

Checklist for Virtual Participation

- ✓ **If you know you have less than optimal internet connection, we urge you to join through both a phone (for audio) and your computer (for video).** You may do so by joining the online meeting via the Zoom link and opting to join via phone audio. When you are dialing in, please be sure to enter your participant ID.
- ✓ **Please mute yourself when you are not speaking.** This helps cut down on background noise.
- ✓ **Please check that your video camera is on.** We encourage that you also join via video. Seeing each other's faces makes for a more engaging experience.
- ✓ **Rename yourself after logging into Zoom.** We ask that you rename yourself by hovering over your name in the "Participants" tab. Please change your name to be First name Last Name and your organization so we can identify and engage each other better.
- ✓ **Use gallery view** in Zoom when we are not sharing our screen.
- ✓ **Bring a learning mindset** as we try out new technology to maximize engagement in this online setting!

Introduction to Zoom Controls

Zoom Meeting ID: 770-118-569

Talking:

Meeting Topic: My Meeting

Host: Brittaney.Andrews@wwfus.org

Invitation URL: <https://wwfus.zoom.us/j/770118569>
Copy URL

Participant ID: 17

Join Audio
Computer Audio Connected

Share

Invite Others

Share screen

Chat box

Chat

Leave Meeting

Mute and unmute yourself

Turn your camera on or off

Participants (1)

Sara Roble-Guerrero (Me) Mute Rename

Raise Hand yes no go slower go faster more

Mute Me Claim Host

Zoom Group Chat

Direct your chat to a specific person

To: Everyone File

Type message here...

Annotations:

- Enter Participant ID if you are dialing in via phone (arrow pointing to Participant ID)
- Mute and unmute yourself (arrow pointing to Mute icon)
- Turn your camera on or off (arrow pointing to Start Video icon)
- Share screen (arrow pointing to Share icon)
- Chat box (arrow pointing to Chat icon)
- Raise hand for questions/comments (arrow pointing to Raise Hand icon)
- Change your screen name to First name Last Name, Affiliation ("Chair," "Co-chair," "WG Member," "Observer") (arrow pointing to Rename button)
- Direct your chat to a specific person (arrow pointing to To: dropdown)

Select "grid view" to see a grid of all participants (instead of just the speaker)

Zoom Meeting

Farrah Anders... Bennett Brooks Kate Williams Kate Press

Bennett Brooks

Leave

Annotations:

- Red circle around the grid view icon in the top right corner of the video thumbnails.



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Environmental Technical Working Group

A Stakeholder Engagement and Advisory Process to Advance the Environmentally Responsible Development of Offshore Wind Energy for New York State



5 October 2020

Introductions



- > E-TWG Lead: NYSERDA - 518-862-1090
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 - Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078, bbrooks@cbi.org
 - Farrah Andersen 703-247-6017, Farrah.Andersen@cadmusgroup.com

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **E-TWG Priorities Discussion**
 - Updated Survey Results
 - Workplan outlines
 - Discussion
- **Wrap up & Next Steps**



Ground Rules

- Contribute – your perspectives are important
- Share time – lots to cover and many people around the table
- Integrate ideas and pose questions
- Stay focused on the agenda
- Use video capabilities if possible
- Avoid multitasking and other distractions
- Use chat box as needed

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Goals of Discussion

- Identify several priority topics on which the E-TWG and support staff are recommended to focus efforts in the next 1.5-2 years
- Discuss proposed approaches for tackling priorities

Reminder: priorities are not marching orders – but NYSERDA will take E-TWG recommendations on priorities under strong advisement as they consider where to allocate resources



E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Online Survey Results

- **19 Survey Responses**
 - 5 NGO
 - 4 government
 - 10 industry
- **Assessments of results**
 - Sector-weighted mean ranks (down-weights individual industry responses, in particular, since so many more than NGO/gov't)
 - Overall mean ranks (not weighted)
 - Sector-specific mean ranks

Mean ranks from survey responses (in order of descending priority for sector-weighted mean ranks). Lower values = higher priority. Values in red are in the top 30% of mean values.

	Mean Ranked Values				
	Overall	Sector-weighted	NGO	Developer	Govt
Design a regional monitoring program	6.58	5.97	4.2	8.2	5.5
Develop guidance for standardizing site-specific data	5.74	6.02	8.6	4.7	4.75
Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans	7	6.23	6.6	8.6	3.5
Organize State of the Science Workshops	5.74	6.55	5.8	4.1	9.75
Improve regional coordination with other regional groups	6.42	6.62	6.6	6.6	7.25
Design a field study to validate new technology for mitigation and monitoring	5.47	6.72	7.8	2.6	9.75
Support the review and synthesis of data to inform stakeholder groups	5.95	7.02	6.6	3.7	10.75
Coordinate state requirements for offshore wind energy development	8.95	8.25	8	10.5	6.25
Develop standards for technology deployment offshore	7.74	8.58	11.6	5.4	8.75
Develop a mechanism or framework for compensatory mitigation	9.89	9.53	10	10.6	8
Develop best management practices for marine mammals and sea turtles	11.53	9.88	7.4	15.5	6.75
Oversee a study to better understand cumulative impacts	10.63	10.18	7.2	12.1	11.25
Inform stakeholders about technologies for monitoring and mitigation	9.58	10.42	13.8	7.2	10.25
Develop best management practices for birds and bats	11.89	10.63	9.6	14.8	7.5
Improve vessel communications and coordination	10.63	10.78	9.6	10.5	12.25
Facilitate coordination and improvements to the regulatory process	12.26	12.62	12.6	11.5	13.75

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Top Topics from Survey

- > Design a regional monitoring program
- > Develop guidance for standardizing site-specific data
- > Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans
- > Organize State of the Science Workshops
- > Improve regional coordination with other regional groups
- > Design a field study to validate new technology for mitigation and monitoring
- > Support the review and synthesis of data to inform stakeholder groups

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Top Topics from Survey

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- > Support the review and synthesis of data to inform stakeholder groups

Shelving given BOEM/RWSE
focus on this topic



E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Top Topics from Survey

- > Design a regional monitoring program ←
- > Develop guidance for standardizing site-specific data ←
- > Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans ←
- > Organize State of the Science Workshops
- > Improve regional coordination with other regional groups ←
- > Design a field study to validate new technology for mitigation and monitoring ←
- > Support the review and synthesis of data to inform stakeholder groups

Shelving given BOEM focus on this topic

Discussed during last E-TWG meeting

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Top Topics from Survey

- > Design a regional monitoring program ←
 - > Develop guidance for standardizing site-specific data ←
 - > Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans ←
 - > Organize State of the Science Workshops
 - > Improve regional coordination with other regional groups ←
 - > Design a field study to validate new technology for mitigation and monitoring ←
 - > Support the review and synthesis of data to inform stakeholder groups ←
- Shelving given BOEM focus on this topic
- Discussed during last E-TWG meeting
- Tweaked scope based on survey responses and other discussions

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

- **6 Draft Workplan Outlines**
 - Objectives
 - Process
 - Timeline
 - End Products
 - E-TWG Role
 - Other Resource Needs



#1: Improve State Coordination

Objectives: Improve the sharing of information across state groups and leveraging of regional expertise to: 1) improve information exchange, 2) increase efficiency/avoid duplication of effort, 3) ensure alignment in requirements and guidance across states, 4) improve understanding of how federal processes align with state needs, and 5) provide increased consistency for developers operating in multiple states.

Process:

- Develop contact list of state reps who work on wildlife and offshore wind
- Use contact list/emails for informal updates
- Use contact list to form an informal working group that meets either regularly or on an ad hoc basis
- Use existing E-TWG infrastructure for information sharing (website/email list)
- Encourage members of states to attend each other's meetings where possible

Timeline: Ongoing

End Products: 1) contact list; 2) semi-annual meetings among state reps; 3) regular reporting to the E-TWG; 4) E-TWG website updates

E-TWG Time Commitment: LOW; Support Staff Time Commitment: LOW; External resources: LOW

#2: Develop Guidance for Regional Monitoring

Objectives: Develop guidance for regional monitoring that sets overarching objectives, provides recommendations on regionally scoped research and monitoring (for example, guidance on sampling and analytical designs), and defines terminology to support clear communication around regional efforts (does not define specific research questions).

Process:

- Form specialist committee to provide input as guidance document is developed
- Draft outline using ROSA guidance for regional fisheries monitoring as a model; obtain committee input
- Draft guidance document by section, and get input from committee on each section via regular meetings
- Solicit comments from targeted stakeholders on draft product prior to finalization
- Guidance will be an initial effort, rather than final/comprehensive (will of necessity be a living document, and may at some point be transferred to the RWSE for further development)

Timeline: Approximately 6 months, beginning in early 2021

End Products: Guidance document or framework

E-TWG Time Commitment: HIGH; Support Staff Time Commitment: HIGH; External resources: MED

#3: Develop Guidance for Site-specific Monitoring Plans

Objectives: Develop initial guidance for project-specific wildlife monitoring conducted by developers, based on a combination of regional priorities, site-specific conditions and project characteristics, risk assessments, and existing baseline data. Should help ensure consistency across projects and address gaps in knowledge to inform our broader understanding of impacts.

Process:

- Determine focal taxa/topics on which to focus efforts
- Review existing monitoring guidance to avoid duplication of effort
- Identify key questions and knowledge gaps
- Iterate upon and expand on guidance to develop end products with input from steering committee
- At key junctures, obtain input from broader stakeholder community via workshop/webinars
- Coordinate with efforts on regional monitoring as needed

Timeline: 1-2 years depending on breadth of focus

Possible End Products: criteria/guidance for pre-construction monitoring; general standards for monitoring; overall priority questions; criteria/decision tree for monitoring; guidance document combining above products

E-TWG Time Commitment: HIGH; Support Staff Time Commitment: HIGH; External resources: MED

We heard a need for additional guidance to help determine, based on pre-existing data and site conditions, when developers should conduct additional pre-construction monitoring - but this seems to overlap with BOEM's authority. Is there a constructive way for the E-TWG to contribute on this topic?

#4: Advance Technology for Monitoring and Mitigation

Objectives: 1) Identify the technology readiness level (TRL) and validation status of technologies for mitigation and monitoring of wildlife; 2) Identify performance standards and assessment methodologies; 3) Design a field study to validate the capabilities/limitations of a new technology using standards.

Process:

- Conduct a desktop review of existing and developing technologies, possibly building off the MMP Tool
- Select type of technology/taxon to focus additional efforts
- Host webinar series on capabilities/limitations of technologies to inform the TWG direction
- Identify acceptable performance standards and obtain stakeholder input on draft standards
- Select technology(ies) showing promise and design a field study to test efficacy and ability to meet standards

Timeline: 1-2 years depending on scope of technologies and who is conducting the review, developing performance standards, and designing the field study

Possible End Products: desktop assessment; performance standards; study design for pilot project; roadmap for validation of studies in the future

E-TWG Time Commitment: HIGH; Support Staff Time Commitment: MED; External resources: HIGH

This is a fairly inclusive scope - it might be more practical in the short term to refine the scope by focusing on a subset of objectives, or by focusing the desktop review on technologies relevant to a particular taxon

#5: Review & Synthesize Data to Inform Stakeholders

Objectives: Help stakeholders submitting comments during state and federal comment processes to understand what data are available to answer key questions and where remaining gaps are, by 1) compiling a metadata database of relevant environmental datasets, and 2) synthesizing it in a way that is easy to understand for the broader stakeholder community

Process:

- Define scope of data synthesis
- Conduct review of existing datasets and create a matrix summarizing the data available, data type, access, key questions that these data can address, and limitations
- Review metadata database with steering committee to identify gaps and help focus the synthesis
- Develop draft end products for information dissemination
- Solicit input from targeted stakeholders on draft products via meeting/webinar(s) prior to finalizing product

Timeline: 1.5-2 years

Possible End Products: Communications products such as fact sheets, briefs, webinars, and presentations at SotS Workshops

E-TWG Time Commitment: MED; **Support Staff Time Commitment:** MED; **External resources:** MED

#6: Organize State of the Science Workshops

Objectives: 1) Engage and inform interested stakeholders about the state of knowledge regarding wildlife and offshore wind energy development; 2) Promote regional coordination along the eastern seaboard; 3) Promote collaboration through expert information exchange and discussion; and 4) Support development of workshop products to help guide future research/coordination efforts.

Process:

- Workshops are annual/biennial, with an alternating focus on 1) broader sharing of the state of knowledge and 2) topically-focused working meetings. Starting in 2022, the expectation for the general meetings is to adopt a typical scientific conference approach to build the technical agenda. The E-TWG will help to inform the focus of topically-focused working meetings, as was the case for the 2020 workshop
- Workshop proceedings or other products are developed for each workshop
- The 2020 workshop and related working meetings will be entirely virtual. Plans for future workshops are TBD, but could include a mix of virtual and in-person activities

Timeline: Ongoing

Possible End Products: Workshop is the main product, including written proceedings. For working meetings, additional end products may be defined based on topic and stakeholder input.

E-TWG Time Commitment: LOW; Support Staff Time Commitment: HIGH; External resources: HIGH

Group Discussion

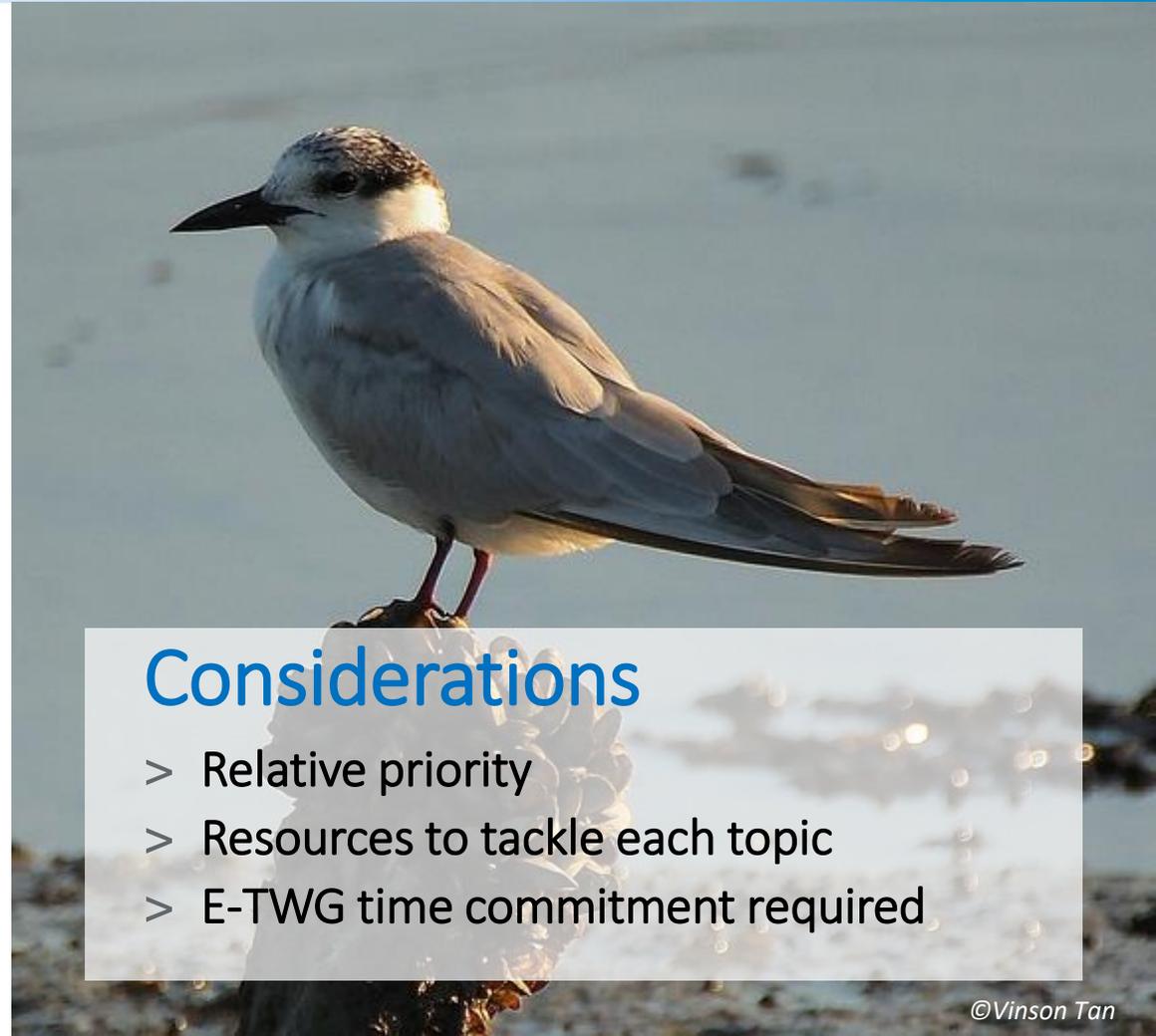
E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Possible Topics

- > Improve state coordination
- > Develop guidance for regional monitoring
- > Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans
- > Advance technology for monitoring and mitigation
- > Review and synthesize data to inform stakeholders
- > Organize State of the Science Workshops

Considerations

- > Relative priority
- > Resources to tackle each topic
- > E-TWG time commitment required



E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Possible Topics

- > Improve state coordination
- > Develop guidance for regional monitoring
- > Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans
- > Advance technology for monitoring and mitigation
- > Review and synthesize data to inform stakeholders
- > Organize State of the Science Workshops
- > NYSERDA priorities with a clear vision of how to proceed

Considerations

- > Relative priority
- > Available resources
- > E-TWG time commitment

E-TWG Priorities Discussion

Possible Topics

- > **Improve state coordination**
 - E-TWG **LOW**; Support Staff **LOW**; Other **LOW**
- > **Develop guidance for regional monitoring**
 - E-TWG **High**, Support Staff **High**, Other **Med**
- > **Develop guidance for site-specific monitoring plans**
 - E-TWG **High**, Support Staff **High**, Other **Med**
- > **Advance technology for monitoring and mitigation**
 - E-TWG **High**, Support Staff **Med**, Other **High**
- > **Review and synthesize data to inform stakeholders**
 - E-TWG **Med**, Support Staff **Med**, Other **Med**
- > **Organize State of the Science Workshops**
 - E-TWG **Low**, Support Staff **High**, Other **High**



Considerations

- > Relative priority
- > Resources to tackle each topic
- > E-TWG time commitment required

Wrap Up & Next Steps

Next Steps

- Refine topics and develop detailed written workplans
- Solicit E-TWG volunteers to work on different topics
- Begin efforts in Winter 2020-2021

Upcoming Timeline

- EMP Meetings with Sunrise and Empire Wind Projects – Late 2020/Early 2021
- State of the Science Workshop – November 16-20
 - Register at www.nyetwg.com/2020-workshop
- Next E-TWG meeting – early 2021? TBD?