Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body

MARCO
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan

2009: MARCO Formed

A Five State Governors' Agreement

- Virginia

- Maryland

- Delaware

- New Jersey

- New York

Working to enhance the vitality of the region's ocean ecosystem and economy

www.midatlanticocean.org

MARCO
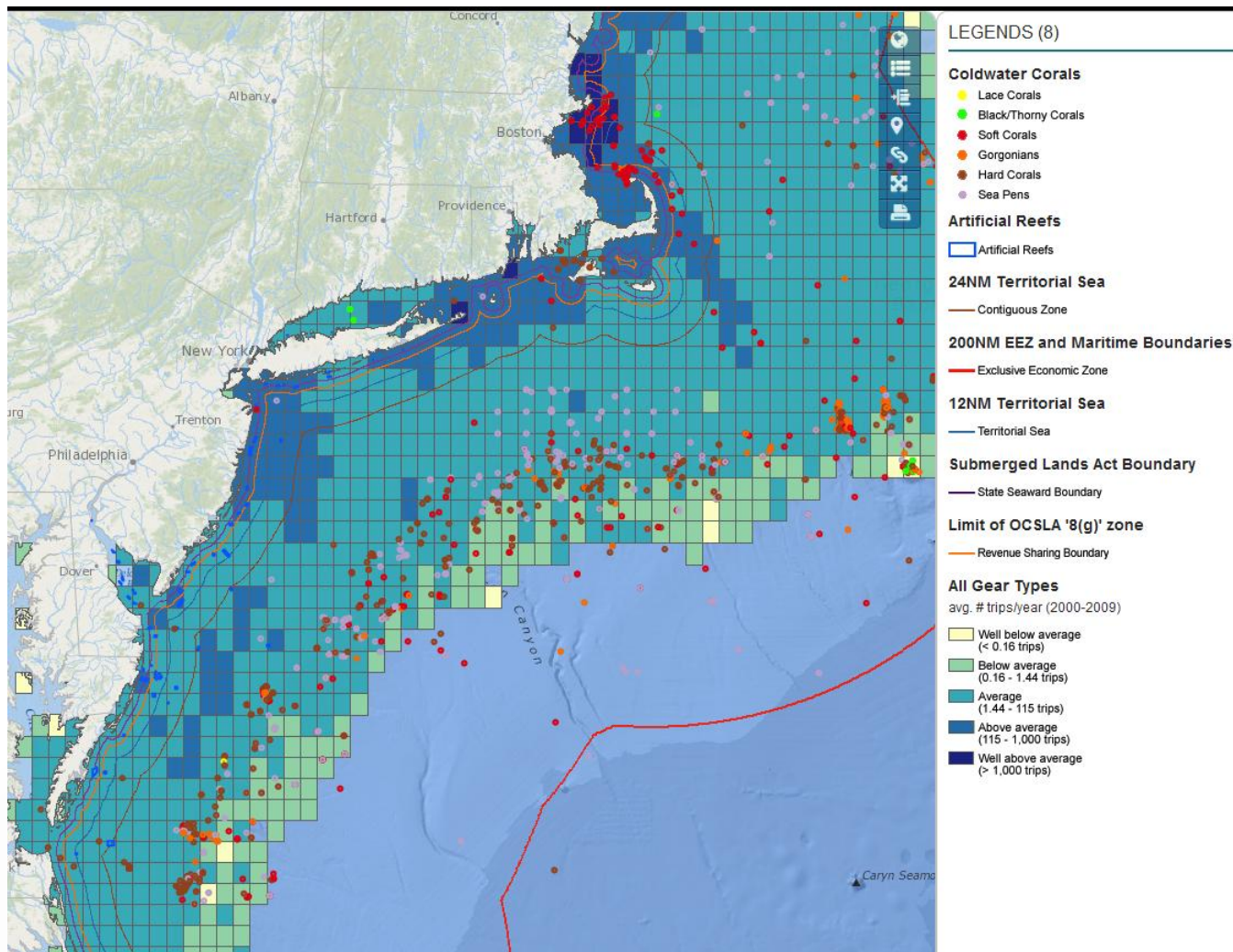MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

MARCO's Shared Priorities

1. Protect important ocean *habitats*

2. Support *offshore renewable energy*

3. Prepare for impacts of *climate change* on ocean

4. Promote ocean *water quality* improvements

5. Support ocean planning

MARCO
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

2010: MARCO Portal Launched
http://portal.midatlanticocean.org

4

2010: National Ocean Policy Established by Presidential Executive Order

"to coordinate and implement regional ocean planning with state, federal, tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives."
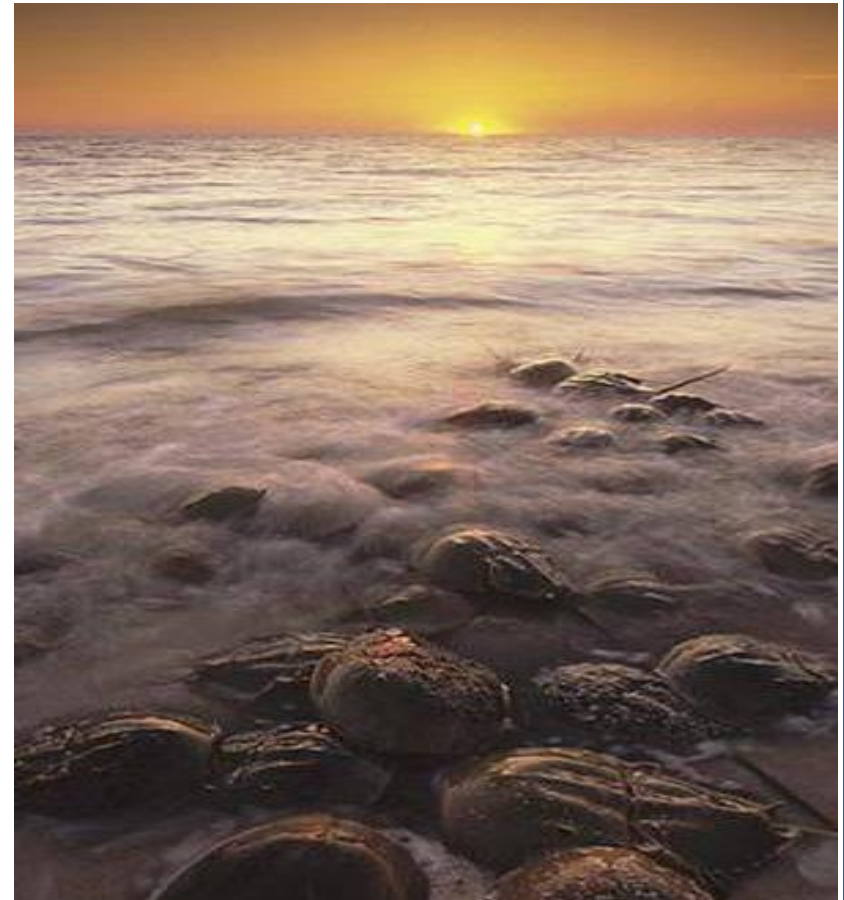

THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force July 19, 2010

2013: Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) Formed

- 9 Federal Agencies

- 5 MARCO States + PA

- 2 Tribes (Shinnecock and Pamunkey)

- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Mid-Atlantic-Regional-Planning-Body/index.aspx

2016: Ocean Action Plan Enacted

- Created with significant public input: webinars, listening sessions, RPB meetings with public comment sessions,

- Dec 7, 2016: Certified by the National Ocean Council as consistent with objectives of Executive Order 13547

- Work is ongoing for 5-year plan

RPB Purpose

Main job: Create & carry out a Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan that:

- **Prepares for new and expanding uses** in the Mid-Atlantic
- **Leads to more informed decisions** about ocean use
- **Increases coordination** across agencies and levels of government
- **Engages stakeholders** to share and vet ocean data and achieve a vision

OAP Goal 1: Healthy Ocean Ecosystem Actions

1. Identify & assess Ecologically Rich Areas (ERAs)

2. Map shifts in species due to climate change

3. Develop a Mid-A ocean acidification monitoring network

4. Develop a regionally appropriate marine debris strategy

5. Develop indicators of ocean health

6. Incorporate traditional knowledge of ocean health in ocean planning

OAP Goal 2: Sustainable Human Use Actions

- National Security

- Ocean Energy
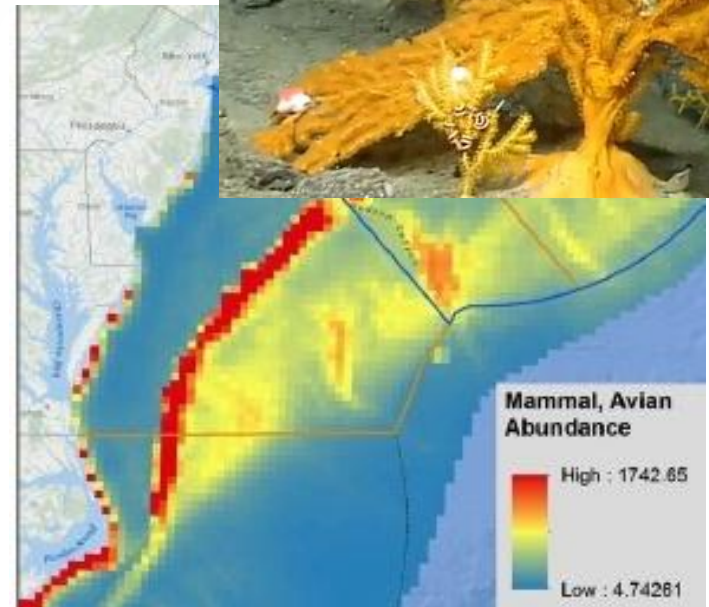
- Fishing

- **Maritime Commerce and Navigation**

OAP Goal 2: Sustainable Human Use Actions

- Tribal interests & uses

- Non-consumptive recreation

- Offshore sand management

- Critical undersea infrastructure

Additional OAP Actions

- Identify and prioritize research needs

- Implement best practices for coordination and use of portal data

- Develop performance evaluation plan

- Develop and implement long-term funding & operation of portal

Mammal, Avian Abundance

High : 1742.65

Low : 4.74261

Next Steps

Jan 2018   In-person meeting in Philadelphia

Ongoing   Working groups, steering committees, and individual agencies carry out action items.

The Mid-A OPA designates USCG and MARAD as the Federal Co-Leads for Maritime Commerce and Navigation and specifies 4 actions for implementation.

OAP Maritime Commerce and Navigation Implementation Actions

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

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

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

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

OAP Maritime Commerce and Navigation Current Initiatives and Challenges
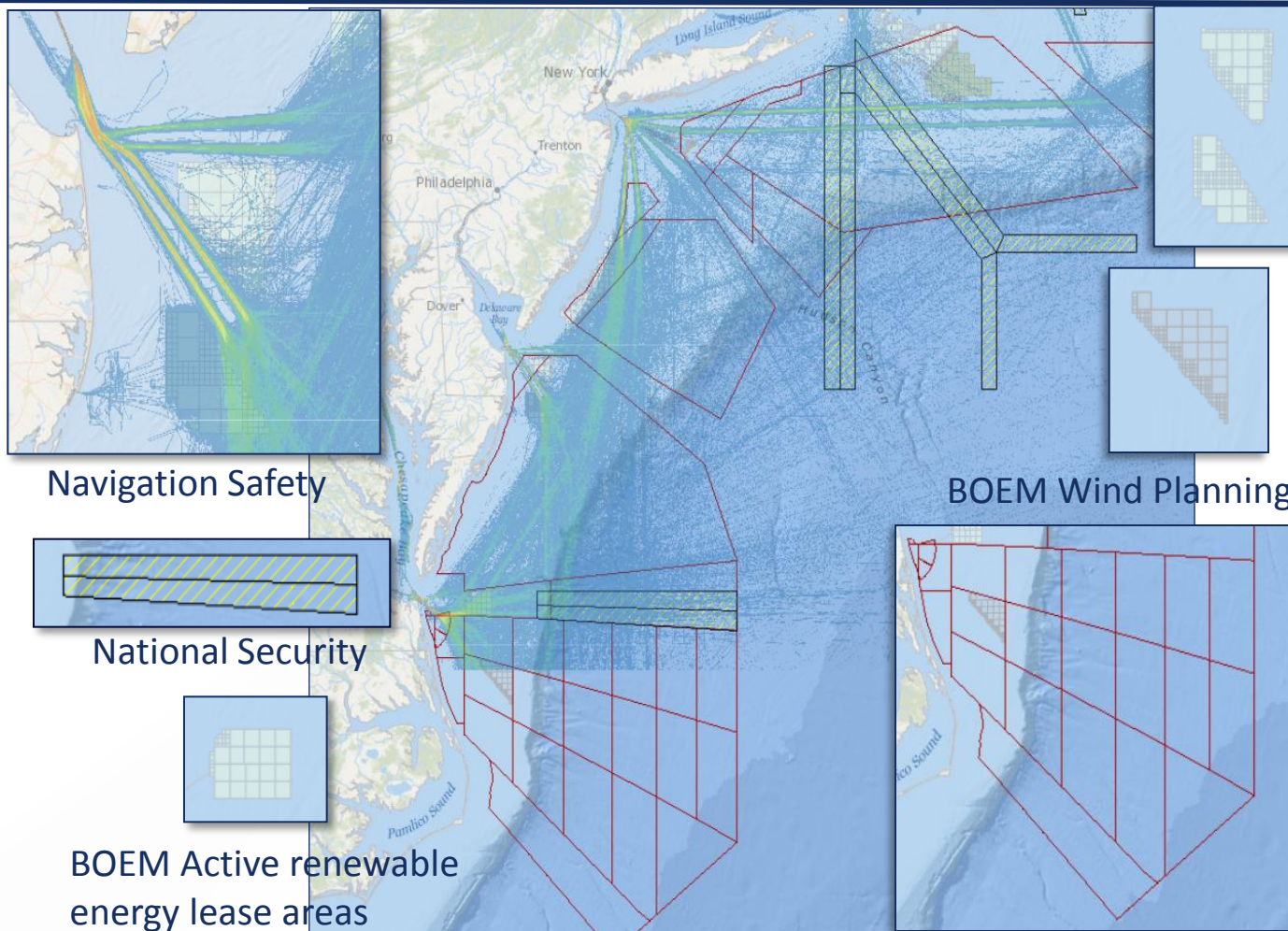

1. Establish Mid-A Regional Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety Group with semi-annual/virtual meetings (NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA)

2. Champion implementation of ACPARS guidelines.

3. Champion continued development and distribution of AIS data to the public.

4. Challenge: current resources (marinecadastre.gov and MARCO Portal) rely on 2013 AIS data. AIS data affects 3 out of 4 OAP actions, and data readily available is not indicative of current vessel traffic patterns.

Example MARCO Data Portal Layers

Navigation Safety

National Security

BOEM Active renewable energy lease areas

BOEM Wind Planning Areas

Warning Area