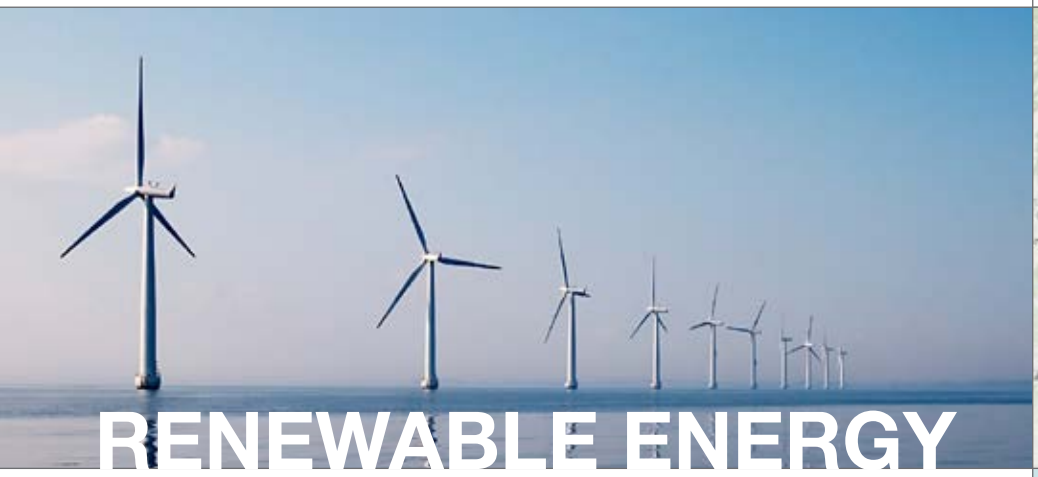
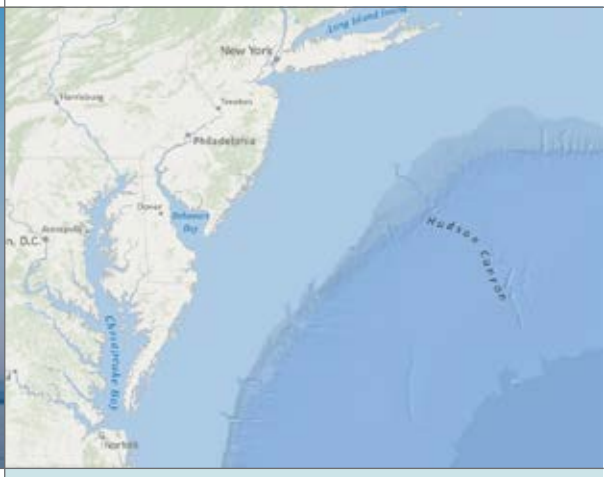
MARCO

MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

RESOURCES FOR
REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING





RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Mid-Atlantic region is home to an abundant supply of clean, renewable energy. Wind, wave, and tidal energy are resources that not only help meet growing electricity needs, but can also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 50% in our five-state region.

With competing demands for ocean use at an all-time high, renewable energy interests need to join in ocean planning now more than ever. Alternative energy, commercial and recreational fishing, ports, commercial shipping, recreational boating, and conservation interests are just a few of the demands that must be addressed in Mid-Atlantic 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 will serve 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?

- Offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic holds more than 200 gigawatts of potential energy—10% of total U.S. offshore potential (Atlantic Wind Connection).
- Wind energy could reduce CO2 emissions by 68% and other greenhouse gas emissions by 57% for the region (Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant).
- Wave energy off the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast coasts could generate 8 gigawatts of power (National Acadmey of Engineering Research Council 2010).
- Renewable energy could support a 50% increase in energy demand for the Mid-Atlantic region (Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant).

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**.

"Responsible development of offshore wind energy has the potential to support thousands of new highly skilled jobs, as well as substantially increase renewable energy resources. As demands on our oceans continue to grow, broad-based data collection and integration of these data into the MARCO Portal will improve planning and , efficiencies, reduce conflicts, and minimize competing uses."

Jim Lanard, President, Offshore Wind Development Commission



Comprehensive planning means more clean energy, faster

The Mid-Atlantic region represents 10% of all U.S. offshore wind potential, a huge resource that could help meet the growing electricity demand in the region, while reducing carbon emissions. Future development of wave energy could also add to the ocean's offshore renewable energy potential. And, the growth of renewable energy industries is an economic driver for our region, bringing green jobs and economic benefits to our communities.

The MARCO Portal project will provide a critical link in understanding the benefits of renewable energy for our region, avoiding conflicts with other ocean users and resources, and supporting the growth of renewable energy industries.

Your voice matters

In order to understand the potential that offshore renewable energy has for our region, we need input from 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:
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For more information on MARCO and regional ocean planning, contact:
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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 will collaborate closely with a Steering Committee, which includes MARCO and federal agency representatives.

This project is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Region Ocean Partnership Funding Program.

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.