

Summary of Discussions  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting  
September 23-24, 2015  
Norfolk, Virginia

This document summarizes discussions and presentations at the fourth in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body. The meeting took place on September 23-24, 2015 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. 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 fourth in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) took place on September 23-24, 2015 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in Norfolk, Virginia. Meeting participants included State, Federal, and Tribal RPB members, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and appointed alternates. Approximately 40 members of the public were in attendance, and approximately 15 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 developed this summary document.

The objectives for the fourth RPB meeting were to:

- Review draft data synthesis and information products, discuss public input gained during September 22 MARCO public workshop, and discuss next steps.
- Determine how Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) goals and objectives will be addressed through specific interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions, consider public input, and identify next steps.
- Agree on components of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP) as described in a draft OAP outline.
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the MidA RPB.

The first day of the RPB meeting was focused on reviewing the RPB's progress and a proposed timeline for RPB activities; hearing updates on and discussing the draft data synthesis and assessment products currently underway through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) contracts, including public input received at the previous day's workshop; reviewing updates on stakeholder and Tribal engagement activities from MARCO; reviewing a *Draft Ocean Action Plan (OAP) Outline* and discussing draft IJC actions to include in the OAP; and hearing updates from the Northeast Regional Planning Body. The first day included one public comment session. This session was intentionally placed before the continuation and conclusion of RPB deliberations so that RPB discussion could be informed by public input.

The second day of the meeting was focused on continuing discussion of draft IJC actions and the Draft OAP Outline, identifying and discussing outstanding OAP components, and looking ahead to the planning process after 2016. There was one additional public comment session.

Next steps from the meeting include:

- The RPB members will collaborate on further developing draft IJC actions and provide more detailed information about those actions by December 11, 2015.
- The OAP drafting team will develop ideas for how to address some of the outstanding components in the OAP for RPB review and consideration.

- The RPB will hold a public webinar in December to provide updates and the next RPB meeting will take place in March 2016 (during which the RPB will have substantive discussion about key components of the plan including the IJC actions) and continue to think about ways to improve stakeholder engagement.

## About this Meeting

The fourth in-person meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) took place on September 23-24, 2015 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in Norfolk, Virginia. 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 40 members of the public were in attendance, and approximately 15 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 developed this summary document.

## Meeting Objectives

Objectives for the fourth RPB meeting were to:

- Review draft data synthesis and information products, discuss public input gained during September 22 MARCO public workshop, and discuss next steps.
- Determine how Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) goals and objectives will be addressed through specific interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions, consider public input, and identify next steps.
- Agree on components of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP) as described in a draft OAP outline.
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the MidA RPB.

The full suite of meeting materials can be found in Appendix A, the slides presented at the meeting on Day 1 can be found in Appendix B, and the slides for Day 2 can be found in Appendix C. These materials and additional information about the RPB and ocean planning in the region can be found on the RPB [website](#). A summary of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Stakeholder Workshop that preceded the RPB meeting on September 22, 2015 can be found on the MARCO [website](#).

## Wednesday, September 23, 2015

The first day of the RPB meeting was focused on reviewing the RPB's progress and a proposed timeline for RPB activities; hearing updates on and discussing the draft data synthesis and assessment products currently underway through MARCO contracts, including public input received at the previous day's workshop; reviewing updates on stakeholder and Tribal engagement activities from MARCO; reviewing a *Draft Ocean Action Plan (OAP) Outline* and discussing draft IJC actions to include in the OAP; and hearing updates from the Northeast Regional Planning Body. The day included one public comment session, which was

intentionally placed on the agenda before the continuation and conclusion of RPB deliberations so that RPB discussion could be informed by public input.

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### **Tribal blessing and welcome**

Laura Cantral of Meridian Institute facilitated the meeting. She began by introducing Kelsey Leonard of the Shinnecock Indian Nation and Tribal Co-Lead of the RPB, who offered a Tribal blessing to open the meeting. Laura McKay, RPB member and Program Manager for Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program, welcomed the RPB and meeting participants to Virginia.

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### **Introductions and agenda review**

Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB Co-Leads and members for further introductions, and then reviewed the agenda for the meeting and meeting objectives. She emphasized the importance of considering public input received at the previous day's MARCO stakeholder workshop in the RPB discussions. She noted the two public comment sessions, one on each day of the meeting, and encouraged input from members of the public.

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### **Remarks from the National Ocean Council Director**

Ms. Cantral next introduced Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council (NOC), and invited her to the podium to share some remarks. Ms. Kerttula briefly described the history of the NOC and the importance of coordinating among the many Federal, State, and Tribal entities that have jurisdiction in our oceans. She recognized the MidA RPB's work in building the foundation for ocean planning in the U.S. She noted that she would be in attendance during the entirety of the meeting and would like to interact with as many RPB members as possible, and underlined the commitment of the NOC to working with the region to achieve its goals.

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### **Review of progress since last RPB meeting and timeline through 2016**

During this session, RPB Co-Leads—Bob LaBelle, Gwynne Schultz, and 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. Leonard reviewed the RPB's mission to implement and advance ocean planning in the region through collaborative process among Federal, State, Tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council representatives in consultation with stakeholders. Ms. Leonard also directed members of the public to the MidA RPB website to view a current membership [roster](#).

Ms. Schultz reviewed the RPB's progress to date including three in-person meetings and stakeholder events such as webinars and public listening sessions. She described the RPB's major milestones which include approving the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*, the *Mid-Atlantic RPB Charter*, and the *Proposed Approach to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan*. She reviewed activities since the third RPB meeting in January 2015 in New York, New York including forming and continuing workgroups to support OAP development, developing and updating a work plan to guide OAP development, holding a MARCO-hosted kick-off webinar and meeting to launch data synthesis and regional ocean assessment projects, convening MARCO-hosted Tribal listening sessions in New York and Virginia, and adding new Tribal and State MidA RPB members, including the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, the Oneida Indian Nation, and Connecticut (as an ex-officio member).

Mr. LaBelle reviewed a timeline to guide the RPB's activities from this meeting through 2017 and beyond. He directed attention to the *Updated Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Timeline for Ocean Action Plan Development (September 2015)*, included in Appendix A3. He reviewed planned activities for the remainder of 2015 and 2016. Mr. LaBelle stated that this meeting would be an important opportunity to discuss draft IJC actions and the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan Draft Outline*. Mr. LaBelle indicated that the existing workflows for OAP development are well underway and would continue and be refined as needed into 2016. He noted that the RPB plans to convene two RPB meetings in 2016 during development of the OAP, and in preparation for the release of a final OAP, which will be reviewed by RPB entities and stakeholders and vetted during public listening sessions before being submitted to the NOC for concurrence in September 2016. After concurrence, the focus will shift to plan implementation and formalizing IJC commitments as well as monitoring and making periodic updates to the OAP.

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### Update on draft data synthesis and assessment products

Ms. Cantral then transitioned to presentations from each of the three MARCO-funded contract teams focused on developing data and information products to inform Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning. Presenters were Pat Halpin from Duke University and the Marine Life Data and Analysis team (MDAT) working on ecological synthesis products, Melanie Schroeder Gearon from RPS ASA and the team working on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Human Use Spatial Data Synthesis Project (HUDS), and Peter Taylor from Waterview Consulting and the team working on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA). Each of these three presenters then offered an overview of their methods, approach, and draft products illustrative of their approaches for the creation of data and information products.

#### *Marine Life Data Analysis Team (MDAT)*

Dr. Halpin explained that the MDAT team represents three different labs: the Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab at Duke University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



(NOAA)'s National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, and NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center. He described how the team is developing data for the entire Atlantic seaboard as well as focusing in on the Mid-Atlantic region, which will allow for integrated and multi-scale products up and down the coast. His presentation can be found in Appendix B2.

He explained the team's framework for considering the hierarchy of marine life data products and regulatory use, which was represented in his presentation via a pyramid graphic. The bottom of the pyramid represents species-level data products, the middle represents taxa synthesis products, and the top tiers represent multi-taxa synthesis products that may be the most useful for proactive ocean planning.

Dr. Halpin then gave examples of products from each tier of the pyramid. He stated that the team has developed most of the baseline maps for marine mammals, avian, and fish species, which will be provided to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal via web services. Each abundance and density model has several layers associated with it that will help interpret the data (e.g., uncertainty maps).

For the second level of the pyramid, "species groups," the team is currently developing a special data portal to organize and query marine life data and has been testing this with expert working groups. They are focusing on grouping species based on different factors like biological and regulatory similarities.

Dr. Halpin also outlined the MDAT team's current thinking about identifying species "hotspots," which is tier three on the pyramid graphic. The team has been creating maps with varied thresholds, for example highlighting areas where 50% of the species population occurs. For groups of species, which is tier four of the pyramid, the team is creating maps to show total abundance, species richness (count of number of species), and diversity.

Finally, he described potential products for the top two tiers of the pyramid. He emphasized that these high-level synthesis products would be intended as supplements to the more detailed data products lower on the pyramid and that all individual data layers will be publically available for analysis and management applications. Many of the data layers do not overlap completely, so there are challenges to creating comprehensive synthesis products at this level. There was interest in combining marine life maps with physical environment/benthic habitat maps, but the team recommends keeping the two products separate, as the two maps confound each other when combined (variables in the models could be double counted). The team is considering methodologies for identifying Ecologically Rich Areas (ERAs), which could include Ecological Marine Units (EMUs). For ERAs the team is working on creating richness maps for the same level of richness with different combinations of species. They are using a composite visualization method to help tease out the different components making up the hotspots, using different colors for mammals, fish, and birds. In this way, different color combinations would allow the user to see hotspots for different groupings, such as only mammals, for mammals and birds, and for fish and birds. For the EMUs, the team is working on using codes with different criteria embedded that will help identify places with similar habitat features.

Dr. Halpin also discussed recent interest in developing “cold spots,” areas with less ecological richness. He explained that while “hotspots” are often important for the work of resource managers, “cold spots” may be of interest to many regulators considering siting of some uses. However, the method for identifying hot and cold spots could differ. Additionally, the risks associated with misidentifying hot versus cold spots are not equal; the burden of proof associated with indicating the absence of species (and subsequent potential siting of a regulated activity) differs from indicating their presence. Dr. Halpin also mentioned that more products would likely need to be developed to better inform decision making, once the RPB reaches the implementation phase of the OAP.

### *Mid-Atlantic Regional Human Use Spatial Data Synthesis Project (HUDS)*

Ms. Schroeder Gearon explained that her team’s goals for the project include analyzing human use spatial data; developing a tool or product to simultaneously view multiple data sets in the same area; coordinating effectively with MARCO, the RPB and other contractors; vetting any new data sets, products and tools with stakeholders; coordinating with the Northeast Regional Planning Body; and completing the project by January 2016. The HUDS team is comprised of members from RPS ASA and SeaPlan, as well as additional external subject matter experts that will be engaged throughout the process. The major tasks of the project include coordination with related efforts and stakeholders, human use data assessment and characterization, human use data synthesis tool development, and development of a final report and fact sheet/tool user guide. Her presentation can be found in Appendix B3.

Ms. Schroeder Gearon emphasized the importance of the HUDS team’s coordination with the RPB’s Data Synthesis (DS) Workgroup, which serves as the project’s steering committee, as well as the MARCO Portal Team and the ROA and MDAT teams. HUDS is proposing to cover five sectors: fishing, maritime, recreation, renewable energy, and security. Tribal use data may be integrated when those datasets become available. The team has inventoried infrastructure and activity datasets for the five sectors and added placeholders for anticipated datasets that are not yet available. The team has also put in placeholders for data gaps including shipwrecks, sand and gravel resources, and military operational areas, and is working to characterize aspects of those data gaps. The data assessment phase of the project (inventory and characterization of datasets) is nearly complete, and now the project team has turned its attention to synthesizing these datasets. The HUDS team is currently in the initial design phase of developing a smart grid tool/product that addresses the challenge of combining vastly different datasets into one product. The interface would be integrated into the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal.

In using the HUDS smart grids, the user would be able to select all layers or a subset of specific human use layers of interest. An analyses would then be run on selected layers returning a “smart grid” of cells that depicts (based on shading) the number of layers with data present within each cell. The smart grid would then allow users to click on a cell and create a summary report that would contain summary information on the selected layers within the cell(s). This report would serve to ground truth for the information being displayed in the map (i.e., identify the completeness of datasets for a specific sector in that geographic area) as well as provide

additional information to characterize a given use. The team is currently proposing a one kilometer by one kilometer grid cell resolution. The “smart grid” could help with such activities as finding specific areas to potentially site new activities and identifying areas that are important for more than one industry.

The HUDS team will also submit a final report outlining various aspects of the project and fact sheets and/or a user guide to describe the HUDS grid tool. The project team is hoping to provide the RPB DS workgroup with an example tool in mid to late November 2015 and hope to complete all tasks by January 1, 2016.

### *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment Project (ROA)*

Mr. Taylor then gave an overview of the Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA) project. His presentation can be found in Appendix B4. He explained that Emily Schumchenia from E&C Enviroscap is taking the lead on data and that he is the overall project lead and in charge of shaping the data into a product. He explained that the National Ocean Policy lists an ROA as an essential element of a regional plan. The goals for the project are to provide information about ocean uses and resources, focusing on the two goals outlined in the *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework*, healthy ocean ecosystems and sustainable uses, and to develop an easily accessed web-based system to deliver the ROA. Mr. Taylor explained that the ROA is supposed to be a snapshot of the current state of the ocean and has ecological, ecosystem, and human use components and can also be tailored to focus on areas of particular interest to the RPB.

At this point the ROA team has collected most of the information it needs and will now focus on developing content and designing the system for information delivery. All tasks will be completed by the end of January 2016. The report will be web-based and easily updated with new information. The team is hoping to incorporate Tribal information when it becomes available and is coordinating with the MDAT and HUDS teams. The team is also working closely with the ROA Steering Committee. Because these projects are happening concurrently, certain information from those projects may not be included in the first iteration of an ROA.

The team’s proposed outline for the ROA, which can be found in Appendix A6, includes an introduction section as well as sections on ocean ecosystem and resources, ocean uses, and strategic objectives for Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning. The introduction will provide background information on the ocean planning process and the purpose of the ROA. The section on “ocean ecosystem and resources” characterizes the ecosystem and current status and trend information, linking these to the objectives in the MidA RPB Framework. Likewise, the section on “ocean uses” characterizes various ocean uses and discusses their status and trends, linking these to the objectives in the MidA RPB Framework. Section four focuses on linkages between ocean uses and resources and considers how these linkages relate to RPB objectives. Mr. Taylor said the ROA is intended to highlight relationships between and among ecosystem features and human uses, highlight knowledge and data gaps, suggest appropriate scales of interpretation for decision making, and provide information needed to inform the development of future data products.

He then discussed several items that will likely change pursuant to feedback received at the MARCO Stakeholder Workshop. He noted that the last section on “strategic objectives” that focuses on linkages between topics will likely be revamped. Recreation will need to be added to that section. He clarified that the ROA can lay the groundwork for the development of indicators and metrics that can help with implementation of the OAP, but it is beyond the scope of the project to get more specific in this area. The ROA team will also work to provide information and sources relevant to cumulative impact analysis.

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### **Report-out of public input on data synthesis and assessment products from Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Workshop on September 22**

Ms. McKay, in her capacity as Chair of the MARCO Management Board, summarized public input received at MARCO’s stakeholder workshop held on the previous day. She started by explaining that the three projects just presented are funded by MARCO in support of the MidA RPB. She reminded the RPB that the data synthesis work is designed to help focus attention on certain areas, uses, and ways to improve ocean management. However, final decisions on management will still be made by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction in these matters. She then outlined feedback gleaned from the public on the three data synthesis and information products:

- General support for the MDAT team’s methodology and specific recommendations from the public:
  - Interest in further defining if and how region-wide features will be identified and analyzed
  - Emphasis on the importance of including fishermen’s knowledge and including Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) fish data.
  - Importance of characterizing predictors and drivers of species abundance
  - Need to include migration patterns
  - Coordinate closely with the ROA team
  - Support for grouping species by vulnerabilities
  - Need to keep in mind long-term maintenance and updates to the data and maps
- General support for the HUDS team’s modeling approach and specific recommendations from the public:
  - Consider improvements to fishing data
  - Support for adding potential future uses to maps
  - Need to incorporate Tribal uses when that information becomes available
  - Desire to combine HUDS and MDAT data and caution that multiple activities/resources in one place does not necessarily mean conflict
- Need for all three contracts to coordinate because of parallel nature of development.
- Desire for another public workshop in January 2016.

## RPB discussion of data synthesis and assessment products

Following Ms. McKay's report out, Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB for discussion. She emphasized that the purpose of this session was to ensure RPB members understand and are comfortable with the direction of the three contracts. Key topics and comments discussed during this session include:

- Appreciation for the progress made by the three contract teams.
- Some concerns about specific datasets and suggestions for addressing these concerns, including:
  - Ensuring that HUDS has the authoritative data on operational areas and unexploded ordinances.
  - Concerns about merging datasets with differing resolutions.
  - Concerns about data gaps.
  - Suggestion to use summary reports and uncertainty maps to display data limitations. Need to make visualization of data limitations clear and prominent to users—encourage them to analyze the data beyond just looking at the maps.
  - Concerns about data lags and changes in sector interest in different areas over time.
  - Opportunity to include recommendations to the GIS community about standardizing datasets in the HUDS final report.
  - These processes will help identify data gaps that can inform future decisions about where to spend limited resources.
  - Users might need to be given more than just data and maps, consider need for other types of information as well (e.g., expert interpretation of data and results).
- Concern about any error associated with the baseline level of data being compounded in higher-level synthesis products.
- Need for HUDS and MDAT products to link in order to see a more comprehensive picture of the current state of the ocean.
- Appreciation for the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and its applications for decision making.
- The MDAT team is currently looking into how to show seasonal data as well as long-term trends using data from multiple years.
- Ensure ROA appropriately incorporates the RPB's IJC actions.
- Because the three contracts are developing products concurrently, it is important to identify key times where coordination between projects will be critical and plan for those.
- Recommendation to the MDAT team to include food source as a species grouping.
- The HUDS project should clearly identify data gaps for users including Tribal uses data.
- Request for further clarity on uncertainty issues with respect to identifying hotspots and cold spots.

- The RPB needs to start developing a plan for analyzing the final products from the three contractors and integrating these products into the OAP.
  - More advanced tools and integration between the three contract products can be included in future iterations of the OAP, but there is a need to manage expectations with scopes, time, and resources available now.
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### Tribal engagement efforts and input to date

During this session, Ms. Leonard offered a presentation about ongoing MARCO-supported Tribal listening sessions. Slides associated with these presentations can be found in Appendix B5.

Ms. Leonard explained that two Tribal listening sessions were held in August 2015, one in New York and one in Virginia, hosted by MARCO and supported by the Whitener Group and Ecology & Environment. The purpose was to introduce Tribal representatives to the MidA RPB and MARCO and help them understand how they can be involved in the process, as well as to review a list of Tribal ocean uses and introduce the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal as a tool for ocean planning and integration of Tribal use. In preparation for these sessions, contact was made with State and Federally-recognized Tribes in the Mid-Atlantic to invite them to these sessions and to engage in this process and receive updates. Nine different Tribes were represented at the listening sessions and two more authorized a member present from a different Tribe to speak on their behalf. Ms. Leonard emphasized that these sessions are only a small piece of the larger Tribal engagement efforts being led by MARCO. She then summarized input received during these sessions, including:

- Concern about the degradation of fishing resources and interest in knowing how this could be addressed in the OAP. Need to include Tribes in conversations about resource allocation and degradation.
- Emphasis on the need to include estuaries and bays in the OAP as Tribes in Virginia, Delaware and Maryland are “Tributary Tribes” due to their historical forced removal from coastlines. Estuaries are their connection to the ocean.
- Regarding ocean planning:
  - Tribes feel they are not adequately engaged in estuary and bay planning processes.
  - Appreciation for involving Tribes in the early stages of plan development and including their voice through a Tribal Co-Lead.
  - General discomfort with the 2016 deadline, but commitment to doing what they can.
  - Highlighted oil and gas as an important issue, especially transparency related to these topics.
  - Appreciation for RPB’s inclusion of traditional knowledge as a key objective in its Framework.

- Regarding the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal:
  - Question about whether the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal could include information about historical Tribal areas or areas of concern.
  - Support for including ocean stories from Tribes on the Portal.
  - Linking Tribal stories to the Portal is representative of how Tribal Nations pass down knowledge.
  - Support for a Tribal-specific data layer on the Portal. This layer should start with uses separated by Tribal nations and can get more specific (e.g., citizen use) over time. Portal users should be able to easily find contact information for the Tribal environmental stewards associated with these areas.
  - Having Tribal data on the Portal can help build and disseminate traditional knowledge.
  - Identification of certain data gaps, including ocean story narratives of Tribal uses, a map of existing and historical engineering efforts that separate Tribes from the ocean, and an online timeline that shows the treaties and laws that separated Tribes from their traditional areas.

Ms. Leonard then outlined next steps for Tribal engagement, including participatory GIS workshops in October and November 2015. The Portal team is creating a data layer for Tribal offices that can be expanded to include points of contact, spheres of influence, and reservation land boundaries.

Following this presentation, Ms. Cantral turned to the RPB for brief discussion. RPB members expressed appreciation for these Tribal engagement efforts. One RPB member suggested MARCO do more outreach within the RPB to make sure members know about these events and can attend.

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### **Overview of Draft Ocean Action Plan Outline**

Ms. Cantral next turned to Deerin Babb-Brott, Senior Partner at SeaPlan under contract with Meridian Institute, and Ingrid Irigoyen, Meridian Institute, to present the content of the document, *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Plan Draft Outline* (Appendix A4).

Ms. Irigoyen noted that this document is intended to frame discussions for the remainder of the meeting. The outline represents how all of the components of the OAP discussed during the meeting could come together in the actual OAP document. By the end of the meeting, RPB members should be comfortable with the general structure of the OAP and the sections it will contain. She then walked through each section of the *MidA OAP Draft Outline*. The introduction will include a basic history and context of the MidA RPB. The section on “Mid-Atlantic ocean conditions and key issues” will provide characterization of the region and key issues and draw heavily from the ROA and data synthesis products. The section on “Interjurisdictional

coordination actions” will describe in detail each IJC action developed by the RPB and any relevant sub-actions. The topics covered in this section are linked to the Framework objectives or are cross-cutting topics that are important to include.

Mr. Babb-Brott then described the “Plan Implementation” section that will have descriptions of how entities will engage with the OAP, including best practices for agency coordination and use of data, agency guidance, plan administration, performance monitoring/metrics, and how the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal should be used in implementation. The last section on a science and research plan would be a compilation of regional data, research, and science needs. He referenced that many of these science and research needs will be identified by the MARCO project teams (MDAT, HUDS, and ROA) during the course of their work as well as the IJC action champions, who were asked to provide input to this section as part of their process of building out their actions. More needs may be identified as the RPB analyzes the products from the contractor teams and considers how to integrate them into the OAP.

Ms. Cantral reminded RPB members that the focus of this meeting is on the content of the OAP rather than the structure. She noted that Mr. Babb-Brott and Ms. Irigoyen will lead the OAP drafting team that is also tasked with collecting the information needed from RPB members about the IJC actions to be included in the plan. The deadline for the content on IJC actions is December 11, 2015 so that the OAP drafting team can assemble and combine the various components into coherent draft sections of the OAP early in the new year. She then opened the floor for clarifying questions.

One RPB member asked if any references to research detailed under IJC actions should be transferred to the “Science and research plan” section of the OAP. Mr. Babb-Brott clarified that references to needed science and research can be collected through the descriptions of the IJC actions that IJC champions have been asked to develop by December 11. The OAP drafting team will then extract and reflect that information in the “Science and research” section.

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## **RPB review and discussion of draft IJC actions**

Ms. Cantral transitioned the group to a round of presentations on proposed IJC actions for inclusion in the plan. Slides associated with this presentation can be found in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7). She reminded the RPB that these draft actions are associated with the two goals identified in the Framework, “healthy ocean ecosystems” and “sustainable ocean uses.” IJC is a critical component of regional ocean planning, and addresses specific processes and mechanisms that will allow the Federal, State, and Tribal member institutions of the RPB to enhance coordination, leverage resources, and improve decision making. At the January 2015 RPB meeting, a workgroup was established to further this topic and that group has now evolved into a series of smaller groups focused on specific topics linked to the Framework. Leaders of these groups are referred to as IJC action champions. Ms. Cantral reminded the group that these draft



actions are in the early stages of development and that the RPB has not formally agreed to pursue any of them. By the end of this meeting, RPB members should better understand which draft actions they would like to further develop, and generate the raw material needed for these actions by the December 11, 2015 deadline. She then turned the floor over to the IJC action champions for brief presentations.

### *Tribal Uses*

Ms. Leonard started her presentation on IJC actions related to Tribal uses by identifying NOAA as her co-champion member entity in developing these actions. She walked through the RPB Framework goals and objectives related to Tribal uses and then described specific actions to include in the OAP, including:

1. Identify data gaps pertaining to Tribal uses and develop a research agenda to address that need.
  - Build on the ROA.
  - Some of this can be identified as future research needs.
2. Improve ability of RPB entities to use traditional knowledge for planning, management, and decision making purposes.
  - The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal can facilitate this action.
3. Identify best practices for increased coordination among Tribes, States, and Federal entities for marine planning.
  - Coordinate with the Northeast RPB on their work to develop consultation best practices.
  - Gather information on agency consultation processes (required by law) and encourage development in agencies that do not have them.
4. Assess opportunities for marine planning to consider and, where appropriate, support Tribal economic self-sufficiency.
  - Identify commercial operations.
5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts.

She listed parties working on developing these actions including Tribes, Federal Agencies, States, and MARCO and stakeholder engagement opportunities including MARCO Tribal public listening sessions and the RPB written comment period. Specifics on each action can be found in her presentation found in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Healthy Ocean Ecosystems*

Ms. McKay, champion of the group working on Healthy Ocean Ecosystems, gave a brief overview of the Healthy Ocean Ecosystems (HOE) draft actions. She reviewed the HOE goal and objectives in the Framework and then outlined proposed actions, which include:

1. Select Ecologically Rich Areas (ERAs) for in-depth review.

- Maintain and restore health of ERAs.
2. Select region-wide features for in-depth review.
  - Harder to identify than ERAs.
3. Identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean health indicators/metrics.
4. Develop a management research agenda.
  - One need is cumulative impacts of human uses.
5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts.

Entities involved in developing these actions include NOAA, BOEM, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New York, and the Shinnecock Indian Nation. Stakeholder engagement opportunities include a MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee meeting, webinars, and the RPB written comment period. Specifics on each action can be found in her presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Offshore Wind Energy*

Mr. LaBelle started his presentation by explaining that while the RPB Framework outlines ocean energy in a larger sense, RPB members have chosen to focus on offshore wind energy as an IJC action. He went on to say:

*“The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain a schedule of proposed OCS oil and gas lease sales determined to best meet national energy needs. BOEM is currently considering the extent of this program in the Mid-Atlantic for 2017-2022. The Program will not allow drilling in any offshore areas north of Virginia, but may include Federal waters off Virginia. However, a final decision on geographic scope will not be made until next year. Accordingly, the Ocean Action Plan could include a general statement of fact about the status of BOEM’s program. It is important to note impacts from drilling offshore Virginia or even areas outside the Mid-Atlantic could affect uses and resources within the Mid-Atlantic. This demonstrates the importance of coordinating and integrating data being generated through regional ocean planning to help inform decision making under existing jurisdictions and authorities about this or any activities that may take place offshore.”*

He then turned to the presentation on offshore wind energy. He identified goals for this topic, including increasing collaboration and participation in wind energy processes by identifying intersections and developing clearly designed coordination mechanisms, improving data for decision making, and leveraging existing networks like the BOEM Task Force. Entities involved in developing these actions include New York Department of State as co-champion, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, NOAA, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Stakeholder engagement opportunities through December 2015 include seeking input from BOEM’s State intergovernmental renewable energy task forces and targeted stakeholders on BOEM’s offshore wind energy program.

He also summarized input he heard at the previous day's MARCO stakeholder workshop, including making these proposed actions more specific, engaging States in developing BOEM research agendas, crafting an action that will recommend ways to avoid LNG siting issues and other conflicts, better engaging the fishing industry through specific mechanisms and improved data, forming a clearinghouse of development activities, and developing best practices. Specifics on each action can be found in his presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Offshore Sand Management*

Mr. LaBelle also presented actions related to Offshore Sand Management. Actions related to this topic fall under the sustainable uses goal in the Framework. Goals for this topic include increasing collaboration, forming a Regional Sand Management Working Group, and sharing a BOEM geospatial database.

Mr. LaBelle summarized public input on this topic from the previous day's MARCO stakeholder workshop, including suggestions to develop best management practices for coastal sand mining with respect to fisheries and monitor their success, increase participation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the RPB process, improve the use of Essential Fish Habitat consultation processes, and better coordinate among stakeholders with wind, sand, and fisheries interests.

He recognized his co-champions in this effort as New York Department of State and Virginia. Other entities involved in developing these actions include Delaware, Maryland, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, NOAA, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Stakeholder engagement opportunities through December 2015 include developing the Mid-Atlantic Regional Sand Management Working Group. Specifics on each action can be found in his presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *National Security*

Joe Atangan, Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Fleet Forces Command, champion of the group working on National Security, gave a brief overview of the draft actions related to the topic. He recognized his co-champion as U.S. Department of Defense. He underlined the need to be proactive about ensuring the OAP is compatible with National Security interests. Actions presented include:

1. Coordination and management: leverage existing processes, practices, programs, and groups to assess potential National Security impacts of proposed actions, identify potential mitigations, and facilitate decision making
2. Data: Identify authoritative, publically releasable data for use in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.

3. Research: Partner in on-going and planned studies and identify knowledge gaps
4. Issue Areas: Focus on use compatibility issues and potential impacts on National Security.

Entities involved in developing these actions include U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard. Stakeholder engagement opportunities through December 2015 include seeking input from Department of Defense Regional Environmental Coordinators, Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, intergovernmental task forces, and targeted stakeholders. Specifics on each action can be found in his presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Marine Commerce & Navigation*

Doug Simpson, U.S. Coast Guard, gave a brief report on input he heard during the previous day's MARCO stakeholder workgroup breakout session on that topic. Proposed actions on this topic include:

1. Incorporate stakeholder review.
  - Identify and continue to leverage existing navigation safety committees and advisory committees related to specific uses.
2. Coordinate data product development.
  - Catalogue intersections between Federal agencies and between Federal and State agencies, identifying opportunities for improving service to stakeholders.
3. Coordinate on data acquisition to leverage/share costs and expand utility of data.
4. Incorporate releasable U.S. Coast Guard data into Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (e.g., search and rescue data).
5. Develop navigation data that represents sub-sectors of vessel traffic.
6. Identify navigation trends to understand traffic patterns over time.
7. Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion.
8. Develop data layers that represent activities and structures in nearshore and estuarine waters.

He identified DOT's Maritime Administration and New York Department of State as co-champions on this topic. Additional entities involved in developing these actions include BOEM, Virginia, Delaware, U.S. Department of Defense, and NOAA. Stakeholder engagement opportunities through December 2015 include seeking input from targeted stakeholders and regional and local navigation safety committees. Specifics on each action can be found in his presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Fisheries Science and Management (Commercial and Recreational Fishing)*

Kevin Chu, NOAA, identified the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) as co-champion on developing actions related to commercial and recreational fishing. Dr. Chu then gave a brief overview of the draft actions related to the topic, which include:

1. Support dialogue between NOAA and State Fisheries Managers
2. Collaborate on climate change studies (science/managers/planners)
  - Including a workshop for scientists and managers and leveraging NOAA's National Fisheries Climate Action Plan that charges regions with developing Regional Action Plans
3. Work with the MAFMC Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee
4. Improve collaboration with Tribes
5. Improve understanding of recreational fishing
  - Action champions had originally proposed a workshop for leaders in recreational fishing organizations. Input from the MARCO stakeholder highlighted problems with this approach, so other approaches will now be considered.

He also proposed adding an additional action based on input received during the MARCO stakeholder workshop:

6. Discuss ways to help alert fishermen to upcoming decisions earlier in the process so they can be more engaged in decision making

Stakeholder engagement opportunities through December 2015 include a MAFMC meeting in October, offering public comment at this meeting, and sending comments to the co-champions. Specifics on each action can be found in his presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Sustain and Enhance Intergovernmental Coordination*

Sarah Cooksey, Delaware Coastal Programs, began her presentation by noting that National Ocean Policy guidance documents are very open-ended regarding how RPB processes continue after the OAP is finalized and that this suite of actions is designed to help the RPB think about this question. She then gave brief overview of the options for continuation post-2016, which include:

1. MidA RPB operation is modified to provide more opportunities for communication and informal coordination.
2. MidA RPB focuses on OAP implementation and another forum focuses on intergovernmental communication about ocean activities.
3. MidA RPB goes away but intergovernmental communication forum continues.

She also added a fourth option that was suggested by a stakeholder at the previous day's MARCO workshop:

4. Develop an interstate compact.

She recognized NOAA as co-champion in developing these actions. Stakeholder engagement opportunities include offering public comment at this meeting and commenting on a white paper that will be released to the public. Specifics on each action can be found in her presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions (Appendix A7).

### *Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal: Data to Support Ocean Action Plan Development & Implementation*

Ms. McKay gave a brief summary of draft actions related to maintaining a data repository (namely the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal) that include maintaining operational components including data development, management, and web maintenance; expanding public engagement in collaboration with the RPB and MARCO to enhance data and functionality; and adding new data and mapping products to support RPB ocean actions as they evolve. She noted that it will be important to make connections between IJC actions and data on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. Specifics on each action can be found in her presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

### *Ocean Aquaculture, Non-Consumptive Recreation, and Critical Undersea Infrastructure*

Ms. Schultz briefly addressed the topics of ocean aquaculture, non-consumptive recreation, and critical undersea infrastructure. She stated that non-consumptive recreation has potential champions who might consider developing actions related to identifying gaps in data and developing a research agenda, identifying top threats to non-consumptive recreation and making recommendations for reducing those threats, and developing standards to assess impacts of larger projects on recreational activities. These actions were discussed during the MARCO stakeholder workshop.

She noted that while there are no champions of actions related to ocean aquaculture at this time, this Framework objective can be addressed through the ROA, use of the data portal to characterize potential siting issues, creation of agency guidance on data use, and ongoing evaluation of regional need for additional agency actions. Critical undersea infrastructure also does not have an IJC action champion, but could be addressed through the ROA, data in the Portal, and ongoing coordination to develop data products and use them in project planning. Specifics on each action can be found in her presentation located in Appendix B6 and also in *Mid-Atlantic RPB Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions* (Appendix A7).

## Public comment session

During this session, members of the public were invited to offer public comment on any topic.

Comments focused on:

- *Increase efforts to engage fishermen:* The RPB should strive to incorporate the knowledge of fishermen to a greater degree, as they have valuable knowledge on such important issues as temperature patterns, history of species, and food chain dynamics that are not always represented in current data sources. Support for MARCO-led efforts to engage this sector, including the distribution of comment cards at the White Marlin Open and a letter sent to recreational fishermen to proactively inform them about ocean planning.
- *Stakeholder engagement:* Need for increased stakeholder engagement opportunities across all sectors. Request for public review of draft guidance and specific commitments of agencies to the actions identified in the OAP. Support for the format of the MARCO stakeholder workshop and request for another in-person public workshop before the March 2016 MidA RPB meeting on data products and revised IJC actions. Excitement about being able to use products from the contracting teams in outreach to public. Invitation to use “Ocean Frontiers” film series to educate public about the ocean planning process. Request to include stakeholder engagement piece currently in the *Draft OAP Outline* as an appendix as part of the plan. Caution that MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee Meetings should not be categorized as an opportunity for public engagement.
- *Data limitations:* Concern about potential confusion about areas that represent zero values versus areas that have not been extensively surveyed. Suggestion to create a data layer that includes spatial locations of where data is lacking and future research is needed.
- *45-day public comment period:* Recommendation to extend the 45-day public comment period to review the draft OAP to at least 90 days.
- *RPB work beyond 2016:* Support for planning the RPB’s future (one purpose being to track progress of the OAP) and the maintenance of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. There was also an expression of support for disbanding the RPB entirely.
- *Cross-cutting IJC action topics:* IJC actions should include process metrics and agency guidance. Request to clarify the definitions of immediate, near-term, and long-term actions. Support for more actions related to non-consumptive recreation. More specificity requested for IJC actions related to offshore wind, offshore sand, and commerce & navigation. Offshore sand, offshore wind, and critical undersea infrastructure actions should reinvigorate the Essential Fish Habitat Consultation process. Question about when the RPB will decide if it wants to include actions related to the Coastal Zone Management Act in the OAP.
- *Healthy Ocean Ecosystems:* Ensure that HUDS products can be overlaid with MDAT products to identify areas with multiple uses for in-depth analysis, but also be clear that areas with both ecological and human use importance are not inherently conflict areas. This overlay should inform development of IJC actions. HOE should identify linkages between sand, wind, and fisheries interests and encourage the use of best management practices as they affect each other. ERAs should reflect factors like species vulnerability as

well as species richness. Support for further work in identifying ocean health indicators and metrics, making sure these indicators are useful for ocean managers, and building off existing efforts (e.g. West Coast Integrated Ecosystem Assessment). ROA project could help with identifying indicators. Support for including migratory pathways in HOE actions. Include ecosystem based management principles in these actions.

- *Offshore Sand Management*: RPB should work to identify not just locations of sand mining, but also what kind of sand is mined and impacts of types of beach re-nourishment to swimmer and beach safety.
- *Offshore Wind Energy*: Recommendation to include an action on the development of guidance for how to protect endangered and threatened species from wind siting and operating activities and including other entities in the consultation process.
- *National Security*: Recommendation for Department of Defense to continue work on developing compatibility assessments. RPB could leverage the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement.
- *Offshore oil and gas*: If offshore oil and gas becomes a MidA activity, the RPB should be involved in this process.

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### **RPB reflection on public comment and discussion of draft IJC actions and *Draft OAP Outline***

Ms. Cantral then turned to the RPB for reflection on public comment and the draft IJC action presentations. Highlights from the ensuing discussion included:

- Suggestion to create a clearinghouse that contains all the latest information available from the various ongoing projects associated with the RPB.
- Question about how RPB members can stay up-to-date with the ongoing developments by each IJC action team. Options include membership in those small teams, hearing updates during regularly scheduled RPB calls and other coordination calls of the RPB.
- Request to identify individuals within RPB entities that are responsible for coordinating with Tribes or indigenous communities and encourage them to join the Tribal Uses workgroup that will be starting up shortly after the meeting. Additionally, a request for Federal and State entities to send their Tribal Consultation policies to Ms. Leonard; a new Tribal Uses workgroup that will be launched following the meeting.
- Recommendation to use criteria in selecting IJC actions to further develop (e.g. the criteria developed during the January 2015 MidA RPB meeting). Each action should identify outcomes, a lead entity, partners, funding streams, etc.
- Recognition that the planning process is about the collaborative value add that the RPB can bring to processes already in existence.
- Consideration for developing IJC actions for non-consumptive recreation. U.S. Coast Guard will consider taking the lead and NOAA and New Jersey will consider joining. MAFMC can offer input on certain aspects.



- Support for holding another stakeholder workshop before the March MidA RPB meeting, pending resources.
- Acknowledgment that the public would like more than 45 days to review a draft plan. The NOC recently gave the RPB a guidance document that outlined that they needed to receive a plan in time to allow for a 90+ day NOC review period. The RPB then drafted a timeline to account for this deadline which only allows for a 45-day public comment period. Clarification that the weeks between the comment period and submission to the NOC would be needed to incorporate public comments. Support for engaging stakeholders at multiple points in the process (e.g. reviewing draft components) of developing the OAP to ease the public burden of the 45-day review.
- Clarification that there is a difference between NOC guidance (about timing and deadlines for submitting the OAP) and agency guidance (that will outline how agencies will use the plan pursuant to their existing mandates and authorities). Support for leveraging the Northeast RPB's work on the latter.
- Recognition that engaging stakeholders in the RPB process can be challenging, but that there is a general feeling of positivity among RPB members and stakeholders at this meeting. There is a need to continue to try to improve stakeholder engagement.
- Recommendation to think further about how to continue the work of the RPB post-2016.
- Support for language in "Plan implementation" section of the OAP that allows for progressive updates over time without having to go through the entire approval process again.
- Recommendation to be clear about which actions the RPB has the capacity to develop now and which need to be saved for later. Recommendation to include actions in the plan even if the RPB does not have every aspect of their implementation figured out. Waiting to nail everything down will lead to including less robust actions when the point of an iterative plan is to further develop aspects over time.
- Need to think further about the State process for adopting and using the OAP. Recommendation to vet pieces of the plan as they are developed both within entities and with stakeholders.
- Reiteration that there is a lot of cross-coordination and information sharing between the Northeast RPB and the MidA RPB.
- Agreement to add "Discuss ways to help alert fishermen to upcoming decisions earlier in the process so they can be more engaged in decision making" as an action under commercial and recreational fishing. Cautions to sync up with other entities sending fishermen similar information so they do not feel overwhelmed and confused by too many information sources. Recommendation to identify ways to share information with all fishermen instead of just certain leaders or groups.
- Recognition that the small group working on Marine Commerce and Navigation actions will consider adding an action that deals with resilience to climate change, possibly focusing on ports.

## Stakeholder engagement through OAP submission in 2016

During this session, Ms. Schultz presented on ongoing and potential future stakeholder engagement efforts through 2016. Slides from this presentation can be found in Appendix B7. She outlined formal opportunities for input, including two additional in-person RPB meetings with public comment opportunities, two upcoming webinars, and public listening sessions upon release of the draft OAP. She also outlined the intention to have more informal dialogues with specific sectors that need to be involved in the development of specific proposed IJC actions. IJC action champions should identify who needs to be engaged in their action development. She identified the need to leverage partner events, including MARCO efforts like Stakeholder Liaison Committee meetings, outreach to technical experts and the scientific community through the three MARCO contracts, outreach to specific sectors to hear their input, and outreach to the public on the value of ocean planning. There are also engagement opportunities through the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, including data vetting with appropriate industries and sectors, Communities at Sea mapping, “How-to Tuesday” webinars to explain the Portal to the public, and “Portal Stories.” She described the value of MARCO’s targeted outreach during the White Marlin Tournament and mentioned a similar upcoming opportunity with the offshore wind community.

Ms. Schultz then asked the RPB to weigh in on the direction of these stakeholder engagement activities and any gaps or constraints that need to be addressed. Ms. Cantral then opened the floor for RPB discussion. Highlights from the ensuing discussion included:

- Identification of an opportunity to engage maritime security committees and harbor safety committees. Request for an ocean planning overview presentation to share with these groups. Opportunity to coordinate with the Northeast RPB on these efforts.
- Concern about continued engagement of stakeholders as the RPB process progresses. Many stakeholders have been contacted initially but have not been reengaged.
- Recognition of the ongoing nature of improving stakeholder engagement efforts and including stakeholders in the evaluation of these efforts. Request for public to tell the RPB what groups or people the RPB is missing in these efforts.
- Idea to compile a package of materials for RPB entity leadership to keep them up-to-date on plan development progress and the schedule through 2016.
- Identification of the need for a mechanism to track stakeholder engagement activities from all entities and RPB affiliates.
- Request for each entity to add and update the information they convey on their external communications (websites, newsletters, etc.) about the MidA RPB to reach more stakeholders.
- Suggestion to spend less time communicating about the ocean planning process generally and more targeting specific groups and discussing how ocean planning may affect them specifically.
- Importance of leveraging external events to communicate with more stakeholders.

## Updates from the Northeast Regional Planning Body

During this session, Nick Napoli, Ocean Planning Project Manager at the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, gave updates on the Northeast RPB process. He outlined the timeline of the Northeast RPB, which includes releasing a draft plan for public comment in March 2016 and submitting a final plan for NOC concurrence in June 2016. He requested that MidA RPB action champions notify the Northeast RPB staff of any MidA IJC actions that may cross regions. He said the Northeast is starting to draft their plan now and is meeting with agencies to talk about how they will apply new data products developed via regional ocean planning to their decision making and notify the public of how they intend to use the data. The Northeast RPB plans to have a stakeholder meeting in October 2015 and a formal RPB meeting in November 2015, where it will focus on implementation issues including plan performance, science and research priorities, and the future role of the Northeast RPB.

He described the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Workgroup that was established during the June 2015 Northeast RPB meeting. The Northeast RPB has released terms of reference and a roster of members and will have the first meeting EBM Workgroup in September 2015. The EBM Workgroup is focusing on what is possible in the first iteration of the plan and possibly having an ongoing dialogue about science and research priorities. Finally, he outlined how the Northeast RPB is working with Federal agencies on how they will use public notice to define how they use the plan under existing authorities. There will continue to be coordination between the two regions to advance this guidance. He said that Northeast States and Tribes are also discussing how they might provide notice to the public about use of the plan.

Ms. Cantral then opened up the floor for questions. Highlights from the ensuing discussion included:

- Clarification that the Northeast regional ocean plan has a section that starts with the data and asks agencies to describe how they will use the *data* under existing authorities. That piece is the guidance within the plan. This is similar to, but not exactly the same as, the process for the MidA RPB's IJC actions. The Northeast is also considering more general agency-specific notification about how *the plan* will be used in their decisions.
- Question about whether there is a template provided to each agency to ensure consistent use of the data. Answer that currently the template is the outline for the plan. Once there are initial conversations about what to include, more specific templates can be tailored to each agency.
- Question about how the EBM Workgroup could inform the Healthy Ocean Ecosystems IJC actions, specifically numbers one and two, concerning identifying ERAs and region-wide features. The Northeast RPB is open to suggestions on the utility of the EBM workgroup across regions. The EBM Workgroup will be considering how to create a regionally consistent benthic habitat layer. It could consider additional expertise from the MidA if needed, however first there is a need to assess feasibility of delving into MidA priority topics and adding additional members. The value to the MidA to being involved in this workgroup would be to help ensure consistency across the regions.

- Support for MidA involvement in the EBM Workgroup and support for its mission to analyze data and ensure products are applicable and useful to entity decision making processes. The MidA RPB can draw lessons and build on efforts from the Northeast RPB process for creating these products, even if they are working on different issues. While neither region has the time or resources to execute a full ecosystem-based management approach, the Northeast RPB is doing the best it can to integrate this concept into its plan and the MidA can build on and leverage this effort.
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### Day one summary and wrap-up

Ms. Cantral noted the meaningful discussions throughout the day on data synthesis and information products, draft IJC actions, and how to fold these aspects into the OAP (aided by a discussion of the outline and structure of the plan). She mentioned that the next day's discussion would focus on components of the plan that have yet to be discussed as well as the notion of looking ahead beyond 2016.

### Thursday, September 24, 2015

The second day of the meeting was focused on continuing discussion of draft IJC actions and the Draft OAP Outline, identifying and discussing outstanding OAP components, and looking ahead to the planning process after 2016. There was one additional public comment session.

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### Welcome back, summary day 1, agenda review day 2

During this session, Ms. Cantral briefly reminded the group about outcomes of Day 1, outlining several key topics to be taken up throughout the course of Day 2, and described the agenda for Day 2. She also introduced Katie MacCormick from the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, a new member entity joining the RPB. Ms. Cantral explained that the morning would be spent further discussing proposed IJC actions and clarifying any questions about the information due to the OAP drafting team by December 11, 2015. The RPB will also discuss other outstanding OAP components and the future of the planning process.

Mr. LaBelle noted that the RPB looked closely at its schedule during the previous evening and, after careful consideration, concluded that extending the 45-day public comment period would not be possible. He said that the March 2016 meeting will be focused on discussing some of the key content of the plan, so the public should understand much of what will go into the plan and be prepared to comment in 45 days.

## Resume discussion of draft IJC actions and review refinements to *Draft OAP Outline*

Ms. Cantral initiated the morning's discussion by displaying a slide outlining the information that IJC action champions should submit to the drafting team by December 11, 2015. This slide can be found in Appendix C1 and included descriptions of the action, descriptions of the output/outcome, responsible parties and key partners, sub-actions/steps and milestones, stakeholder input, geographic dimension, resources, research and science needs, and relevant statutory authorities or agency practices/guidelines. She then opened up the floor for clarifying questions.

The RPB discussed the need to identify linkages *between* IJC actions as an additional piece of the December 11 assignment. The RPB also discussed that IJC action champions need to be proactive about soliciting input from RPB member entities and external stakeholder entities that may be affected by their actions and have not yet been involved in action development. The RPB also considered defining the specific meaning of a "long-term" action, but concluded that the meaning might need to be flexible depending on the action.

The RPB then discussed each IJC action area in turn, except the actions related to sustaining and enhancing intergovernmental coordination and the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal that would both be addressed in the session later in the day on planning for the future after 2016. Points of discussion regarding each IJC action are summarized here:

### *General discussion points*

- Leverage Northeast RPB efforts with respect to similar actions. This is especially important for Federal consistency.

### *Tribal Uses*

- Commitment from one State and encouragement to others to help facilitate Tribal engagement with existing estuary planning processes.
- Recommendation to consider addressing in the plan some estuary issues that have a specific crossover to ocean issues.

### *Healthy Ocean Ecosystems*

- Clarification that ocean acidification is addressed in the action "assess and plan for climate change impacts" but could also relate to "identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean indicators/metrics."
- Clarification that the Healthy Ocean Ecosystems action related to "identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean indicators/metrics" would be focused on leveraging existing metrics and indicators that already have funding associated with them. There may be a need to seek funding to enact a Mid-Atlantic ocean acidification monitoring network, and evaluate different methods of monitoring across entities and geographies and recommend ways to make these more consistent.

- Funding pending, it would be beneficial to have a workshop in early 2016 to look at the final data synthesis and assessment products, and potentially use that as a time to identify ERAs that demonstrate the value of the planning process.
- Suggestion to add an action about collecting marine debris plans from various entities and developing a clearinghouse for these plans.

### *Offshore Wind Energy*

- Commitment to make actions more specific and to try to address some recommendations from MARCO and stakeholders.
- Value to refining actions to include proactively seeking out impacted communities and gathering input about offshore wind energy (e.g., commercial and recreational fishermen). Action champions working on wind, fishing, and non-consumptive recreation should identify joint opportunities for dialogue with stakeholders.
- Request for States to have a formal seat at the table for BOEM's environmental planning studies work.
- Leverage entities like the National Oceanographic Partnership Program and provide them with research ideas. Suggestion to have a forum that provides an opportunity for Federal agencies and others to share current research activities.
- Recommendation for states to develop best management practices for fishing around wind siting areas.

### *Offshore Sand Management*

- Support for a Mid-Atlantic Regional Sand Management Working Group.
- Support for more U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involvement on this RPB issue and discussing with that entity how to gain efficiencies in the sand mining and distribution process. Need for close coordination between regional sediment management and offshore sand management—opportunity to deal with regional sediment in ways that create resiliency benefits and more sand in the future.
- Emphasis on the need for coordinating between identifying places for offshore sand leases and identifying ERAs and EMUs.
- Clarification that BOEM is gathering information on areas where sand leases may be located.

### *National Security*

- IJC actions focus on identifying processes for actions to be vetted and analyzed by national security agencies.
- Leverage Navy Oceanography Program to fill some research gaps.
- Identification of the need for clear communication so that IJC actions and national security interests do not clash.

- Explain in IJC actions that maritime security committees exist in every port to discuss security and access issues. There is a desire to clearly explain the processes that make areas restricted access areas, and also a desire to be able to allow compatible uses in those areas.

#### *Marine Commerce and Navigation*

- Identify a mechanism for local harbor safety committees to communicate with each other. There is an opportunity to connect national committees to local committees dealing with these issues. Include a list of FACA committees in this arena that could be leveraged.
- Recommendation to increase coordination with Tribes on these topics. Suggestion of a meeting between U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Transportation MARAD, and Tribes.
- Need to make sure when soliciting input from the harbor safety committees that the RPB deals only with offshore issues, as these committees also deal with inland issues.
- Opportunity to look into whether Automatic Identification System data could be released more quickly.
- Opportunity to include search and rescue, marine casualty, and pollution data in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal.

#### *Fisheries Science and Management (Commercial and Recreational Fishing)*

- Recognition that New Jersey and Maryland have agreed to join the group developing actions in this area. Commitment to draft a white paper on this topic with input from this meeting and the MARCO Stakeholder Workshop and circulate it to the group for review and refinement.
- Suggestion to set up forums to discuss recreational fishing between NOAA and the States and better understand all the issues facing recreational fishermen.

#### *Ocean Aquaculture, Non-Consumptive Recreation, and Critical Undersea Infrastructure*

- NOAA volunteered to lead any discussions on ocean aquaculture that the RPB feels is needed now, but emphasized that because there is little activity of this sector at this time, it should probably stay on the list of things the RPB could address in the future.
- Recognition that many aspects of critical undersea infrastructure may be addressed by other topic areas in the OAP.
- Recommendation to include short sections on both ocean aquaculture and critical undersea infrastructure in the plan and explain that the RPB is aware of these issues and will address them more specifically in future iterations of the plan as needs arise; include a list of associated agencies. The ocean aquaculture section should include a caveat that it might fall under the purview of a commercial activity.

## Identify and discuss outstanding OAP components

During this session, Ms. Cantral turned to Mr. Babb-Brott to give a brief presentation on components of the OAP that need further attention. This presentation can be found in Appendix C2.

Mr. Babb-Brott started his presentation by identifying that he would be quickly overviews outstanding components of the OAP that will need to be addressed, and suggested that he and other members of the OAP drafting team can further develop ideas on how to address these components in the coming months while RPB members focus on developing IJC actions. These ideas can then be vetted and iterated upon by the RPB. There are opportunities to leverage the work the Northeast RPB is doing on some of these components. He then turned to an overview of the components.

First, he outlined the concept of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and how they will connect information on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal to specific management actions. He said that ideas related to BMPs developed by the Northeast RPB will soon be released publically and can help serve as a basis for conversation in this region. BMPs can also be created to facilitate stakeholder engagement (e.g., BMP to create a plan on how an entity will identify affected stakeholders) and to coordinate in the early stages of management actions. Dr. Halpin came to the microphone briefly to note that the MDAT team has been building the infrastructure to ensure data is getting to agencies effectively. It will be good to reinforce this with BMPs.

He then discussed the concept of agency notice, the process by which agencies notify the public of the ways they intend to use the OAP under their existing authorities. This is currently being developed by the Northeast RPB and headquarters of Federal agencies. He mentioned OAP administration, which will include regular review and technical revisions based on OAP implementation progress. This is related to the IJC action for an ongoing forum for intergovernmental coordination. Another outstanding component is OAP performance monitoring that would track the progress of the plan and success of IJC actions; this is distinct from monitoring ecosystem health in the Healthy Ocean Ecosystems IJC actions. Finally, he discussed the OAP section related to a science and research plan. He said IJC action champions will be identifying research needed in each of their IJC action areas, which will help build out this section.

Ms. Cantral then opened up the floor for questions, reminding the RPB that this is only the beginning of an ongoing conversation about these important components of the OAP.

Highlights of the ensuing discussion included:

- IJC action champion teams should attempt to provide metrics that may measure the effectiveness of that action as well as a research needs for that action by the December 11, 2015 information deadline. The OAP drafting team can then offer a recommendation regarding whether and how research needs appear under each IJC action area in the plan versus into a separate chapter four of the OAP.



- Suggestion to allow the OAP drafting team to provide more information for RPB consideration about plan performance monitoring and examples from other domestic plans to help inform RPB discussion.
  - Suggestion that the RPB should dedicate sufficient time to discussing the “Plan implementation” and “Science and research plan” sections of the OAP and what those should look like.
  - Suggestion to set reasonable expectations in the OAP for how entities will use the regional data being collected (e.g., a national program may be better suited to look at national-level data).
  - Opportunity for RPB member entities to connect with their research and development departments to see what research is underway or planned that may benefit IJC topics.
  - Emphasis on the importance of keeping Tribal perspectives in the conversations about the outstanding components of the OAP.
  - Suggestion that the “Science and research plan” may not be a comprehensive look at all the science and research needs for the Mid-Atlantic, but rather a list of research needs that IJC champions see as priorities to make progress on the actions in the plan.
- 

### Public comment session

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

- Criteria used to develop IJC actions should be made available to the public.
- Need for clarification on what constitutes authoritative data that will be used to select ERAs and region-wide features.
- Desire for the RPB to collect data on all existing and potential economic uses and suggestion that the RPB engage existing and future user groups in developing non-binding data that agencies can use.
- Desire for the RPB to develop and release a final stakeholder engagement plan and the ROA prior to moving forward with the OAP.
- Request for more clarity about what will be included in the Healthy Ocean Ecosystems IJC actions, especially whether actions to reduce threats to ecosystems will be included in the plan (after identifying areas with conflicting uses). Support for not only identifying important ecological areas but taking actions to maintain and restore their health.
- Emphasis on the importance of including actions that are not only coordination-focused but also more action-focused.
- Emphasis of the importance of developing actions and BMPs based on the final data products that will be released at the end of the year.
- Support for public listening sessions around the release of the draft OAP.

- Appreciation for the progress being made on developing IJC actions around non-consumptive recreation. RPB should reach out to stakeholders in this area for help in action and data development.
  - Suggestion to prioritize developing actions that can realistically be accomplished in this first iteration of the OAP.
  - Support for a stakeholder workshop in early 2016 to review final data synthesis and information products.
  - Expression that a 45-day comment period is short but manageable.
- 

### **RPB reflection on public comment and looking ahead to the planning process after 2016**

Ms. Cantral turned to Ms. Cooksey to start an RPB discussion around the future of the RPB and the planning process after 2016. Ms. Cooksey outlined the potential for the RPB to keep developing the plan and then decide how to move forward after 2016. She mentioned that many stakeholders appreciate the RPB forum because it involves State, Tribal, and Federal entities. She then opened the floor for discussion. Highlights from the ensuing discussion included:

- Support for continuing the RPB after 2016, but recognition that this may be impossible without funding for regular operating costs.
- Need to provide feedback to the executive branch on lessons learned during the first planning cycle. Lessons include:
  - The need for sufficient Federal funding to make this process effective
  - Rotating between Federal Co-Leads would not provide the kind of consistent leadership needed to maintain this process long-term. There should be a consistent lead Federal entity for each region in charge of championing the effort and funding the necessary administrative and secretariat functions.
- Statement that one of the strongest arguments for continuing the RPB will be creating a useful first iteration OAP. The RPB could convey in the OAP the value-add of this kind of body and the specific actions it is uniquely positioned to work on. It was noted that there is value in the planning process and not just the final OAP.
- Emphasis on the need to develop a strategy for what the RPB will be after 2016 because that may influence the content of IJC actions (e.g., RPB may not want to commit to certain actions if it will not exist to see them through).
- Identification of the need to improve stakeholder engagement if the RPB continues. For example, the format of formal RPB meetings should better facilitate stakeholder engagement. Support for a workshop-type format.
- NOAA and DOT will help refine IJC actions related to the ongoing forum.
- Recognition that if the formal RPB went away, a model similar to the Northeast Regional Ocean Council could be employed in which collaboration continues with Federal, State,

and Tribal participation occurring through the commitment of individuals in addition to their regular responsibilities. This is different from the current model of MARCO, which does not focus on coordination between States and Federal and Tribal entities, but is focused on specific priorities of five Mid-Atlantic States.

The group then transitioned to talking about the ongoing maintenance of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. Ms. McKay identified the big challenges being identifying funding to maintain and update the Portal, who will maintain it, and where it will be located on the web. She emphasized the serious nature of this discussion as the success of the OAP is dependent on the Portal in many ways. She said that the current Portal team is calculating the costs of maintaining the Data Portal at various levels of intensity. Highlights of the ensuing discussion included:

- Recognition of the need for a strategy to fund the maintenance of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. An idea that each agency could contribute a small amount of funds to maintaining the Portal, although limitations to this approach include challenges of transferring money among Federal agencies and to other entities. An alternate approach would be for one entity to carve out a budget for maintaining the Portal.
- The Portal team offered a preliminary estimate of costs for maintenance:
  - To keep the Portal functioning as is: 0.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)
  - To ensure there are updates and some new data development and outreach: 3-4 FTEs
- Challenges also include the issue of security and public access. If it is housed on a government system it may be harder for the public to access it.
- Recognition that having conversations about these obstacles is helpful in order to find a path forward.
- The Pamunkey Indian Tribe, NOAA, and New York Department of State volunteered to help further develop actions related to the Portal to be incorporated into the OAP.

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### Clarify next steps and wrap up

Ms. Cantral summarized major outcomes of the meeting, noting a sense of great anticipation for the data synthesis and information products that will be available at the end of 2015. She summarized high-level next steps, including:

- The RPB members working on IJC actions will submit the information about their actions by December 11, 2015.
- The OAP drafting team will develop ideas for how to address some of the outstanding components in the plan for RPB review and discussion.
- The RPB will hold a webinar in December 2015 and the next RPB meeting in March 2016 (during which the RPB will have a substantive discussion about key components of the

plan including the IJC actions) and continue to think about ways to improve stakeholder engagement.

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

# Appendix A1

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

*Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting*

September 23-24, 2015

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### Agenda

#### Meeting Objectives

- Review draft data synthesis and information products, discuss public input gained during September 22 MARCO public workshop, and discuss next steps
- Determine how Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) goals and objectives will be addressed through specific interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions, consider public input, and identify next steps
- Agree on components of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP) as described in a draft OAP outline
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the MidA RPB

**Location:** Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510  
Meeting room: Hampton Roads I-IV

### Wednesday, September 23, 2015

**8:00 am Registration**

**9:00 am Tribal blessing and welcome**

- *Kelsey Leonard, Tribal RPB Co-Lead, Shinnecock Indian Nation*
- *Laura McKay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program*

**9:10 am Introductions and agenda review**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

**9:20 am Remarks from National Ocean Council Director**

- *Beth Kerttula, National Ocean Council*

**9:30 am Review of progress since last RPB meeting and timeline through 2016**

- *Robert LaBelle, Federal RPB Co-Lead, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*

- *Kelsey Leonard, Tribal RPB Co-Lead, Shinnecock Indian Nation*
- *Gwynne Schultz, State RPB Co-Lead, Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

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

**9:45 am Update on draft data synthesis and assessment products**

- *Pat Halpin, Duke University, Marine Life Data and Analysis Team (MDAT)*
- *Melanie Schroeder Gearon, RPS ASA, Mid-Atlantic Regional Human Use Spatial Data Synthesis Project (HUDS)*
- *Peter Taylor, Waterview Consulting, Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment Project (ROA)*

MARCO-supported data synthesis and assessment project teams provide presentations about their work.

**10:30 am Break**

**10:45 am Report-out of public input on data synthesis and assessment products from Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Workshop on September 22**

- *Laura McKay, MARCO Management Board Chair, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program*

The RPB hears a summary of public input about data synthesis and assessment efforts from the September 22 MARCO public workshop from the MARCO Chair.

**11:00 am RPB discussion of data synthesis and assessment products**

RPB discussion with data synthesis and assessment projects, consideration of public input received during the September 22 MARCO workshop, and identification of next steps.

**11:45 am Tribal engagement efforts and input to date**

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

An update about ongoing MARCO-supported tribal listening sessions from the RPB's Tribal Co-lead, followed by RPB discussion.

**12:15 pm Lunch**

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

**1:15 pm Overview of *Draft Ocean Action Plan Outline***

- *Ingrid Irigoyen, Meridian Institute*
- *Deerin Babb-Brott, SeaPlan*

A brief presentation of the *Draft OAP Outline*.

**1:30 pm RPB review and discussion of draft IJC actions**

RPB members whose entities are championing specific draft IJC actions provide brief presentations, followed by RPB discussion.

*(2:15 pm is the deadline to sign up for the 2:45 pm public comment session)*

**2:45 pm Public comment**

Interested members of the public will be provided an opportunity to offer public comment on 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.

**3:45 pm Break****4:00 pm RPB reflection on public comment and discussion of draft IJC actions and *Draft OAP Outline***

RPB members reflect on public comment and discuss draft IJC actions. During this session the RPB will also clarify whether any refinements need to be made to the *Draft OAP Outline* prior to day two of the meeting.

**4:45 pm Stakeholder engagement through OAP submission in 2016**

- *Gwynne Schultz, State RPB Co-Lead, Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

A brief presentation followed by RPB discussion of ongoing and potential future stakeholder engagement efforts through 2016.

**5:15 pm Updates from the Northeast Regional Planning Body**

- *Nick Napoli, Northeast Regional Ocean Council*

Updates from Northeast RPB staff and MidA RPB discussion of opportunities for cross-regional coordination.

**5:30 pm Day one summary and wrap-up**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

**5:45 pm Adjourn day one****Thursday, September 24, 2015****8:30 am Registration****9:00 am Welcome back, summary day one, agenda review day two**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

**9:10 am Resume discussion of draft IJC actions and review refinements to *Draft OAP Outline***

Continued discussion of the substance of and process for further developing draft IJC actions and review any refinements made overnight to the *Draft OAP Outline*.

**10:30 am Break****10:45 am Identify and discuss outstanding OAP components**

RPB members identify and discuss components of the OAP and/or planning process that still need further attention, and determine next steps.

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

**11:30 am Public comment**

Interested members of the public will be provided an opportunity to offer public comment on 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 options are available outside of the meeting venue for public participants.

**1:15 pm RPB reflection on public comment and looking ahead to the planning process after 2016**

RPB members reflect on public comment and discuss any aspects of the planning process after 2016 that the RPB should be preparing for at this time.

**2:15 pm Clarify next steps and wrap up**

- *Laura Cantral, Meridian Institute*

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

**2:30 pm Adjourn**

# Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

*Roster of Members and Alternates*

*September 2015*

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# Appendix A3

## Updated Mid-Atlantic RPB Timeline for Ocean Action Plan Development (September 2015)

Notes: Timing subject to change; best current assessment. Light blue indicates stakeholder engagement. Red lines indicate deadlines, some of which are mid-month. Coordination across workgroups will be continuous throughout. Quarters displayed represent calendar year. After NOC concurrence at the end of 2016, focus will shift to plan implementation.

	2015												2016											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
<b>RPB BUSINESS MEETINGS</b>	[Dark Blue Bar: Jan, Sep]												[Dark Blue Bar: Mar, Sep]											
Public comment at RPB meetings	[Light Blue Bar: Jan, Sep]												[Light Blue Bar: Mar, Sep]											
Approve OAP Approach	[Grey Bar: Jan]																							
Proceed with workgroup activities	[Grey Bar: Feb-Dec]												[Grey Bar: Jan-Sep]											
MidA RPB public webinars	[Light Blue Bar: May, Dec]												[Light Blue Bar: Jun]											
Stakeholder engagement events	[Light Blue Bar: Jul, Sep]												[Light Blue Bar: Mar]											
Prepare draft OAP													[Grey Bar: Jan-May]											
Make final edits and release draft OAP (mid-June)													[Grey Bar: Jun] with red vertical line at mid-June											
Public comment on draft OAP (45 days)													[Light Blue Bar: Jun-Jul]											
Public listening sessions/roundtables													[Light Blue Bar: Jun]											
Integrate comments into final OAP													[Grey Bar: Jul-Sep]											
Deliver final MidA OAP to NOC (mid-Sept.)													[Red vertical line at mid-Sept.]											
NOC concurrence process													[Grey Bar: Oct-Dec]											
Final concurrence received on OAP													[Red vertical line at Dec]											

# Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP) Draft Outline

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## (1) Introduction

- History (MARCO, NOP, RPB)
  - NOC context (NOC guidance and process)
  - Planning process (summary of process and key steps; link to Charter, other)
  - Regional overview (drawing from ROA white paper)
  - Summary discussion of goals and objectives (link to Framework)
  - Brief description of Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (and link to the portal)
  - Overview of OAP (description of how OAP is organized)
- 

## (2) Mid-Atlantic Ocean Conditions and Key Issues

This chapter would include regional characterization of conditions and key issues, using information from the Human Uses Synthesis, Ecological Data Synthesis, and Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA), and other sources. This chapter would be comprised of sections organized by the goals and objectives (as articulated in the [Framework](#)), that: 1) generally characterize conditions and issues related to each objective; 2) present a relevant map(s); and 3) identify key issues for interjurisdictional coordination (IJC).

*Note: The intent is to maximize use of data synthesis and assessment products by providing very concise summary information here and then link to relevant full documents in the Appendix or elsewhere as appropriate.*

### Goal 1: Healthy ocean ecosystem

- Objective 1: Discovering, understanding, protecting, and restoring the ocean ecosystem AND Objective 2: Accounting for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks.
  - Marine life distribution and abundance
  - Other marine ecosystem components
  - Ecologically rich areas
  - Other discussion/products related to ecosystem-based management and/or ecosystem change
- Objective 3: Valuing traditional knowledge

### Goal 2: Sustainable ocean uses

Objectives:

1. National security
2. Ocean energy
3. Commercial and recreational fishing
4. Ocean aquaculture
5. Maritime commerce and navigation
6. Offshore sand management
7. Recreation
8. Tribal uses
9. Undersea infrastructure

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### (3) Interjurisdictional coordination actions

In this chapter, the OAP describes collaborative actions that will be taken to address the goals and objectives (as articulated in the [Framework](#)). It describes how the RPB (through internal agency discussion, workgroup and full RPB discussion, and application of working criteria) has identified certain interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions to include in this first OAP, and then details those IJC actions. The specific IJC actions typically will have multiple components that have immediate, near-, and longer-term implementation schedules. Some of these will be addressed through procedural actions (e.g., project review coordination) and the use of data and information (e.g., use of data portal to inform regulatory or other actions that could affect stakeholders). Since ocean planning is intended to be an iterative process, actions may be refined and new ones developed over time.

For each Framework objective, the RPB will define actions and sub-actions in varying levels of detail as determined appropriate by the RPB and its member entities. Where deemed appropriate by the RPB, actions could be described in the OAP under the following categories:

- Description of the action<sup>1</sup>
- Output/outcome
- Responsible entities and key partners
- Sub-actions/steps and milestones (including immediate, near-, and longer-term components)
- Stakeholder input
- Geographic dimension
- Resources
- Research and science needs related to this action

Topics that would be addressed in this section of the OAP in varying levels of detail that link directly to specific Framework objectives:

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<sup>1</sup> Commitments to undertake actions will reflect a determination that it is feasible to do so, based on consideration by RPB champions of that action and collaborating RPB entities.



- Valuing traditional knowledge and Tribal uses
- Healthy ocean ecosystems
- Wind energy
- Offshore sand management
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- National security
- Navigation and commerce
- Ocean aquaculture
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Critical undersea infrastructure

In addition, the OAP would identify IJC actions on the following cross-cutting topics<sup>2</sup>:

- Ongoing intergovernmental communication and coordination<sup>3</sup>
- Maintaining a data repository (the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal)<sup>4</sup>

At the end of this chapter would be a reference to the following documents, which would appear in appendices to the OAP and are intended to help the reader find/navigate the actions:

- Summary of actions organized by immediate, near-, and longer-term components
- Comprehensive matrix of goals, objectives, and actions

---

#### (4) Plan implementation

This chapter would have descriptions of how entities will engage with the OAP and use it to guide and inform their actions under existing authorities, including implementation mechanisms and processes (in detail or summary form) with reference to further content in Appendices. This may include:

- Best practices for agency coordination and use of data
- Agency guidance, including:
  - Technical guidance (on use of specific data)<sup>5</sup>
  - Implementation guidance (how agencies will use the OAP)<sup>6</sup>
- Administration (technical revisions, scheduled review and updating, other)
- Performance monitoring/metrics

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<sup>2</sup> The RPB may decide to add IJC actions related to the Coastal Zone Management Act as well.

<sup>3</sup> This action is not related to a specific objective, but it fundamentally supports the achievement of all objectives.

<sup>4</sup> This action is not related to a specific objective, but it fundamentally supports the achievement of all objectives.

<sup>5</sup> Under development by NMFS and USFWS for marine animals in association with development of MDAT products.

<sup>6</sup> Under development at NOC/agency general counsel; both MidA and NE RPBs have provided comments to the NOC draft guidance that touches on this. The RPB will engage in review of guidance documents as the NOC and agency GCs develop drafts and provide for comment.

- Data Portal-specific information (including how it should be used in implementation)
- 

## (5) Science and Research Plan

A compilation of data, research, and science needs identified under Chapter 3 and as determined necessary/appropriate to update and advance the OAP broadly (per ROA, other), including needs associated with:

- On-going updates to OAP data synthesis products
- Studies and research
- Continuing evaluation or and engagement around ecosystem-based management

Description of relevant federal agency programs and processes for coordination/integration on science and research.

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## Appendices

- Charter
- Framework
- Full technical materials as appropriate
  - ROA
  - Human Use
  - Ecological Synthesis
  - Other
- Implementation Guidance
- Agency commitments (“decision document” formal mechanisms that commit entities to specific actions)<sup>7</sup>
- Stakeholder engagement report/continuing engagement plan
- Summaries of actions (organized by timeframe and/or in matrix format)
- Other

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<sup>7</sup> Agency commitment will be developed in a process parallel to, but on a somewhat later schedule than, the implementation guidance, as the commitment will be keyed to specific actions and planning processes currently being developed by the RPB. We anticipate that additional guidance on the nature and detail for agency commitments will be developed through the NOC and agency general counsel and provided to the RPB for review and discussion.

# Scopes and Objectives for Information Synthesis to Support Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

In support of Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning efforts, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) continues to manage three projects for data and information synthesis. Scopes and objectives for information synthesis projects are meant to complement each other, and there is coordination across projects and with stakeholders. Summary information for these projects is provided below:

## **Ecological Data Synthesis Project:**

**Objectives/Outcomes:** The Ecological Data Synthesis project is being conducted by the Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT), led by Duke University Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, NOAA National Center for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Loyola University. The project seeks to *develop the Mid-Atlantic regional marine life database and web services* by hosting marine mammal, sea turtle, avian, and fish data products, as well as other synthesized ecological data (including corals, canyons and other benthic habitats) for use in desktop GIS systems and data portals, in particular the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. As part of this objective, the MDAT will produce maps of distribution and abundance for diverse species. Spatial data products will include models based on observations and environmental co-variables, observation based density maps for fishes and a suite of maps that characterize uncertainty for model based products. MDAT will also provide technical support at MARCO and Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)-sponsored meetings with state, federal, and tribal entities to ensure the utility of the information for decision-making. MDAT will develop synthetic data products and overlays to identify preliminary areas of ecological richness across multiple taxonomic groups, including additional habitat considerations. The final product set will be completed in December 2015.

## **Human Use Data Synthesis Project:**

**Objectives/Outcomes:** The Human Use Data Synthesis (HUDS) project, led by RPS ASA and SeaPlan, seeks to *compile spatial data on human uses and develop synthesized data products and tools* to advance ocean planning priorities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Work products will support decision-makers' consideration of human use data. The team will characterize the strengths and caveats associated with the project's available human use data and develop synthesis methods and new spatial data products in consultation with MARCO and the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Team. A new data summary tool will be developed to reveal and highlight locations where multiple uses occur, identify patterns of use intensity, provide summary information for user selected ocean areas, and help illustrate where improved Inter-jurisdictional Coordination (IJC) will benefit ocean health and promote sustainable use. The project team will produce a final report to include:

- Summary of human use data prioritization criteria,
- Evaluation of available human use data,
- Documentation of data gaps,
- Summary of identified potential future human use data, and
- Data synthesis methods and guidance for use of an interactive summary tool.

The project team will also develop clear user-friendly fact sheets for all synthesis products that describe the human use data sets and explain caveats, collection methods, interpretability, and any classification or scaling techniques that were applied. The HUDS final product will be completed in December 2015.

### **Regional Ocean Assessment Project:**

Objectives/Outcomes: The Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA) project, led by Waterview Consulting and E&C Enviroscope, seeks to *characterize ocean uses and resources in the Mid-Atlantic* with a priority focus on two broad ocean planning goals: Healthy Ocean Ecosystems and Sustainable Ocean Uses. The project will also develop an innovative, dynamic, and easily updated web-based system to deliver the final ROA product. The project team will gather, integrate, and distill the best available information from publications, data sources, subject-matter experts, and related MARCO projects to characterize biological, chemical, ecological, physical, cultural, economic, and historical conditions of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

The project will:

- Highlight relationships and potential linkages between and among ecosystem features and human uses;
- Highlight knowledge/data gaps by assessing data using a common framework and metrics;
- Suggest appropriate scales of interpretation, analysis, and application of data for decision-making; and
- Provide information needed to jumpstart potential new data products that address ecosystem services valuation, definition of ecologically rich areas, cumulative impact analysis and/or vulnerability, and resilience assessments.

The project will produce a dynamic digital information resource that conveys the best available scientific information in an engaging and useful way. It will also serve as a quick reference and summary to MidA RPB members, agencies and the public on the best available information for decision-making. The ROA final product will be completed in January 2016.

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment: Outline (DRAFT)

### 1. Introduction

- a. Need for Ocean Planning
- b. Overview of Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Process
  - i. Use of Traditional Knowledge in Ocean Planning
- c. Overarching Goals for Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning
- d. Purpose and Structure of the Regional Ocean Assessment

### 2. Ocean Ecosystem and Resources

- a. Characterizing the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Ecosystem
  - i. Oceanographic Setting and Processes
  - ii. Important Biological, Chemical and Physical Attributes
  - iii. Living Marine Resources
    1. Overview
    2. Important or Sensitive Species, Guilds, and Habitats
  - iv. Human Settlements Relative to the Ocean
  - v. Ecosystem Services
  - vi. Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change
- b. Toward Ocean Planning Objectives: Status and Trends
  - i. Key Ocean Characteristics and Indicators

### 3. Ocean Uses

- a. Characterizing Mid-Atlantic Ocean Uses and Values
  - i. Overview of Human Uses and Values
  - ii. Overview of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Economy
- b. Toward Ocean Planning Objectives: Status and Trends
  - i. Tribal Uses
  - ii. Commercial and Recreational Fishing
  - iii. Critical Undersea Infrastructure
  - iv. Maritime Commerce and Navigation
  - v. National Security and Military Uses
  - vi. Non-consumptive Recreation (e.g., boating, sailing, wildlife watching, diving)
  - vii. Ocean Aquaculture
  - viii. Ocean Energy
  - ix. Offshore Sand Management for Resilience Planning
  - x. Scientific Research

### 4. Strategic Objectives for Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning

- a. Adapt to Climate Change
- b. Build a Stronger Network of Monitoring and Science
- c. Maintain and Improve Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing Environment
- d. Manage Offshore Sediment for Coastal Resiliency
- e. Prepare for Expanded Shipping and Port Activities
- f. Site Ocean Renewable Energy Facilities
- g. Support Maritime Heritage
- h. Sustain Ecologically Rich Areas and Linkages

# Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Draft Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions

September 2015

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## Introduction

A key purpose of the ocean planning process in the Mid-Atlantic region is to help member entities work better together to achieve the Healthy Ocean Ecosystem and Sustainable Ocean Uses goals and objectives identified in the [Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework](#) (Framework):<sup>1</sup>

1. Promote ocean ecosystem health, functionality, and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.
2. 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.

Interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) is a critical component of the regional ocean planning process and addresses specific processes and mechanisms that will allow the Federal, State, and Tribal member institutions of the RPB to enhance coordination, leverage resources, and improve decision-making to benefit ocean users and ecosystem health through the implementation of their existing mandates and authorities. The agreements and products resulting from IJC actions will serve as the cornerstone of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP).

Throughout the spring and summer of 2015, RPB member entities generated ideas about specific draft IJC actions to foster improved information exchange, data sharing, and coordination in the region. At the September 23-24 2015 in-person RPB meeting, the RPB will agree to further develop a set of IJC actions for inclusion in the OAP. RPB discussion will be informed by stakeholder input during the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean Stakeholder Workshop on September 22.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Ocean-Planning-Framework/>

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## Draft actions for consideration

For each Framework objective, the RPB will define actions and sub-actions in varying levels of detail as determined appropriate by the RPB and its member entities. As a result of RPB discussions to date, a draft suite of actions have been developed for consideration and discussion in September 2015.

Draft actions are being developed that link directly to specific Framework objectives, related to the following topics:

- Valuing traditional knowledge and Tribal uses
- Healthy ocean ecosystems
- Wind energy
- Offshore sand management
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- National security
- Navigation and commerce
- Ocean aquaculture
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Critical undersea infrastructure

Draft actions on cross-cutting topics:

- Ongoing intergovernmental communication and coordination
- Maintaining a data repository (the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal)

These draft IJC actions are detailed further in the slides below.

**Please note that these draft IJC actions are initial working ideas at different stages of development. They are designed to spark discussion and deliberation at the September 22 MARCO stakeholder workshop and September 23-24 RPB meeting and do not represent RPB decisions on OAP content at this time.**

# Tribal Uses

*Kelsey Leonard, Tribal Co-Lead, Shinnecock Indian Nation*  
*Kevin Chu, NMFS/NOAA*

## Tribal Uses Goal and Objectives from the “Framework”

- Goal: 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.
- Objectives:
  1. Increased coordination among Tribes, states, and federal entities for integrated management efforts.
  2. Document and foster shared understanding of ocean and coastal sites important to Tribal use, beliefs, and values related to the Mid-Atlantic ocean.
  3. Consider climate change effects on tribal uses, emergency management, and territorial erosion/degradation.



# Overview of Proposed IJC Actions

1. Identify data gaps pertaining to tribal uses and develop research agenda to address the need
2. Improve ability of RPB entities to use traditional knowledge for planning, management and decision-making purposes
3. Identify best-practices for increased coordination among tribes, states, and federal entities for marine planning
4. Assess opportunities for marine planning to consider and where appropriate support of tribal economic self-sufficiency
5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts

## 1. Data and Research

- Building on the ROA, identify areas for research such as:
  - Submerged Cultural Resources (e.g. Clovis Point Concentration on Delmarva Peninsula of Mid-Atlantic)
  - Timeline of treaties with tribes in the region and history of laws affecting use of ocean by tribes
  - Beach Access laws, Current restrictions; Private Beaches; Parking Permitting
- Identify and recommend to appropriate agency(ies) actions that could increase tribal participation in data collection and analysis.
  - Incorporate tribal review
  - Enhance tribal engagement through access to and participation in management, environmental, and regulatory review
- **Desired Outcome:** Increased Tribal participation in data collection and analysis and prioritized list of research needs to be shared with funding entities.



## 2. Traditional Knowledge

- Develop best practices for identifying and incorporating or accessing traditional knowledge, as appropriate, in current and future planning products (e.g., Data Portal, OAP, protocols for sensitive information, other) and decision-making processes.



- Develop database for Mid-Atlantic Marine Traditional Knowledge
- **Desired Outcome:** Tribal Nations, States, and Federal entities have tools necessary to access and incorporate TK, as appropriate, in planning and decision-making.

## 3. Increase Coordination & Management

- Incorporate existing and/or develop best practices for government-to-government consultation and tribal participation in planning, management, and environmental and regulatory review processes
- Develop Tribal Ocean Planning Network (TOPN) facilitating coordination between Mid-Atlantic Tribes in the ocean planning process.
- Develop best practices to work with tribes to concurrently define jurisdiction (if appropriate), create co-management programs, and coordinate applicable regulations including sharing of state and tribal management plans.

### 3. Increase Coordination & Management

- Increased coordination with tribal historic preservation officers when burial sites and other funerary/cultural objects may be desecrated by a proposed use
  - MARCO Portal: Zones of Notification
- Identify mechanism(s) and process(es) to support tribal engagement in coastal bays and estuaries programs as tribal ocean uses flow into those areas of geographic scope.
- **Desired Outcome:** Tribal Nations, states, and federal entities have foundation for sustained coordination for ocean planning in Mid-Atlantic.



### 4. Tribal Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Undertake measures to encourage tribal economic self-sufficiency
  - Commercial fishing/aquaculture
  - Renewable energy
  - Commercial eco-tourism, etc.
- **Desired Outcome:** Increased tribal economic development in Mid-Atlantic Ocean supported by diverse entities.



## 5. Assess and plan for Climate Change impacts

- Increased awareness on Tribal Climate Change Adaptation planning
  - Identify funding system
  - Emergency Management and Preparedness
- Coastal Resiliency
- Identify Species of Concern for Cultural Preservation
- Increased tribal climate change data (e.g. composite map overlay tribal territories, floodplains, shoreline erosion)
- **Desired Outcome:** Tribal Nations prepared for climate change impacts on ocean uses and resources



## Member Entities and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB Tribal Uses members
  - Tribes: Shinnecock, Pamunkey, Oneida
  - Federal Agencies
  - States
  - MARCO
- Tribal Nation input Opportunities
  - MARCO Tribal Listening Sessions
  - RPB written comment period

# Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

*Laura McKay, Virginia CZM Program  
Kevin Chu, NMFS/NOAA*

## Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Goal and Objectives from the “Framework”

- Goal: Promote ocean ecosystem health, functionality, and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.
- Objectives:
  1. Discover, understand, protect, and restore the ocean ecosystem
  2. Account for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks



# Overview of Proposed IJC Actions

1. Select ecologically rich areas (ERAs) for in-depth review
2. Select region-wide features for in-depth review
3. Identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean health indicators/metrics
4. Develop a management research agenda
5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts



## 1. Select ecologically rich areas (ERAs) for in-depth review

- Based on relative ecological richness and/or immediacy of risk of negative impacts, select initial set of ERAs from MDAT's analysis for review
- Overlay human use data to identify managing agencies
- Review Traditional Knowledge habitat stewardship practices and current management practices affecting ERAs
- Identify and recommend to appropriate agency(ies) actions to reduce or eliminate risk of degradation for each ERA
- As new data are collected, update & re-run ERA model
- **Desired outcome:** Maintenance and or restoration of health of ERAs



## 2. Select region-wide features for in depth review

- Building on the ROA, identify region-wide features, e.g.
  - migration corridors
  - linkages between ERAs
- Overlay human use data to identify managing agencies
- Review current management affecting region-wide features
- Identify and recommend to appropriate agency(ies) actions that could reduce or eliminate risk of degradation for region-wide features
- **Desired outcome:** Maintenance and or restoration of health of region-wide ecological features



## 3. Identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean indicators/metrics

- Building on ROA, identify easily measured parameters to measure ocean health and/or effectiveness of actions
- Determine time intervals and appropriate agencies to measure indicators
- **Desired outcome:** A sustainable program for monitoring ocean ecosystem health



## 4. Develop a management research forum and agenda

- Establish a forum for sharing current and planned Mid-Atlantic Ocean research
- Identify management research needs
- Review and build upon existing research agendas
- Pool resources to study cumulative impacts of human uses
- **Desired outcome:** Prioritized list of research needs to be shared with potential funding entities



## 5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts

- Enhance the region's ability to address **ocean acidification** impacts
  - Review existing efforts/identify gaps
  - Identify funding stream
  - Ensure a robust, integrated Mid-Atlantic OA monitoring network is in place
- Enhance the region's ability to address expected **shifts in species and habitats**
  - Review existing efforts/identify gaps
  - Map expected species/habitat shifts
  - Assess need for and develop recommendations for actions
- **Desired outcome:** Management agencies prepared for climate change impacts





## Member Entities and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB Healthy Ocean Ecosystem members
  - Federal Agencies: NOAA, BOEM
  - States: VA, MD, DE, NY
  - Tribes: Shinnecock
- Stakeholder input opportunities (Sep –Dec)
  - MARCO SLC meeting
  - RPB written comment period



## Offshore Wind Energy

*Dept. of the Interior, BOEM  
New York Department of State*

## Overview of Offshore Wind Energy

- **RPB objective:** Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues with states, tribes, and federal partners
  - **Example action:** Coordinate data collection for environmental assessment to inform development of new Mid-Atlantic offshore renewable energy projects
- **Desired outcome:** More efficient, predictable and informed process that supports effective coordination; provides more meaningful participation for affected states in a shorter timeframe; enhances agency management and environmental and regulatory review processes; and advances state and federal wind energy development objectives

## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions

- **Coordination and management:** Identify intersections among federal programs; develop clearly defined coordination mechanisms to inform site assessment and project construction plans; and ensure activities are mutually reinforcing and provide the necessary information for decision-making where statutes intersect
  - BOEM consults with tribes to better understand impacts to economics and the environment, marine mammals, sacred ceremonial sites, and cultural resources
- **Data:** Develop agency guidance that addresses how data will be used in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews; agree on what data is sufficient for responsible entities to use for their reviews
- **Research:** Partner in on-going and planned studies; identify knowledge gaps
- **Issue Areas:** Focus on siting issues beyond project-specific scales, collaborate on shared data sets, and outline where and when relevant authorities play a role in decisions

## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - BOEM, New York DOS, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, DoD, DOE, NOAA, USCG, DOT, EPA
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions from now to December 2015
  - Seek input from BOEM's state intergovernmental renewable energy task forces and from targeted stakeholders on BOEM's offshore wind energy program

## Offshore Sand Management

*Dept. of the Interior, BOEM  
New York Department of State  
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality*

## Overview: Offshore Sand Management

- **RPB objective:** Enhance participation among coastal jurisdictions, federal (USACE) and state regulatory agencies, and tribal entities to identify and prioritize the use of Mid-Atlantic sand and gravel resources for coastal adaptation, resilience planning, and implementation
  - **Example action:** Coordinate regional identification and prioritization of sand borrow sites in federal and state waters and link to RPB's regional sediment management initiatives
- **Desired outcome:** Enhanced coordination among local coastal jurisdictions, federal and state regulatory agencies, and tribal entities to share data and help identify short and long-term sand resource projects

## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions

- **Coordination and management:** Identify and improve existing state / federal interactions and cooperative agreements in the Mid-Atlantic
  - BOEM and USACE coordinate with tribes for sand re-nourishment projects during the planning and analysis phase (NEPA & consultations)
- **Data:** Inform decision making by sharing BOEM geospatial database that will contain data from over 20 years of cooperative agreements, nearly 13 leases and agreements, and new data being collected from the Hurricane Sandy funded Atlantic Sand Assessment Project
- **Research:** Numerous BOEM studies; for ex., FY 2015 study planned in collaboration with USACE examining dredging best management practices and multiple uses of borrow sites
- **Issue Areas:** Existing sand projects may be used as pilot demonstrations on how RPB efforts might be of assistance

## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - BOEM, New York DOS, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, DoD, DOE, NOAA, USCG, DOT, EPA
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions
  - BOEM working now to establish a Mid-Atlantic Regional Sand Management Working Group to meet in early 2016 to discuss needs for offshore federal sand, data, and future environmental study needs; and address local government and near-shore issues

## National Security

*Joe Atangan, Joint Staff, U.S. Fleet Forces*

*Mike Jones, Dept. of Defense, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic*

## Overview of National Security

- **RPB objective:** To ensure National Security interests in the Mid-Atlantic are accounted for through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across agencies
- **Desired outcome:** An established, efficient, and informed process that supports effective coordination; leverages existing processes, practices, and programs; and facilitates addressing National Security impacts/concerns throughout the agency management and environmental and regulatory review processes

## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions

- **Coordination and management:** Leverage existing processes, practices, programs, and groups to assess potential National Security impacts of proposed actions, identify potential mitigations, facilitate decision making
- **Data:** Identify authoritative, publically releasable data for use in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.
- **Research:** Partner in on-going and planned studies; identify knowledge gaps
- **Issue Areas:** Focus on use compatibility issues and potential impacts on National Security

## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - DoD, USCG
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions from now to December 2015
  - Seek input from DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators, OSD Clearinghouse, intergovernmental task forces and targeted stakeholders

## Marine Commerce & Navigation

*Doug Simpson, DHS, USCG*

*John Kennedy, DOT, MARAD*

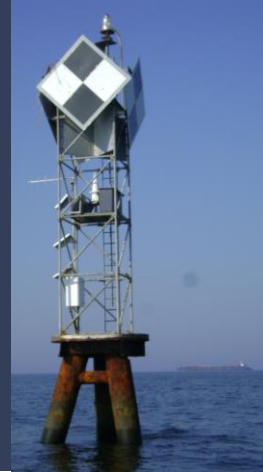
*Greg Capobianco, New York Department of State*

# Overview of Marine Commerce and Navigation

**RPB objective:** Generate greater awareness and participation by states, tribes, and the public in offshore marine commerce and navigation issues.

**Desired** maritime transportation system:

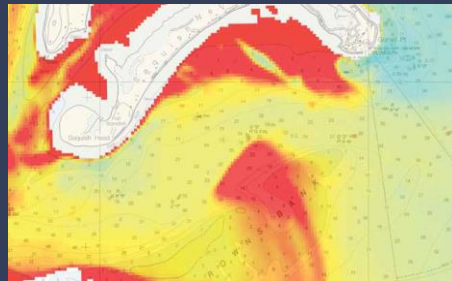
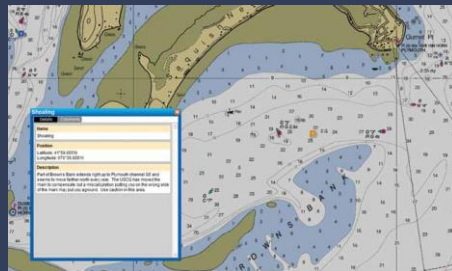
- Safe for increased, multifaceted use
- Meets national, regional, & local needs
- Resilient to market & use changes
- Values environmental stewardship



# Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions: Coordination & Management

**Incorporate stakeholder review:** Identify and continue to leverage existing navigation safety committees.

**Coordinate data product development:** Catalogue intersections between federal agencies and between federal and state agencies, identifying opportunities for improving service to stakeholders.





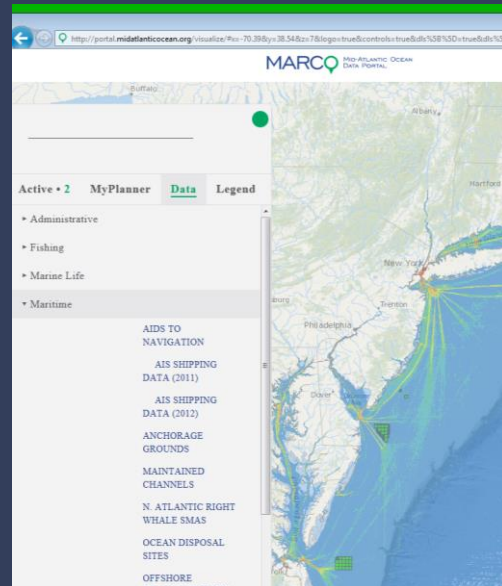
# Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions: Data

Coordinate on data acquisition to leverage/share costs and expand utility of data

Incorporate releasable USCG data into MARCO data portal:

- Search and Rescue
- Marine Casualty
- Pollution

Develop navigation data that represents sub-sectors of vessel traffic

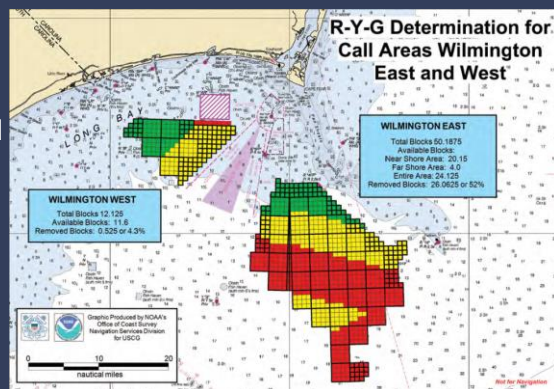


# Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions: Research

Identify navigation trends to understand traffic patterns over time

Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion

Develop data layers that represent activities and structures in nearshore and estuarine waters



## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - BOEM, New York DOS, Virginia, Delaware, DoD, NOAA, USCG, DOT
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions from now to December 2015
  - Seek input from targeted stakeholders
  - Seek input from regional navigation safety committees

## Fisheries Science and Management

*Michael Luisi, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council*

*Kevin Chu, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

## Goals and Objectives

- RPB Framework 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*
- Objective: Commercial and Recreational Fishing
  - *Foster greater understanding of the needs of the Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts*

## Proposed Actions

1. Support dialogue between NOAA and State Fisheries Managers
  2. Collaborate on climate change studies (Science / Managers / Planners)
  3. Work with the MAFMC Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee
  4. Improve collaboration with Tribes
  5. Improve understanding of recreational fishing
- **Outcome: Improved fisheries science and better management decisions**

# Background

- Current collaboration:
  - *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*
  - *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*
  - *Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program*



## Proposed Actions

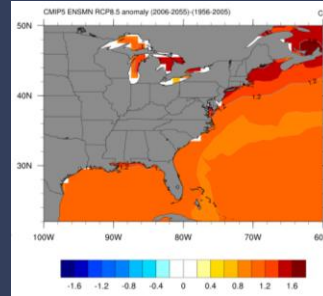
### *Support Dialogue Between NOAA and States*

- State Fisheries Directors and NOAA/NMFS
  - *Face to face*
  - *At least once per year*
  - *Coordinated with a meeting of ASMFC*
  - *Discuss positions and develop ideas for collaboration*



## Proposed Actions *Climate Change & Fisheries*

- Workshop for scientists and managers
  - *Predictions about the movement of fish stocks*
  - *Discussions of management implications of shifting populations*
  - *Develop collaborative research projects*
  - *Establish an ongoing forum*
- NOAA climate strategy
  - *Regional Action Plans*



## Proposed Actions *RPB Collaboration with MAFMC*

- MAFMC Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee
  - *Impacts of other activities on fishing*
  - *Impacts of fishing on the environment*
- ACTION: RPB members to participate on Committee



# Proposed Actions

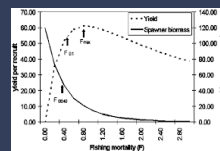
## Improve Collaboration with Tribes

- In states that have Federally recognized Tribes, NOAA will meet jointly with all interested Tribes (state and Federally recognized) to share perspectives on fishery management.
  - Face to face meetings should occur at least once per year at a time convenient for the Tribes.
  - RPB members will be invited to participate.

# Proposed Actions

## Improved Understanding of Recreational Fishing

- Workshops for leaders in recreational fishing organizations
  - *Topics to include fishery science and management*
  - *Discussions allow sharing of stakeholder, state and Federal perspectives*



## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- Member Entities
  - NOAA
  - *Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*
- Stakeholder comments:
  - *Now*
  - *At Mid-Atlantic Council meeting in October*
  - *Email to:*
    - *kevin.chu@noaa.gov*
    - *michael.luisi@maryland.gov*

## Sustain and Enhance Intergovernmental Coordination

*Sarah Cooksey, Delaware*  
*Supported by Darlene Finch (NOAA alternate)*

## Overview

- Cross-cutting objective: *Maintain forum(s) for intergovernmental coordination and communication in support of ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.*
- After MidA Ocean Action Plan (OAP) completion, need to:
  - monitor and track progress of actions in Plan
  - evaluate and update the Plan
  - incorporate updated scientific research and data in MidA ocean planning
  - identify and address emerging issues
  - engage governmental entities (both RPB and non-RPB members) on Mid-Atlantic ocean issues.
- Major guidance documents are mostly silent on this, although clear that ongoing coordination and communication are extremely important.

## Framing the Issues

- No clarity about status of the MidA RPB after 2016.
- Three options to advance the discussion:
  - MidA RPB operation is modified to provide more opportunities for communication and informal coordination.
  - MidA RPB focuses on OAP implementation and another forum focuses on intergovernmental communication about ocean activities.
  - MidA RPB goes away but intergovernmental communication forum continues.
- Each option has positive and negative attributes. Discussion will help us consider how we organize ourselves to support future ocean planning efforts in the MidA.
- Based upon the outcomes of this discussion, we can further develop options for the OAP.



## Discussion and Stakeholder Engagement

- ***Questions for Discussion:***
  - Do you agree with the articulation of the need?
  - What are the benefits of continuing the MidA RPB?
  - What would be the benefits of having two forums – one that focuses on RPB business and the other that focuses on increased communication?
  - How could a separate forum be established without detracting from the efforts of the MidA RPB?
  - Are there specific topics that a separate coordination and communication forum could address?
- **Stakeholder Input**
  - During this MidA RPB meeting.
  - Offer white paper to stakeholders for comment and input.

## Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal: Data to Support Ocean Action Plan Development & Implementation

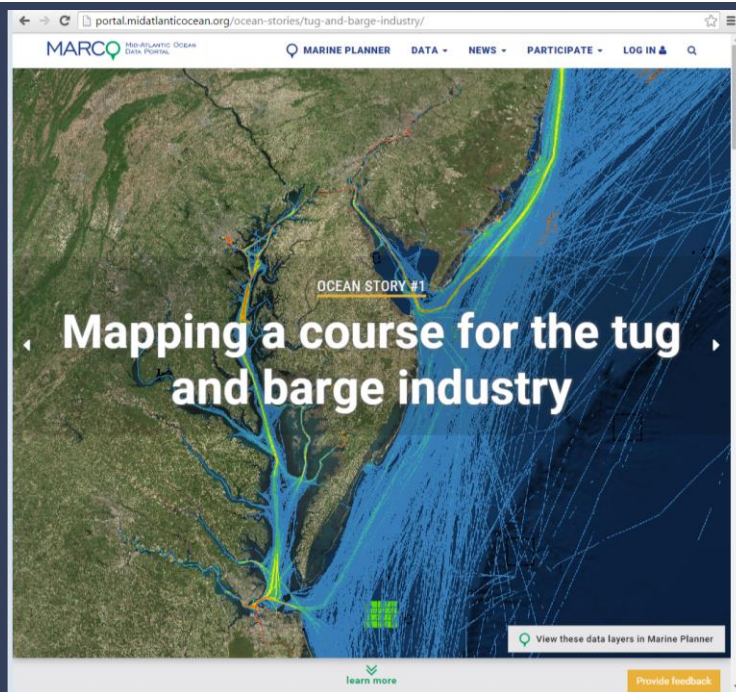
*Laura McKay, Virginia CZM Program*  
*Kevin Chu, NOAA/NMFS*

# Shared Data, Information and Mapping Platform

## Key Objectives:

- Provide data to inform IJC actions, and advance Healthy Ecosystem and Sustainable Use goals.
- Federal – state collaboration to provide ongoing access to best available, regionally relevant ocean data

**Outcome:** An authoritative repository for regional data and visualization tools to reduce conflicts, and to support implementation actions and efficient ocean management decisions



## Proposed Actions

- Maintain operational components including data development, management, and web maintenance
- Expand public engagement in collaboration with RPB and MARCO to enhance data, and functionality, as needed.
- Add new data and mapping products to support RPB ocean actions as they evolve



## Ongoing Data Development and Public Engagement

- Work with RPB and IJC actions member entities / agency leads to focus and enhance portal data to support proposed actions
- Incorporate relevant data and information developed through ROA and DSWG, including ecological (MDAT) and human use (HUDS) synthesis products.
- Ongoing portal public/stakeholder engagement including but not limited to webinars, vetting human use data products (e.g. Communities at Sea maps), tribal data development, group briefings and meetings of opportunity (e.g. AWEA).

# Ocean aquaculture

## Non-consumptive recreation

## Critical undersea infrastructure

*Regional Planning Body*

## Ocean aquaculture

- *Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.*
- Address through:
  - Updates of the ROA
  - Use of data portal to characterize potential siting issues
  - Creation of agency guidance on data use
  - Ongoing evaluation of regional need for additional agency actions (pre-application coordination, policy, guidance, data)



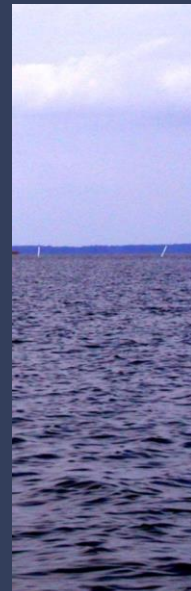
## Non-consumptive recreation

- *Account for importance and economic contributions of such uses, and in management of other uses and resources consider impacts to such activities.*
- Address through:
  - Updates of the ROA
  - Use of data portal to characterize potential siting issues
  - Ongoing coordination to develop/enhance data products and use in project planning



## Critical undersea infrastructure

- *Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure such as submarine cables and pipelines.*
- Address through:
  - Updates of ROA
  - Use of data portal to characterize potential siting issues
  - Ongoing coordination to develop/enhance data products and use in project planning



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

September 23-24 • Norfolk Waterside Marriott • 235 E. Main Street, Norfolk, VA

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# Appendix B



**Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:**  
**Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting**  
September 23-24, 2015  
Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia

## Meeting Objectives

- Review draft data synthesis and information products, discuss public input gained during September 22 MARCO public workshop, and discuss next steps
- Determine how Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) goals and objectives will be addressed through specific interjurisdictional coordination (IJC) actions, consider public input, and identify next steps
- Agree on components of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP) as described in a draft OAP outline
- Receive public input on topics under consideration by the MidA RPB

## Day 1 Agenda- Morning

- 9:00 am- Tribal blessing and welcome
- 9:10 am- Introductions and agenda review
- 9:20 am- Remarks from National Ocean Council Director
- 9:30 am- Review of progress since last RPB meeting and timeline through 2016
- 9:45 am- Update on draft data synthesis and assessment products
- 10:30 am- Break
- 10:45 am- Report-out of public input on data synthesis and assessment products from MARCO workshop
- 11:00 am- RPB discussion of data synthesis and assessment products
- 11:45 am- Tribal engagement efforts and input to date

## Day 1 Agenda- Afternoon

- 12:15 pm- Lunch
- 1:15 pm- Overview of *Draft Ocean Action Plan Outline*
- 1:30 pm- RPB review and discussion of draft IJC actions
- 2:45 pm- Public comment
- 3:45 pm- Break
- 4:00 pm- RPB reflection on public comment and discussion of draft IJC actions and *Draft OAP Outline*
- 4:45 pm- Stakeholder engagement through OAP submission in 2016
- 5:15 pm- Updates from the Northeast Regional Planning Body
- 5:30 pm- Day one summary and wrap-up
- 5:45 pm- Adjourn day one

## Day 2 Agenda

- 9:00 am- Welcome back, summary day 1, agenda review day 2
- 9:10 am- Resume discussion on draft IJC actions and review refinements to *Draft OAP Outline*
- 10:30 am- Break
- 10:45 am- Identify and discuss outstanding OAP components
- 11:30 am- Public comment
- 12:15 pm- Lunch
- 1:15 pm- RPB reflection on public comment and looking ahead to the planning process after 2016
- 2:15 pm- Clarify next steps and wrap-up
- 2:30 pm- Adjourn



**Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:**  
**Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting**  
September 23-24, 2015  
Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia

# Appendix B1

## Context and Progress of the MidA RPB

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

### About the MidA RPB

- *Mission of the RPB:* To implement and advance ocean planning in the region through collaborative process among Federal, State, Tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council representatives in consultation with stakeholders.
- RPB Membership roster available at <http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-RPB-Roster/>



### MidA RPB Activities to Date

#### Meetings, webinars, and events:

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



#### Three major milestones include:

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

### MidA RPB Activities to Date

#### Since January 2015:

- Formed / continued workgroups to support Ocean Action Plan (OAP) development (interjurisdictional coordination, data synthesis, regional ocean assessment)
- Developed and updated work plan to guide development of the OAP
- MARCO held a kick-off webinar and meeting to launch data synthesis and regional ocean assessment projects
- MARCO-hosted tribal listening sessions in VA and NY
- Added new Tribal and State MidA RPB members :
  - Pamunkey Indian Tribe and the Oneida Indian Nation are new MidA RPB members
  - Connecticut became an ex-officio member of the MidA RPB



### Updated MidA RPB Timeline

#### 2015 Next Steps

- Continue workflows to develop Ocean Action Plan (OAP)
- Begin to prepare Draft OAP
- Public webinar in December

#### 2016 Proposed Process Steps

- RPB workgroups continue developing recommendations for improved coordination & data sources
- Implement the work plan that will be periodically updated
- Continue to prepare Draft OAP
- RPB meetings in March & September
- Public webinar in June
- Release Draft OAP for public comment
- Public listening sessions / roundtables
- Deliver Final OAP to the National Ocean Council (NOC) in mid-September



Late 2016:  
National Ocean Council concurrence of Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan

#### 2017 and Beyond

- Implementation of Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan
- Continued work to formalize IJC commitments
- Monitoring of implementation efforts & periodic updates

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

### Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

#### Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting


September 23-24, 2015

Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
 235 E Main Street  
 Norfolk, Virginia





# Appendix B2

## Marine-life Data & Analysis



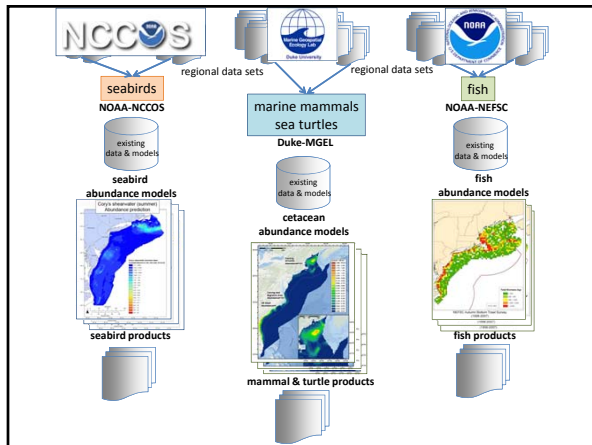
Patrick N. Halpin  
 Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University  
 Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT) Principal Investigator  
 Brian Kinlan (Co-I), Earvin Balderama (Co-I), Mike Fogarty (Co-I)  
 Jason Roberts, Arliss Winship, Charles Perretti, Corrie Curtice, Jesse Cleary, Emily Shumchenia

MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Stakeholder Workshop  
 September 22, 2015

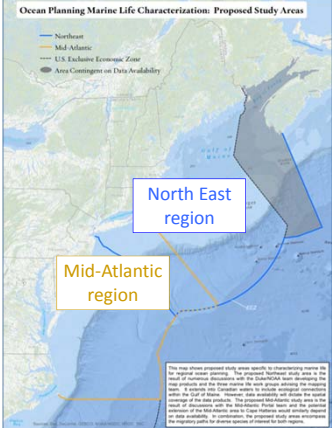



## Overview

- Marine-life data analysis scope of work & review
- MDAT base product updates
- Synthetic products developed from base products



## MDAT: Distribution and abundance of marine mammals, turtles, birds and fish

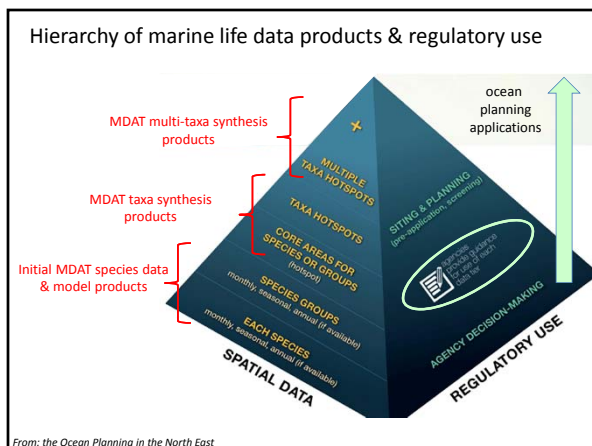



**Broad, regional approach**

- consistent
- Seamless
- multi-scale

**Data products will be created at:**

- Atlantic coast scale
- Combined Mid Atlantic & NE
- Mid-Atlantic scale

## Overview

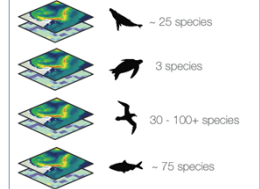
- Marine-life data analysis scope of work & review
- MDAT base product updates
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## MDAT Scope of Work

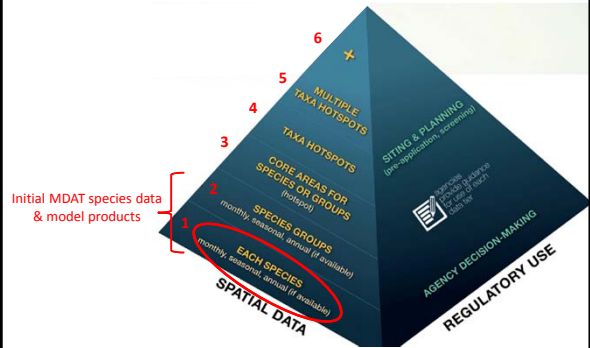


1. Develop the Mid-Atlantic regional marine life database and web services by hosting marine mammal, sea turtle, avian, and fish data products for use in desktop GIS systems and data portals, in particular the MARCO data portal.

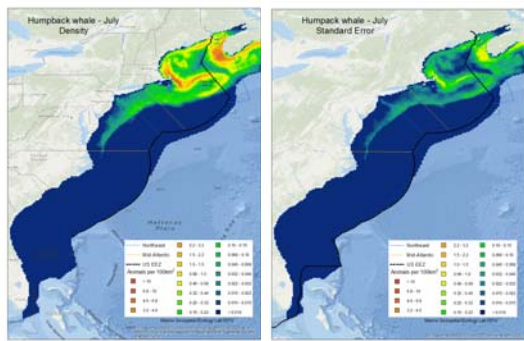
The Marine-Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT) is producing habitat density models and other abundance products



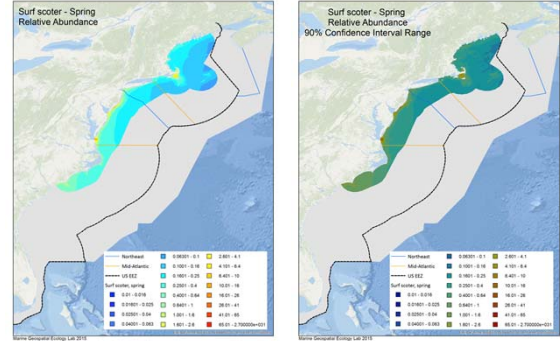
## Data Product Overview



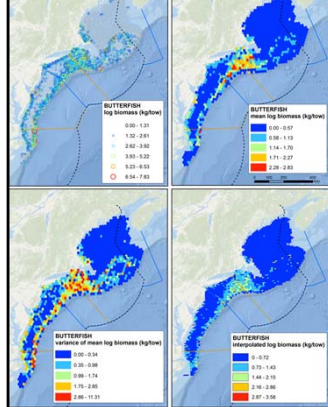
## Mammal base product – Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeanglia*) density & uncertainty



## Avian base product – Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) Abundance & Uncertainty



## Butterfish NEFSC Fall Surveys 1970 - 2014



## Fish base products NEFSC 1970 – 2014 Biomass, uncertainty



### Butterfish - biomass (*Peprilus triacanthus*)

- 4 Data sources, multiple time spans
- NEFSC 1970 - 2014
  - NEFSC 2005 - 2014
  - MDMF 1978 - 2014
  - MDMF 2005 - 2014
  - ME/NH 2000 - 2014
  - ME/NH 2005 - 2014
  - NEAMAP 2007 - 2014



### Species abundance products:

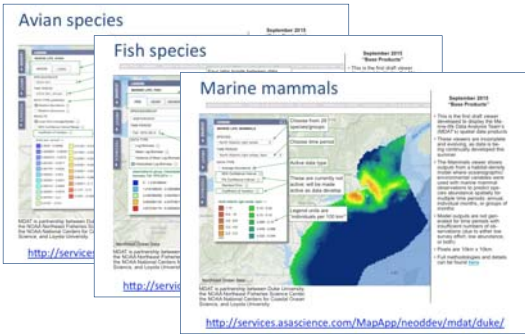
~740 mammal layers, + ~1308 avian layers, + ~1620 fish layers = ~3668

Data viewer(s) to explore individual model results

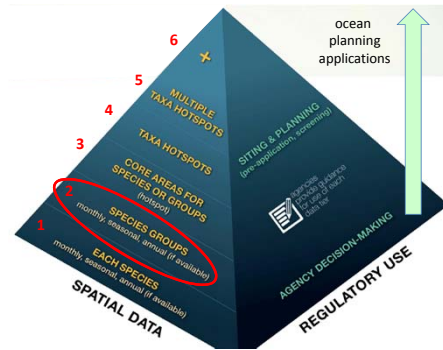
Synthetic products to summarize results – MARCO portal

Data products can be made available as web services for use in other tools (e.g. HUDS Smart-Grid...)

# Marinelife data portal



# Data Product Overview

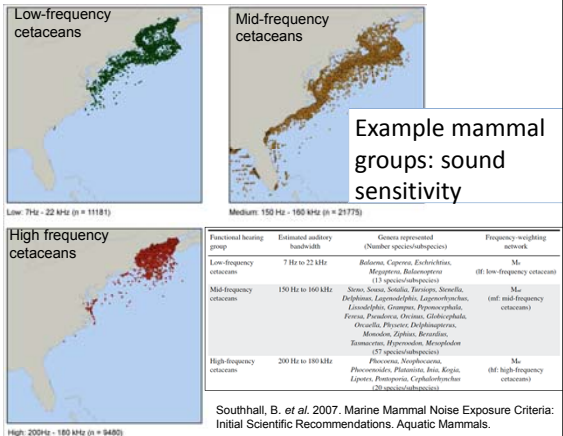
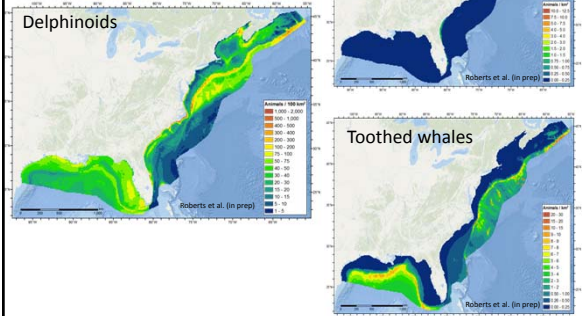


# Species grouping options...

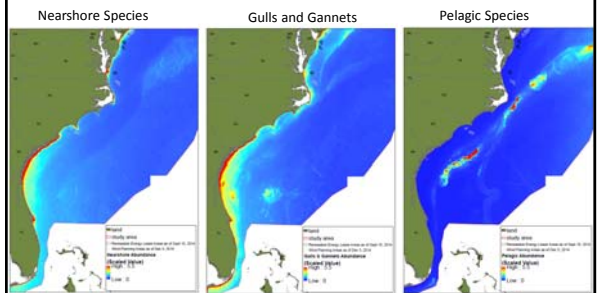
Marine mammals	Avian	Fish
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All cetaceans</li> <li>Baleen whales</li> <li>Small delphinoids</li> <li>Large delphinoids</li> <li>Sperm and beaked whales</li> <li>All ESA-listed species</li> <li>Sound sensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial (nearshore, offshore)</li> <li>Taxonomic (terns, gulls, etc.)</li> <li>Ecological/functional (plunge-divers, surface divers)</li> <li>Conservation/authority (State-listed, BCR priorities, AMBCC priorities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All species</li> <li>Elasmobranch</li> <li>Flatfish</li> <li>Forage</li> <li>Gadoid</li> <li>Invertebrate</li> <li>Other demersal</li> <li>Other fish</li> <li>Pelagic</li> </ul>

Types: Biological, Regulatory, Sensitivity...

# Example mammal groups: biological

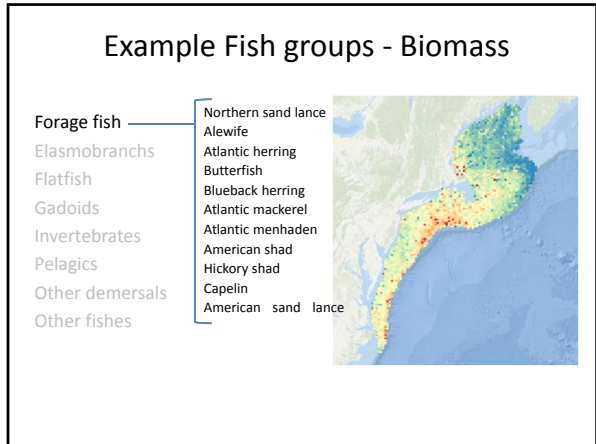


# Example Avian groups - Abundance



Because typical group sizes vary widely among species of interest, modeled relative abundances have been scaled to their annual mean for each species, then averaged over all species in a group. Abundances reflect long-term climatological values for the period 1978-2014





### Overview

- Marine-life data analysis scope of work & review
- MDAT base product updates
- Synthetic products developed from base products

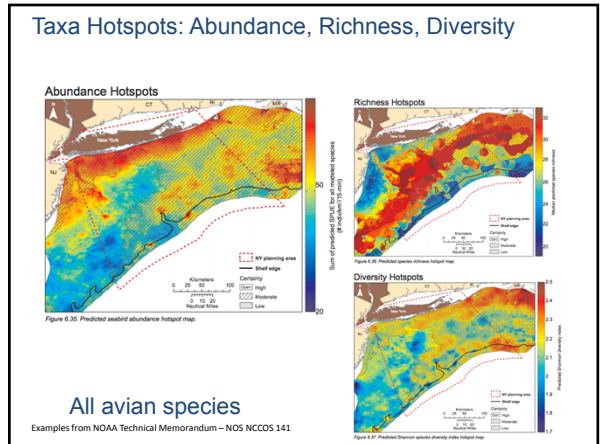
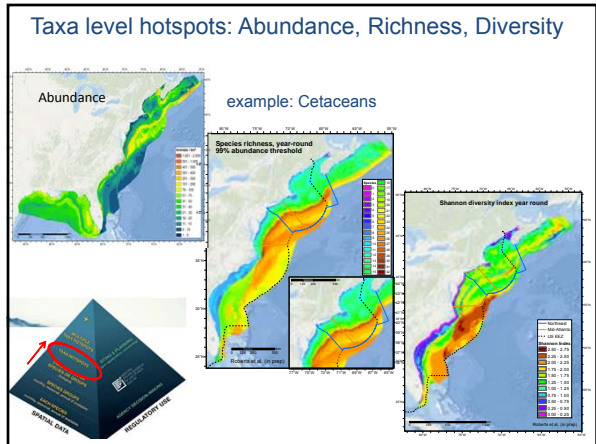
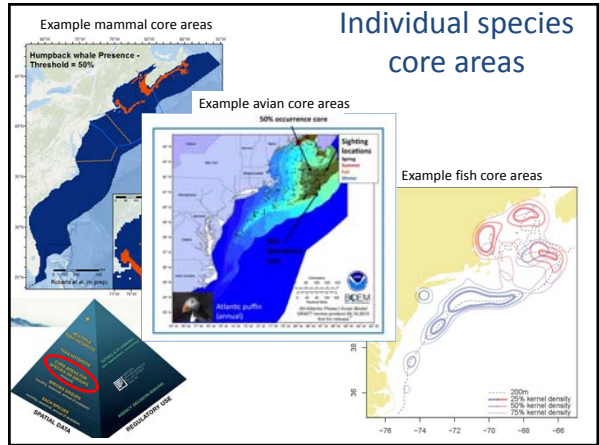
### MDAT Scope of Work

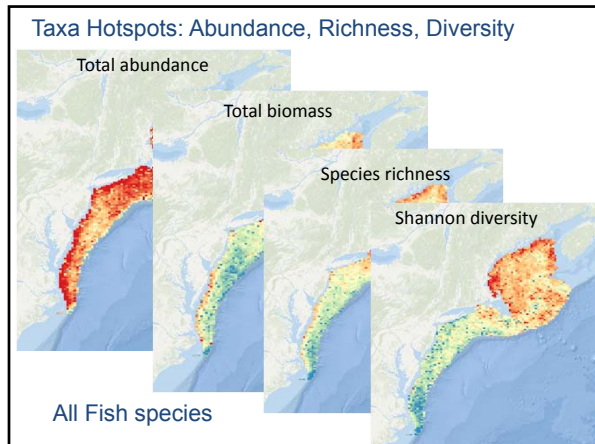
3. Develop synthetic data products for individual or groups of species within taxonomic groups (marine mammals, sea turtles, avian, fish). Provide technical support at MARCO and RPB-sponsored meetings with state and federal agencies to ensure the utility of the information for decision-making.

The pyramid diagram shows the following levels from bottom to top:
 

- SPATIAL DATA**: Each species (individual species or group of species)
- REGULATORY USE**: Species groups (individual species or groups)
- REGULATORY USE**: Core areas for species groups
- REGULATORY USE**: Taxa hotspots
- REGULATORY USE**: Multiple taxa hotspots

 A red arrow points from 'MDAT single species synthesis products' to the 'Each species' level of the pyramid.





### Overview

- Marine-life data analysis scope of work & review
- MDAT base product updates
- Synthetic products developed from base products
  - Ecological syntheses

### Synthetic Product Options

Our discussion of multi-taxa “hotspots” is focused on the development of synthesis products to supplement core data products.

Avian species

Fish species

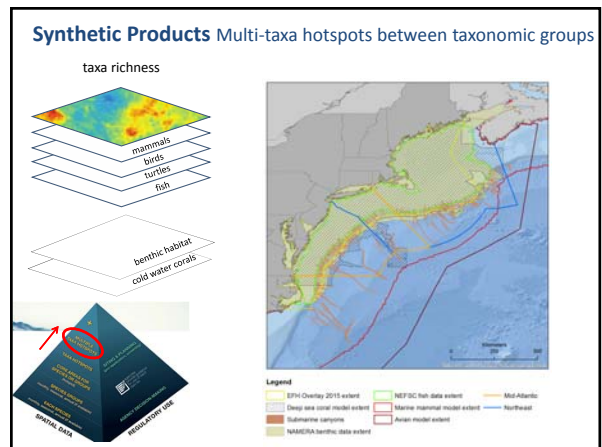
Marine mammals

Benthic habitats

MDAT multi-species synthesis products

SPATIAL DATA

REGULATORY USE



### Integrating Multiple Data Types: Multiple taxa & habitats

1. Ecologically Rich Areas
2. Ecological Marine Units

MDAT multi-species synthesis products

SPATIAL DATA

REGULATORY USE

Benthic habitats

### Ecologically Rich Areas

composite visualization

single richness index visualization

mammals

birds

turtles

fish

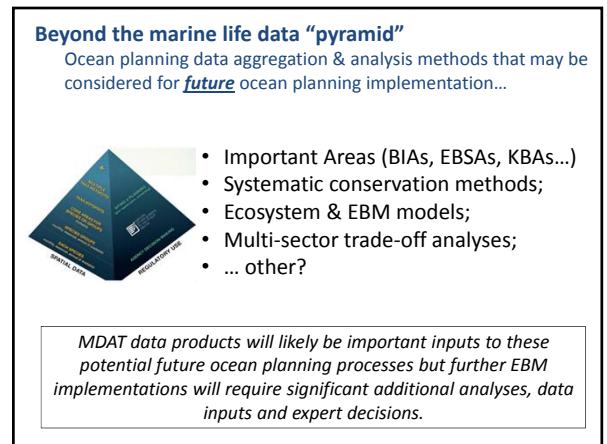
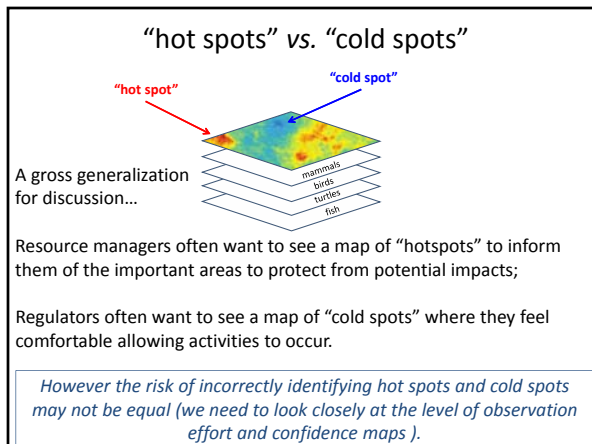
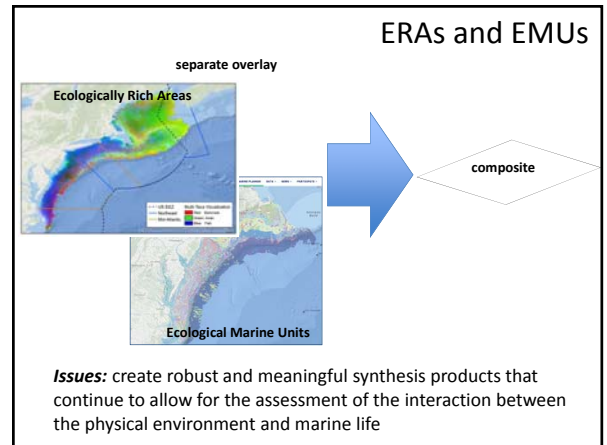
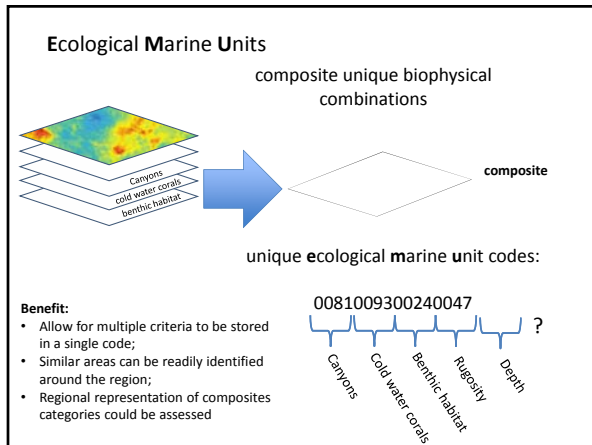
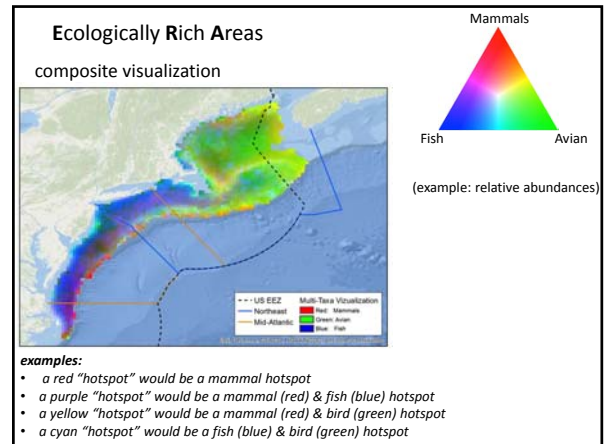
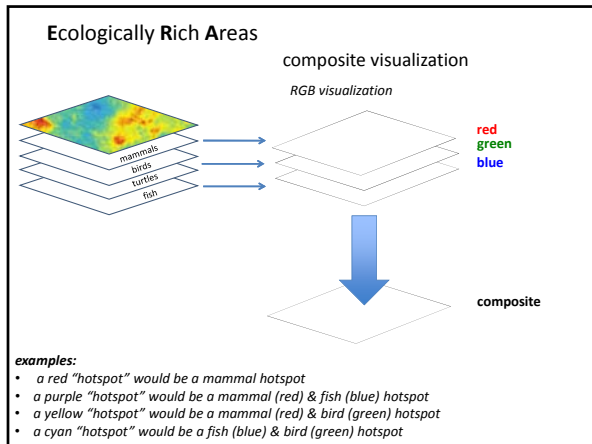
richness composite

high

low

**Potential interpretation issues:**

- areas could receive similar composite richness scores for different reasons;
- there may or may not be strong ecological ties between richness features



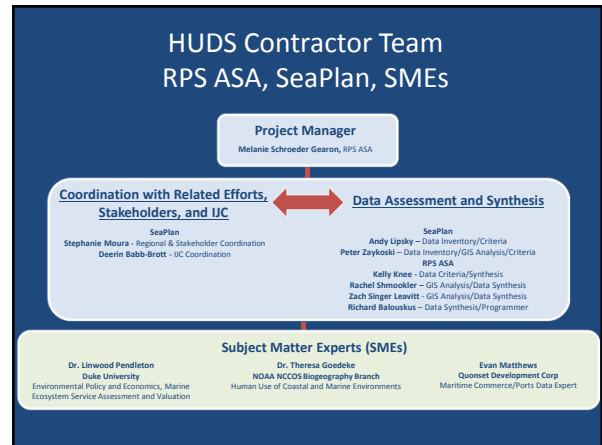
# Appendix B3

Questions?

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Human Use Spatial Data Synthesis (HUDS) Project**  
 Melanie Schroeder Gearon (RPS ASA)  
 September 23, 2015

## HUDS Project Goals

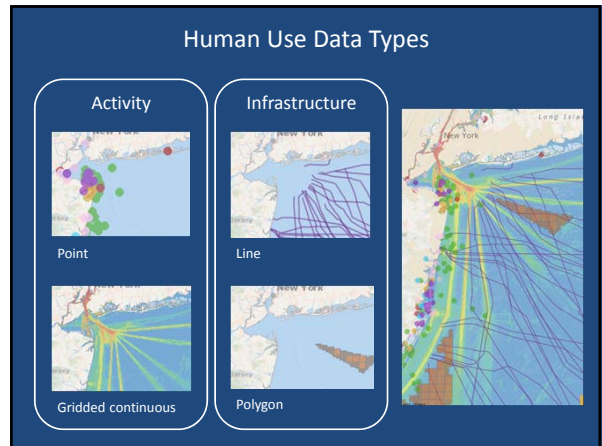
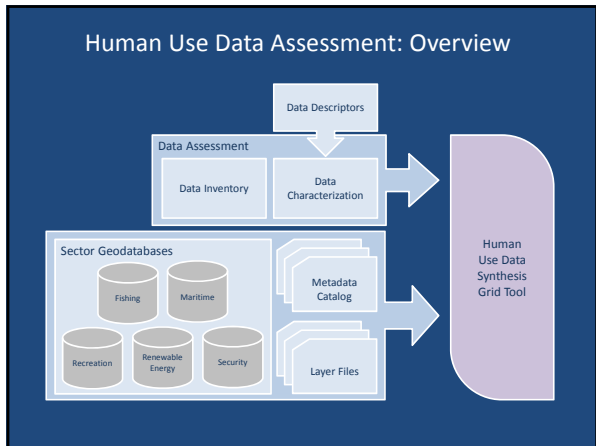
- Assist MARCO in compiling and synthesizing human use spatial data to advance ocean planning priorities in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Support decision-makers' consideration of use data through effective coordination among MARCO, Regional Planning Body (RPB) workgroups, and Data Portal Team.
- Ensure credibility by vetting newly developed human use data sets, synthesis methods/tools, and spatial data products through MARCO stakeholder engagement.
- Capitalize on feasible opportunities to develop and synthesize use data from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast to support ocean planning priorities in both regions.
- Complete the project within MARCO's timeframe through effective project management and collaboration with related work.





## Project Task Overview


- Project Coordination with Related Efforts and Stakeholders
- Human Use Data Assessment and Characterization
- Human Use Data Synthesis Tool Development
- Final Report and Fact Sheet/Tool User Guide





- ### Human Use Data Inventory by Sector
- Fishing Infrastructure**
    - Artificial Reefs
  - Activity**
    - Commercial Fishing (derived from VTRs)
    - Recreational Fishing (Party / Charter Vessels, derived from VTRs)
    - Communities at Sea – **under development**
    - VMS derived products – **under development**
  - Maritime Infrastructure**
    - Anchorage Grounds
    - Maintained Channels
    - N. Atlantic Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas
    - Ocean Disposal Sites
    - Offshore Discharge Flow
    - Pilot Boarding Areas
    - Port Facilities
    - Routing Measures
    - Shipwreck Density
    - Submarine Cables
  - Activity**
    - Maritime shipping (derived from AIS data) – **update under development**
- 
- 

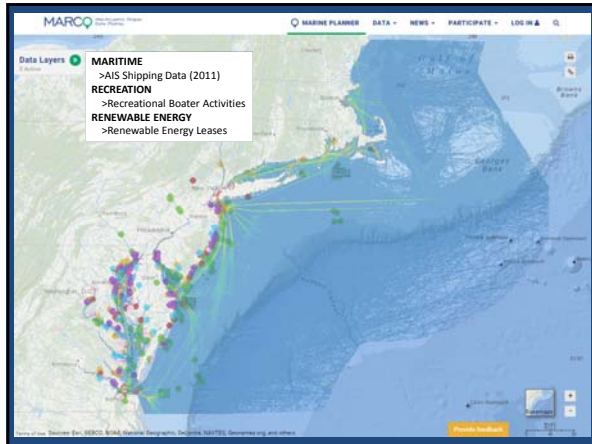
- ### Human Use Data Inventory by Sector
- Recreation Activity**
    - Coastal Recreation Survey
    - Recreational Boating Survey
  - Renewable Energy Infrastructure**
    - BOEM Active Renewable Energy Lease Areas
    - BOEM Wind Planning Areas
    - Coastal Energy Facilities
    - Offshore Wind Compatibility Assessments
    - Virginia Research Lease Areas
  - Security Infrastructure**
    - Danger Zones & Restricted Areas
    - Unexploded Ordnances
- 
- 

- ### Human Use Data Assessment Status
- Current Status**
    - Inventory and first pass at the assessment is nearly complete for all existing data
    - Data in development and priority gaps have placeholders
  - Data In Development**
    - Communities at Sea – targeted completion end of Sept
    - Fishing data products derived from VMS – targeted completion Oct/Nov
    - Updated 2013 AIS Data for Maritime Transit – targeted completion Oct/Nov
  - Priority Data Gaps**
    - Shipwrecks
    - Sand & Gravel Resources
    - Operational Areas
- 

### Human Use Data Synthesis (HUDS) Grid Tool: Rationale

**Challenge:** Hard to inform a decision with multiple layers turned on.


**Solution:** Develop mapping tool that provides synthesis and summary products based on multiple spatial human use data layers.

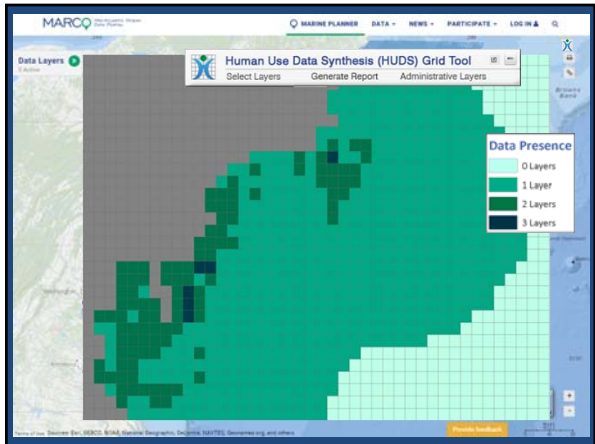
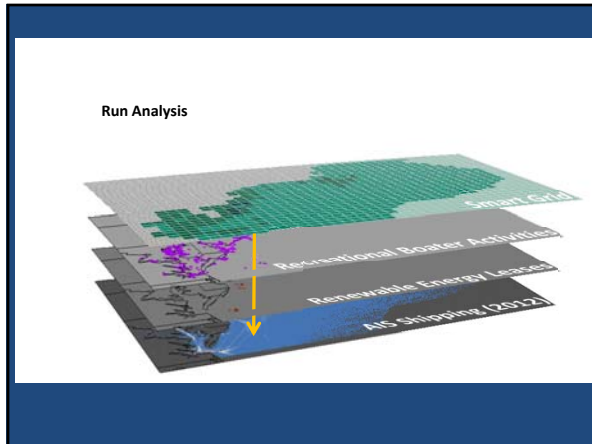
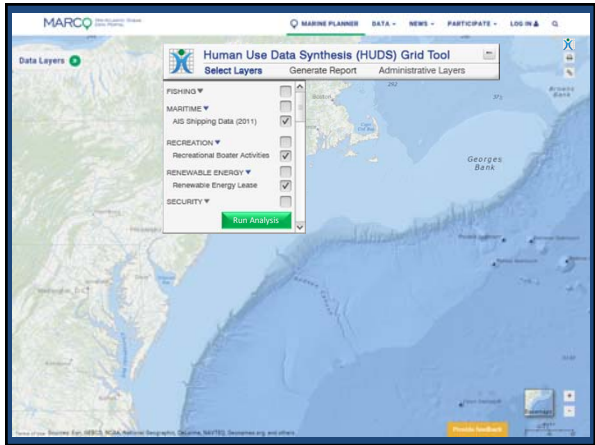
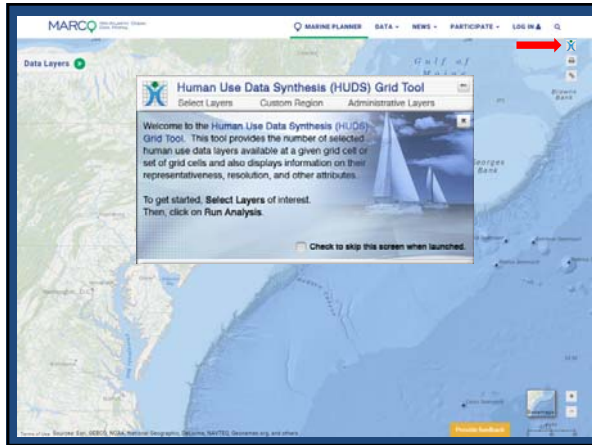


## Human Use Data Synthesis (HUDS) Grid Tool: Description

**HUDS Grid Tool**

- Interface integrated into MARCO data portal
- Written in Python code
- Compatible with/can ingest ArcGIS formats/services
- System generates results on the fly during mapping session
- Flexible user defined analysis (all data or user defined subset)
- Analysis results can be saved and exported
- Designed to allow for future data integration (e.g. updated human use layers, MDAT layers)







## Application of the Smart Grid Tool

### Wind Energy Siting

Where are there less busy areas amenable to wind energy development?  
Which sectors may be affected by wind energy development?

- Select all layers and perform analysis
- Use smart grid data presence for focused investigation
- Interrogate cells of interest for specific human use information

### Interactions between Fishing & Maritime Commerce

What ocean places are important to both industries?  
Where is there interaction?

- Select fishing and maritime commerce layers
- Use smart grid data to find areas of overlap between the two industries
- Investigate specific cells to determine which fisheries or transit categories are likely to interact

## Final Report and Fact Sheet/Tool User Guide

### Final Report:

- Summary of human use spatial data sets, results of the data assessment
- Documentation of newly developed human use data sets (AIS, VMS, Sand and Gravel, etc.)
- Summary of identified data gaps and potential future human use data types
- Description of HUDS grid tool and methods

### Fact Sheets/Tool User Guide:

- The Team will develop a clear, short, user-friendly document that describes the HUDS grid tool concept and work flow. This will be posted online as a user reference and guidance document for the HUDS tool.

## Project Schedule at a Glance

- Project Coordination with Related Efforts and Stakeholders**
  - July – November 2015 (ongoing throughout project)
- Human Use Data Assessment and Characterization**
  - July – October 2015
- Human Use Data Synthesis Tool Development**
  - Mid-August – November 2015
- Final Report and Fact Sheet/Tool User Guide**
  - November – December 2015

**Project Completion Target: January 1, 2016**

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Human Use Spatial Data Synthesis Project

# Thank You!

## Appendix B4

# MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN ASSESSMENT

Peter Taylor  
Waterview Consulting

Emily Shumchenia  
E&CEnviroscape


## Who Are We?

**Peter Taylor**  
peter@waterviewconsulting.com

- Founded Waterview Consulting in 2000
- Specialize in strategic science-based communications to advance ocean & coastal management
- Developed websites for MARCO and Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)
- Designed NortheastOceanData.Org & member of Northeast Ocean Data Working Group

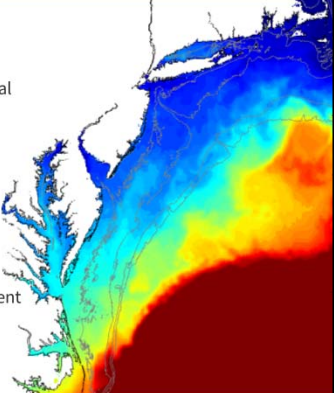
**Emily Shumchenia, Ph.D.**  
emily.shumchenia@gmail.com

- 10 years experience translating marine science into actionable management and policy
- Produced assessment of best available marine life data for Northeast, options for ecological synthesis and measuring ocean health
- Coordinator for NROC Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT) & member of Northeast Ocean Data Working Group

## Outline of Today's Talk

1. National Ocean Policy & Regional Assessments
2. Goals for Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA)
3. ROA Process
4. Project Timeline
5. Content and Data Sources
6. Objectives to Support the Planning Process and Ecosystem-Based Management
7. Next Steps



## National Ocean Policy & Regional Assessments

**Essential Elements of the CMS Plan**

- Regional Overview and Scope of Planning Area
- Regulatory Context
- **Regional Assessment**
- Objectives, Strategies, Methods, and Mechanisms for CMSP
- Compliance Mechanisms


*Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (2010)*

Consistent with the scope and scale of a region's work, a marine plan should include:

- Goals and objectives that the region wants to accomplish through its marine plan;
- A **regional assessment** that uses maps and information to describe the marine environment and human activities relevant to the subject matter of the plan;


National Ocean Council Ocean Planning Handbook (2013)

## Goals for Mid-Atlantic ROA



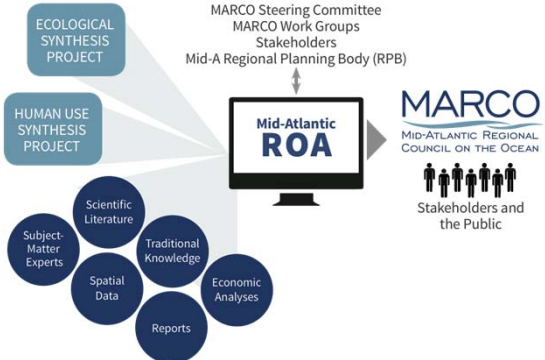
Provide information about ocean uses and resources, focusing on two goals in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework:

- Healthy Ocean Ecosystems
- Sustainable Ocean Uses




Develop an innovative, dynamic, attractive, and easily updated web-based system to deliver the Regional Ocean Assessment report

## Process for Mid-Atlantic ROA



## Project Timeline

	2015						2016
	June-July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Project Planning	█						
Initial Research	█						
Coordination	█						
Develop Content			█				
Final Report					█		





**ROA Content and Data Sources**

**OUTLINE**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND RESOURCES
3. OCEAN USES
4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

---

**INTERACTIVE**

```

graph TD
    A[OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND RESOURCES] <--> B[OCEAN USES]
    A --> C[STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING]
    B --> C
  
```

**ROA Content and Data Sources**

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
  - a. Need for Ocean Planning
  - b. Overview of Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Process
    - i. Use of Traditional Knowledge in Ocean Planning
  - c. Overarching Goals for Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning
  - d. Purpose and Structure of the Regional Ocean Assessment
2. OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND RESOURCES
3. OCEAN USES
4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

**ROA Content and Data Sources**

1. INTRODUCTION
- 2. OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND RESOURCES**
  - a. Characterizing the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Ecosystem
    - i. Oceanographic Setting and Processes
    - ii. Important Biological, Chemical and Physical Attributes
    - iii. Living Marine Resources
      1. Overview
      2. Important or Sensitive Species, Guilds, and Habitats
    - iv. Human Settlements Relative to the Ocean
    - v. Ecosystem Services
    - vi. Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change
  - b. Toward Ocean Planning Objectives: Status and Trends
    - i. Key Ocean Characteristics and Indicators
3. OCEAN USES
4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

**ROA Content and Data Sources**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND RESOURCES
- 3. OCEAN USES**
  - a. Characterizing Mid-Atlantic Ocean Uses and Values
    - i. Overview of Human Uses and Values
    - ii. Overview of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Economy
  - b. Toward Ocean Planning Objectives: Status and Trends
    - i. Tribal Uses
    - ii. Commercial and Recreational Fishing
    - iii. Critical Undersea Infrastructure
    - iv. Maritime Commerce and Navigation
    - v. National Security and Military Uses
    - vi. Non-consumptive Recreation (e.g., boating, sailing, wildlife watching, diving)
    - vii. Ocean Aquaculture
    - viii. Ocean Energy
    - ix. Offshore Sand Management for Resilience Planning
    - x. Scientific Research
4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

**ROA Content and Data Sources**

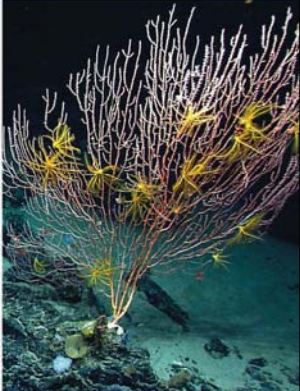
1. INTRODUCTION
2. OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND RESOURCES
3. OCEAN USES
- 4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING**
  - a. Adapt to Climate Change
  - b. Build a Stronger Network of Monitoring and Science
  - c. Maintain and Improve Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing Environment
  - d. Manage Offshore Sediment for Coastal Resiliency
  - e. Prepare for Expanded Shipping and Port Activities
  - f. Site Ocean Renewable Energy Facilities
  - g. Support Maritime Heritage
  - h. Sustain Ecologically Rich Areas and Linkages

**Objectives to Support the Planning Process and Ecosystem-Based Management**

- Highlight **relationships and potential linkages** between and among ecosystem features and human uses
- Highlight **knowledge/data gaps** by assessing data using a common framework and metrics
- Suggest appropriate **scales of interpretation**, analysis and application of data for decision-making
- Provide information needed to inform development of **future data products** that address ecosystem services valuation, cumulative impact analysis and/or vulnerability and resilience assessments

### Next Steps

- Finalize ROA Outline
- Complete Research and Information Gathering
- Develop Website Architecture and User Interface
- Produce Content
- Build Out the ROA Web Pages
- Review, Finalize, and Launch




### Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting  
September 23-24, 2015  
Norfolk, Virginia

## Appendix B5




### Tribal Listening Sessions

- Hosted by MARCO
- Supported by:
  - The Whitener Group
  - Ecology & Environment



### Listening Session Overview

- Two Listening Sessions:**
  - August 18-19 in Verona, NY at the Oneida Nation's Turning Stone Resort
  - August 25-26 in Richmond, VA at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
- Primary Purpose:** Introduce Tribal Representatives in attendance to the Mid-A RPB, MARCO and the Ocean Action Plan, and show each how to get involved in the process.
- Secondary Purpose:** Review the list of Tribal Ocean Uses and introduce the MARCO Portal as a tool to use in managing the disconnect between formal ocean planning processes and actual tribal use



### Invited Tribal Nations

Cayuga Nation	Powhatan Renape Nation
Oneida Indian Nation	Ramapough Lunaape Nation
Onondaga Nation	Unkechaug Nation
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe	Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe
Seneca Nation of Indians - Allegany	Chickahominy Tribe Eastern
Seneca Nation of Indians - Cattaraugus	Chickahominy Tribe
Shinnecock Indian Nation	Mattaponi Tribe
Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians	Monacan Indian Nation
Tuscarora Nation	Nansemond Indian Tribal Association
Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware	Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia
Nanticoke Indian Association, Inc.	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Piscataway Indian Nation	Pattawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia
Piscataway Conoy Tribe	Rappahannock Tribe
Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation	Upper Mattaponi Tribe

### Tribal Attendees

<u>Listening Session in New York:</u>	<u>Listening Session in Virginia:</u>
Oneida Indian Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware <i>(Note: Chief Coker from the Lenape Indian Tribe of DE was authorized to represent the Nanticoke Indian Association, Inc. and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation)</i></li> <li>Powhatan Renape Nation</li> <li>Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe</li> <li>Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia</li> <li>Pamunkey Indian Tribe</li> <li>Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians</li> </ul>
Shinnecock Indian Nation	
Unkechaug Nation	

## Agenda Overview

- 9:00am – 9:05am Welcome/Prayer/Blessing
- 9:05am – 9:45am Introductions
- 9:45am – 10:00am Agenda Overview
- 10:00am – 10:30am Current State of Ocean Planning
- 10:30am – 11:00am Mid-A RPB Status & Approach
- 11:00am – 11:30am Tribal Involvement Opportunities
- 11:30am – 12:30pm Lunch – Networking
- 12:30pm – 1:00pm Intro to the MARCO Data Portal
- 1:00pm – 2:30pm Facilitated Data Portal Discussion
- 2:30pm – 3:00pm Wrap Up

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Coastal Office

## Discussion Highlights

- The degradation of fishing resources (saltwater and fresh water fish, shellfish, eels, clam beds) is of major concern to Tribes. What can be done through the Ocean Action Plan to mitigate the widespread degradation and plan for a more abundant future?
- Tribes in Virginia, Delaware and Maryland are “Tributary Tribes” and recommend strongly that estuaries and bays should be incorporated as part of the OAP and the MARCO Portal. Maybe the Portal can identify tribal specific data layers that are not captured within the other estuary structures.

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Coastal Office

## Discussion Highlights Cont.

- Tribes in attendance felt respected that they have been invited to the discussion at an earlier stage in the planning process rather than at the end as typically happens and that they all have a voice through the Tribal Co-Lead.
- Oil & Gas is an important issue.
- Tribes have a strong and often overlooked voice in the conservation of natural resources. Tribes can offer alternative and effective management techniques for many ocean management problems through Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

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Coastal Office

## Portal Highlights

- Tribes have a sphere of influence that covers the historical area that they once inhabited. Could these areas be captured on the Portal?
- Ocean stories from Tribes included on the Portal would be a great way to incorporate Tribal data.
- Tribes want a way for any interested party to find out which Tribe(s) have a sphere of influence in a certain area and to be able to contact the right person at the Tribe. The MARCO Portal can work on this data layer.

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Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Coastal Office

## Portal Highlights Cont.

- Tribal Members do a lot within the marine and estuary environments that may or may not be counted in the data already captured on the Portal. A Tribally-specific data layer would minimize the possibility of double counting. “Tribal Cultural Use” is the major data area to which Tribes can contribute significantly.
- The Portal is a tool to which the Tribes can contribute data and that they can use to tell their stories. Linking Tribal stories to the Portal is representative of how Tribal Nations pass down knowledge of everything including the ocean, rivers, land, animals, plants, ancestors and resources.

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Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Coastal Office

## Future Research

- Ocean Story Narratives of Tribal Uses
- Map engineering efforts (i.e. dams) that separated tribes from the ocean.
- Use a timeline online that shows the treaties and laws that separated tribes from their traditional areas.

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Mid-Atlantic Regional  
Coastal Office

## Next Steps

- pGIS workshops in October & November 2015
- Portal team is creating a data layer for Tribal Offices that can be expanded to include points of contact, spheres of influence and reservation land boundaries

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body  
(RPB) Meeting

September 23-24, 2015

Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia

## Appendix B6

## Tribal Uses

*Kelsey Leonard, Tribal Co-Lead, Shinnecock Indian Nation  
Kevin Chu, NMFS/NOAA*

## Tribal Uses Goal and Objectives from the “Framework”

- Goal: 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.
- Objectives:
  1. Increased coordination among Tribes, states, and federal entities for integrated management efforts.
  2. Document and foster shared understanding of ocean and coastal sites important to Tribal use, beliefs, and values related to the Mid-Atlantic ocean.
  3. Consider climate change effects on tribal uses, emergency management, and territorial erosion/degradation.

## Overview of Proposed IJC Actions

1. Identify data gaps pertaining to tribal uses and develop research agenda to address the need
2. Improve ability of RPB entities to use traditional knowledge for planning, management and decision-making purposes
3. Identify best-practices for increased coordination among tribes, states, and federal entities for marine planning
4. Assess opportunities for marine planning to consider and where appropriate support of tribal economic self-sufficiency
5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts

## 1. Data and Research

- Building on the ROA, identify areas for research such as:
  - Submerged Cultural Resources (e.g. Clovis Point Concentration on Delmarva Peninsula of Mid-Atlantic)
  - Timeline of treaties with tribes in the region and history of laws affecting use of ocean by tribes
  - Beach Access laws, Current restrictions; Private Beaches, Parking Permitting
- Identify and recommend to appropriate agency(ies) actions that could increase tribal participation in data collection and analysis.
  - Incorporate tribal review
  - Enhance tribal engagement through access to and participation in management, environmental, and regulatory review
- **Desired Outcome:** Increased Tribal participation in data collection and analysis and prioritized list of research needs to be shared with funding entities.



## 2. Traditional Knowledge

- Develop best practices for identifying and incorporating or accessing traditional knowledge, as appropriate, in current and future planning products (e.g., Data Portal, OAP, protocols for sensitive information, other) and decision-making processes.
- Develop database for Mid-Atlantic Marine Traditional Knowledge
- **Desired Outcome:** Tribal Nations, States, and Federal entities have tools necessary to access and incorporate TK, as appropriate, in planning and decision-making.



## 3. Increase Coordination & Management

- Incorporate existing and/or develop best practices for government-to-government consultation and tribal participation in planning, management, and environmental and regulatory review processes
- Develop Tribal Ocean Planning Network (TOPN) facilitating coordination between Mid-Atlantic Tribes in the ocean planning process.
- Develop best practices to work with tribes to concurrently define jurisdiction (if appropriate), create co-management programs, and coordinate applicable regulations including sharing of state and tribal management plans.

## 3. Increase Coordination & Management

- Increased coordination with tribal historic preservation officers when burial sites and other funerary/cultural objects may be desecrated by a proposed use
  - MARCO Portal: Zones of Notification
- Identify mechanism(s) and process(es) to support tribal engagement in coastal bays and estuaries programs as tribal ocean uses flow into those areas of geographic scope.
- **Desired Outcome:** Tribal Nations, states, and federal entities have foundation for sustained coordination for ocean planning in Mid-Atlantic.



## 4. Tribal Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Undertake measures to encourage tribal economic self-sufficiency
  - Commercial fishing/aquaculture
  - Renewable energy
  - Commercial eco-tourism, etc.
- **Desired Outcome:** Increased tribal economic development in Mid-Atlantic Ocean supported by diverse entities.



## 5. Assess and plan for Climate Change impacts

- Increased awareness on Tribal Climate Change Adaptation planning
  - Identify funding system
  - Emergency Management and Preparedness
- Coastal Resiliency
- Identify Species of Concern for Cultural Preservation
- Increased tribal climate change data (e.g. composite map overlay tribal territories, floodplains, shoreline erosion)
- **Desired Outcome:** Tribal Nations prepared for climate change impacts on ocean uses and resources



## Member Entities and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB Tribal Uses members
  - Tribes: Shinnecock, Pamunkey, Oneida
  - Federal Agencies
  - States
  - MARCO
- Tribal Nation input Opportunities
  - MARCO Tribal Listening Sessions
  - RPB written comment period

# Healthy Ocean Ecosystems

Laura McKay, Virginia CZM Program  
Kevin Chu, NMFS/NOAA

## Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Goal and Objectives from the "Framework"

- Goal: Promote ocean ecosystem health, functionality, and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration.
- Objectives:
  1. Discover, understand, protect, and restore the ocean ecosystem
  2. Account for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks



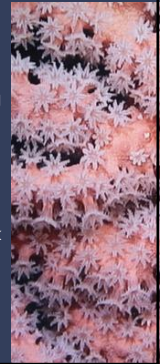
## Overview of Proposed IJC Actions

1. Select ecologically rich areas (ERAs) for in-depth review
2. Select region-wide features for in-depth review
3. Identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean health indicators/metrics
4. Develop a management research agenda
5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts



## 1. Select ecologically rich areas (ERAs) for in-depth review

- Based on relative ecological richness and/or immediacy of risk of negative impacts, select initial set of ERAs from MDAT's analysis for review
- Overlay human use data to identify managing agencies
- Review Traditional Knowledge habitat stewardship practices and current management practices affecting ERAs
- Identify and recommend to appropriate agency(ies) actions to reduce or eliminate risk of degradation for each ERA
- As new data are collected, update & re-run ERA model
- **Desired outcome:** Maintenance and or restoration of health of ERAs



## 2. Select region-wide features for in depth review

- Building on the ROA, identify region-wide features, e.g.
  - migration corridors
  - linkages between ERAs
- Overlay human use data to identify managing agencies
- Review current management affecting region-wide features
- Identify and recommend to appropriate agency(ies) actions that could reduce or eliminate risk of degradation for region-wide features
- **Desired outcome:** Maintenance and or restoration of health of region-wide ecological features



## 3. Identify Mid-Atlantic Ocean indicators/metrics

- Building on ROA, identify easily measured parameters to measure ocean health and/or effectiveness of actions
- Determine time intervals and appropriate agencies to measure indicators
- **Desired outcome:** A sustainable program for monitoring ocean ecosystem health



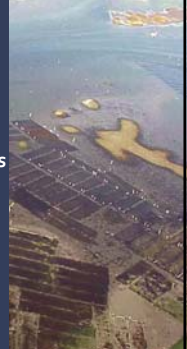
#### 4. Develop a management research forum and agenda

- Establish a forum for sharing current and planned Mid-Atlantic Ocean research
- Identify management research needs
- Review and build upon existing research agendas
- Pool resources to study cumulative impacts of human uses
- **Desired outcome:** Prioritized list of research needs to be shared with potential funding entities



#### 5. Assess and plan for climate change impacts

- Enhance the region's ability to address **ocean acidification** impacts
  - Review existing efforts/identify gaps
  - Identify funding stream
  - Ensure a robust, integrated Mid-Atlantic OA monitoring network is in place
- Enhance the region's ability to address expected **shifts in species and habitats**
  - Review existing efforts/identify gaps
  - Map expected species/habitat shifts
  - Assess need for and develop recommendations for actions
- **Desired outcome:** Management agencies prepared for climate change impacts



#### Member Entities and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB Healthy Ocean Ecosystem members
  - Federal Agencies: NOAA, BOEM
  - States: VA, MD, DE, NY
  - Tribes: Shinnecock
- Stakeholder input opportunities (Sep –Dec)
  - MARCO SLC meeting
  - RPB written comment period



## Offshore Wind Energy

*Dept. of the Interior, BOEM  
New York Department of State*

#### Overview of Offshore Wind Energy

- **RPB objective:** Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues with states, tribes, and federal partners
  - **Example action:** Coordinate data collection for environmental assessment to inform development of new Mid-Atlantic offshore renewable energy projects
- **Desired outcome:** More efficient, predictable and informed process that supports effective coordination; provides more meaningful participation for affected states in a shorter timeframe; enhances agency management and environmental and regulatory review processes; and advances state and federal wind energy development objectives

#### Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions

- **Coordination and management:** Identify intersections among federal programs; develop clearly defined coordination mechanisms to inform site assessment and project construction plans, and ensure activities are mutually reinforcing and provide the necessary information for decision-making where statutes intersect
  - BOEM consults with tribes to better understand impacts to economics and the environment, marine mammals, sacred ceremonial sites, and cultural resources
- **Data:** Develop agency guidance that addresses how data will be used in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews; agree on what data is sufficient for responsible entities to use for their reviews
- **Research:** Partner in on-going and planned studies; identify knowledge gaps
- **Issue Areas:** Focus on siting issues beyond project-specific scales, collaborate on shared data sets, and outline where and when relevant authorities play a role in decisions

## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - BOEM, New York DOS, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, DoD, DOE, NOAA, USCG, DOT, EPA
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions from now to December 2015
  - Seek input from BOEM's state intergovernmental renewable energy task forces and from targeted stakeholders on BOEM's offshore wind energy program

## Offshore Sand Management

*Dept. of the Interior, BOEM  
New York Department of State  
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality*

## Overview: Offshore Sand Management

- **RPB objective:** Enhance participation among coastal jurisdictions, federal (USACE) and state regulatory agencies, and tribal entities to identify and prioritize the use of Mid-Atlantic sand and gravel resources for coastal adaptation, resilience planning, and implementation
  - **Example action:** Coordinate regional identification and prioritization of sand borrow sites in federal and state waters and link to RPB's regional sediment management initiatives
- **Desired outcome:** Enhanced coordination among local coastal jurisdictions, federal and state regulatory agencies, and tribal entities to share data and help identify short and long-term sand resource projects

## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions

- **Coordination and management:** Identify and improve existing state / federal interactions and cooperative agreements in the Mid-Atlantic
  - BOEM and USACE coordinate with tribes for sand re-nourishment projects during the planning and analysis phase (NEPA & consultations)
- **Data:** Inform decision making by sharing BOEM geospatial database that will contain data from over 20 years of cooperative agreements, nearly 13 leases and agreements, and new data being collected from the Hurricane Sandy funded Atlantic Sand Assessment Project
- **Research:** Numerous BOEM studies; for ex., FY 2015 study planned in collaboration with USACE examining dredging best management practices and multiple uses of borrow sites
- **Issue Areas:** Existing sand projects may be used as pilot demonstrations on how RPB efforts might be of assistance

## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - BOEM, New York DOS, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, DoD, DOE, NOAA, USCG, DOT, EPA
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions
  - BOEM working now to establish a Mid-Atlantic Regional Sand Management Working Group to meet in early 2016 to discuss needs for offshore federal sand, data, and future environmental study needs; and address local government and near-shore issues

## National Security

*Joe Atangan, Joint Staff, U.S. Fleet Forces  
Mike Jones, Dept. of Defense, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic*



## Overview of National Security

- **RPB objective:** To ensure National Security interests in the Mid-Atlantic are accounted for through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across agencies
- **Desired outcome:** An established, efficient, and informed process that supports effective coordination; leverages existing processes, practices, and programs; and facilitates addressing National Security impacts/concerns throughout the agency management and environmental and regulatory review processes

## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions

- **Coordination and management:** Leverage existing processes, practices, programs, and groups to assess potential National Security impacts of proposed actions, identify potential mitigations, facilitate decision making
- **Data:** Identify authoritative, publically releasable data for use in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.
- **Research:** Partner in on-going and planned studies; identify knowledge gaps
- **Issue Areas:** Focus on use compatibility issues and potential impacts on National Security

## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - DoD, USCG
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions from now to December 2015
  - Seek input from DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators, OSD Clearinghouse, intergovernmental task forces and targeted stakeholders

## Marine Commerce & Navigation

*Doug Simpson, DHS, USCG*  
*John Kennedy, DOT, MARAD*  
*Greg Capobianco, New York Department of State*

## Overview of Marine Commerce and Navigation

**RPB objective:** Generate greater awareness and participation by states, tribes, and the public in offshore marine commerce and navigation issues.

**Desired maritime transportation system:**

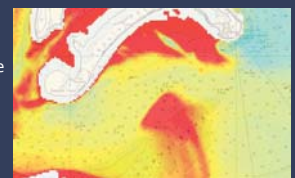
- Safe for increased, multifaceted use
- Meets national, regional, & local needs
- Resilient to market & use changes
- Values environmental stewardship



## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions: Coordination & Management

**Incorporate stakeholder review:** Identify and continue to leverage existing navigation safety committees.

**Coordinate data product development:** Catalogue intersections between federal agencies and between federal and state agencies, identifying opportunities for improving service to stakeholders.

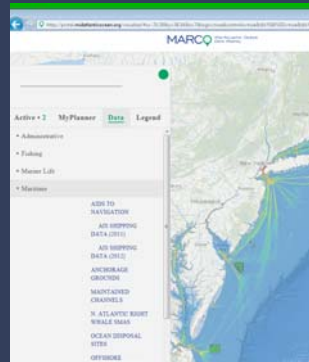


## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions: Data

Coordinate on data acquisition to leverage/share costs and expand utility of data

Incorporate releasable USCG data into MARCO data portal:

- Search and Rescue
- Marine Casualty
- Pollution



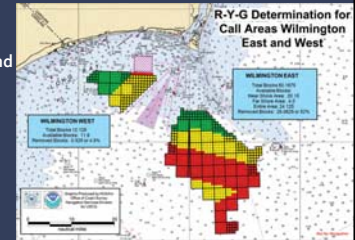
Develop navigation data that represents sub-sectors of vessel traffic

## Proposed Interjurisdictional Actions: Research

Identify navigation trends to understand traffic patterns over time

Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion

Develop data layers that represent activities and structures in nearshore and estuarine waters



## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- RPB member entities working together to further develop the details of the proposed actions
  - BOEM, New York DOS, Virginia, Delaware, DoD, NOAA, USCG, DOT
- Anticipated stakeholder engagement to further develop the actions from now to December 2015
  - Seek input from targeted stakeholders
  - Seek input from regional navigation safety committees

## Fisheries Science and Management

Michael Luisi, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

Kevin Chu, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Goals and Objectives

- RPB Framework 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
- Objective: Commercial and Recreational Fishing
  - Foster greater understanding of the needs of the Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts

## Proposed Actions

1. Support dialogue between NOAA and State Fisheries Managers
  2. Collaborate on climate change studies (Science / Managers / Planners)
  3. Work with the MAFMC Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee
  4. Improve collaboration with Tribes
  5. Improve understanding of recreational fishing
- **Outcome: Improved fisheries science and better management decisions**

## Background

- Current collaboration:
  - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
  - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
  - Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program



## Proposed Actions

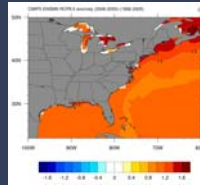
### Support Dialogue Between NOAA and States

- State Fisheries Directors and NOAA/NMFS
  - Face to face
  - At least once per year
  - Coordinated with a meeting of ASMFC
  - Discuss positions and develop ideas for collaboration



## Proposed Actions Climate Change & Fisheries

- Workshop for scientists and managers
  - Predictions about the movement of fish stocks
  - Discussions of management implications of shifting populations
  - Develop collaborative research projects
  - Establish an ongoing forum
- NOAA climate strategy
  - Regional Action Plans



## Proposed Actions

### RPB Collaboration with MAFMC

- MAFMC Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Committee
  - Impacts of other activities on fishing
  - Impacts of fishing on the environment
- ACTION: RPB members to participate on Committee



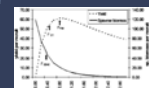
## Proposed Actions Improve Collaboration with Tribes

- In states that have Federally recognized Tribes, NOAA will meet jointly with all interested Tribes (state and Federally recognized) to share perspectives on fishery management.
  - Face to face meetings should occur at least once per year at a time convenient for the Tribes.
  - RPB members will be invited to participate.

## Proposed Actions

### Improved Understanding of Recreational Fishing

- Workshops for leaders in recreational fishing organizations
  - Topics to include fishery science and management
  - Discussions allow sharing of stakeholder, state and Federal perspectives



## Member Entity and Stakeholder Involvement

- Member Entities
  - NOAA
  - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Stakeholder comments:
  - Now
  - At Mid-Atlantic Council meeting in October
  - Email to:
    - [kevin.chu@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.chu@noaa.gov)
    - [michael.luisi@maryland.gov](mailto:michael.luisi@maryland.gov)

## Sustain and Enhance Intergovernmental Coordination

*Sarah Cooksey, Delaware*  
*Supported by Darlene Finch (NOAA alternate)*

## Overview

- Cross-cutting objective: *Maintain forum(s) for intergovernmental coordination and communication in support of ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.*
- After MidA Ocean Action Plan (OAP) completion, need to:
  - monitor and track progress of actions in Plan
  - evaluate and update the Plan
  - incorporate updated scientific research and data in MidA ocean planning
  - identify and address emerging issues
  - engage governmental entities (both RPB and non-RPB members) on Mid-Atlantic ocean issues.
- Major guidance documents are mostly silent on this, although clear that ongoing coordination and communication are extremely important.

## Framing the Issues

- No clarity about status of the MidA RPB after 2016.
- Three options to advance the discussion:
  - MidA RPB operation is modified to provide more opportunities for communication and informal coordination.
  - MidA RPB focuses on OAP implementation and another forum focuses on intergovernmental communication about ocean activities.
  - MidA RPB goes away but intergovernmental communication forum continues.
- Each option has positive and negative attributes. Discussion will help us consider how we organize ourselves to support future ocean planning efforts in the MidA.
- Based upon the outcomes of this discussion, we can further develop options for the OAP.

## Discussion and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Questions for Discussion:**
  - Do you agree with the articulation of the need?
  - What are the benefits of continuing the MidA RPB?
  - What would be the benefits of having two forums – one that focuses on RPB business and the other that focuses on increased communication?
  - How could a separate forum be established without detracting from the efforts of the MidA RPB?
  - Are there specific topics that a separate coordination and communication forum could address?
- Stakeholder Input
  - During this MidA RPB meeting.
  - Offer white paper to stakeholders for comment and input.

## Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal: Data to Support Ocean Action Plan Development & Implementation

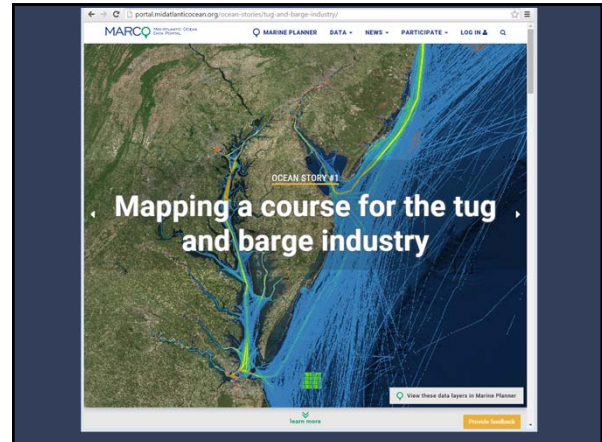
*Laura McKay, Virginia CZM Program*  
*Kevin Chu, NOAA/NMFS*

## Shared Data, Information and Mapping Platform

### Key Objectives:

- Provide data to inform IJC actions, and advance Healthy Ecosystem and Sustainable Use goals.
- Federal – state collaboration to provide ongoing access to best available, regionally relevant ocean data

**Outcome:** An authoritative repository for regional data and visualization tools to reduce conflicts, and to support implementation actions and efficient ocean management decisions



## Proposed Actions

- Maintain operational components including data development, management, and web maintenance
- Expand public engagement in collaboration with RPB and MARCO to enhance data, and functionality, as needed.
- Add new data and mapping products to support RPB ocean actions as they evolve



## Ongoing Data Development and Public Engagement

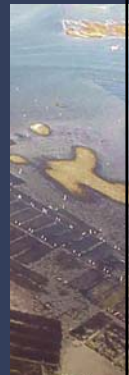
- Work with RPB and IJC actions member entities / agency leads to focus and enhance portal data to support proposed actions
- Incorporate relevant data and information developed through ROA and DSWG, including ecological (MDAT) and human use (HUDS) synthesis products.
- Ongoing portal public/stakeholder engagement including but not limited to webinars, vetting human use data products (e.g. Communities at Sea maps), tribal data development, group briefings and meetings of opportunity (e.g. AWEA ).

## Ocean aquaculture Non-consumptive recreation Critical undersea infrastructure

Gwynne Schultz, MidA RPB State Co-Lead  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

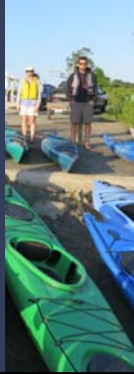
## Ocean aquaculture

- *Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.*
- Address through:
  - Updates of the ROA
  - Use of data portal to characterize potential siting issues
  - Creation of agency guidance on data use
  - Ongoing evaluation of regional need for additional agency actions (pre-application coordination, policy, guidance, data)



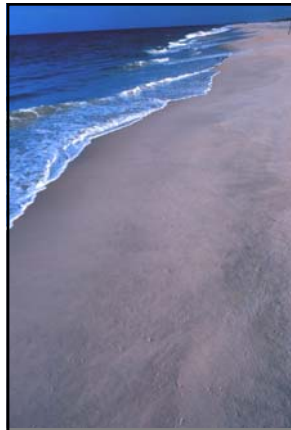
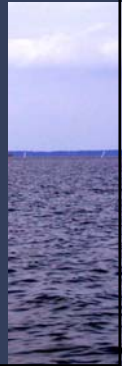
## Non-consumptive recreation

- *Account for importance and economic contributions of such uses, and in management of other uses and resources consider impacts to such activities.*
- Address through:
  - Updates of the ROA
  - Use of data portal to characterize potential siting issues
  - Ongoing coordination to develop/enhance data products and use in project planning



## Critical undersea infrastructure

- *Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure such as submarine cables and pipelines.*
- Address through:
  - Updates of ROA
  - Use of data portal to characterize potential siting issues
  - Ongoing coordination to develop/enhance data products and use in project planning



### Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Regional Planning Body  
(RPB) Meeting

September 23-24, 2015

Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia

### IJC topics

- Tribal uses
- HOE
- Wind
- Sand
- National security
- Commerce and nav
- Fisheries
- Forum
- Portal
- Aquaculture, non-consumptive rec, and undersea infrastructure

## Appendix B7

### Stakeholder Engagement

Gwynne Schultz, *MidA RPB State Co-Lead*  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

### Engagement Opportunities

#### Objectives:

- Review recent events and discuss anticipated activities:
  - Formal Mid-A RPB opportunities for engagement
  - Targeted sector engagement
  - MARCO sponsored activities
- Identify next steps and/or outstanding needs

## MidA RPB Engagement Opportunities

### Public comment during RPB meetings

- September 2015
- March 2016
- September 2016



### Webinars

- December 2015
- June 2016

## MidA RPB Engagement Opportunities

- Public listening sessions: June/July 2016
- Targeted sector outreach to discuss draft inter-jurisdictional coordination actions
  - MARCO sponsored activities
    - Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
    - Stakeholder Liaison Committee
    - Public outreach



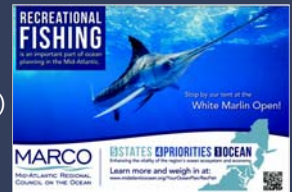
## Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Engagement Opportunities



- Data Vetting with Industry/Sectors
- Communities-at-Sea Mapping
- How Tuesday Webinars
- Portal Stories

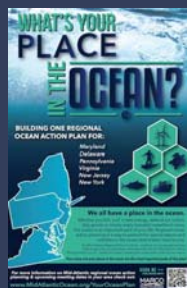
## MARCO Stakeholder Liaison Committee

- Composed of recognized leaders in representative ocean stakeholder sectors
- Upcoming Activities
  - Webinars
  - Meetings
- Sector Outreach (ex.)
  - Recreational Fishing
  - Offshore Wind



## MARCO Engagement Opportunities

- Technical experts and scientific community
  - Data Synthesis and Assessment
- General public
  - Value of ocean planning and how to get involved



## Engagement Opportunities

Discussion:

Are we on the right course?





**Mid-Atlantic  
Regional Ocean  
Planning:**

**Regional Planning Body  
(RPB) Meeting**

September 23-24, 2015

Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia



# Appendix C



**Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:**

**Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting**

September 23-24, 2015

Norfolk Waterside Marriott  
235 E Main Street  
Norfolk, Virginia

## Day 2 Agenda

- 9:00 am- Welcome back, summary day 1, agenda review day 2
- 9:10 am- Resume discussion on draft IJC actions
- 10:45 am- Break
- 11:00 am- Identify and discuss outstanding OAP components
- 11:30 am- Public comment
- 12: 15 pm- Lunch
- 1:15 pm- RPB reflection on public comment and looking ahead to the planning process after 2016
- 2:15 pm- Clarify next steps and wrap-up
- 2:30 pm- Adjourn

## Appendix C1

### IJC Actions: OAP Information Needed by December 11

- Description of the action
- Output/outcome
- Responsible entities and key partners
- Sub-actions/steps and milestones (including immediate, near-, and longer-term components)
- Stakeholder input
- Geographic dimension
- Resources
- Research and science needs related to this action
- Relevant statutory authorities or agency practices/guidelines

## Appendix C2


### Ocean Action Plan Outstanding Components

*Deerin Babb-Brott, SeaPlan*

### Best Management Practices

- For RPB entity coordination and use of data
  - Support consistent use of data portal and OAP
  - Engage stakeholder interests and information in regional management actions
  - Enhance value and efficiency of NEPA
  - Directly advance Framework Goal 2 objectives
- Example entity commitments:
  - *Use data portal and OAP information to inform management actions*
  - *Coordinate in early stages of management actions*
  - *Identify and engage stakeholders*

### Implementation Document



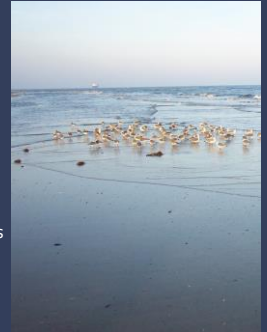
- Mechanism to describe how RPB agencies will use the OAP under their existing authorities
- Ensure transparency by providing for review with the draft OAP
- Distinct from technical guidance on use of subject-matter data under development by NMFS, FWS, and USCG
- Drafted by federal NE RPB agencies' counsel
- RPB will review NE draft and discuss this fall

## OAP Administration

- Includes regular review and technical revisions based on OAP implementation
  - Continuing coordination of overall implementation
  - On-going administrative responsibilities for IJC actions
  - Continued integration of data portal in implementation
  - Process for routine updates (data / non-policy updates)
  - Process for formal amendment (formal 5-year review and update)
  - Related to, but distinct from , data portal maintenance and plan performance monitoring
- Could be part of the charge to the ongoing forum

## OAP Performance Monitoring

- Keyed to Framework Goals and Objectives, through IJC Actions
- Related to, but distinct from, regional ecosystem health initiatives under consideration
- Components include:
  - Management and administration
  - Ocean conditions and uses
- Initial materials could be provided for RPB discussion



## Science and Research Plan

- Advance regional management priorities and support IJC actions
- Develop a regional research agenda that reflects coordinated state, federal, tribal, stakeholder interests
- Baseline to leverage USG science and research investments
- Support focused research to address:
  - 'Use-inspired' management questions
  - Additional studies and primary research to increase understanding of natural and human systems
  - Continued analysis and integration of EBM considerations
- Initial materials could be provided for RPB discussion