

Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

MidA RPB Co-Leads

Gerrod Smith, Shinnecock Indian Nation

Gwynne Schultz, State of Maryland

Maureen A. Bornholdt, Department of the Interior

Opportunities and Challenges

- 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:
 - Existing users have strong interests (fishing, recreation, etc.)
 - Expansion of commercial shipping
 - Nationally-important military bases
 - Marine resources under stress, exacerbated by warming waters
 - Renewable energy proposals (offshore wind)
 - Many more...

Mid-Atlantic RPB Purpose

- Coordinate among State, Federal, Tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives to:
 - Plan for new and expanding uses in the Mid-Atlantic ocean
 - Make better, more informed decisions about the use of ocean space
 - 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
 - Provide ocean stewardship

Important Considerations

- The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body will coordinate with stakeholders, scientific, business, and technical experts, and members of the public to identify and address ocean and coastal issues of importance to the region.
- The RPB will not supersede existing authorities; it will operate within the boundaries of its members' responsibilities.

MidA RPB Activities to Date

- Since its establishment in April 2013:
 - Members have been working in informal workgroups to develop initial ideas on:
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Regional Ocean Planning Goals and Geographic Focus
 - Data and Information
 - Operational and Administrative Procedures
 - Established a webpage on www.boem.gov and email address (MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov) to communicate with stakeholders
 - Conducted a webinar on August 1 to update stakeholders on progress and provide an opportunity for public input
 - Holding this inaugural in-person September meeting and shared initial draft materials for public review

Proposed 5-Year Timeline

- Mid-Atlantic RPB regional ocean planning draft five-year 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

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Inaugural Regional
Planning Body (RPB)
Meeting

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

- Established in 2009 by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia to work on shared regional ocean issues that benefit from interstate collaboration and coordinated problem solving.
- This regional ocean partnership:
 - Provides a valuable forum to pursue mutual goals shared by the Mid-Atlantic states;
 - Improves responses to ocean management challenges and opportunities; and
 - Collaborates with agencies, key partners, and stakeholder groups to jointly address the region's needs.

MARCO and the MidA RPB: Regional Collaboration

Together, MARCO and the MidA RPB can promote greater, more effective governmental and private investment, and generate more attention on priority Mid-Atlantic issues.

MARCO offers the following products to the MidA RPB to advance ocean planning:



Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal



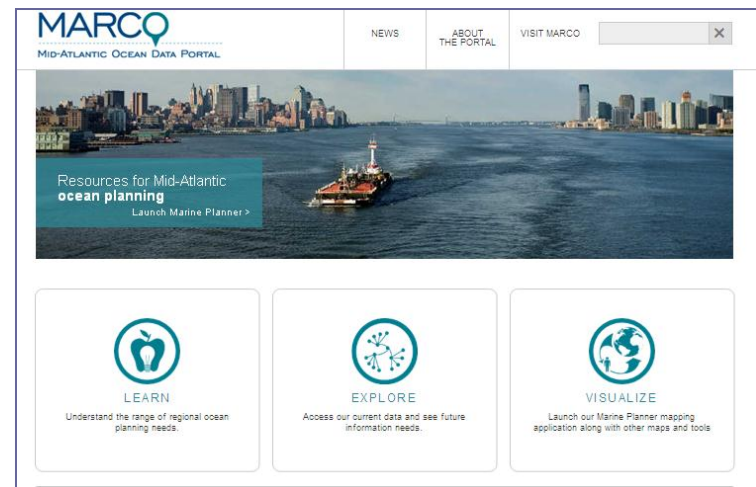
Stakeholder Engagement



Preliminary Regional Ocean Assessment

MARCO and the MidA RPB: MARCO Ocean Data Portal

- The MidA RPB will need relevant and credible data and maps to undertake regional ocean planning.
- To accomplish this objective, MARCO offers the Portal for use. To the extent practicable, MARCO will work to:
 - Ensure data quality criteria are developed and adhered to,
 - Add additional data relevant for regional ocean planning, and
 - Make the Portal and associated visualization tools available to stakeholders.



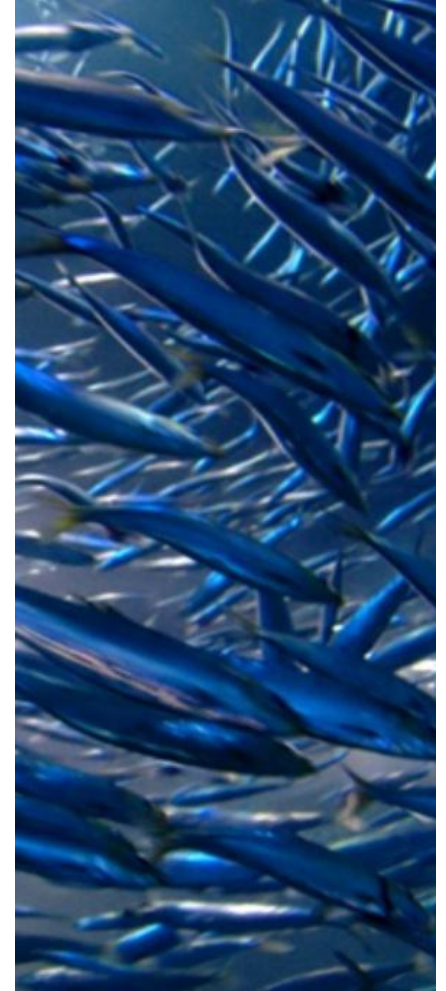
MARCO and the MidA RPB: Stakeholder Engagement

- MARCO has engaged stakeholders to help inform its activities and support regional ocean planning.
- MARCO will assist with stakeholder engagement activities and help to create a strong communication network.
- Insights and information gained will be shared with the MidA RPB on a regular basis



MARCO and the MidA RPB: Regional Ocean Assessment

- An assessment would use maps and information to describe the ocean environment and human activities.
- It should leverage work by states, federal agencies and the MidA RPB.
- An assessment should be coordinated with and use spatial data and information from the Portal.
- Regional partners will work collectively to *initiate work on a preliminary Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Assessment* (or components of one).



Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

**Inaugural Regional
Planning Body (RPB)
Meeting**

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



Developing Regional Ocean Planning Goals

Regional Ocean Planning Goals and
Geographic Focus Work Group

Douglas Pabst, EPA Region 2
Presenter

Planning Terminology

- ***Vision*** – A desired future state.
- ***Goal*** – A goal is a statement of general direction or intent. They are high-level statements of the desired outcome that you hope to achieve.
- ***Principle*** -- A principle is a basic or essential quality or element determining the intrinsic nature or characteristic behavior of regional ocean planning.
- ***Objective*** -- An objective is a statement of desired outcomes or observable behavioral change that represent the achievement of a goal.

Possible Next Steps

- A **vision** for the Mid-Atlantic region's relationship with the ocean into the future;
- Regional ocean planning **goals** that are high-level, substantive and clear;
- A set of **principles** for achieving the goals (e.g., enhance government coordination and efficiency; use the best available data and information); and
- Specific **objectives and actions** for achieving goals and principles.

Questions for Later Discussion

- *Does the RPB wish to articulate a high-level vision for the future that the RPB is hoping to achieve through regional ocean planning?*
- *If so, does the RPB want to commit to crafting a vision statement as a next step?*

Thoughts about MidA RPB Goals

- Identify initial draft goals that:
 - Benefit the entire region (not just specific geographic areas or sectors).
 - Consider the values of both existing and proposed uses of the ocean.
 - Are potentially achievable through this process.
 - Maximize compatibility and minimize conflicts.

Stakeholder Input on Goals

- At an April 2013 MARCO Meeting we heard:
 - Improve government efficiency and function
 - Improve stakeholder engagement/involvement
 - Maintain access for fishermen and recreational users
 - Protect ecosystem health
 - Resolve ocean space use/conflicts
 - Improve shipping efficiency and navigation
 - Facilitate responsible offshore energy development
 - Military readiness
 - Adapting to changing conditions
 - Scientific basis for ocean planning
 - Establish metrics of success

National Goals for Ocean Planning

- Support sustainable, safe, secure, efficient, and productive uses of the ocean, our coasts . . .
- Protect, maintain, and restore the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources . . .
- Provide for and maintain public access . . .
- Promote compatibility among uses and reduce user conflicts and environmental impacts
- Improve the rigor, coherence, and consistency of decision-making and regulatory processes
- Increase certainty and predictability in planning for and implementing new investments . . .
- Enhance interagency, intergovernmental, and international communication and collaboration

Initial Draft MidA RPB Goals

- Facilitate responsible renewable energy development.
- Protect habitats and ecosystem functionality.
- Ensure access for existing and traditional uses (e.g., fishing, recreation).
- Ensure sufficient access to ports.
- Retain areas for military testing, training and operations.

A goal is a statement of general direction or intent. They are high-level statements of the desired outcome that you hope to achieve.

Questions for Later Discussion

- *Looking at the definitions offered for planning terminology and the list of “initial draft goals”, is the RPB comfortable with regional ocean planning goals at this scale and level of detail?*
- *Do any of the “initial draft goals” need to be modified? If so, how?*

Hazard Resilience

- Mid-Atlantic region is acutely aware of the need to increase our resilience to coastal hazards, including climate change.
- Climate change will affect how all government entities implement their responsibilities. We will need to work across all levels of government to increase our resiliency.

MidA RPB Draft Principles

- Increase government coordination and efficiency
- Improve stakeholder engagement
- Provide for past, current and future ocean uses
- Use best existing and new ocean data to provide shared scientific foundation for ocean planning and improve decision-making.

A principle is a basic or essential quality or element determining the intrinsic nature of characteristic behavior of regional ocean planning.

Questions for Later Discussion

- *Do any of the draft principles need to be modified?*
 - *If so, how?*

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

**Inaugural Regional
Planning Body (RPB)
Meeting**

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



Developing a Geographic Focus

Regional Ocean Planning Goals and
Geographic Focus Work Group

Doug Pabst, EPA Region 2
Presenter

Scope of the Mid-Atlantic Region?

- Generally defined in the Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force
 - From North to South: States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.
 - From West to East: The ocean waters from the edge of land to the edge of the Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nautical miles), where the United States' jurisdiction ends.

Initial Considerations for Geographic Focus

- Recognize resource constraints (e.g., staff, funding, time)
- Focus on area(s) that would benefit the most from new inter-governmental ocean planning efforts
- Ensure coordination with areas outside the focus area
- Recognize ecological integrity
- Be consistent with jurisdictional boundaries
- Leverage and build on existing planning efforts
- Identify a manageable size area and level of complexity

Initial Draft Geographic Focus Area

- **Include State and Federal waters** out to the Exclusive Economic Zone
- Do **not include nearshore estuarine areas** (e.g., large bays.)
- Extend from the **Virginia/North Carolina border** in the south to the **New York/Connecticut/Rhode Island border** in the north.
- Do **not include terrestrial (land) areas**, even though we recognize that activities there influence the coastal and ocean environment.

Questions for Discussion

- *Do you agree with the initial geographic focus described above? If not, please explain how you would modify the geographic focus and why?*
- *Are there additional considerations we should use in developing geographic focus?*

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Inaugural Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



RPB Stakeholder Engagement: Current mechanisms and options for the future

RPB Stakeholder Engagement Work Group

Tom Bigford, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Sarah Cooksey, Delaware Coastal Programs

Current Work

- Tools/mechanisms for information exchange
 - Website, email, contact database, announcements
- Stakeholder input opportunities
 - April 2013 MidA Regional Ocean Planning Workshop (hosted by MARCO)
 - August 2013 RPB Webinar
 - September 2013 Inaugural RPB Meeting
 - Posted materials on website for review
 - Public comment opportunities during and after meeting

Short-term Goals:

- Improve capacity for communication between RPB and stakeholders
 - Improve distribution list to include sectors
 - Allow RPB to formalize participating sectors
 - Allow RPB to address gaps in participating sectors, geographies, leaders
 - Encourage and empower stakeholders to self-organize
 - Make participant lists available
 - Provide opportunities for discussion at RPB events
 - Ask stakeholders

Short-term Goals:

- ★ Develop effective processes to bring stakeholder input into RPB discussions
 - Options:
 - Surveys
 - Review of letters and position papers
 - Facilitate public review of RPB documents/materials
 - Public listening sessions (given resources)
 - State-led Stakeholder Liaison Committee
 - Other Ideas?

Short-term Goals:

- ★ Develop effective processes to bring stakeholder input into RPB discussions
 - Options:
 - Surveys
 - Review of letters and position papers
 - Facilitate public review of RPB documents/materials
 - Public listening sessions (given resources)
 - State-led Stakeholder Liaison Committee
 - Other Ideas?

Short-term Goals:

- ★ State-led Stakeholder Liaison Committee
 - MARCO would:
 - Identify liaisons to represent sectors (e.g. ports, fishing)
 - Establish a standing committee of those liaisons
 - Convene/communicate with liaisons (pending resources)
 - Collect consolidated input from liaisons and provide relevant information to the RPB
 - Liaisons would:
 - Communicate with a range of sectoral interests
 - Provide input on issues relevant to Mid Atlantic ocean planning efforts

Short-term Goals:

- ★ State-led Stakeholder Liaison Committee
 - Benefits of this approach:
 - Can be established quickly
 - Doesn't preclude individual participation in public meetings
 - Encourage cross-sectors dialogue to identify shared interests and opportunities
 - Provides an organized approach to gathering diverse stakeholder input

Short-term Goals:

- ★ State-led Stakeholder Liaison Committee
 - Challenges of this approach:
 - MARCO would serve as the intermediary between stakeholders and the MidA RPB
 - Relies on sector liaison being willing to take on leadership role
 - MARCO resource constraints will limit level of effort that can be invested in the Liaison Committee
 - Relationships/use with this Committee may also raise FACA issue

Short-term Goals:

- ★ Does the RPB want to move forward with a Stakeholder Liaison Committee?
- ★ Ideas for how the process could be structured in a way that doesn't invoke FACA?

Long-term Aspirations:

- ★ Identify and utilize self-sufficient web-based tools
- ★ Ensure that integration of stakeholder engagement continues with RPB evolution
- ★ Consider the development of a formal FACA in the future to replace/compliment Stakeholder Liaison
- ★ Committee proposed by MARCO if resources are available
 - Other ideas?

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Inaugural Regional
Planning Body (RPB)
Meeting

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



Ocean Planning: Importance of Data

Data and Information Work Group

Laura McKay, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality,
Presenter



Resources for Mid-Atlantic
ocean planning

[Launch Marine Planner >](#)



LEARN

Understand the range of regional ocean planning needs.



EXPLORE

Access our current data and see future information needs.



VISUALIZE

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

Teach Us About Your Ocean: We Are Listening

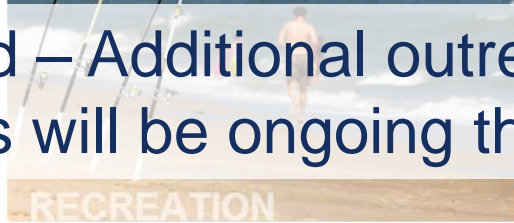
Participatory mapping workshops for recreational ocean users in each state; additional outreach planned this year & next.

Meetings with 4 major Port Authorities, Sept./Oct 2013

Meetings with commercial fishing interests in key Mid-Atlantic port communities planned for late 2013.

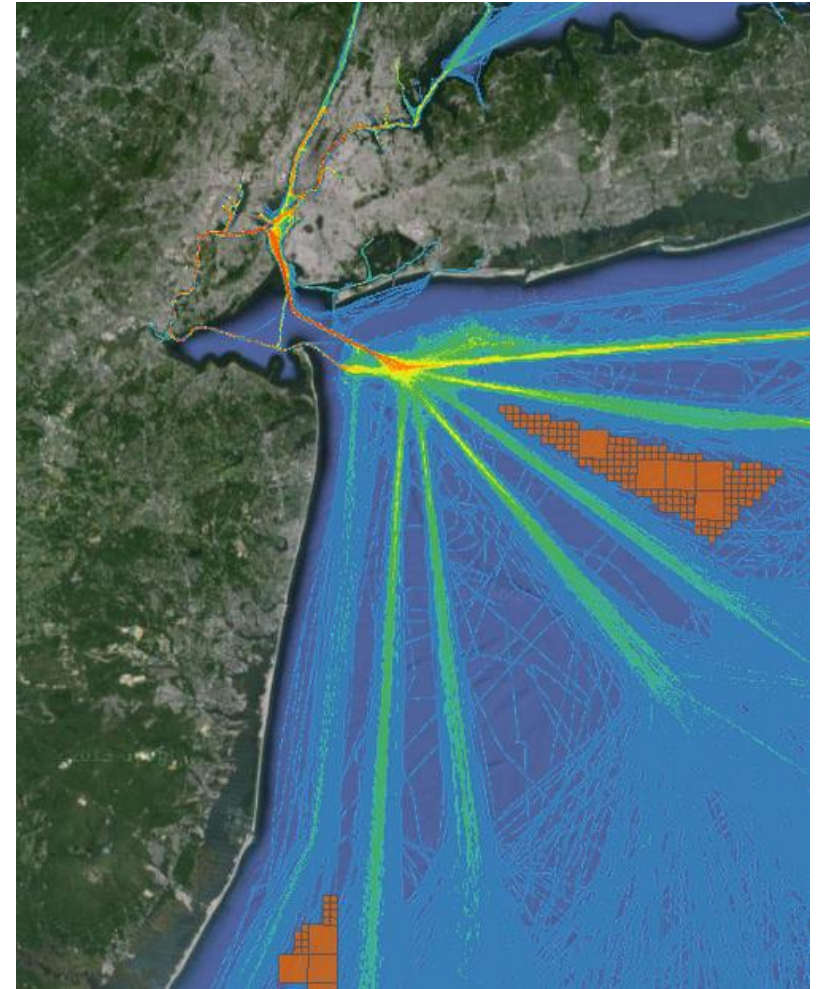
Webinars for environmental interests & wind energy developers held 2012 & 2013

We are just getting started – Additional outreach for these groups and several others will be ongoing through 2014!



Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Update: Data Development Highlights

- 2011 Ship traffic data (AIS) now with separate layers:
 - Cargo
 - Tanker
 - Tug & Tow
 - Passenger
 - Combined
- Data analysis & cartography by USCG, NOAA and Monmouth Team

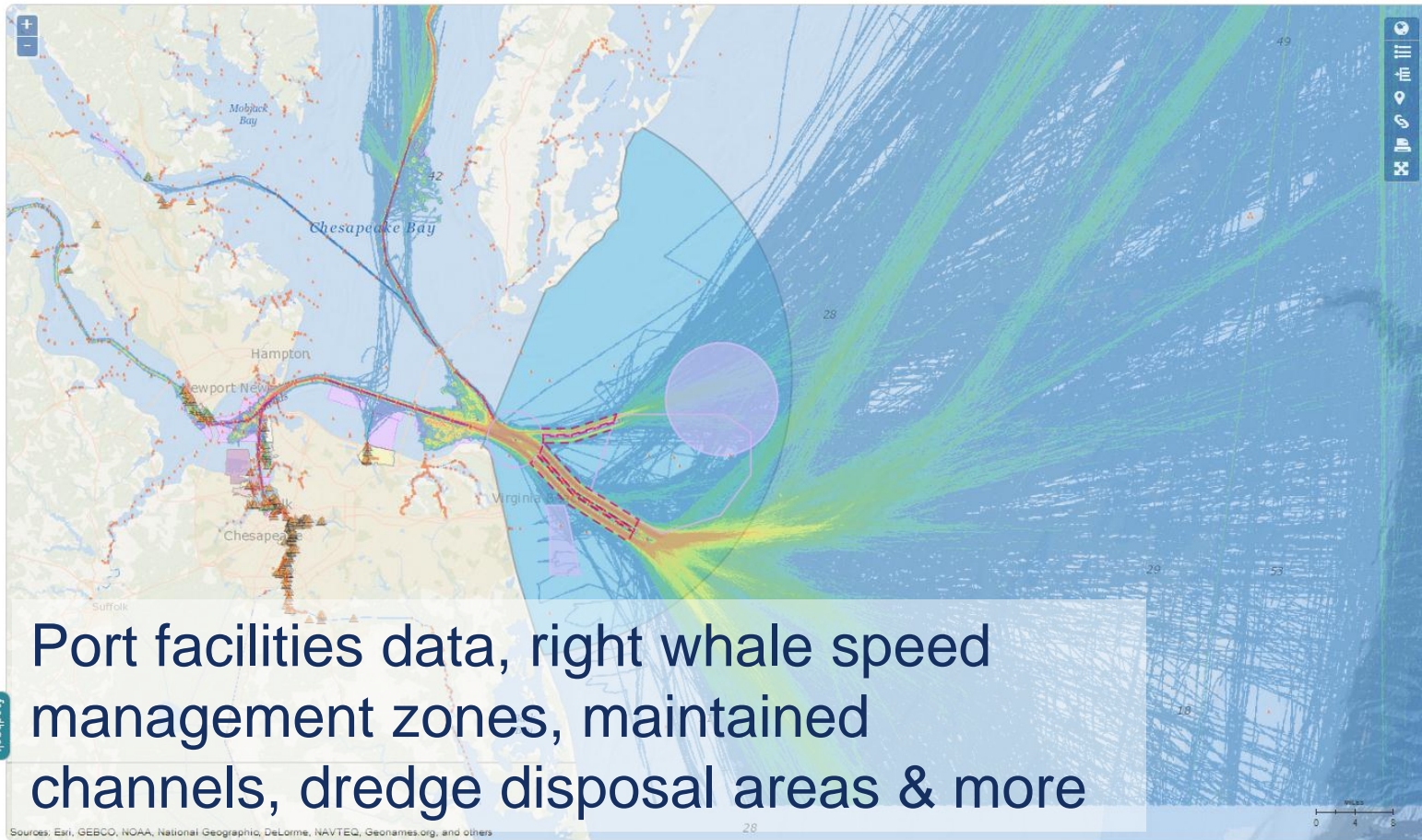


Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Update: Data Development Highlights

- Recreational use data: participatory workshops + two online surveys
- Commercial fishing data: Analysis in preparation for fall/winter workshops
- Compiling data on offshore discharge sites and sand resources
- Working with telecommunications industry on new cable layer



Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Update: Ports & Shipping Data Group



LEGENDS (9)

Aids to Navigation

- Aids to Navigation

Port Ownership (Points)

- Public
- Private
- Military

Port Commodity

- Not Applicable
- Coal, Lignite, and Coal Coke
- Petroleum and petroleum products
- Chemicals and related products
- Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
- Primary manufactured goods
- Food and farm products
- All manufactured equipment and machinery
- Waste material
- Multi-commodities
- Unknown or not listed

Routing Measures

- Precautionary Area
- Separation Zone
- Shipping Safety Fairway
- Traffic Lane

Offshore Dredge Disposal

- Dredge Disposal Offshore Locations

Maintained Channels

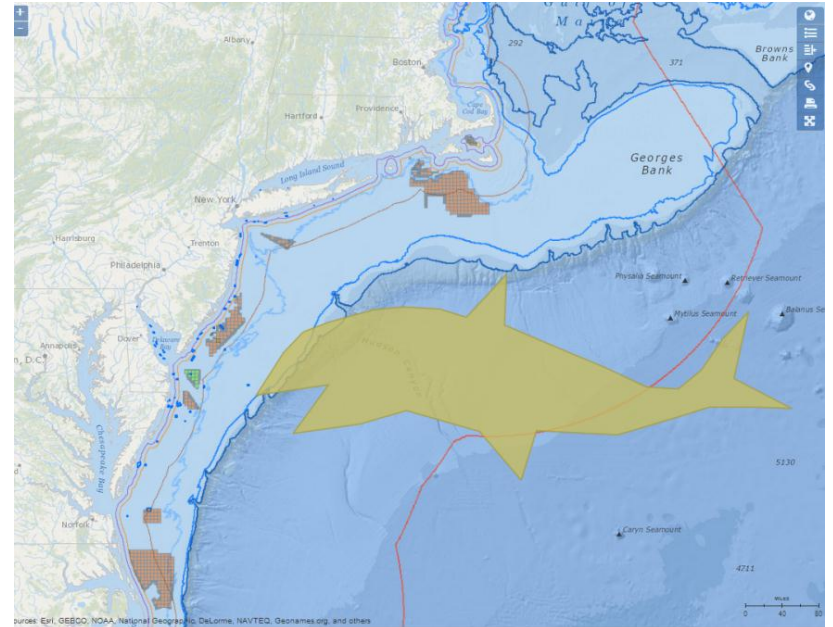
- Less than 35 ft
- 35 - 45 ft
- More than 45 ft

Cargo Vessels

- | Color | km of tracks per cell |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Dark Blue | 0.01 - 0.5 |
| Light Blue | 0.6 - 1 |
| Green | 1.1 - 2 |
| Yellow-Green | 2.1 - 3 |
| Yellow | 3.1 - 4 |
| Orange | 4.1 - 6 |
| Red | 6.1 - 8 |

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Update: Feature Development Highlights

- Drawing feature allows registered users to create their own map shapes.
 - Participatory mapping to fill Portal data gaps
 - Annotate or improve existing map data
 - Describe or comment on proposals
- A new feature in development will allow stakeholders and managers to share custom map views with their groups.



Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal: Next NOAA Grant Supporting Portal Development

- Continue data improvement for commercial and recreational fishing and other human uses with NE Region
- Enhance reporting and analysis features
- Provide training and assistance to stakeholders and managers
- Launch Regional Ocean Assessment
- Support MARCO/RPB stakeholder engagement efforts



Regional Ocean Assessment: National Guidance

- Baseline conditions:
 - Geophysical
 - Biological
 - Human uses & Economics
 - History and Culture
- Analysis options could include forecasts and models for cumulative impacts, indexes and measures of success
- Other elements?

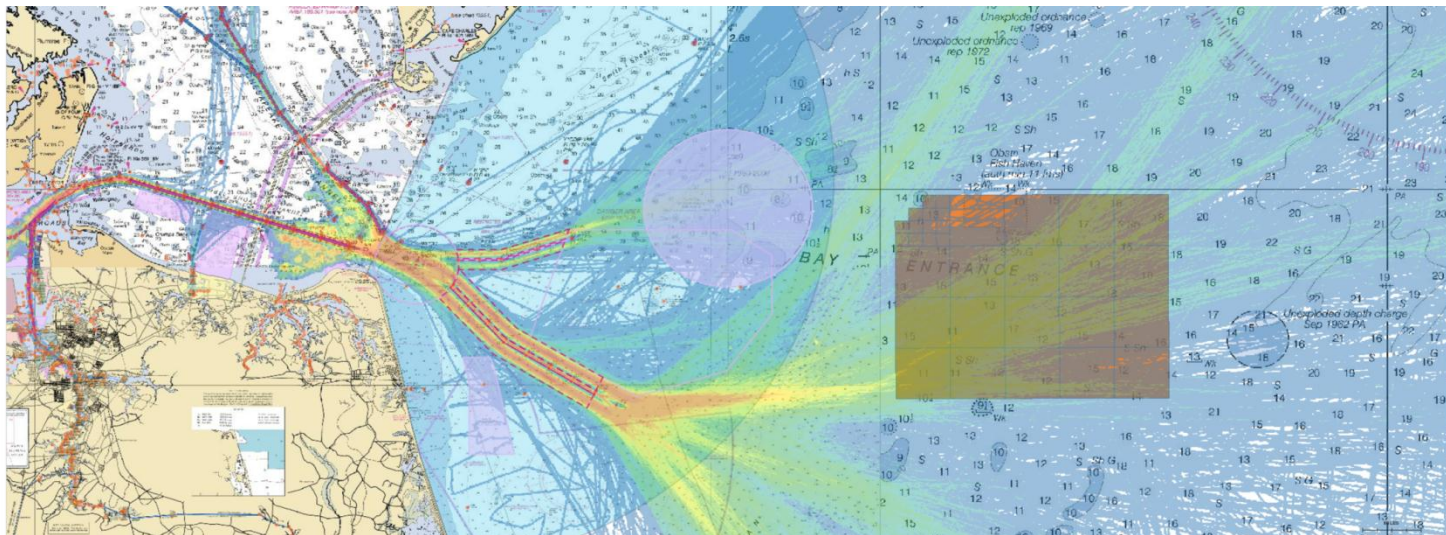


Regional Ocean Assessment: New NOAA Grant to Monmouth Team

- RFP (\$75K) under development. Proposals may include:
 - Key ROA elements and timeline
 - Identify partners (industry, academia, government, NGO) and additional resources
 - Coordination with related projects to increase efficiency and avoid duplication
 - Assess data gaps, including ecological and economic condition measures
 - Deliverables beyond “a plan for a plan” – substantive progress on one or more ROA components.

Questions for Discussion

- How does the RPB hope to use the MARCO Portal?
- What would the RPB like to see covered in a Regional Ocean Assessment?



Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Inaugural Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



Possible pieces of a vision statement

(based on discussions day 1)

1 page maximum, focus on a vision for 2025:

- Ocean ecosystems are healthy and able to support vibrant and resilient coastal and ocean economies.
- Compatibilities among current and emerging uses are maximized and conflicts minimized.
- Public resources are leveraged across jurisdictions and used efficiently and effectively.
- States, federal agencies, and tribes make good decisions efficiently and in a coordinated manner under their existing authorities.
- Stakeholders are engaged in management decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods.
- Data is high quality and coordinated and used to inform decisions.

Key lenses we heard

- Focus on shared interests and RPB value add
- High-level goals, details about specific sectors in objectives.
- Achievable and measurable.

What we heard about draft goals with some possible example objectives (based on discussions day 1)

- Take advantage of traditional and new economic opportunities. Range of views about ocean energy. “Responsible” key concept.
- Protect, restore, improve ecosystem health.
- Resiliency and changing climate (including offshore sand). Question for discussion: How does the RPB wish to account for this in the framework?

Possible revised goals with some possible example objectives (based on discussions day 1)

(1) Stewardship, protect and restore ecosystem health and functionality, account for key habitat.

- Possible objectives: account for ecosystem value of the canyons, migratory corridors, wildlife, climate change.

(2) Take advantage of traditional and new economic opportunities to create jobs in a way that is responsible and accounts for future generations

- Possible objectives: efficient and safe port access, facilitate responsible offshore wind development, ensure access to key fishing grounds, retain areas for military testing, training, and operations.

Geographic focus for now

(based on discussions day 1)

- Primary focus: state and federal waters to edge of EEZ; not include estuaries, bays, and terrestrial land; north and south borders at state lines.
- Key connections to make when needed and practical: estuaries, coast, terrestrial land.
- Iterative and may adjust with development of goals and evolving circumstances.

Timeline for Goals

(based on discussions day 1)

- Prepare for public review: draft vision, draft goals, example objectives and actions by January 2014. (product: one document)
- Robust public input and targeted stakeholder engagement about these ideas in January – March 2014.
- Revised suite of ideas for RPB review at a second RPB meeting in April 2014.
- Aim to finalize the vision and goals at the RPB meeting in April, and continue developing detailed objectives and actions as part of a draft workplan (seeking additional stakeholder input along the way) through the summer 2014.
- Draft workplan for RPB review at a third RPB meeting) in September 2014.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning:

Inaugural Regional Planning Body (RPB) Meeting

September 24-25, 2013

Wilson Hall Auditorium
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ



Draft Regional Planning Body Charter Development

Administrative / Operational
Procedures Work Group

Joe Atangan, Joint Chiefs of Staff,
Presenter

Charter Vision

- High level, streamlined document
- Identifies membership and shared commitments
- Identifies mission and scope
- Provides flexibility

Approach

- Blends Northeast RPB Charter and Model Charter from the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan
- Initial review of Draft Charter by Working group
- Additional RPB guidance required on some areas
- Inputs welcome
- Final Draft for RPB approval – November 2013

Discussion: Mission

- Mission statement
 - “...to implement and advance spatial planning in the region” or
 - “...to coordinate with stakeholders, scientific, business, and technical experts, and members of the public to identify and address issues of importance to the region” or
 - “...to implement and advance marine spatial planning in the region by coordinating with stakeholders, scientific, business, and technical experts, and members of the public to identify and address issues of importance to the region”

Discussion: Commitments

- Commit to participating in Mid-Atlantic regional marine planning to the extent practicable and consistent with their existing authorities
- Agree to participate in the development of a process to create and implement regional marine planning products and build a framework for improved coordination and decision making
- Build partnerships that encourage sharing of information and best practices, help foster mutually agreed upon goals and objectives, and make more effective use of scarce resources by focusing those resources on the highest regional priorities and reducing duplication of effort
- Charter reflects an agreement for planning and coordination purposes and is not binding on the members
- Commitments not enforceable and do not create financial or legal obligations or affect existing rights beyond those created by existing statute or regulation

Discussion: Exec Secretariat

- Co-leads
 - Independently elected
 - Two-year terms?
 - Consecutive terms?
 - Staggered rotation for continuity?
- Federal Lead Agency responsibilities
 - Provides “staffing and resources necessary to administer its role, to the extent resources allow”
 - Charter cannot authorize or obligate members to expend funds

Expected Appendices to Charter

- Operations and Procedures
- Decision Making and Dispute Resolution

Next steps....

- Consolidate comments received from public and Members – 15 Oct
- Provide Final Draft for review – 1 Nov
- Distribute for signatures – 15 Nov