

**New York Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)  
Meeting Summary – 3 May 2018**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Prepared by	Kate Williams	5/23/18
Reviewed by	Greg Lampman and John Weber, NYSERDA	6/1/18
	Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West	6/4/18
Revised by	Kate Williams	6/4/18
Reviewed by	E-TWG members	6/19/18
Revised by	Kate Williams	6/28/18
Reviewed by	Greg Lampman, NYSERDA	7/3/18

*Disclaimer: While all efforts were made to accurately represent E-TWG discussions, the views expressed in this summary may not represent the views of all E-TWG members.*

## **Background**

As part of New York State's efforts to responsibly develop offshore wind energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) convened a group of offshore wind stakeholders to provide input to the state on environmental topics. The first meeting of this Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) was held in New York City on 3 May, 2018 (Appendix A). There were 18 E-TWG members in attendance in the room and five who participated remotely via webex/conference call (Appendix B). Five support staff from NYSERDA, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), and Kearns & West were also present.

This meeting summary is intended to capture the key points of discussion and input from the E-TWG, as well as capture action items identified during the meeting. This summary is loosely organized according to the structure of the meeting agenda (Appendix A), with eight major topic areas. Specific comments are organized by topical relevance, not necessarily the part of the agenda in which the comments were made. Opinions are not attributed to specific E-TWG members unless there is a clear reason to do so. For topics where there were differences of opinion among E-TWG members, this summary identifies areas of agreement as well as the different perspectives offered during meeting discussions.

## **Action Items**

The following action items to advance E-TWG objectives were identified during the meeting:

- Support staff will work with E-TWG members to schedule the second E-TWG meeting (in July 2018, if possible).
- Support staff will send an email to the E-TWG about the State of the Science Workshop, to assess whether there is interest in overseeing workshop planning.
- Support staff will initiate workshop planning (with an ad hoc oversight committee, above), including identifying a venue and dates, and developing a list of session topics and draft agenda.
- Support staff will develop a meeting summary from the May 3 meeting (this document)
- E-TWG members will review the draft meeting summary (this document) and approve it or ask for modifications.
- Support staff will develop a list of potential Specialist Committee topics and considerations, based on input received during E-TWG brainstorming sessions and other avenues.
- E-TWG members will identify their top priority issues for Specialist Committees (SCs) and send that information to Kate Williams and/or Greg Lampman to inform the next meeting's agenda.
- Support staff will draft a written charter for the E-TWG to review.
- Support staff will draft a communications plan for the E-TWG to review.
- Support staff will identify potential state contacts from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina to approach about potential E-TWG/SC/workshop participation.
- Support staff will post materials from the first meeting on the website, as appropriate (including the meeting agenda and powerpoint slides).
- E-TWG members will designate alternates from their organizations to participate in E-TWG activities as needed.
- Greg Lampman will follow up with specific E-TWG members about their comments on reports that fed into the Offshore Wind Master Plan.

## Welcome & Introductions

Greg Lampman (NYSERDA) opened the meeting. E-TWG members and support staff introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their organizations and roles.

## Review of New York State Activities

Kate Williams (BRI) briefly reviewed the results of informal interviews conducted with more than 50 stakeholders in 2017 as part of scoping for the E-TWG framework. Greg Lampman (NYSERDA) reviewed recent New York State activities, including

- (1) Contents of the Offshore Wind Master Plan and contributing reports
- (2) The process through which New York State identified the Area for Consideration submitted to BOEM
- (3) Timelines and relationships between state and federal offshore wind development processes
- (4) Ongoing offshore wind-related activities being conducted by the state, including outreach and engagement efforts, new and ongoing field studies, and the formation of four Technical Working Groups to advise the state on specific issues related to offshore wind energy development.

As part of this review, Greg mentioned that the state plans more than \$20 million in R&D investments related to offshore wind, including component design, systems design, operational controls, monitoring systems, and manufacturing processes. Greg noted that the E-TWG has the opportunity to inform the state's priorities for investment related to environmental monitoring technologies. NYSERDA released an RFP immediately prior to the meeting (RFP 3855) that will make up to \$5 million available to deploy LiDAR buoys to obtain metocean measurements.<sup>1</sup>

Greg also discussed the E-TWG's topical and geographic focus, goals, and objectives. To achieve these objectives, the E-TWG is expected to advance topics identified in the New York Offshore Wind Master Plan and by the E-TWG itself, including with the development of wildlife Best Management Practices (BMPs), regional coordination for adaptive management, identification of research needs, exploration of a framework for an "Environmental Conservation Fund," and other topics. The E-TWG's topical scope is the biological and physical environment in relation to offshore wind energy development, including land-based issues around cable landfall. It does not include viewshed, archaeological, or fisheries issues, though Greg and several E-TWG members noted that there is some overlap between the E-TWG charge and that of the Fisheries Technical Working Group in the area of fish populations and habitats (see "Other Technical Working Groups," below).

During the review of state and federal offshore wind development processes, one E-TWG member mentioned that if the WEAs that BOEM identifies in the NY Bight do not match the locations and boundaries of the state's Areas for Consideration – e.g., if the federal government moves forward with leasing areas that the state excluded—this could present a risk for developers. NYSERDA indicated their hope that BOEM will identify WEAs that match the Areas for Consideration. The state will be submitting comments to BOEM during the NY Bight Call for Information and Nominations (for which BOEM will accept public comments until May 29, 2018<sup>2</sup>), and encouraged others to do the same.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Closed-Funding-Opportunities/2018](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Closed-Funding-Opportunities/2018)

<sup>2</sup> [www.boem.gov/NY-Bight/](http://www.boem.gov/NY-Bight/). This deadline has since been extended to July 30, 2018.

## **New York State Procurement Process**

Matt Vestal (NYSERDA) reviewed the New York State Procurement Process. Highlights included:

- New York State estimates the carbon reduction benefits of the full 2.4 GW of offshore wind at \$1.9 billion. There are also expected health and air quality benefits, as well as workforce and infrastructure benefits.
- The state has explored several different procurement options. The state's cost-benefit analysis of procurement options included consideration of disparity in incremental program costs and the net program cost. The analysis also deducted \$1.9 billion carbon benefits from gross program costs to estimate net program costs for each procurement option.
- The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) published a State Administrative Procedures Act (SAPA) Notice relating to the Offshore Wind Policy Options Paper, which defines the proposed process for competitive solicitations, project eligibility, scoring criteria, procurement, and a funding mechanism. This comment period is open until June 4, 2018.<sup>3</sup> NYSERDA can make recommendations to the PSC, but the PSC drives this process. The best way to voice concerns is through formal comments.
  - The NY procurement process was identified by several E-TWG members as an area where E-TWG input could have an impact on the development process. NYSERDA encourages the submission of comments to DPS regarding considerations that should inform procurement decisions.
  - An E-TWG member questioned why the PSC notice does not include environmental impact scoring criteria for Phase I of procurement, and instead includes environmental considerations only in Phase II. NYSERDA indicated that they could not speak to why these criteria were not included for Phase I. Several eNGO E-TWG members emphasized the importance of including environmental considerations in Phase I procurements.

## **E-TWG Framework and Charter**

Kate Williams reviewed the E-TWG framework, including structures for the E-TWG, Specialist Committees (SCs), and the State of the Science Workshop. Greg Lampman (with assistance from Kate Williams and Jason Gershowitz) highlighted questions that arose during convening interviews with E-TWG members and shared responses, many of which were synthesized in a "framework summary" document distributed to E-TWG members prior to the meeting (Appendix C).

The group discussed options for how different processes will work within the E-TWG framework. A series of next steps were identified, including the development of a charter for the E-TWG. Specific process input, discussions, and E-TWG decisions (for inclusion in the E-TWG charter) included the following, in no particular order.

### ***E-TWG membership***

- Balanced participation: The E-TWG discussed the value of balanced representation between developers and environmental non-governmental organizations (eNGOs). Participants shared a range of opinions about the importance of balance in the E-TWG. NYSERDA felt it was important to receive balanced input on SC topics and products, but several E-TWG members, including both developer and eNGO representatives, suggested that a strict balance in numbers may not

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<sup>3</sup> Comments can be provided online at: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/>, Case #: 18-E-0071.

be necessary, as they do not consider themselves to be on opposite sides (“We all have a shared responsibility for the environment”).

- Adding new representatives: The E-TWG will decide when/whether to add new representatives to the E-TWG. If new developers win geographically relevant leases, it was felt that they should have an opportunity to participate. One E-TWG member suggested rotation of positions as a possible approach to maintain balance and a reasonable group size. The group agreed that NYSERDA should approach state agency staff from all states within the geographic scope of the E-TWG and invite them to participate in the E-TWG (or another capacity, as desired).

### ***Vetting of Specialist Committee topics***

The E-TWG discussed ideas for efficient and effective processes for convening SCs, including the following potential steps prior to convening a committee:

- Avoid duplication: Review existing information on the proposed topic to ensure that a new SC would not be duplicating effort and can build off of existing knowledge.
- Coordinate with other Technical Working Groups (TWGs): Communicate the potential topic to other TWGs and identify coordination strategies as needed.
- Define the committee’s charge: Develop the specific charge and scope for each SC, including the intended goal and final product, as well as any desired communications or outreach efforts.
- Identify potential committee members

### ***E-TWG responses to Specialist Committee products***

The E-TWG discussed ideas for reviewing SC products as part of NYSERDA’s process, including:

- Reviewing SC products: The E-TWG will review products from SCs and provide input to the state of New York. At minimum, this input will be communicated via in-person E-TWG discussions and written summaries of those meetings. The group felt it is important to ensure that sufficient time is blocked out in meetings to go through reports in detail. This review process can also be made more efficient by leveraging online tools to share and review documents in advance of meetings.
- Other formats for communicating E-TWG input: The E-TWG could also communicate their input via some other format, such as an editorial to accompany an SC report. NYSERDA indicated that E-TWG editorials must bring value to the accompanying reports, for example by expressing multiple perspectives and the diversity of opinions on the report topics or findings.
- Defining E-TWG responses: Different SCs may warrant different kinds of reviews and response from the E-TWG. Each SC charge should define the format for E-TGW review and response.
- Roles: E-TWG support staff will draft meeting minutes and editorials for E-TWG review. The E-TWG will review and comment on these products for accuracy. As the convener, NYSERDA will oversee the process.
- Seeking consensus: The E-TWG agreed that they should strive for consensus on SC products. If consensus is not possible, disagreements should be clearly captured in meeting summaries (and other products as defined by the E-TWG). Everyone who contributes to the process should be named as participating. Disagreement, if it occurs, should be respectful.

### ***How the state of New York uses E-TWG input in decision making***

NYSERDA shared information about how SC products and E-TWG input will be considered, including:

- Responding to input: NYSERDA will be as responsive as possible to E-TWG input. Implementation of E-TWG suggestions will depend on the issue, the nature of E-TWG guidance, and the level of control NYSERDA has over that particular topic or decision point.
- Sharing E-TWG products: To advance the Offshore Wind Master Plan’s objectives for coordination, NYSERDA emphasized that the audience for E-TWG products also includes other states, BOEM and other federal agencies, and other stakeholders.

***Other items to incorporate into charter***

The E-TWG suggested that a group charter be developed to define E-TWG processes and principles. During the discussion, participants referenced existing documents and additional content that could be incorporated into the charter, including:

- The E-TWG Framework document
- Mission statements for the E-TWG and SCs, including the E-TWG’s intention of being a standing (long-term) working group
- Ground rules for meetings that can be enforced by a facilitator, and can provide mechanisms for managing challenging discussions
- Ground rules for external communications, including handling of E-TWG materials and E-TWG-related communications with the media and stakeholders
- The E-TWG geographic region of interest, defined as offshore areas from Massachusetts to North Carolina, to match the geographic range of possible procurement identified in New York State procurement documents
- Guiding principles for the E-TWG, with suggestions including:
  - Maintain diverse scientific and technical expertise
  - Emphasize transparency, building trust and sharing information
  - Ensure safe space if needed for sensitive member discussions
  - Ensure clarity in decision-making roles and responsibilities
  - Ensure clarity in how products and recommendations will be communicated and applied
  - Importance of discussing positive impacts of offshore wind as well as negative
  - Importance of considering long-term needs and priorities, not just immediate needs
  - Importance of considering different scales, including regional and multi-state efforts

**State of the Science Workshop**

As part of the E-TWG framework review, Kate Williams described plans for a 2018 State of the Science Workshop with goals to include: (1) Promotion of regional collaboration and coordination of research studies, guidelines development, and other efforts; (2) Expert information exchange and discussion, including informing E-TWG/SC activities and building an understanding of the state of the science; and (3) Public engagement and education about ongoing efforts to understand, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts from offshore wind energy development. Current plans include a two-day workshop, to be held in fall 2018, with a mix of technical presentations, discussion panels, and work group activities. NYSERDA has also suggested holding a public open house with a poster session and opportunities for public engagement with technical experts.

Kate asked the E-TWG members for input on further planning efforts. Several next steps were identified during discussions and are listed in “Action Items,” above. Additional recommendations included:

- Develop a long-term vision for the workshop series.
- Engage other states in the region and build a network of collaboration. This workshop should be the leading edge of regional collaboration on offshore wind and wildlife topics. (Geographic scope of interest should match the E-TWG and New York State procurement plans).
- Align workshop topics with suggested SC topics, and use panels/discussions to inform charges for SCs.
- Review agendas and reports from other meetings, to get ideas about for how to organize this meeting and to ensure that we're not duplicating topics/efforts that have been the focus of other meetings.
- Involve Regional Planning Bodies, Fisheries Management Councils, fishermen, and other states in the workshop in some capacity.
- Consider the following session ideas:
  - Cumulative impacts. This workshop is a good venue for tackling large-scale issues.
  - What wind farms look like, and how they are developed. What informs design decisions that influence environmental impacts (like foundation choice)?
  - Monitoring and mitigation technologies. What options are out there, what is the state of the art, and what has been shown to be effective?
  - Population-level impacts from offshore wind energy development. What do we know about impacts to wildlife at the population scale, and how do we assess those impacts?

### **Communications and Outreach**

As part of the E-TWG Operations discussion, Kate Williams asked for input on communications and outreach strategies. The E-TWG members agreed that Kate should draft a Communications and Outreach Plan for their review. Other comments/suggestions included:

- Transparency is key. Communications and outreach should be incorporated into everything the E-TWG does.
- Outreach efforts should be tailored for specific audiences. The E-TWG should develop an overarching plan, but as a group, the E-TWG also needs to think about who their specific audiences are, and how best to reach each of those audiences.
- An email list serv may be an effective communication strategy for the E-TWG. The Tethys email blast is a good model.
- The Tethys database was also mentioned as a good outlet for E-TWG and SC reports and other products.

### **Other Technical Working Groups**

Throughout the day, NYSERDA and other E-TWG members referenced the formation, mission, leadership, and priorities for the other three Technical Working Groups (maritime, fisheries, and jobs and supply chain). For example, one E-TWG member suggested that it could be useful to have discussions between the E-TWG and Maritime TWG about lease areas and setbacks for vessel activity in relation to possible changes in whale influence collision risk, so both groups would get feedback from the other about different types of stakeholder information that feed into decision making.

In particular, there were questions around the Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) membership and structure, and the group's potential for overlap with the E-TWG. E-TWG members and support staff

offered several ideas for how to coordinate the two groups, including inviting F-TWG members to the State of the Science workshop, holding joint meetings between the E-TWG and F-TWG, and developing joint Specialist Committees. It was broadly agreed that the workshops represented an opportunity for in-person coordination. While some participants supported the idea of joint TWG meetings, noting the opportunity for real-time coordination, several others suggested that specific SCs may be a more practical opportunity for Technical Working Group coordination, in which:

- SCs could be jointly charged by the E-TWG and F-TWG and report to both groups, or
- SCs could be charged with reporting updates to other Technical Working Groups with an interest in their topic of focus.

It was agreed that once the E-TWG has chosen a priority topic, that information should be communicated to other TWGs as part of the process to develop the SC's charge.

### **Specialist Committee Planning**

Kate Williams briefly reviewed input that NYSERDA had received from stakeholders regarding priority topics for Specialist Committees. Jason Gershowitz facilitated an E-TWG discussion about criteria and other considerations for selecting priority topics, and a brainstorming session about potential priority topics for committees. E-TWG members agreed to review a summary of these discussions before the next E-TWG meeting and identify their top priority issues.

### ***Criteria and Considerations***

E-TWG members shared a range of suggestions for potential criteria and considerations that NYSERDA and the E-TWG might incorporate into the Specialist Committee topic selection and planning process. Themes from the discussion included:

- Opportunity for impact
- Information gaps
- Informing future development and addressing stakeholder concerns
- Geographic scale, and the need for research at site-specific and regional scales
- Urgency of need
- Practicality

### ***Specialist Committee Topics***

The E-TWG participated in a brainstorming session to suggest and discuss potential SC topics. The discussion was facilitated to include all suggestions. The E-TWG did not consider applying criteria or considerations to the topics identified during the discussion. The purpose of this session was to identify the broadest range of potential topics, so that the E-TWG and support staff could advance planning for future efforts to identify and refine SC topics. Themes of participant-suggested SC topics included:

- Exposure/take for Endangered Species Act (ESA) species
- Development-related changes to species population distribution and abundance patterns
- Understanding regional-scale baselines and large-scale climatic shifts
- Understanding cumulative effects
- Long-term monitoring strategies
- Opportunities and needs for a conservation fund or mitigation bank

- Independent verification of monitoring technologies
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) for minimizing impacts to wildlife

## Appendix A: Meeting Agenda

### Agenda for the First Meeting of the New York Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)

10 am – 5:30 pm, 3 May 2018

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round robin introductions</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	<b>Agenda &amp; Meeting Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground rules</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:45 AM	<b>Review of New York Activities</b> <i>Presentation &amp; Discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2017 informal interviews</li> <li>• The Offshore Wind Master Plan and contributing reports</li> <li>• State and Federal activities / processes</li> </ul>
11:45 – 12:00 PM	<i>Break (set up for working lunch)</i>
12:00 – 12:15 PM	<b>Working Lunch: The New York State Procurement Process</b> <i>Presentation</i>
12:15 – 12:45 PM	<b>Working Lunch: E-TWG Framework Recap</b> <i>Presentation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-TWG, Specialist Committees, and State of the Science Workshop</li> </ul>
12:45 – 1:00 PM	<i>Break (Clear up from lunch)</i>
1:00 – 3:00 PM	<b>E-TWG Framework &amp; Operations</b> <i>Presentation &amp; Discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights and questions from convening interviews</li> <li>• Facilitated discussion: E-TWG Operations</li> </ul>
3:00 – 3:15 PM	<i>Break</i>
3:15 – 5:00 PM	<b>Specialist Committee Planning</b> <i>Presentation &amp; Discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerations for selecting topics</li> <li>• Brainstorming exercise: Identifying topics</li> </ul>
5:00 – 5:30 PM	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review action items from the day's discussions</li> <li>• Planning for future calls / meetings</li> </ul>
5:30 PM	<i>Close</i>

## Appendix B: List of Participants

Point of Contact	Organization	Stakeholder Type	Role
<i>Greg Lampman</i>	<i>NYSERDA</i>	<i>State Government</i>	<i>Convener/chair</i>
Jen Banks	US Wind	Developer	Advisor
David Beutel	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council	State Government	Observer/ technical support
Catherine Bowes	National Wildlife Federation	eNGO	Advisor
Bruce Carlisle	Massachusetts Department of State	State Government	Observer/ technical support
Isis Farmer	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Federal Government	Observer/ technical support
Martin Goff	Statoil	Developer	Advisor
Kevin Hassell	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	State Government	Observer/ technical support
Ursula Howson	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Federal Government	Observer/ technical support
Wilhelmina Innes	New York Department of State	State Government	Observer/ technical support
Scott Johnston	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Government	Observer/ technical support
Sherryll Huber Jones	New York Department of Environmental Conservation	State Government	Observer/ technical support
Aileen Kenney	Deepwater Wind	Developer	Advisor
Francine Kershaw	Natural Resources Defense Council	eNGO	Advisor
Amanda Lefton	The Nature Conservancy	eNGO	Advisor
Jillian Liner	Audubon New York	eNGO	Advisor
Jo Anna Lutmerding	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Government	Observer/ technical support
Joe Martens	NY Offshore Wind Alliance	nonpartisan NGO	Advisor
Anne Marie McShea	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities	State Government	Observer/ technical support
Laura Morse	Orsted	Developer	Advisor
Matt Robertson	Vineyard Wind	Developer	Advisor
Howard Rosenbaum	Wildlife Conservation Society	eNGO	Advisor
John Weber	NYSERDA	State Government	Observer/ technical support

### Support staff present

Angela Guiliani, Allison Rose, Matt Vestal (NYSERDA)

Kate Williams (BRI)

Jason Gershowitz (Kearns & West)

## **Appendix C. E-TWG Framework Summary (distributed to E-TWG members in April 2018)**

**New York is committed to developing the offshore wind industry.** New York has a clean energy goal of 50% by 2030. As part of building this renewables portfolio, the state has committed to building up to 2400 MW of offshore wind power by 2030 (enough to power 1.2 million homes). The state is scheduled to issue two solicitations in 2018-2019 for a combined >800 MW of offshore wind energy.

**The Offshore Wind Master Plan is a strategy for advancing offshore wind.** NYSERDA and other state agencies spent two years developing the Offshore Wind Master Plan ([www.nysERDA.ny.gov/Offshore-Wind](http://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/Offshore-Wind)). The Plan:

- (1) Utilizes data from 20 different studies, as well as stakeholder and public feedback, to identify strategies for offshore wind energy development that consider environmental, maritime, economic, and social issues while addressing market barriers and aiming to lower costs.
- (2) Requests the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to create at least four new Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) within the Area of Consideration the State proposed offshore of New York.
- (3) Proposes options for affordable ways for the state to buy offshore wind energy.
- (4) Commits the State to future efforts to advance offshore wind, including continued public engagement, research activities, determination of a process for the state to procure power, and the convening of technical working groups.

**The state's long-term commitment to advancing responsible development will lead to better outcomes.** New York is committing substantial support to form standing working groups and maintain them in the long term, so that they can be effective and enduring advisors to the state. Development of standards, guidelines, and other products should be an iterative process, particularly for a rapidly developing industry. If the best available science and technology changes, guidelines may need to be adjusted accordingly. A standing working group can set timelines to review past committee products and implement updates.

**Technical Working Groups (TWGs) advise the State on key issues, and are part of a considered approach to responsible development.** The TWGs are part of general good practice to develop offshore wind responsibly. Overseeing offshore wind development in federal waters is an obligation of the federal government, but within this federal development framework, New York is well equipped to help advance common understanding among stakeholders. The TWGs are intended to facilitate interactions between stakeholder groups, improve communications, and build relationships to help address key issues. The four TWGs, led by New York State agencies, are focused on (1) environmental issues, (2) commercial and recreational fishing, (3) maritime issues, and (4) jobs and supply chain.

**The mission of the Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) is to advise the state on environmentally responsible development.** As stated in the Offshore Wind Master Plan, the E-TWG advises the State about “measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate anticipated impacts on wildlife during offshore wind energy development activities,” including development of wildlife best management practices (BMPs), identification and coordination of research needs, and a focus on regional coordination for adaptive management. The group's scope includes wildlife and the physical environment, in marine areas and in terrestrial locations potentially impacted by cable routes, for all

regions from which the state of New York could potentially procure offshore wind power (roughly Massachusetts to Virginia).

**The E-TWG is focused on regional coordination.** The E-TWG includes state agency representatives from New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, as well as federal representatives from BOEM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This ensures that the E-TWG and the State: (1) avoid duplication of effort or the production of conflicting guidelines, and (2) can assess how best to support or complement guideline development processes by other entities.

**The E-TWG will coordinate with other TWGs to ensure there is no duplication of effort.** There may be areas of overlap between Technical Working Group charges, particularly the E-TWG and the Fisheries Technical Working Group. Potential impacts to fish populations from offshore wind energy development are a part of the E-TWG's scope, but impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries are not.

**The E-TWG is a balanced, collaborative, and science-focused advisory body to the State of New York.** NYSERDA chairs the E-TWG, which currently includes advisory representation from five offshore wind developers and five environmental nongovernmental organizations (eNGOs), as well as the New York Offshore Wind Alliance (a nonpartisan nonprofit associated with both groups). State and federal government agencies sit on the E-TWG as observers: they participate in conversations and provide technical input, but are not involved in making advice or recommendations to the State. The E-TWG is supported with scientific expertise from Specialist Committees.

**The operation of the E-TWG is transparent.** Transparency in group discussions, and in the state's decision making, helps foster trust in outcomes. Information on E-TWG activities, including meeting agendas, meeting summaries, and other documents, is available at [www.briloon.org/offshorewindny](http://www.briloon.org/offshorewindny).

**E-TWG discussions are captured through written meeting summaries.** E-TWG input, perspectives, and degree of consensus will be used internally by the State in decision making. These discussions are captured through written summaries of E-TWG meeting discussions. Summaries are reviewed by E-TWG members for accuracy prior to posting on the public project website.

**Specialist Committees, made up of subject matter experts, are formed by the State to develop collaborative guidelines or other products.** Both the E-TWG and the Specialist Committees report directly to the State. Depending on the scope of each Committee's charge, Specialist Committee members may carry out the work themselves, or they may provide oversight for work conducted by contractors (funded and managed by NYSERDA) to carry out aspects of their charge.

**The E-TWG "bookends" and helps guide Specialist Committee activities.** The E-TWG suggests goals for committees, recommends experts to participate on committees, and provides input and recommendations on products created by the committees. The E-TWG helps focus New York State decisions based on the best available information, and identifies and prioritizes gaps; and the Specialist Committees fill those gaps.

**Inclusivity leads to better outcomes.** The inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders on the E-TWG, Specialist Committees, and State of the Science Workshops encourages the development of effective, economically viable approaches towards understanding, avoiding, and minimizing environmental impacts from development activities.

**State of the Science Workshops will foster regional science coordination, information interchange, and public engagement.** This planned annual or biennial meeting has three interrelated goals: 1) regional coordination of research studies, guidelines development, and other efforts; 2) expert information exchange to promote collaboration and inform E-TWG and Specialist Committee activities; and 3) public engagement and education about ongoing efforts to understand, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts from offshore wind energy development.

**NYSERDA facilitates and supports operations.** Members of the E-TWG and Specialist Committees participate on a volunteer basis. NYSERDA provides the groups with appropriate technical expertise and administrative support, including professional facilitation of meetings.