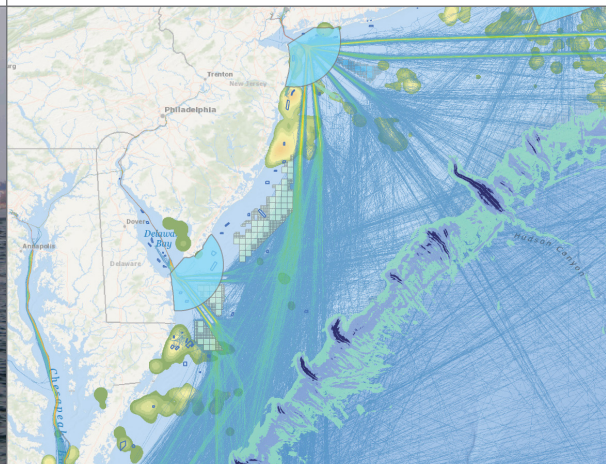




MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL



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

With increasing demands on our oceans and needs for space 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 other data will provide the tools needed for multi-use, regional-scale ocean planning.

What is the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal?

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is an online toolkit and resource center that consolidates the best available data and enables state and federal agencies, fishery management councils, businesses and the public to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, energy sites, and much more.

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 to make informed management decisions. Users can also form online groups to share map files, participate in tutorial webinars and browse through a series of educational Ocean Stories that demonstrate the value and utility of the Portal.

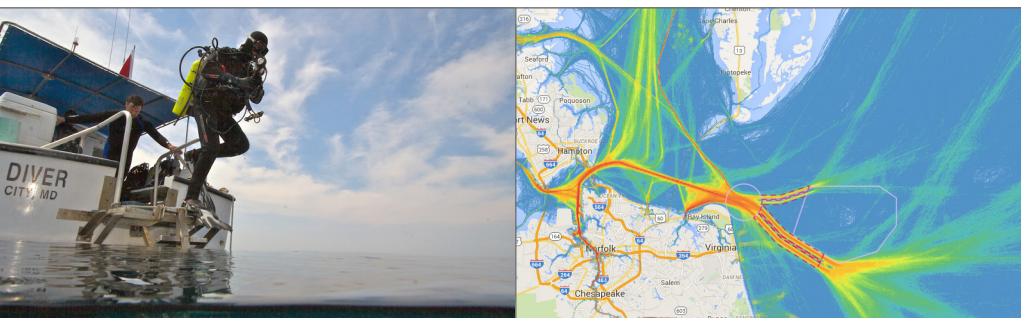
ABOUT MARCO

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. Learn more at midatlanticocean.org.

ABOUT THE PORTAL

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (portal.midatlanticocean.org) is a free online mapping and information site focused on ocean areas from New York through Virginia. The Portal contains a library of over 4,000 interactive maps depicting human activities, marine life and natural processes taking place at sea.

“The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is an ideal tool to facilitate the important planning discussions associated with ocean uses and development within the Mid-Atlantic region.” *Rick Robins, Virginia seafood business owner and former chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*



Goals and objectives

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is designed to advance state and regional priorities in the Mid-Atlantic, including:

- Developing data on critical offshore habitats for sustaining seafood, recreational tourism opportunities, and other job-creating benefits.
- Ensuring data on ocean industries are available for efficient decision-making.
- Safe and smart siting of renewable offshore energy infrastructure to make the Mid-Atlantic more self-reliant and economically stable.
- Enhancing information for sound management decisions through the inclusion of stakeholder-driven data such as trends in shipping and innovative fishing data, and highlighting industry data gaps that need additional spatial information.
- Preparation of coastal communities and business for changing ocean conditions such as coastal acidification, sea level rise and the migration of marine species over time.

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 Portal Project will help set the stage for future management decisions that balance diverse goals and provide lasting benefits for our region.

Get Involved

Through interactive meetings, web forums, and one-on-one communications with the project team, you can join us in developing the Portal, learning to use it for your own planning needs, and laying the groundwork for successful ocean planning in our region.

Register for your free account at portal.midatlanticocean.org to unlock all of the Portal's unique tools and features.

To learn more about the Portal, please contact:

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute, Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School and Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, 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.

"It's easy for me to direct people to the MARCO Portal, guide them through and open up overlays. It's a quick, easy-to-use tool, and I appreciate that it's out there." Doug Simpson, Marine Information Specialist, U.S. Coast Guard