Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Mapping & Planning Portal

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Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation

Signed in June 2009 by:

New York

New Jersey

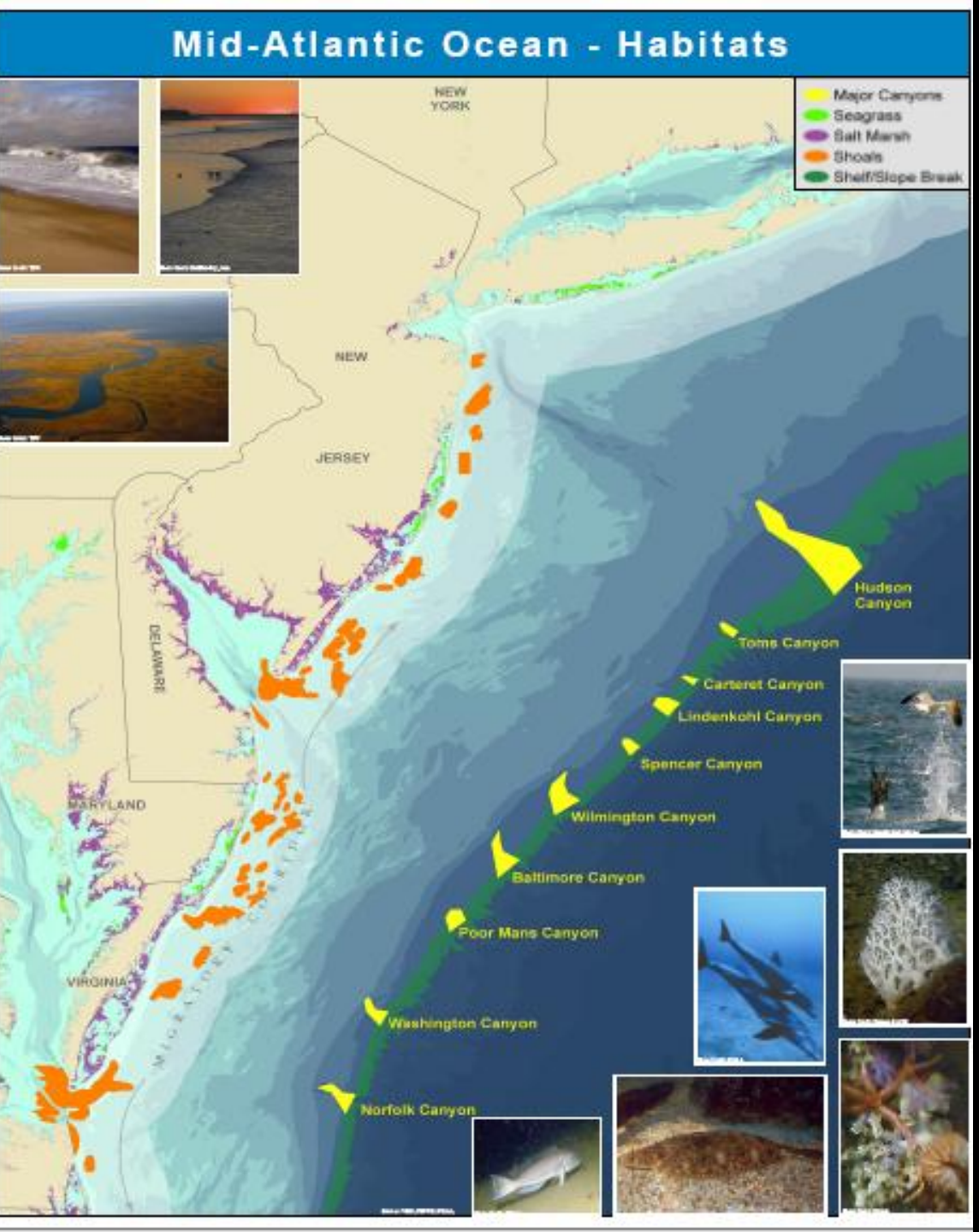
Delaware

Maryland

Virginia

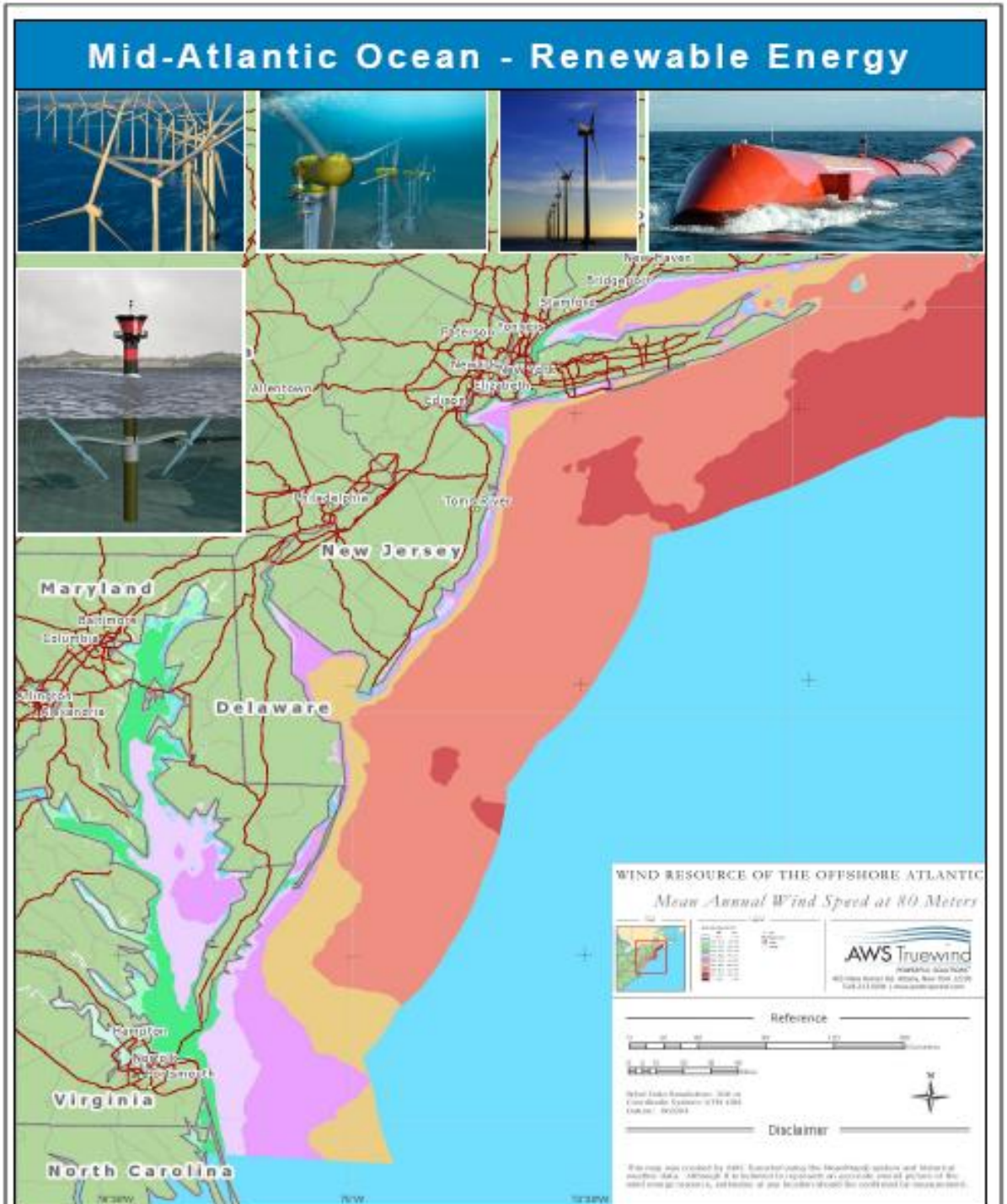
Four Key Focal Areas

- Protect Key Ocean Habitats
- Promote Renewal Offshore Energy
- Improve Water Quality
- Adapt to Climate Change



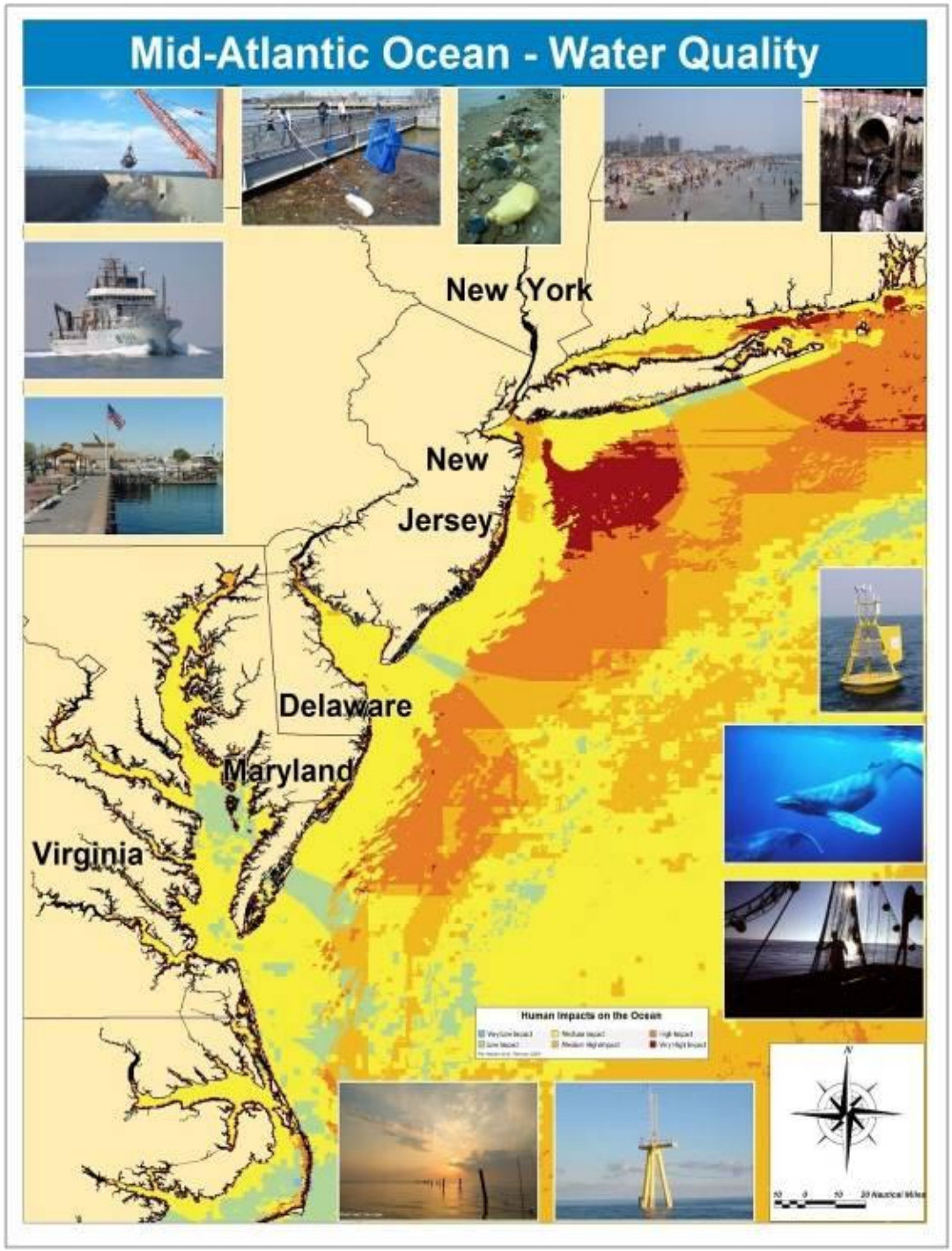
Protect Key Ocean Habitats

- 10 major offshore canyons
- Cold water corals
- Key fish habitats
- Bird, marine mammal, sea turtle and other migration corridors



Promote Renewable Offshore Energy

- Best locations for wind turbines and facilities.
- Where can use conflicts be anticipated.



Improve Water Quality

- Not on MARCO's agenda as a spatial planning task. MARCO is working on this from policy perspective.
- But water quality data may be important for some facility siting and habitat protection issues.

Adapt to Climate Change

- Identify key infrastructure vulnerable to sea level rise and flood hazards at a coarse scale

MARCO Structure

Five Action Teams:

1. Offshore Renewable Energy
   Lead: MD – Gwynne Schultz

2. Offshore Habitats
   Lead: NY – Greg Capobianco

3. Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency
   Lead: DE – Sarah Cooksey

4. Water Quality
   Lead: MD – Matt Fleming

5. Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)
   Lead: VA – Laura McKay

MARCO Portal Creation

1. Used VA CZM funds to contract with TNC
2. TNC surveyed a small group of potential users
   - What portal functions do you want?
   - What data do you have?
3. Create internal test portal
4. TNC collected feedback from survey group and revamped as needed
5. MARCO portal went live in **December 2010**

MARCO Website

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

Page ▾ Safety ▾ Tools ▾

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

New York New Jersey Delaware Maryland Virginia

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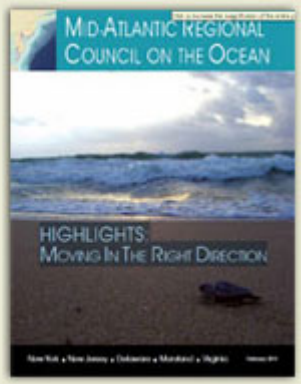
MARCO Highlights - Moving in the Right Direction



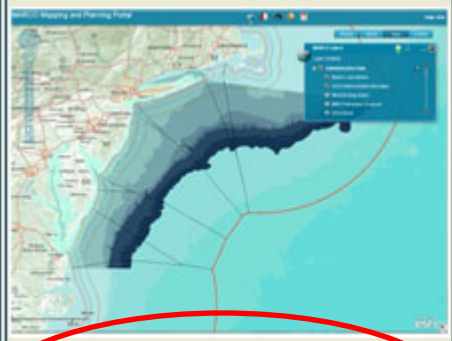
Since the first conversations among the States in 2008, MARCO has made significant progress in establishing and embarking on a regional agenda for shared state action in the Mid-Atlantic. Click the thumbnail to view the MARCO Highlights document.

What is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean?

The ocean waters of the Mid-Atlantic, stretching from New York to Virginia, provide a wealth of economic and environmental services to local communities, States, and the nation. At the same time, the people of the Mid-Atlantic region are a significant force that influences our ocean and coastal environment. We change the coastline and watershed through our buildings and development, we harvest the ocean's resources through increasingly efficient means, and we rely on offshore waters to support diverse activities such as maritime commerce and recreation. As the intensity of these human influences has increased, they have at times led to significant threats to the health of our ecosystems. Now our ocean and coastal resources face a new generation of challenges, and these challenges are only growing in their urgency.

To successfully address these challenges, and to ensure that future

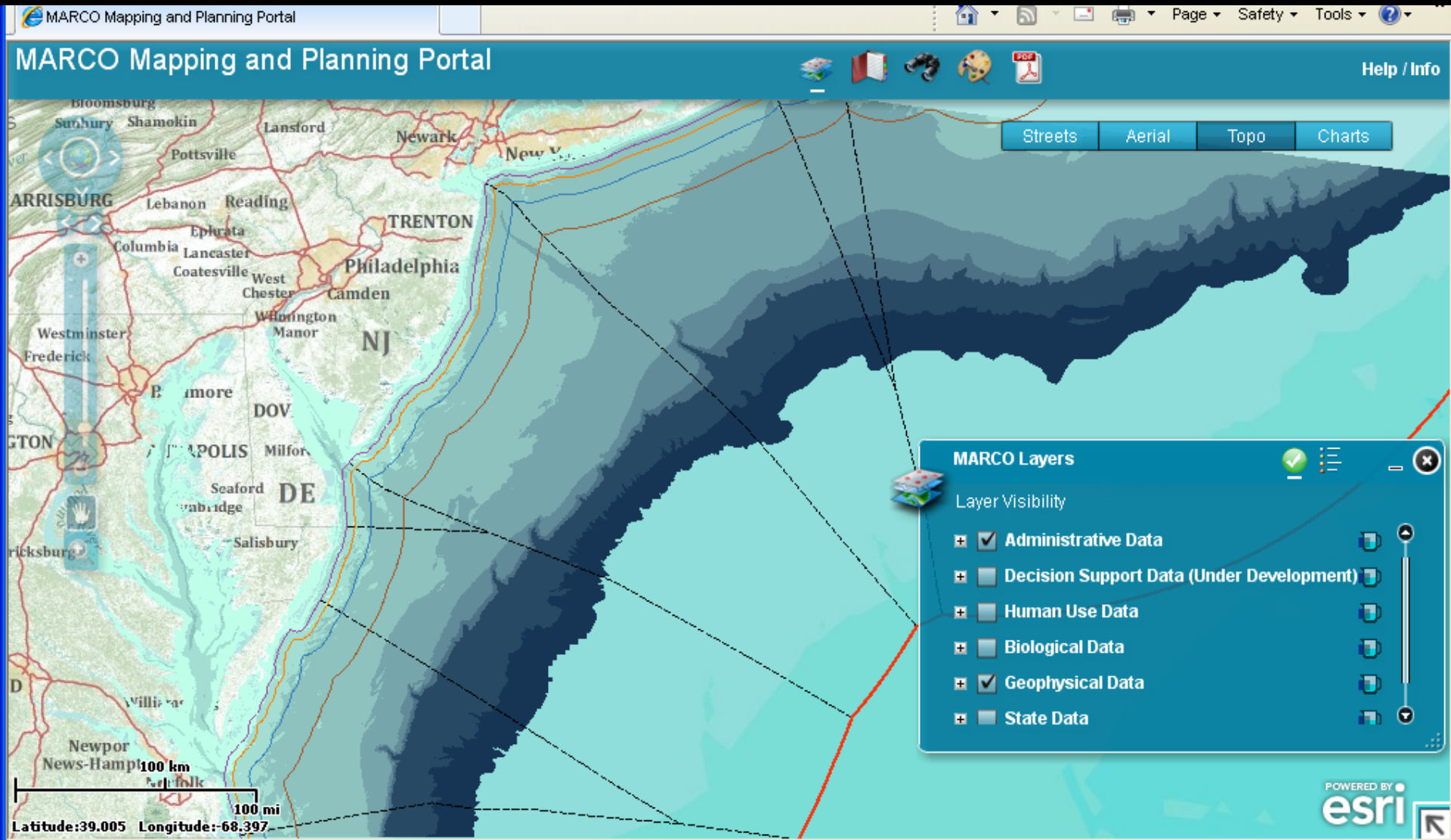
MARCO Announces New Mapping and Planning Portal for Mid-Atlantic Region



The MARCO Mapping and Planning Portal is an online tool that allows state, federal, and local decision-makers and the public to visualize, query, map, and analyze ocean and coastal data in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program provided

MARCO Mapping & Planning Portal

Available at www.midatlanticocean.org



MARCO Mapping & Planning Portal

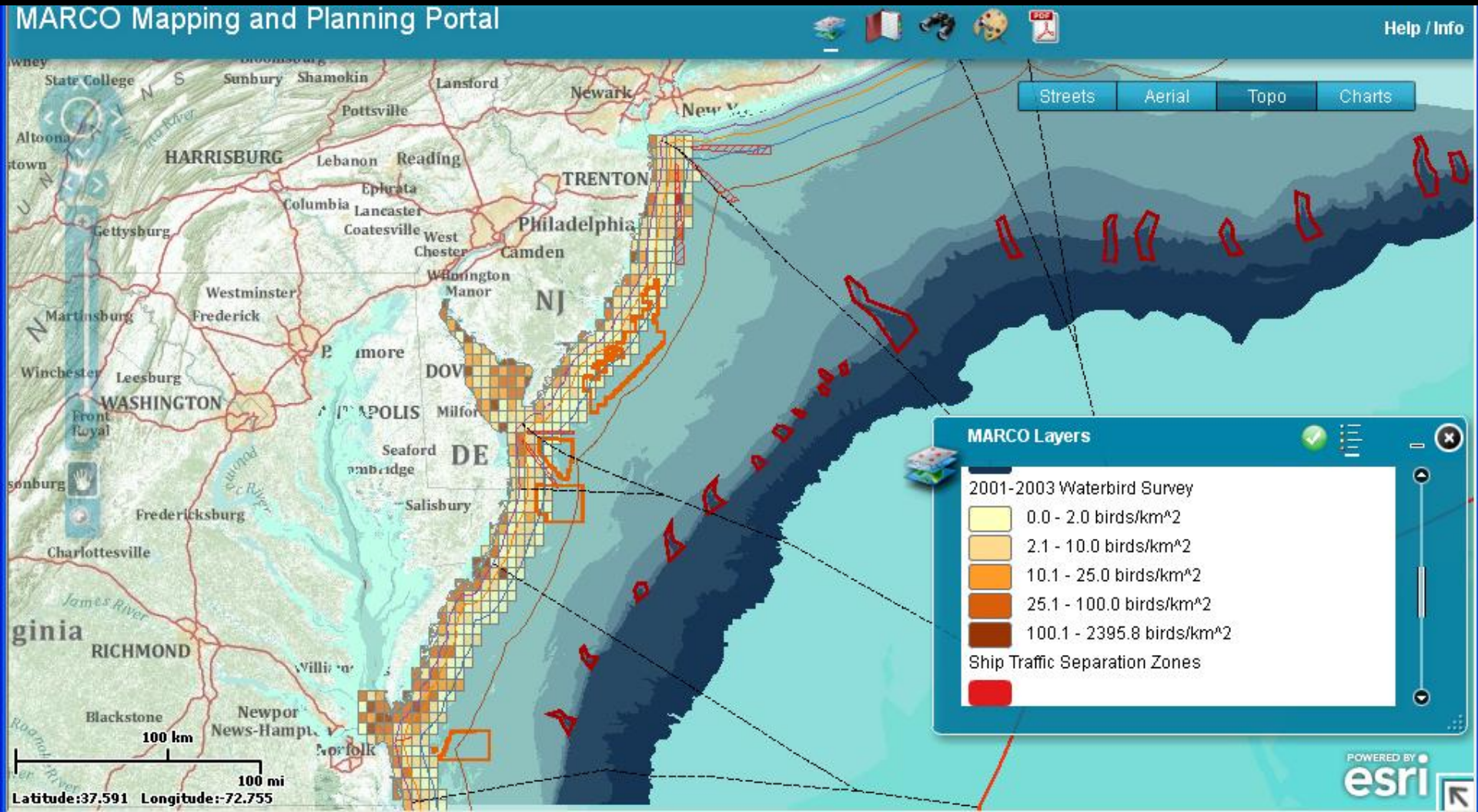
6 Data Categories:

1. Administrative (6)
2. Decision Support (2)
3. Human Use (4)
4. Biological (7)
5. Geophysical (8)
6. State Specific (2)

29 data layers

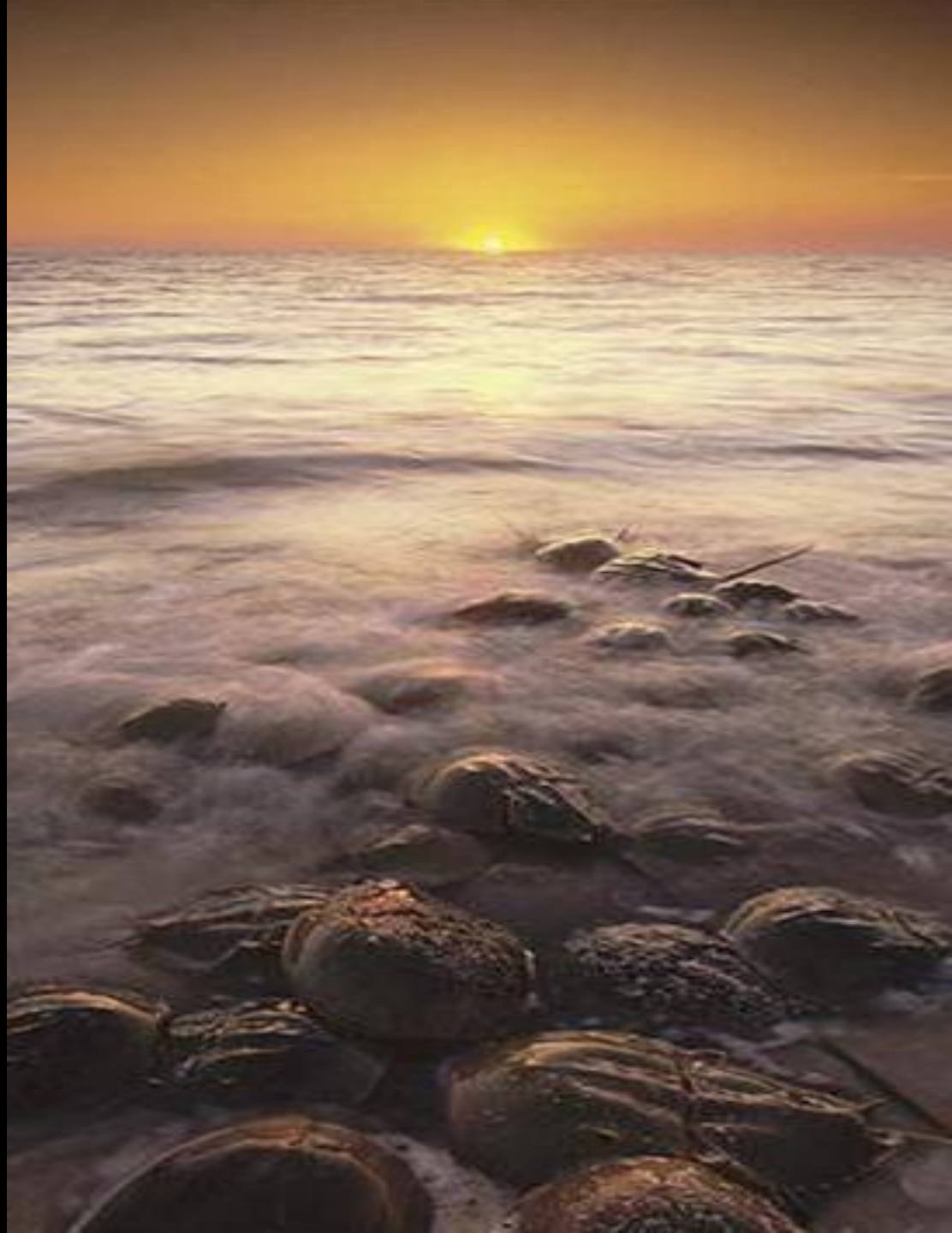
MARCO Area

Waterbirds, Wind Energy Areas, Shipping Separation Zones, OCS Boundaries, Major Canyons



Next Steps

- Find a host server
- Develop a maintenance plan
- Seek missing needed data layers



Next Steps

- Find funds for and develop ***decision support tools*** as envisioned by MarineMap