

# *Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*

## **Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Co-Leads**

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February 14, 2014 Webinar

# Webinar Objectives

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- Provide Mid-Atlantic stakeholders with an overview of the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework (Draft Framework).
- Receive feedback and answer questions from stakeholders about the Draft Framework.
- Describe a series of in-person public listening sessions being planned throughout the region to gather additional input about the Draft Framework.



# Webinar Agenda



- Overview of Ocean Planning
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Overview and Timeline
- Draft Framework: Purpose, Content, and Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities
- Questions and Answers

# Ocean-Related Opportunities and Challenges in our Region

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- Our Mid-Atlantic ocean waters and ecosystems are economic engines and cultural treasures.
- Ocean activities and ecosystem components are managed separately by many jurisdictions. But they are interconnected!
- Key opportunities and challenges to address now:
  - Renewable energy proposals (offshore wind)
  - Expansion of commercial shipping
  - Nationally-important military bases
  - Marine species under stress, exacerbated by warming waters
  - Existing users have strong interests (fishing, recreation, etc.)
  - Many more...

# What is Ocean Planning?

- A process for bringing together ocean managers and stakeholders in the Mid-Atlantic to share information and plan for the use, management, and conservation of ocean resources in a manner that meets the region's goals.
- A science- and information-based tool that can help advance local and regional interests, including addressing specific ocean management challenges and advancing economic development and conservation objectives.

# Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)

- Established in April 2013
- Intergovernmental group created to coordinate and implement regional ocean planning
- Includes representatives of:
  - Six Mid-Atlantic states (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD and VA),
  - Shinnecock Indian Nation
  - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
  - Eight federal agencies
- More information at [www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/index.aspx](http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/index.aspx)

# What is the purpose of the MidA RPB?

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To coordinate among State, Federal, Tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives to:

- Plan for new and existing uses in the Mid-Atlantic ocean
- Make better, more informed decisions about the use of ocean space
- Improve efficiency and leverage constrained resources
- Work together and with stakeholders to share and vet ocean data
- Engage stakeholders and the public in creating a vision and achieving that vision

# Timeline

- Mid-Atlantic RPB regional ocean planning timeline:
  - *2013-2014*: Organize and identify goals/products
  - *2015-2016*: Complete first iteration products and implement actions
  - *2017-2018*: Implement, adapt, and iterate
- Continuous stakeholder engagement, data collection/sharing/integration, and adaptation of planning products throughout this timeline



# What will the MidA RPB do?

- Develop a work plan to describe strategies and activities to achieve goals and objectives.
- Assess and identify capacity to carry out activities.
- Complete a regional ocean assessment to provide baseline information for ocean planning.
- Engage stakeholders and improve coordination throughout the process.

# 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



# The MidA RPB Wants Your Input

- Provide written comments by April 15, 2014 by emailing [MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov](mailto:MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov)
- Attend and participate in in-person public listening sessions:
  - *February 24, 2014 – Annapolis, MD*
  - *February 27, 2014 – Lewes, DE*
  - *March 20, 2014 – Norfolk, VA*
  - *March 27, 2014 – West Long Branch, NJ*
  - *April 7, 2014 – Riverhead, NY*
- For details, please visit the MidA RPB website:  
[www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body](http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body)

# Initial Geographic Focus

- Primary geographic focus area will be the ocean waters of the region:
  - From the shoreline out to 200 miles, which includes State and Federal waters
  - The northern limit would be the NY/CT and NY/RI border
  - The southern limit would be the VA/NC border
- The RPB does not anticipate including in its planning efforts the major bays and estuaries of the Mid-Atlantic.
- Will draw connections and coordinate with estuarine and terrestrial areas for planning purposes.

# Terminology

- ***Vision*** – A desired future state.
- ***Principles*** – Basic or essential qualities or elements determining the intrinsic nature or characteristic behavior of regional ocean planning. Principles describe how the MidA RPB intends to operate.
- ***Goals*** – Statements of general direction or intent, and high-level desired outcomes that you hope to achieve.
- ***Objectives*** – Statements of desired outcomes or observable behavioral change that represent the achievement of a goal.
- ***Actions*** – Specific activities that federal, state, and tribal agencies may take to address the objectives

# Draft Vision

Articulate the MidA RPB's desired future state for the Mid-Atlantic ocean:

***A Mid-Atlantic ocean where safe and responsible use and stewardship support healthy, productive, resilient, and treasured natural and economic ocean resources that provide for the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations.***

# Draft Principles

- **Principle 1: Recognize Interconnections** across human uses and interests, marine species and habitats, and coastal communities and economies.
- **Principle 2: Make information available to ensure the compatibility of multiple interests.**
- **Principle 3: Improve resilience** by considering the risks and vulnerabilities associated with past, present, and predicted ocean and coastal hazards.
- **Principle 4: Consider sound science** and traditional knowledge in decision-making.

# Draft Principles (contd.)

- **Principle 5: Use adaptive management**
- **Principle 6: Maintain consistency with existing laws**
- **Principle 7: Increase inter-jurisdictional coordination and government efficiency**
- **Principle 8: Promote transparency and engagement to enhance public input**
- **Principle 9: Respect the intrinsic value of the ocean and its biodiversity**



# Draft Goals

- Goal 1: *Promote ocean ecosystem health and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.*
- Goal 2: *Plan and provide for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner that reduces conflicts, improves efficiency and regulatory predictability, and supports economic growth.*

# Objectives for Goal 1

Promote ecosystem health and integrity by:

- 1) Understanding, protecting and restoring key habitats through improved scientific understanding and assessments of the effects of ocean uses. Foster collaboration and coordination for protection and restoration of critical ocean and coastal habitats.
- 2) Accounting for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks in decision-making.
- 3) Valuing traditional knowledge of the ecosystem through greater understanding and acknowledgment of traditional knowledge along with other cultural values, and incorporate such knowledge and values in the ocean planning process.

# Objectives for Goal 2 (*by sector*)

Plan for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner :

- 1) Account for national security interests through enhanced coordination and sharing of information across agencies.
- 2) Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues.
- 3) Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid-Atlantic commercial and recreational fishers and fishing communities.
- 4) Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities.
- 5) Enhance coordination to ensure new and updated nautical information and navigation practices at local, regional, and international levels.

# Objectives for Goal 2 (contd.)

- 6) Facilitate enhanced coordination on the use of offshore sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic.
- 7) Coordinate improved understanding of near-shore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses.
- 8) Recognize and take into account important tribal uses and submerged cultural resources.
- 9) Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure.

# Discussion Questions about Draft Framework



- Does the draft framework adequately describe what the MidA RPB should be striving to accomplish through regional ocean planning?
- Do you have any suggestions or refinements to the draft framework?
- Do you have any questions and/or comments about the stakeholder engagement process?

# Thank you for participating.

To provide additional input, please:

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