

# Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)



**Virginia Coastal Zone**  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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# Why a Regional Council?

- Ocean waters from Virginia through New York provide a wealth of economic & ecological services.
- The Mid-Atlantic faces some of the US's most intense population pressures resulting in high energy demands, water quality degradation, habitat loss and climate change impacts.
- We need state's voices to be heard as national ocean policy is being developed.



# State CZM Programs Partner to Form MARCO

- In Fall of 2008 Mid-Atlantic CZM Programs began weekly conference calls to draft a Governor's Agreement.
- On June 4, 2009 the five Governor's announced the signing of the agreement at a Summit held in New York City.



# Guiding Principles of the Agreement

- The states desire to protect and conserve our ocean resources for current and future generations.
- An ecosystem-based management approach will be taken.
- The states desire to promote a regional agenda at the national level.



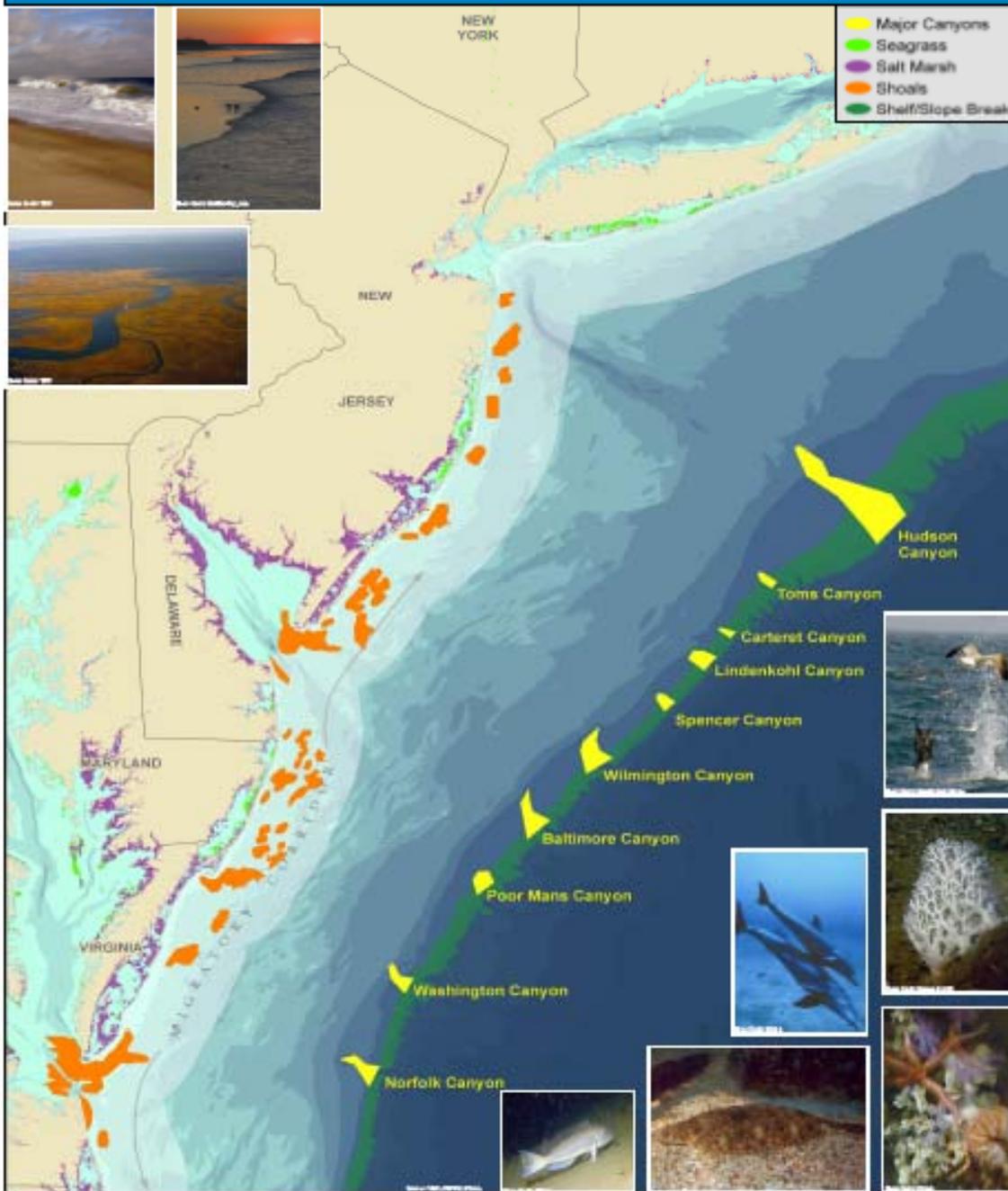
# Guiding Principles Cont'd.

- The priorities and shared actions will evolve over time.
- Each state has an equal stake in a successful outcome.
- Partnership with federal and external stakeholders is critical to success.



Initial MARCO Priorities  
&  
Next Steps Identified  
at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Summit

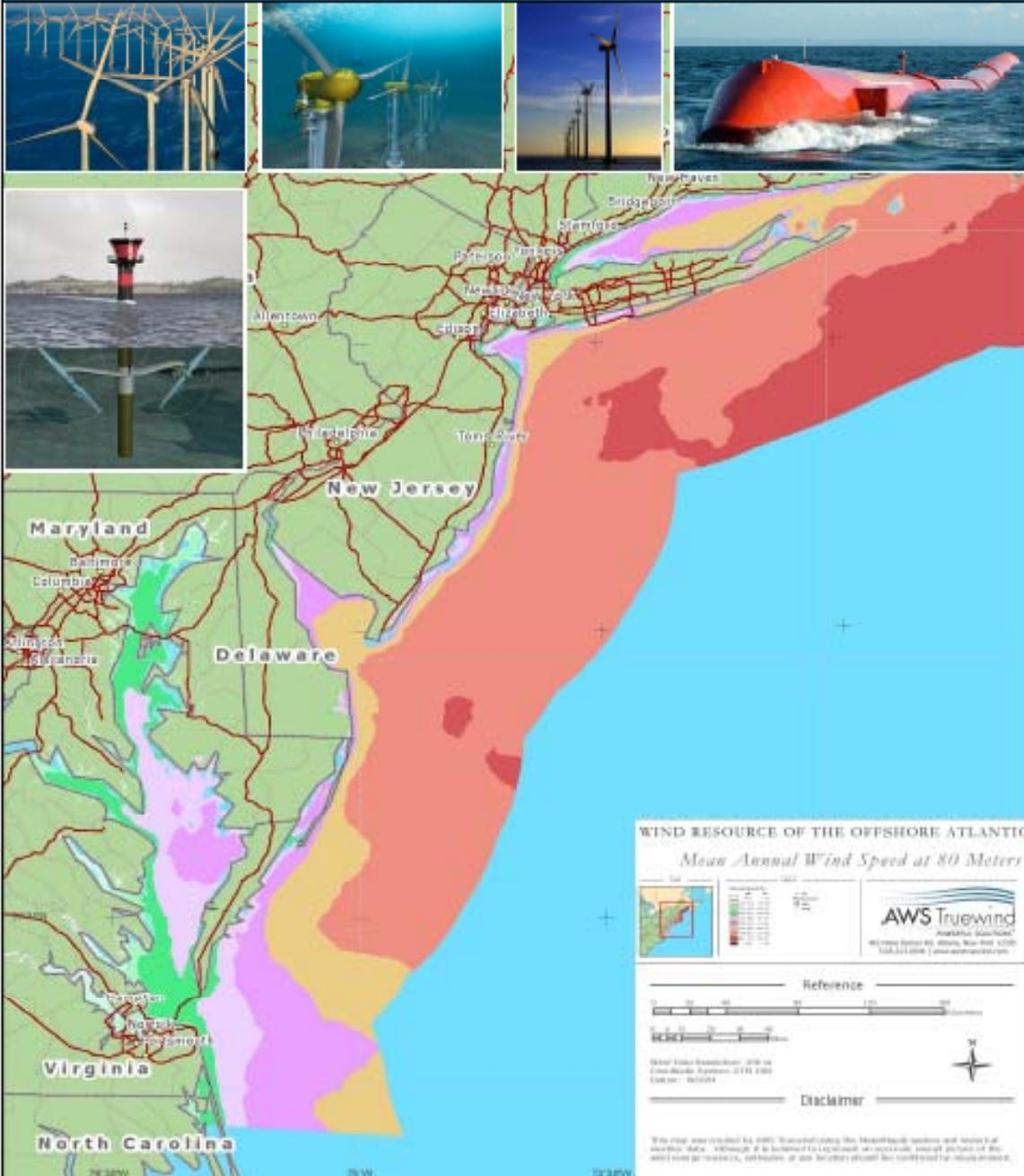
## Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Habitats



- 1) Protect the 10 major offshore canyons from harmful or damaging activities.
- 2) Identify other key Mid-Atlantic habitats (such as migration corridors) at risk from damaging activities and seek appropriate protection measures.
- 3) Create a regional internet mapping system to identify areas unsuitable for certain activities due to the presence of key habitats.
- 4) Create Mid-Atlantic marine habitat protection and restoration policies to guide management.



## Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Renewable Energy



- 1) Develop and finalize shared research and monitoring protocols for assessing impacts of energy development in terms of construction and operation on ocean and coastal resources.
- 2) Define regulatory steps, time frames, and potential barriers to development of offshore renewable energy resources.
- 3) Complete an offshore use map to facilitate siting of renewable energy projects to minimize adverse impacts to other ocean users and ecological services.

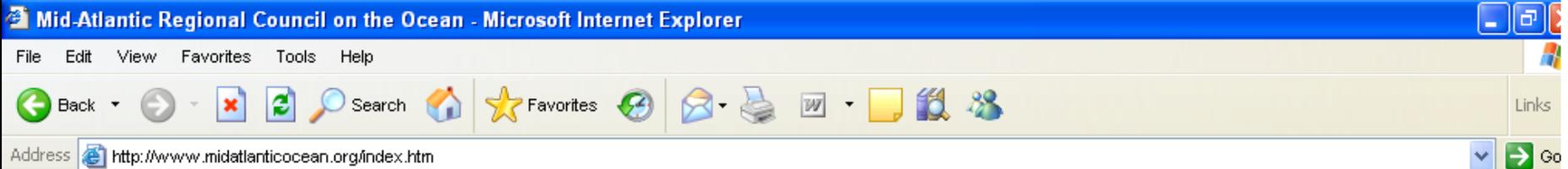


# Stakeholder Workshop

- Early December 2009 in NYC
- About 300 attendees expected
- Each state CZM Program contributing funds
- Feds being asked for travel funds for attendees



# Check "midatlanticocean.org" for Updates!



## Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

New York New Jersey Delaware Maryland Virginia

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### Governor's Welcome



David A. Paterson, Governor, New York

"For centuries New York and the region have relied on the ocean to provide services like food, commerce, recreation, and transportation. We are creating the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean to effectively tackle new and emerging shared ocean issues and keep our ocean healthy for generations to come. I am pleased to work with my fellow Mid-Atlantic governors to leverage greater state influence on the management and future of our offshore ocean resources."



Jon S. Corzine, Governor, New Jersey

"Ensuring the health of our ocean ecosystems and the resources they provide is paramount to Mid-Atlantic oceanfront states like New Jersey. Any threat to these natural resources brings economic consequences that threaten jobs, local economies, and our economic well being. New Jersey is committed to working with our Mid-Atlantic partners to provide adequate safeguards and formulate a shared vision for the region's future."

### 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 generations can enjoy healthy and productive ocean ecosystems, the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia have committed to a new comprehensive, regional approach, creating the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean. Our five states will work to maintain and improve the health of our ocean and coastal resources, and ensure that they continue to contribute to the high quality of life and economic vitality of our region's communities well into the future.

