

PORTAL USE EXAMPLE: HELPING MARINE INDUSTRIES PLAN AHEAD

Project Details

The introduction of offshore wind farms will bring changes for those who work in the busy waters of the Mid-Atlantic. In the coming years, clean energy-generating turbines will be constructed in areas that are currently used as shipping routes, fishing grounds and areas where passenger ships travel. The U.S. Coast Guard is working to prepare these stakeholders, using the Portal as a tool to help guide discussions and show industry representatives how they can safely avoid the new infrastructure at sea.

A particularly valuable asset for this work has been the Portal’s collection of Automatic Identification System (AIS) maps, which illustrate areas at sea where cargo ships, tankers, pas-

senger vessels, tugboats and tow barges were most concentrated by year. The data is collected by the Coast Guard from electronic transponders that signal the positions of ships, and processed into maps by the MarineCadastre.gov team. The maps present a clear picture of where the most heavily trafficked shipping lanes in the East Coast are located.

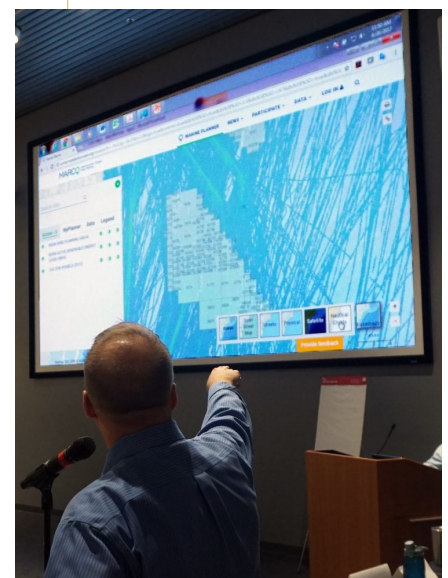
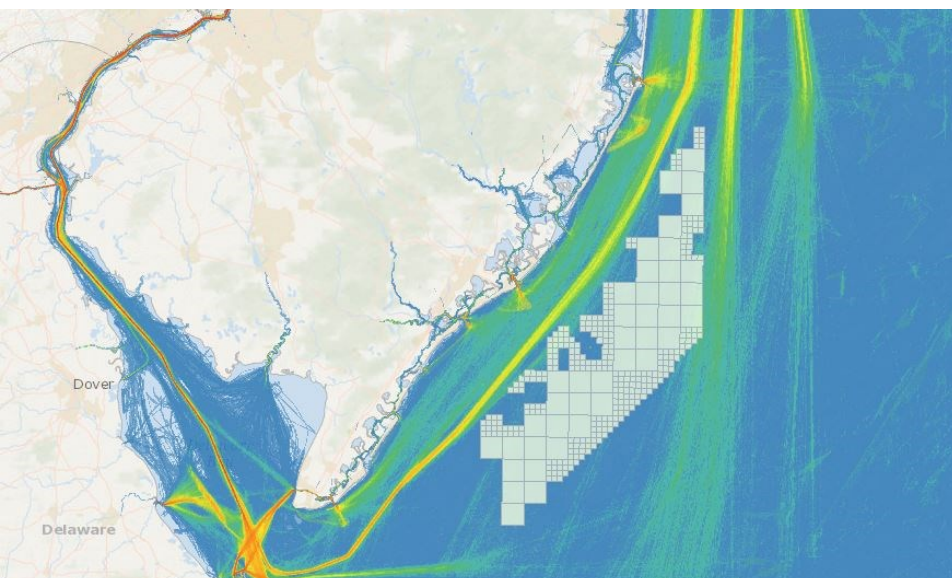
By comparing vessel track lines to barriers such as proposed wind energy areas, military training zones and environmentally sensitive sites with the Portal, the Coast Guard can simulate potential conflicts and advise mariners on route adjustments they should consider for the future. The Portal will continue to be updated with more recent years of AIS data to aid in these and other efforts.

USER

U.S. Coast Guard

LOCATION

New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia



Map: AIS vessel traffic concentrations in the New Jersey wind energy lease area. Top right: Coast Guard Marine Information Specialist Doug Simpson uses the Portal to answer a question at a public meeting.