

# Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) Webinar Questions

December 8, 2015 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

---

## Webinar Questions

Message	Participant Name
It's important for the federal agencies to commit -- to the extent of their existing authorities -- to conserve the areas identified as ERAs and REFs. This was envisioned by the National Ocean Policy and is a key step to make sure we improve the health of our oceans. Will any work be done before the Plan is sent to the NOC to develop guidance to help prevent these areas from impacts they are facing?	Ali Chase
In terms of high quality data, from where are these data sets coming, what kind of data sets are they; and how does ocean and coastal observation, monitoring, and prediction figure into this approach of developing and maintaining an understanding of the changing ocean and coastal ecosystems over time. Thank you.	Gerhard Kuska
The work that's envisioned to identify trends in the health of ERAs -- what's the deadline for this work? Will this research be included in the Plan?	Ali Chase
I'm confused--if the Agency representatives on the RPB run the "Recommendations" by their agency, and get approval from their agency that the recommendations make sense, how is that crossing a line of authority? Agencies will be pre-approving any recommendations, not being directed by the RPB. The RPB IS the Agencies. The RPBs are supposed to improve management of ocean resources through change, not just compile data.	Matt Gove
Thanks Laura. I realize it is challenging in this format. Sorry about the inability to clarify questions; but I also wanted to refer to understanding resource/critter habitat which is a function of habitat modeling and the ocean obs that serve them. Perhaps not necessary to answer in the public forum. The intent was to ensure that we keep the dynamic and predictive capabilities in the discussions on data/information and products to support decision makers. Thanks to all of you for your time and efforts! Gerhard	Gerhard Kuska

<p>It was noted that the identification of ERA's/areas with region-wide features would lead to a final finding for interested parties. What is the RPB envisioning for this finding? Data, maps, subjective conclusions/ editorial judgements, a combination thereof, or something different entirely?</p>	Brent Greenfield
<p>Will there be an opportunity for the Atlantic Coast PAR Study to take account of the ERAs that are identified through the RPB process?</p>	Sarah Chasis
<p>Thank you for holding this webinar. My name is Noah Chesnin and I work for the Wildlife Conservation Society. I have a series of comments/questions related to the healthy ocean IJC actions:1) It is critical for the RPB to use existing authority to identify ways to protect the ERA's that the RPB is identifying. 2. For the research forum / agenda action: how does the RPB plan to engage the science community (including government scientists, but also scientists from academia, NGO's and other scientists) to ensure a full vetting of the proposed research agenda? Thank you.</p>	Noah Chesnin
<p>Why is it OK to use data to develop best practices for wind and not use the ERA data to develop best practices/ management improvements for the environment?</p>	Ali Chase
<p>I'm hearing a lot of language that sounds like we are back to "Plan for a plan". I think in some circumstances that approach is warranted, but if all we get in the OAP is talk of future planning, we will have wasted a huge opportunity to make ocean management work better for all use sectors, not to mention everyone's time and money. We need some specific actions in the OAP that all RPB members can start working towards immediately after the Final plan is approved.</p>	Matt Gove
<p>On the proposed IJC actions for offshore energy, there are items addressing intergovernmental coordination and data use, but nothing focused on stakeholder engagement (beyond the fishermen engagement comment). Separately you discussed getting input on stakeholder engagement through the current offshore wind comment period and this week's workshop. Is it the intent to add more IJC items focusing on stakeholder engagement based on the feedback received during these two events?</p>	Anne Merwin
<p>The ocean energy and sand management IJC actions include developing best management practices for the RPB member agencies. Why isn't the RPB developing similar best management practices that would protect ERA's through the healthy ocean IJC actions? This is critical. The purpose of ocean planning is not to plan to plan. We need specific actions that can be implemented after the plan is finalized by the end of 2016.</p>	Noah Chesnin

Will the RPB publish the list of criteria that are being used to drive the development of these draft action items?	Brent Greenfield
Sand dredging needs to also take into account impacts to offshore recreational use such as diving. Sand placement on beaches needs to take into account tourism and recreation occurring on the beach and beach swimmer health.	Matt Gove
It is important that IJC actions include agency commitments to improved management and conservation of ERAs. This is needed in order to meet the first goal of the planning process: "Promote ocean ecosystem health, functionality, and integrity through conservation, protection, enhancement, and restoration." So far, we are not seeing such commitments in the IJC actions discussed today and are very concerned about that and the fact that the Healthy Oceans WG has backed off making recommendations for management of ERA. How and when will these commitments be made?	Sarah Chasis
We are glad to see attention to the Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Process; however, rather than just "investigating" that process, we recommend that the WG develop specific recommended IJC measures to strengthen that process.	Sarah Chasis
What are some specific examples of Non-consumptive recreational uses?	Margaret Flanagan
Question for David Kaiser: On page 12 of the CZM consistency discussion paper, you say that not all impacts to a coastal use or resource result in a "coastal effect" that would trigger consistency review. Can you please explain that.	Sarah Chasis
Question: Is the RPB planning to reach out to the scientific community to review the MDAT outputs during the January -- March 2016 time period. If so, how?	Noah Chesnin
Gwynne-will there be evening components to the Listening Sessions, similar to the last round of sessions?	Matt Gove
I think Noah was referencing the March-Jan "Outreach"	Matt Gove
How is the RPB planning on incorporating undersea fiber optic cables and undersea infrastructure into their plan?	Sydney Sheridan
Can Gwynn speak up please?	Jeff Deem

<p>The National Ocean Policy Coalition reiterates that 45 days of comment on the draft ocean plan is insufficient for user group/public review and asks that the RPB commit to a minimum 90 day public comment period. Is the RPB open to considering a longer comment period?</p>	<p>Brent Greenfield</p>
<p>I want to thank you for the tremendous amount of work done by all teams. There's quite a bit of discussion on future data gathering and processes/best mgt practices for coordination of ocean uses within each of the IJC work groups. However, it's a bit stunning and disappointing how few of the proposed IJC objectives and actions (other than fisheries) areas directly or even tangentially address one of the two overarching goals, that of "Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Goal that focuses on protecting and conserving of our ocean and coastal resources. "We would like to request that each IJC team be asked at the next meeting and in draft OAP chapters to directly address the impact of their sector on the Healthy Ocean Ecosystem goal, and actions they propose to minimize these impacts or work to conserve natural resources.</p>	<p>Merry Camhi</p>
<p>Sorry -- pls note on my question that I did not mean to focus on the criticism but JUST the suggestions that each IJC include their impacts on HOE</p>	<p>Merry Camhi</p>
<p>Please ask my first question now if possible</p>	<p>Matt Gove</p>
<p>Can you provide an update on the development of guidance on how agencies will use the plan as well as guidance on the nature and detail for agency commitments? What if any plans does the RPB have for public review and comment of such guidance?</p>	<p>Brent Greenfield</p>
<p>I wanted to circle back to the question of stakeholder engagement in the offshore energy IJCs. I'm still unclear what that will actually look like in execution. Can you speak about how BOEM's stakeholder engagement approaches will CHANGE as result of the ocean plan, as opposed to what BOEM is doing now on stakeholder engagement?</p>	<p>Anne Merwin</p>
<p>Thanks</p>	<p>Sean Kline</p>
<p>Thanks everyone!</p>	<p>Matt Gove</p>