

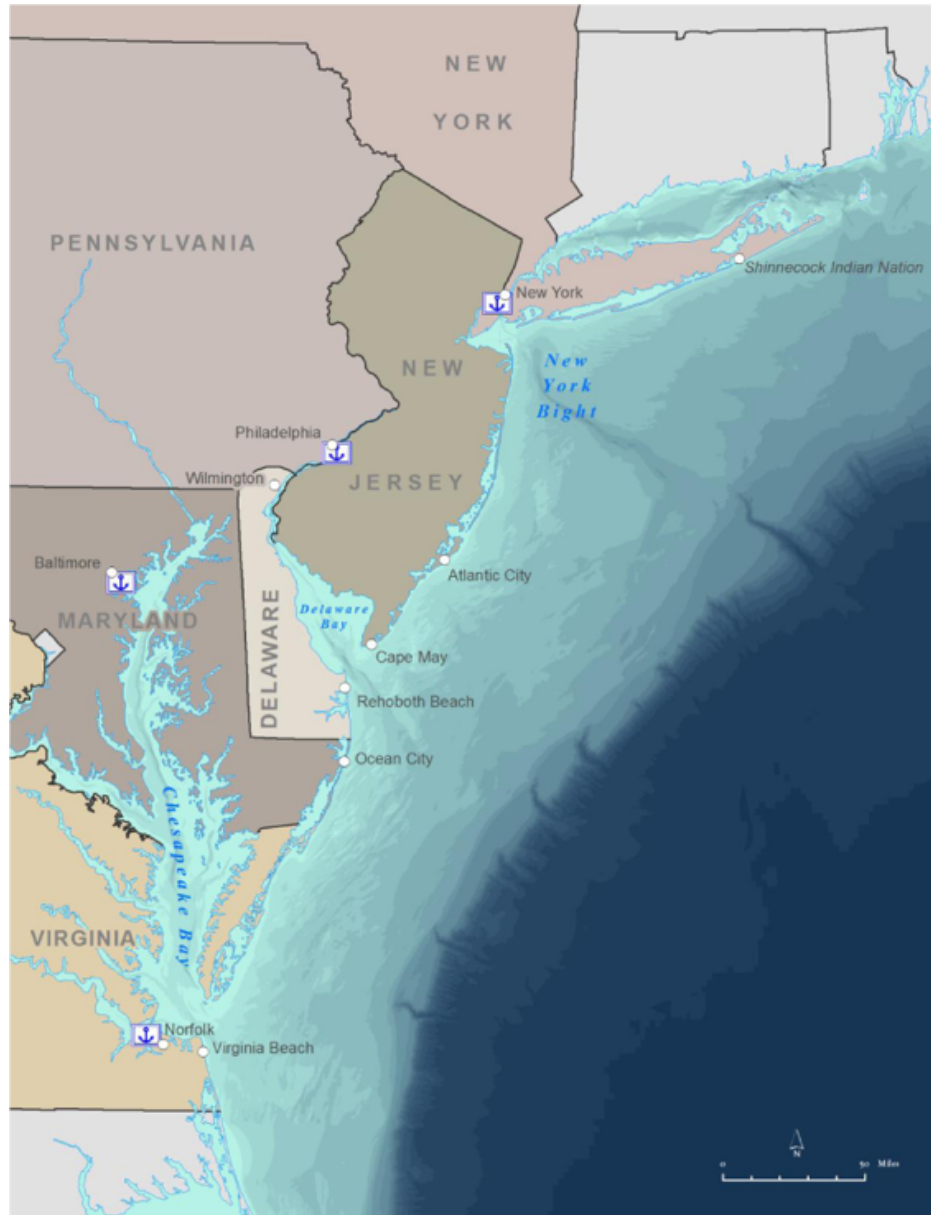


Case Study: Mid-Atlantic Region, United States

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Case Study Goals

- Understand how governmental and non-governmental players have navigated marine governance and use conflicts over the last 10+ years.
- Support the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) team that is leading the effort to develop the first Virginia Ocean Plan, providing leaders of this effort with research-based technical assistance and deliverables--positioned to be relevant to a broader public--around conflict management and stakeholder engagement.



Mid-Atlantic Coastal Region

- Region: New York to Virginia
- 34 million people
- \$2 trillion (14%) of the U.S. GDP
- Migratory corridors birds and for fish, turtles, and other marine animals.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)



- Established in 2009 by the governors of the US states of **New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia** as a forum for aligning regional priorities in ocean management.
- MARCO works to **facilitate protection measures** for at-risk habitats and migratory pathways; has **created an online regional habitat mapping system** to help identify and protect key habitats and migratory pathways; and **promotes the development of marine habitat protection and restoration policies** to influence the management of key habitats in the Mid-Atlantic. .

Top Regional Priorities of MARCO

Climate Change Adaptation: *increasing preparedness for the impacts of climate change in the Mid-Atlantic coastal communities.*

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 and migration corridors.*

Water Quality: *promoting improvements in ocean water quality.*



Potential and Current Regional Conflicts

- Expansion of alternative energy development, such as off-shore wind.
- Growing public awareness around climate change and sea level rise.
- Water quality issues caused by increasing amounts of plastics + microplastics that harm oceanic ecosystems.
- Increased activity in offshore areas that threaten marine habitats.



Virginia's Coastal Zone

- 29% of Virginia's land area is within the "Coastal Zone" but over 60%, 4.9 million, of Virginia's citizens live in this area.
- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is the lead agency coordinating the Virginia Ocean Planning process.
- Total shoreline: 10,120 miles
 - Tidal Bay - 7,213 miles
 - Ocean - 132 miles
 - Inland Bays/Lagoons - 2,775 miles



Virginia's Coastal Policy Goals

- The Virginia CZM outlines 10 major policy goals in the following three categories: **Coastal Resource Protection, Coastal Resource Sustainable Use, and Coastal Management Coordination.**
- IEN's involvement with the Virginia Ocean Plan aims to address three of these goals within the Coastal Management Coordination category. (see next slide)



Virginia Coastal Policy Goals

Coastal Management Coordination

- **Goal 8:** To ensure sustainable development on coastal lands and support access for water-dependent development through effective coordination of governmental planning processes.
- **Goal 9:** To avoid and minimize coastal and ocean resource use conflicts through research, planning, and a forum for coordination and facilitation among local, regional, state and federal government agencies, interest groups, and citizens.
- **Goal 10:** To promote informed decision-making by maximizing the availability of up-to-date educational information, technical advice, and scientific data including the use of new tools such as marine spatial planning.

Current Barriers to Progress

- In the United States, there is no specific entity solely in charge of managing domestic ocean activities. At the same time, the multi-state network that is the subject of the case study does not have regulatory authority and thus its ability to drive implementation is limited.
- In 2016, the Trump administration essentially defunded the regional planning efforts of MARCO, delaying their ability to accomplish its goals, both regionally and within states.
- Part of this research will monitor how the planning process moves forward under new federal regulations introduced by the Biden Administration.

Virginia Ocean Plan – Primary Stakeholders

Federal Agencies:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Office of Coastal Resource Management

Statewide Agencies:

- Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Virginia Department Of Agriculture And Consumer Services (VDACS)
- *Virginia Department Of Conservation And Recreation (DCR)*
- Virginia Department Of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Statewide Agencies (cont'd):

- Department Of Forestry (DOF)
- Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
- Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)
- Planning District Commissions (PDCs)

Virginia Ocean Plan – Primary Stakeholders (cont'd)

- The planning process also seeks to engage stakeholders from Virginia's seven federally recognized tribes, the **Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Nansemond** and **Monacan**.





Next Steps

- Further development of the Virginia Ocean Planning process has been delayed due to COVID-19 but is set to resume in November 2021.
- IEN is partnering with Laura McKay, Program Manager for Virginia CZM, to provide oversight and support.
- The US case study is not currently envisioned to include empirical research at the *local scale*- this scope could shift based on needs and opportunities identified in partnership with the VA CZM. However, it is possible that in year 2 and 3 of the project, we will support stakeholder engagement efforts that include local community representation.