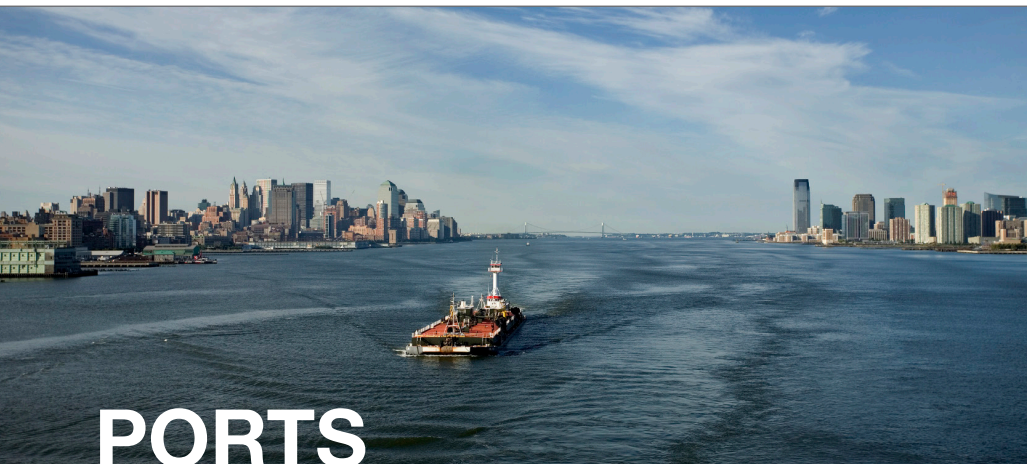




MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING



PORTS

With competing demands for ocean use at an all-time high, ports and navigation interests need a voice in ocean planning now more than ever to protect regional jobs and maritime commerce in one of the most vital shipping corridors in the country.

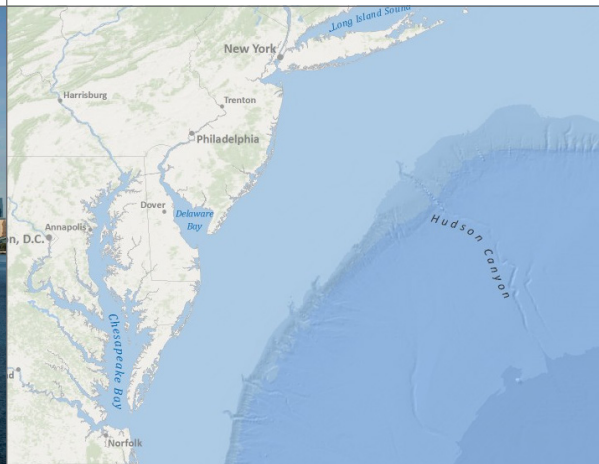
Commercial shipping, commercial and recreational fishing, offshore alternative energy, ports, recreational boating, and conservation interests are just a few of the demands that must be met in regional ocean planning and management today.

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?

- Approximately \$3.8 billion in goods pass through U.S. seaports everyday (National Ocean Economic Project 2009).
- The Port of Virginia provides 343,000 jobs and is the deepest shipping channel on the U.S. East Coast, offering access to more than 10,000 container vessels a year (Virginia Port Authority 2011).
- The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey is the largest port on the East Coast and the third largest in the nation (Port of New York and New Jersey 2012).
- The Port of Baltimore can reach 35% of U.S. manufacturing bases and 32% of American households overnight (Maryland Department of Transportation 2011).

ABOUT MARCO

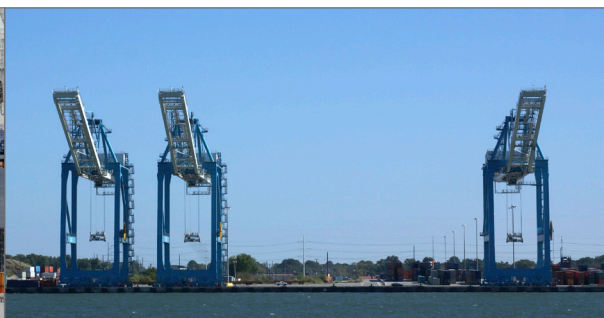
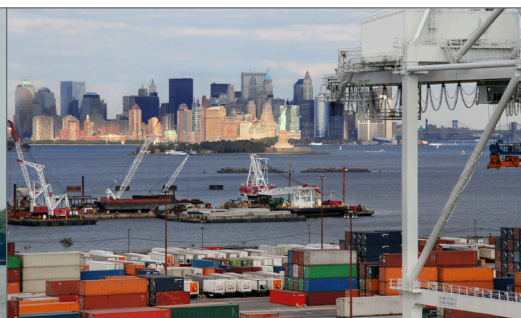
The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is a collaboration among the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia working to ensure ocean health and a robust coastal economy. Learn more at www.midatlanticocean.org.

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.

“Ports rely on accurate ocean navigation data to assure the safe and unimpeded navigation of vessels and access to ports. The MARCO Portal, which incorporates the best available science, data, and geospatial information to plan for various uses of the oceans and coasts, can assist in reducing potential conflicts and protect the interests of maritime transportation and working waterfronts.”

Frank Hamons, Maryland Port Administration



Ocean planning protects shipping and ports

Ports are a crucial link in the nation's economy—not only are they large employers, but they also serve as environmental stewards in our region's harbors and surrounding areas.

Mid-Atlantic ports are some of the busiest in the nation's seaport network, supporting the exchange of \$3.8 billion in goods each day (National Ocean Economics Program 2009). The largest port on the Eastern seaboard (New York–New Jersey), the nation's top port in fruits and juices (Wilmington), and a port that reaches over a third of the country overnight (Baltimore) are all in the Mid-Atlantic. And every minute of every day, the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies work to ensure that our ports and shipping lanes are accessible and safe.

Your voice matters

To protect the viability and safety of the commercial shipping industry, we need the input of all major port and navigation stakeholders in regional ocean planning.

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:

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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 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.

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.