



MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING



FISHERIES

With competing demands for ocean use at an all-time high, commercial and recreational fishers need a voice in ocean planning now more than ever to protect their livelihoods and share in our oceans.

Commercial and recreational fishing, offshore alternative energy, ports, commercial shipping, recreational boating, and conservation interests are just a few of the demands that must be addressed in regional ocean planning today.

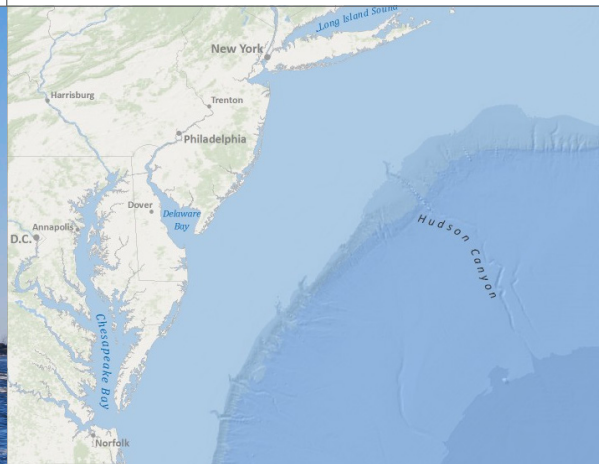
We need accurate data and information of where, when, and how stakeholders use the ocean to inform priorities for regional ocean planning and to provide ocean managers with the best decision support tools for maintaining and improving the health of the ocean, coastal resources, and coastal economies.

MARCO and the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is committed to providing the tools and resources necessary for an accessible, scientifically-informed and adaptive approach to ocean management.

The MARCO Portal, an online toolkit and resource center, consolidates available data and enables stakeholders to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites.

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.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Earnings from the 2009 Mid-Atlantic catch topped \$300 million (National Ocean Economic Project 2009).
- Dynamic and variable environments in the region host deep sea corals, rare sponges, and anemones that form food sources for lobsters, crabs, flounders, hakes, skates, monkfish, tilefish, whales, and seabirds.
- Mid-Atlantic commercial fisheries employed 125,000 people in 2009 (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2012).

ABOUT MARCO

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is a collaboration among the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia working to ensure ocean health and a robust coastal economy. Learn more at www.midatlanticocean.org.

ABOUT THE PORTAL

The MARCO Portal is an online toolkit and resource center to engage stakeholders in ocean planning in the five-state Mid-Atlantic region. Learn more at www.portal.midatlanticocean.org.

“The Mid-Atlantic region supports a highly diverse array of commercial and recreational fishing activity, and other human uses. The MARCO Portal is an ideal tool to facilitate the important planning discussions associated with ocean uses and development within the region.” *Rick Robins, Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council*



Healthy ocean habitats = productive fisheries

Fishing and related industries represent approximately \$300 million a year and thousands of jobs to Mid-Atlantic economy (National Ocean Economic Project 2009). Healthy, productive habitats and rich species diversity are essential for maintaining healthy and highly productive fishing areas.

The Mid-Atlantic is host to a number of dynamic marine ecosystems and home to a variety of species including mackerel, tilefish, monkfish, flounder, bluefish, surf clams and quahog, among others (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2012).

Your voice matters

In order to identify and protect fishing areas and important offshore habitats that are important to commercial and recreational fishing and to ensure viable fishing corridors, we need input from commercial fishermen and other stakeholders like you.

Whether reviewing existing information or contributing new data to fill critical gaps, your participation in the MARCO Portal project will help set the stage for future management decisions that balance diverse goals and provide lasting benefits for our region.

Through interactive meetings, web forums, and one-on-one communications from various stakeholder groups over the next several months, you can join us in developing the Portal and successful ocean planning in our region.

By engaging with the Portal project, you will:

- Vet our existing data and information to ensure accuracy and relevance
- Fill data gaps, through contributions of local and scientific knowledge
- Learn how to use the digital visualization tool and improve its usability
- Build inclusive and comprehensive ocean management criteria

To participate in the Portal Project, contact:

Tony MacDonald, Director, Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute
amacdona@monmouth.edu; 732-263-5392

For more information on MARCO and regional ocean planning, contact:

Laura McKay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Manager
laura.mckay@deq.virginia.gov; 804-698-4323

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute, Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School and Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, The Nature Conservancy, The University of Delaware's Gerald J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, and Ecotrust. The Project Team collaborates closely with a Steering Committee, which includes MARCO representatives from the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, as well as federal agency representatives.

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WHO WE ARE: The MARCO Portal Project team is represented by Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute, Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School and Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, The Nature Conservancy, The University of Delaware's Gerald J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, and Ecotrust.