

# Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

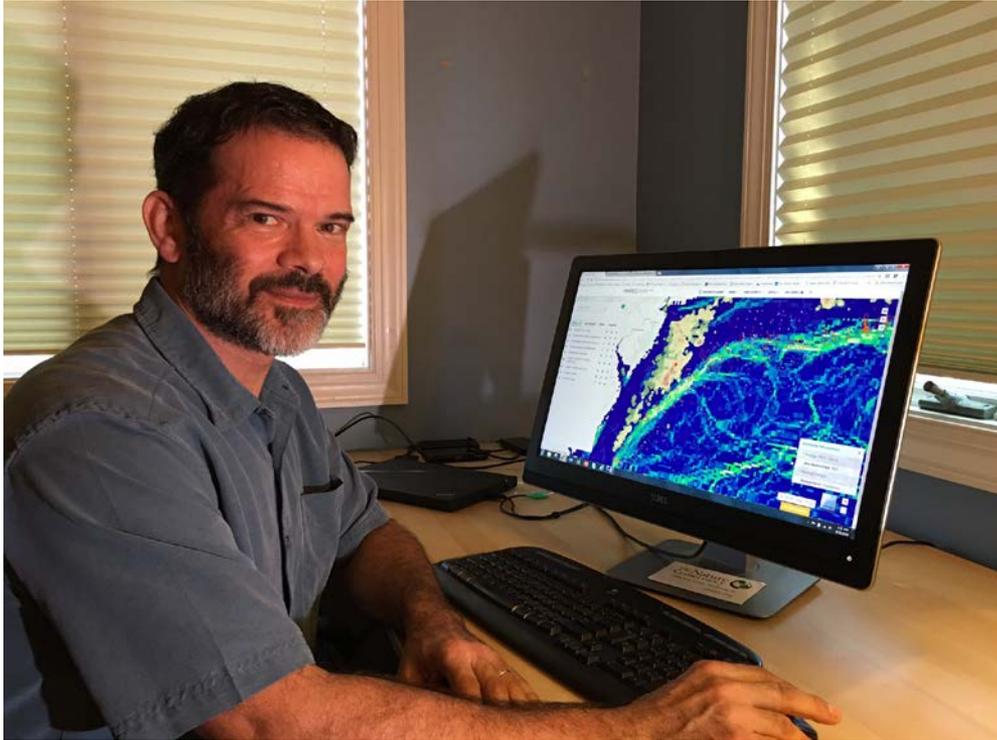
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting  
update June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL

**OCEAN  
ACTION  
PLAN**



# Thank you Jay!



# The Portal Team

**Monmouth University:** Tony MacDonald, Karl Vilacoba, Danica Simmons

**Rutgers University:** John Bognar, Matt Campo, Jeanne Herb, Rick Lathrop, Jim Trimble, Jennifer Whytlaw

**The Nature Conservancy:** Chris Bruce

**EcoTrust:** Ryan Hodges

**MARCO:** Laura McKay, Kate Morrison, Kaity Goldsmith, Judy Tucker

**NOAA:** Darlene Finch, Megan Trembl

**The Ocean Mapping and Data Team!**

# Portal Use

- Consistently higher baseline of use after the release of the first Communities at Sea data products in April 2016 and the Draft OAP later that summer.
- Obvious spikes in activity around OAP, agency, and portal events and announcements (including major data releases)
- Two biggest spikes in activity since the OAP was certified by the National Ocean Council

# Portal Use

**MARCO** MID-ATLANTIC OCEAN DATA PORTAL

RESOURCES FOR OCEAN PLANNING

**PORTAL USE CASE: VIRGINIA BEACH-BILBAO CABLE**

**Project Details**

**E**ven in this wireless age, under-sea cables are responsible for carrying over 95 percent of all overseas communications. These sprawling fiber optic lines can cost hundreds of millions of dollars to lay across the ocean, and when damaged, are often extraordinarily difficult to repair.

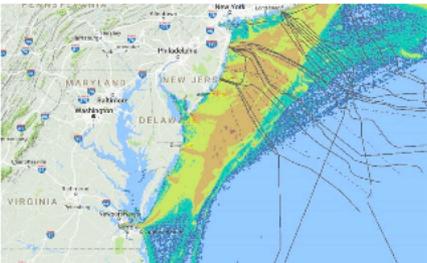
So when TE SubCom of Eatontown, New Jersey, recently began laying a new submarine communications cable from Virginia Beach to Bilbao, Spain, the company was determined to take every possible precaution to ensure its safety. To that end, TE's engineers consulted the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal – particularly its

commercial fishing data maps – to design an alignment that was least threatened by bottom-tending activities such as dredging and trawling. Once complete, the 4,000-mile MAREA line – commissioned by owners Facebook and Microsoft – will be the highest-capacity submarine cable ever to cross the Atlantic and the first to connect the U.S. to southern Europe.

The Portal's Commercial Fishing VTR and VMS collections contain dozens of maps illustrating concentrations of fishing activity by gear type and catch type over several time ranges. By studying these maps, TE was able to locate fishing hot spots that should be avoided.

**USER**  
TE SubCom

**LOCATION**  
Virginia Beach, VA, and Eatontown, NJ



Map: Commercial scallop fishing concentrations and submarine cable locations.

- TE SubCom (on behalf of Facebook and Microsoft) used the portal as one source of information to ensure the highest capacity submarine cable to eventually cross the Atlantic is sited to reduce conflict with bottom dredges and trawling.
- Many ocean stories on the portal website
- Many other ocean stories and portal success stories in development, including use by the American Waterways Operators, the fishing

# New Data in 2017

## Released:

- Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument
- Ocean Economics GDP
- Population Density

## In Development:

- Commercial Fishing Communities at Sea  
(1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2006-2010, 2011-2015)
- AIS Shipping and VMS Fishing (in collaboration with the NE and MC)
- Marine Life Updates (in collaboration with the NE)
- Ocean Acidification
- Coastal Wetlands and Seagrass
- Potential Sand Resource Areas (in collaboration with BOEM and MC)

# New Functionality and Other Content in 2017

## Released:

- Create, save, and export multiple shapes
- Sea Scallop Fishing Ocean Story
- Regular blog updates notifying users of new content

## In Development:

- Direct links to BOEM's Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS) for each data layer
- Functionality to enable port specific searches of the Communities at Sea data
- Revamped "How to Use the Portal" page with expanded instructional materials
- Updates to site templates and home page to improve user friendliness

# OAP Portal Actions

- Action 1: Develop and implement a plan to sustain Data Portal operations and maintenance.
- Action 2: Maintain operational components including web services, data development, and integration.
- Action 3: Continue to engage in agency outreach and public engagement to enhance data and Data Portal functionality to effectively support decisions related to ocean management.

# OAP Action 1

## A: Portal Maintenance Costs

- Initial internal budget scenarios for IT infrastructure, data management, portal team coordination, and stakeholder engagement to be updated in late 2017
- ***Federal and state commitments to update data products will be the greatest influence on long term costs and budget scenarios***

## B: Convene RPB Entities

- Ocean Mapping and Data Team (OMDT) expanded in early 2017
- OMDT to procure and review data, identify training opportunities, and develop and communicate success stories

## C: Identify Partnerships

- Partnerships with the Northeast and the Marine Cadastre for many of the most important and high effort datasets (VMS, AIS, VTR, marine life, ERAs)
- Partnership with MARACOOS for Oceanography theme
- OMDT!

# OAP Action 2

## **A: Continue to Develop and Update Data**

- New datasets in development as previously mentioned
- Portal team (and OMDT) participation in OAP work groups (non-consumptive recreation, maritime commerce, ocean acidification, ERAs, species shifts, and healthy ocean indicators)
- Stakeholder outreach to inform and review products

## **B: Efforts to Publish Federal Agency Data**

- Marine Cadastre
- OMDT

## **C: Explore Opportunities to Capture Tribal Data**

- To Be Determined

# OAP Action 3

## **A: Success Stories**

- Nine ocean stories on the Portal website
- Four shorter success stories (developed as fact sheets)
- More in development - we need your input!

## **B: Expand Federal Agency Participation**

- OMDT expanded to include new members from DOI (USGS, BOEM, FWS) and retained previous federal agency membership (DOD, USCG, EPA, DOE, and DOT)
- OMDT has expanded responsibilities – most importantly to increase responsibility for data updates

# Public Opportunities

## Stakeholder input on new and updated data products this summer and fall, including:

- Commercial fishing (CAS, VMS)
- AIS shipping and other maritime data
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Marine life and ERAs

# Public Opportunities

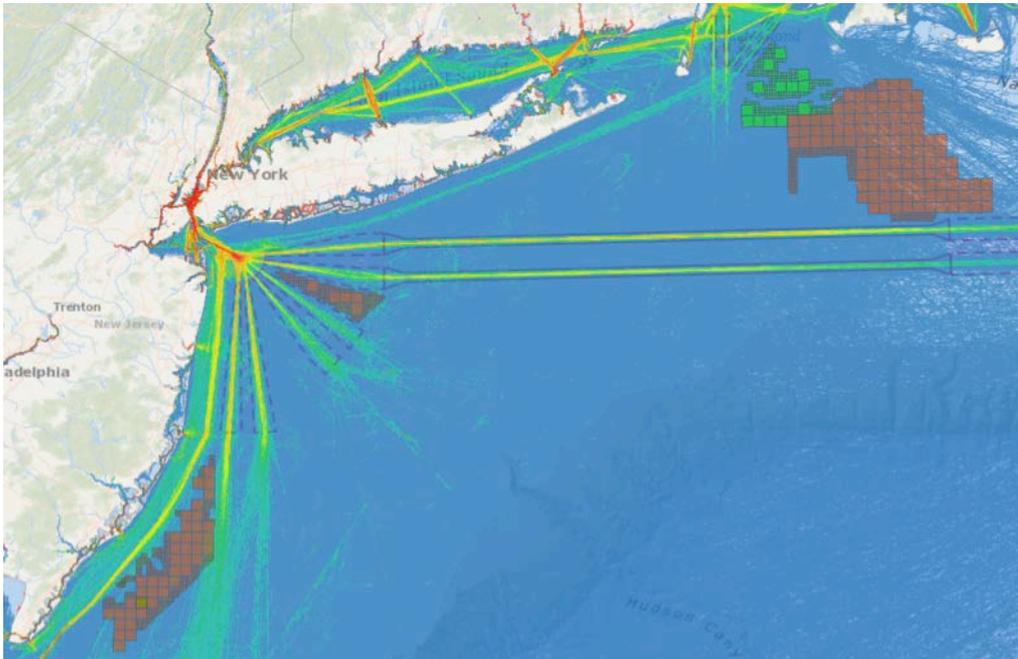
## Meetings, Conferences & Webinars:

- “How Tu” webinar series
- Past and Upcoming Conferences
- Participation in MARCO Workshops and OAP Webinars (Ocean Acidification, Species Shifts, ERAs, Indicators, Maritime Commerce)

## Teach Us How You’re Using the Portal:

- Ocean stories and success stories
- Feedback and comments
- Trainings

# Your Ocean. Your Stories.



Thanks to all of you who have provided input and made the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal the resource it is!

<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/>