

Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

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February 27, 2014 | Lewes, DE
Public Listening Session

Public Listening Session Objectives

- Provide Mid-Atlantic stakeholders with an overview of:
 - Ocean planning
 - Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
 - Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework (Draft Framework).
- Receive public input and answer questions from stakeholders about the Draft Framework.



Agenda



- Welcome, introductions and agenda review
- Presentation: Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal
- Discussion with public

Ocean-Related Opportunities and Challenges in our Region

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

Tribal Issues

- Voice for tribes in the region
- Improved governance and sound management of our shared ocean and coastal resources
- Deep connection and dependence on our ocean
 - Food security
 - Aquaculture
 - Fisheries management
 - Habitat restoration
 - Sea level rise
- Working closely with all partners

What is Ocean Planning?

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

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)

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

What is the purpose of the MidA RPB?

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

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

Timeline

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

What will the MidA RPB do?

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

MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal: A regional hub for sharing information & maps

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“The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is an **online toolkit and resource center** that consolidates available data and enables state, federal and local users **to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information** such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.

The Portal serves as **a platform to engage all stakeholders** in ocean planning from the five-state Mid-Atlantic region—putting all of the **essential data and state-of-the-art mapping and visualization technology** into the hands of the agencies, industry, and community leaders engaged in ocean planning.”



Resources for Mid-Atlantic ocean planning

[Launch Marine Planner >](#)



LEARN
LEARN

Understand the range of regional ocean planning needs.



EXPLORE
EXPLORE

Access our current data and see future information needs.



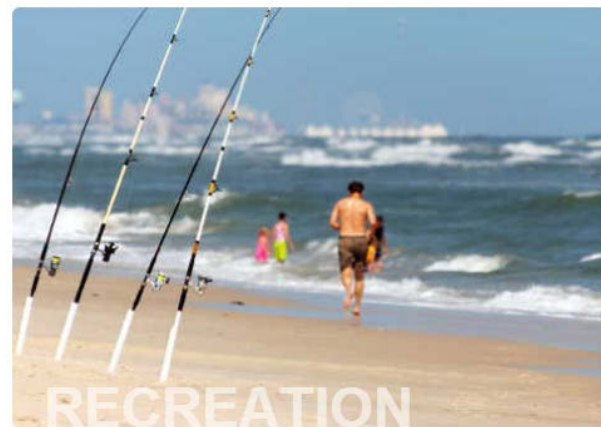
VISUALIZE
VISUALIZE

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

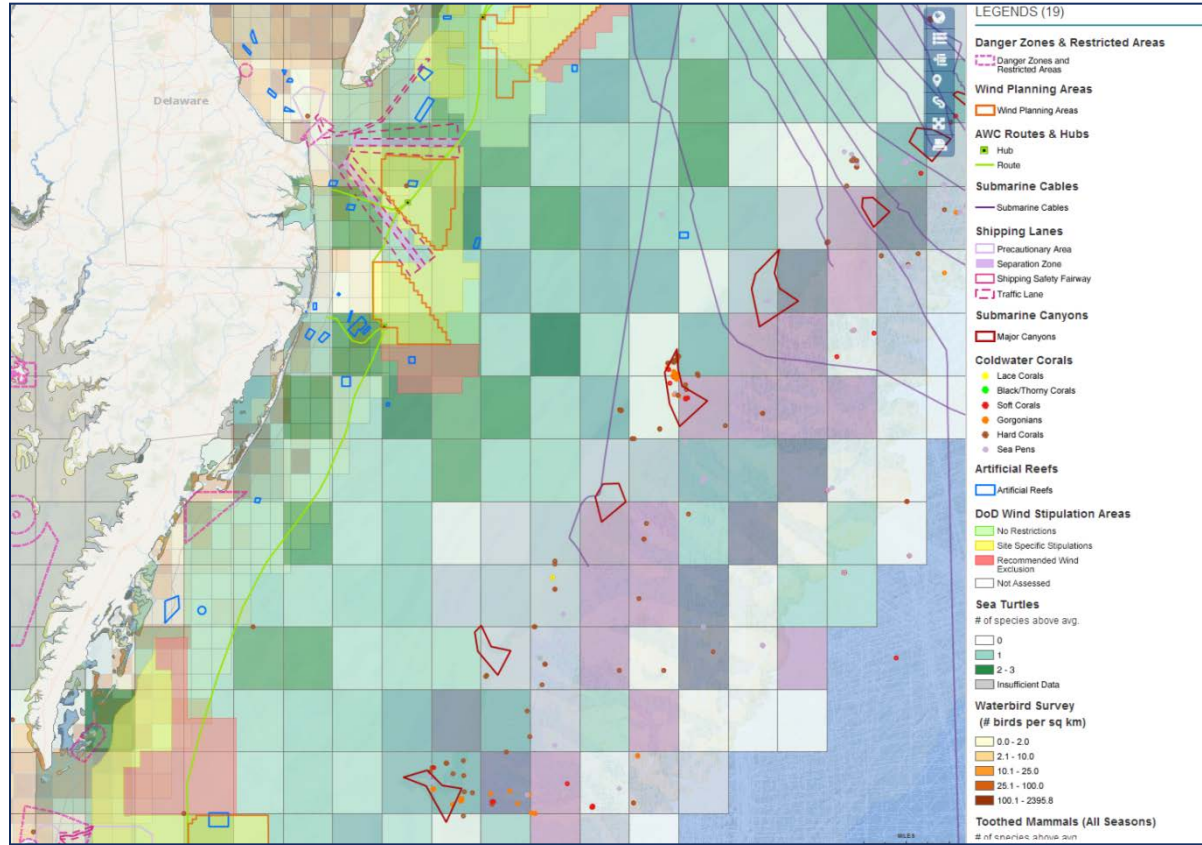
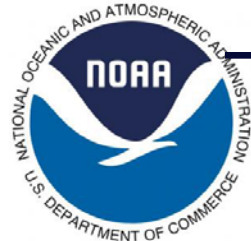
Seven



Data themes



MANY Data Providers



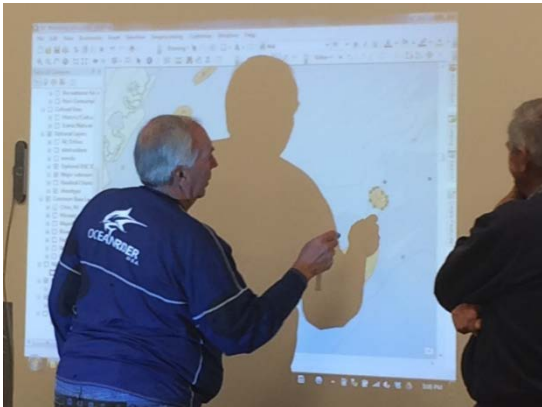
US Army Corps of Engineers

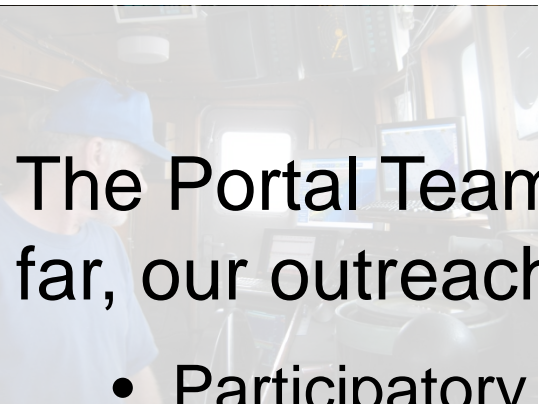




MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN USERS PROVIDE:

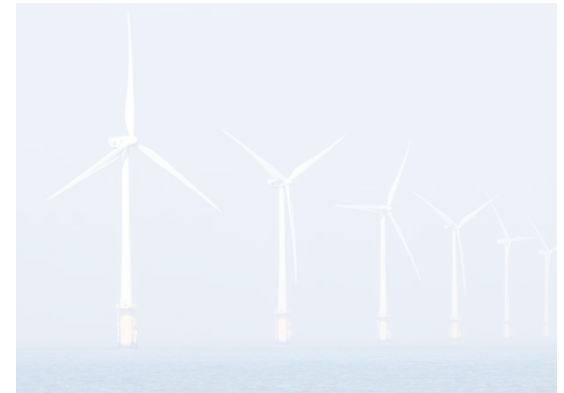
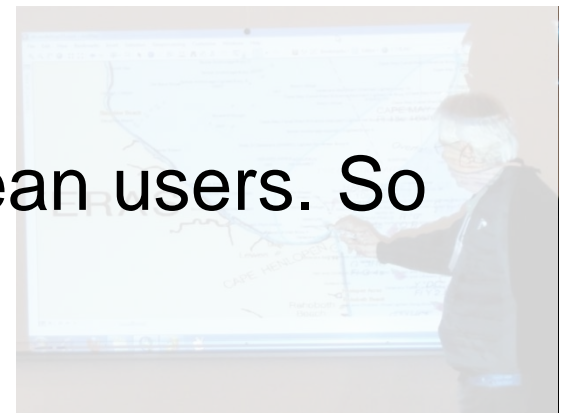
- MISSING DATA
- EXPERT REVIEW
- EXPERT ADVICE

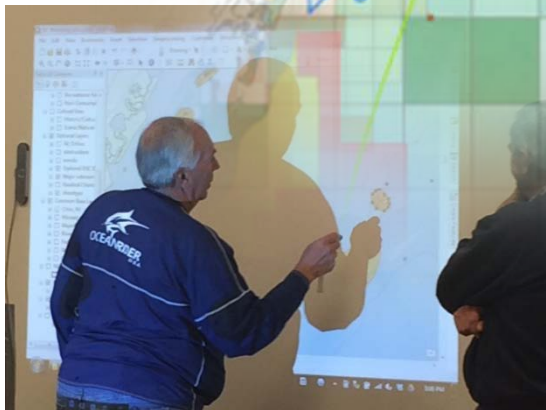
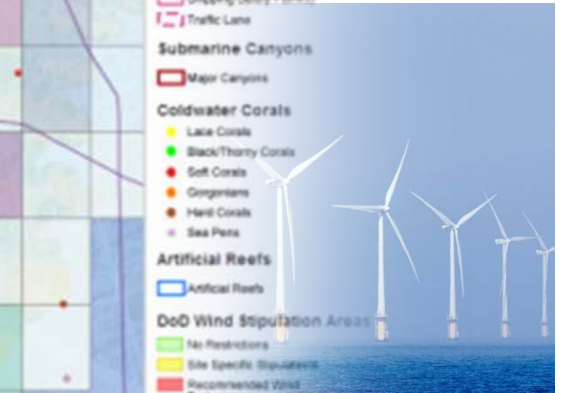
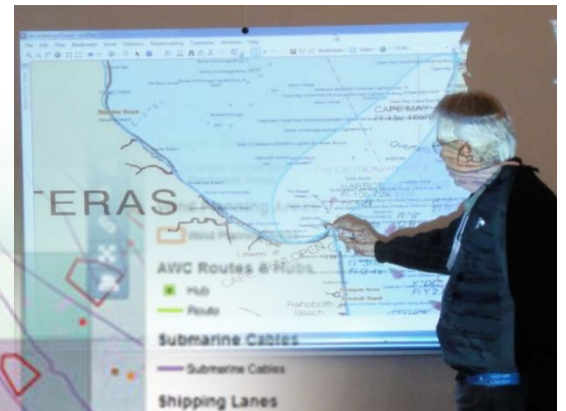




The Portal Team needs help from ocean users. So far, our outreach includes:

- Participatory Mapping Workshops
- Online Recreational Boater Survey
- Surfrider's Ocean Recreation Survey
- Comm. Fisheries Advisory Group
- Meetings w/ Environmental Groups
- Meetings w/ Five Major Ports
- Meetings w/ Wind Energy Companies
- Portal Data Review Group







DATA ACTIVE

Search X

Administrative

Fishing

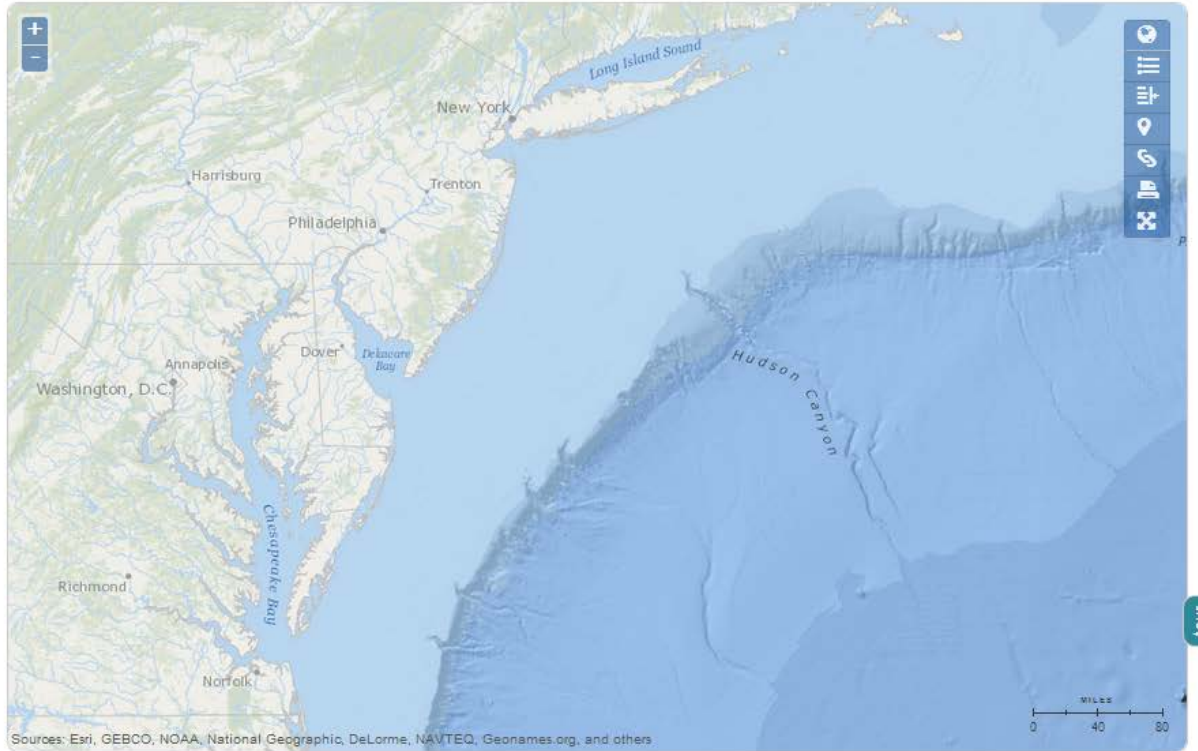
Marine Life

Maritime

Recreation

Renewable Energy

Security



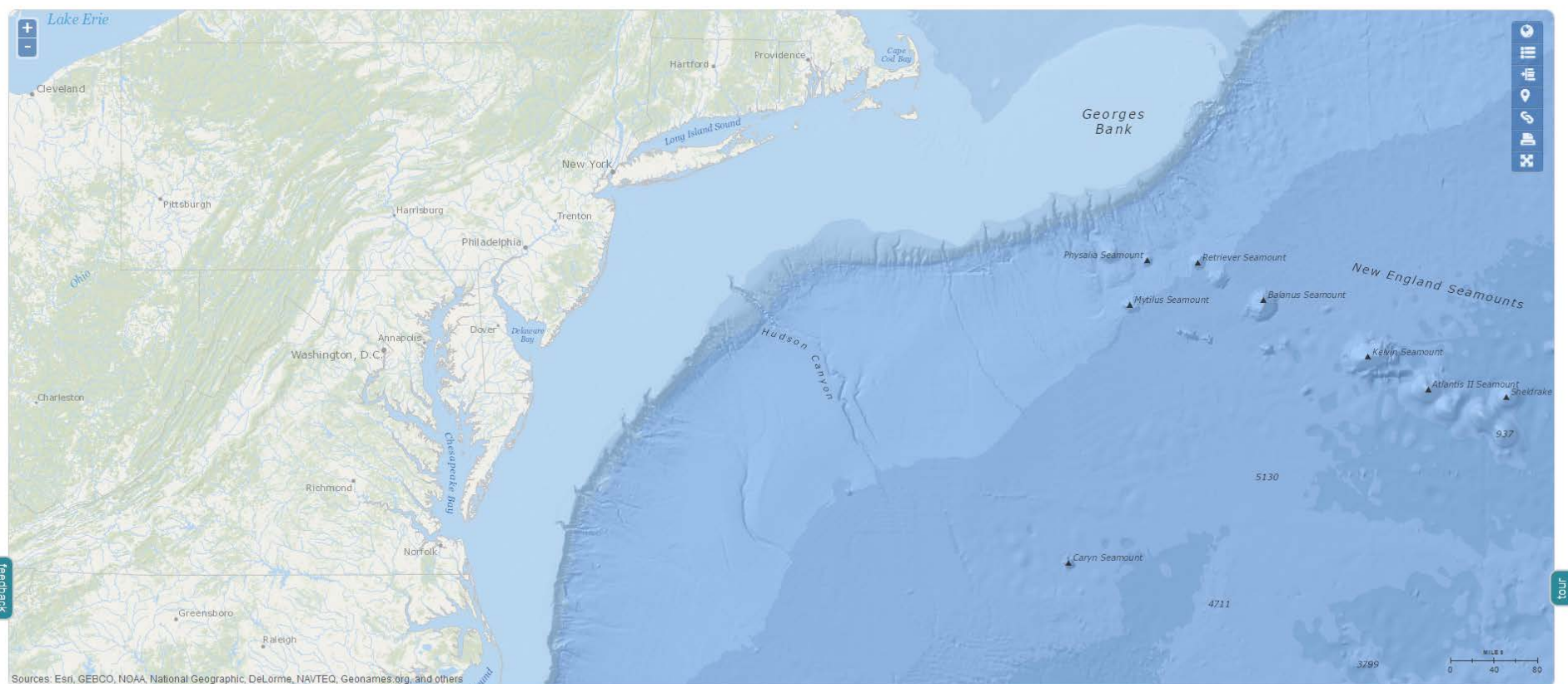
feedback

tour

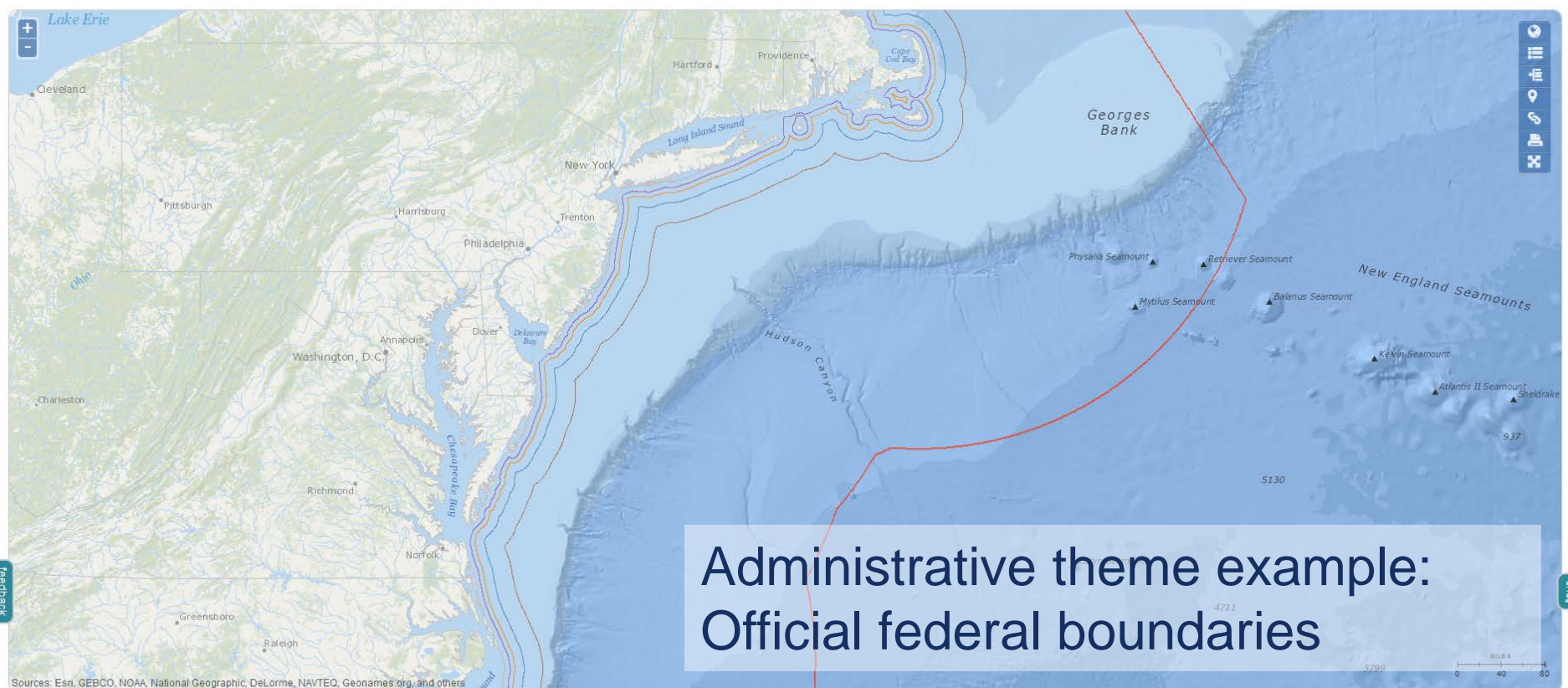


Window Snip

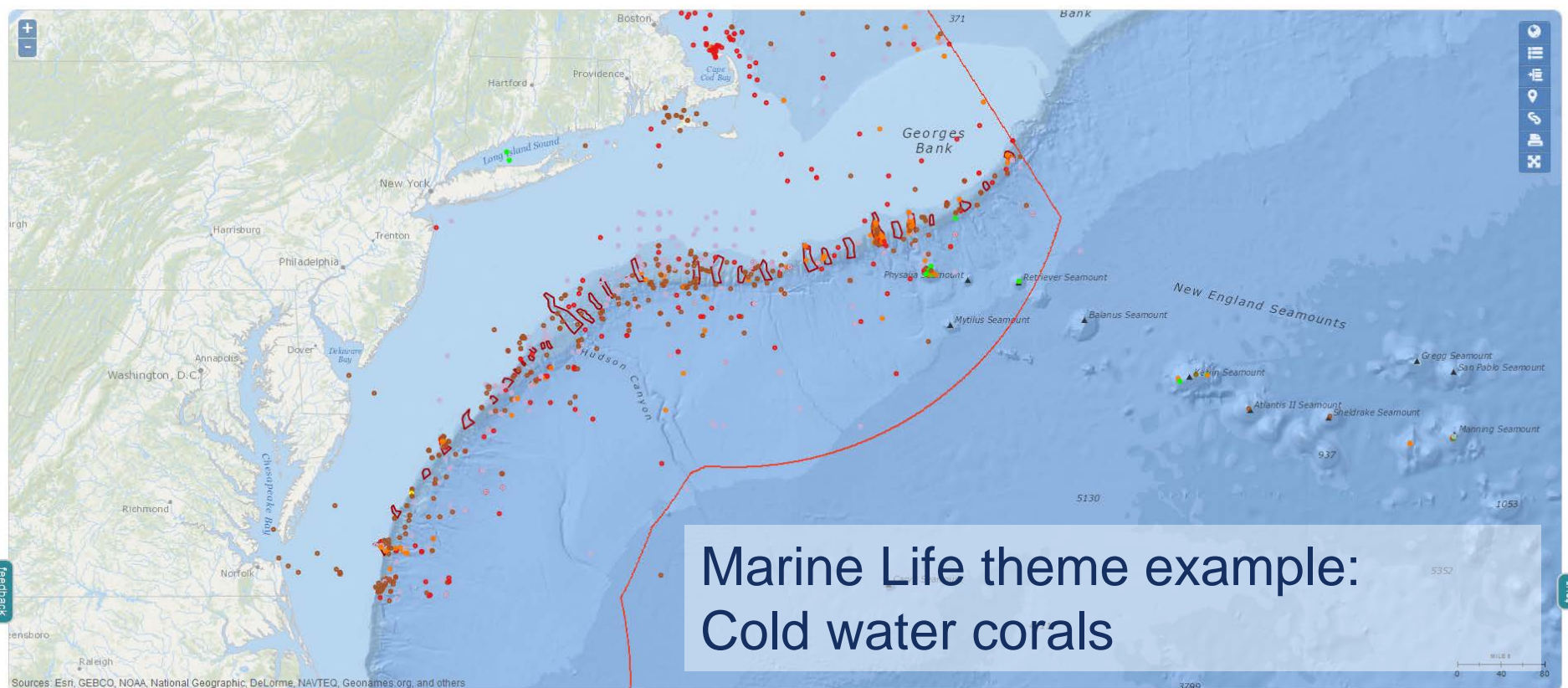
Help JOdell

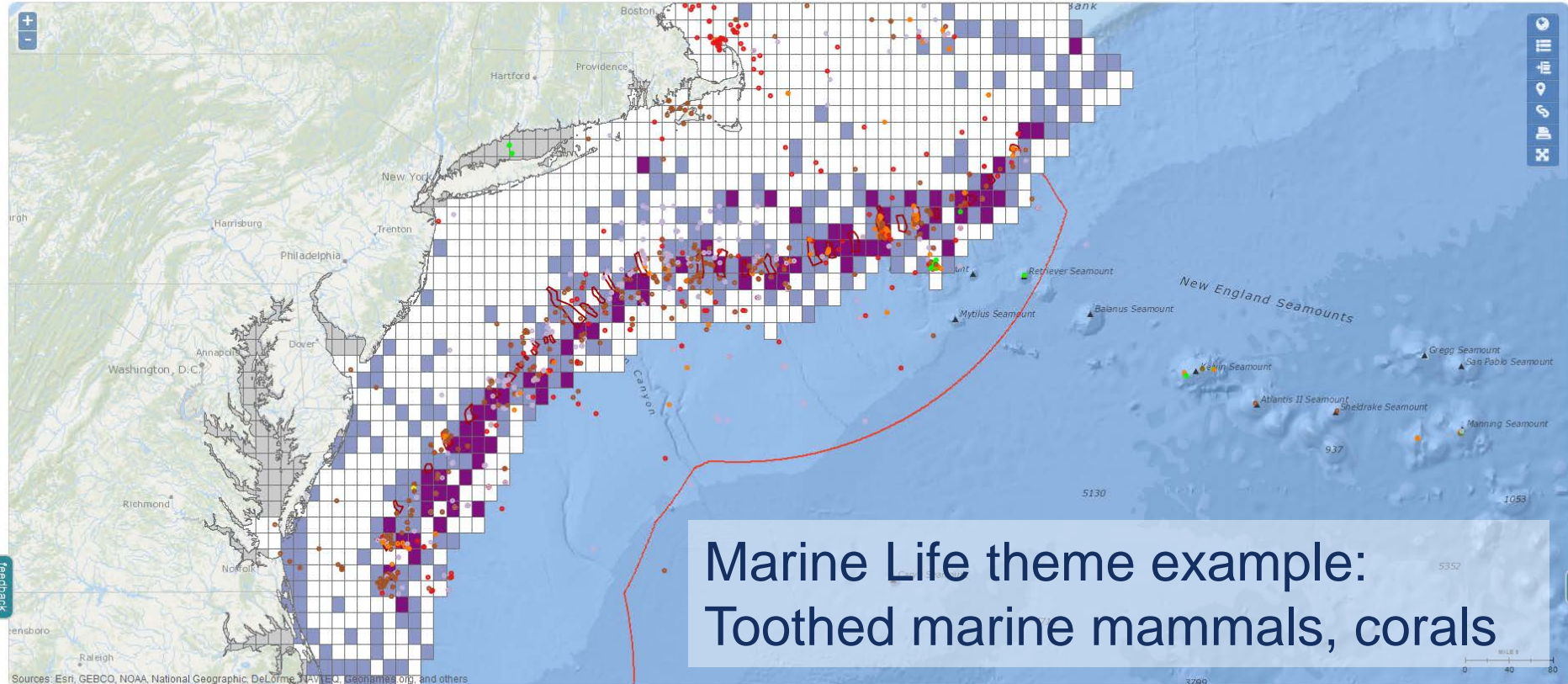


Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, Geonames.org, and others



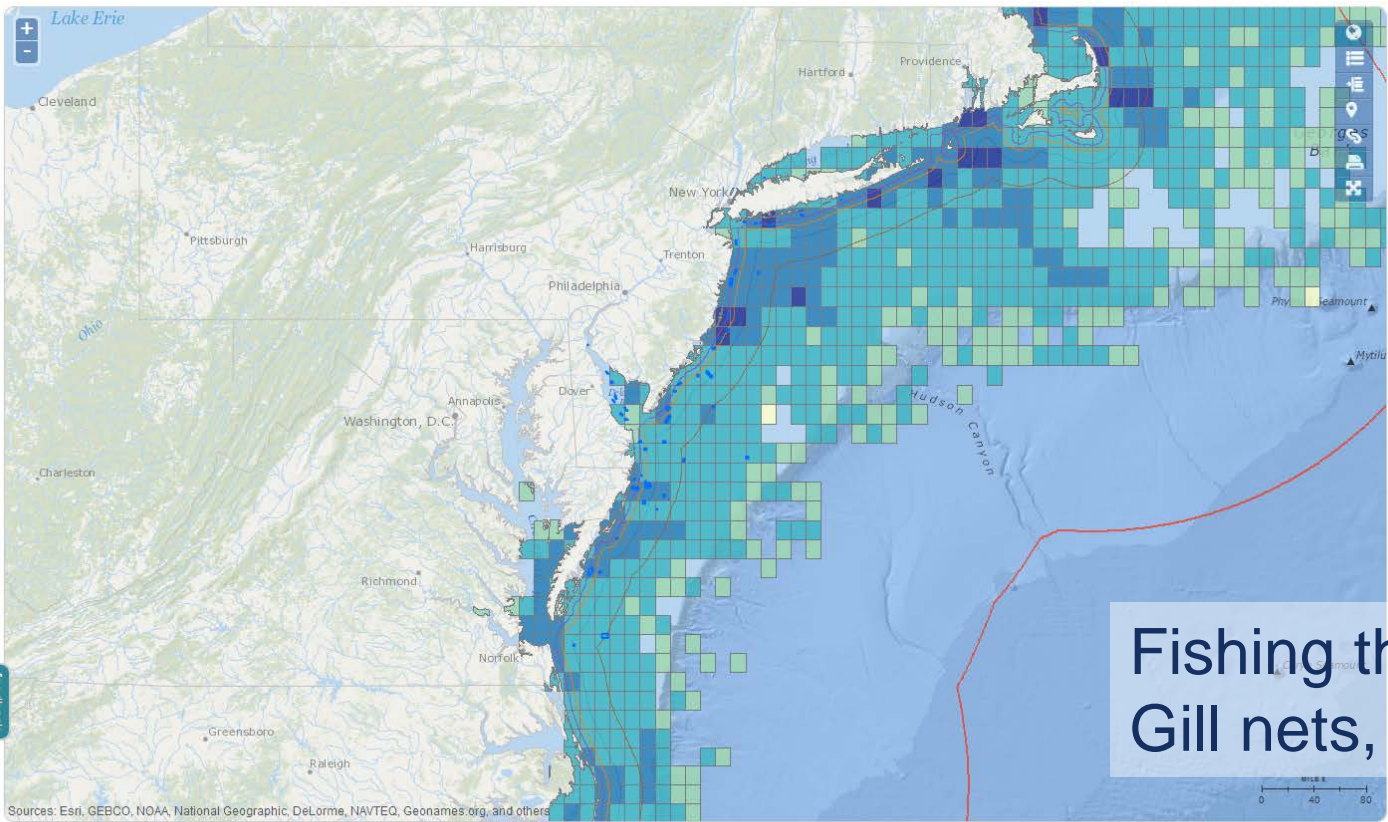
Administrative theme example:
Official federal boundaries





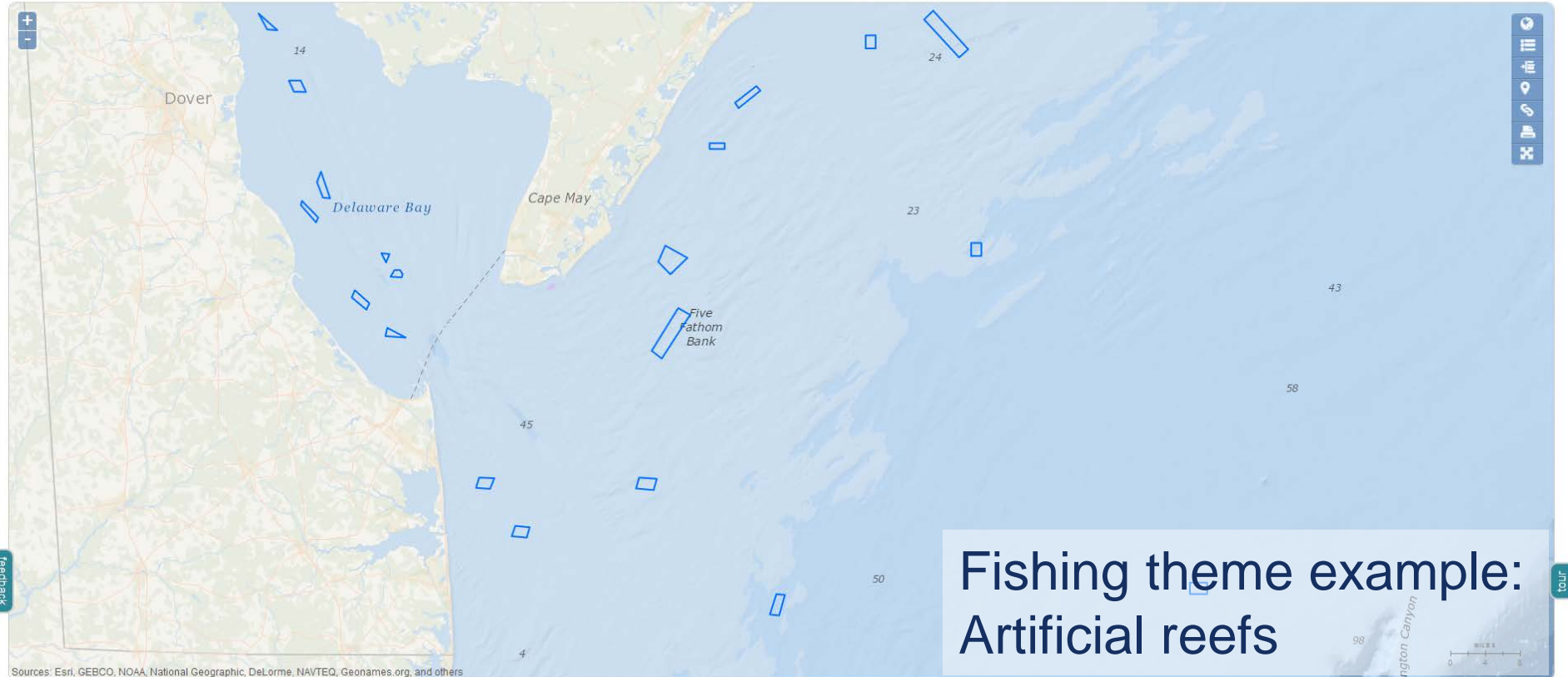
Feedback

Tour

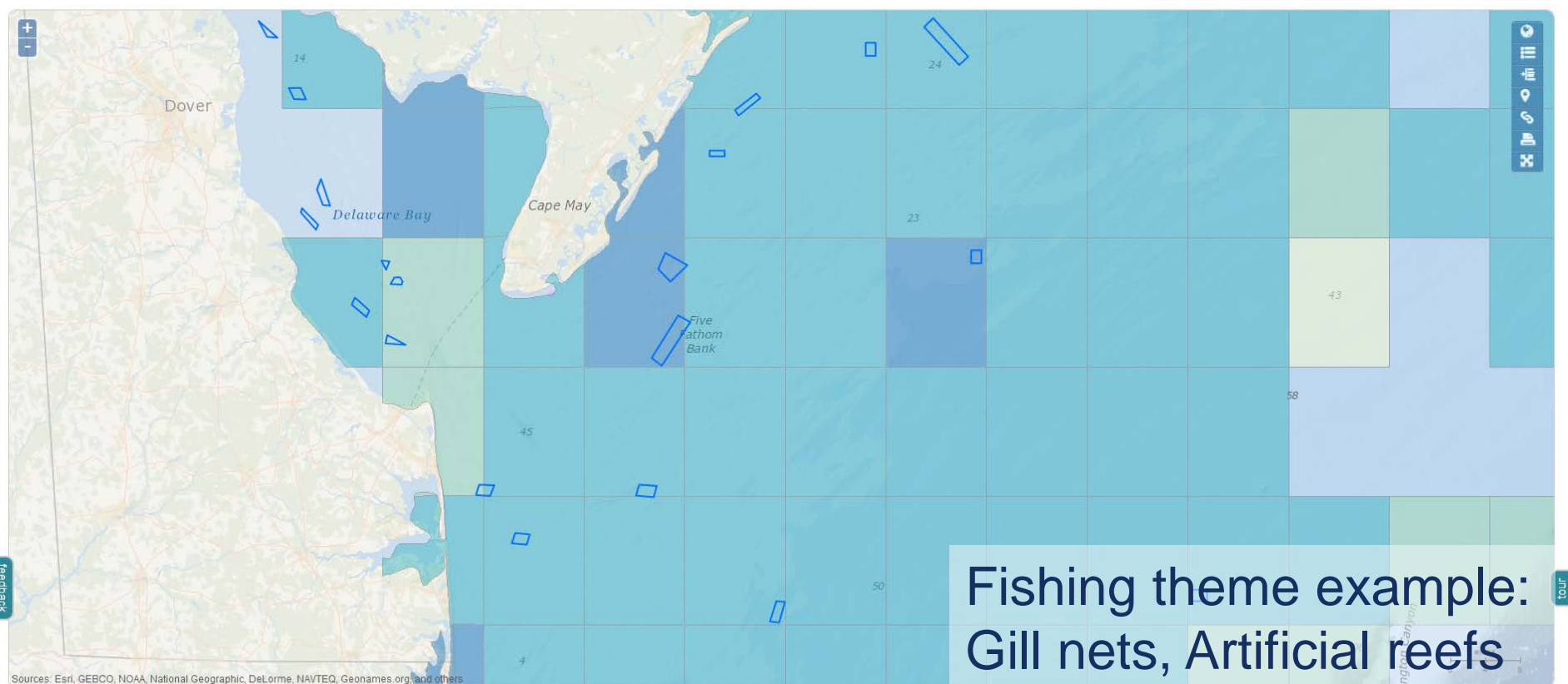


Fishing theme example:
Gill nets, Artificial reefs

Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, Geonames.org, and others



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Maritime theme example:
Vessel traffic, Seasonal Management Zones,
Routing Measures, etc.



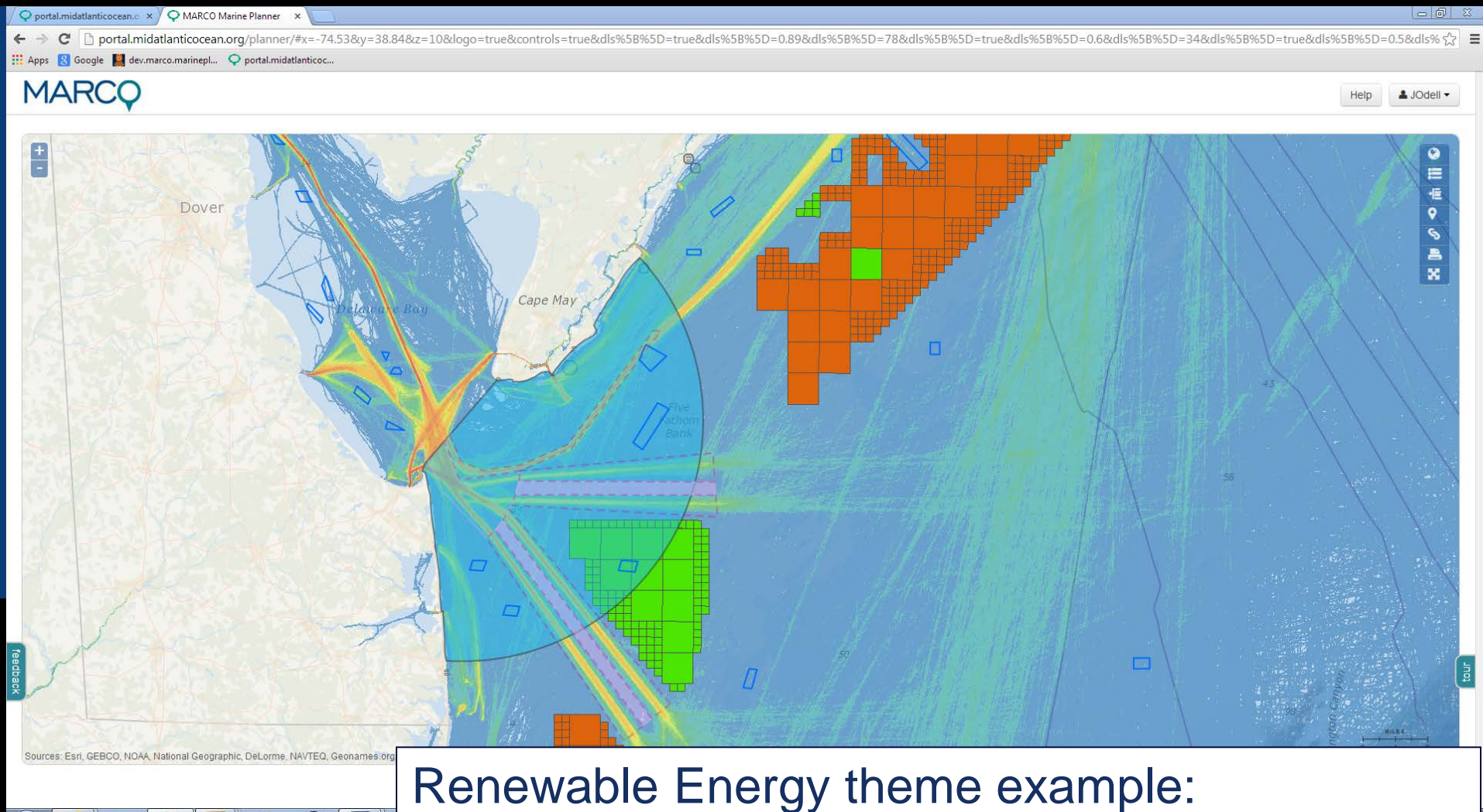
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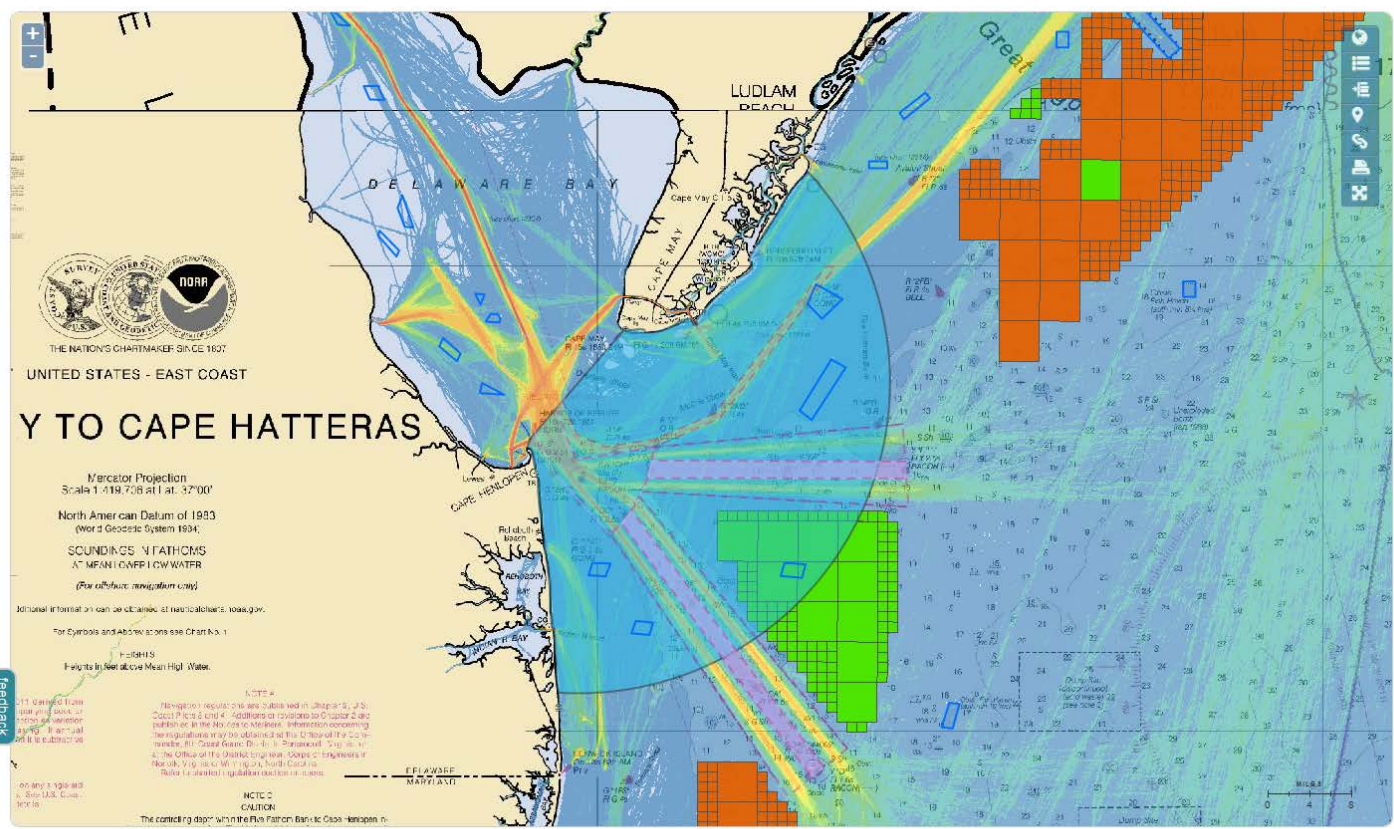
Maritime + Renewable Energy theme example:
Wind Planning Areas, Active Renewable Energy
Lease Areas.

Feedback

tour



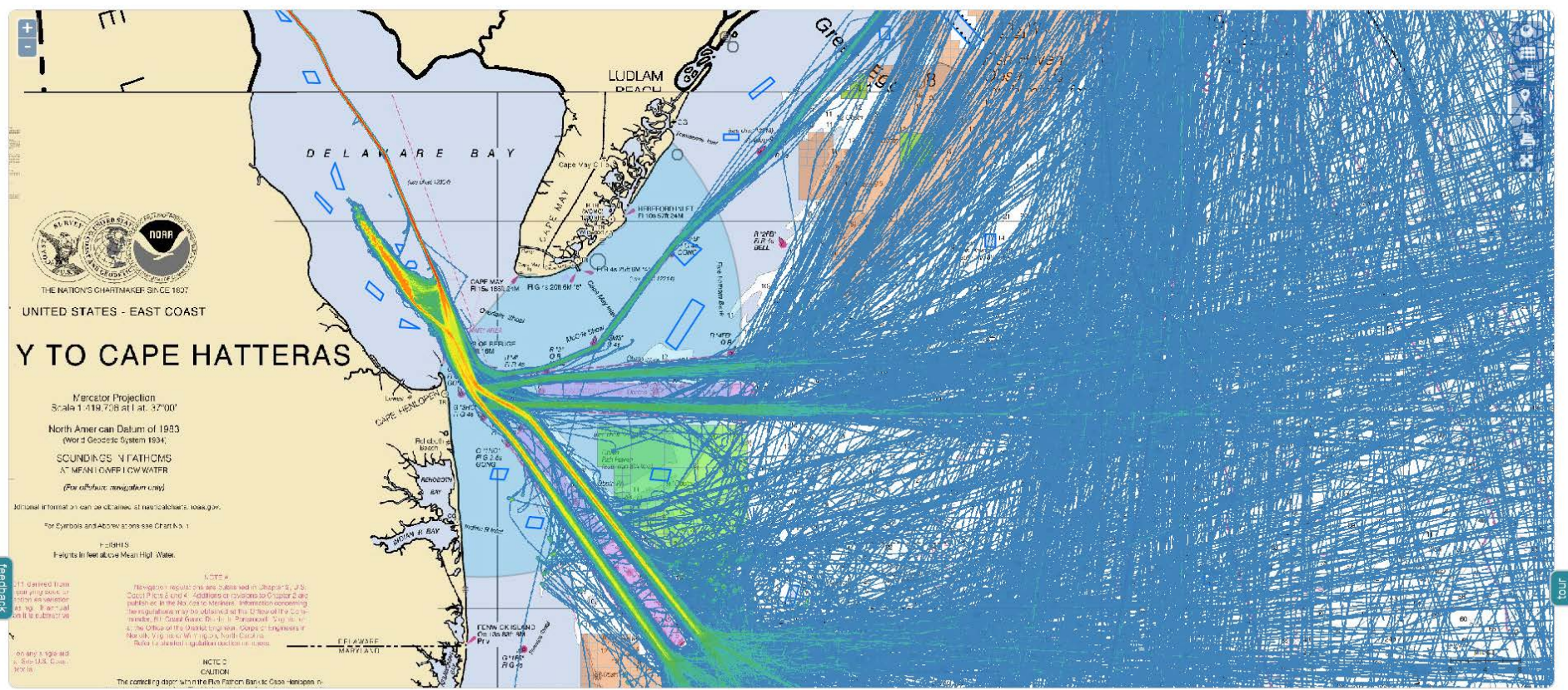
Renewable Energy theme example:
Wind Planning Areas, Active Renewable Energy
Lease Areas.



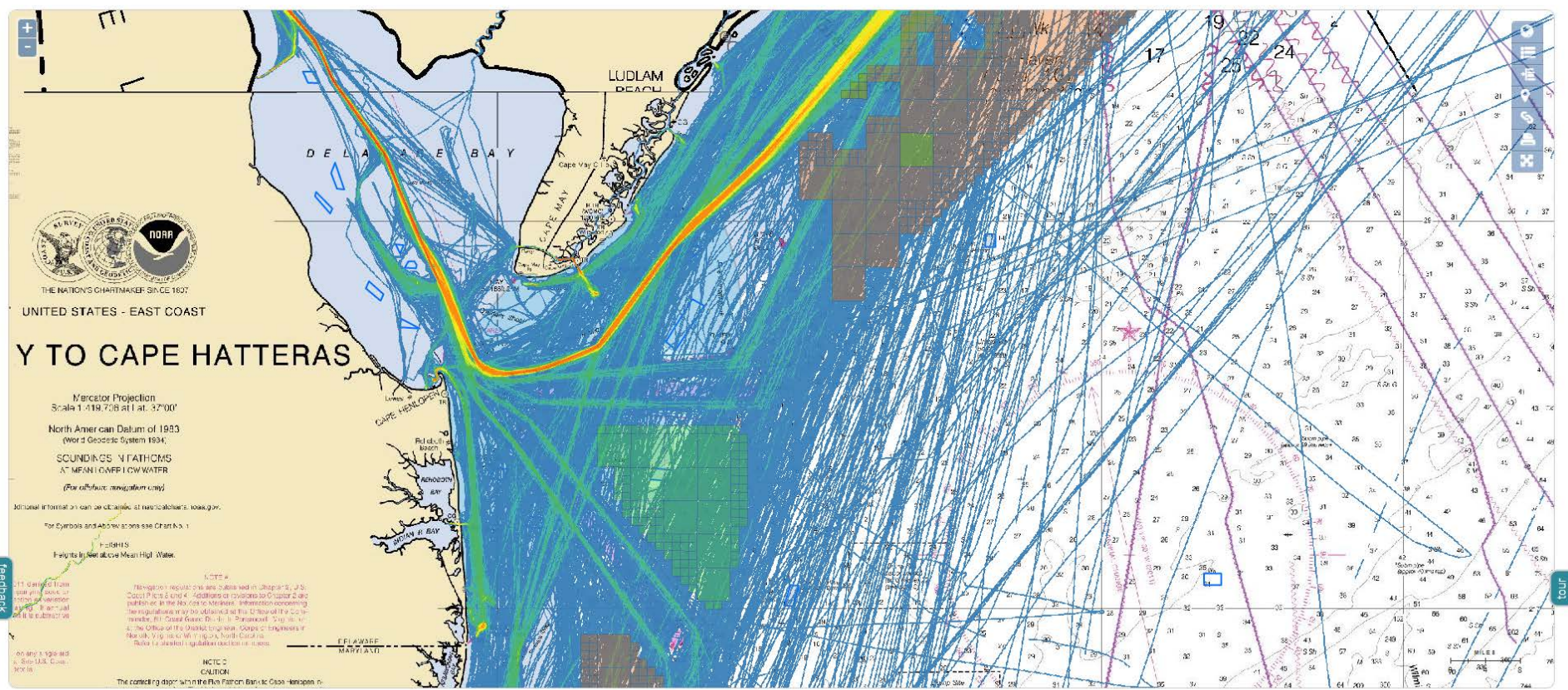
LEGENDS (10)

- Artificial Reefs**
 - Artificial Reefs
- Routing Measures**
 - Precautionary Area
 - Separation Zone
 - Shipping Safety Fairway
 - Traffic Lane
- N. Atlantic Right Whale SMAs**
 - Seasonal Management Areas for North Atlantic Right Whales
- BOEM Active Renewable Energy Lease Areas**
 - BOEM Active Renewable Energy Leases
- BOEM Wind Planning Areas**
 - BOEM Wind Planning Areas
- Offshore Dredge Disposal**
 - Dredge Disposal Offshore Locations
- All Vessels**
 - km of tracks per cell
 - Low
 - 0.01 - 1
 - 1.1 - 2
 - 2.1 - 3
 - Medium
 - 3.1 - 4
 - 4.1 - 6
 - 6.1 - 8
 - High
 - 8.1 - 10
 - 10.1 - 25
 - 25.1 - 50
 - 50.1 - 100
 - 100.1 - 250
 - 250.1 - 7306
- Offshore Discharge Flow**
 - 0.014 - 0.15 MGD
 - 0.151 - 1 MGD

All Vessel Traffic



Tanker Traffic



Tug / Tow Traffic

MARCO

MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

RESOURCES FOR
REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

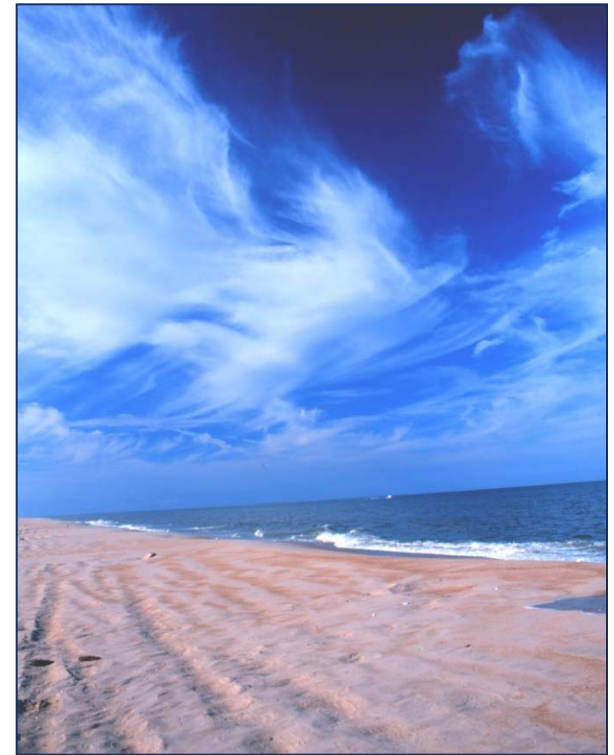


Tour the portal at portal.midatlanticocean.org

Purpose of the Draft Framework

Guide the regional ocean planning process by proposing:

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



Initial Geographic Focus

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

Terminology

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

Draft Vision

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

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

Draft Principles

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

Draft Principles (con't)

- **Principle 4:** Consider **sound science** and traditional knowledge in decision-making.
- **Principle 5:** Use **adaptive management**
- **Principle 6:** Maintain **consistency with existing laws**

Draft Principles (con't)

- **Principle 7:** Increase inter-jurisdictional **coordination and government efficiency**
- **Principle 8:** Promote **transparency and engagement** to enhance public input
- **Principle 9:** Respect the **intrinsic value** of the ocean and its biodiversity

Draft Goals

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

Objectives for Goal 1

Promote ecosystem health and integrity by:

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

Objectives for Goal 2 (*by sector*)

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

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

Objectives for Goal 2 (con't)

6) Facilitate enhanced coordination on the use of offshore sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic.

7) Coordinate improved understanding of near-shore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses.

8) Recognize and take into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources.

9) Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure.

Questions and Comments

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body



Thank you for participating.

To provide additional input, please:

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