



© Nicholas Doherty

Environmental Technical Working Group

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



NYSERDA

April 8, 2025

Introductions



- > E-TWG Lead: NYSEERDA - 518-862-1090
 - Kate McClellan Press x3110,
Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov

- > Technical Support: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) - 207- 839-7600
 - Kate Williams x108, kate.williams@briwildlife.org
 - Julia Gulka x303, julia.gulka@briwildlife.org
 - Mary McElroy, mary.mcelroy@briwildlife.org
 - Eleanor Eckel, eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org

- > Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus
 - Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078, bbrooks@cbi.org
 - Erin Maloney 617-209-4962,
erin.maloney@cadmusgroup.com

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Near-real Time Communications Update
- E-TWG Priorities 2025-2027
 - NYSERDA's current thinking
 - Group discussion
- Next Steps and Wrap Up



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
- Avoid multitasking and other distractions

Virtual

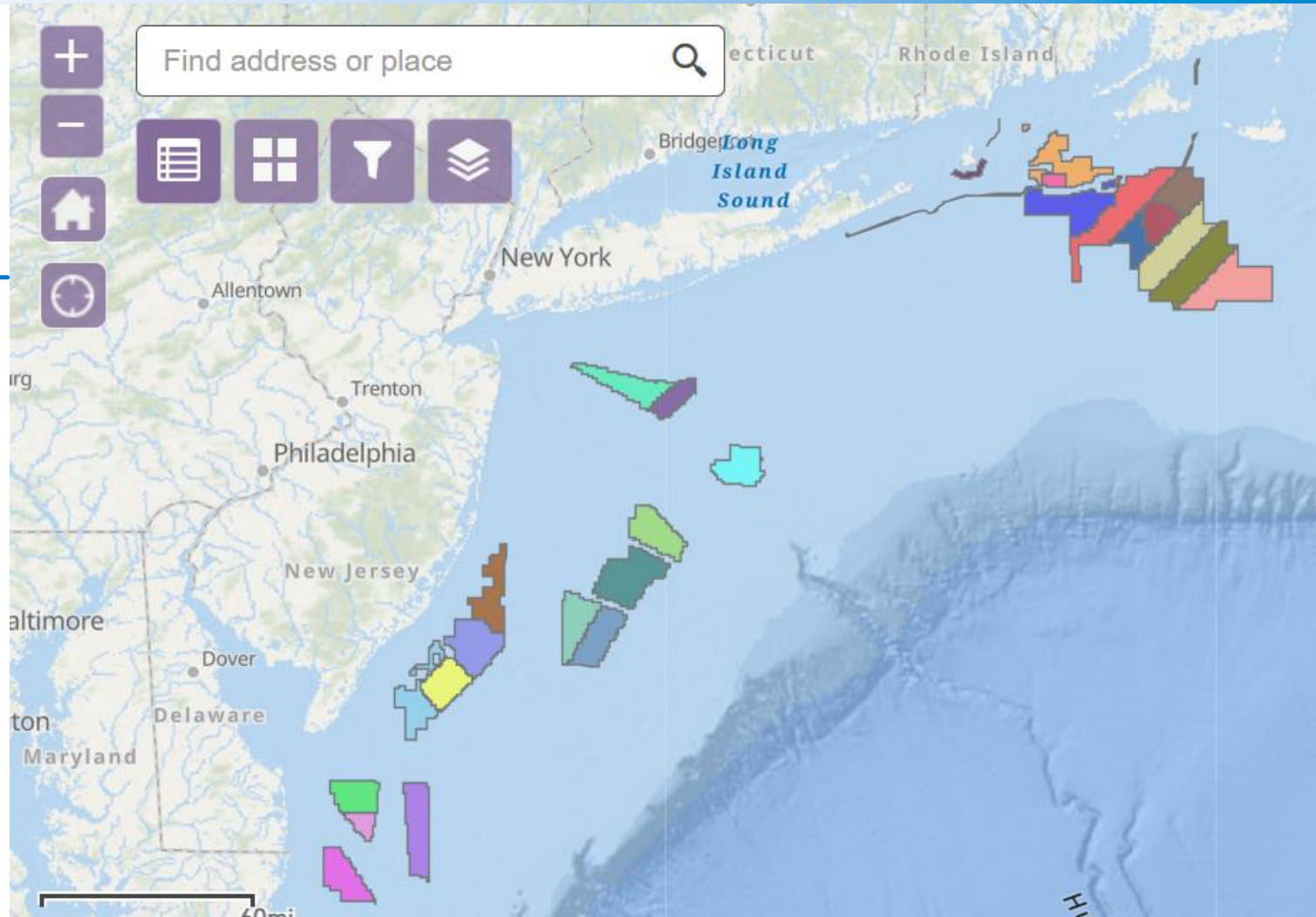
*Please stay on camera
Bring a tech-adaptive mindset



Near Real-Time Communications

Near Real-Time Communications

- Update to the F-TWG Lease Mapping Tool
- Potentially helping address some previous discussions around near-real time information as well as the topic around creating a dashboard of OSW activities
- Open to feedback on what types of information might be useful (and public) in this context



Prioritization of E-TWG Efforts 2025-2027

Prioritization of E-TWG Efforts 2025-2027

- > Recap of prioritization activities to date
 - Preliminary brainstorming of long list of topics (May 2024 E-TWG meeting)
 - Discussions with NYSERDA and RWSC to refine topics (summer 2024)
 - Topics related to compensatory mitigation deemed outside of scope of E-TWG
 - Online survey to help narrow down the list of potential priorities (November 2024)
 - Discussion at in-person E-TWG meeting selected four top priorities (December 2024)
 - Smaller group discussions to refine priorities and mechanisms (Jan-Feb 2025)
 - Finalize priorities and work on refining/finalizing approaches (this meeting)

Current and Ongoing E-TWG Activities

Develop communications materials related to whales and offshore wind
via Specialist Committee (Finishing Spring 2025)

Develop communications materials related to birds and offshore wind
via Specialist Committee (Started Dec 2024; End Date TBD)

State of the Science Workshops
Planning for the 2026 Workshop (Ongoing through June 2026)

Review and Synthesis of Data to Inform Stakeholder Groups
Webinar library updates, MPD Tool update, etc. (Ongoing)

New Priority Topics

Topic	Mechanism	Details
External communications on offshore wind and environmental issues	Specialist Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directory of existing resources• Topically focused 'rapid response team' contact list• Targeted communications materials
Support development of regionally administered/managed monitoring networks	NYSERDA support for ongoing RWSC efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lend E-TWG support to RWSC working groups<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regionally coordinated funding and implementation of bird and bat tracking efforts• Follow up efforts from avian displacement guidance with marine bird displacement workgroup
Develop and share lessons learned from past projects	State of the Science Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theme and curated lessons learned sessions at the 2026 workshop
	Pilot study to assess existing data and make recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the effectiveness of real time marine mammal mitigation measures (PAM, PSOs, etc.) using existing developer data
Develop recommendations to support NPI efforts	Assessed as lower priority in follow up discussions than the other three topics	

External Communications Specialist Committee

- > **Rationale:** With construction activities in the New York Bight in 2025, it is expected that media coverage will increase, and there will be a need to anticipate and rapidly address external communications needs
- > **Goal:** Build on previous/ongoing communications efforts (e.g., FAQ development) to ensure that information on environmental issues is readily accessible by a range of stakeholders and can be mobilized quickly when a topic rises to mainstream media coverage
- > **End Products:**
 - **Directory of existing resources** to aggregate verified informational materials in anticipation of communications needs
 - **Topically focused 'rapid response team' contact list** to provide stakeholders with expert points of contact who could help address issues as they arise in the media or with specific groups
 - **Other communications materials** to inform public discourse on issues as they arise in the media or with specific groups. Specific topics and formats will be defined as needed by the Specialist Committee
- > **Timeline:** Initial 3-6 months; the committee will meet during this effort to provide input on processes and draft products. Committee may meet on an *ad hoc* basis thereafter

Support Regionally Coordinated Monitoring

- > **Rationale:** The development of frameworks and processes for coordinated, centralized decision making on monitoring approaches and study designs makes wildlife monitoring more efficient, simpler for developers to achieve, and leads to better conservation outcomes. This topic sits within the scope of the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC).
- > **Goal:** Provide E-TWG support (via support staff time and/or subcontracts) to ongoing RWSC efforts
- > **Existing RWSC efforts that could benefit from additional support:**
 - Continue development of a framework for a regional monitoring program for bird/bat tagging activities via the bird and bat tracking workgroup within the RWSC bird and bat subcommittee
 - Continue standardization and coordination of observational survey activities for marine birds via the marine bird distributions working group of the RWSC
- > **Timeline:** TBD in discussion with RWSC; Spring 2025-2027?

Develop and Share Lessons Learned from Past Projects

- > **Rationale:** Better communication pathways for research and monitoring methods and effects findings could help facilitate methodological improvements in monitoring activities to help guide future projects
- > **Goal:** Eliminate duplicated/wasted effort, improve future monitoring and mitigation efforts, and share initial findings regarding offshore wind's effects to wildlife
- > **Mechanisms:**
 - **State of the Science 2026** – Make “lessons learned” a theme or focus area for 2026; plan symposia or special sessions to share lessons learned about the environmental monitoring and mitigation approaches that developers and others have tried
 - **Analyze real-time mitigation data from developers and make recommendations** - Conduct a pilot effort in regional data synthesis and analysis, focused on assessing the effectiveness of real time marine mammal mitigation efforts (e.g., PAM, PSOs). In addition to specific analytical goals, effort would serve as a pilot/test case for developing standardized data processes for regional-scale analyses
- > **Timelines:** Spring 2025- Summer 2026 (State of the Science); Spring 2025-Fall 2027 (pilot study)



Clarifying Questions?

- Any clarifying questions?
- Overall comfort level with direction of priorities?

Areas of Additional Feedback

> External Communications:

- Are the directory, phone tree, and eNGO briefing on FAQs the right products? Other ideas?
- How to best prepare for likely media attention with construction starting in NY Bight?
- Who is the audience? Conditions on sharing rapid response team database?
- What do we need to do to make sure that this effort can truly “mobilize quickly”?
- Other suggested edits to the draft work plan?

> Regional Monitoring Networks:

- What RWSC activities are most urgent to support?
 - Continue development of a framework for a regional monitoring program for bird/bat tagging activities
 - Continue standardization and coordination of observational survey activities for marine birds
 - Other?
- Housed under RWSC, so comfort level with minimal E-TWG role? (E.g., would there be an E-TWG role in reviewing draft products?)

> Lessons Learned:

- Is the topic of near-real time mitigation the right test case?
- What datasets are available (public or shareable) within reasonable timeframe, what are next steps, and potential barriers?
- Who are the experts to engage with as we do this work?
- Does the level of E-TWG feedback proposed (no formal committee, ad-hoc advisory group) feel right?



**Breakout
Groups
20 min**

- One breakout group for each of the three priority topics
- Goal: Confirm and, as needed, refine the approach to pursuing new priority action
- Please self select into a breakout group
- Aiming for cross-sector representation in each breakout
- Please select one person in the group to report back to the full group

Areas of Additional Feedback

> External Communications:

- Are the directory, phone tree, and eNGO briefing on FAQs the right products? Other ideas?
- How to best prepare for likely media attention with construction starting in NY Bight?
- Who is the audience? Conditions on sharing rapid response team database?
- What do we need to do to make sure that this effort can truly “mobilize quickly”?
- Other suggested edits to the draft work plan?

> Regional Monitoring Networks:

- What RWSC activities are most urgent to support?
 - Continue development of a framework for a regional monitoring program for bird/bat tagging activities
 - Continue standardization and coordination of observational survey activities for marine birds
 - Other?
- Housed under RWSC, so comfort level with minimal E-TWG role? (E.g., would there be an E-TWG role in reviewing draft products?)

> Lessons Learned:

- Is the topic of near-real time mitigation the right test case?
- What datasets are available (public or shareable) within reasonable timeframe, what are next steps, and potential barriers?
- Who are the experts to engage with as we do this work?
- Does the level of E-TWG feedback proposed (no formal committee, ad-hoc advisory group) feel right?



Full Group Discussion

- **Comments on breakout group feedback?**
- **Comfort level moving forward?**
- **Feedback on sharing lessons learned at the State of the Science**

Lessons Learned at State of the Science 2026

Areas for refinement:

- 1) Utility of a “dry run” to start sharing lessons learned at an autumn 2025 E-TWG meeting, with presentations from early volunteers
- 2) Specific outcomes beyond video recordings of presentation (e.g., summary paper?)
- 3) Topics/speakers for inclusion in lessons learned sessions

Next Steps

- > Involvement in new priorities
- > External comms workplan
- > Upcoming E-TWG meetings
 - Research project lunch and learns
 - New York OSW Project specific meetings
- > In-person E-TWG meeting in fall 2025
 - Last week of Oct or early-mid Nov
 - Major conflicts?



Wrap Up & Next Steps

E-TWG Lead: NYSERDA - 518-862-1090

- Kate McClellan Press x3110,
Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov

Technical Support: Biodiversity Research
Institute (BRI) - 207- 839-7600

- Kate Williams
x108, kate.williams@briwildlife.org
- Julia Gulka x303, julia.gulka@briwildlife.org
- Mary McElroy, mary.mcelroy@briwildlife.org
- Eleanor Eckel, eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org

Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus

- Bennett Brooks 212-678-
0078, bbrooks@cbi.org
- Erin Maloney 617-209-4962,
erin.maloney@cadmusgroup.com

> Questions? Comments?

> Thank you!