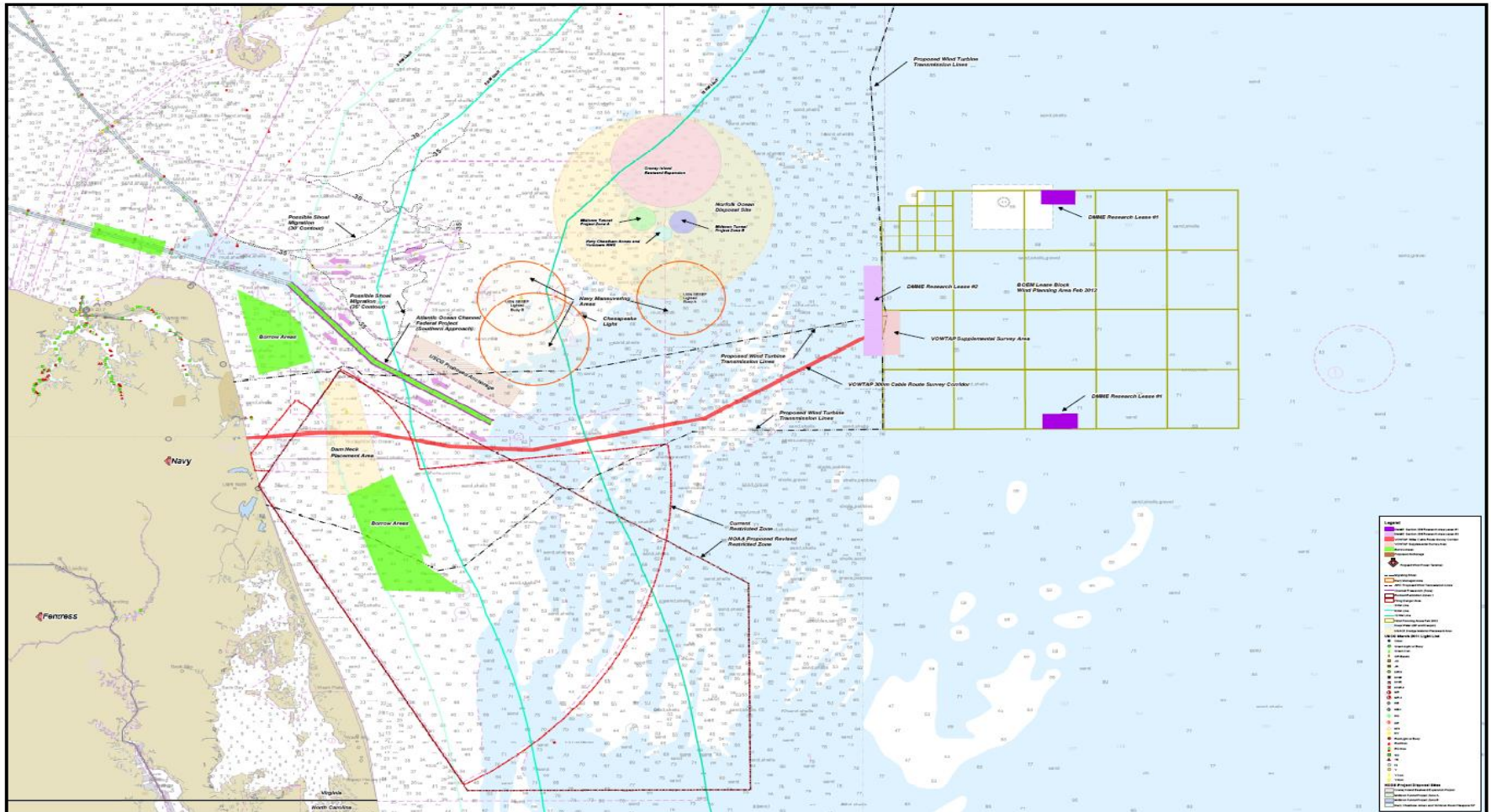
ACPARS Examples



Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Port to Port Analysis



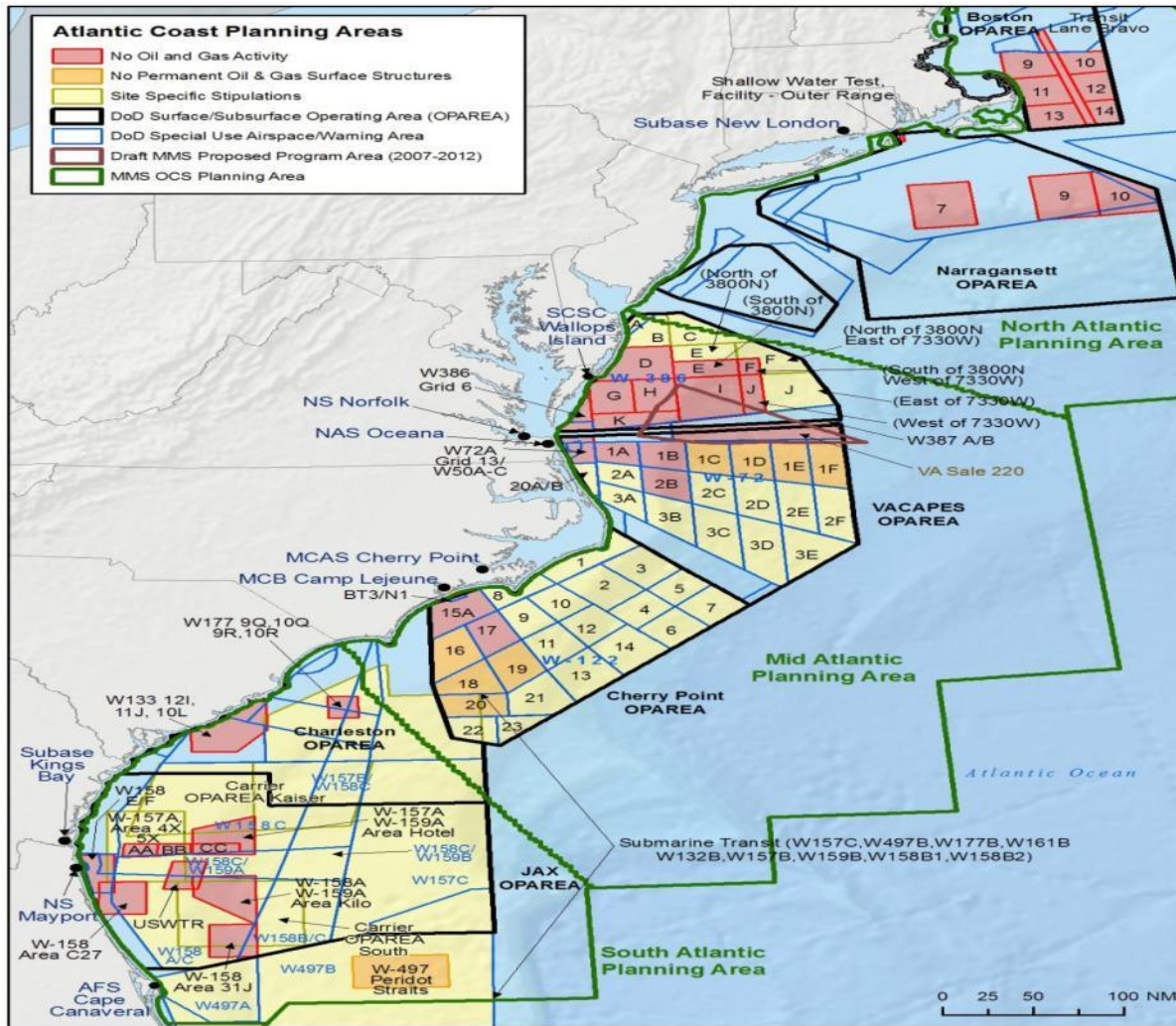
Marine Features in Vicinity of Chesapeake Bay Entrance



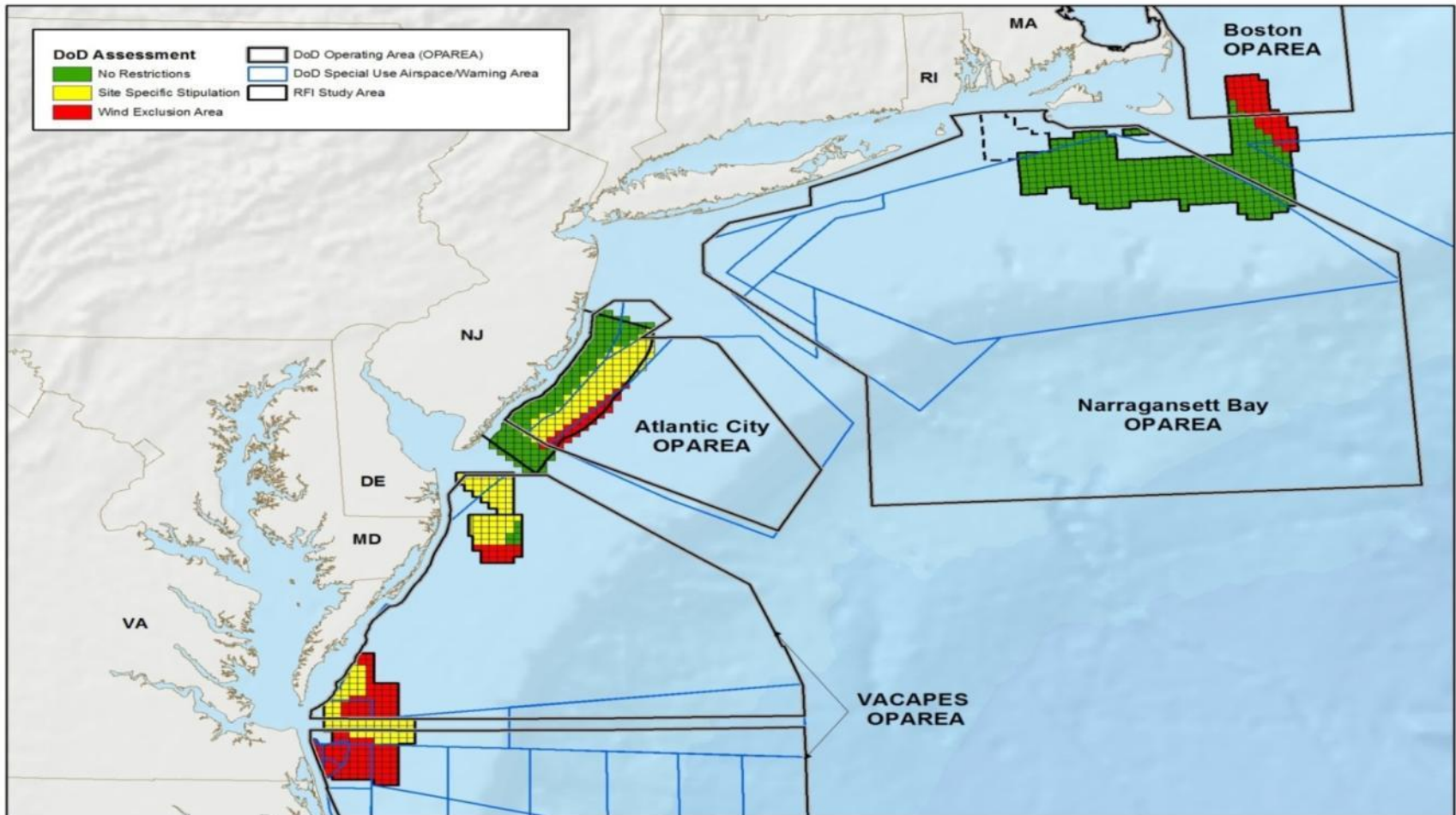
Marine Features in the Vicinity of the Atlantic Ocean Channel

Scale: 1:50,000
 Date: 2012
 Project: DBBE
 Author: [Name]
 Title: [Title]

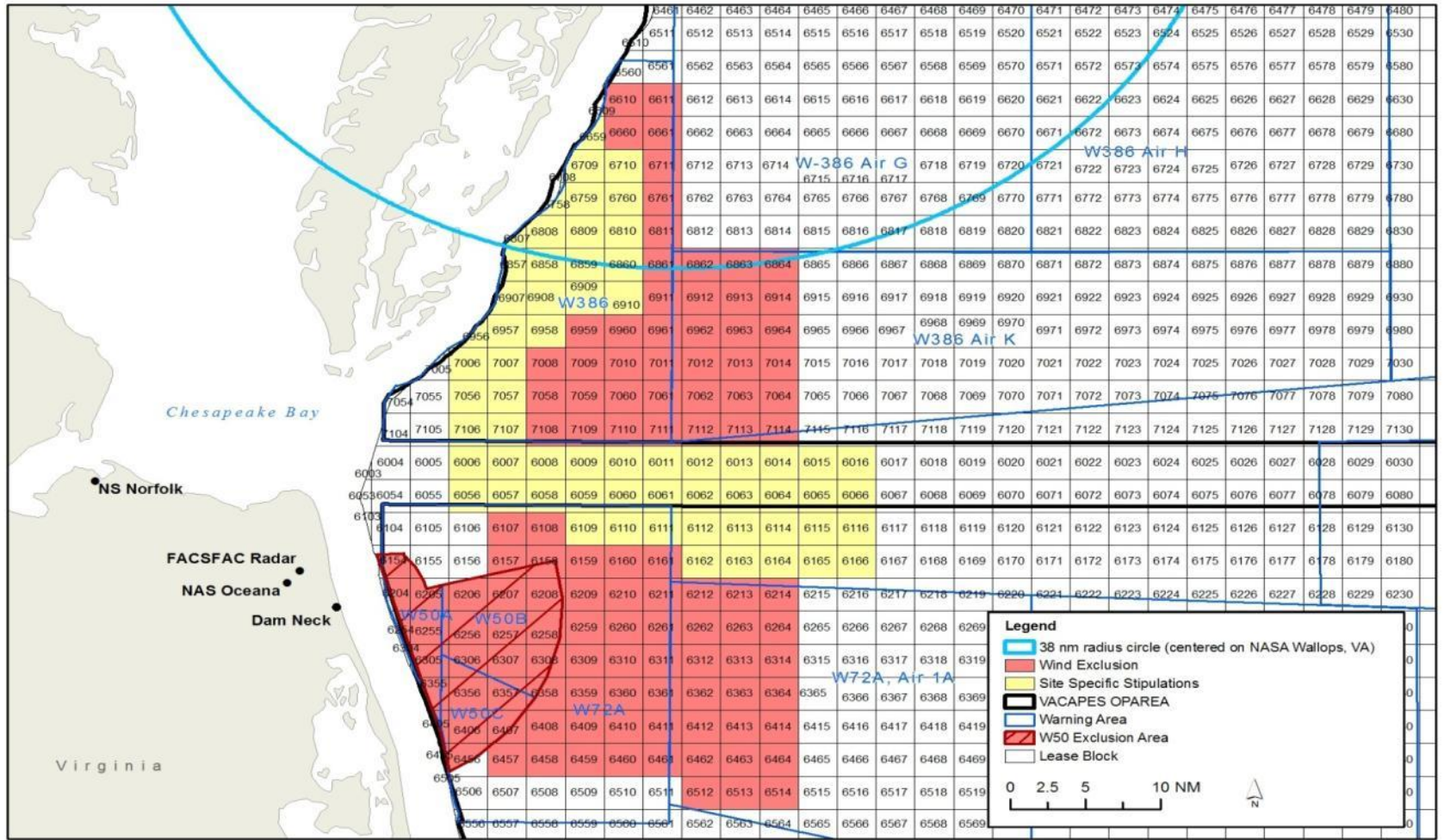
Atlantic Coast Planning Areas



Dept. of Defense (DoD) Operating Areas (OPAREA)

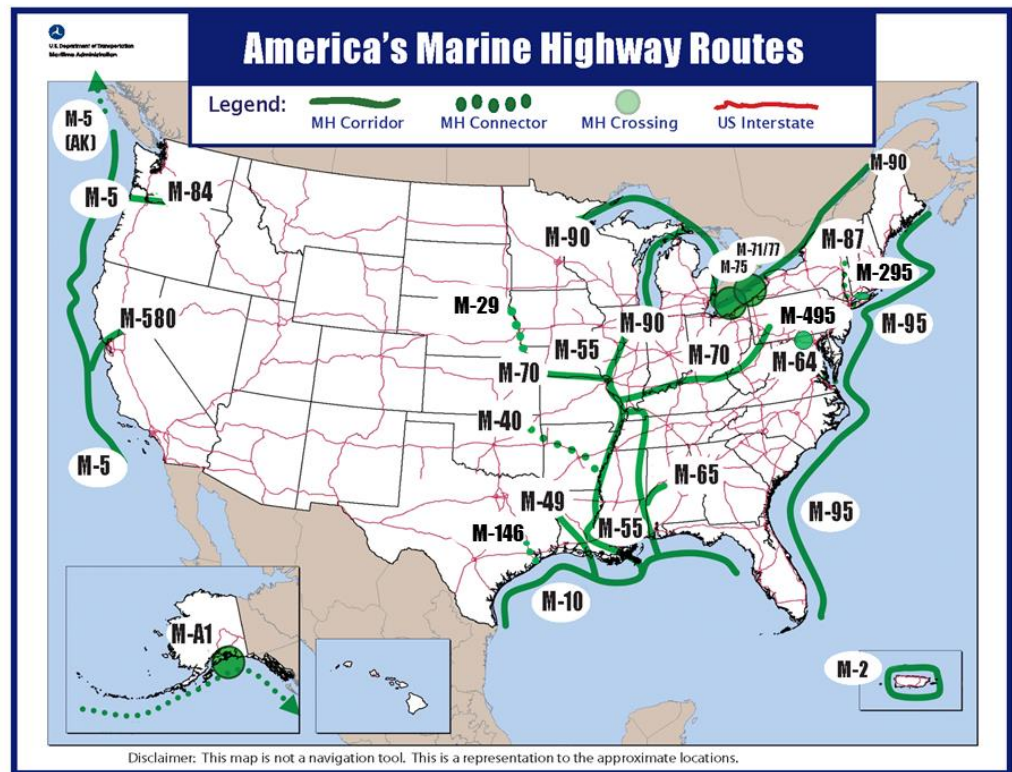


DoD Assessment of VA Lease Blocks (July 2010)

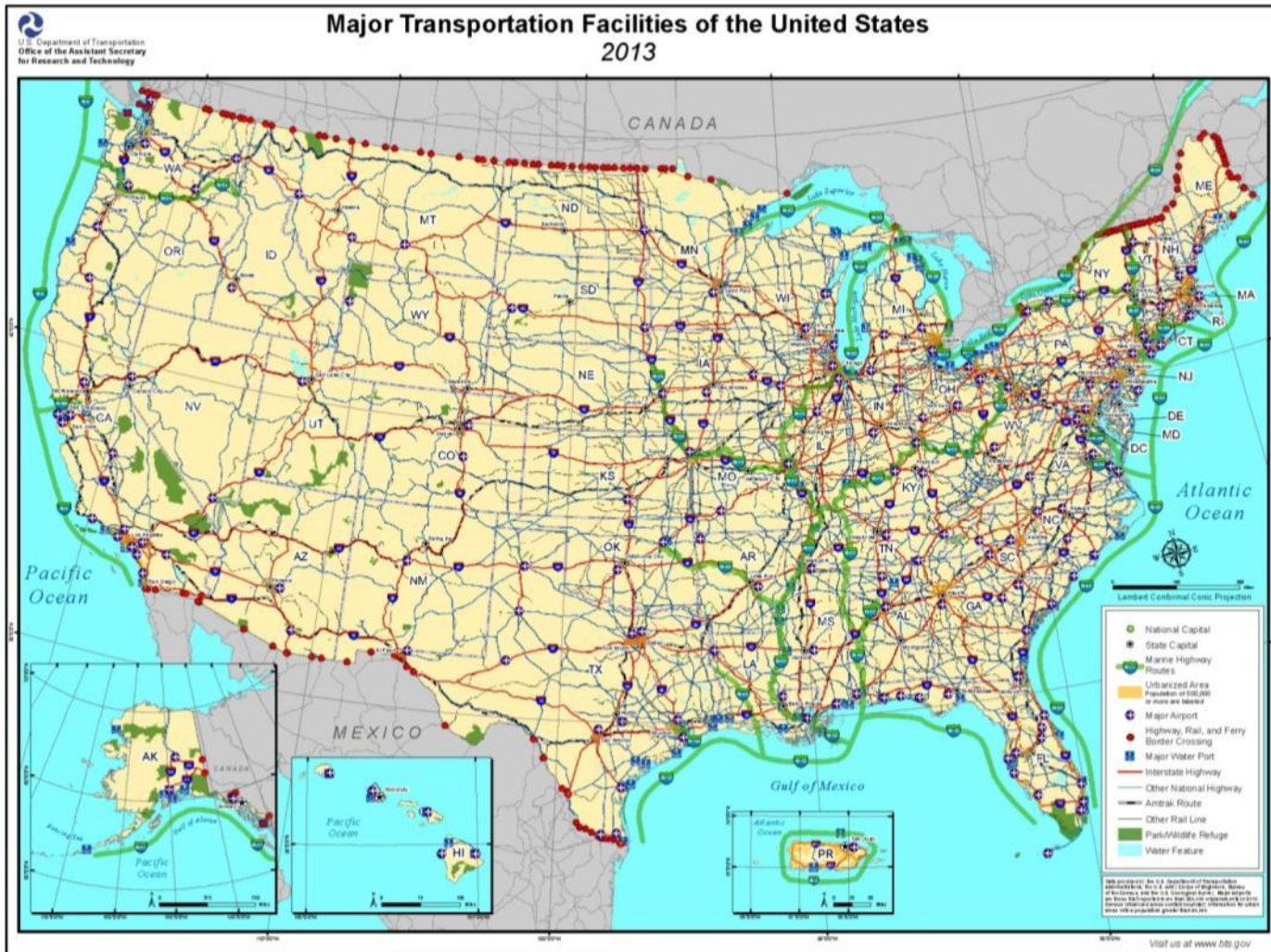


Marine Highway Routes and Short Sea Shipping

- Population growth, changes in maritime commerce and social accounting could lead to greater use of Marine Highway services
- Marine Planning needs to incorporate potential increased usage of the Marine Highways



Marine Highway Routes: A Systems View



Vessels

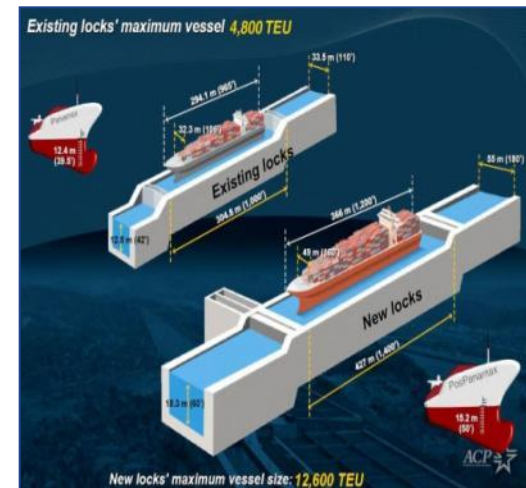
- New types of vessels are in use now or will soon become available in the U.S.
 - A Post Panamax Vessel
 - Floating liquid natural gas
- Will require changes in the way we approach port planning efforts



TheEnergyCollective.com sponsored by Shell Oil

Vessels

- Post Panamax vessels are much larger
 - New Infrastructure needed to accommodate them
 - How much longer will they remain in port and how will it affect congestion
- Cruise ships keep getting larger
- Changes in designs for other vessel types



Energy

- New market dynamics
 - Will the U.S. become an energy exporter?
 - Of petroleum
 - Of LNG
- New fuel sources for vessels
 - LNG is a source of fuel on some newer vessels
 - Will need LNG fueling stations

Questions?

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