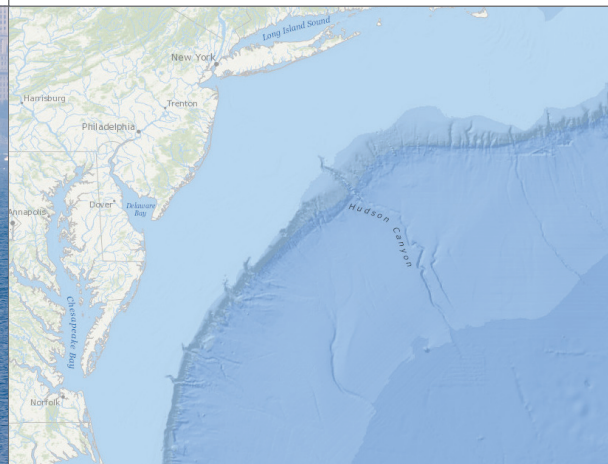




MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING



Comprehensive regional ocean planning is essential for supporting healthy marine ecosystems and the economies of our coastal communities. A regional approach is necessary because ocean resources are ecologically and economically linked across states — what happens in one state can impact or benefit all. 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.

With competing demands on our oceans at an all-time high, finding ways to engage all stakeholders in ocean planning has never been more important. MARCO recognizes that a robust ocean data and information management system that includes a wide range of human use, environmental, socioeconomic and regulatory data will provide the building blocks for multi-use, regional-scale ocean planning.

What is the MARCO Portal?

The MARCO Portal, an online toolkit and resource center that consolidates the best available data and enables state, federal and local users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.

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.

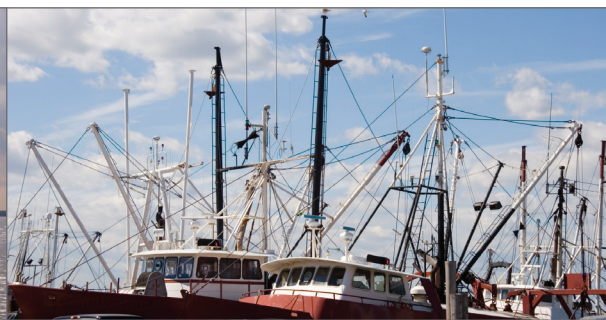
ABOUT MARCO

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is a regional ocean partnership established by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia for shared action to improve ocean health and contribute to the high quality of life and economic vitality in the region.

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 portal.midatlanticocean.org.

“The MARCO Portal is an ideal tool to facilitate the important planning discussions associated with ocean uses and development within the Mid-Atlantic region.” *Rick Robins, Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council*



Goals and objectives

The MARCO Portal is designed to advance regional priorities in the Mid-Atlantic, including:

- smart development of renewable offshore energy to make the Mid-Atlantic more self-reliant and economically stable;
- identification and protection of critical offshore habitats for sustaining seafood, recreational tourism opportunities, and other job-creating benefits;
- preparation of coastal communities for regional climate change impacts; and
- improvement of the region's water quality to sustain seafood, tourism and ocean health.

In order to reach all these goals in an inclusive, coordinated, and transparent way, the Portal must be readily available and easily accessible.

Your voice matters

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 with various stakeholder groups, you can join us in developing the Portal.

To participate in the Portal Project, please 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.

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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.