

A STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP TO OVERSEE WILDLIFE RESEARCH & DEVELOP CONSERVATION GUIDANCE



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The State of New York has formed a standing working group, the **Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)**, to advise the state on the environmentally responsible development of offshore wind along the east coast of the United States (Figure 1).

The group's scope includes **development of wildlife best management practices, identification of research needs, and facilitation of regional coordination.**

Effective, science-based, and economically viable approaches to environmentally responsible development are encouraged by the inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders (Figure 2):

- **The E-TWG**, with representation from offshore wind developers, environmental nongovernmental organizations (eNGOs), federal agencies, and state agencies from Massachusetts to Virginia (Table 1)
- **Specialist Committees** with specific technical and scientific expertise, which are formed to address issues that the E-TWG designates as priorities
- **"State of the Science" workshops** to inform and engage the broader stakeholder community



FIGURE 1: The area of interest for the E-TWG and related activities extends from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)

The E-TWG's topical scope is the biological and physical environment; this overlaps with the complementary Recreational and Commercial Fisheries TWG around topics of fish populations, biology, and habitat. E-TWG objectives are to:

- **Improve our understanding** of, and ability to manage for, potential effects of offshore wind energy development on wildlife
- **Develop transparent, collaborative processes** for identifying and addressing priority issues relating to wildlife monitoring and mitigation
- **Reduce permitting risk and uncertainty** for developers by improving clarity in expectations and processes for wildlife monitoring and mitigation

The E-TWG met twice in 2018, and will meet up to four times per year moving forward.

TABLE 1: E-TWG members (as of September 2018)

Stakeholder	Seats	Specifics
Developer	5	Representatives from companies with geographically relevant lease holdings for the State of New York: Deepwater Wind, Equinor, Ørsted, US Wind, Vineyard Wind
eNGO	5	Representatives from non-profit organizations with a strong scientific grounding and involvement in a range of wildlife and offshore wind issues: Audubon New York, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Nonpartisan NGO	1	Representative from an NGO that includes both developers and eNGOs as members (New York Offshore Wind Alliance)
State agency	11	Representatives from New York and other regional states (MA, RI, NY, NJ, DE, MA, VA)
Federal agency	3	Representatives from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Specialist Committees (SCs)

Under the direction of the State of New York and the E-TWG, topically-focused **Specialist Committees bring together subject matter experts** to develop collaborative guidelines or other specific products.

- General topic areas outlined in the New York Offshore Wind Master Plan include:
 - Development of Wildlife Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - Coordination regionally for adaptive management
 - Identification of research needs and regional coordination
 - Consideration of a framework for an "Environmental Conservation Fund"
- Each SC has a specific charge to complete and includes science-based expertise from a range of backgrounds
- The E-TWG reviews committee products and provides feedback to inform State decision making

The State of the Science Workshop: Nov. 13-14th, 2018

The first **State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy Development** is bringing together stakeholders to promote expert information exchange, regional coordination, and public engagement and education for interested stakeholders along the eastern seaboard.

Speakers include representatives from BOEM, FWS, NOAA, the Dept. of Energy, Deepwater Wind, Ørsted, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Joint Nature Conservation Commission (JNCC), Belgian Royal Institute for Natural Sciences, and many others!

- **Marine Systems and the Offshore Wind Energy Development Process**
- **Sea Turtle** populations of the northwest Atlantic, and impacts from marine development on turtles
- **Marine Mammal** populations and survey efforts in the northwest Atlantic; impacts from offshore wind and other other anthropogenic activities; minimizing exposure to construction noise; developing regional strategies for standardized monitoring
- **Lower Trophic Levels (Zooplankton / Benthos)** of the northwest Atlantic; impacts from EMF and other aspects of offshore wind development
- **Fish and Fish Habitat** in the northwest Atlantic; fish and noise; offshore wind farms as artificial reefs; effects of the Block Island Wind Farm on fish and invertebrates
- **Bird and Bat** impact from wind energy development; avian distributions and relative abundance; individual tracking of protected species; bird and bat monitoring at the Block Island Wind Farm; recent developments in detection and deterrence
- **Ecosystem Perspectives:** designing monitoring programs to detect impacts; lessons learned from Europe; consideration of cumulative impacts
- **Panel / Group Discussions**
- **Evening Poster Session & Public Open House (evening of November 13th)**
- **Post-workshop meetings (Nov. 15th)**

Dates and location: November 13-14, 2018, The Inn at Fox Hollow, Woodbury, Long Island
Participation: Open to the public (prior registration required for daytime sessions)
To register: www.briloon.org/offshorewindny/workshop

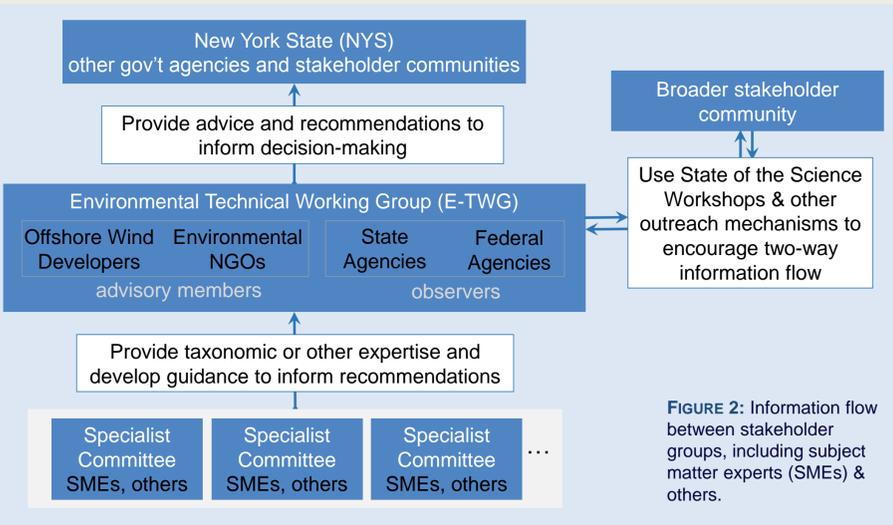


FIGURE 2: Information flow between stakeholder groups, including subject matter experts (SMEs) & others.

Ongoing Activities

The E-TWG is working on a range of initiatives:

- Identifying priority topics for Specialist Committees
- Planning the first State of the Science Workshop
- Informing New York State how best to incorporate environmental considerations into offshore wind procurement processes
- Recommending topics for inclusion in New York State environmental research solicitations (RFPs)
- Improving communication and coordination of ongoing research, development, and policy

Get Involved!

- Visit www.briloon.org/offshorewindny for more information or to register for the State of the Science Workshop
- Email Kate.Williams@briloon.org to present a poster or host an exhibit table at the workshop's evening open house
- Email Kate.Williams@briloon.org to indicate interest in participating in a Specialist Committee (please indicate your area of expertise in your email)



E-TWG members, the State of the Science Workshop advisory committee, and many others are committing substantial time and energy towards this effort. **Many thanks to all who are involved!**

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