

Ocean Exploration and Research – MARCO Meeting Report

John McDonough, Deputy Director
Fifth Meeting of the Ocean Exploration
Advisory Board
Washington, DC
April 26-27, 2016

Overview

- The Regional Setting
- About MARCO
- MARCO Interests
- MARCO Offshore Canyons
- MARCO Submarine Canyons Meeting
- Recent Management Activities
- Future Areas of Interest

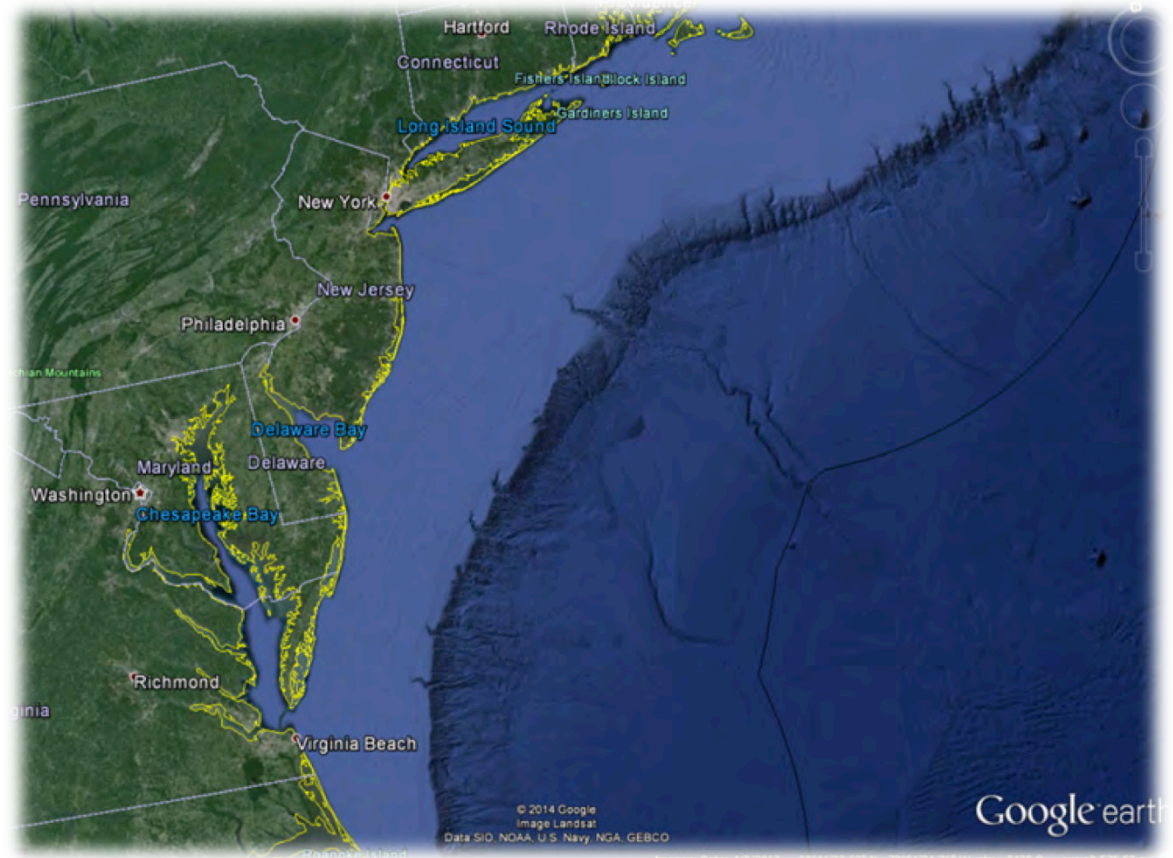
Regional Setting 2010

Limited information

Imprecise data

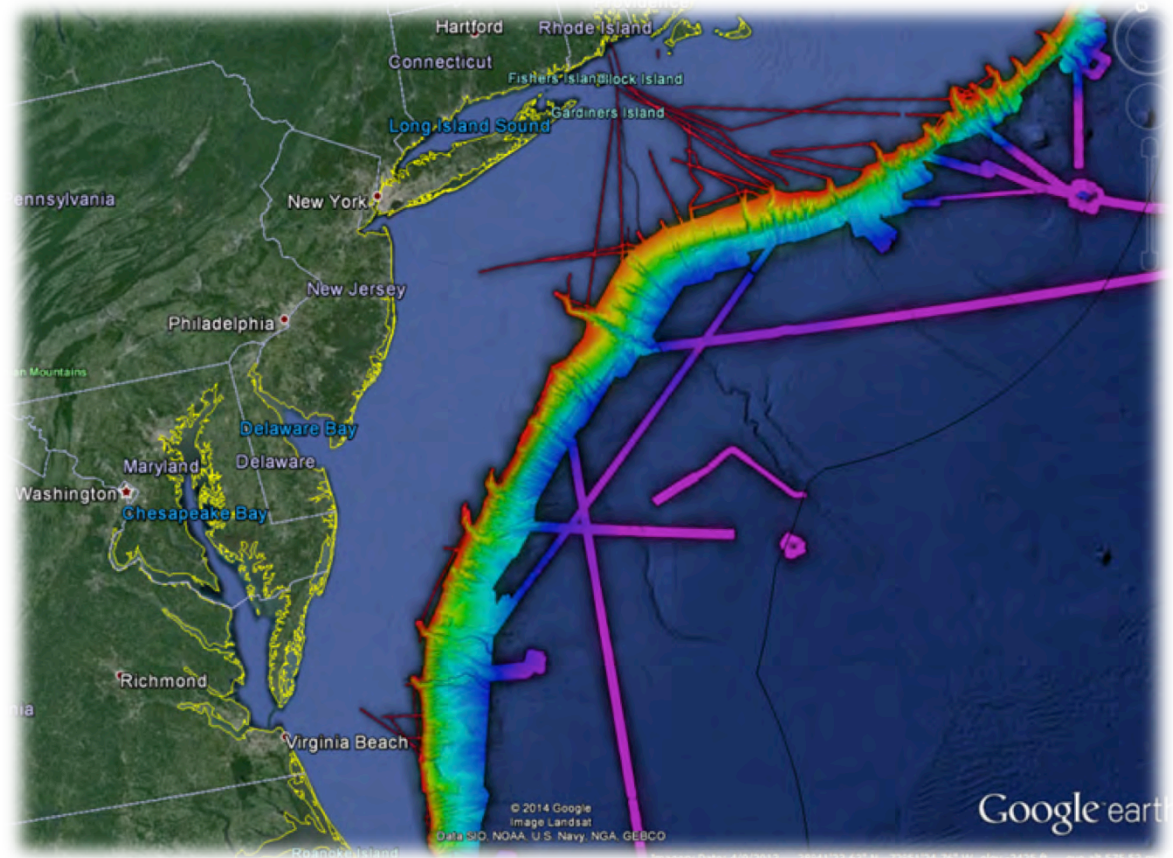
Data difficult to obtain

Recognition of diverse habitats & potential threats



Regional Setting 2016

24 cruises on 5
NOAA ships
90,000 km² mapped
85 towed camera &
104 ROV dives
Data easily accessed



About MARCO

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

- Includes: NY, NJ, DE, MD, and VA
- Formed in 2009
- Focus on regional planning
- Emphasis on applying scientific information to enable informed decisions
- Work closely with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

MARCO Areas of Interest

Regional Priorities:

- Climate change adaptation
- Water quality
- Renewable energy
- Marine habitats:
 - Documenting whale migration
 - Offshore canyons

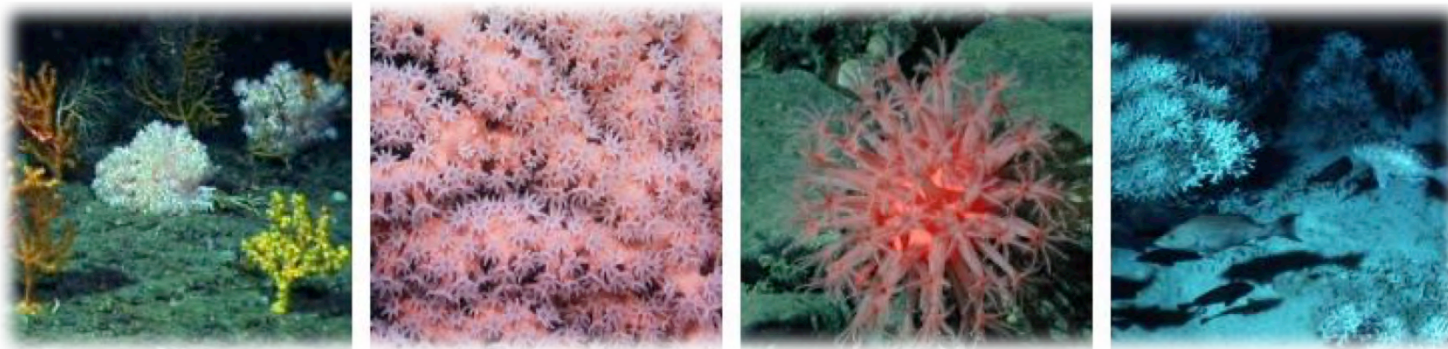
MARCO Interest in Offshore Canyons

Unique and vulnerable habitats

Potential economic interests

Increasing threats

Interest from multiple stakeholders



MARCO Submarine Canyons Meeting

Share scientific knowledge

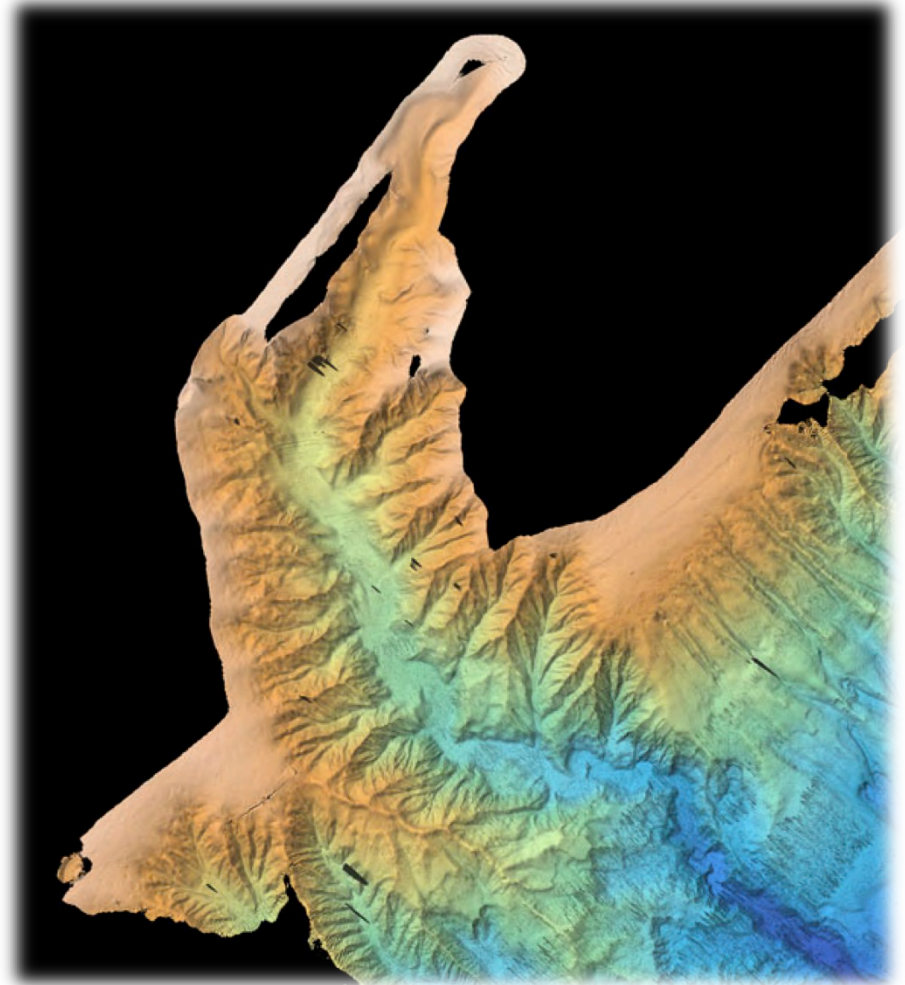
Share information on how knowledge is being used

Identify knowledge gaps that would further management objectives

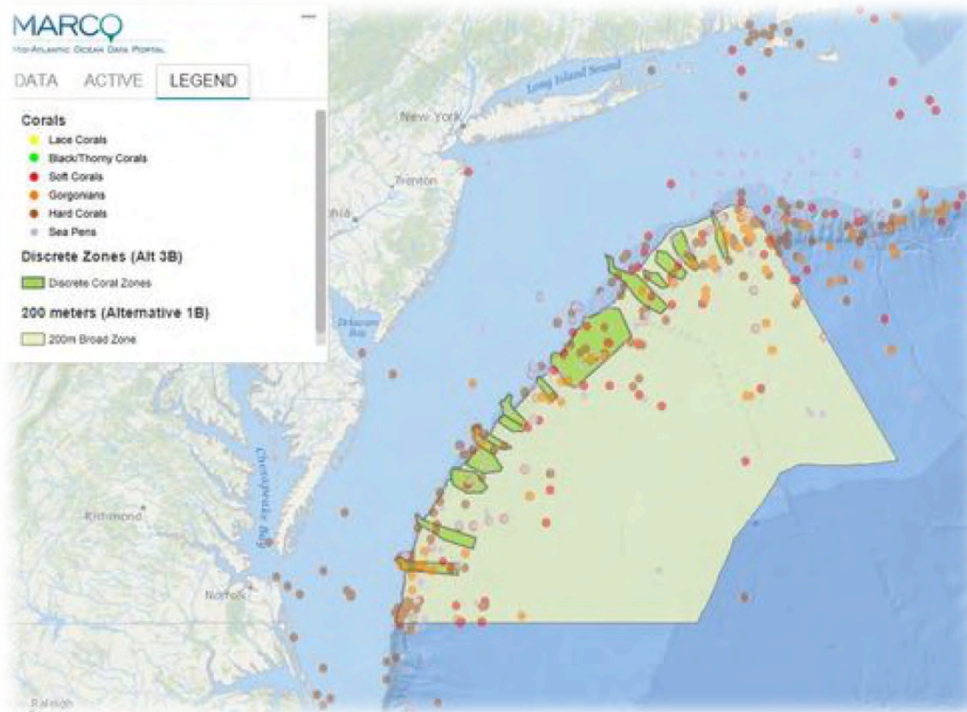


Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Magnuson-Stevens Act
Coral protection zones
Prohibition on gear
types
Focal point for
continued research



Management Activities



Broad coral zone
Discrete coral zones
Expect a final ruling by October 2016

Future Interests

Canyon function

Seeps

South Atlantic Bight canyons

Advanced technology



Questions?

john.mcdonough@noaa.gov

OceanExplorer.NOAA.gov



**Ocean Exploration
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