

[ DRAFT ]

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body  
Public Webinar  
July 11, 2016**





# Webinar Objectives

- Hear an overview of the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (Draft Plan).

Plan access here:

[www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan](http://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan)

- Understand how, when, and where members of the public can find more information and submit comments on the Draft Plan.
- Ask questions and provide input about the Draft Plan.



# Webinar Agenda

- 11:00 am Welcome, introductions, agenda review
- 11:05 am Overview of the Mid-Atlantic RPB
- 11:10 am Overview of the Draft Plan content
- 11:55 am Public comment process and upcoming stakeholder engagement opportunities
- 12:00 pm Facilitated public Q&A and comments
- 12:55 pm Wrap up
- 1:00 pm Adjourn

# What will be posted after this webinar?

The following will be posted on the RPB website at [www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body](http://www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body) after the webinar:

- A recording of the webinar
- A transcript of the webinar
- The full slide presentation
- A record of all chat questions and comments from the public
- A list of webinar participants



# How to provide public comment

- The Q&A portion of today's webinar.
- At each of the MARCO-hosted open houses, verbally or in writing. For more information about the meetings see: <http://midatlanticocean.org/YourOceanPlan/>

July 12: Virginia Beach, Virginia

July 14: West Long Branch, New Jersey

July 19: Berlin, Maryland

July 20: Lewes, Delaware

July 27: Selden, New York

- Submit formal public comment on the Draft Plan by September 6 by sending an email to [MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov](mailto:MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov) or sending written mail to:

Robert LaBelle, Federal Co-Lead for the Mid-Atlantic  
Regional Planning Body  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
45600 Woodland Road Mailstop: VAM-BOEM DIR  
Sterling, VA 20166

# Overview of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

ESTABLISHED in April 2013  
to design and implement  
collaborative Mid-Atlantic  
regional ocean planning

PRIMARY PURPOSE is to  
improve coordination, share  
data, and build collaborative  
relationships to address  
regional ocean issues.





- Includes representatives of:
  - 6 Mid-Atlantic states: NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and VA
  - 2 federally-recognized Tribes in the region: the Shinnecock Indian Nation and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe
  - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
  - 8 Federal agencies with ocean interests
  - Connecticut serves as an ex-officio member
- Website: [www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body](http://www.boem.gov/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body)
- Email address: [MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov](mailto:MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov)



## Public input: a priority throughout Draft Plan development

- 5 in-person public RPB meetings with public comment sessions
- 4 public webinars to present and hear input about draft RPB products
- 3 public workshops to discuss input about draft RPB products
- 10 public listening sessions in Mid-Atlantic States
- 2 Tribal listening sessions in VA and NY
- Numerous additional sector-specific and data-focused outreach efforts
- Summer of 2016:
  - Release of Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan for 60 days of public comment on July 6, 2016
  - Convening of 5 open house public listening sessions in the Mid-Atlantic States to share information about Draft Plan and receive public input

# Timeline of Upcoming RPB Activities

**Early July 2016:  
Plan Release**

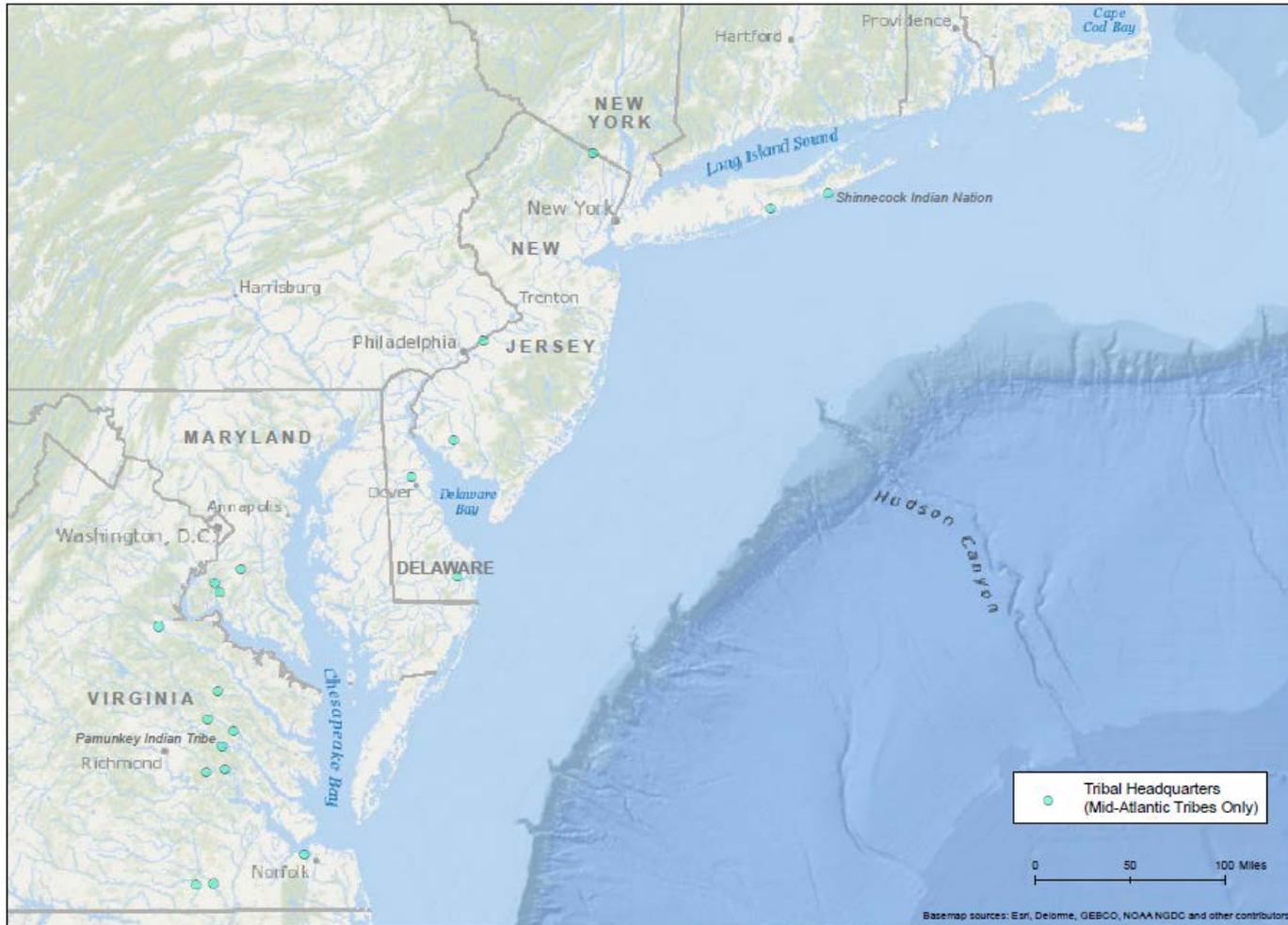
**60 Day Public  
Comment Period**

**Plan Revisions**

**Fall 2016: National  
Ocean Council  
Concurrence**

# Overview of the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan Content

## MID-ATLANTIC REGION



## Overview of Chapter 1

# Ocean Planning in the Mid-Atlantic

1.1 Introduction

1.2 About this Document

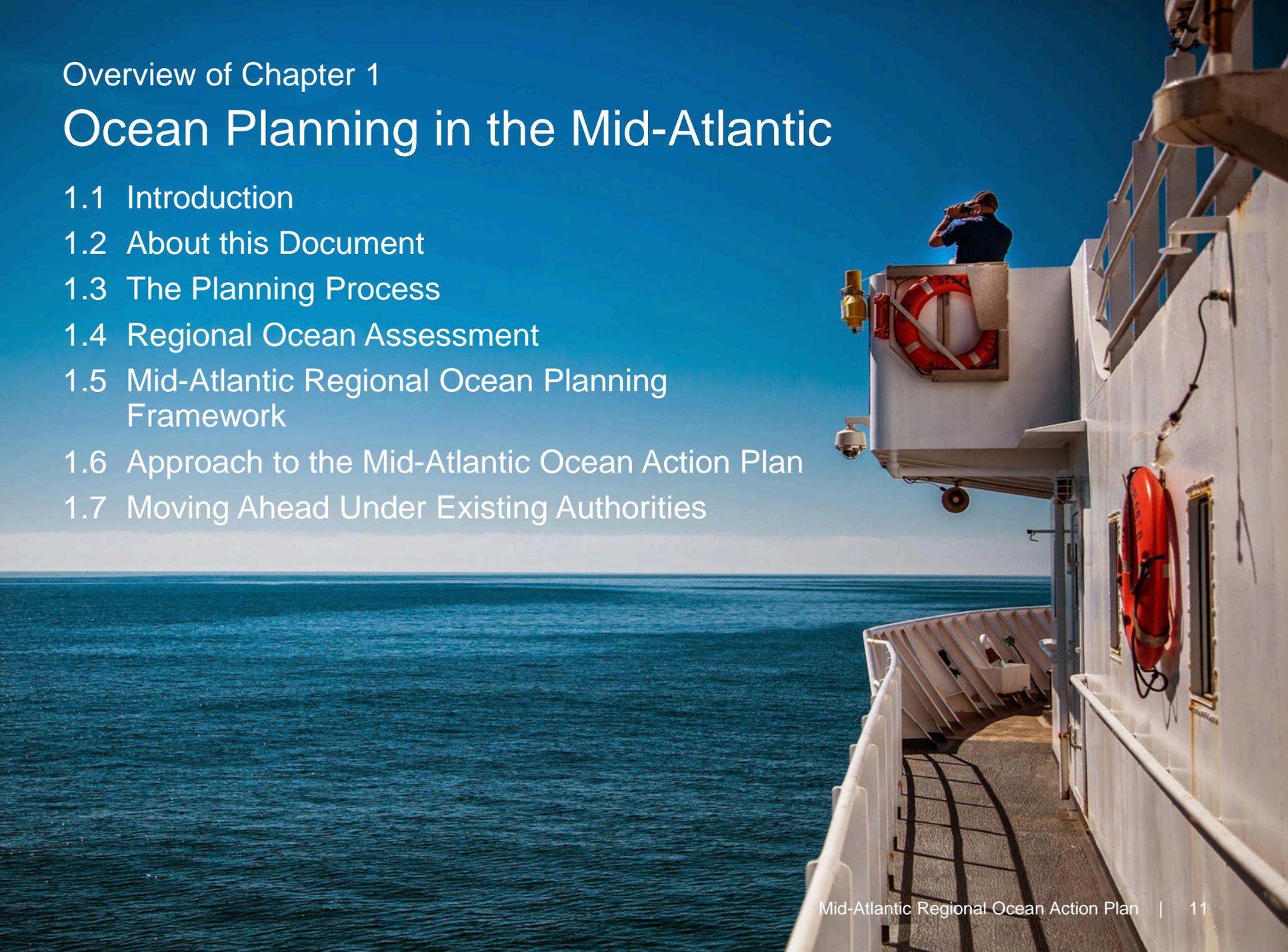
1.3 The Planning Process

1.4 Regional Ocean Assessment

1.5 Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning Framework

1.6 Approach to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan

1.7 Moving Ahead Under Existing Authorities





Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning strives for better coordination and collaboration between governmental agencies with existing management authority over our region's ocean and coastal resources.

The Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan focuses on informing how we implement existing authorities, but the RPB itself DOES NOT have any regulatory authority.



## Overview of Chapter 2

# Actions to Promote Interjurisdictional Coordination in Support of Regional Ocean Planning Goals

- 2.1 Best Practices for Enhanced Coordination
- 2.2 Continuation of the RPB
- 2.3 Actions to Promote a Healthy Ocean Ecosystem
- 2.4 Actions to Foster Sustainable Ocean Uses
- 2.5 Enhancing Coastal Zone Management

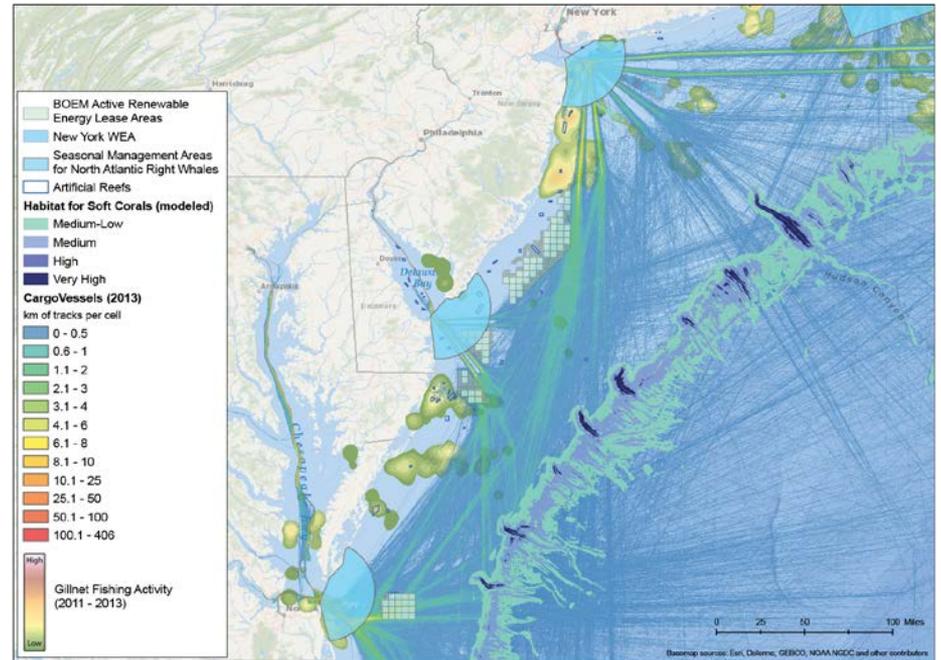
# Best Practices Overview

Best practices will enhance coordination and the sharing of data and information under existing authorities.

The best practices will enhance:

- The use of data and information in agency coordination
- Federal interagency coordination
- Coordination with stakeholders
- Federal-State coordination
- Federal-Tribal coordination

Best practices are a cornerstone of the Plan and directly support specific actions.





# Interjurisdictional Coordination Actions Overview

- Actions in Draft Plan enhance the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and MAFMC member entities to carry out their missions, work together more effectively, and serve the needs of stakeholders
- Actions do not change existing authorities or create new mandates at the Federal, State, and Tribal levels
- Actions in the Draft Plan:
  - Increase early coordination for better and more predictable decision making
  - Increase awareness of RPB entity needs, interests, and resources
  - Develop new products and practices
- There are direct and indirect linkages among the actions



# Continuation of the Mid-Atlantic RPB

ACTION 1 – Continue regional collaboration through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body.

RPB member entities commit to continue the RPB as the primary mechanism to oversee Plan implementation and address future collaboration opportunities.

# Actions to Promote a Healthy Ocean Ecosystem

6 actions address 3 Healthy Ocean Ecosystem objectives:

- OBJECTIVE 1 – Discover, understand, protect, and restore the ocean ecosystem
- OBJECTIVE 2 – Account for ocean ecosystem changes and increased risks
- OBJECTIVE 3 – Value Traditional Knowledge



**ACTION 1** Identify ecologically rich areas of the Mid-Atlantic and increase understanding of those areas to foster more informed decision making.

**ACTION 2** Map shifts in ocean species and habitats.



**ACTION 3** Develop a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network.

**ACTION 4** Develop a regionally appropriate strategy for marine debris reduction.

**ACTION 5** Develop indicators of the health of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean ecosystem.

**ACTION 6** Incorporate Traditional Knowledge of Tribes regarding ocean health in regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic.



# Actions to Promote Sustainable Ocean Uses

33 actions address 9 objectives related to these ocean uses:

- National security
- Ocean energy
- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Ocean aquaculture
- Maritime commerce and navigation
- Sand management
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Tribal interests and uses
- Critical undersea infrastructure

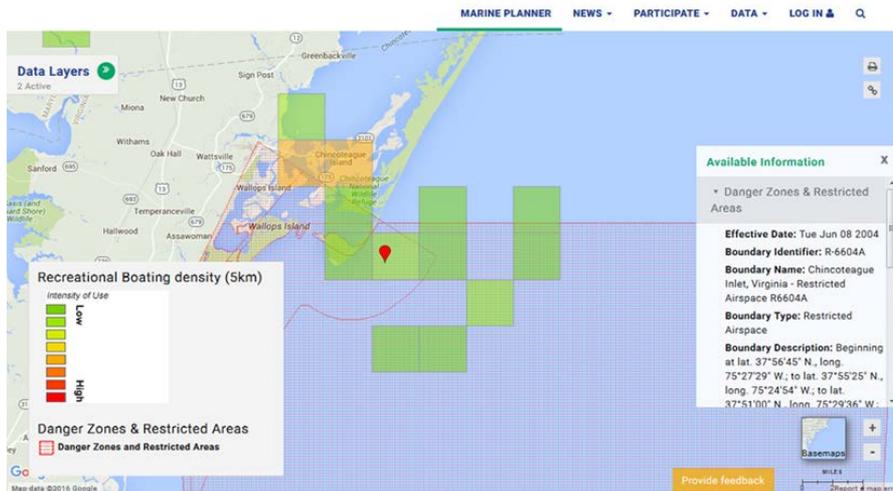


# National Security

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Account for national security interests in the Mid-Atlantic through enhanced coordination, increased transparency, and sharing of information across RPB member entities.

**ACTION 1** Use the Plan and Data Portal to guide and inform Department of Defense programs, initiatives, and planning documents.

**ACTION 2** Identify Department of Defense points of contact for the range of national security data layers in the Data Portal.



# Ocean Energy

OBJECTIVE 2: Facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic.

ACTION 1 Identify key intersections of relevant Federal programs and authorities that affect wind energy development.

ACTION 2 Develop internal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management guidance on integrating the Plan-developed best practices for using the Data Portal in management, environmental, and regulatory reviews.

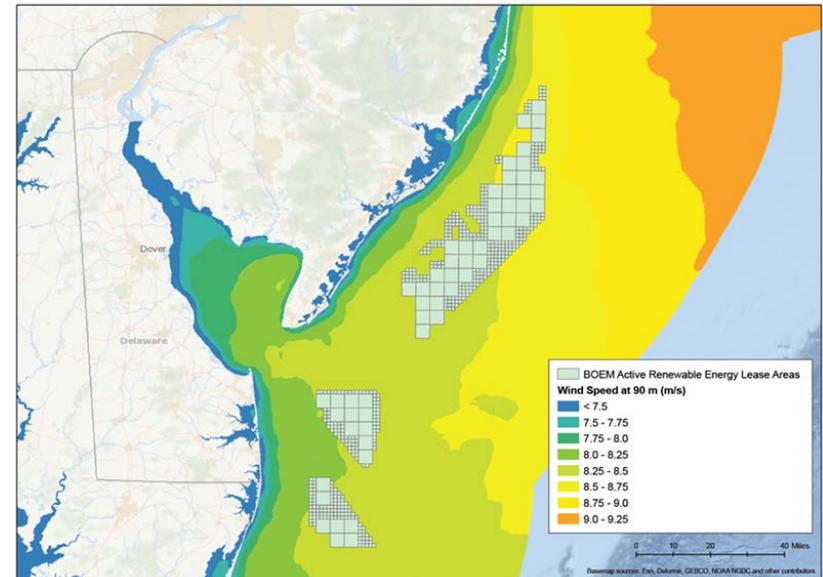
ACTION 3 Partner in on-going and planned studies, identify knowledge gaps, and increase access to research planning cycles related to ocean energy.

ACTION 4 Use the Data Portal to enhance access to data, environmental reports, and proposed offshore wind development activities.

ACTION 5 Improve consultations and communication with Tribes in the region.

ACTION 6 Enhance Bureau of Ocean Energy Management engagement of fishing industries through improved data and specific interactions.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DATA EXAMPLE



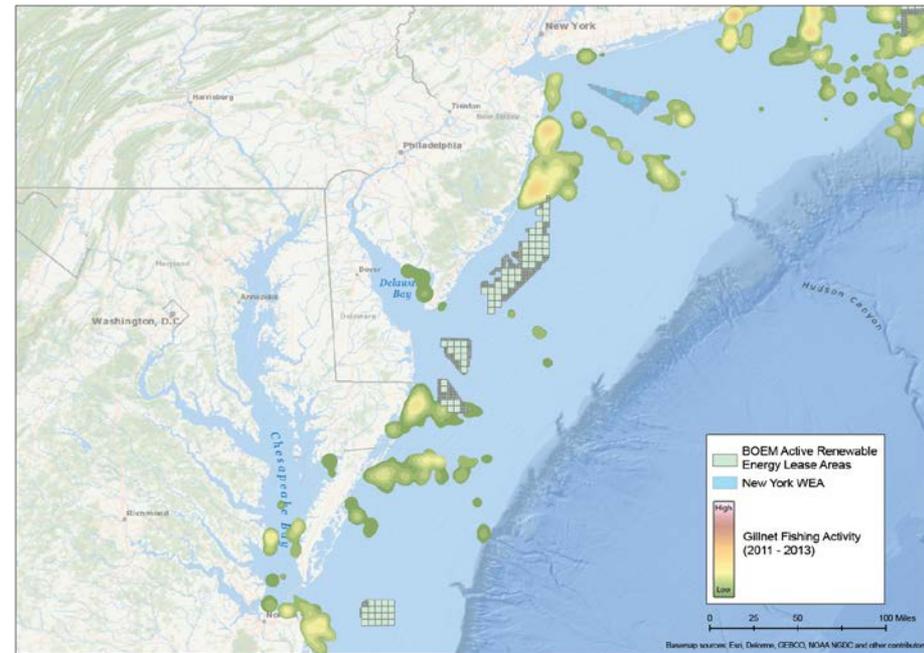
# Commercial and Recreational Fishing

OBJECTIVE 3: Foster greater understanding of the needs of Mid-Atlantic fishers and fishing communities in the context of the full range of ocean uses and conservation efforts.

ACTION 1 Improve the sharing of information and ideas between States, Tribes, Federal agencies, and Fishery Management Councils on fisheries science and management.

ACTION 2 Continue to actively engage stakeholders in fisheries science and management, and seek ways to make fishermen's knowledge available for planning.

ACTION 3 Improve collaboration for the conservation of essential fish habitat.





# Ocean Aquaculture

**OBJECTIVE 4:** Inform ocean aquaculture siting and permitting in the Mid-Atlantic through greater coordination among stakeholders and management authorities to address compatibility issues.

**ACTION 1** Use data and information in the Data Portal and other information sources advanced as a result of this Plan to support aquaculture siting and permitting.

**ACTION 2** Improve collaboration on ocean aquaculture.

# Maritime Commerce and Navigation

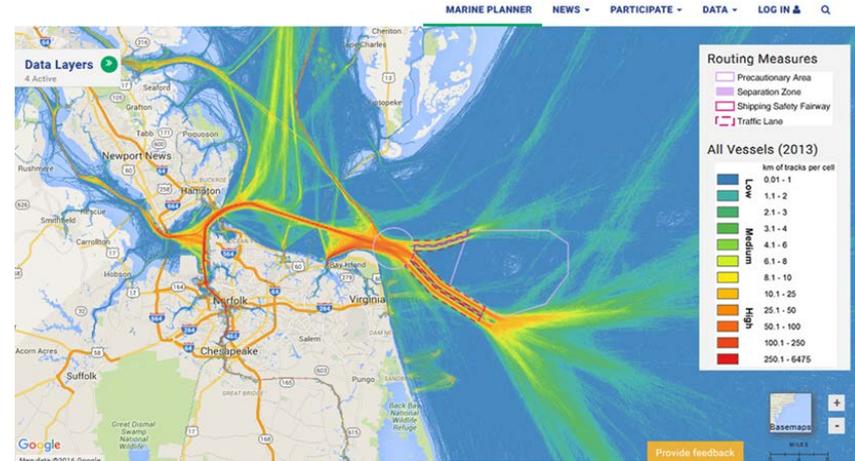
**OBJECTIVE 5:** Enhance institutional awareness of the impact that maritime commerce exerts on the national and Mid-Atlantic economies and ensure that new and updated maritime commerce and navigational information is available at the local and regional levels, for integration into regional ocean planning.

**ACTION 1** Monitor marine commerce trends and traffic patterns to identify and address emerging commerce and navigation needs.

**ACTION 2** Maintain reliable ocean use data sets relevant to navigation.

**ACTION 3** Catalogue intersections between entities whose authorities influence marine commerce and navigation and identify opportunities for improved coordination.

**ACTION 4** Identify impacts to navigation and port infrastructure stemming from the Panama Canal expansion.





# Sand Management

OBJECTIVE 6: Facilitate enhanced coordination among coastal jurisdictions, Federal and State regulatory agencies, and Tribal entities on the use of sand and gravel resources in the Mid-Atlantic in the context of coastal adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

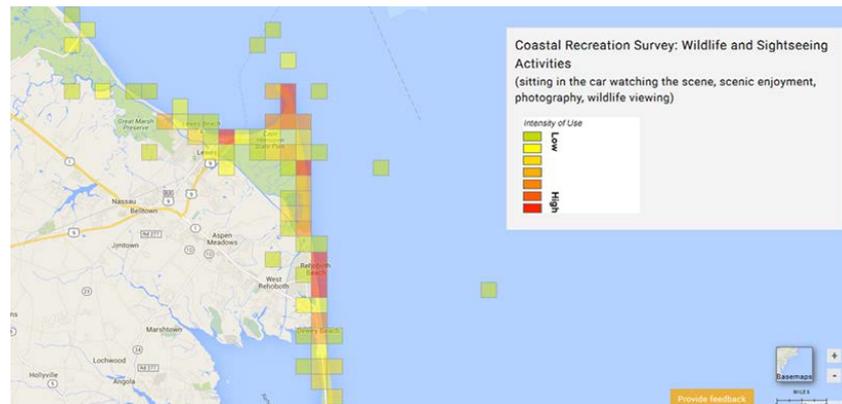
- ACTION 1 Promote strategic stakeholder engagement and regional partnering initiatives.
- ACTION 2 Develop a comprehensive inventory of sand resources to support planned and future restoration and resilience projects, provide availability for emergency use, and manage competing use challenges.
- ACTION 3 Conduct studies to support sustainable management of offshore sand resources.
- ACTION 4 Identify and improve existing Federal-State interactions and cooperative agreements in the Mid-Atlantic.
- ACTION 5 Engage fishing communities in planning and environmental review of proposed activities.
- ACTION 6 Engage Tribes in planning and environmental review of proposed activities.



# Non-Consumptive Recreation

OBJECTIVE 7: Account for the importance of nearshore and offshore non-consumptive recreational uses, and their local and regional economic contributions in the Mid-Atlantic; and in the management of other ocean uses and resources, consider impacts on non-consumptive recreational activities (e.g., surfing, boating, whale watching, birding, diving).

ACTION 1 Identify, characterize, and share information about measures to maintain the recreational value of important non-consumptive recreational areas and the activities they sustain.





# Tribal Interests and Uses

**OBJECTIVE 8:** Recognize and respect the right of Tribal Nations to free, prior, and informed consent while taking into account important Tribal uses and submerged cultural resources in the planning process.

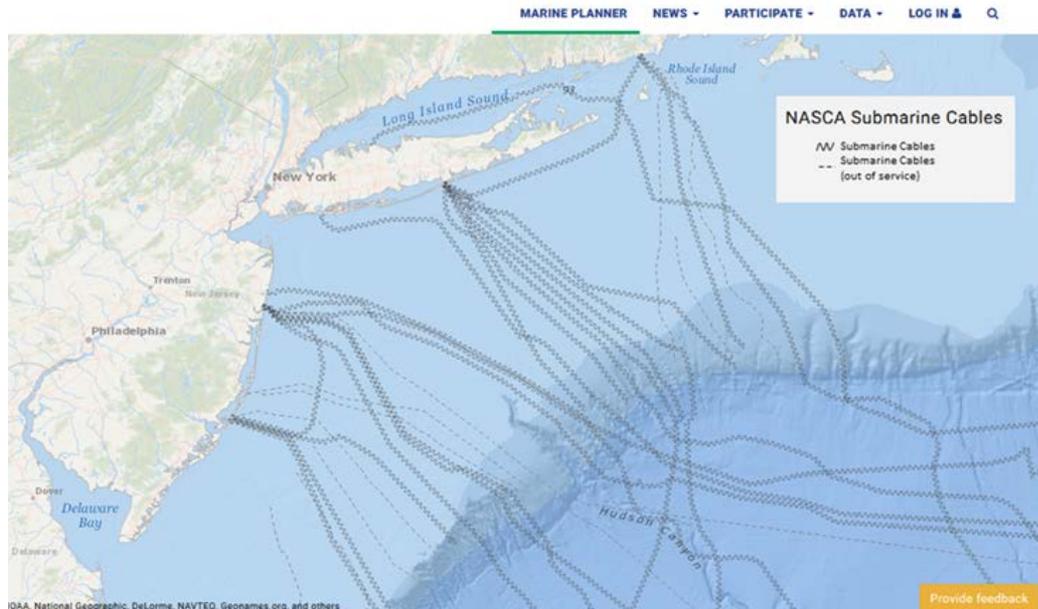
- ACTION 1** Identify, review and, if appropriate, recommend updates to Tribal consultation policies as they pertain to ocean planning.
- ACTION 2** Develop Tribal and agency ocean planning contact directories.
- ACTION 3** Work with Tribes to develop a Tribal Ocean Planning Network to facilitate coordination between Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Tribes in the ocean planning process.
- ACTION 4** Enhance understanding of Tribal rights.
- ACTION 5** Federal and State governments meet with Tribes to discuss issues related to Tribal participation in regional ocean planning and management, including policy and technical matters and grant opportunities.
- ACTION 6** Account for Tribal historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act.
- ACTION 7** Identify and address data gaps pertaining to Tribal use of the ocean.

# Critical Undersea Infrastructure

OBJECTIVE 9: Facilitate greater understanding of the current and potential future location of submerged infrastructure, such as submarine cables (e.g., for communication and electricity), and pipelines.

ACTION 1 Engage the submerged pipelines and submarine cables industries to understand their current and projected needs for ocean space, and conduct an inventory of obsolete structures.

ACTION 2 Ensure early consultation with relevant undersea infrastructure interests in the regulatory review of marine development projects.

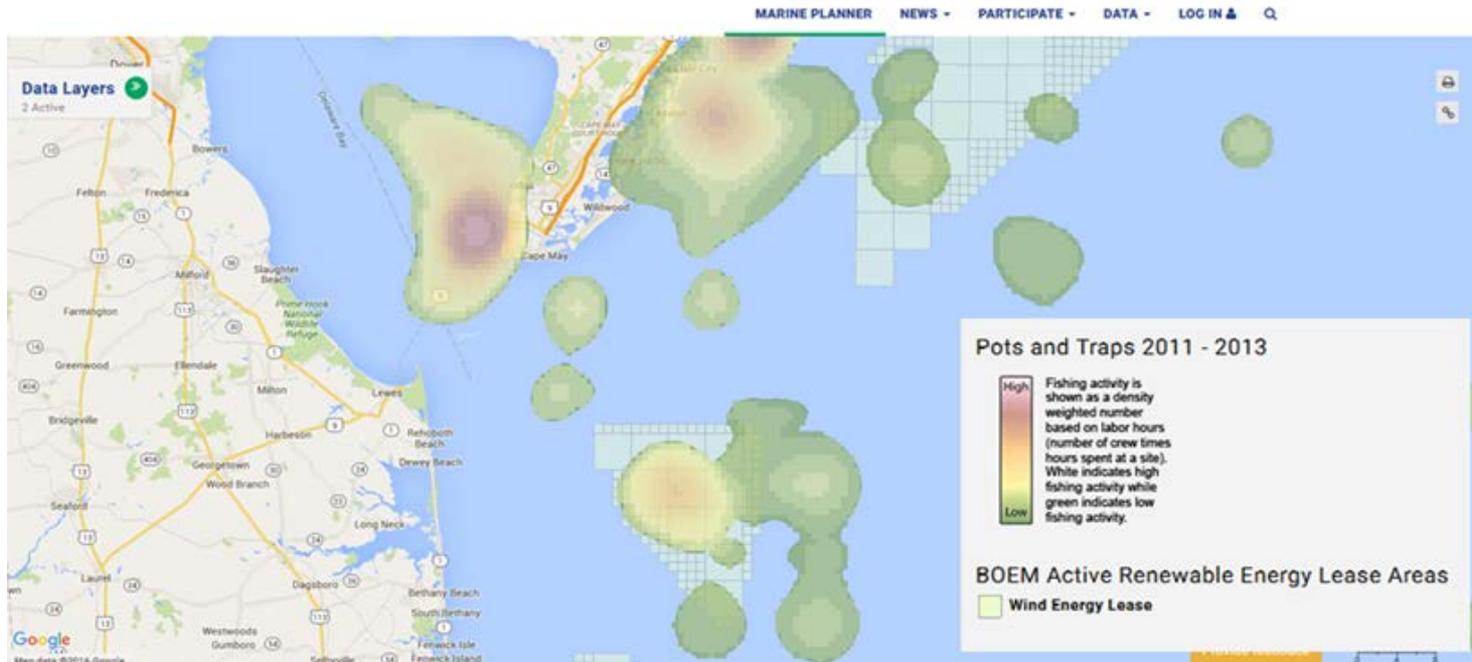


# Coastal Zone Management Act

The RPB expresses interest in further exploring two options that would enable certain decisions related to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) to be made in a more efficient, streamlined, and coordinated manner.

The options relate to:

1. Providing earlier Federal notice to States and Tribes than current regulations require.
2. Improving States' abilities to execute the Federal Consistency provisions of the CZMA in the offshore space.



## Chapter 3

# Science, Data, and Tools to Support Decision Making

### 3.1 Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

#### 3.1.1 Overview and Summary of Data Portal Content

#### 3.1.2 Marine Life Distribution and Abundance Products

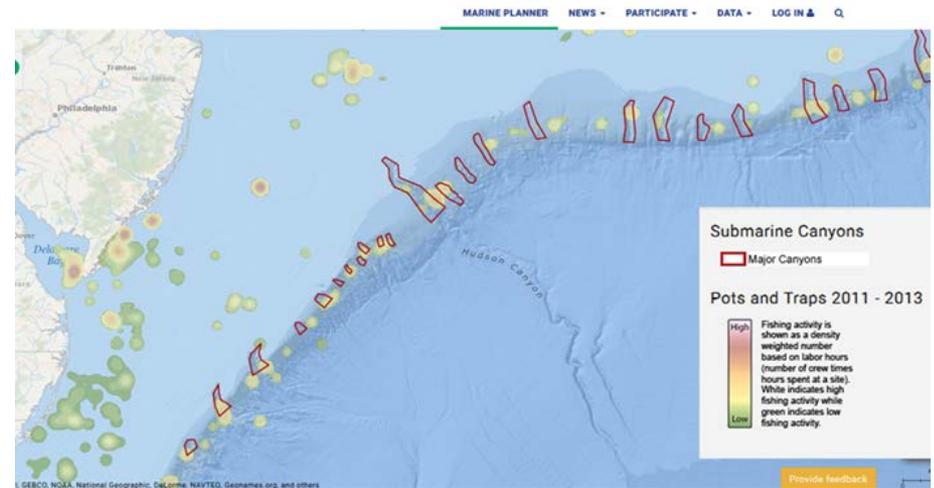
#### 3.1.3 Human Use Data Synthesis Products

### 3.2 Actions Related to the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and Science and Research

# Data Portal Overview

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (Data Portal) is:

- A key resource informing ocean planning
- A central, publicly accessible location for interactive ocean mapping and information focused on the Mid-Atlantic region
- A tool for Federal, State, Tribal, and local decision makers, as well as the general public to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information
- It can be accessed here:  
<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org>



# Marine Life Data and Analysis

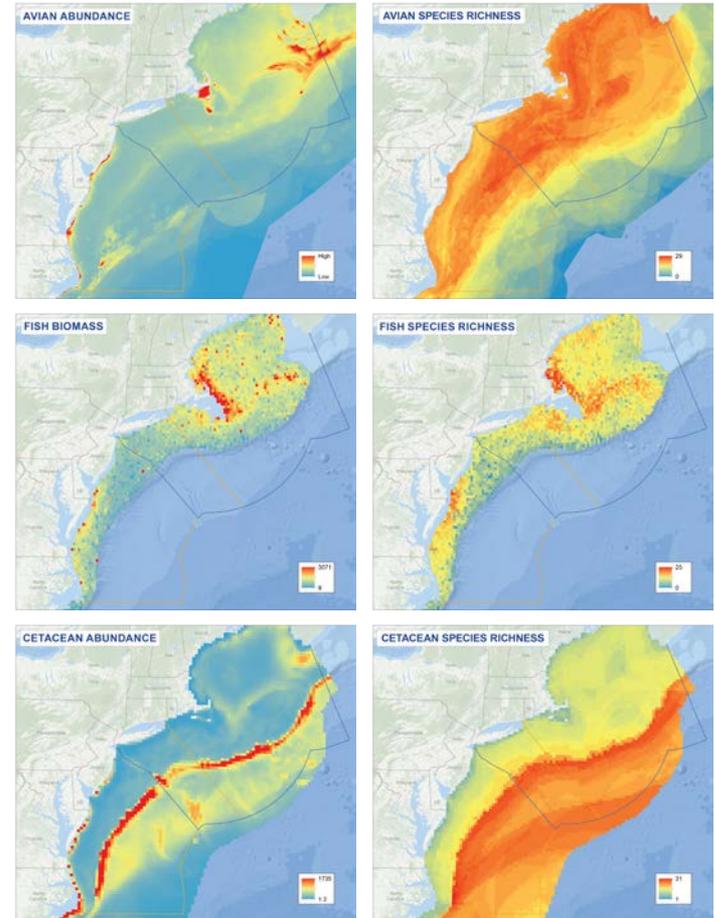
New data marine life distribution and abundance products were created as a part of the ocean planning process in the Mid-Atlantic and will be used by RPB entities. These include:

- “Base layer” predictive model products for 29 marine mammal species or species guilds and 40 avian species, and distribution and abundance maps for 82 fish species
- Over 3,000 publicly available spatial data layers, as well as several summary aggregate map products
- Summary aggregate products comprised of more than one species created to allow quick access to map summaries of groups of species by biology, management, or sensitivity to certain stressors

These products are accessible on the Data Portal.

All products fill critical gaps and can be queried to help answer questions about the distribution and abundance of specific species in areas of interest to planners and ocean resource managers.

The Marine Life Data and Analysis Team that developed these products is composed of researchers from Duke University, NOAA, and Loyola University.

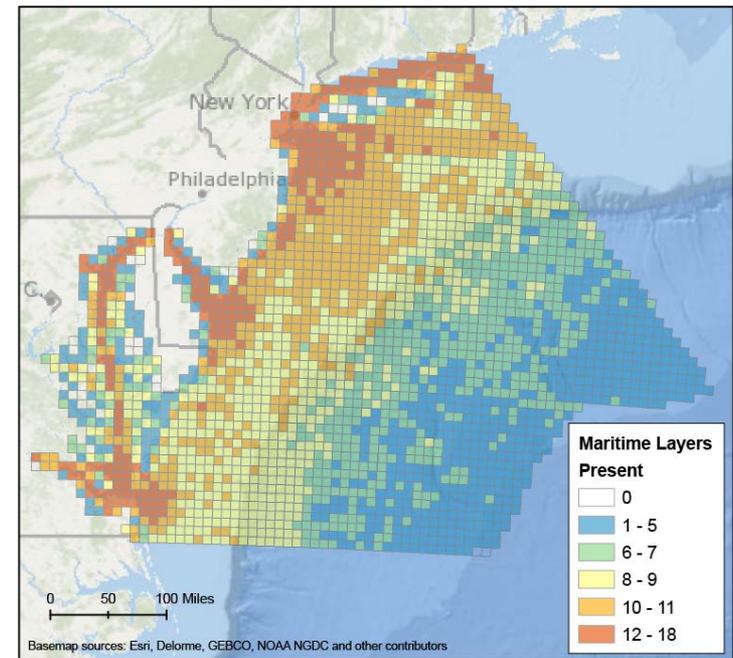


# Human Use Data Synthesis

Human Use Data Synthesis (HUDS) products, developed as part of the planning process are also on the Data Portal.

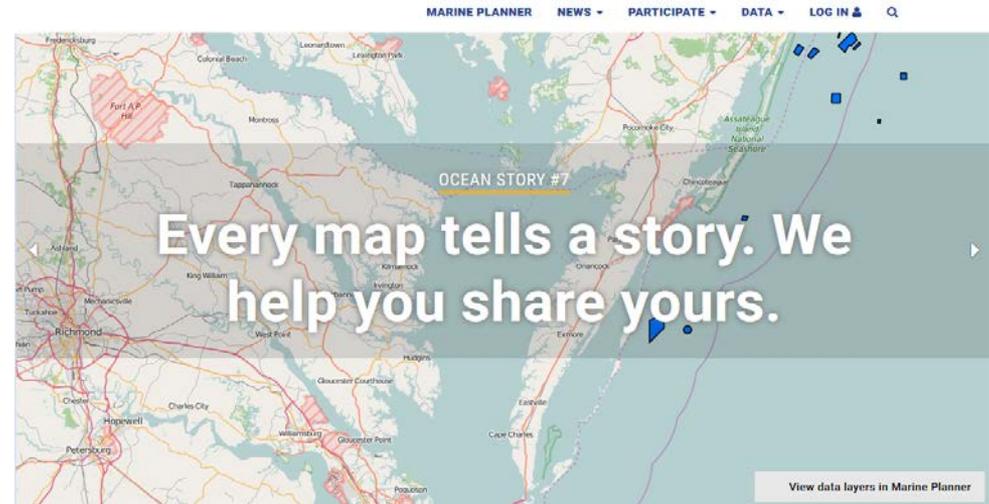
The HUDS products:

- Depict the number of uses in a given area (based on available data)
- Allow users to spatially identify the intensity of human uses across the different activity types
- Depict different social and economic uses
- Highlight locations where multiple uses occur
- Provide a rough measure of use intensity for maritime transportation and commercial fishing



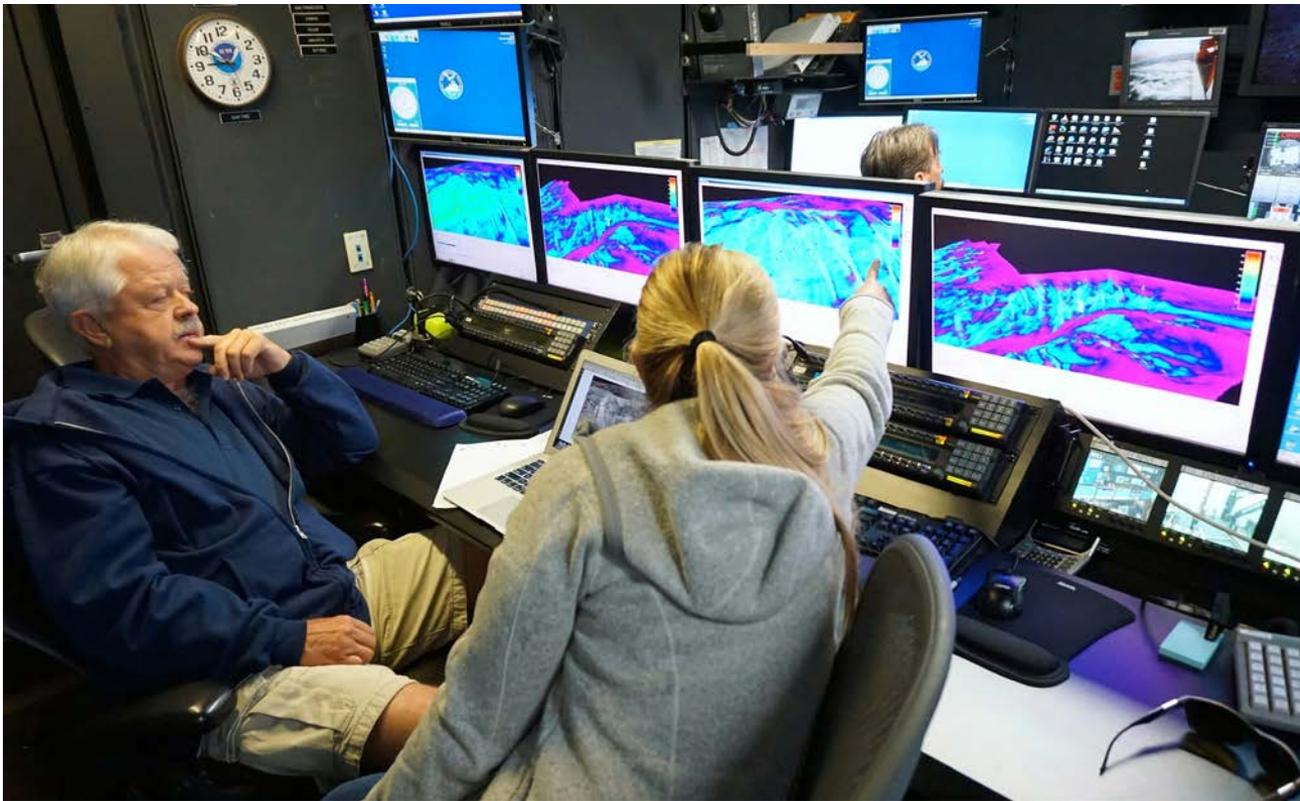
# Actions Related to the Data Portal

- 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.



# Actions Related to Science and Research

ACTION 1 Identify priority applied science and research needs for the Mid-Atlantic region.





# Chapter 4

## Plan Implementation

4.1 Administration

4.2 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation



The RPB will continue its work to ensure that:

- Progress is made in implementing the actions articulated in the Plan
- Stakeholders are continually engaged
- Ongoing coordination continues among RPB entities, with partners, and with adjacent planning processes
- Expertise and resources are being leveraged
- New information and changing circumstances are accounted for
- Detailed work plans for Plan implementation are developed and updated over time

# Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

The RPB commits to developing a performance monitoring and evaluation plan that will provide the RPB, stakeholders, and the public with tools to determine whether and how effectively the Plan actions implemented by the RPB are achieving the Framework goals and objectives.





# Appendices

- Foundational Documents of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body
- Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Sources and Supporting Information
- Regulatory and Management Context
- Draft Framework for Identification of Ecologically Rich Areas
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean Data and Information Products
- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation



# Public Comment process and upcoming stakeholder engagement opportunities

MARCO-hosted open house listening sessions:

- July 12: Virginia Beach, Virginia
- July 14: West Long Branch, New Jersey
- July 19: Ocean City, Maryland
- July 20: Lewes, Delaware
- July 27: Selden, New York

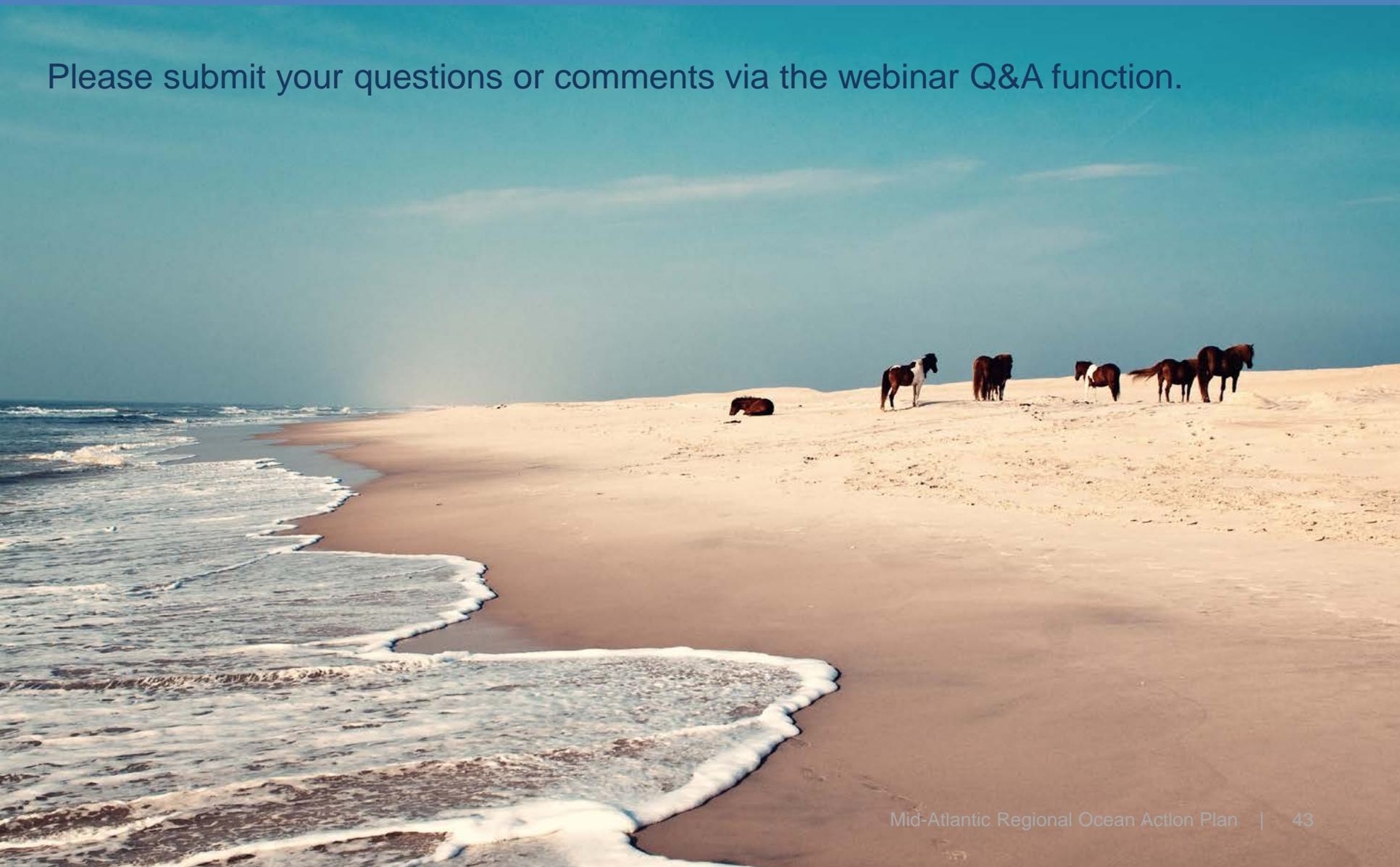
For more information see:

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Submit public comment on Draft Plan to  
MidAtlanticRPB@boem.gov by September 6, 2016

# Questions? Comments?

Please submit your questions or comments via the webinar Q&A function.



# Recap Webinar Materials



The following will be posted on the RPB website (<http://www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body>) after the webinar:

- A recording of the webinar
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# Thank you!

*<http://www.boem.gov/mid-atlantic-regional-planning-body/>*

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