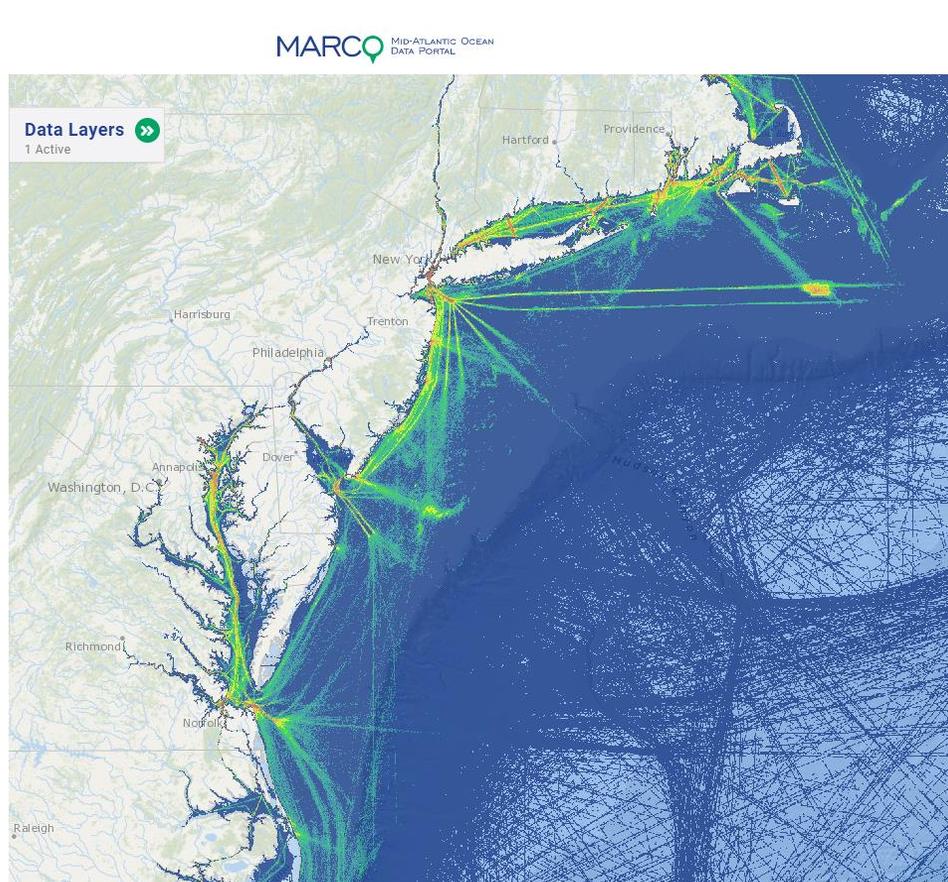
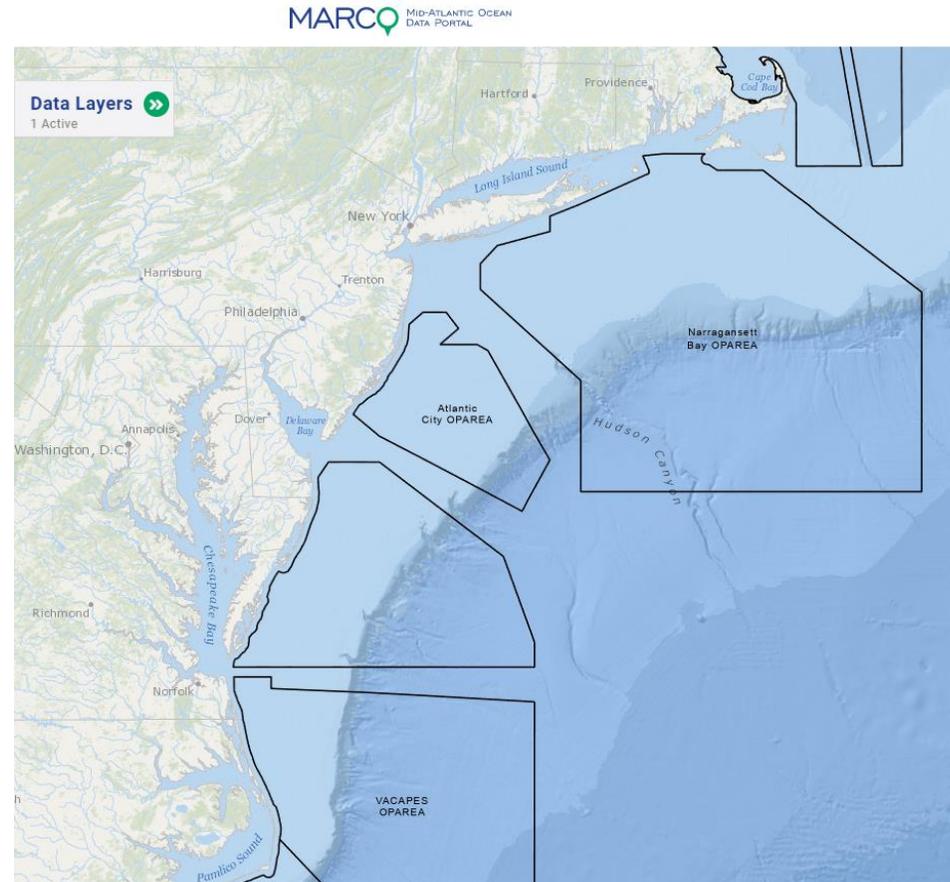


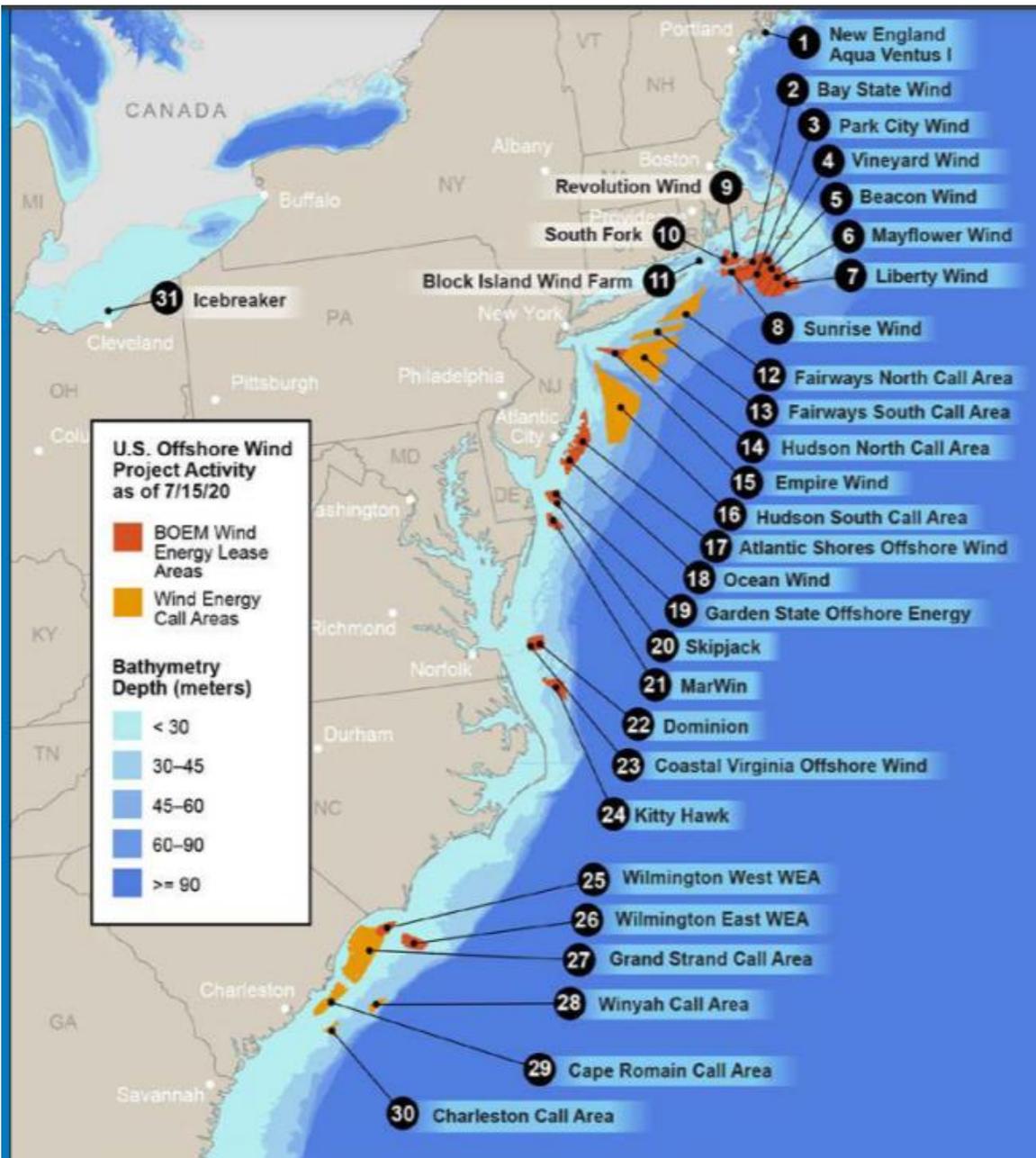
# The ocean waters off the Atlantic coast are already busy . . .



AIS Vessel Transit Counts (2019)



Military Operating Area Boundaries



And about to get even busier . .

Proposed Offshore Wind Sites (Wind Energy Call Areas and Lease Areas)

# And underlying all of that are changes to the marine ecosystem . . .

Northeast Fisheries Science Center | 2020 STATE OF THE ECOSYSTEM REPORT



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The Northeast US Shelf is one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world. Changes in climate, nearshore, and oceanographic processes as well as human uses affect productivity at all trophic levels and impact fishing communities and regional economies.

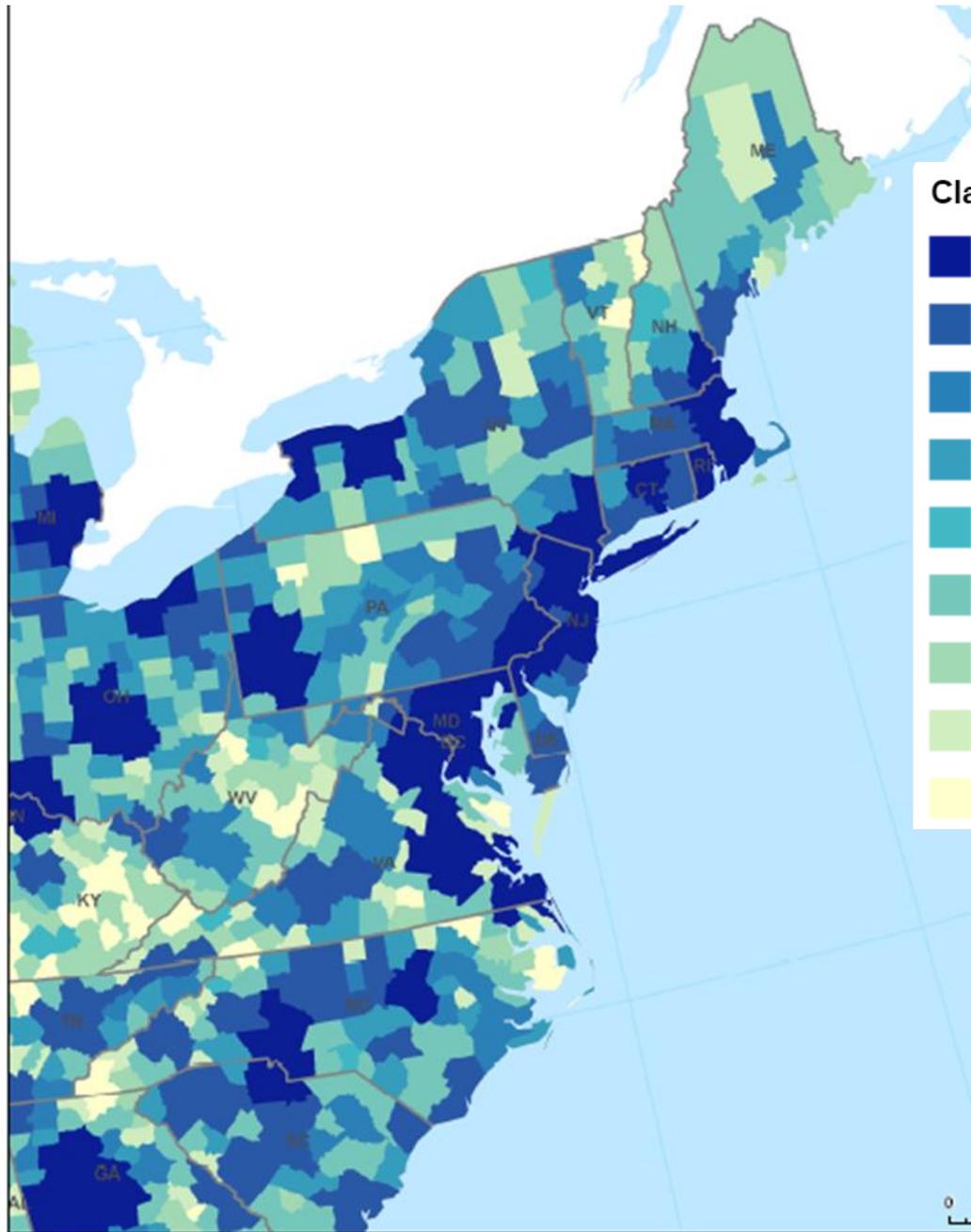
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# Question for Discussion

- ▶ *How can society improve collaborations between the research community and small coastal towns and rural communities, including those that are underserved, so that scientific research and data can be more effectively leveraged to*
  - ▶ *(i) support local capacity to implement resiliency projects and adapt to coastal change, and*
  - ▶ *(ii) define and leverage potential benefits of development and adaptation, particularly for those communities that are already in transition?*
- ▶ *Subtopics include:*
  - ▶ *Links (such as (equity, lessons learned, community capacity building) between underserved urban and rural communities*
  - ▶ *Opportunities for adaptive management and distributive justice*

# Rural and Small Communities: Context

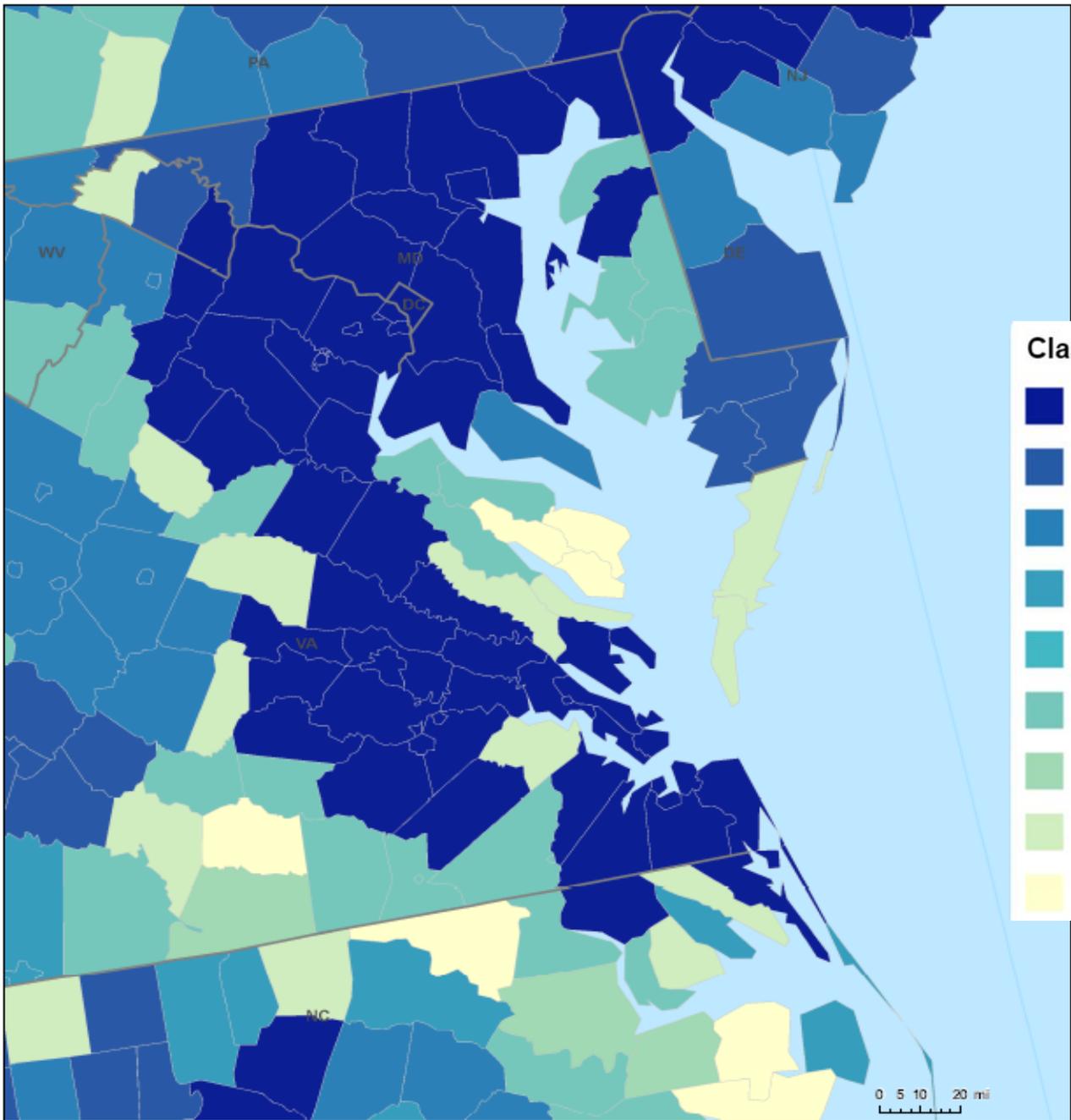
- ▶ More than 6,500 communities with a population between 2,500 and 50,000 and there are thousands more small places where fewer than 2,500 people reside.
- ▶ Rural America encompasses 72 percent of the Nation's land area, houses 46 million residents, and plays an essential role in the overall economy.
- ▶ Less populous areas have smaller governments and a skimpier tax base than more populous areas – and so they have a harder time competing for money from state and federal governments.
- ▶ Rural and small-town America is diverse, dynamic, and relational to (rather than separate from) urban places. Dominant demographic trends in the rural U.S. over recent decades include *depopulation* (driven by population aging and youth out-migration), *increasing ethnoracial diversity* (especially as linked to Hispanic population growth), and *in-migration to select areas associated with metropolitan adjacency* (i.e., exurban growth), retirement destinations, and natural amenities. . . *The prospect is for a rural America marked by ever more diversity and inequality within and between places*



### Classification

- Metro - population 1 million or more
- Metro - population 1 mil. - 250, 000
- Metro - fewer than 250,000 pop.
- Urban pop. 20,000 + adj.
- Urban pop. 20,000 + not adj.
- Urban pop. 2,500-19,999 adj.
- Urban pop. 2,500 - 19,999 not adj.
- Completely rural - adjacent
- Completely rural - not adjacent

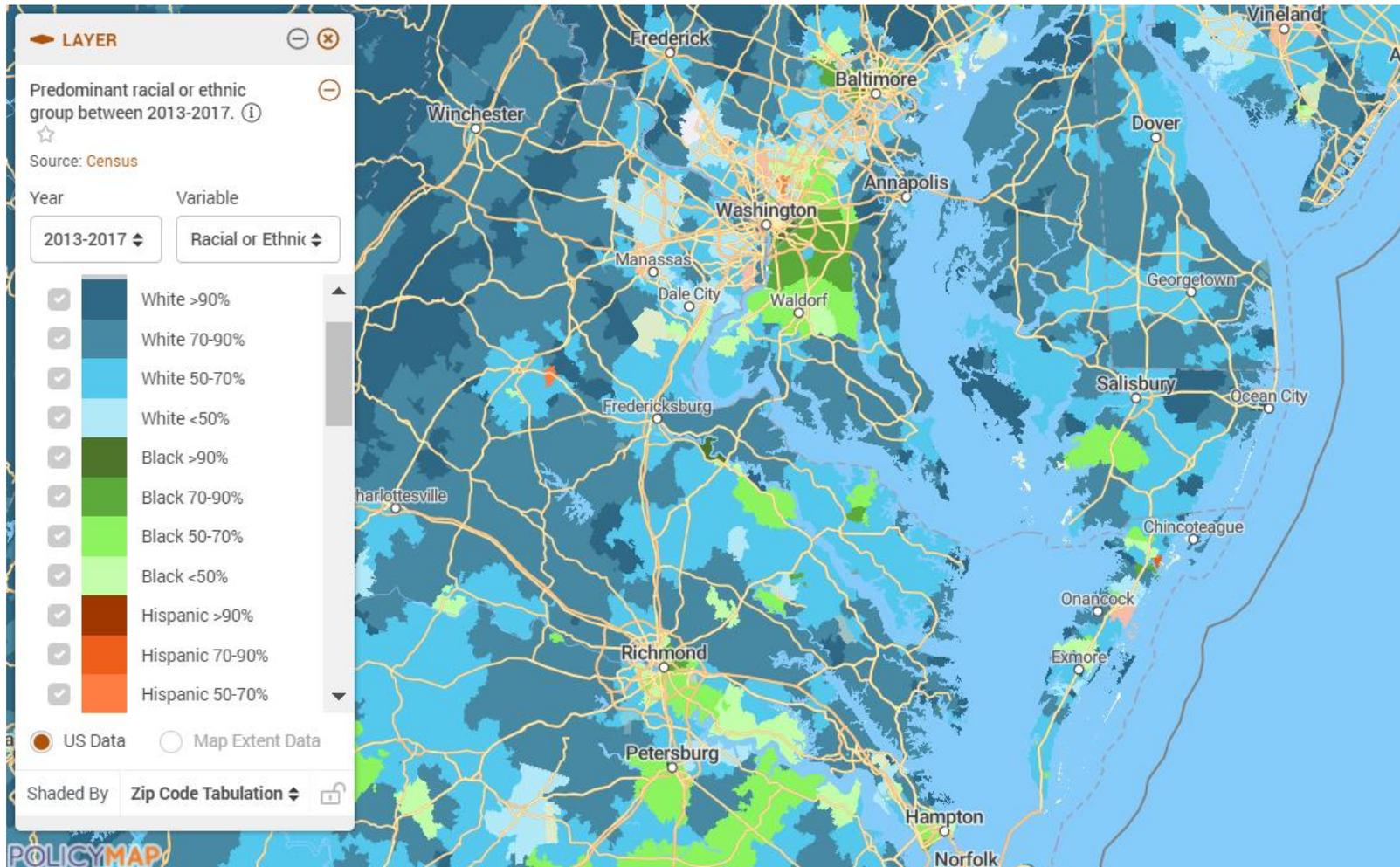
Rural-urban continuum code, 2013  
 From USDA/ERS *Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America*



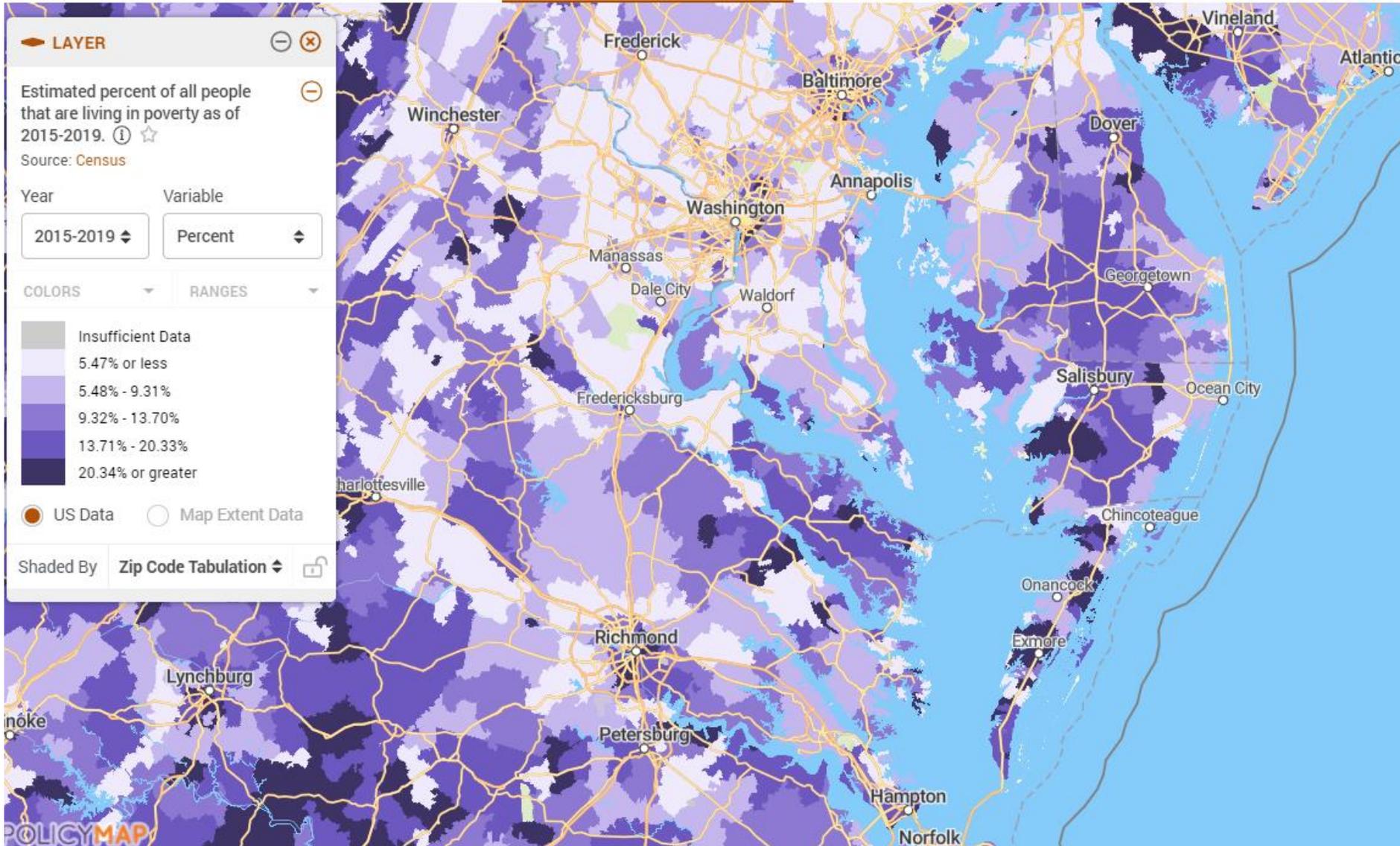
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Note: map shows all counties



*Predominant racial or ethnic group between 2013-2017:* Predominant racial or ethnic group, by percentage of the population in the group. Data were obtained from the Census' American Community Survey 2013-2017 estimates. Geographies for which no data were provided or for which the population was less than 10 are represented as having "Insufficient Data." (From PolicyMap)



*Percent of People living in poverty as of 2015-2019*  
 From PolicyMap

# Question for Discussion

- ▶ *How can society improve collaborations between the research community and small coastal towns and rural communities, including those that are underserved, so that scientific research and data can be more effectively leveraged to*
  - ▶ *(i) support local capacity to implement resiliency projects and adapt to coastal change, and*
  - ▶ *(ii) define and leverage potential benefits of development and adaptation, particularly for those communities that are already in transition?*

- ▶ Our speaker left us with the following framing: *Improving collaboration between research (science) community, small coastal towns, and rural communities will require advancing*
  - ▶ *practices of researcher-decisionmaker-community interactions*
  - ▶ *processes to promote multi-dimensional social learning*
  - ▶ *fostering visions of dynamic adaptive pathways*

But before we go there, a bit of context setting on working with small coastal towns and rural communities along the Atlantic coast . . .