

Potential Data Analyses and Decision Support Tools

To support the regional ocean planning process and identification of interjurisdictional coordination region-wide opportunities and specific geographic areas, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) could consider pursuing the following additional analyses and describe the results of those analyses in the Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP). These kinds of additional analyses could help build understanding about the interactions between and among uses and resources in the Mid-Atlantic, serve as a bridge between the Regional Ocean Assessment and OAP, and provide the RPB with information it needs to determine meaningful interjurisdictional coordination commitments to improve management of ecological resources and economic activities. The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal will provide important information about the resources and uses in the Mid-Atlantic that can support some of these additional analyses.

*Important note: Highly dependent on resources available, the RPB **may** pursue one or more of the types of analyses listed below. The RPB has not yet decided which, if any, of these analyses to pursue.*

- **Assessments of compatibility** among ocean uses and between ocean uses and ecosystem health objectives (e.g., matrix).
- **Region-wide assessment of areas of ecological importance**, which could potentially include one or more of the following:
 - Summarize **areas of ecological importance currently designated** through existing authorities in the MidA region.
 - Develop **distribution and abundance data products for marine life and/or important habitats**.
 - Identify **abundance hotspots, migration corridors, or other key areas** for individual species and/or overlays of multiple species.
 - Consider use of existing or new **measures of ecosystem health** to track progress over time (e.g., by adapting measures used for existing management applications, the Ocean Health Index, etc. for use in the MidA regional planning context)
- **Region-wide analysis of the marine economy** that could include valuation and mapping of economic activity and production.
- **Region-wide information sharing about proposed ocean use and conservation projects** under review by agencies.
- **Increased understanding of other potential tools and applications** to support emerging management innovations such as an ecosystem based management approach, tradeoff analyses, cumulative impact assessments, and others.