

# *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Public Listening Session*

**Stony Brook, New York  
November 17, 2014**

## **Public Release Documents for Discussion:**

- *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan Options*
- *Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Interim Plan for Stakeholder Engagement*
- *Status of Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment*

# Objectives



- Provide an update about regional ocean planning activities in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Discuss the role and functionality of the MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal as a tool to support ocean planning.
- Receive input and answer questions from stakeholders about draft MidA RPB document released for public input.

# Agenda

- 5:00 PM** Welcome, introductions, agenda review
- 5:15 PM** Update on MidA RPB activities and presentation of draft documents
- 5:50 PM** Review of MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Updates
- 6:00 PM** Public Comment and Engagement with MA RPB Members
- 7:45 PM** Wrap up and closing remarks
- 8:00 PM** Adjourn

# Opportunities for public comment and feedback

- At each of the MARCO-hosted public listening sessions, verbally or in writing (details available at <http://www.boem.gov/MidA-RPB-Meetings/>)



- Written input provided by 5 PM Eastern on November 20 to: [MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov](mailto:MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov)

# 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

- The RPB has held two in-person meetings to date (September 2013 and May 2014).
- May 2014: Approval of *Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework* identifying goals and objectives to guide the RPB's work.
  - (available at <http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Ocean-Planning-Framework/>)
- September 2014: Approval of *Charter for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body* that describes the purpose and mission of the RPB.
  - (available at <http://www.boem.gov/MidA-RPB-Charter/>)

# Updated MidA RPB Timeline

## 2014

October 24, 2014

- Public release of draft MidA RPB documents, start of public comment period.

October 29, 2014

- Public webinar to discuss draft MidA RPB documents and launch series of public listening sessions throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

November 5-18, 2014

- Series of MARCO-hosted public listening sessions:
  - November 5: Lewes, Delaware
  - November 6: Virginia Beach, Virginia
  - November 10: Ocean City, Maryland
  - November 17: Stony Brook, New York
  - November 18: Long Branch, New Jersey

More information about locations and logistics for these public listening sessions is available at <http://www.boem.gov/MidA-RPB-Meetings/>.

November 20, 2014

- End of public comment period.

## 2015 – 2016

January 21-22, 2015

- RPB meeting to make a decision about structure and content of a regional ocean action plan and other RPB workflows.

Remainder of 2015 and 2016

- Early 2015, workplan developed to guide development of regional ocean action plan throughout 2015 and 2016.
- In-person public RPB meetings held 2-3 times per year, with accompanying public comment periods and other opportunities for public engagement as appropriate.
- First iteration regional ocean action plan under review by the National Ocean Council: targeting late 2016.

## 2017 and Beyond

2017

- Implementation of regional ocean action plan.
- Refinements to regional ocean action plan identified and incorporated.

*Note: Implementation means carrying out existing mandates and authorities in the context of and informed by a consensus-based regional ocean action plan, which will be periodically updated by the RPB to account for new information/technology.*



# Options for a Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan





# New York's strong foundation for ocean action

- DOS released the NYS Offshore Atlantic Ocean Study and leads NY's offshore planning effort
- DEC and DOS are collaborating on an Ocean Action Plan for NY
- NY is a member of a five-State ocean partnership (Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean)

*Stakeholder input is crucial to these efforts, to identify and protect NY's ocean interests, economic uses*



New York's Offshore Planning Area

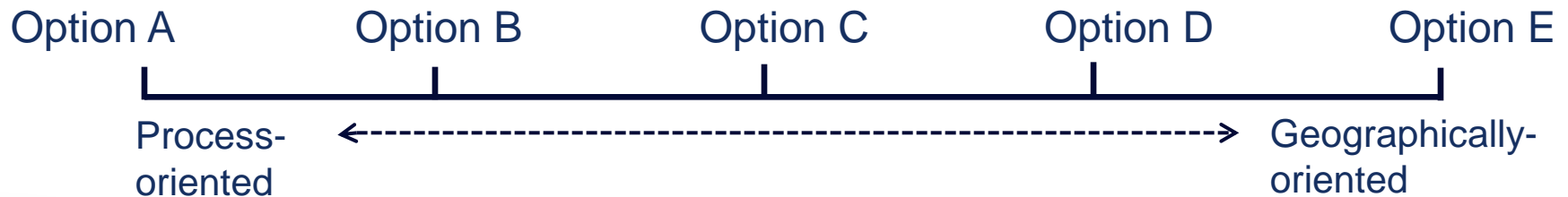
# Our Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan should:

- Inform decision making under existing authorities to enhance current management of the ocean
- Build on existing partnerships and planning efforts in the Mid-Atlantic
- Be designed and implemented with robust stakeholder input
- Satisfy diverse stakeholder interests
- Be updated over time to reflect new information and changing conditions.

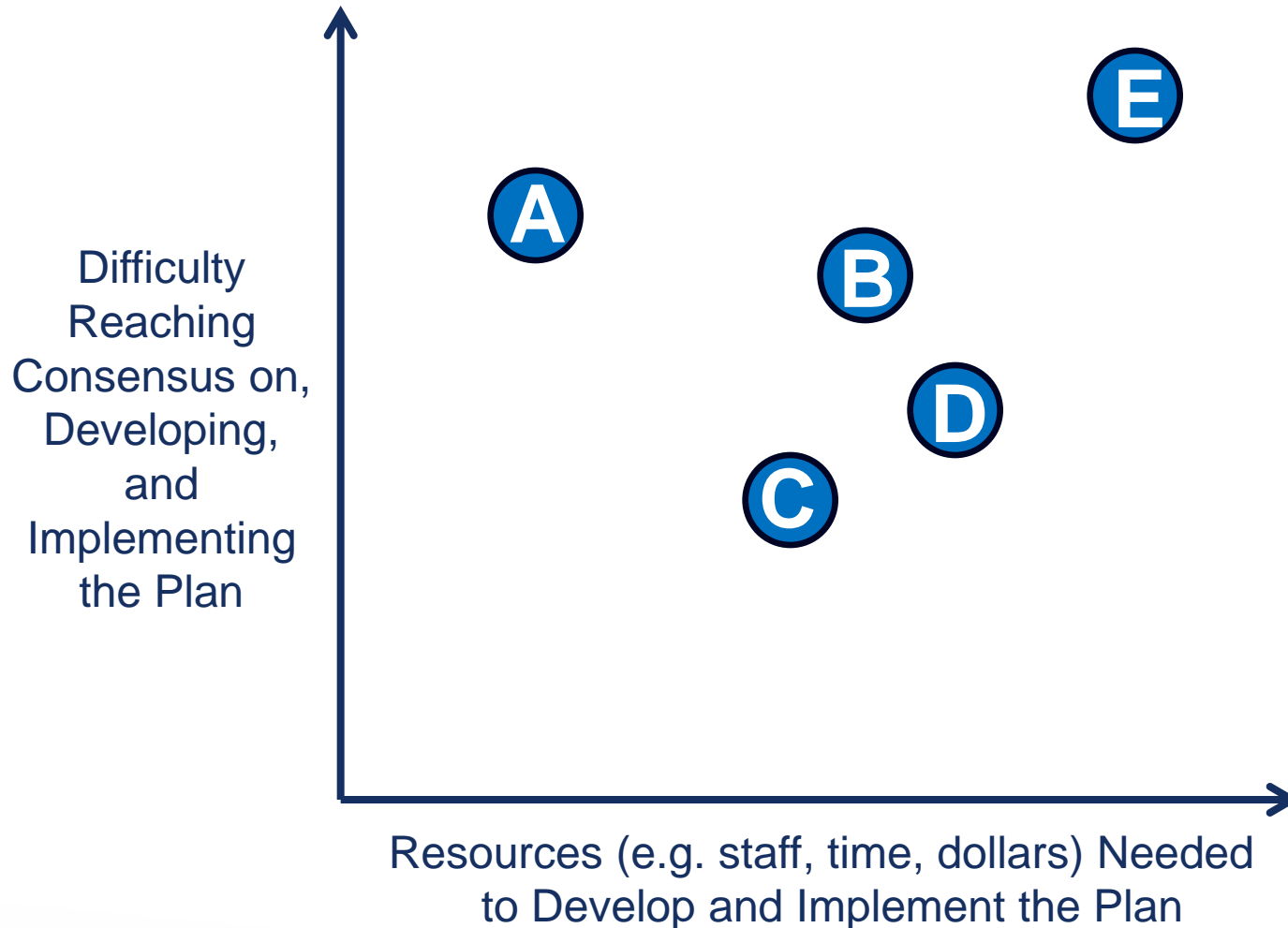
# Five options considered

- *Option A: Issue-Triggered Coordination Process*
- *Option B: Compatibility Assessment*
- *Option C: Targeted Coordination by Issue or Geography*
- *Option D: Compatible Use Areas*
- *Option E: Comprehensive Optimal Use Maps*

***The RPB is eager to hear your input on these options.  
What do you think?***



# Relative practicality of options



# Mid-Atlantic RPB assessment of options

- Options A and E impractical:
  - Option A would require addressing issues on a case-by-case basis and not result in sufficient improvement over the status quo.
  - Option E may be very time-consuming and costly
- The MidA RPB considers the other three options to be more practical and would like to further refine:
  - Compatibility Assessment (option B)
  - Targeted Coordination by Issue or Geography (option C)
  - Compatible Use Areas (option D)

# Option details

- ***“Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan Options”*** describes differences in:
  - Data and analysis
  - Implementation plan
  - Interjurisdictional coordination
  - Final product of planning process
  - Steps to develop the plan
  - Stakeholder engagement opportunities
  - Spatial Coverage
  - Issue Coverage

# Proposed outline of the Regional Ocean Action Plan

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- Introduction
- Goals and objectives (from the *Framework*)
- Regional Ocean Assessment
- Data and analysis
- Implementation plan
- Plan updates
- Interjurisdictional coordination process
- Monitoring strategy
- Iteration process
- Appendices:
  - Stakeholder engagement plan
  - RPB member capacities and authorities

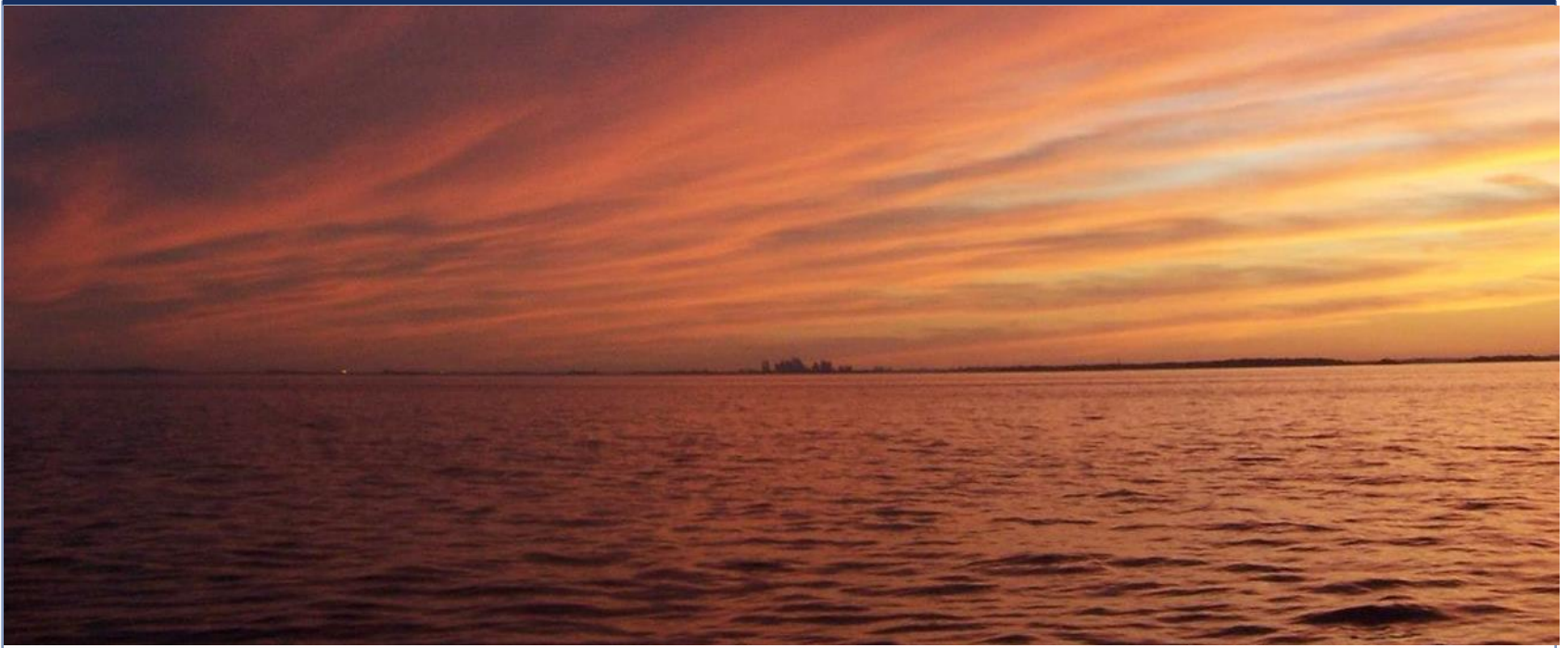




# Feedback requested

- Which Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan options do you prefer? Why?
- Are there additional elements or ideas the MidA RPB should consider to improve these options?
- Do you have any comments on the draft example outline for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan?

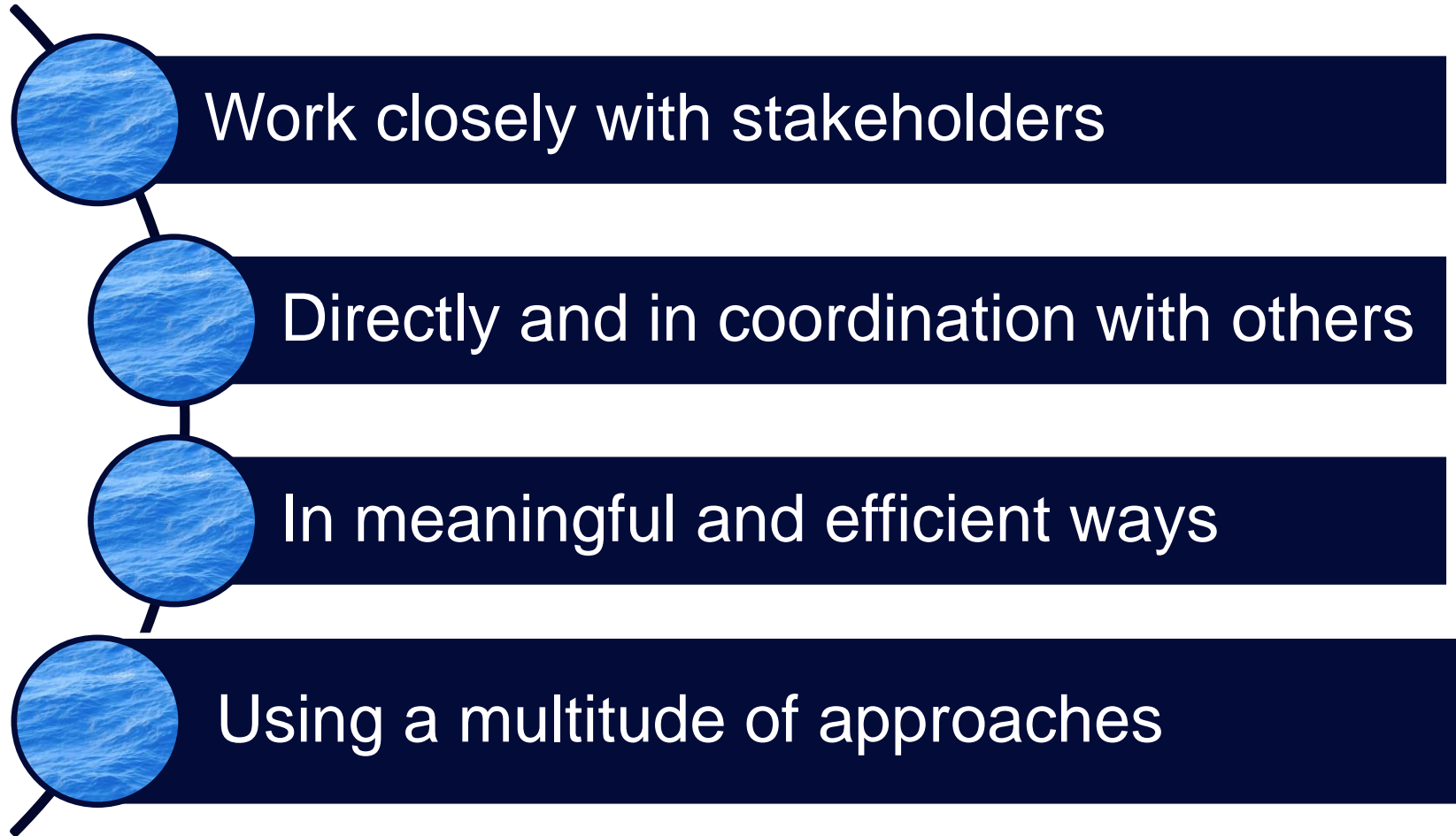
# Interim Stakeholder Engagement Plan



# Interim Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Precursor to stakeholder engagement component of the MidA Regional Ocean Action Plan workplan
- Outlines MidA RPB's goals, objectives, and approach to stakeholder engagement
- Offers options for participation
- Provides specific topics on which RPB members will be gathering input from stakeholders
- Outlines wide range of tools and methods for discussion by the RPB and stakeholders

# MidA RPB approach to stakeholder engagement

- 
- Work closely with stakeholders
  - Directly and in coordination with others
  - In meaningful and efficient ways
  - Using a multitude of approaches

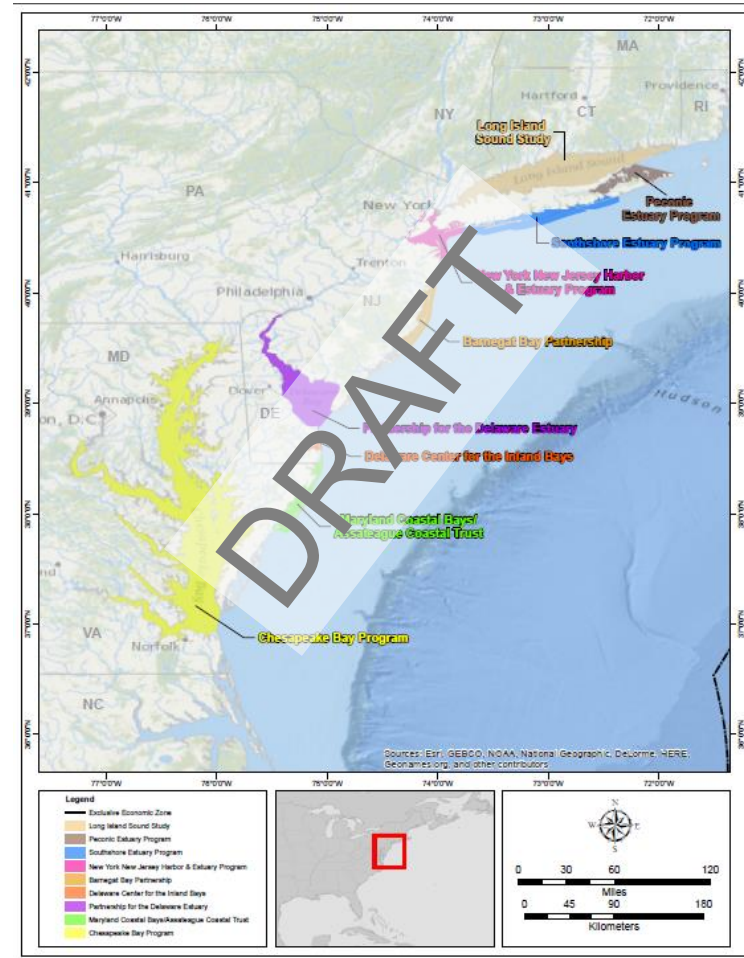
# Important considerations

- Mid Atlantic already home to:
  - Top-notch experts focused on healthy ocean ecosystems and sustainable ocean uses;
  - Ongoing processes relevant to ocean planning;
  - Organizations with stakeholder engagement capacity and robust communication channels
- Resource constraints may limit RPB-specific additional activities

# Geographic Coordination

- Ensure adequate coverage for topics and locations
- Development of tools / products to document process and results

**Note:** areas of interest represented are *DRAFT* have not yet been vetted with the stakeholder groups represented



# Ways to work with the MidA RPB

- Attend an MidA RPB meeting or listening session
- Communicate input on documents, general questions or concerns, and register for email updates ([MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov](mailto:MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov))
- Contact MidA RPB members directly
- Check the MidA RPB website  
<http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/>



# Feedback requested

Particularly for stakeholders beyond those who regularly interact with the RPB:

1. Issues of particular importance to stakeholder groups and their constituents;
2. How stakeholder groups and their constituents would like to engage with the process;
3. The types of engagement opportunities and communication different stakeholders would find most useful; and
4. Suggestions for ways the RPB could coordinate with others to ensure its goals are achieved.

# Status of the Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA): *Outline and Template for Content*



# What is an ROA?

- A Regional Ocean Assessment (ROA) is a compilation of the best available physical, biological and socio-economic information about a region of the ocean.
- Purpose of an ROA:
  - Capture and characterize the current ecological and human use state.
  - Understand the condition and use of that area to guide planning for a desired future direction.

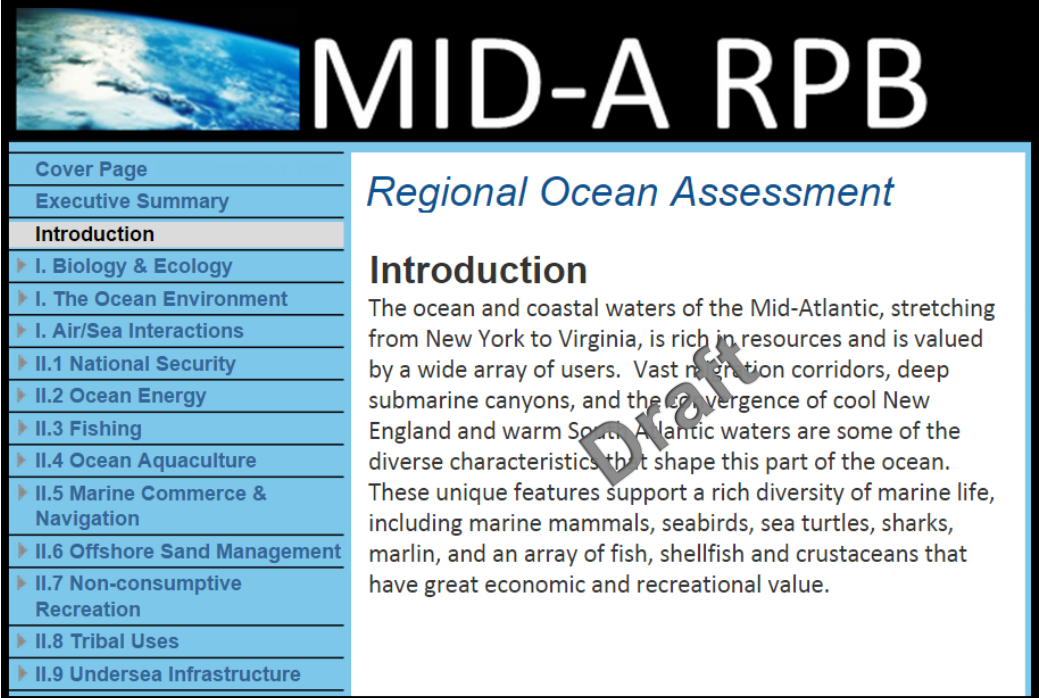


# What is the Mid-Atlantic ROA?

- The ROA is being developed to inform the RPB's Regional Ocean Action Plan.
- Built upon the RPB's Framework goals and objectives.
- Will contain existing best-available data, information, and maps about baseline conditions, resources, and uses.
- Will identify trends, data gaps, and address future uses to the extent possible.
- Envisioned as an online tool with links and other sources of information; continually updated with current information as the Regional Ocean Action Plan is developed.

# Status of the Mid-Atlantic ROA

- Currently in Phase 1 of development.
- Gathering feedback from stakeholders on the structure, topics, and proposed content of the ROA.
- Provide an outline and a template of the ROA content to be collected.



**MID-A RPB**

Cover Page
Executive Summary
<b>Introduction</b>
▶ I. Biology & Ecology
▶ I. The Ocean Environment
▶ I. Air/Sea Interactions
▶ II.1 National Security
▶ II.2 Ocean Energy
▶ II.3 Fishing
▶ II.4 Ocean Aquaculture
▶ II.5 Marine Commerce & Navigation
▶ II.6 Offshore Sand Management
▶ II.7 Non-consumptive Recreation
▶ II.8 Tribal Uses
▶ II.9 Undersea Infrastructure

*Regional Ocean Assessment*

### Introduction

The ocean and coastal waters of the Mid-Atlantic, stretching from New York to Virginia, is rich in resources and is valued by a wide array of users. Vast migration corridors, deep submarine canyons, and the convergence of cool New England and warm South Atlantic waters are some of the diverse characteristics that shape this part of the ocean. These unique features support a rich diversity of marine life, including marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, marlin, and an array of fish, shellfish and crustaceans that have great economic and recreational value.

# Proposed ROA topics

The ROA outline focuses on specific topics where there is potential overlap between marine resources, habitats, and ocean uses.

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <b>Biology &amp; Ecology</b> | • Ocean Aquaculture            |
| • <b>The Ocean Environment</b> | • Marine Commerce & Navigation |
| • <b>Air/Sea Interactions</b>  | • Offshore Sand Management     |
| • <b>National Security</b>     | • Non-Consumptive Recreation   |
| • <b>Ocean Energy</b>          | • Tribal Uses                  |
| • <b>Fishing</b>               | • Undersea Infrastructure      |

 = RPB Framework 'healthy ocean ecosystems' goal (natural resources)

 = RPB Framework 'sustainable ocean uses' goal (human uses)

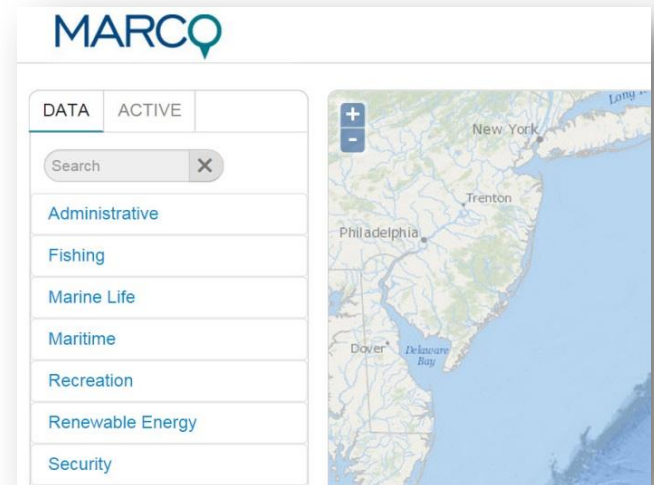
# Proposed ROA content

- We are collecting content using the following template:
  - A. Introduction
  - B. Key Issues
  - C. Economic, Social and/or Cultural Importance Considerations
  - D. Current Status and Trends/Indicators
  - E. Identification of Gaps and Ongoing Studies
  - F. Intersections with other ROA Topics
  - G. Relevant Spatial Data
  - H. References
  - I. Key Words



# Connections to online products & tools

- The *Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal* will be used to facilitate distribution and use of ROA maps and information.
- Many of the data layers already assembled on the Portal will be referenced and integrated to support the ROA.
- We aim to maximize compatibility for integration of the ROA into the Portal and many other Federal, State, Tribal, and Interagency products and tools.



# Feedback requested

- Does the outline capture the topics that need to be considered for ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic?
- Will the chosen format inform the development of a Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan? If not, would you recommend another format?
- Are there additional types of information that should be compiled for each topic?
- Would you prefer to go to a data portal, web platform, and or printed document to provide input on the ROA?
- What ideas do you have for keeping this information up-to-date?



**Formal comments  
requested by  
November 20, 2014**

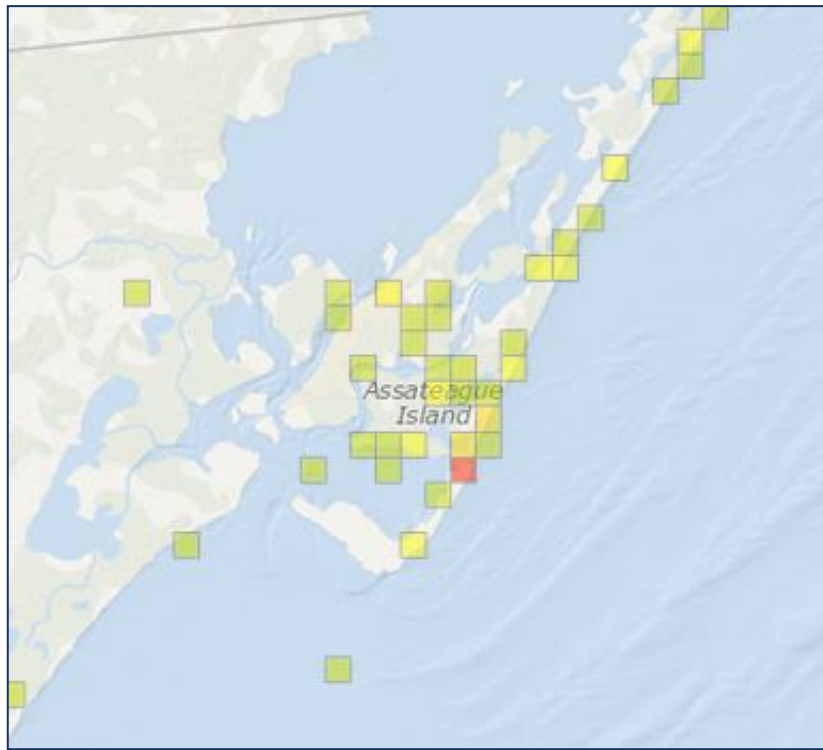
# Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Team

*Stakeholder Informed Data and Map development  
Information and Tools to Support Regional Ocean  
Assessment & Regional Ocean Planning Body Workgroups*



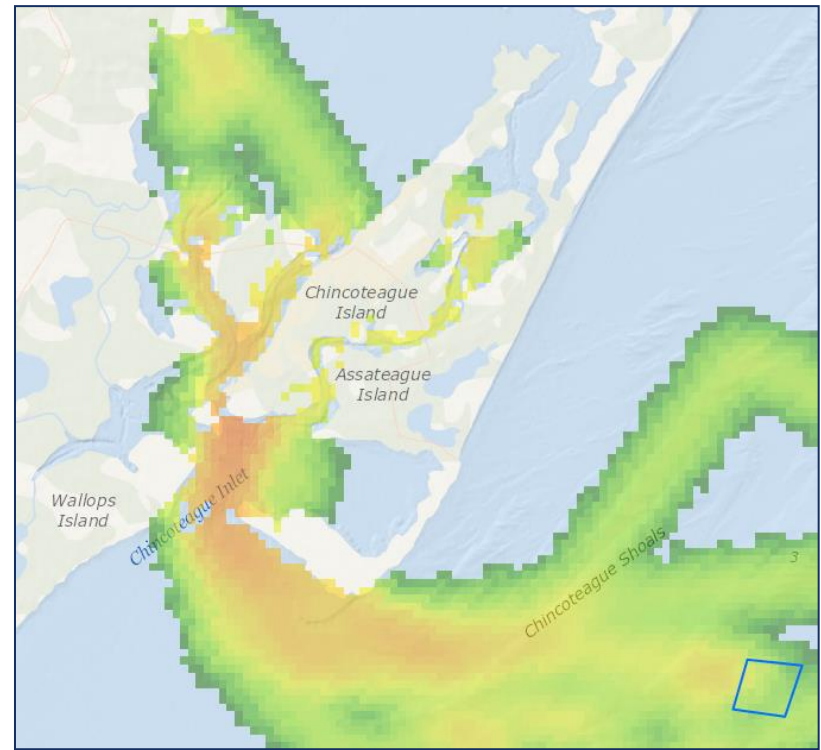
# Filling key data gaps (Recreational example)

## Coastal Recreation Survey



Wildlife Viewing (example)

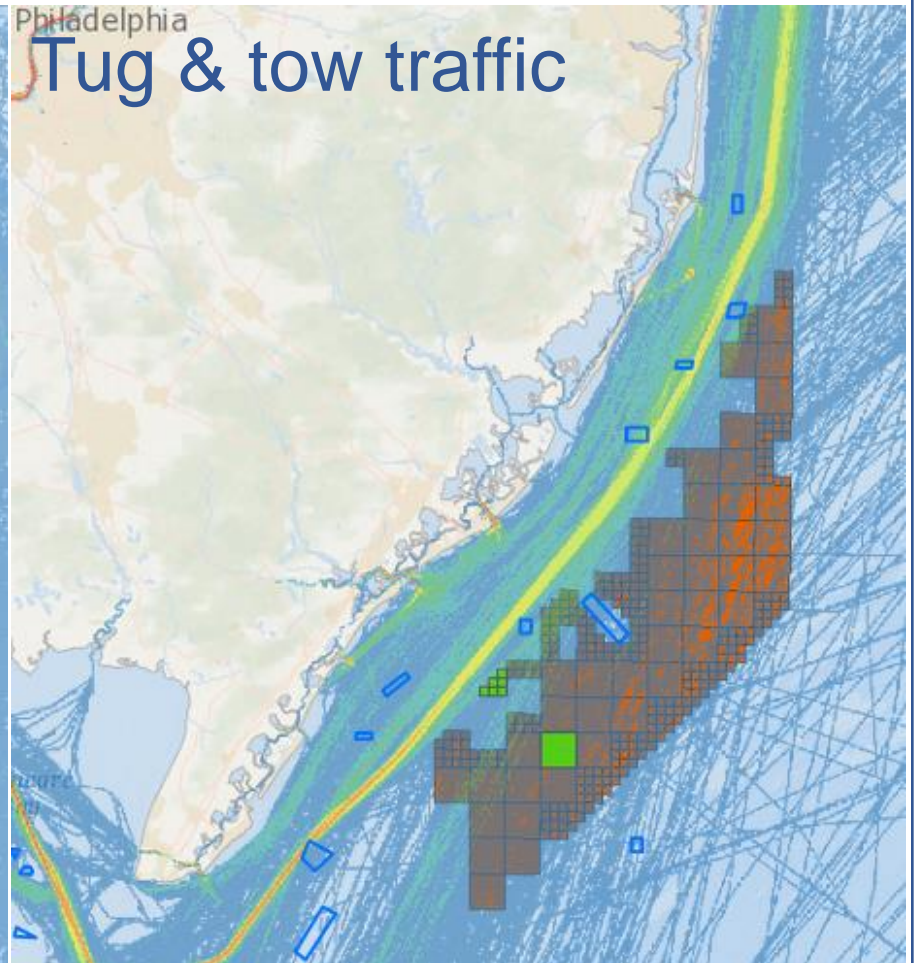
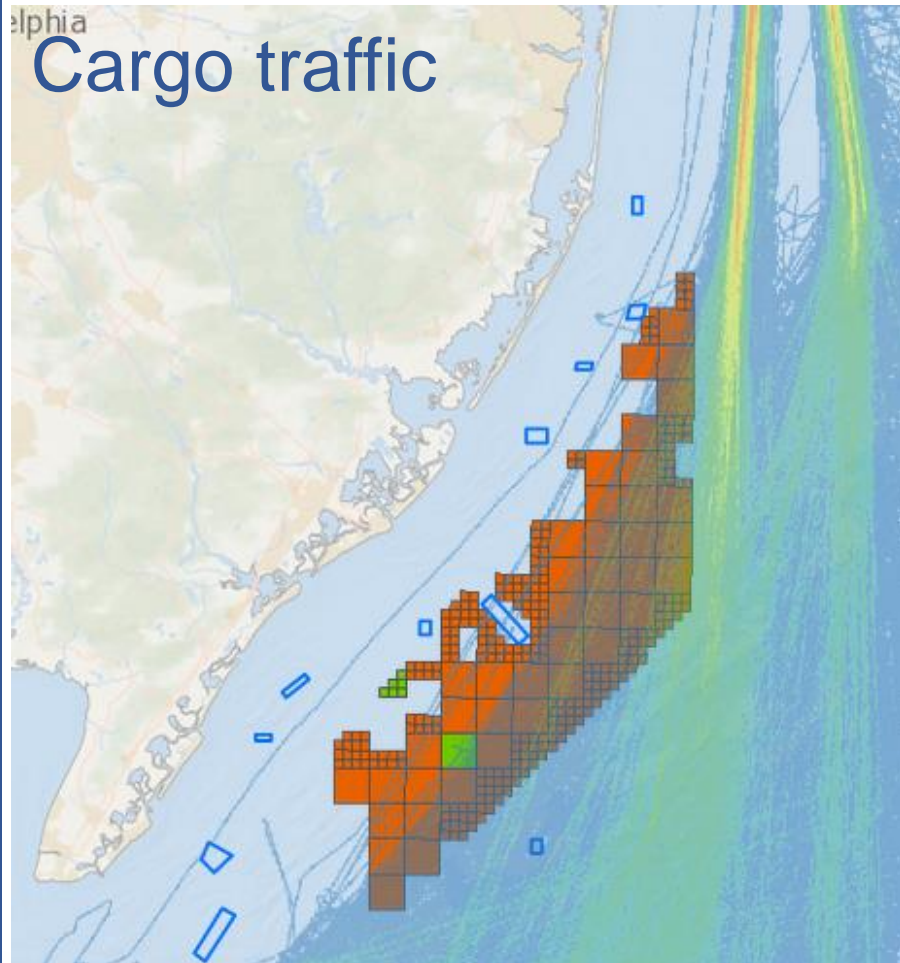
## Additional Maps In Process



Recreational Boating (example)

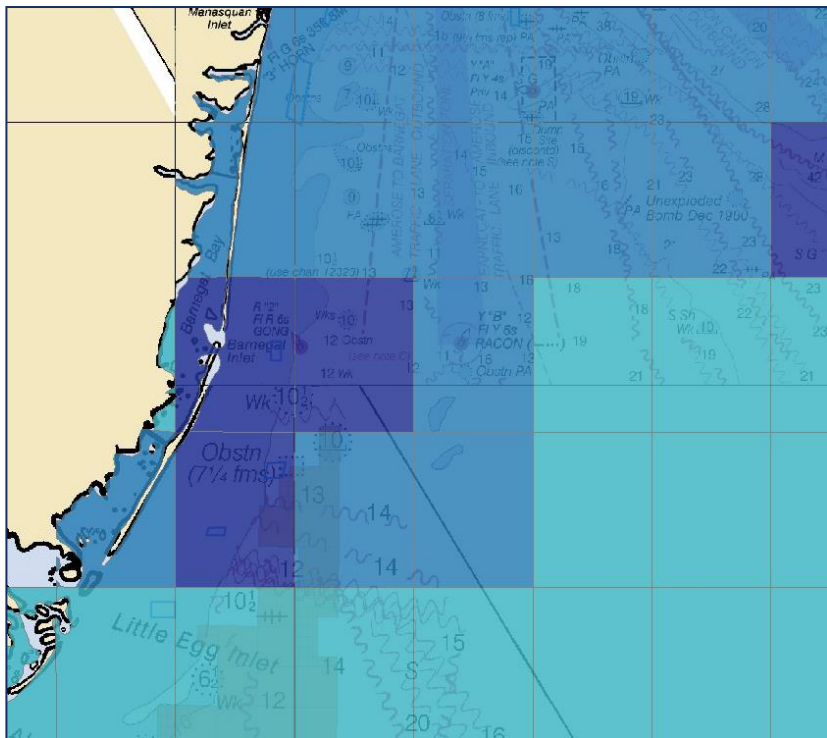


# Focus on regional priorities (Maritime transportation example)

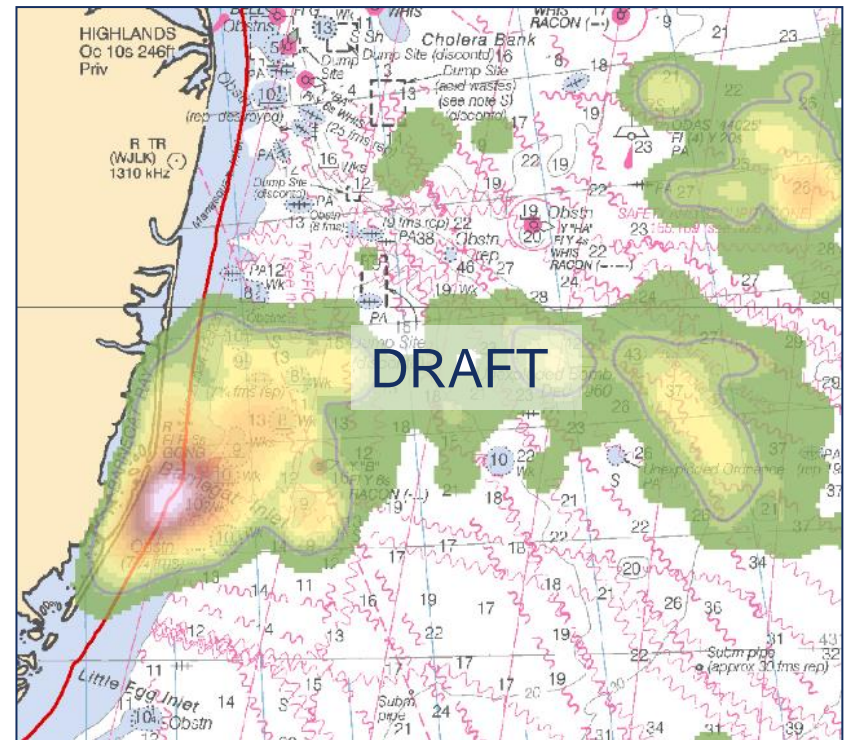


# Customize Federal data to meet regional needs

## Commercial fishing data example



Current data



Communities at Sea

DATA DESIGNS ACTIVE

Search  X

- Administrative
- Fishing
- Marine Life
- Maritime
- Recreation
- Renewable Energy
- Security

MARCO

## Portal integration with Regional Ocean Assessment



- Biology & Ecology
- The Ocean Environment
- Air/Sea Interactions
- National Security
- Ocean Energy
- Fishing
- Ocean Aquaculture
- Marine Commerce & Navigation
- Offshore Sand Management
- Non-Consumptive Recreation
- Tribal Uses
- Undersea Infrastructure



- Create and Save Map Bookmarks
- Use Draw Feature to Create Map Shapes
- Share Maps
- Join Map Groups
- Contribute Your Ideas and Stories
- Please Register!

MARCO MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL MARINE PLANNER DATA & STORIES

## Ocean stories

View as: [List Icon] [Grid Icon] Filter by

**03** Short title of ocean story goes here.

Short description of this story—enough to entice the viewer to click and read the story. Data layers shown here include layer 1, layer 2, layer 3, and layer 4.

**03** This is an invitation to speak up about ocean planning.

Short description of this story—enough to entice the viewer to click and read the story. Data layers shown here include layer 1, layer 2, layer 3, and layer 4.

**02**

Short description of this story—enough to entice the viewer to click and read the story. Data layers shown here include layer 1, layer 2, layer 3, and layer 4.

MARCO MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL MARINE PLANNER DATA & STORIES GET INVOLVED

## Join a map group

View as: [List Icon] [Grid Icon] Filter by

Groups are an opportunity to share information and resources with like-minded ocean users. You can browse groups here and request to join groups that are open to the public. Don't see the group you are looking for? [Create your own group](#) — anyone can start a group.

**FEATURED GROUPS**

**JOIN** Group name one

Short description of this group—enough to entice the viewer to click and learn more.

**JOIN** Group name one

Short description of this group—enough to entice the viewer to click and learn more.

**JOIN** Group

Short description of this group—enough to entice the viewer to click and learn more.

# Questions and Comments

- Please share any comments or input you have on any of the RPB documents at this time
- Comment will go until 7:45





# Thank you!

<http://www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body/>

[MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov](mailto:MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov)

