

# MARCO

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL  
COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

## Mid- Atlantic Regional Planning Body

## Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan

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Virginia Coastal Zone  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# 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](http://www.midatlanticocean.org)



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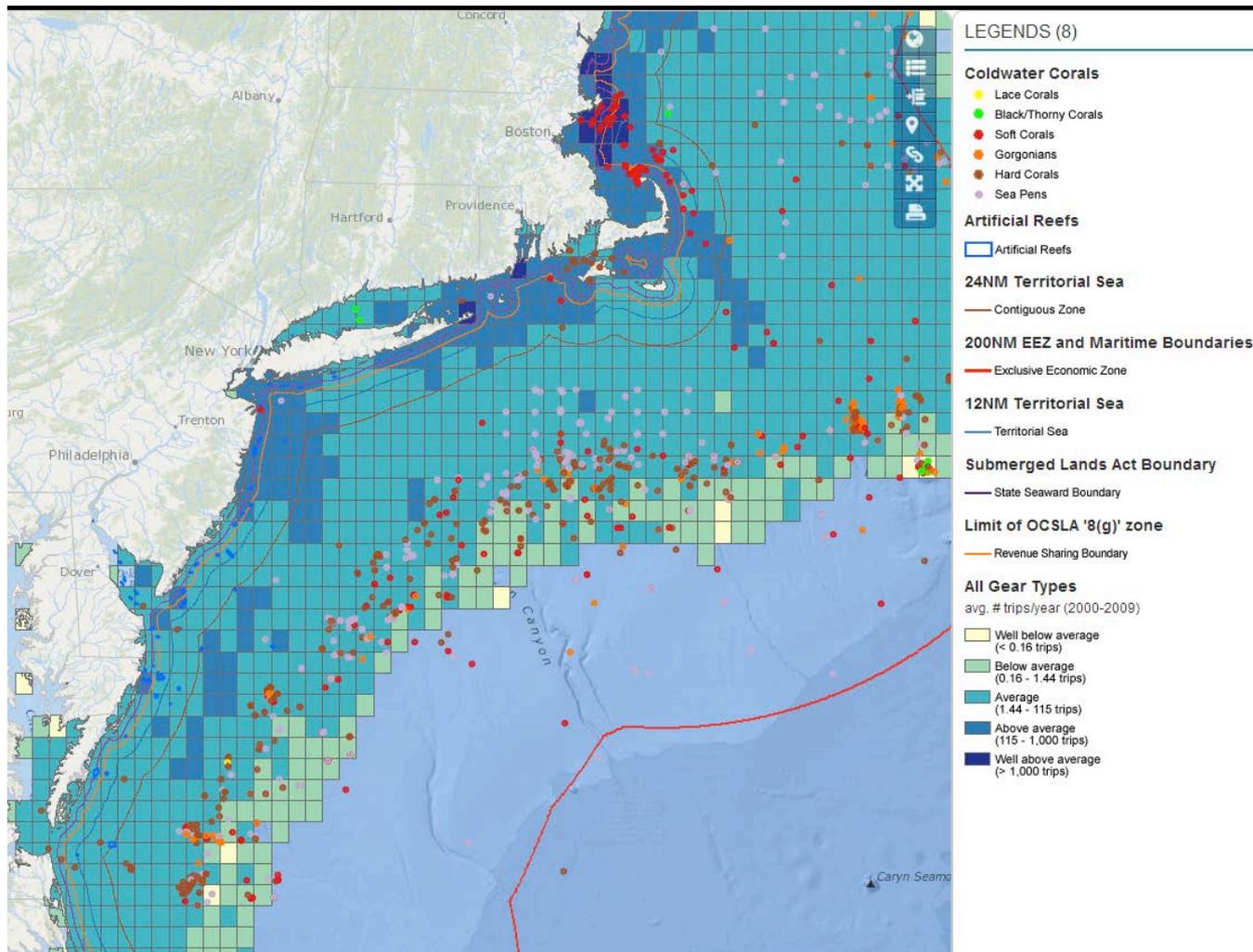
# MARCO's Shared Priorities

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



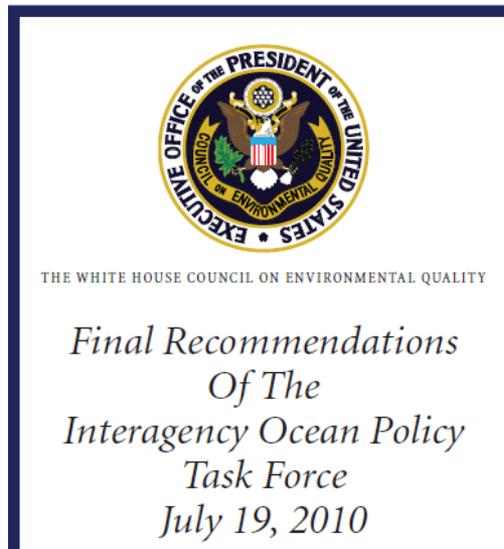
# 2010: MARCO Portal Launched

<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org>



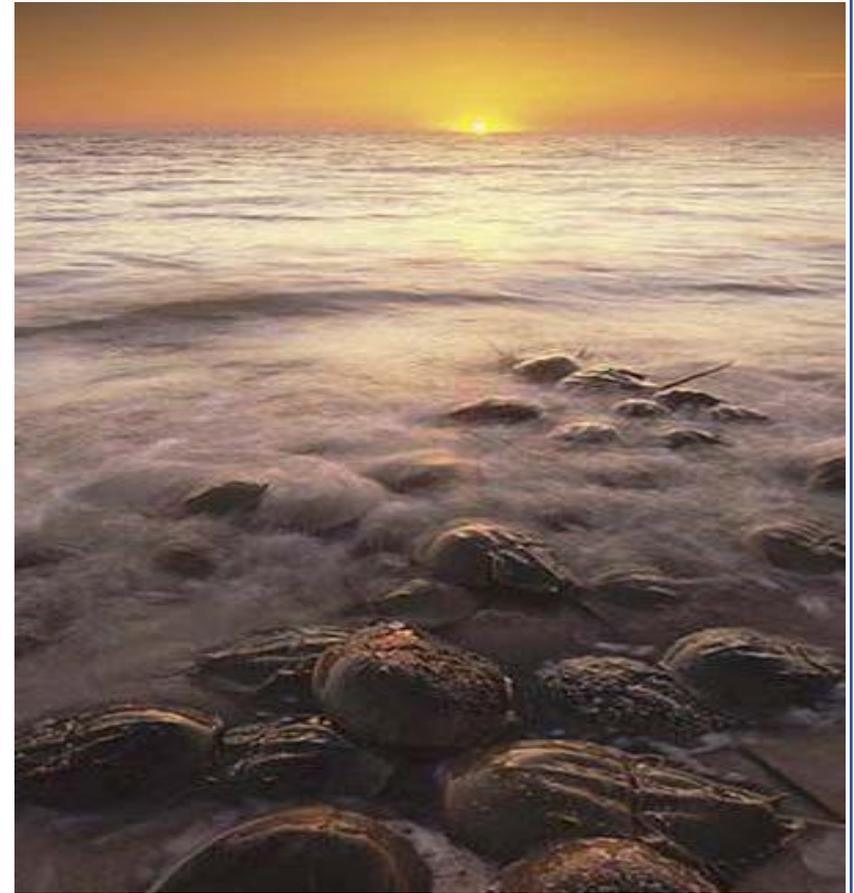
# 2010: National Ocean Policy Established by Presidential Executive Order

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



# 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>

# RPB Purpose

## Main job: Create 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



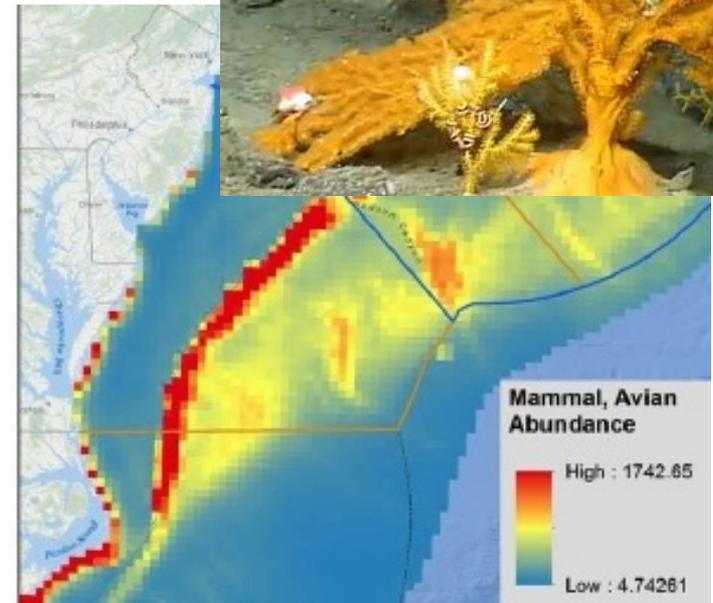
# OAP Goal 2: Sustainable Human Use Actions

- 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



# Next Steps

Sep/Oct	Responded to public comments on draft plan and finalized plan
Oct 31	Submitted OAP to National Ocean Council
Nov/Dec	NOC approval of Mid-A OAP
Jan 2017	Work groups form & implementation begins

