

MEDIAADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Arlo Hemphill, MARCO
ahemphill@midatlanticocean.org
(202) 746-3484

Strictly embargoed until 0900 AM EST on Tuesday July 5, 2016

Public invited to Open Houses on Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan

WHAT: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) invites ocean stakeholders and the interested public to attend a series of Open Houses to be held across the region on the Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan. The Draft Plan outlines a series of actions on how federal and state agencies, tribes and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council may better collaborate to ensure healthy, productive, and resilient marine ecosystems and sustainable ocean uses in the Mid-Atlantic, including state and federal waters off Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. An opportunity to provide public comment on the Draft Plan will be provided.

Prior to the Open Houses, the draft Plan will be available at:

<http://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan/>

WHO: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB) is made up of representatives from Federal, State, and Tribal entities and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. It was established in 2013 to implement and advance ocean planning through improved inter-governmental coordination and stronger engagement of stakeholders, the general public, and scientific, business and technical experts to identify and address issues of importance to the region. The Open Houses will be hosted by MARCO¹ on behalf of the MidA RPB.

LEARN MORE: www.MidAtlanticOcean.org/YourOceanPlan

WHEN and WHERE:

Virginia Open House

Tuesday, July 12, 2016. 6-8pm
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
717 General Booth Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

New Jersey Open House

Thursday, July 14, 2016. 6-8pm

¹ **About MARCO**

Established by the Governors of the five coastal Mid-Atlantic states (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia) in 2009, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is a partnership to address shared regional priorities and provide a collective voice for the region. The five MARCO states focus on four-shared priority areas identified in the Governors Agreement: climate change adaptation, marine habitats, offshore renewable energy and water quality. MARCO also uses regional ocean planning as a means to advance these priorities.

Monmouth University
Pozycki Hall, 2nd level
400 Cedar Ave
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Maryland Open House

Tuesday, July 19, 2016. 6-8pm
Ocean Pines Library
11107 Cathell Rd
Berlin, MD 21811

Delaware Open House

Wednesday, July 20, 2016. 6-8pm
The Virden Retreat Center - University of Delaware
700 Pilottown Rd
Lewes, DE 19958

New York Open House

Wednesday, July 27, 2016. 6-8pm
Suffolk County Community College, Selden Campus
Babylon Student Center
533 College Rd
Selden, NY 11784