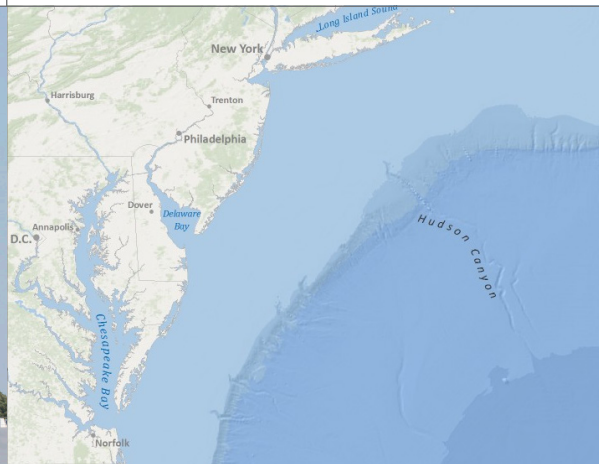




MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

## RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING



With competing demands for ocean use in the Mid-Atlantic at an all-time high, it is more important than ever that regional ocean planning efforts consider national security interests, including the protection of existing operations, security of proposed activities and safety of navigation routes.

National security, 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 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?

- The Mid-Atlantic is home to the largest naval base in the world (U.S. Navy 2012).
- In addition, the region is a busy corridor for commercial shipping and naval and other defense and security operations.
- The U.S. Navy has committed to produce or consume 1 gigawatt of renewable energy in its operations and to source half of its energy from beyond traditional fossil fuels by 2020 (U.S. Navy 2012).
- The Mid-Atlantic holds enormous offshore renewable energy potential that could help the Navy meet its goals.

### 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](http://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](http://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*



## Ocean planning protects national security interests

The Mid-Atlantic is home to important naval installations and training areas, and it's a busy corridor for commercial shipping and naval and other defense and security operations. The U.S. Coast Guard works vigilantly with other agencies to ensure that navigation routes for both commercial and defense vessels are accessible and safe.

Additionally, this region holds enormous offshore renewable energy potential that could help Department of Defense and U.S. Navy meet their renewable energy goals.

## Your voice matters

To ensure that our security interests are fully considered in regional ocean planning, we need the input of regional defense representatives in the planning process.

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 mapping 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

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