



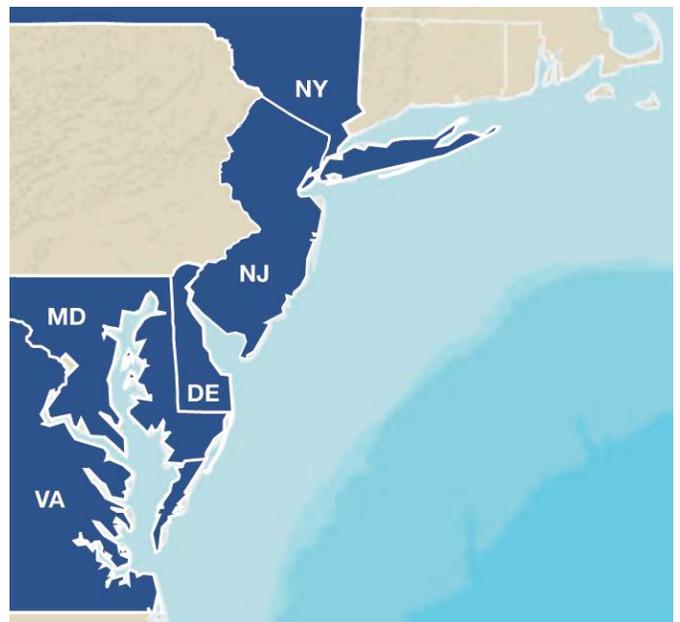
# THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN (MARCO)

## APPROACHING OCEAN PLANNING FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Mid-Atlantic Region embraces innovative approaches to responsible and sustainable resource management. Faced with a new generation of ocean management challenges and opportunities, the five coastal Mid-Atlantic states have adopted a **strategic, collaborative, and efficient regional approach** to advance a shared vision for the long-term health and productivity of our region's ocean resources.

## ABOUT MARCO

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, or MARCO, is a regional ocean partnership working on issues that benefit from interstate collaboration and coordinated problem solving. Established in 2009 by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, MARCO has identified four regional priorities for shared action to improve ocean health and contribute to the high quality of life and economic vitality of our region:



1. Coordinate the protection of **important marine habitats**, including sensitive and unique offshore areas;
2. Collaborate on a regional approach to support the sustainable development of **renewable energy** in offshore areas;
3. Prepare Mid-Atlantic communities for the **impacts of climate change** on coastal and ocean resources; and
4. Promote improvements in **ocean water quality**.

MARCO provides a valuable forum to pursue mutual goals shared by the Mid-Atlantic states, improve responses to ocean management challenges and opportunities, and collaborate with agencies, key partners and stakeholder groups to jointly address the region's needs.

## LEARN MORE

To learn more about MARCO, please visit [www.midatlanticocean.org](http://www.midatlanticocean.org) or contact us at [info@midatlanticocean.org](mailto:info@midatlanticocean.org).



## HOW MARCO WORKS

MARCO facilitates greater coordination, planning, and action on regional ocean issues among the five MARCO states, together with agency partners, Tribes, diverse stakeholder groups, and the public.

**Cost-effective and Efficient** – MARCO does not create, duplicate, or replace state programs. Rather, it leverages existing state and federal resources, knowledge and partnerships, and yields a stronger base of information and experience to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of our region and nation.

**Led by the MARCO Management Board** – Composed of designated senior coastal managers and policy advisors, the MARCO Management Board (Board) is responsible for advancing the region’s shared ocean interests. Collaboratively, the Board considers new ecological and socio-economic trends, and fosters interstate collaborations on a wide range of actions to effectively address emerging ocean issues.

**Creative Partnerships** – MARCO is building partnerships with local, state, regional and federal entities, Tribes, academic and research institutions, industry, and key stakeholder groups. By working together, and clearly acknowledging varying partner interests, needs and capacities, we are better positioned to advance regional priorities, address pressing management challenges to improve ocean health, achieve a sustainable use of ocean spaces and resources, and grow our vital ocean-based economies.

## PROVIDING A COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC

MARCO celebrates the diversity of the people, communities, industries, and habitats that comprise the Mid-Atlantic, a region that is equally distinct as it is united in its natural and cultural history. Deeply rooted in the Mid-Atlantic, we continue to build creative public-private partnerships and expand our regional network to effectively serve as a collective voice for the region. With elements of regional ocean planning underway, MARCO is committed to helping communicate the interests and values of those who call the Mid-Atlantic home, and to advance a regional vision for our ocean at the national level.

