

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

*July 11, 2016 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

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## Webinar Questions

Message	Participant Name
Is the Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Action #1, Step A intending to identify ecologically rich areas for each proposed component of the Framework? When will this be completed by?	Ali Chase
Is the executive summary considered an official part of the plan? In other words, will it be approved by the NOC as well?	Ali Chase
Will ERAs be posted on the Data Portal?	Ali Chase
Why aren't there federal agency leads identified yet for health ocean ecosystem actions number one and number five?	Ali Chase
When is the work plan that details the steps expected out?	Ali Chase
Can you give us examples of some of the new data and information that was generated as part of this planning process, and why you think it was important for purposes of ocean management to generate it?	Amy Trice
Can you give us an example of a situation in the past where lack of data or coordination caused problems, and how this plan would help change that outcome in similar situations in the future?	Anne Merwin
The National Ocean Policy called for draft marine plans to be released with accompanying environmental impact analysis that includes alternatives for public review. When will the public have access to this analysis and alternatives?	Brent Greenfield
When will the marine life and habitat synthesis products and human use intensity grids mentioned in the draft plan be accessible to the public on the data portal? Are there certain maps and products referred to in the draft plan that will not be available before the close of the comment period?	Brent Greenfield
Does the Mid-Atlantic RPB have any input on seismic testing for oil and gas exploration?	Carol Brighton

<p>Why don't you give stakeholders that you plan to regularly consult with (e.g. environmental NGOs, commercial fishery groups, etc.) membership status on the RPB so that they provide their input directly and maybe buy in to general consensus decisions of the RPB?</p>	Charles Caruso
<p>Do you plan to include data from coastal estuaries in the Data Portal?</p>	Charles Caruso
<p>How does the RPB plan to coordinate activities with entities that have management responsibilities for coastal estuaries, such as the Barnegat Bay Partnership, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary (NEPs under the Clean Water Act)?</p>	Charles Caruso
<p>One of the outcomes the stakeholders who participated in the planning process have always hoped for is better and earlier stakeholder engagement – so that stakeholders with potential conflicts can work with project proponents up front to resolve potential problems proactively. What commitments does the plan contain to help achieve that goal?</p>	Christine Hooper
<p>It's a little unclear about when the stakeholder liaison committee members get involved. Are they involved in the initial site selection or only in micro (citing) once the site is selected for example in wind energy?</p>	Jeff Deem
<p>Clearly ocean acidification (action 3) and marine debris (action 4) are important, but equally important are nutrient pollution (nitrogen) causing eutrophication (hypoxia, harmful algal blooms), and toxic chemicals. Why did you ignore these other pollutants that damage healthy ocean ecosystems?</p>	Judith Weis
<p>Regarding maritime commerce: Ships continue to be made larger and larger requiring continued dredging to deepen channels and widen them. This often requires special means of disposal of contaminated sediments. Will this cycle of larger and larger ships and continued enlarging of channels and ports go on forever? When will it stop?</p>	Judith Weis
<p>Who do you envision the data portal being used by? The general public, private sector companies seeking permits in the ocean, state and federal agencies, or all of the above? Can you give examples of how you think the portal could be useful to each of these groups?</p>	Katie Morgan
<p>The relationship between the language in the Federal Register, the language in the Best Practices, and then some of the actions themselves is a bit confusing as far as how federal and state agencies will integrate the Plan components into their daily business. Perhaps a short section explaining that process clearly would be helpful.</p>	Matt Gove
<p>Is the U.S. Army Corps not part of the RPB through DOD representation? Cites page 62 of the plan which says, "This section</p>	Matt Gove

<p>focuses on sand management in the OCS for which BOEM has sole management responsibility. BOEM will work to accomplish the above objectives recognizing that the success of each action item cannot be fully realized absent Army Corps collaboration and partnership".</p>	
<p>There is a lot of different language in the Plan and the Federal Register notice concerning state and federal agencies use of the Plan and the Portal data in their daily business. It's confusing. BOEM says they will use the Best Practices and the Portal data in one of their Actions, but other agencies don't make that explicit statement. I think a clarifying section of the Plan would be helpful to walk people through the process of how all this great work will be put into daily practice by federal and state agencies.</p>	Matt Gove
<p>FYI - you are able to view all of the MDAT data on the NROC portal as well.</p>	Megan Trembl
<p>Are the objectives or actions which are listed in numerical order listed in order of significance or are all of the objectives and actions of equal weight?</p>	Meghan Lapp
<p>From the 3000 data layers mentioned, can you give a few examples of where the most ecologically rich areas are off NJ?</p>	Michele Brunetti Post
<p>Will any section be addressing examining the risk of underwater landslides causing tsunamis in the Mid-Atlantic, and how use of the ocean (for example for drilling) might affect risk?</p>	Michele Brunetti Post
<p>Can you provide more details about the ERA pilot project process? How will the RPB choose a pilot ERA? What type of outcomes will the RPB be seeking from the pilot process and how will stakeholders be able to participate in this process?</p>	Noah Chesnin
<p>What is the anticipated timeframe for applying the framework and identifying ecologically rich areas?</p>	Sarah Chasis
<p>Is there any particular role for regional managers (i.e. PDCs)?</p>	Shannon Alexander
<p>To clarify my previous question: My intention was to refer to regional planning bodies within the Mid-Atlantic States. I believe that our role is to act as an intermediary to make local planners and stakeholders aware of resources (such as the overall OAP goals &amp; the data portal) and also to provide feedback on the document and tools. It seems as though I've answered my own question, so please disregard my previous question, unless there is another role that I have not identified here.</p>	Shannon Alexander
<p>Is it intended for marine life synthesis products to be used in project permitting?</p>	Zachary Lees

When will the August workshop for ERAs be specifically?	Zachary Lees
We would like specifics as to the "numerous additional sector specific and data focused outreach efforts" conducted by the RPB, especially those outreach efforts related to fishing, fishermen, etc.	Zachary Lees
Is BOEM committing to implementing regulatory guidance based on the (BMPs) and the use of data portal and environmental and regulatory reviews?	Zachary Lees
When will IJC actions such as federal coordination be undertaken in a project's permitting process? How can someone evaluate the efficacy of BMPs and IJC actions when we have no idea when or how this will occur?	Zachary Lees
Does the Mid-Atlantic plan only apply to wind energy when it talks about ocean energy?	Zachary Lees