

MARCO

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN

Advancement of Shared Mid-Atlantic Priorities for Climate Change Adaptation

Hurricane Sandy Tidal Marsh Resiliency
Coordination Workshop:
North Atlantic Landscape Conservation
Cooperative

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5 STATES 4 PRIORITIES 1 OCEAN

Enhancing the vitality of the region's ocean ecosystem and economy



Interstate Partnership

Partnership of 5 states:



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



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How MARCO Works

Cost-effective and Efficient

- Leverages existing state and federal resources

Led by the MARCO Management Board

- Designated senior coastal managers and policy advisors

Creative Partnerships

- Local, state, regional, federal entities, Tribes, academic and research institutions, industry and key stakeholder groups

Small staff team

- Core team based in Annapolis, MD

Shared Regional Priorities

- Protect important **habitat** and sensitive and unique offshore areas
- Support the sustainable development of **offshore renewable energy**
- Promote coastal **water quality** improvements
- Prepare the region's coastal communities for the impacts of **climate change** on ocean and coastal resources



Climate Change Action Team

- REGIONALLY FOCUSED PRIORITIES:
- Identify Trans-boundary Climate Impact Issues
- Conduct a Regional Vulnerability Assessment
- Inventory and Gap Analysis of Climate Policies and Activities
- Develop and Promote a Climate Change Research Agenda



Partnership with NA LCC

- MARCO awarded \$340,000 from USFWS through a cooperative agreement with NA LCC
- ~\$240K competitively bid and awarded to 2 projects
- MARCO issued an RFP in spring 2015 for the Advancement of Shared Mid-Atlantic Priorities for Climate Change Adaptation
- Objectives:
 - Advance NNBF
 - Integrate ecosystem goods and services
 - Identify wetland restoration priorities



Developing Wetland Restoration Priorities

OVERVIEW:

- Through research, interviews, and expert panels, the Environmental Law Institute will:
- Identify climate and resilience **data gaps** in wetland priority setting tools
- Identify **opportunities for adoption** of priority setting tools to incorporate climate change and resilience
- Create and demonstrate **framework** to use available tools to identify vulnerable wetlands, restoration priorities, and long term restoration targets given climate impacts

PRODUCTS: inventory and handbook of priority setting tools, brief articles of findings, webinar

BUDGET: ~\$99k



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Improved Use and Understanding of NNBF

OVERVIEW:

- Through Interviews and workshops the National Wildlife Federation will:
- Evaluate NNBF in light of climate change
 - a. How will NNBF **respond** to SLR and climate change impacts?
 - b. What are the **strengths and limitations** of NNBF in reducing upland impacts?
 - c. How can NNBF be **modified or adapted** over time with climate change?
- Further question refinement based on interviews

PRODUCTS: Actionable report on findings, articles

BUDGET: ~\$140k



Advancing Preparedness of Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Communities in the Mid-Atlantic*

- **METHODS:** Qualitative and quantitative research, workshops, discussions with CCAT
- **REPORT: Provides an internal baseline** study of Mid-Atlantic assets, prioritization, and adaptation strategy; **identifies transboundary impacts** that could be addressed through regional action
 - Increase common understanding
 - Coordinate state policies
 - Federal policy advocacy
 - Regional actions

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Thank you!

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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Prepare the region's coastal communities for the impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal resources.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Collaborating on a regional approach to support the sustainable development of renewable energy in offshore areas.



MARINE HABITATS

Coordinating the protection of important marine habitats, including sensitive and unique offshore areas such as corals, canyons & migration corridors.



WATER QUALITY

Advancing regional-scale efforts for healthy, clean ocean waters to safeguard human health, local economies, recreation and marine life.



REGIONAL OCEAN PLANNING

MARCO uses regional ocean planning as a means to advance the four shared priorities identified in the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation.

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