I. Introduction

On December 1-2, 2008, approximately 140 ocean experts from the Mid-Atlantic came together at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Forum to begin a dialogue about priority ocean and coastal issues in the region. Participants included representatives from state agencies, federal agencies, the private sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations. The Forum explored the following themes:

- Value and characterization of the ecosystem;
- Status of regional information, research, and tools;
- Regional collaboration and governance models; and
- Critical issues of regional concern and opportunities for future coordination.

During the two day forum, panelists and participants highlighted and discussed the region’s unique ecological and socioeconomic attributes in the context of common issues, challenges, and potential solutions. Presentations and discussions made it clear that the Mid-Atlantic region contains substantial natural assets including productive marine ecosystems and associated fishery resources, un-tapped wind energy, high quality recreational beaches, and two of the nation’s largest estuaries (Chesapeake and Delaware Bays). This natural capital has given rise to substantial marine-dependant industries and economies including diverse fisheries and aquaculture enterprises, a nascent alternative energy sector, and many tourism-dependant communities. The material and aesthetic bounty of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean has profoundly influenced human settlement patterns—the Mid-Atlantic shorelines and coastal watersheds are very densely populated compared to other coastal regions.

Important issues for Mid-Atlantic marine resource managers and stakeholders include:

- Energy development (wind, oil and gas, and hydrokinetic),
- Climate change and adaptation,
- Habitat conservation and protection,
- Pollution (oil and hazardous materials spills, marine debris, and nutrients)
- Regional mapping and spatial data (geophysical, biological, human uses, and socioeconomic and ecosystem condition indicators)
Participants discussed potential approaches to addressing regional challenges including expanding regional ocean collaboration, investing in appropriate data collection and management, expanding the use of marine spatial data and visualization tools, enhancing regional funding mechanisms, improving cooperative and integrated management, and identifying regional research needs.

II. Mid-Atlantic Economic and Ecosystem Values

A. The Mid-Atlantic Region

Several participants noted that the Mid-Atlantic is not a well-established region in the minds of most people. For example, Ms. Lynne Hale (The Nature Conservancy) noted that the region lacks a clear identity. Challenges to the development of a clear and cohesive Mid-Atlantic regional identity include divergent regional boundaries for federal agencies and the presence of several strong sub-regional identities (e.g. Long Island Sound, NY Harbor and Bight, the Jersey Shore, Delaware River Basin, Chesapeake Bay and Delmarva Peninsula). Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain (University of Delaware) commented that the Mid-Atlantic region is nested within the Northeast Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (LME), and there are important social and ecological links to the Gulf of Maine to the north and the Southeast Shelf LME to the south. However, participants agreed that the Mid-Atlantic coastal states did in fact constitute a distinct region and emphasized the need to better characterize and clarify its unique ecological and socioeconomic attributes.

B. Economic Values and Ecosystem Services

At the outset of the Forum, panelists led a discussion of the importance of healthy and productive ocean ecosystems and the value of ecological services to the region. These include fisheries, recreation, hazard reductions, and energy. Dr. Douglas Lipton (University of Maryland) reported on some of the important ocean economies. For Mid-Atlantic fisheries, menhaden make up 65% of landings by weight; sea scallops are 30% of the landings by value; and blue crabs are 14% of the landings by value. In 2007 there were 1.4 million party boat and charter fishing trips and 12.5 million private boat fishing trips. Aquaculture is a relatively small with potential for expansion. The enormous economy associated with tourism and beach-going is fueled in large part by more than 13 million visits to the Mid-Atlantic beaches each year. Dr. Andrew Rosenberg (University of New Hampshire) noted that ecosystem services are not simply the extractive uses of natural resources—services including climate regulation are services upon which humans depend as well. Mr. Tim Dillingham (The American Littoral Society) stated that we often undervalue the resources in a natural state and their value to society. He also noted that the challenge for the region will be to balance the various needs.
C. Eco-regional and Marine Spatial Planning

Several panelists shared information about mapping efforts that could support marine spatial planning. Mr. Jay Odell (TNC) presented examples of ongoing marine spatial data development efforts that map and characterize diverse habitats, marine fish, invertebrates, birds, mammals, and human use patterns. Ms. Cindy Fowler (NOAA Coastal Services Center) described the federal efforts to develop and share a multi-purpose marine cadastre indicating federal and state jurisdictional boundaries, a Legislative Atlas providing information on laws and regulations that have spatial implications, and a more comprehensive digital coast. She noted that all of these resources and the underlying data are available to states, regions, and others, and can be applied in new ways according to the needs of those accessing the materials. Ms. Laura McKay (Virginia Coastal Management Program) described the Virginia Coastal GEMS (Geospatial and Educational Mapping System) program that provides access to marine data and maps, information on coastal laws and policies, and factsheets on coastal resources. Mr. Deerin Babb-Brott (Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) described the extensive use of marine spatial data to inform the development of Massachusetts’ new ocean management plan. Mapped data includes commercial fisheries activity by effort and landing value, biotic and abiotic habitat ranked in importance by an expert working group, and sediment type maps. The state is using this data to identify conflicts and compatibilities for ocean development before finalizing a plan that will designate areas for different uses.

III. Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Issues

In separate sessions, the Forum tackled three central Mid-Atlantic issues:

- Climate change and adaptation;
- Ocean-related energy; and
- Living resources and habitats.

A. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

The need to properly adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts was a recurring theme throughout the Forum. Even with aggressive mitigation action, the Mid-Atlantic region will have to adapt to inevitable climate change impacts that include sea level rise, ocean acidification, increased storm surge, and potential increase in storm frequency, among others. Dr. Donald Boesch (University of Maryland) noted that adaptation and mitigation must go hand-in-hand and cited the State of Maryland’s extensive work on climate change adaptation, including the Governor’s executive order and state action plan, Chesapeake Bay climate change report, and Maryland’s Living Shoreline Protection Act.
Regional action on climate change and greenhouse gas reductions provides a good example of successful regional collaboration. Panelists highlighted some of the steps being taken by states and the region to respond to climate change, including the development of the Northeast Climate Impact Assessment and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Ms. Zoë Johnson (Maryland DNR) described some of the tools needed and currently used to undertake such planning efforts including the integrated ocean observing system, light detection and ranging (LIDAR) technology, spatial mapping, modeling, and monitoring.

Ms. Margaret Davidson (NOAA Coastal Services Center) discussed the issue of financial incentives and disincentives that enhance or inhibit climate change response. In particular, she noted a growing dialogue about risk-rated insurance rates, tax code incentives for land conservation and restoration, and tax code credits to help residents and businesses become more resilient. She highlighted the need for best management practices and an adaptation network to facilitate collective learning about how to achieve adaptation.

**B. Offshore Energy Development**

While noting that the numbers are rough estimates, Dr. Walter Cruikshank (Minerals Management Service) indicated that the Mid-Atlantic planning area—the Outer Continental Shelf from Delaware to North Carolina—is estimated to contain 1.5 billion barrels of oil and 15 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Mr. Tom Fry (National Ocean Industries Association) stressed jobs and the progress industry has made in environmental protection. He noted that in the Gulf of Mexico, the oil and gas industry employs 85,000 people, and reported that for every one oil and gas job, another six jobs are created. Panelists and participants demonstrated tremendous interest in the possibility of developing offshore wind resources in the Mid-Atlantic region. George Hagerman (Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium) noted that harnessing 20% of the estimated potential Mid-Atlantic wind resources could meet half of the area’s demands—an area including central and eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Western Maryland, and Washington D.C. — and supply one-tenth of the nation’s gross domestic product.

Mr. Doug Pfeister (Bluewater Wind) highlighted the value of siting offshore wind power adjacent to coastal load centers and avoiding the bottleneck of electrical transmission from Midwest energy sources. The panelists and participants discussed the legal framework under which offshore wind energy will develop. The Department of Interior’s Minerals Management Service has developed offshore wind regulations that are awaiting approval from the Office of Management and Budget before release of the final rule. Several participants and panelists cautioned against potential for over-exploitation and use at the expense of ecosystem function.
C. Living Marine Resources and Habitats

Captain Monty Hawkins (party boat captain) launched the living resources and habitats discussion, sharing a video of the Mid-Atlantic coral reefs he has documented near Ocean City, Maryland. He emphasized how little we know about the Mid-Atlantic continental shelf’s bottom habitats. His comments highlighted the need for new benthic surveys, improved habitat protection, and a better understanding of the critical connections between intact habitats, fishery resources, and sustainable fisheries. Ms. Sarah Chasis (Natural Resources Defense Council; NRDC) noted the diverse habitats in the region, including submarine canyons that support fish, marine mammals, and other species. She added that NRDC has identified critical areas in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Nature Conservancy’s ecoregional assessments and NOAA are two additional sources of information about critical conservation areas, as is local knowledge of fishers and other ocean users.

Panelists and participants noted several challenges facing the long-term sustainability and health of living resources and habitats including impacts from directed fisheries, bycatch, habitat damage, and potential impacts from new activities such as oil and gas development and offshore wind development. Existing and emerging approaches to manage the resources and address these challenges include the continued efforts of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to manage state fisheries across jurisdictional boundaries, the ongoing efforts to rebuild and restore overfished stocks under the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the move toward ecosystem-based management and ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Both Dr. Jason Link (NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center) and Mr. Rick Robins (Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council) described the need to make tradeoffs among those utilizing natural resources—both within the fisheries sector and in other sectors whose activities impact living marine resources. Mr. Robins expressed optimism about the utility of several new policy tools embedded in the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act for implementing sustainable fishery management plans and reducing conflicts overall. Dr. Link described some of the challenges with an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, as well as the promise of new modeling approaches under development. He described the evolution of fishery management science and practice, from single-species stock assessments to multi-species assessments, and eventually, to integrated ecosystem approaches.
IV. Regional Ocean Collaboration

Possible approaches for regional collaboration on Mid-Atlantic issues was another recurring theme during the Forum. Dr. Andy Rosenberg (University of New Hampshire) noted that sectoral management is necessary but not sufficient to achieve effective management because sectoral management ignores important interactions among human uses and the ecosystem.

Forum organizers brought together experts working in other U.S. regions to discuss various aspects of regional ocean governance. Ms. Kathleen Leyden (Maine Coastal Program) discussed the efforts to create the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, which receives state and federal support. The Council has succeeded in developing two successive ocean action plans and work plans in an effort to achieve ocean and coastal ecosystem health; render New England a “coastal hazards ready” region; and conduct regional planning and siting of ocean energy.

Ms. Jessica Hamilton (Oregon Governor’s Office) described the West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health. The Governors identified seven priority areas that are the focus of the agreement and developed a plan of action based on these priority areas. The West Coast States are in the process of coordinating actions through ten coordination teams. One of the positive outcomes of this tri-state effort has been the close relationships that have developed among the participating state agencies and offices, which allows for high level coordination and work to happen quickly.

Dr. William Walker (Mississippi Department of Natural Resources) described lessons learned from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a regional effort initiated by Florida Governor Jeb Bush in 2004. The Alliance has received over $8 million in federal funding (NOAA and EPA). The Alliance Management Team is staffed by Governor’s representatives, as well as co-chairs from DOI, EPA, and NOAA to provide strategic direction for six Priority Issue Teams (nutrients, water quality, conservation and restoration, ecosystems assessment, coastal resilience, and ocean education) that work together to achieve common goals. Dr. Walker noted the importance of continued funding to support these efforts in order to accomplish the work identified in the regional plan, and added that the Alliance works to identify opportunities for increased federal funds to support regional efforts. Dr. Walker also commented that the Alliance is moving forward with its second action plan that will build on the accomplishments of the first.

Mr. Chris Russo (North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources) described the process of forming the South Atlantic Alliance. This newer partnership has a structure similar to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, with an executive team directing the efforts of technical teams organized around themes of resilient communities, working waterfronts, water quality, and healthy
ecosystems. Mr. Russo identified factors for success, including participation by scientists, policy-makers, and systems analysts with a balance of federal and state actors and non-governmental partners. The South Atlantic Alliance has worked together to develop initial goals and a collaborative process and is currently seeking federal funding. Mr. Russo stressed that the Alliance did not supersede any policy authority within the individual states, and would not duplicate any actions already being undertaken by governmental entities or other organizations. Mr. Russo also emphasized the importance of linking central design with local communications, attention to process, and partnership rules.

V. Regional Research Needs

The state Sea Grant programs of the Mid-Atlantic (which includes Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and New Jersey) are working together over the next four years, under a grant from the national Sea Grant program, to develop a regional research plan pursuant to a broader national effort. With the help of researchers at the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy at the University of Delaware, the Sea Grant programs are in the process of identifying the major ocean issues affecting the Mid-Atlantic region and assessing the research needs of the region with the aim of eventually developing an appropriate plan that would provide a more coordinated research approach for the region.

VI. Next Steps: Crafting the Way Forward

Throughout the two-day Forum, participants focused on regional energy development and climate change, as well as exploring ways that the Mid-Atlantic region can improve collaboration where needed.

Eight breakout groups, each representative of the diversity of perspectives of forum attendees, independently arrived at very similar conclusions about priorities for regional scale collaboration. Much of the discussion was focused on the need for regional assessments, mapping, valuation of resources, identification of priority areas for protection, marine spatial planning, and development and implementation of common plans. Participants agreed that the development of a formal regional ocean collaboration would require (1) meaningful stakeholder participation, (2) a strong public relations strategy, and (3) the identification of high level leaders to champion a regional approach. Many people stressed that federal support—both through funding and participation—is essential to the success of a regional initiative.

Encouraging trends toward regional collaboration include new mapping efforts (NOAA Coastal Services Center, Minerals Management Service, The Nature Conservancy, and others) and participants expressed the need to continue to link and expand these approaches. In addition to the need for biological and physical spatial data
development, several participants made strong cases for the need to increase collection, analysis, and visualization of socioeconomic data to inform management decisions.

Several states are building on existing collaboration among coastal management agencies and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives to address regional challenges related to climate change and energy development. Some participants suggested these experiences could inform additional regional collaboration focused on ocean issues. Many people noted the need to work toward supporting ecosystem-based management approaches and the value of marine spatial data products for supporting such approaches.

**Breakout Group & Meeting Perspectives highlights:** The final session’s panelists highlighted and amplified the findings of the forum’s eight breakout groups. The following high priority actions for regional collaboration were identified:

- **Data collection and management.** Participants identified needs for:
  - An economic assessment (market and non-market resources);
  - The creation of a central shared database;
  - Identification of indicators of Mid-Atlantic ecosystem health; and
  - Gap analysis to understand data needs and prioritization of data collection.

- **Climate-specific data collection and management.** Participants explored the needs related to regional climate change, focusing particularly on the tools and information needed to effectively adapt to predicted climate change impacts. Recommendations included:
  - Conducting regional climate research and delivering regional climate services;
  - Developing a regional digital elevation model using LIDAR; and
  - Creating a regional climate change data clearing house (including plans, strategies, and science).

- **Spatial data visualization.** Participants described the need to use marine spatial data to visualize solutions and avoid potential conflicts by mapping historic, current, and potential human uses overlaid with sensitive or vulnerable marine habitat areas.
• **Funding.** Participants cited the need for regional mechanisms to:
  
  o Expand partnerships and identify sources and opportunities to leverage funding,
  o Create an ocean trust fund and establish revenue sharing, while taking care that trust fund establishment does not create perverse incentives to undertake unsustainable ocean and coastal development; and
  o Explore the use of fees from permitting and licensing to achieve goals.

• **Cooperate and integrate management among states.** Participants identified possible actions that would be needed to develop Mid-Atlantic regional ocean collaboration including:
  
  o Developing a mechanism to share best management practices among states;
  o Defining the region ecologically and geopolitically;
  o Applying tools and approaches to characterize and map living resources, legal boundaries, human uses, and management scenarios;
  o Identifying existing authorities and activities including gaps and overlaps;
  o Using lessons learned from other regions and states;
  o Analyzing the need for legislation or new authority;
  o Securing high-level state government participation; and
  o Developing a regional research plan.

**Copies of Forum Presentations are available at the following website:**
[http://www.ocean.udel.edu/cmp/marof/index.html](http://www.ocean.udel.edu/cmp/marof/index.html)
FORUM OBJECTIVES

- Promote dialogue and exchange of information among state, federal, industry, academic, and nongovernmental participants about regional ocean issues.
- Clarify issues and stakeholder perspectives regarding potential benefits from coordinated actions and regional approaches.
- Assess the status of regional ocean research, mapping, and information systems and tools.
- Share lessons learned from other regional initiatives and pilot projects and identify avenues for continued dialogue, future information sharing, and cooperation among Mid-Atlantic entities and stakeholders.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008

7:30 AM  REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 AM  WELCOME AND FORUM OVERVIEW

Introduction: Ms. Gwynne Schultz, Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Coastal States Organization Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative

- Mr. John R. Griffin, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Facilitator: Ms. Laura Cantral, Senior Mediator, Meridian Institute

9:15 AM  SETTING THE STAGE: THE ECONOMIC AND ECOSYSTEM VALUES OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Purpose: To identify the key features and values of the shared economic and environmental ocean resources in the Mid-Atlantic region. Panelists will address how those values could be impacted by potential changes and how local, state, and federal agencies can work with stakeholders to enhance ocean stewardship, preservation, and the ecological and economic values of the region.

Moderator:

- Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Director, Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, University of Delaware

Panelists:

- Dr. Doug Lipton, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland and Coordinator, University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program
- Ms. Mary Glackin, Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Mr. John V. O’Shea, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Ms. Lynne Hale, Director of Global Marine Initiative, The Nature Conservancy

10:30 AM  BREAK
10:45 AM  APPLYING ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING TOOLS IN THE MID- ATLANTIC REGION

Purpose: To discuss how implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches can be used to improve management of ocean and coastal resources and human uses, and how mapping, regional information and marine spatial planning tools can be used to support integrated, multi-use management in the region.

Moderators:
- Ms. Sally Yozell, Director of Marine Conservation for the Eastern US, The Nature Conservancy
- Dr. Kathryn Mengerink, Ocean Program Director, Environmental Law Institute

Panelists:
- Dr. Andrew Rosenberg, Professor, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire and Commissioner, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative
- Ms. Cindy Fowler, GIS Integration and Development Program Manager, NOAA Coastal Services Center
- Mr. Jay Odell, Mid-Atlantic Marine Program Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Ms. Laura McKay, Director, Virginia Coastal Management Program
- Mr. Deerin Babb-Brott, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Zone Management, Massachusetts

12:00 PM  LUNCH

1:15 PM  REGIONAL OCEAN COLLABORATION IN PRACTICE

Purpose: To present perspectives from U.S. regions where states have formally organized to collaborate on ocean issues. Panelists will address opportunities, benefits, and impediments to implementation of regional and ecosystem-based ocean management approaches.

Moderator:
- Mr. Tony MacDonald, Director, Urban Coast Institute, Monmouth University

Panelists:
- Ms. Kathleen Leyden, Director, Maine Coastal Program, Northeast Regional Ocean Council and Coastal States Organization Regional Ocean Governance Workgroup
- Ms. Jessica S. Hamilton, Natural Resources Policy Advisor to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and Representative, West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health
- Dr. William W. Walker, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Representative, Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Mr. Chris Russo, Organizational Engineer, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Atlantic Governors’ Agreement

2:30 PM  CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MID- ATLANTIC: IMPACTS AND NEXT STEPS

Purpose: To understand the ecological, economic, and social impacts climate change will have on the Mid-Atlantic region from a coastal and ocean perspective. Panelists will discuss federal, state, academic, and private sector roles and challenges in climate change preparation and adaptation.

Moderators:
- Ms. Kristen Fletcher, Executive Director, Coastal States Organization
- Ms. Gwynne Schultz, Senior Coastal and Ocean Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Coastal States Organization Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative

Panelists:
- Dr. Donald Boesch, President, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and Chair, Scientific and Technical Working Group, Maryland Commission on Climate Change
- Ms. Zoë Johnson, Program Manager, Climate Change Planning & Policy, Office for a Sustainable Future, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
• Dr. Julie Fox Gorte, Senior Vice President for Sustainable Investing, Pax World Management Corp and Member, Ceres Board of Directors
• Ms. Margaret Davidson, Director, NOAA Coastal Services Center

3:45 PM **CHARGE TO BREAKOUT GROUPS/MOVE TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Purpose:** Participants will be asked to develop a list of practical and actionable ideas that can be executed by individual federal and/or state agencies or other entities as well as actions that would potentially lend themselves to more integrated problem-solving on an ecosystem or regional basis.

4:00 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS COMMENCE**

5:30 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS ADJOURN**

6:00 PM **RECEPTION – DOUBLETREE INN AT THE COLONNADE**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008**

7:30 AM **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION**

8:00 AM **RECAP DAY ONE AND AGENDA REVIEW DAY TWO**

8:15 AM **REGIONAL OFFSHORE ENERGY: BALANCING NEEDS, CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY**

**Purpose:** To provide federal, state, industry, and NGO perspectives regarding potential development of regional offshore energy resources, opportunities, and constraints to development, and on mechanisms for consideration of regional concerns, cumulative impacts, and state-federal coordination.

**Moderators:**
• Dr. Tom Kitsos, Consultant, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and former Executive Director, U.S. Commission for Ocean Policy, and former Deputy Director, Minerals Management Service
• Ms. Sarah Cooksey, Program Administrator, Delaware Coastal Programs

**Panelists:**
• Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Deputy Director, Minerals Management Service
• Mr. George Hagerman, Director of Research, Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium
• Mr. Tom Fry, President, National Ocean Industries Association
• Mr. Peter Mandelstam, President, Bluewater Wind
• Mr. Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, The American Littoral Society
• Mr. George Stafford, Deputy Secretary of State, New York

10:00 AM **BREAK**

10:15 AM **SUSTAINABILITY OF LIVING MARINE RESOURCES AND HABITATS**

**Purpose:** To assess the status, health, and sustainability of living marine resources and habitats in the region. Panelists will explore what steps need to be taken to ensure ecosystem resilience, biodiversity, and fisheries productivity, and will examine how fisheries management can be further coordinated and integrated with management of other ocean resource sectors in the Mid-Atlantic.

**Moderator:**
• Dr. Peyton Robertson, Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

**Panelists:**
• Ms. Sarah Chasis, Director of Ocean Initiative, Natural Resources Defense Council
• Dr. Jason Link, Ecosystem Assessment Program Leader, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Forum: Challenges and Opportunities

- Dr. Timothy Targett, Professor of Marine Biosciences, University of Delaware College of Marine and Ocean Studies
- Mr. Rick Robins, Chesapeake Packing, LLC, Member, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, and Associate Member, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Captain Monty Hawkins, Morning Star Charters, Ocean City, Maryland

11:30 AM DEVELOPMENT OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OCEAN AND COASTAL RESEARCH PLAN
Purpose: To describe the process of development of the regional research plan and review the specific research needs which have been identified throughout the Regional Ocean Forum. Under a 2008-2012 National Sea Grant award, the six Sea Grant Programs from the Mid-Atlantic states will work together with state and federal agencies and other stakeholders to identify regional research needs to address the priority ocean and coastal management issues in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Moderator:
- Dr. Nancy Targett, Director, Delaware Sea Grant and Dean, College of Marine and Earth Studies, University of Delaware

Panelists:
- Dr. Troy Hartley, Director, Virginia Sea Grant
- Dr. Peter Rowe, Director, New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program and Associate Director, New Jersey Sea Grant Program, New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium
- Dr. Steve Rebach, Associate Director, North Carolina Sea Grant
- Dr. Sylvain De Guise, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant

12:30 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM CRAFTING THE WAY FORWARD: BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Purpose: Building on the work of breakout sessions on day one, participants will discuss any additional ideas related to topics of day two and then further refine actions and possible next steps that can be carried out individually or on a more coordinated or collaborative basis. Ideas developed in the breakout sessions will be further discussed during the Forum’s closing session.

3:00 PM BREAK

3:30 PM MEETING PERSPECTIVES
Purpose: The Panel will engage participants in discussion and reflection on the breakout discussions and offer perspectives on practical next steps to improve information sharing and cooperation within the region on priority issues.

Moderators:
- Ms. Laura Cantral, Senior Mediator, Meridian Institute

Panelists:
- Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Director, Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, University of Delaware
- Mr. George Stafford, Deputy Secretary of State, New York
- Dr. Andrew Rosenberg, Professor, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire and Commissioner, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative
- Dr. Tom Kitsos, Consultant, Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and former Executive Director, U.S. Commission for Ocean Policy, and former Deputy Director, Minerals Management Service
- Mr. Tony MacDonald, Director, Urban Coast Institute, Monmouth University

4:15 PM WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS
- Ms. Laura Cantral, Senior Mediator, Meridian Institute

4:30 PM ADJOURN
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