

Summary of Discussions
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting
May 20-21, 2014
Baltimore, Maryland

This document summarizes discussions and presentations at the second meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body. The meeting took place on May 20-21, 2014 at Charles Commons in Baltimore, Maryland. This summary was developed by Meridian Institute, which provides process design, meeting planning, and facilitation services to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body.

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Executive Summary

The second in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) took place on May 20-21, 2014 at Charles Commons 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 70 members of the public were in attendance, and approximately 23 comments were offered during the public comment sessions. 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 produced this summary document.

The objectives for the second RPB meeting were to:

- Approve the Draft *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* (Framework) and a timeline for developing a RPB workplan based on that framework.
- Identify next steps and a timeline for regional ocean planning products and processes.
- Discuss a strategy to further engage Mid-Atlantic stakeholders in regional ocean planning, and provide opportunities for public input at this meeting.
- Share information about activities underway by RPB member institutions that are relevant for regional ocean planning.

Day 1: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

On May 20, the RPB began the meeting with introductions and review of progress to date, and considered a proposed timeline for RPB activities from June 2014 through mid-2017 that is broadly organized as follows:

- June 2014: Finalize the Framework for Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning
- December 2014: Complete a draft Workplan
- Mid-2017: Complete an initial regional ocean action plan
- Beyond Mid-2017: Implement and adapt the regional ocean action plan.

The RPB next discussed the revised draft Framework, reviewed the changes made as a result of the public input received at nine public listening sessions from February 2014 to April 2014 and numerous written comments submitted to the RPB. Members of the public provided input to the RPB regarding the revised draft Framework, and following that input, the RPB made several additional changes and reached the consensus decision to approve the Framework.

Following the approval of the Framework, the RPB heard several presentations on sector-specific activities in the Mid-Atlantic including the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, the status of offshore renewable energy development in the Mid-Atlantic, and habitat-related activities at BOEM, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the MAFMC. The public provided input on these presentations, and the RPB discussed the relevance of these activities to the RPB's deliberations. On the evening of May 20, the RPB convened an informal public engagement event, during which members of the public were invited to engage in dialogue with RPB members.

Day 2: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

On May 21, the RPB discussed a proposed timeline and process to create a regional ocean action plan and the structure of six workflows to support the development of a workplan in pursuit of that regional ocean action plan. The RPB discussed a detailed timeline mapping out a path forward, and discussed specific activities and responsibilities of six workflows:

- A workgroup focused on identifying ocean planning options
- A workflow focused on inter-jurisdictional coordination
- A workgroup focused on identifying key connections to bays, estuaries, and coastal lands
- The Mid-Atlantic Data Portal Ocean Mapping and Data Team
- The Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA) Workgroup
- A workgroup focused on stakeholder engagement

The public provided input on these six workflows. The RPB expressed comfort with the proposed structure of RPB workgroups going forward, and reflecting on comments received from the public, emphasized the importance of clarifying the relationship between these workflows, the development of a workplan, and the ultimate regional ocean action plan. The RPB also heard a presentation about sector-specific activities related to navigation in the Mid-Atlantic, followed by public comment on that topic. The RPB reflected on the discussions at the meeting and determined that a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy will be a critical component of shaping and directing the RPB's activities moving forward, agreed upon a suggested approach for the ROA, and emphasized the importance of clarifying that the RPB is a planning, rather than a regulatory, body.

At the close of the meeting, the Mid-Atlantic RPB identified several next steps including:

- Identifying individuals who volunteered to participate in the six outlined RPB workgroups and workflows, and identifying gaps.
- Identifying appropriate staff within each member institution to participate in those workgroups and workflows.

- Launching discussions among those six workgroups and workflows, or continuing discussions among the existing workgroups, including the ROA workgroup and the Portal team.
- Continuing to develop an outline, including a timeline, for the completion of the ROA.
- Considering feedback received regarding workgroup structure and further discussing a suggested path forward and next steps.
- Posting the finalized Framework on the RPB's website.

About this Meeting

The second in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) took place on May 20-21, 2014 at Charles Commons 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 70 members of the public were in attendance, and approximately 23 comments were offered during the public comment sessions. 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 produced this summary document.

Meeting Objectives

Objectives of the meeting were to:

- Approve the Draft *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* (Framework) and a timeline for developing a RPB workplan based on that framework.
- Identify next steps and a timeline for regional ocean planning products and processes.
- Discuss a strategy to further engage Mid-Atlantic stakeholders in regional ocean planning, and provide opportunities for public input at this meeting.
- Share information about activities underway by RPB member institutions that are relevant for regional ocean planning.

The full suite of meeting materials can be found in Appendix A, and the full set of slides presented at the meeting can be found in Appendix B. These materials, a full meeting transcript, and additional information about the RPB and ocean planning in the region can be found at the RPB [website](#).

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The first day of the RPB meeting was focused on reviewing the RPB's progress and discussions to date, reviewing a proposed timeline for RPB activities, finalizing and approving the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* (Framework), and discussing a range of sector-specific activities related to ocean energy and habitat issues. The first day included two public comment sessions, one of which was focused on the RPB's timeline and Framework, the other of which focused on the discussion of sector-specific activities. Those sessions were intentionally placed before the continuation and conclusion of RPB deliberations so that the RPB discussion could be informed by public input.

Welcome, introduction, agenda review, and tribal blessing

Ms. Laura Cantral of Meridian Institute facilitated the meeting. She began by offering brief welcoming remarks and turning to the RPB members and Co-Leads for introductions. Ms. Cantral next reviewed the agenda for the day and outlined the meeting objectives. She noted the sequencing of the four public comment sessions in the midst of RPB discussion of key topics and encouraged input from members of the public, and emphasized the importance of input and feedback from the public to inform RPB deliberations. This sequencing was intended to allow the RPB to reach resolution on a topic or continue discussions informed by public input. In his new role as the tribal alternate member and as a leader of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, Mr. Gerrod Smith then offered an opening blessing and encouraging words. He announced that Ms. Kelsey Leonard of the Shinnecock Indian Nation will now serve as the new tribal Co-Lead for the RPB.

Review of progress and discussion of proposed RPB timeline

During this session, RPB Co-Leads—Ms. Maureen Bornholdt, Ms. Gwynne Schultz, and Ms. Kelsey Leonard—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 B1.

Ms. Maureen Bornholdt, Renewable Energy Program Manager at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and federal RPB Co-Lead, reviewed progress on RPB activities since the inaugural RPB meeting at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey on September 24-25, 2013. She emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement and highlighted the nine public listening sessions hosted between February and April in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, and New York as critical opportunities for the public to contribute to the development of the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*. The Revised Draft Framework discussed at the May 20-21 meeting is available in Appendix A4, and the finalized version of the Framework is available on the RPB's [website](#). The common themes of input from those listening sessions played a significant role in informing revisions to the Framework, which will guide what the RPB will do as a body, and will direct how the RPB moves forward with regional ocean planning. The Framework will serve as a platform to develop a workplan and a regional ocean action plan.

Ms. Gwynne Schultz, Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and state RPB Co-Lead, provided a brief introduction to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). MARCO was formed in 2009 by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia to work together on shared ocean issues, and is closely coordinating and has some shared membership with the RPB. Ms. Schultz described how MARCO serves as a resource for stakeholder engagement, including by convening a Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC) comprised of leaders

actively engaged in ocean issues with expertise across a range of sectors. The SLC will serve as a forum for stakeholders to provide feedback to MARCO, which will subsequently be shared with the RPB as appropriate. Ms. Schultz indicated that the minutes from the inaugural SLC meeting held on March 10, 2014 are available on MARCO's [website](#), and that further activities of the SLC are forthcoming.

Ms. Schultz next described the work MARCO and partners on “the Portal Team” have undertaken since 2009 to build the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (Data Portal), which serves as an online toolkit to enable users to visualize and analyze different ocean uses and resources. The Portal team has continued to vet specific data layers and Data Portal functions with key stakeholder groups. She then briefly described the activities of the Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA) work group, chaired by Kevin Chu of NOAA and Sarah Cooksey of Delaware, which is currently working to develop ideas to inform the structure of a ROA and identify resources and capacities to carry that work forward.

Ms. Kelsey Leonard, tribal Co-Lead, then described progress on the RPB's charter, which is currently in the process of being finalized and will soon be posted on the RPB's website. She then briefly described the Co-Leads' proposed process for moving forward, referring to a graphic included in the document *Process Recommendations for Mid-Atlantic RPB Consideration* available in Appendix A6. This process is broadly organized as follows:

- June 2014: Finalize the Framework for Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning
- December 2014: Complete a draft Workplan
- Mid-2017: Complete an initial regional ocean action plan
- Beyond Mid-2017: Implement and adapt the regional ocean action plan

Discussion: Revised Draft Framework

During this session, Mr. Douglas Pabst, Chief at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, made a presentation describing the Revised Draft *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* and how the RPB refined the draft between December 2013 and April 2014 as informed by public input. His presentation is available in Appendix B2. He emphasized that all written and verbal comments received were considered by the RPB, and many resulted in changes to the Framework. All public comments can be found on the RPB's [website](#). Other comments and ideas may be reflected in future activities of the RPB as it moves forward. Mr. Pabst described that, where feasible, modifications and additions were made through a process facilitated by an internal RPB workgroup, and indicated the members of the public present at the meeting would have an opportunity to discuss these changes and provide additional comments for RPB consideration. Key themes distilled from the public listening sessions that resulted in changes are summarized as follows:

- Geographic scope should be clarified to emphasize interconnectedness between estuaries, bays, and the ocean
- Key terms should be clarified including “sound science,” “traditional knowledge,” “government efficiency,” “adaptive management,” and “effectiveness”
- Goals and objectives should be of equal weight, not numbered or ranked
- Stakeholder engagement should be a standalone principle
- Ecological value and ecosystem benefits should be further emphasized

Mr. Pabst next described specific changes made to the Framework document, a full account of which is included in Mr. Pabst’s presentation in Appendix B2.

Following this presentation, Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB for any clarifying questions or additional points of discussion. She reminded the RPB that an objective for the meeting was to approve the Framework, and indicated that members would have an opportunity to further discuss the draft Framework following the public comment period. RPB members discussed maintaining the use of the term “federal waters” to describe the geographic focus of the RPB beyond three miles offshore is acceptable in lieu of using “navigable waters of the United States,” which is the language included in the Draft Charter. It was also noted that acknowledging the mutual impacts of and connectedness between upland activities and ocean activities would be important without duplicating efforts of existing programs and entities. Finally, the group discussed the need to achieve as much clarity as possible about the relationship between RPB activities and estuaries, bays, and coasts, and subsequently expressed a desire to hear feedback from the public about the proposed changes to the Framework and any additional thoughts to inform RPB deliberations.

Public comment: proposed RPB timeline and Revised Draft Framework

During this session, members of the public were invited to offer public comment on any topic, but encouraged to tailor their comments to the topic currently being discussed by the RPB. Nine individuals provided comments and the ideas presented are summarized as follows. The details of comments for the record can be found in the full meeting transcript, which can be found at the RPB’s [website](#). Comments focused on:

- *Timeline for the regional ocean action plan*: The notion of developing a regional ocean action plan was well received, and several commenters encouraged the RPB to consider completing a draft regional ocean action plan by the end of 2016. Political factors, election cycles, resource allocation, and the need for measurable results were cited as factors to consider when determining the timeline for RPB activities.
- *Connection to bays, estuaries, and coasts*: It will be critical to emphasize the importance of seeking engagement of and forging partnerships with those working in estuaries, bays, and coastal areas. This includes using inclusive language throughout the

Framework and other RPB documents. It will also be important to coordinate with upland activities to recognize and develop strategies to minimize any negative mutual impacts.

- *Stakeholder outreach:* The public expressed appreciation for the public listening sessions that were held throughout the region in recent months and encouraged additional outreach through social and traditional media platforms, listservs, newsletters, and other forums to raise awareness of RPB activities. Additional opportunities for public engagement include public educational spaces like aquariums and zoos. The RPB should also make every effort to develop a systematic role for stakeholders in the planning process.
- *Regulatory capacity:* The RPB should be clear that as a body, the RPB does not have new regulatory authority. Rather, each member institution retains its existing regulatory powers and will benefit from improved information and collaboration throughout the planning process and beyond to facilitate decision-making.
- *Harmonizing living and non-living resources:* The RPB's process and eventual regional ocean action plan present an opportunity to evaluate the need for protection and human uses for different components of the ocean ecosystem.

Members of the public also enumerated several specific changes to the draft Framework, which are reflected in the summary of the RPB's discussion below.

Discussion: Revised Draft Framework (continued)

Following public comment, Ms. Cantral turned to Mr. Nick Napoli, Ocean Planning Project Manager at the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), to offer insights about how the Northeast Regional Planning Body (Northeast RPB) has handled questions relating to geographic focus. Mr. Napoli indicated that in accordance with the Northeast RPB's Framework, the Northeast RPB engages with estuaries and other close-to-shore issues on an issue-by-issue basis. Two of the states represented on the Northeast RPB already have state-level ocean plans, which will likely be used as models as the activities of that RPB develop. The Northeast RPB is using an information collection approach to characterize existing issues from the shoreline outward as part of their baseline assessment, which is the Northeast RPB's equivalent of the Mid-Atlantic RPB's regional ocean assessment.

Ms. Cantral then listed the primary points of feedback from the public to encourage RPB discussion related to each topic. The RPB determined that the Framework's guiding role in catalyzing an actionable approach to regional ocean planning necessitates inclusion of a commitment to develop a regional ocean action plan in the Framework text. This reflects the majority of public comments and input received and is consistent with the RPB's understanding of its assignment, while still allowing the region and the RPB the flexibility to

determine the nature and content of a regional ocean action plan. The RPB also determined that the Framework language, as written, provides appropriate level of detail related to best available science, and that the discussion of the Data Portal on the next day would shed additional light on the data standards used by regional ocean planners. The RPB also affirmed the decision to remove numbering of the two goals, recognizing the interrelationship between the two. Finally, because the RPB is a planning body without regulatory authority and some individual member institutions already follow the precautionary principle, it would therefore be unnecessary to apply the precautionary approach across the Framework.

Two specific changes to the language of the Framework were proposed in response to public comment and approved:

- *Regarding the connections to bays and estuaries:* A specific language change was made to better encapsulate the relationship between inland waters and estuaries in response to comments received at public listening sessions and during the public comment session earlier that day. The RPB made the following addition: “The MidA RPB **recognizes the importance of bays, estuaries, and coastal areas** and will draw connections and coordinate closely with entities responsible for the management and planning of the bay, estuarine, and coastal areas of the Mid-Atlantic for planning purposes, particularly in such cases where ocean uses **and natural resources have an interrelationship with** coastal communities, bays, estuaries, and ports or other shore side infrastructure,” (p. 4, final *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*).
- *Regarding the Healthy Ocean Ecosystems Goal:* The RPB made one revision to the first objective under the Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Goal: “Foster collaboration and coordination for protection and restoration **of ocean and coastal habitats that are** important for improving ecosystem functioning and maintaining biodiversity,” (p. 7, final *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*).

Following the discussion of these changes, the RPB reached a consensus decision to approve the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*.

Sector specific activities discussion: ocean energy in the Mid-Atlantic

Ms. Cantral then described the next session of the agenda, which included presentations and discussion of sector-specific activities to help provide context and updates to inform the RPB’s thinking. She turned to Renee Orr, Strategic Resources Chief at BOEM, to describe the Outer Continental Shelf (OSC) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Ms. Orr’s presentation is available in Appendix B3. She described BOEM’s process for developing a five-year leasing program for the outer continental shelf, including providing a brief overview of the history of the planning process since the passage of the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act

Amendments in 1978, the eight key factors considered in determining the time and location of leasing, and the current leasing status for the 26 outer continental shelf planning areas. Ms. Orr detailed each stage of the leasing, exploration, and development processes, and emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process. She pointed to several specific opportunities for entities and individuals to provide input on the planning and leasing process. She also described the Mid- and South Atlantic Geological and Geophysical Environmental Impact Statement, which was published in March of 2014, indicating that decisions on requirements and whether to allow for oil and gas seismic surveys will be forthcoming.

Following this presentation, members of the RPB asked several clarifying questions. Ms. Orr clarified that if seismic surveys are approved, permits would be issued on an individual basis, and consultations would be required for each before moving forward. With regard to the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, BOEM has sent letters to a range of federal, state, and tribal entities alerting them to the fact that BOEM will be issuing a request for information (RFI) for the next planning process, and will follow up with another letter and a copy of the RFI, which will request input on all eight factors the Secretary of Interior must consider when determining the timing and location of leasing. When asked about BOEM's outreach to the fishing industry, Ms. Orr signaled willingness to present information to and engage with any stakeholder group upon request.

Next, Ms. Bornholdt provided an update on offshore renewable energy, outlining the four stages of the offshore wind authorization process. Her presentation is available in Appendix B4. The first stage includes planning and analysis, and typically includes the establishment of inter-governmental task forces. BOEM publishes planning notices in the Federal Register, such as RFIs or Calls for Information and Nominations, to better understand activities in and environmental conditions associated with a particular area. The Task Force members make recommendations to BOEM regarding areas that may be suitable for offshore wind energy development, and BOEM will also use information received from stakeholders and the public in its decision-making process. The second stage is leasing, and involves publishing leasing notices and issuing leases, either through the noncompetitive lease negotiation or the competitive lease sale process. These leases authorize the right to file plans proposing site assessment activities in and development of the lease area. The third stage is site characterization and assessment, in which the lessee conducts surveys and site assessment activities in the area within a five-year phase. The fourth and final stage is commercial development, during which the lessee submits a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) that BOEM must approve before construction of the wind facility can take place. The COP provides details of the proposed project, typically for a term of 25 years.

Ms. Bornholdt next provided an overview of progress related to offshore wind lease sales in the Atlantic, and a range of other planning and leasing activities along the coast. She also enumerated opportunities for RPB member engagement, including Intergovernmental Task Force meetings, National Environmental Policy Act-related scoping meetings and hearings,

and Federal Register notices. Ms. Bornholdt closed by describing how the RPB process can enhance efficiencies related to BOEM's offshore renewable energy leasing by building a collective understanding of activities in the region, examining linkages among states and other partners, identifying drivers for actions, and improving collaboration.

Ms. Cantral then turned to the RPB for discussion and clarifying questions. Some members of the RPB indicated that BOEM's Intergovernmental Task Force model could be a useful mechanism to engage state and local governments in the oil and gas leasing process. The RPB reflected on the importance of engaging federal agencies and tribes early in any leasing process. The RPB also discussed how there may be potential to use right-of-way access processing to pre-plan and designate corridors to facilitate planning as more leases are developed.

Sector-specific activities discussion: habitat-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic

During this session, Dr. Mary Boatman, Environmental Studies Chief in the Office of Renewable Energy Program at BOEM, Dr. Kevin Chu, Assistant Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service at NOAA, and Michael Luisi, Member of the MAFMC each provided updates on existing efforts to identify and manage key ocean habitats. These updates were intended to inform RPB discussion about activities that are already underway to support achieving the habitat-related objectives in the Framework and to help identify gaps that could be filled through coordinated RPB action.

Dr. Boatman initiated the habitat-specific presentations by providing an overview of the BOEM Environmental Studies Program, which has spent approximately \$26 million over the last 5 years to aggregate baseline information about marine species to inform decision-making. Her full presentation is available in Appendix B5. BOEM works in tandem with a range of partners including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), NOAA, the U.S. Navy, and the state of Maryland, to undertake a range of activities including studying bird distributions and tracking diving birds, tagging turtles, seals, and seabirds, using passive acoustic monitoring to track large marine mammals, and collecting fish habitat information.

Dr. Chu then provided an overview of the National Marine Fisheries Service habitat-related activities, acknowledging that there are a range of additional programs within NOAA that pursue parallel and complementary habitat-related activities. Dr. Chu's presentation is available in Appendix B6. He described how the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act directs federal agencies to consult with NOAA when actions could adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). These activities could include installing hydropower generation, siting wind farms, expanding natural gas and electrical lines, deepening major ports, mining sand and gravel, among others. As a result of these

consultations, NOAA has forged partnerships with many federal agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, FWS, BOEM, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, among others. Dr. Chu next described how NOAA identifies critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, indicating that there are not currently any critical designations in the Mid-Atlantic. Finally, he provided an overview of the four primary themes of ecosystem research conducted at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to illustrate key focus areas for NOAA's monitoring and assessment of living marine resources, study of changes in the ocean, and understanding of habitat and ecology. These themes include:

- Monitor and assess marine populations and ecosystems
- Understand effects of environmental change on marine ecosystems and human communities
- Understand the role of habitat
- Research on sustainable aquaculture

Mr. Luisi then offered a presentation of several initiatives of the MAFMC including how the new Strategic Plan from 2014-2018 explicitly incorporates objectives related to ecosystem and habitat protection. Mr. Luisi's presentation is available in Appendix B7. The MAFMC is currently developing a management structure to protect deep sea corals, potentially establishing both broad coral zones that encompass large areas of deep water with minimal activities and discrete coral zones that are known to contain or have a high probability of containing corals. He described how the MAFMC is considering a range of management alternatives in these areas including prohibitions on certain types of bottom-tending and moving gear, and will conduct public hearings in late summer or early fall. The Council also manages 13 species of fish and identifies Essential Fish Habitats for each of these in all life stages and habitat areas of particular concern for critical habitat areas, which are reviewed periodically. Mr. Luisi also detailed the development of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Managements document, which provides overarching guidelines and objectives that will drive actions across fishery management plans to help incorporate and better integrate ecosystem approaches.

Following these presentations, Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB for any clarifying questions or points of discussion. The RPB expressed interest in the results of studies on the effects of both isolated and prolonged environmental changes on fish populations. Members of the RPB also discussed the importance of conducting a robust ROA to identify clear questions to inform planning and to identify key data and knowledge gaps to be filled. One element of this discussion was the need to analyze data in order to translate it into meaningful information, and constructing targeted questions will help ensure that any additional data that is gathered serves a clear and specific need. RPB members discussed the particular value of continuing to strive to stack data (e.g., depth, airspace, seasonal changes) to demonstrate the multidimensional nature of certain ecosystem processes.

Several members of the RPB identified opportunities to improve communication and alignment from the day's discussion of sector-specific activities, for example, the benefits of early engagement of federal agencies in the RFI process for oil and gas leasing, the coalescing of a number of RPB member institutions around protecting habitat for deep sea corals, and potential improved connections between NOAA and the Coast Guard related to the intersection of EFH and determination of navigation routes. The RPB also discussed the relationship between critical habitat zones and different fishing technologies as an example of the value of flexibility in the application of rules and protections and the importance of location-specific information to enable appropriate interventions.

Public comment: ocean energy and habitat-related activities

During this session, members of the public were invited to offer public comment on any topic, but encouraged to tailor their comments to the topic currently being discussed by the RPB. Six individuals provided comments and the ideas presented are summarized as follows. The details of comments for the record can be found in the full meeting transcript, which can be found at the RPB [website](#). Comments focused on:

- *Science-based decision-making*: Considering a range of studies and assessments that have been conducted to date will help determine the economic potential of the oceans for both renewable and non-renewable energy development. There may also be value in establishing a science advisory council or similar body to provide expert scientific input to inform RPB decision-making. There is support for translating data to information through analysis in order to base RPB discussions in on-the-ground realities.
- *Stakeholder outreach*: It is critical to engage parties external to the RPB, particularly industry, in a transparent process to reduce any appearance of this being a government-only planning effort. Some expressed a desire for the RPB to serve as a central hub for public input on a range of other ocean-related activities and processes.
- *Bolstering key habitat protections*: Commenters expressed appreciation for the range of habitat-related activities highlighted by BOEM, NOAA, and the MAFMC, and expressed particular interest in the RPB aligning activities around deep sea coral protection and protection of right whales. Open discussion among RPB members regarding these particular habitats could enable improved information sharing and add value to individual agency processes throughout the process of developing a regional ocean action plan.

- *Charter and Timeline:* The RPB charter should be finalized and made available to the public as soon as possible. Additionally, there is significant interest among the public to accelerate the RPB's timeline and complete a regional ocean action plan by 2016.
 - *Clarity on RPB role and actions:* It is important to achieve clarity regarding the specific role of the RPB and its capacity to and act as a unified entity or collective body.
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Discussion continued: ocean energy and habitat-related activities

Following the public comment session, Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB for any additional discussion and clarifying points informed by these comments. It was clarified that the sector-specific discussions are intended to provide insight into activities RPB member institutions are currently undertaking to share information. These presentations support the sections of the Framework related to improving understanding of the Mid-Atlantic oceans and the use and conservation of its resources, and to coordinate efforts to address both current challenges and emerging opportunities. Ms. Cantral indicated that the second day of the meeting would more closely focus on the specific path forward for the next several months of RPB activities.

The RPB expressed interest in revisiting the topic of a science council or another mechanism to provide meaningful input from the scientific community to inform RPB discussions. Members of the RPB agreed that the appropriate role for the RPB is not to advocate on particular legislative or policy changes, but rather to provide a forum for each member institution to collect information, collaborate, and implement each institution's policies and programs in an effective and efficient manner. The RPB is a planning, rather than a governing, body, and with the passage of the Framework is at a foundational point in the planning process. In the coming months, the RPB will aggregate and assess a suite of tools to assist with that planning process with the ultimate objective of conducting work through individual member institution vehicles with the benefit of improved information and coordination. This could include working together to improve the collective understanding of existing resources, leveraging capacity and improving information and data, understanding how to improve coordination between and among RPB members, and enhancing the engagement of stakeholders in federal, state, and tribal processes and activities. It was also mentioned specifically, in response to comments received about the RPB serving as a conduit for public input, that there is a space on BOEM's website for the RPB that identifies upcoming events relevant to each member institution, which could be an information hub for RPB members and the public in the future.

In her role as facilitator, Ms. Cantral suggested the RPB continue to refine Frequently Asked Questions on the RPB's [website](#) to further clarify the purpose of the RPB and what the planning process is intended to achieve.

Summary

Ms. Cantral wrapped up Day 1 with a brief summary, the content of which is captured in the preceding sections of this document. She encouraged attendance at the informal stakeholder networking event held that evening, and adjourned the meeting for the day.

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The second day of the meeting was focused on discussing ideas about next steps captured in the document entitled *Process Suggestions for Mid-Atlantic RPB Consideration* put forth by the RPB Co-Leads, as well as discussion of key steps needed to move toward the creation of a regional ocean action plan. The day included two additional public comment sessions, one of which was focused on the RPB process moving forward and the other on a sector-specific discussion of navigation activities. These sessions were intentionally sequenced to fall in the midst of RPB discussion and consideration of those topics, so that the RPB could be informed by public input in the course of its discussions.

Welcome Back, summary day 1, agenda review day 2

During this session, Ms. Cantral briefly reminded the group about outcomes of Day 1, including the approval of the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*, and described the agenda for Day 2. She explained that the discussions for the day would focus on the timeline for the creation of a regional ocean action plan and the components of a workplan. She also clarified that some work to be discussed is already underway, while other aspects have yet to be started, and indicated that the RPB would spend time determining a path forward on these efforts. Ms. Cantral also indicated that the schedule of the day would be flexible based on the progress of discussions, and that timing of particular sessions might be adjusted accordingly.

Discussion of RPB process going forward and workplan

The RPB Co-Leads introduced six different elements of a proposed RPB workplan, each including either an existing or new workgroup to guide RPB discussions and additional activities. The Co-Leads' presentation for this session is available in Appendix B8. Ms. Schultz reviewed the overarching process captured in the slide titled *Proposed Process and Terminology* and offered a more detailed timeline for RPB discussion, referencing the document *Updated RPB Timeline: June 2014 through mid-2017* available in Appendix A3. This timeline included detailed next steps for June through December of 2014, and a more general sequence of steps for the subsequent months and years. Details of this suggested timeline included the following:

- *June 2014 to October/November 2014*
 - Initial workplan would be under development by various RPB and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)-facilitated workgroups composed of RPB members, alternates, and staff. The workplan would be considered a living document that is updated as the RPB makes decisions and there is greater clarity about the nature and content of major products, such as the ROA and regional ocean action plan.
 - The RPB would continue to convene regularly via teleconference, and potentially engage with technical experts and stakeholders through roundtables, workshops, or other opportunities.
- *October/November 2014*
 - This was suggested as a target for release of a draft workplan for public input.
- *Late November/Early December 2014*
 - This would be the target for the third in-person public RPB meeting to discuss:
 - Progress on key ongoing actions (i.e., ongoing actions that are *not* awaiting workplan completion to be launched, for example the Data Portal or Regional Ocean Assessment).
 - Determination of the nature and purpose of a regional ocean action plan, what additional information and actions are needed to develop it, etc.
 - Refinement of draft workplan, as needed, based on RPB and public input.
- *April/May 2015*
 - The fourth in-person RPB public meeting could be held in this timeframe to discuss progress and make further workplan modifications. Public meetings may be held 2-3 times per year going forward.
- *2015 and 2016*
 - Refinement of workplan as needed and development of regional ocean action plan.
- *Mid-2017*
 - First iteration regional ocean action plan completed, possible implementation plan is developed, and implementation underway.

Ms. Schultz noted that this suggested timeline was created prior to the meeting, and that the RPB would need to consider the public comments received encouraging accelerating the timeline for developing the regional ocean action plan by the end of 2016.

Ocean planning options: clarifying and developing a regional ocean action plan

Ms. Cantral turned to Ms. Bornholdt to describe the first suggested workgroup and associated suite of RPB workflows, which include conducting an in-depth analysis on what options for a regional ocean action plan could look like. Throughout this and subsequent discussions, the Co-Leads referenced *Process Recommendations for Mid-Atlantic RPB Consideration*, available in Appendix A6. The purpose of the workgroup would be for a team of RPB Members, alternates, and staff to provide the RPB with information and options to consider regarding the nature and purpose of a first iteration of a regional ocean action plan. This team could focus on gaining a better understanding of the ocean ecosystem, current ocean resources, and uses of the ocean, in addition to major trends to be accounted for. The RPB would facilitate this workgroup.

Members of the RPB indicated that this group could help provide clarity about the particular issues on which a regional ocean action plan could focus, and would be closely connected to all other workflows and workgroup activities to inform that thinking. The ocean planning options workgroup could, in consultation with the rest of the RPB, reflect a vision for the regional ocean action plan. An additional component of the ocean planning options could include identifying existing and needed resources to facilitate improved ocean planning. Karen Chytalo of New York volunteered to serve as the state co-chair of this workgroup.

Inter-jurisdictional coordination

Ms. Bornholdt next described a separate workflow to enable some RPB members to think beyond available tools to identify specific processes and mechanisms for how member institutions can better coordinate, leverage resources, and make better decisions that benefit users and ecosystem health in the context of existing mandates and authorities. This group's work would promote government-to-government understanding of key issues and concerns to inform interactions among member institutions on the RPB and help member institutions improve coordination.

Ms. Cantral added that this process would be parallel but somewhat different from the other workgroups, and invited Mr. Nick Napoli of the Northeast RPB to offer some brief comments on an analogous process underway by the Northeast RPB. He described that the Northeast RPB's framework document includes a baseline assessment, a selection of future scenarios, and an outline for how to use this information through the existing regulatory framework to improve coordination. Members of the RPB noted that there are many lessons learned from the process of developing that architecture that the Mid-Atlantic RPB could learn from, including points relating to scope of the baseline assessment, determination of particular subject areas within the Data Portal, assessment of audience, and how alignment and shared information regarding individual agency processes can help improve decision-making.

Members of the RPB discussed the ideas, some noting that some elements of the implementation phase as described in the timeline are already underway. Others shared that a group focused on improving and expanding existing coordination mechanisms will assist

RPB member institutions in conducting effective work in the near term and longer term. It was also noted that current planning and strategy development efforts within member institutions will continue while the RPB is the process of developing a regional ocean action plan, and it will be important to ensure that RPB members use this process as a forum in which to exchange ideas, share information, and anticipate future points of intersection.

Connections to bays, estuaries, and coastal lands

Ms. Schultz next outlined the activities of a proposed RPB team that would develop a suite of informational products focused on the interconnections between the ocean and the Mid-Atlantic estuaries, bays, and coastal lands. She referenced the significant public feedback on this topic received at the public listening sessions and echoed during the public comment period on the first day of the meeting, and indicated that this group would work to be responsive to stakeholder interest in improving coordination to appropriately account for estuaries, bays, and coastal areas in regional ocean planning. For example, this group could identify trends that will change connections between estuaries, bays, and coasts and the ocean over time, existing management entities for the major bays, estuaries, and coastal lands that may need to be coordinated with, and ideas for how technical advice on this topic could be sought. The RPB would facilitate this workgroup.

During discussion, members of the RPB indicated that this suite of work would require establishing balance between critical issues to those stakeholder groups and focusing on issues of importance to the region as a whole. This is an instance in which shaping targeted questions will help generate answers that will help the RPB move forward with planning and keep the evolution of ocean planning as focused as possible. RPB members also discussed how this topic is focused on the “what” element of coordination, which will complement the “how” question on which other groups will focus by driving the use of information. It was also clarified that RPB member institutions can and should identify others within their staff with appropriate expertise and sufficient time to participate in some workgroups, and that they will not be comprised exclusively of RPB members and alternates. Andy Zemba of Pennsylvania and Doug Pabst of EPA volunteered to co-chair this group.

Following this discussion, Ms. Cantral offered a moment of reflection about discussions held that morning. She reflected that the Co-Leads had offered three topics for consideration as workflows and components of a workplan. The RPB workgroups suggested would be populated by members of the RPB, alternates, and staff. She also emphasized that the Co-Leads expect that all members represented on the RPB would find a way to contribute to these efforts. She reminded the group that the Framework lays out goals and objectives for the ocean planning process, and the proposed workgroups and workflows would be designed to help develop a workplan that would ultimately lead to the development of a regional ocean action plan.

Data Portal

Ms. Cantral next turned to Ms. Laura McKay and Mr. Tony MacDonald to describe ongoing activities related to the Data Portal. Referring to slides, which can be found in Appendix B9, Ms. McKay described the three major sections of the Data Portal, the seven themes of the data layers, and some of its primary functions. She outlined the data priorities and standards, indicating that soon-to-be added layers are listed on the Data Portal website, and walked through the process of adding data and functions. She encouraged all RPB members to disseminate through their networks that the Data Portal is available for use now and continuing to grow and evolve. Ms. McKay next indicated that an existing team would be reconfigured into a smaller, more streamlined group called the Ocean Mapping and Data Team. She solicited RPB involvement from several agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Energy, Transportation, and Agriculture, in addition to the Shinnecock Nation. Each corresponding RPB member pledged to identify the correct individual to participate in the group.

Mr. MacDonald presented recent Data Portal activity, using deep-sea corals as an example of the Data Portal's functionality and versatility. He highlighted the different stakeholder engagement strategies employed to gather data, including participatory mapping workshops and online surveys, and described a future vision for the integration of emerging datasets into the Data Portal interface. He highlighted commercial fishing and recreational uses as two key stakeholder groups whose input will be integrated based on targeted outreach. He signaled openness to coordinating closely with the RPB in the coming months, and described that MARCO's Stakeholder Liaison Committee and the Data Portal's technical team will collaborate to make preliminary recommendations about how MARCO and the Data Portal website can systematically engage stakeholders.

The RPB discussed that indigenous and tribal content could be integrated into the Data Portal, and also reflected that one challenge associated with the Data Portal will be ensuring that data is up to date, given the speed with which some datasets will shift and evolve. Members of the Portal Team reflected that some strategies are in place to adapt to changing data, and to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of different types of data and conduct collaborative analysis to achieve the best outcome. They also discussed potential opportunities for RPB involvement through the development of case studies to showcase uses of the Data Portal and existing partnerships.

Regional Ocean Assessment

During this session, Dr. Chu presented the progress of an existing workgroup that is thinking through how to develop a ROA, to characterize what an ROA could contain to best use available information to describe the marine environment and human activities. His presentation is available in Appendix B10. The group is currently considering how an ROA could be used, and who the key audience for this kind of tool might be. Dr. Chu offered a suggested outline of the ROA, and identified a list of current uses that could be captured therein. He posed a question to the RPB regarding the level of information to include in the ROA, suggesting that the ROA could be comprised of brief, clear descriptions of factors and

issues relevant to the ocean ecosystem and could include links to more comprehensive resources on particular topics rather than compiling all that detailed information in one place. He then outlined a series of next steps for a path forward on the development of the ROA, including a time for public review of the draft ROA and incorporation of feedback generated through public comment.

In considering the questions Dr. Chu has posed to the group, the RPB determined that the RPB should be the audience for the ROA. To the extent that trends in ocean uses are included in the ROA, drivers of those changes should also be included. It was observed that a past effort by the Department of Transportation's Committee on Marine Transportation Systems could inform the development of the ROA, and that it would be helpful to share similar efforts within specific member institutions to ensure that the ROA is structured in alignment with existing best practices and informed by lessons learned. Members of the RPB also discussed how the ROA could serve as a kind of clearinghouse for other resources, and agreed that the model of providing concise summaries of key information is appropriate. It was also noted that further thinking will be required both in determining the extent to which and nature of conflicting uses should be included in the ROA and in considering whether or not relevant laws and regulations should be catalogued in the ROA.

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

The final workflow presented was related to stakeholder engagement strategies and opportunities. Ms. Schultz framed the discussion by presenting a Co-Lead recommendation to convene a new workgroup of RPB members, alternatives, and staff to provide leadership on this topic. She emphasized that stakeholder engagement and transparency are priorities of the RPB and are key aspects of many RPB actions, and enumerated some of the suggested activities this workgroup could undertake.

Ms. Darlene Finch, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator at NOAA, presented an overview of a draft outline of a stakeholder engagement strategy currently out for public comment through July 15, which can be found on the RPB [website](#). Her presentation is available in Appendix B11. She indicated that a full strategy, once developed, would integrate across efforts of the entire RPB, of individual members and their organizations, of stakeholders supporting ocean planning, and other stakeholders. This strategy would be a concerted effort to pull together all the elements of the RPB's current modes of stakeholder engagement. She outlined the steps of a proposed process to achieve an overarching goal for stakeholder engagement, and also identified several specific ideas for a proposed strategy. She highlighted the importance of providing many opportunities for frequent, meaningful, transparent, inclusive, and robust stakeholder engagement to inform the RPB's deliberations and ensure that stakeholders understand the RPB's process. Ms. Finch also draft possible objectives for the strategy for consideration.

Following this presentation, Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB for any points of discussion. It was noted that MARCO's Stakeholder Liaison Committee is one existing effort the stakeholder engagement strategy would account for as appropriate. RPB members expressed support for pursuing development of a full strategy for stakeholder engagement,

noting the importance of creating a refined, precise strategy to clarify roles and deliver information effectively. This strategy could help align current efforts to engage stakeholders and build connections among existing networks in a coordinated fashion. It was noted that a key element of stakeholder engagement could include reaching young voices, and learning from past efforts will help shape the effectiveness of this workgroup's activities. RPB members reflected that the workgroup can serve as a conduit for input from all RPB members and analyze that information as part of the stakeholder engagement strategy.

Public comment: RPB process going forward and workplan

During this session, members of the public were invited to offer public comment on any topic, but encouraged to tailor their comments to the topic currently being discussed by the RPB. Seven individuals provided comments and the ideas presented are summarized as follows. The details of comments for the record can be found in the full meeting transcript, which can be found at the RPB [website](#). Comments focused on:

- *Clarity on terminology:* Clearly articulating the relationships between the regional ocean assessment, the workplan, and the regional ocean action plan would be helpful for both the RPB and the public.
- *Stakeholder engagement:* The stakeholder engagement strategy provides an opportunity to catalogue existing pathways to disseminate information and expand those pathways. One important stakeholder group to engage is the scientific community, and that group is interested in identifying a concrete mechanism to contribute to the RPB process. Stakeholder engagement should be integrated into the RPB's overall timeline to ensure that input is acquired at key junctures. It would also be helpful to leverage existing resources within the federal family, including communications staff, to take part in RPB proceedings and to make best use of existing tools, like social media platforms. The stakeholder engagement strategy should be an active process, and educational institutions could be helpful for reaching a younger audience. It is critical for stakeholder engagement to inform the RPB as it moves forward, and the RPB should ensure the stakeholders are comfortable with the prospect of developing a regional ocean action plan.
- *Regional Ocean Assessment:* Support was expressed for the concise, interactive approach to the ROA that the RPB discussed. The findings of the ROA could serve as floor plan to inform the structure of the regional ocean action plan. It will be important to consider how the document can best serve the members of the RPB, including by cataloguing areas with conflicting uses. Some commenters mentioned that the regional ocean action plan should not be developed until the ROA is complete and analyzed.

- *Data Portal*: Commenters expressed appreciation for the Data Portal as a useful tool, and stressed the importance of ensuring that information included in it is accessible and difficult to misconstrue. Additionally, some stakeholders look at issues in a place-based rather than sector-specific way, and the Portal could be helpful in assisting stakeholders make place-based connections. It may be challenging to gather accurate data about specific sector activities (e.g., fishing) given the speed with which industry activity evolves.
-

Sector-specific activities discussion: navigation-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic

Mr. John Walters, Chief of the Waterways Management Section, 5th District of the U.S. Coast Guard; Joe Atangan, Physical Scientist, U.S. Fleet Forces, Command at the U.S. Navy; and Lorraine Wakeman, Program Analyst at the U.S. Maritime Administration in the Department of Transportation described sector-specific activities related to ocean planning and navigational considerations. Their presentation is available in Appendix B12. Mr. Walters described competing navigational interests, and key considerations related to maritime shipping on the east coast, indicating that a significant priority is ensuring that any transit that occurs is done safely and efficiently. He outlined the details of Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS) and how the results of that study will be applied to inform planning efforts between federal agencies. Mr. Walters provided examples of how many uses can intersect in one specific ocean area, highlighting the importance of considering all of those uses through coordination and information sharing to minimize conflict and optimize use.

Mr. Atangan next described activities in several Department of Defense Operating Areas, outlining the activities naval vessels, aircraft, and submerged vessels, and describing the vital importance of the region to the Navy, Airforce, and Army. He indicated that close coordination between the Department of Defense (DOD) and BOEM is already underway relating to the compatibility of DOD activities with oil and gas lease blocks. He emphasized that DOD activities relate to the surface of the ocean, the airspace above, and extend to submarine territory.

Ms. Lorraine Wakeman described existing marine highway routes, signaling that these routes will be growing in the coming years. She indicated that smaller vessels will have an opportunity to take advantage of these highways as they evolve, and indicated that there is potential for significant expansion of and increased use of existing marine highways. Ms. Wakeman indicated that post Panamax vessels will be much larger, and significant infrastructure changes will be needed to accommodate them. Key considerations include which ports these vessels will call, when or if these vessels will arrive in large numbers, how much they will draw when arriving and departing, and what specific infrastructure changes are needed. Additionally, trade flows, ship sizes, volume of traffic, and transshipment port

development will all contribute to thinking about developments in marine traffic. She pointed out that there may be potential for deep water ports as energy market dynamics in the United States related to petroleum and liquefied natural gas evolve, and that it will be important to consider environmental factors in any planning related to energy development.

Public comment: navigation-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic

Because the RPB had adjusted its agenda somewhat for day 2, it decided to offer one additional public comment session to ensure that members of the public had an opportunity to weigh in on the navigation topic. During this session, members of the public were invited to offer public comment on any topic, but encouraged to tailor their comments to the topic currently being discussed by the RPB. One individual provided comment and the ideas presented are summarized as follows. The details of this comment for the record can be found in the full meeting transcript, which can be found at the RPB [website](#). The comment focused on:

- *Cost savings from shifting vessel routes:* Some research shows that changing commercial vessel routes very slightly and at a modest cost could help facilitate offshore wind development closer to shore to take better advantage of topography. There are potentially significant financial savings to be gained and renewable energy to be developed by examining these kinds of tradeoffs. Also, it is important to consider the parameters of a GIS analysis in interpreting the results. Information presented through GIS can be manipulated for effect, and the RPB should be conscious of this potential when examining GIS maps and data.
-

Discussion of RPB process going forward, workplan, and timeline (continued)

During this session, the RPB reflected on the input received during the two public comment periods and the topics of the afternoon. Ms. Cantral identified the objectives of the session, including providing clarity on next steps for the process of the RPB, discussing the timeline that had been discussed, and ensuring that RPB members have a clear sense of direction and focus related to the next phase of RPB work. She then turned to RPB members for reflections.

The RPB reflected on its role as a body to share information and improve decision-making, a process that will be informed by an ROA targeted to the RPB. The ROA will provide a snapshot of the current state of affairs in the Mid-Atlantic ocean, and will help to identify specific areas to call out in the regional ocean action plan needing increased attention and coordination. Members reiterated their comfort with the suggested approach on the ROA. On stakeholder engagement, it was clarified that the version of the stakeholder engagement strategy draft outline currently available on the RPB website is the appropriate document on which to comment, and Ms. Cantral invited comments on that document by July 15, 2014.

The concept of a science advisory committee or other mechanism for input from the scientific community was noted as a topic to discuss further, and something that the stakeholder engagement workgroup could take under advisement. RPB members agreed that the scientific community will need to be engaged in RPB activities both in a broad sense and in a specific capacity to answer immediate questions. Finally, members of the RPB reflected on the fact it will be important to continue to clarify that the RPB as a body does not have regulatory authority, but rather individual member institutions have such authorities. While individual states, tribes, and federal agencies will have specific interests, the purpose of the RPB is to take a regional approach to planning, which may require applying a broader lens than that of the individual member institution.

Discussion of any points still requiring resolution

During this session, the RPB briefly discussed major next steps. They included:

- With regard to RPB workgroups, the Co-Leads offered to circulate a list of the workgroup participation to date, including those who volunteered at the meeting to help identify gaps and further populate those groups.
 - RPB members will reach out within their member institutions to identify the appropriate staff to participate in the workgroups.
 - The RPB will initiate discussions among new workgroups, and encourage continuing discussions by existing workgroups, including the ROA workgroup.
 - The ROA workgroup will continue to develop an outline, including a timeline, and will share a suggested approach with the RPB for further discussion.
 - The Co-Leads will consider feedback received regarding workgroup structure and draft a memorandum describing a suggested path forward and next steps for RPB consideration.
 - The RPB will consider revisiting Frequently Asked Questions posted on the RPB's [website](#) to more specifically address the purpose of the RPB and what the planning process is intended to achieve.
 - The finalized Framework will be posted on the RPB's website.
-

Summary

Ms. Cantral summarized major outcomes of the meeting, noting that significant progress had been made and the RPB had met its meeting objectives, including most notably approving the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*. She described the six workflows discussed and thanked the RPB members and public for their active engagement throughout the meeting and commitment to developing a robust next phase of work. Following brief closing remarks by Co-Leads, Ms. Cantral adjourned the meeting.

Appendix A1

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

May 20-21, 2014

Agenda

Meeting Objectives

- Approve the Draft Framework and a timeline for developing a RPB workplan based on that framework.
- Identify next steps and a timeline for regional ocean planning products and processes.
- Discuss a strategy to further engage Mid-Atlantic stakeholders in regional ocean planning, and provide opportunities for public input at this meeting.
- Share information about activities underway by RPB member institutions that are relevant for regional ocean planning.

Location: Charles Commons, 10 E. 33rd St., 3rd Floor (Level L), Baltimore, MD 21218

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

8:30 am Registration

9:30 am Welcome, introduction, and agenda review

- *Maureen Bornholdt (Federal RPB Co-Lead), Renewable Energy Program Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*
- *Gwynne Schultz (State RPB Co-Lead), Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland*
- *Gerrod Smith (Tribal RPB Co-Lead), Chief Financial Officer/Natural Resource Advisor, Shinnecock Indian Nation*
- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

10:00 am Tribal blessing

Gerrod Smith (Tribal RPB Co-Lead), Chief Financial Officer/Natural Resource Advisor, Shinnecock Indian Nation

10:15 am Review of progress and discussion of proposed RPB timeline

- *Maureen Bornholdt (Federal RPB Co-Lead), Renewable Energy Program Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*
- *Gwynne Schultz (State RPB Co-Lead), Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland*
- *Gerrod Smith (Tribal RPB Co-Lead), Chief Financial Officer/Natural Resource Advisor, Shinnecock Indian Nation*

During this session, RPB Co-Leads will present brief updates of progress since the inaugural RPB meeting in September 2013 and offer an updated RPB timeline. This will be followed by RPB discussion.

10:45 am Discussion: Revised Draft Framework

Douglas Pabst, Chief, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, Office of the Regional Administrator, Sandy Recovery Green Team

This session will begin with a presentation of the *Revised Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* and how the RPB refined the draft between December 2013 and April 2014 as informed by public input. This will be followed by RPB discussion.

(10:45 am is cut-off to sign up for 11:15 am public comment session)

11:15 am Public comment session: proposed RPB timeline and Revised Draft Framework

Interested members of the public will be provided one of several opportunities to offer public comment. They will be encouraged to focus their comments on the specific topics being discussed by the RPB at this point in the agenda, although they are welcome to address any topics they wish. 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.

12:15 pm Lunch

Lunch will be available for members of the public in the Charles Commons Dining Hall (adjacent to meeting room).

1:15 pm Discussion: Revised Draft Framework (continued)

During this session, the RPB will reflect on public input and identify any final edits needed for approval of the Framework.

- 1:45 pm** **Sector-specific activities discussion: ocean energy in the Mid-Atlantic**
- *Maureen Bornholdt (Federal RPB Co-Lead), Renewable Energy Program Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*
 - *Renee Orr, Chief, Office of Strategic Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*

The objective of this session is to provide an update on current and potential ocean energy efforts in the Mid-Atlantic. This will be followed by RPB discussion.

- 2:45 pm** **Break**

- 3:00 pm** **Sector-specific activities discussion: habitat-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic**
- *Mary Boatman, Environmental Studies Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*
 - *Kevin Chu, Assistant Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce*
 - *Michael Luisi, Member, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service*

The objective of this session is to provide an update on habitat-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic. This will be followed by RPB discussion.

(3:30 pm is cut-off to sign up for 4:00 pm public comment session)

- 4:00 pm** **Public comment session: Ocean energy and habitat-related activities**
- Interested members of the public will be provided one of several opportunities to offer public comment. They will be encouraged to focus their comments on the specific topics being discussed by the RPB at this point in the agenda, although they are welcome to address any topics they wish. 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.

- 5:00 pm** **Break**

- 5:15 pm** **Discussion continued: ocean energy and habitat-related activities**
The RPB will reflect on public input and identify RPB next steps with regard to energy and habitat-related activities.
- 6:00 pm** **Summary**
- 6:15 pm** **Adjourn**
- 6:30 pm to** **Networking reception**
7:30 pm *Nolan's Café (located across from the registration desk)*
The public will be invited to join RPB Members for a cash bar networking reception. This will provide an informal opportunity for the public to interact with the RPB and share any ideas or reactions in an informal setting.

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

- 9:45 am** **Registration**
- 10:15 am** **Welcome back, summary day 1, agenda review day 2**
Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute
- 10:30 am** **Discussion of RPB process going forward and workplan**
The objectives of this session are to discuss and clarify the process going forward, including purpose and content of a RPB workplan. This session will be divided into the following sub-sessions:
- 10:30am to 11:15am: Process going forward and RPB workplan
 - 11:15am to 11:45am: Ocean planning options: clarifying and developing a regional ocean action plan
 - 11:45 am to 12:00pm: Connections to bays, estuaries, and coastal lands
 - 12:00pm to 12:30pm: Inter-jurisdictional coordination
- 12:30 pm** **Lunch**
Lunch will be available for members of the public in the Charles Commons Dining Hall (adjacent to meeting room).

1:30pm Discussion of RPB workplan (continued)

This session will be divided into the following sub-sessions:

- 1:30pm to 2:00pm: Data Portal
- 2:00pm to 2:30pm: Regional Ocean Assessment
- 2:30pm to 3:00pm: Stakeholder engagement strategy

3:00 pm Sector-specific activities discussion: navigation-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic

- *John Walters, Chief, Waterways Management Section, 5th District, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security*
- *Joe Atangan, Physical Scientist, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Navy, Joint Chiefs of Staff*
- *Lorraine Wakeman, Program Analyst, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation*

The objective of this session is to provide an update on navigation-related activities in the Mid-Atlantic. This will be followed by RPB discussion.

(3:00 pm is cut-off to sign up for 3:30 pm public comment session)

3:30 pm Public comment: RPB workplan, navigation activities, and any other topics

Interested members of the public will be provided one of several opportunities to offer public comment. They will be encouraged to focus their comments on the specific topics being discussed by the RPB at this point in the agenda, although they are welcome to address any topics they wish. 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 Break**4:45 pm Discussion of RPB process going forward, workplan, and timeline (continued)**

The RPB will reflect on public input and clarify next steps with regard to development and execution of a RPB workplan. It will then consider whether updates should be made to the overall RPB timeline to account for RPB discussions over the course of the meeting.

5:30 pm **Discussion of any final points still requiring resolution**

5:45 pm **Summary**

6:00 pm **Adjourn**

Appendix A2

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Roster of Members and Alternates

May 2014

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Appendix A3

Updated RPB Timeline: June 2014 through mid-2017

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

Appendix A4

Note to the reader: This revised version of the Draft Framework has been edited by the MidA RPB in response to careful consideration of verbal and written comments received by members of the public between December 16, 2013 and April 15, 2014. It is the intention of the MidA RPB to hear final public comments during a public comment session and approve the Framework at the May 20-21, 2014 meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Revised Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Since the formal establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) in April of 2013, the MidA RPB has been identifying needs and opportunities that can be addressed through regional ocean planning. 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. This document is the MidA RPB's Revised Draft Framework for regional ocean planning. The final Framework will inform how the MidA RPB will move forward with regional ocean planning by articulating a vision, principles, goals, objectives, example actions, and geographic focus. Once finalized, the Framework will be used to guide development of a RPB workplan and RPB products moving forward.

The MidA RPB provided opportunities for public feedback and ideas about the Draft Framework in order to help the MidA RPB account for the full diversity of ocean interests in the region. To facilitate a regional dialogue and to promote public and stakeholder engagement, the MidA RPB offered in-person public listening sessions in five Mid-Atlantic states and provided online public input opportunities from December 2013 through April 2014. Public listening sessions were held in Annapolis, Maryland on February 24; in Lewes, Delaware on February 27; in Norfolk, Virginia on March 20; in West Long Branch, New Jersey on March 27; and in Riverhead, New York on April 7. Details about these opportunities are posted on the MidA RPB website at <http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/>. Members of the public are welcomed to provide feedback about regional ocean planning at any time and can also request to receive email updates from the MidA RPB by sending a message to MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov.

Definitions of the terms used in this document are as follows:

- **Vision:** Desired future state for the Mid-Atlantic ocean.

- **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. Goals are high-level statements of the desired outcomes the MidA RPB hopes to achieve.
 - **Objectives:** Statements of specific outcomes or observable changes that contribute to the achievement of a goal.
 - **Actions:** Specific activities that Federal, State, and Tribal agencies may take, individually or together, to address the stated objectives.
 - **Geographic Focus:** The area of focus for MidA RPB planning and coordination efforts.
-

About Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning

Regional ocean planning is a collaborative process among Federal, State, Tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council representatives that will improve our understanding of how the Mid-Atlantic ocean and its resources are being used, managed, and conserve. Additionally, the MidA RPB will carry out coordinated efforts to address current challenges and emerging opportunities. Regional ocean planning will help guide resource conservation and economic development by facilitating information sharing, fostering collaboration, and improving decision-making about a growing number of ocean uses vying for ocean resources and space. Partnerships with stakeholders will be critical to the success of this planning effort. The MidA RPB will develop meaningful and transparent stakeholder processes and engage stakeholders throughout the planning process.

The regional ocean planning process does not change existing authorities or create new mandates at the Federal, State, and Tribal levels. Rather, it aims to improve the effectiveness of Federal, State, and Tribal implementation of their responsibilities in the Mid-Atlantic ocean.

Key elements of regional ocean planning could include:

- Identify shared regional goals and objectives to guide decision-making by Federal, State, and Tribal entities, informed by scientific understanding, traditional knowledge, and stakeholder engagement and input.
- Promote and encourage participation by ocean stakeholders and the public.
- Build upon all relevant work at the regional, State, Tribal, and local levels.
- Identify emerging issues and account for the needs of both current and future generations, while remaining mindful of traditional uses.
- Efficiently use constrained public resources, while leveraging investments with private-sector partnerships.

- Consult scientists, technical, and other experts in conducting regional ocean planning and developing ocean planning products.
 - Inform data collection and analyses to better understand the potential benefits and risks of decisions.
 - Compile a regional assessment of ocean uses, natural resources, and economic and cultural factors to provide a comprehensive understanding and context for ocean planning.
 - Develop a regional ocean action plan.
 - Increase collaboration and coordination across jurisdictions and with stakeholders to avoid disputes and facilitate compatibility wherever possible. In order to resolve disputes that do arise, the MidA RPB will emphasize use of collaborative, meditative approaches in an effort to avoid costly, formal dispute resolution mechanisms and find solutions that meet the interests of MidA RPB members.
-

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is an online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables regional ocean planners and ocean users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, indigenous concerns, and energy sites, among others. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) initiated and oversees development of the portal in close coordination with the Portal Project Team, using funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Ocean Partnership funding program. For more information, please visit: <http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/portal/>.

About the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

Regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic is led by the MidA RPB, which includes representatives from Federal, State, Tribal, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council entities, as listed below.

- The six Mid-Atlantic States: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia
- The Shinnecock Indian Nation
- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Eight Federal agencies:
 - Department of Agriculture (represented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)
 - Department of Commerce (represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

- Department of Defense (represented by the U.S. Navy and the Joint Chiefs of Staff)
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security (represented by the U.S. Coast Guard)
- Department of the Interior (represented by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
- Department of Transportation (represented by the Maritime Administration)
- Environmental Protection Agency

To learn more about the MidA RPB and to view recent and historic postings, please visit: <http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/index.aspx>.

Role of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

The MidA RPB provides a forum for coordination of ocean planning activities in the region. The MidA RPB will use an iterative and adaptive approach to regional ocean planning and will update planning initiatives to reflect new scientific and human use data and to address new challenges that may arise. As part of the regional ocean planning process, the MidA RPB plans to do the following:

- Develop a workplan that describes strategies and activities designed to achieve the MidA RPB goals and objectives, as articulated in this Framework.
 - Conduct a capacity assessment to identify existing activities that can support regional ocean planning.
 - Complete a regional ocean assessment to provide baseline information for ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic that takes into account current trends, forecasts, and risks associated with changing ocean uses and ecosystems.
 - The MidA RPB intends to develop a regional ocean action plan to achieve the goals and objectives articulated in this Framework.
-

DRAFT Description of Initial Geographic Focus

The MidA RPB proposes that the primary geographic focus area for regional ocean planning at this time be the ocean waters of the region. This means:

- From the shoreline seaward out to 200 miles (EEZ), which includes State, Tribal, 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 MidA RPB will draw connections and coordinate closely with entities responsible for the management and planning of the bay, estuarine, and coastal areas of the Mid-Atlantic for planning purposes, particularly in such cases where ocean uses may impact coastal communities, bays, estuaries, and ports or other shore side infrastructure. The MidA RPB will also coordinate and collaborate with Regional Planning Bodies and other entities in the Northeast and South Atlantic, including the leveraging of resources, which will be essential for success.

DRAFT Vision

The draft vision is intended to articulate the RPB's desired future state for the Mid-Atlantic ocean:

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

DRAFT Principles

The Mid-Atlantic ocean planning efforts will be guided by the following overarching principles:

Intrinsic Value: The MidA RPB will respect the intrinsic value of the ocean and its biodiversity, at the same time recognizing humans as part of the ecosystem and dependent on the health of the ecosystem for our own well-being.

Economic Value: The MidA RPB recognizes the economic value derived from the ocean and intends to enable opportunities for sustainable economic development.

Recognize Interconnections: The MidA RPB will facilitate an approach to managing ocean resources that recognizes and considers the interconnections across human uses and interests, marine ecosystems, species and habitats, and coastal communities and economies.

Compatibility of Multiple Interests: The MidA RPB will make information available to support economic development and ecosystem conservation so that multiple interests, including those of Tribal nations, can co-exist in a manner that provides for sustainable uses, reduces conflict, and enhances compatibility.

Improving Resilience: The MidA RPB will consider the risks and vulnerabilities associated with past, present, and predicted ocean and coastal hazards, (e.g., erosion, extreme weather, and sea level rise) and predicted changes to temperature and ocean acidification to protect Mid-Atlantic ocean and coastal communities, users, and natural features.

Best Available Science: The MidA RPB will be guided by and incorporate the best available science and traditional knowledge in regional ocean planning.

Adaptability: The MidA RPB will embrace a flexible and adaptive approach in accommodating changing environmental and economic conditions, advances in science and technology, and new or revised laws and policies. The MidA RPB will track progress towards meeting established planning objectives and use the information gained to modify and adapt MidA RPB actions.

Transparency: MidA RPB products and information about processes will be made available to all interested parties in clear and accessible formats.

Engagement: The MidA 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.

Consistency With Existing Laws: MidA RPB actions will be consistent with Federal laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and treaties, and with State and Tribal laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and treaties where applicable.

Coordination and Government Efficiency: The MidA RPB will serve as a forum to increase inter-jurisdictional coordination to facilitate efficient and effective management of existing and potential future Mid-Atlantic ocean uses and resources. Such coordination will extend to partners and issues in adjacent areas that impact the Mid-Atlantic ocean planning focus area, including international waters as appropriate.

DRAFT Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Goals and Objectives

Mid-Atlantic ocean planning goals are high-level statements of the desired outcomes the MidA RPB hopes to achieve. There are two overarching goals of the MidA RPB. Neither goal has been assigned higher priority than the other because the RPB views them as deeply interconnected. The objectives are also not listed in order of priority. Rather, the objectives under each goal describe specific outcomes and observable changes that contribute to the achievement of ocean planning goals. They are intended to serve as guideposts for the focus and work of the MidA RPB. These objectives include the articulation of some example actions that could be taken by the MidA RPB to achieve the goals and objectives.

DRAFT Goal – Healthy Ocean Ecosystem:

Promote ocean ecosystem health, functionality, and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.

Note: The Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Goal focuses on protecting and conserving our ocean and coastal resources through efforts that improve our understanding of ocean resources

and habitats, account for ecosystem changes, consider traditional values and scientific data in regional ocean planning, and foster collaboration across jurisdictions around ocean conservation efforts.

Draft objectives:

- 1) (*Discovering, understanding, protecting, and restoring 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 critical ocean and coastal habitats, which are important for improving ecosystem functioning and maintaining biodiversity.

Example action: Map and characterize submarine canyon habitats in the Mid-Atlantic region. Identify Federal, State, and Tribal habitat protection and restoration initiatives to leverage partnerships that maximize the opportunity for success.

- 2) (*Accounting 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.

Example actions: Coordinate the collection and understanding of information needed to adjust human use activities in certain ocean areas in response to changing migratory pathways of marine life. Coordinate information sharing regarding sea level rise and ocean acidification in order to inform management of living marine resources and coastal communities and industries dependent on them.

- 3) (*Valuing 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.

Example action: Include traditional ecological knowledge and consideration of local cultural values in regional capacity assessment.

DRAFT Goal – Sustainable Ocean Uses:

Plan and provide for existing and emerging ocean uses in a sustainable manner that minimizes conflicts, improves effectiveness and regulatory predictability, and supports economic growth.

Note: The Sustainable Ocean Uses Goal focuses on fostering coordination, transparency, and use of quality information to support accommodation of existing, new, and future ocean uses in a manner that minimizes conflict and enhances compatibility. The MidA RPB has chosen to organize the draft objectives under this goal by sector to facilitate initial data collection, future needs assessment, and highlight how the proposed actions will affect key stakeholders. During the subsequent phases of the ocean planning process, application of the principles articulated above calls for considering various sectors and concerns in an integrated, holistic, and collaborative manner, with specific actions to be determined in a forthcoming RPB workplan. The MidA RPB intends to provide the means for decision-makers to implement their programs and authorities in an integrated way, such as through enhanced interagency coordination. The MidA RPB also recognizes that additional sectors, beyond those listed below, may need to be accounted for in the regional ocean planning process. The MidA RPB also recognizes that some terms used below require further clarification, a level of specificity the MidA RPB will strive to achieve through subsequent identification and implementation of actions to achieve these objectives.

Draft objectives:

- 1) (*National security*) Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across agencies.

Example action: Consider military needs and preferences early in decision-making processes to avoid potential conflicts with proposed ocean activities and current and planned military training and testing areas.

- 2) (*Ocean energy*) Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic.

Example action: Coordinate data collection for environmental assessment to inform development of new offshore renewable energy projects.

- 3) (*Commercial and recreational fishing*) 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.

Example action: Identify areas of high fish productivity and high usage to inform management of ocean uses and habitat areas.

- 4) (*Ocean aquaculture*) Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting in the Mid-Atlantic through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.

Example action: Facilitate interagency coordination regarding ocean aquaculture permitting.

- 5) (*Maritime commerce and navigation*) 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.

Example action: Coordinate information about new and proposed revisions to existing maritime corridors in the Mid-Atlantic, taking into account global and regional trends in maritime commerce and the importance of the maritime industry on the Mid-Atlantic and national economies.

- 6) (*Offshore sand management*) 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.

Example action: Coordinate regional identification and prioritization of sand borrow sites in Federal, State, and Tribal waters.

- 7) (*Non-consumptive recreation*) 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).

Example action: Share data about ocean areas important for recreational activity and recreational user perceptions on issues such as siting of ocean renewable energy facilities.

- 8) (*Tribal uses*) 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.

Example action: Document and foster shared understanding of ocean and coastal sites important to Tribal use, beliefs, and values related to the Mid-Atlantic ocean.

- 9) (*Critical undersea infrastructure*) 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.

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

Executive Summary of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body's Public Listening Sessions on the Draft Framework

February – April 2014

Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, and New York

This document summarizes the presentations and public comments from the five public listening sessions held by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body beginning on February 24, 2014 in Annapolis, Maryland and ending on April 7, 2014 in Riverhead, New York focused on the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework. The 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
 - Appendix A: Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Public Listening Sessions February – April 2014: Public Comments and Questions Received
 - Appendix B: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework [12-16-2013 Version]
-

Introduction

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) released a Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework (Draft Framework) on December 16, 2013 for public comment. The Draft Framework outlined an initial geographic focus, and draft vision, principles, goals, objectives, and example actions for the MidA RPB. In order to gather substantive stakeholder input, the state representatives to the MidA RPB hosted public listening sessions in collaboration with their federal agency and tribal partners. The public listening sessions were held at the following dates, times, and locations:

- Monday, February 24, 2014 in Annapolis, Maryland at 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm
- Thursday, February 27, 2014 in Lewes, Delaware at 5:00 pm
- Thursday, March 20, 2014 in Norfolk, Virginia at 1:30 pm and 5:00 pm
- Thursday, March 27, 2014 in West Long Branch, New Jersey at 1:00 and 5:00 pm
- Monday, April 7, 2014 in Riverhead, New York at 1:00 and 5:00 pm

There were 169 members of the general public who attended the public listening sessions. The breakdown of the public listening sessions by state were as follows (including members of the public, state and federal employees, Tribal members): 28 attendees in Maryland, 54 in Delaware, 71 in Virginia, 39 in New Jersey, and 50 in New York. Representatives from state and federal agencies, tribal members, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) staff, and members of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal team were in attendance.

Meeting Objectives

The objectives of each public listening session were to:

- Provide Mid-Atlantic stakeholders with an overview of:
 - Regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic,
 - The MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, a tool to support ocean planning, and
 - The Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework.
- Receive input and answer questions from stakeholders about regional ocean planning and the Draft Framework.

Presentations

Each public listening session followed a similar format. The MidA RPB state, federal, and tribal members, with assistance from MARCO's Data Portal Team, presented background information on regional ocean planning, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, and the Draft Framework. All presentations can be found on the MidA RPB's website at: <http://www.boem.gov/MidA-RPB-Public-Listening-Sessions/>.

The presentations were led by the state hosts – Gwynne Schultz, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Sarah Cooksey, Delaware Coastal Programs and John Clark, Delaware Department of Fish and Wildlife; Laura McKay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program; Martin Rosen, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and Michael Snyder, New York Department of State – who welcomed stakeholders, provided an overview of ocean planning, background on the MidA RPB, and the MidA RPB's activities and timelines.

The state host began by identifying opportunities and challenges that may be addressed through ocean planning and engagement by the MidA RPB. They also provided background regarding the genesis and purpose of the MidA RPB. The MidA RPB was established in April 2013 as an intergovernmental body that would coordinate and implement regional ocean planning among the six Mid-Atlantic States, Shinnecock Indian Nation, eight federal agencies, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The purpose of the MidA RPB

is to plan for new and existing ocean uses, improve efficiency and leverage constrained resources, work with and engage stakeholders, and to make more informed decision about the management of ocean resources and space. Over the next few years, the MidA RPB plans to develop a workplan, complete a regional ocean assessment, continuously engage stakeholders, develop additional products, then implement and iterate those products and processes as our understanding of the ocean increases.

At each listening session, Gerrod Smith, Shinnecock Indian Nation and MidA RPB Tribal Co-Lead or Salvatore Ruggiero, Advisor to the Shinnecock Indian Nation, provided remarks about the importance of the ocean and regional ocean planning, and the tribe's role in the MidA RPB. The Shinnecock are dependent on the ocean, and this coupled with their respect for the ocean and coast drives them to be better stewards of the ocean for this and future generations. As the only federally recognized tribe with coastal land in the Mid-Atlantic, the Shinnecock will continue to reach out to other state and federal tribes to serve as a voice for native peoples. The Shinnecock also raised several issues of particular importance to them including food security, aquaculture, fishery management in the context of a changing ocean, habitat restoration and sea level rise. Gerrod and Salvatore strongly conveyed their interest in hearing from and continuing to work with state and federal partners and stakeholders through the regional ocean planning process.

Information about MARCO's Data Portal was presented by Tony MacDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University and Jay Odell, Mid Atlantic Marine Program Director at The Nature Conservancy and member of the portal team. The purpose of the Data Portal is to serve as an online toolkit to visualize and analyze ocean and human resources using key information about fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, energy sites, etc. The portal compiles data from a multitude of federal and state agencies and includes data gathered from participatory Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshops with stakeholders to identify missing data and/or identify key ocean areas. Through the visualization tool of the Portal, users can add, remove, and modify different data layers. For more information on the Data Portal, please visit:

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

The presentation concluded with an overview of the Draft Framework. The Draft Framework was presented by either Maureen Bornholdt, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and MidA RPB Co-Lead; Joe Atangan, U.S. Navy and Joint Chiefs of Staff; or Douglas Pabst, Environmental Protection Agency. They walked through the components of the Draft Framework – the initial geographic focus, vision statement, principles, goals and associated objectives, and example actions that could be taken to achieve the objectives. This version of the Draft Framework is in Appendix B.

Synthesis of Public Comments & Conclusion

At the conclusion of the presentations, Whitney Tome of Meridian Institute facilitated discussions with members of the public to solicit feedback on each of the sections of the Draft Framework. Below is a brief synthesis of comments that were consistently raised during the public listening sessions and seemed to be of high priority to public participants. For the detailed list of all public comments received at the public listening sessions, please refer to Appendix A.

The major themes consistently heard at the public listening sessions included:

- Estuaries and bays should be included in the geographic scope and in regional ocean planning by the MidA RPB. The interconnections between the estuaries, bays, and the ocean are important to both identify and account for. Additionally, the MidA RPB should coordinate with entities managing those water bodies as appropriate.
- The MidA RPB's regional ocean planning process and/or ocean plan should be documented. At every public meeting, members of the public advocated for either the development of an ocean plan, or other documentation of the MidA RPB's process, products, activities, and actions.
- Clearly define terms used in the Draft Framework to facilitate consistent understanding with members of the public. Among the terms identified by the public as needing clarification included: ocean (coastal and/or open ocean), resilience, sound science, traditional knowledge, efficiency, effectiveness, and adaptive management.
- Engage and communicate with stakeholders regularly by reaching out to them, soliciting their input, and providing information on the MidA RPB's activities, documents, and actions. There were several suggestions that other media outlets and tools should be used to disseminate information about the RPB including organizations, newspapers, social media, etc. Many comments also reflected that stakeholder engagement should become its own principle in the Draft Framework.
- Understand and account for the cumulative impacts of multiple projects in regional ocean planning. Members of the public either suggested that the MidA RPB undertake a project-by-project approach or take on multiple projects simultaneously. In either case, there should be a sense of the compounding impacts of multiple projects on the ocean and its users.
- Incorporate the value of nature and ecosystem services in both the planning and decision making processes. Several members of the public raised the importance of including ecological value, ecosystem valuation, and the rights of nature in the Draft Framework.
- 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.

- Weight and/or prioritize the goals or principles, in relation to each other, in order to address any conflicts that might arise between them.
- Develop performance metrics to track progress toward the MidA RPB's goals and objectives.

At the end of each public listening session, the state hosts and all RPB members in attendance thanked the public for their input questions. MidA RPB Members asked that stakeholders continue providing input and comments to the MidA RPB by attending public meetings, listening sessions, and other in-person opportunities, and by providing written comments to MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov. Additional information about the MidA RPB can be found at: <http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/>.

Process Recommendations for Mid-Atlantic RPB Consideration

May 20-21, 2014

This document offers Co-Lead recommendations to the MidA RPB regarding (1) an updated RPB timeline for June 2014 through mid-2017; (2) a proposed process going forward and clarity about terminology; and (3) recommendations about a workplan, including underlying assumptions, components, and workgroup structure to develop and, in some cases, implement workplan content. These recommendations are offered for RPB consideration during the May 20-21, 2014 RPB meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

RPB timeline: June 2014 through mid-2017

This timeline is offered for RPB discussion. It suggests detail for the next 7 months and sets a general target of mid-2017 for completion of a first iteration regional ocean action plan.

- *June 2014 to October/November 2014*
 - Workplan is under development by various RPB and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)-facilitated workgroups.
- *October/November 2014*
 - Target for public release of a draft workplan.
- *Late November/Early December 2014*
 - RPB in-person public meeting to discuss:
 - Progress on key ongoing actions (i.e., ongoing actions that are *not* awaiting workplan completion to be launched, for example the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal or Regional Ocean Assessment).
 - Refinement of draft workplan, as needed, based on RPB and public input.
 - Determination of the nature and purpose of a regional ocean action plan, what additional information and actions are needed to develop it, etc.
- *April/May 2015*
 - RPB in-person public meeting to discuss progress and make further workplan modifications. Public meetings may be held 2-3 times per year going forward.
- *2015 and 2016*
 - Refinement of workplan as needed and development of regional ocean action plan.
- *Mid-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.

Proposed process and terminology



Framework (completed in May 2014) contains:

- RPB goals and objectives.
- Initial geographic focus.

Workplan (initial iteration completed December 2014):

- The workplan (1) contains actions, timelines, and capacities needed to develop regional ocean action plan; (2) includes other actions informed by the goals and objectives in the Framework; (3) identifies timeframes for upcoming RPB decisions and information needed to support those decisions.
- All actions in workplan would support the goals and objectives. Some would support development of the regional ocean action plan, which will be one among a number of tools for helping the region achieve the goals and objectives.
- Workplan is a living document that is revised as RPB understanding evolves.

Regional Ocean Action Plan (completed mid-2017 with further iterations going forward)

- First iteration may focus on developing a better understanding of ocean ecosystem, current ocean resources, and uses of the ocean, as well as major trends that should be accounted for.
- A living document that is updated with new information and as technology improves.
- Future iterations may look into the future more explicitly/spatially.

Implementation/adaptation plan (mid-2017 and beyond)

- Following development of first iteration regional ocean action plan, the RPB may wish to develop another document that identifies specific implementation actions and/or adaptation processes to keep the regional ocean action plan up-to-date as conditions change and new information comes to light.

Implementation (mid-2017 and beyond)

- Implementation means carrying out existing mandates and authorities in the context of and informed by the consensus-based regional ocean planning process and its tools/products. RPB members refine their business practices based on the regional ocean action plan and better coordination underway through regional ocean planning processes.

RPB workplan: Underlying assumptions, components, and workgroup structure

RPB Co-Leads offer the following assumptions about the basic nature and purpose of the RPB workplan and how development of the workplan would be executed, as well as process recommendations regarding workplan components and workgroup structure.

Nature and purpose of workplan

- The RPB workplan would (1) identify actions, timelines, and capacities needed to develop regional ocean action plan; (2) include other actions informed by the goals and objectives in the Framework; and (3) identify timeframes for upcoming RPB decisions and information needed to support those decisions.
- The workplan will be a *living* document that is updated, as needed, to reflect current RPB thinking about how it can achieve its goals and objectives, and how it will develop products.
- Some actions in the workplan are already underway, some will be launched while the workplan is under development, and others will require more time to scope and prepare for.
- During a November/December 2014 in-person RPB meeting, the RPB would refine and express comfort with an initial iteration of the workplan. Going forward, the RPB would refine and express comfort with workplan updates at subsequent in-person meetings.

Developing workplan (i.e. doing the work)

- Content of the workplan is developed by internal workgroups composed of RPB members/alternates/staff and informed by stakeholder input. Some workgroups would be facilitated by the RPB and others by MARCO.
- Content means actions, timelines, and capacities to carry out the actions, including both existing and needed capacities.

Components and workgroup structure

Each item below represents a proposed section of the workplan *and* a corresponding workgroup to develop that content. Workgroups may also implement the actions identified and/or manage refinements to the workplan over time.

Stakeholder Engagement Strategies and Opportunities

Stakeholder engagement and transparency are priorities of the RPB and are key aspects of many RPB actions. Leadership on stakeholder engagement would be provided by a workgroup. However, the full RPB would be responsible for implementing engagement strategies, helping to identify engagement opportunities, and participating in those opportunities.

Regional Ocean Action Plan Options

A small team of RPB members, alternates, and staff would provide the full RPB with the information it needs to make a decision about the nature and purpose of a first iteration regional ocean action plan.

Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA)

A ROA workgroup, chaired by one state and one federal RPB member, is already underway and working to develop ideas for ROA content. The responsibilities of this workgroup, starting in June 2014, would be to further identify activities and capacities needed to carry the ROA process forward. It would also ensure those ideas are appropriately reflected in the RPB workplan.

Data Portal

- MARCO works collaboratively with contractors and partners (the Portal Team) to incorporate and enhance data, features, and functionality on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal.
- MARCO coordinates an Ocean Mapping and Data Team, composed of federal, state, and non-governmental partners charged with providing recommendations on Data Portal data, features, and utility.
- MARCO is continuing work on developing data standards and a data QA/QC process.

Connection to Estuaries/Bays/Coast

- Numerous public comments to date have urged that regional ocean planning efforts draw appropriate connections with the bays, estuaries, and coastal lands of the region.
- While many specific actions for drawing those connections will be difficult to identify definitively until there is clarity about the nature and purpose of the regional ocean action plan and other RPB products/processes, some initial work could be done over the coming months to explore the issue.
- A small team would develop some initial ideas regarding next steps.

Inter-jurisdictional Coordination

Note: This would be a somewhat different and parallel process to the regular workgroup structure.

A major, overarching aim of regional ocean planning is improved inter-jurisdictional coordination to support more informed and effective decision making. Any RPB products (e.g., ROA, regional ocean action plan, etc.) are ultimately tools to help the RPB meet this overarching aim. Therefore, it is important to think beyond those tools and determine specific processes and mechanisms for how member institutions can better coordinate, leverage resources, and make better decisions that benefit ocean users and ecosystem health (in the context of existing mandates and authorities). Small group(s) of RPB members will initiate discussions on one or more topics that would benefit from enhanced coordination.

Updated RPB Timeline: June 2014 through mid-2017

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

Note to the reader: The MidA RPB welcomes public input on this draft outline. Comments may be provided verbally at the May 20-21, 2014 MidA RPB meeting or in writing to the MidA RPB via email at boemmidatlanticrpb@boem.gov by 5:00pm ET July 15, 2014.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Draft Outline

Overview

As the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) becomes involved in more activities (e.g., development of a work plan, further development of the Data Portal, a regional ocean assessment, etc.) it is critical to have a comprehensive strategy that defines, develops and ties together the full range of stakeholder engagement and outreach efforts being conducted in support of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. A stakeholder engagement strategy will include the current public sessions (webinar, state based meetings, etc.), as well as future engagement efforts, and make it clear what the RPB want to achieve through purposeful, two-way, continuous stakeholder engagement. To date, the MidA RPB has successfully provided regular updates and received input from self-identified stakeholders. There has not yet been a systematic, thorough assessment of stakeholders that the MidA RPB needs to engage with, the key issues to discuss, or a comprehensive approach to engaging them. A Stakeholder Engagement Strategy would integrate across the efforts of the entire RPB, of individual RPB members and their organizations, of stakeholders supporting ocean planning (e.g., Mid-Atlantic Data Portal team), and other stakeholders.

The purpose of this document is to outline a process for moving forward with the development of a Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (Stakeholder Engagement Strategy). This document provides: (a) background on MidA RPB stakeholder engagement discussions to date; (b) assumptions underlying a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for the Mid-Atlantic; (c) a proposed process for creating such a document; (d) goals, objectives, and outcomes for moving forward; and (e) proposed next steps.

Once the MidA RPB decides that this is the path forward, the next step would be to complete an analysis of regional ocean stakeholders, including those who have a high stake or interest in how the Mid-Atlantic ocean waters are used (see Table 1). After a thorough assessment is completed, the next step would be to describe possible avenues of engagement (including who could be responsible for the engagement and how). Once these options are clearly defined, the MidA RPB can decide what resources it has and should devote to engagement. This will include obtaining commitments from MidA RPB members to pursue

specific engagement strategies (e.g., NOAA agrees to host a meeting with commercial fishing interests, U.S. Coast Guard agrees to have a session at an upcoming navigation meeting, etc.).

Background

- Stakeholder engagement was discussed during the April 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Workshop. Significant recommendations from those discussions include:
 - *Ensuring Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement*, including allowing for groups to provide meaningful input to the MidA RPB at every step of the decision-making process.
 - *Engaging Stakeholders at the Right Level*, including having an advisory panel composed of self-identified interest group leaders to provide direct and continuous input to the MidA RPB.
 - *Capitalizing on Stakeholder Expertise*, including soliciting, reviewing, and applying data from all pertinent user groups.
- At the September 2013 meeting of the MidA RPB, a MidA RPB Stakeholder Workgroup noted that mechanisms had been created to disseminate and receive information between the RPB and stakeholders, but opportunities to have meaningful, back-and-forth conversations remain limited. It was stated that stakeholder discussions must move beyond structured public comment with time limits. Stakeholders recommended that the MidA RPB focus on improving conversations with stakeholders and including their input throughout the ocean planning process.
- At the same meeting, the Stakeholder Work Group presented possible mechanisms and tools for the RPB to undertake, including:
 - Improve capacity for communication between RPB and stakeholders.
 - Encourage and empower stakeholders to self-organize by sector and/or locale.
 - Develop effective processes to incorporate stakeholder input into RPB decision-making, including (1) the RPB should develop processes to incorporate stakeholder input into RPB decisions, and (2) decide if and how a formal stakeholder advisory committee should be developed to incorporate into the RPB's stakeholder engagement process, in light of Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) constraints. This led to the creation of MARCO's Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC), which held its inaugural meeting in March 2014.
- The Stakeholder Workgroup was disbanded when each RPB member was assigned responsibility to engage with stakeholders. Implementation of this RPB-wide

approach requires an agreed to overarching engagement strategy to guide the efforts of individual MidA RPB members toward a successful regional approach.

Assumptions and Considerations

Assumptions

(Factors that will influence the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy)

- Resources are limited for both the RPB and stakeholders, so the RPB needs to be as deliberate and focused as possible in pursuing stakeholder engagement activities.
- To take advantage of existing opportunities, it is critical for the MidA RPB to have an organized and coherent approach, with coordinated messaging, that fit into the overall RPB timeline and that meets stakeholders' expectations.
- Opportunities and expectations for engagement will increase as the RPB moves forward with processes and products (e.g., engaging scientific and technical experts in developing the regional ocean assessment).
- There are numerous stakeholder engagement efforts underway in support of regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. These disparate efforts should be woven together into a cohesive, unified effort (e.g., SLC, Mid-Atlantic Data Portal, MidA RPB constant contact list, individual sector-based efforts such as bi-monthly Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meetings).
- Stakeholders differ in their needs and preferred level of engagement. At a minimum, the RPB wants to inform interested Mid-Atlantic stakeholders about what the MidA RPB is and what is being done to advance ocean planning (See Table 2, the 'Explore/Inform' column). For some sectors or issues, the RPB might need to actively solicit input from key stakeholders and make transparent decisions based upon their input (See Table 2, the 'Consult' column).

Considerations

- Provide as many opportunities as possible for frequent, meaningful, transparent, inclusive, and robust stakeholder engagement throughout the MidA RPB ocean planning process, including with those most impacted (or potentially impacted) by the planning process and with underserved communities¹.
- Gain a better understanding of the past, current, and anticipated human uses and influences on the planning area, and expectations, interests, and requirements for the future.
- Obtain significant and diverse stakeholder and public input to insure all concerns and ideas are considered in the deliberations of the MidA RPB.

¹ National Ocean Council's *Marine Planning Handbook*, found at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/final_marine_planning_handbook.pdf.

- Have stakeholders understand and support the actions of the MidA RPB.
 - Enhance stakeholder understanding, guidance, and validation of key products being developed for the Mid-Atlantic ocean planning process (e.g., charter, work plan, etc.).
-

Stakeholder Engagement Process

- Step 1: Clarify engagement goals and objectives, including timeframes. (Why do we want to engage stakeholders? To what end? What role do we envision them having in the overall ocean planning process? Will that role shift over time?)
 - Step 2: Identify and analyze stakeholders. (Who are the primary individuals and groups that will be affected by the decisions made by the RPB? What stake/interest do they have in the process? See Table 1.)
 - Step 3: Decide upon level of engagement for stakeholder groups. (e.g., explore/inform? consult? decide? implement? See Table 2.)
 - Step 4: Identify specific activities or strategies that could be used for stakeholder groups to achieve the desired level of engagement, as well as key messages.
 - Step 5: Identify entities and resources available to support stakeholder engagement. (e.g., Federal agencies, state agencies, Data Portal team, sector specific groups, pre-established gatherings, etc.)
 - Step 6: Consider risks associated with specific activities/strategies.
 - Step 7: Develop an engagement plan that covers the range of entities and activities/strategies available for stakeholder engagement, including RPB work products.
 - Step 8: Implement specific activities and/or strategies.
 - Step 9: Evaluate effectiveness of implementation, and make necessary adjustments to plan.
-

Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Goal, Objectives, and Outcomes

In light of the background information, assumptions and suggested process, the following section introduces potential stakeholder engagement goals, objectives, and outcomes for MidA RPB consideration.

Proposed Goal

(Statement of general direction or intent, and high-level desired outcomes)

- A proposed MidA RPB Stakeholder Engagement goal: To provide Mid-Atlantic stakeholders with meaningful opportunities for engagement with the RPB and input throughout the regional ocean planning process in the Mid-Atlantic.

Proposed Objectives

(Statements of desired outcomes/observable behavioral change that represent achievement of a goal)

1. To identify, assess, and engage key stakeholders in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic (See Table 1 for assessment approaches), including:
 - Inform and seek input on how to engage stakeholders throughout the MidA RPB process; and
 - Help MidA RPB members and stakeholders understand the opportunities and tools for engagement and avail themselves of these opportunities.
2. To strengthen mutual and shared understanding about relevant problems and opportunities for the Mid-Atlantic Ocean, including:
 - Inform and equip MidA RPB members with the messages and tools to effectively communicate with stakeholders;
 - Inform stakeholders about ocean planning activities, timelines, and the MidA RPB's role;
 - Ensure that MidA RPB members receive comments and provide effective feedback to stakeholders on the comments they submitted; and
 - To the extent possible, incorporate stakeholders' comments into documents/actions.
3. To build the knowledge, skills, and understanding of regional ocean planning.
4. To capitalize on previous related efforts (e.g., state ocean planning activities).

Proposes Outcomes

(See Table 2: Spectrum of Stakeholder and Public Involvement and Influence in CMSP)

- Short-term for all stakeholders:
 - Improve shared understanding of issues, process, perspectives, etc.
 - Identify and understand common concerns (i.e., those shared by multiple stakeholders)
 - Identify information needs
 - Build relationships and trust
- Mid-term for key stakeholder groups:
 - Obtain comments on draft planning products
 - Solicit suggestions for approaches/solutions
 - Address priority concerns, issues, and topics as identified by the MidA RPB and its stakeholders in a transparent and trusted way
 - Discuss planning options
 - Form a community of ocean planners and stakeholders
- Long-term for some stakeholders groups:
 - Consensus-based agreements among the RPB, informed by meaningful engagement and input from stakeholders

Appendix A8

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Regional Planning Body Meeting Participant List

May 20-21, 2014 • Charles Commons, Baltimore, MD

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Appendix B1

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



Appendix B2

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.)

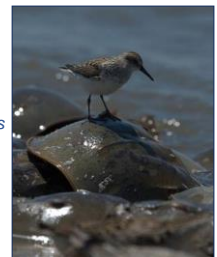
Principles:

- 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

Appendix B3

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

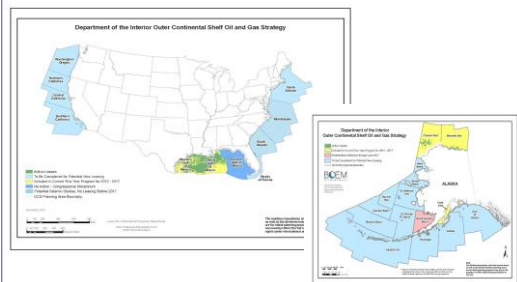
Foundational Oil and Gas Resource Management

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

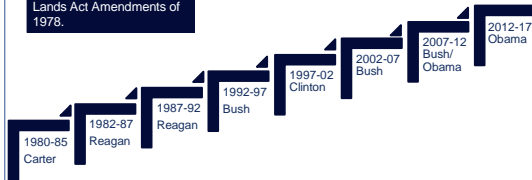


Current Leasing Status for the OCS Planning Areas



History of OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Programs

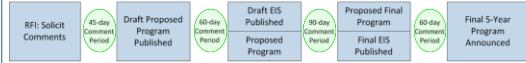
The current Program is the eighth Five Year Program since passage of the OCS Lands Act Amendments of 1978.



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

Appendix B4

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

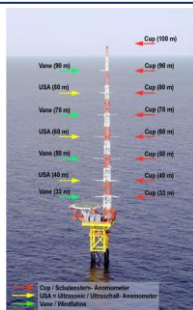
- Establish Intergovernmental Task Force, engage stakeholders
- Publish a Request for Information (RFI) / Call for Information and Nominations (Call)
- Announce Area Identification
- Conduct environmental compliance reviews

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

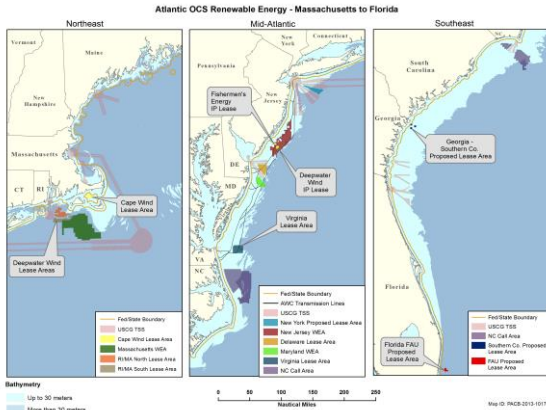
- Lessee conducts surveys in the lease area (site characterization)
- If lessee intends to install a meteorological tower or buoy, it must submit a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) (site assessment) that BOEM must approve
- Lessee has up to 5 years to conduct these activities



Stage 4: Commercial Development

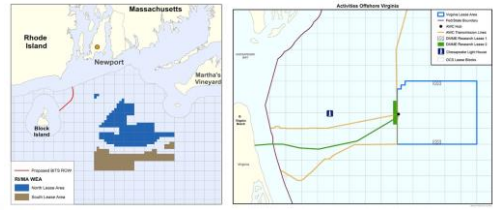
- Lessee must submit a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) in the first five years of the lease that BOEM must approve
- COP provides details of the proposed project (turbine layout, size, etc.)
- Operations term is typically 25 years





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



Appendix B5

Habitat-related Activities in the Mid-Atlantic

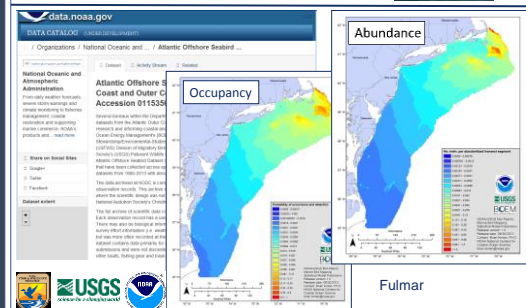
Mary C. Boatman, Ph.D.
 Environmental Studies Chief
 Office of Renewable Energy Programs
 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
 Department of the Interior

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



Tracking Diving Birds



Marine Mammals, Turtles, Birds

Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (AMAPPS)

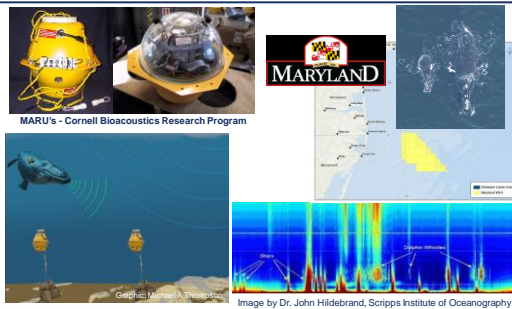
Quarterly collect distribution and abundance data via visual shipboard, aerial and acoustic surveys

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



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/

Appendix B6

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

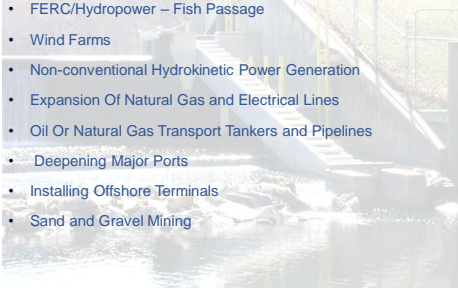


Federal Agencies must consult with NOAA when actions could adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

- 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.

Interactive North Atlantic Right Whale Sightings Map: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/psbt/surveys/>

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



Image from the NEFSC Field Office at Cape Cod National Estuarine Research Reserve. To learn more, visit the NEFSC Field Science Blog. Photo credit: Christopher NEFSC/NOAA

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



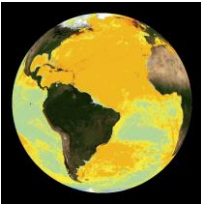
- Provide data and analysis to support fisheries management and endangered species conservation
- Support ecosystem approaches to fishery management
- Investigate integrated ecosystem assessments

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

Appendix B7

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council: Habitat Activities

Michael Luisi
Director, Estuarine and Marine Fisheries Division
Maryland DNR / MAFMC



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

Overview of Talk

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



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



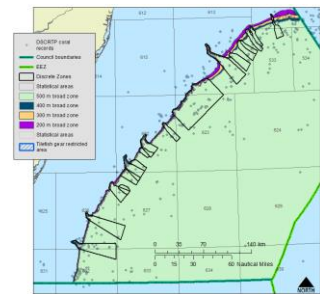
Deep Sea Corals

- 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



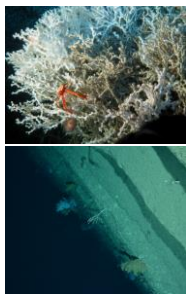
Deep Sea Corals

- 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



Appendix B8

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.

Reminder 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 activities 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.

Appendix B9

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

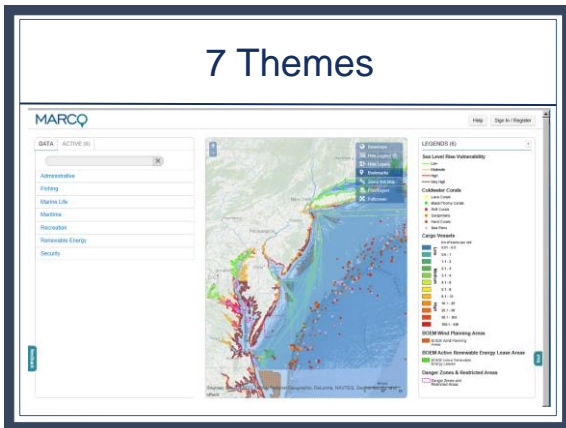
<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/portal/>

MARCO
Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

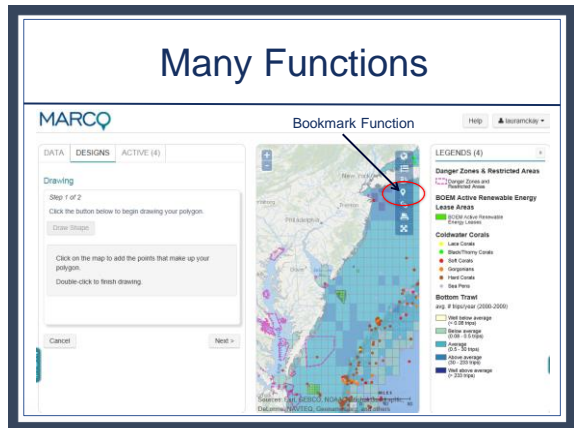
HOME ABOUT THE PORTAL VISIT MARCO



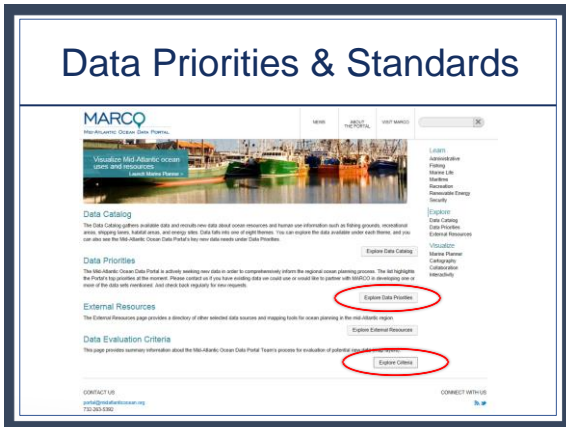
7 Themes



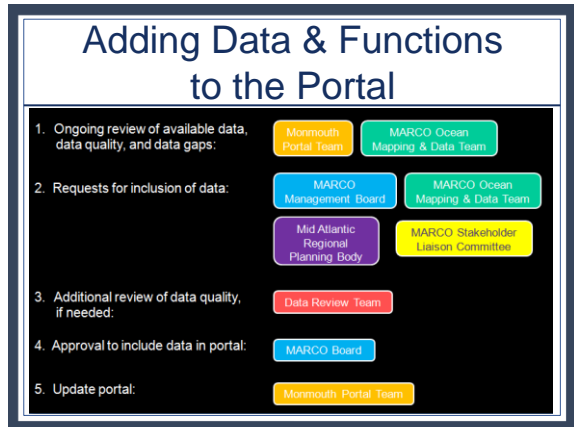
Many Functions



Data Priorities & Standards



Adding Data & Functions to the Portal



MARCO Ocean Mapping & Data Team: Federal Reps

- NOAA: C. Caldwell, 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

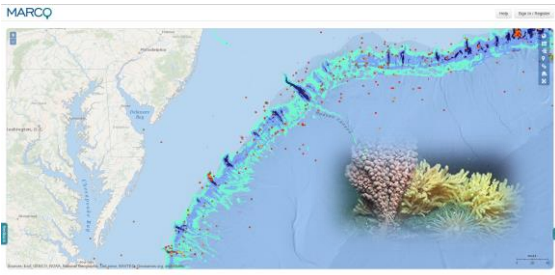


MARCO OMDT: Tribal/State MAFMC/Academia/NGO Reps

- **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



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

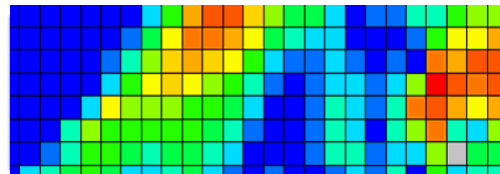


Participatory
Mapping
Workshops

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

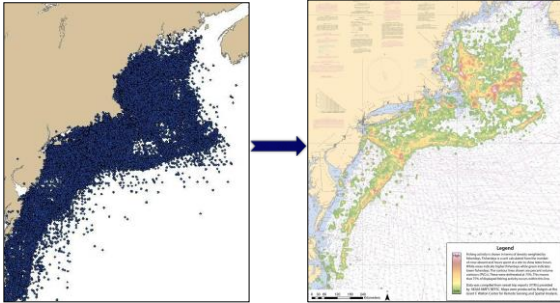
Portal Interface Mockup for Recreational Data Selection and Display

- 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

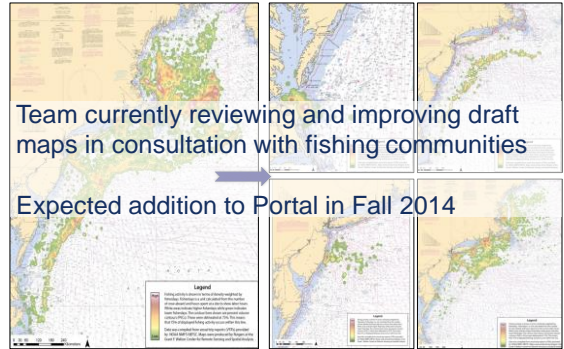
Portal Interface for Recreational Data Selection and Display (2 of 2)

- 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

MARCO
Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

NEWS | ABOUT THE PORTAL | VISIT MARCO

Marine Life Data Needs

The Mid-Atlantic region is well known for robust fish and highly productive waters. Its resources, and markets, are diverse. Boats, vessels, and water users, and numerous permits, licensing, zoning, and usage habitats that support diverse recreational and regulatory marine life including invertebrates, mammals, fishes, and marine mammals.

Learn More

Calculator coastal 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 Hines, NOAA Biological Service Branch
Expected Date of Update to Portal: May 2014
Notes: ACCOIS and HSPG working on a timeline to use for the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Atlantic. The Fishery's separate coral point data set will continue to be updated as new survey data are received.

Important coastal bird and bull habitat

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

Source: Atlantic Coast Joint Venture U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Status: Effort Focus Area data developed; awaiting authorization for posting on Portal. Data to be developed.
Contact: The Nature Conservancy
Expected Date of Update to Portal: July 2014
Notes: TNC working with USFWS to license data a property licensed before displaying and making available on Portal

Learn
 Administrative Planning
 Marine Life
 Mollusks
 Recreation
 Renewable Energy
 Seaweed
Explore
 Data Catalog
 Data Needs
 External Resources
 Data Catalog
Visualize
 Marine Planner
 Categories
 Collaboration
 Interactivity

Portal Redesign

Voices of Mid-Atlantic

Regional Ocean Assessment

Appendix B10

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?

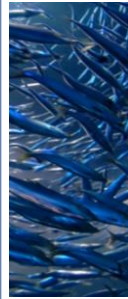
- “A regional assessment ... uses maps and information to describe the marine environment and human activities”
- (Marine Planning Handbook)

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.

Appendix B11

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.



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?



Appendix B12

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
 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting

Balancing Competing Navigational Interests

Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS)



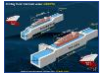
Recreational Fishing



Maritime Shipping



Post Panamax Vessels



Offshore Renewable Energy



Military Uses



Maritime Highway



Submarine Cables

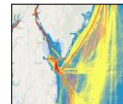


Commercial Fishing



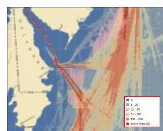
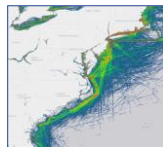
Maritime Shipping

- 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)

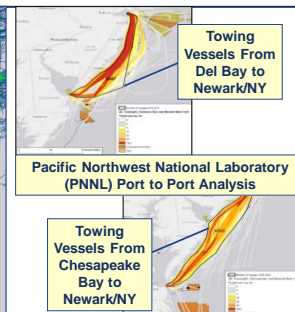
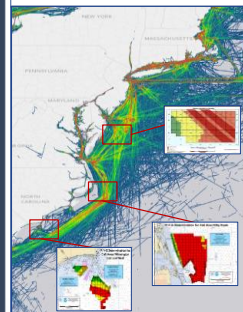


Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS)

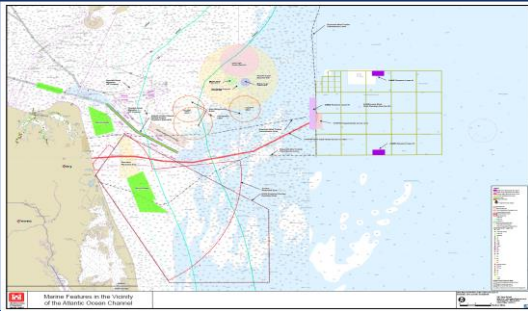
- Determine need to modify or create safety fairways, Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs), or other routing measures
- Provide data, tools, and/or methodology to assist in future determinations of waterways suitability for proposed projects
- Develop Automatic Identification System (AIS) products and provide 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



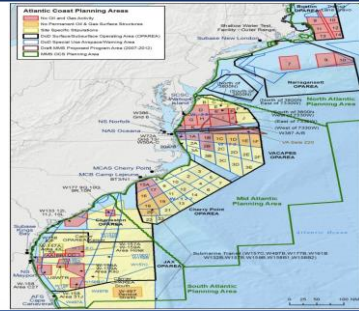
ACPARS Examples



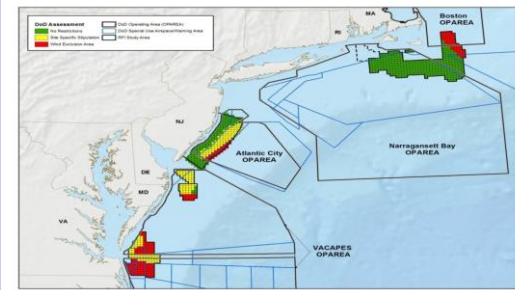
Marine Features in Vicinity of Chesapeake Bay Entrance



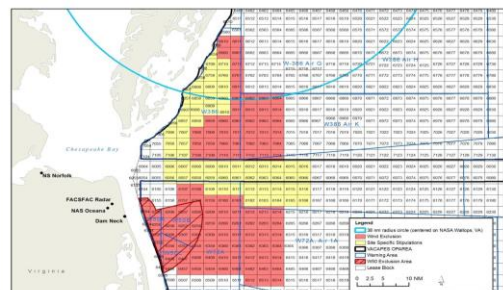
Atlantic Coast Planning Areas



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

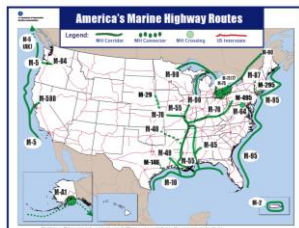


DoD Assessment of VA Lease Blocks (July 2010)



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?

Mr. John Walters, USCG: john.r.walters@uscg.mil; 757-398-6230

Mr. Joe Atangan, USN: joe.atangan@navy.mil; 757-836-2927

Ms. Lorraine Wakeman, MARAD: lorraine.wakeman@dot.gov; 202-366-2256