

# Collaborative Wind-Wildlife Activities in the U.S. Atlantic

February 2023 Update



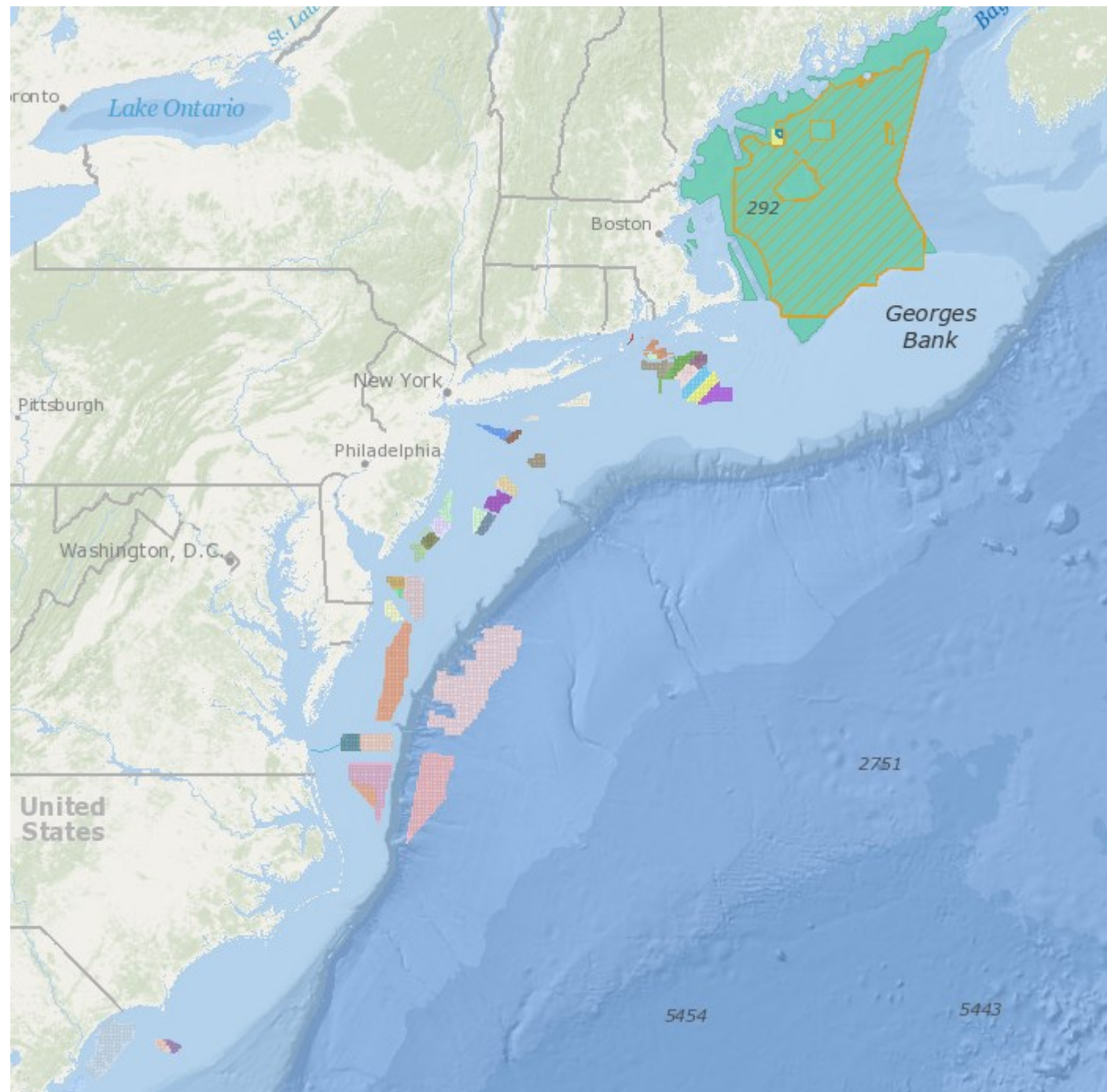
NEW  
YORK  
STATE

NYSERDA

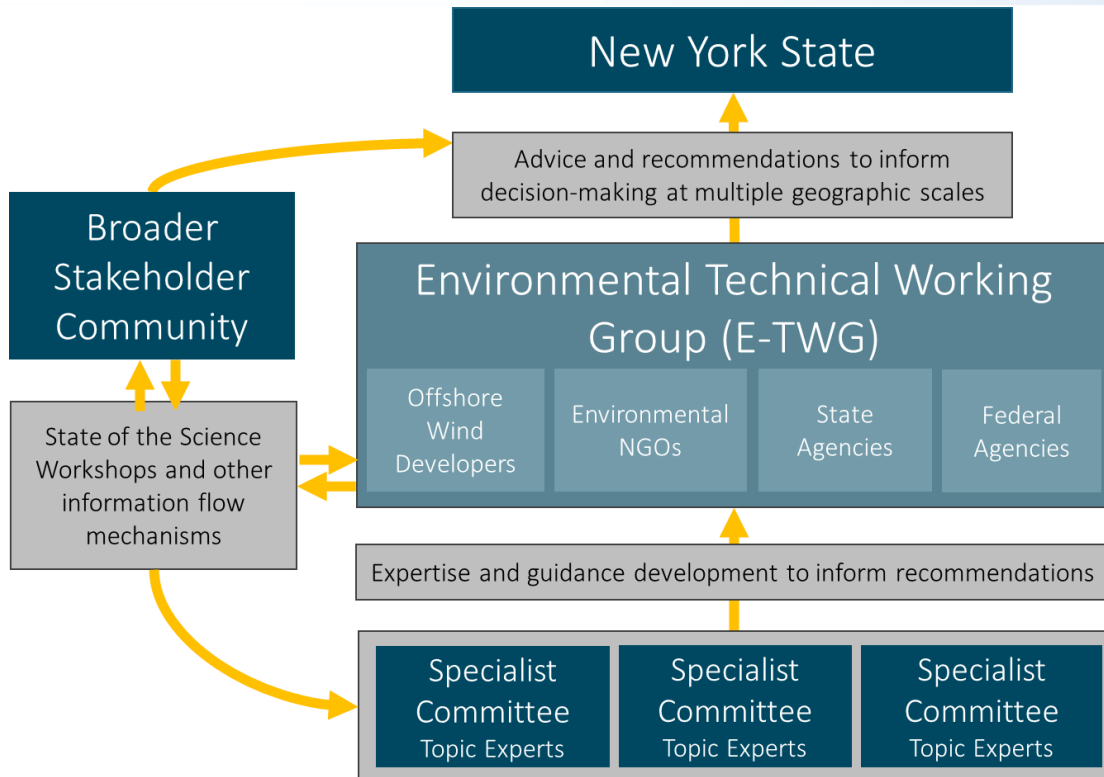


# Regional Ambitions for Offshore Wind

- Key component of state and federal plans to minimize climate change
- Target of >39 GW by 2040
- 10 lease sales and 27 active commercial wind leases so far
- Developers planning on 10.3 GW by 2026
- Two commercial-scale projects under construction with turbine installation beginning spring 2023



# The Environmental Technical Working Group



E-TWG website:  
[www.nyetwg.com](http://www.nyetwg.com)

- > Convened by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) but east coast-wide in focus
- > Mix of stakeholders with technical expertise
- > Overarching objectives:
  - Better understand and manage potential effects of offshore wind development on wildlife
  - Develop collaborative processes to address priority issues
  - Reduce permitting risk and uncertainty for developers
- > Initiates Specialist Committees to work on specific needs

# Bird- and Bat-Related Efforts

## Current E-TWG Efforts

Guidance development  
for avian monitoring to  
detect changes in  
marine bird  
distributions and  
habitat use in relation  
to OSW

Synthesis of regional  
research priorities  
and  
recommendations

2024 State of the  
Science Workshop

## Other Updates

NYSERDA Offshore  
Wind Masterplan 2.0:  
Deep Water

BOEM/USFWS  
Stochastic Collision  
Risk Assessment for  
Movement (SCRAM)

Project WOW

# Avian Displacement Guidance Specialist Committee



**E-TWG Goal:** Inform pre- and post-construction monitoring and research approaches for detecting and characterizing displacement, attraction, and macro- to meso-avoidance of marine birds at OSW facilities in U.S. waters

## Primary products

- Guidance document that Identifies displacement/ attraction and avoidance-related questions, identifies appropriate methodologies to address those questions, informs study designs for boat/aerial surveys, and informs choice of focal species
- Interim recommendations for using existing avian baseline data for offshore wind site characterization

## Opportunities for stakeholder input:

- Stakeholder input period for draft guidance expected in mid-2023

**Learn More:** [www.nyetwg.com/avian-displacement-guidance](http://www.nyetwg.com/avian-displacement-guidance)

Sign up for E-TWG mailing list to be notified of public feedback period

Co-chaired by



# Synthesis of regional research priorities and recommendations



**E-TWG goal:** Provide interim guidance for regional-scale research and monitoring efforts in the eastern U.S. to inform immediate decision-making by states, developers, and others about research activities to pursue and help feed into Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative efforts (RWSC.org)

- Broad in focus (multi-taxon and habitats)

## Primary products:

- Database of research needs and data gaps identified from pre-existing sources
- Interim guidance for regional-scale research, including key terminology, general recommendations on study design and data transparency, prioritization criteria

## Opportunities for stakeholder input:

- Stakeholder input period for draft guidance will open in May 2023



## Learn More

[www.nyetwg.com/regional-synthesis-workgroup](http://www.nyetwg.com/regional-synthesis-workgroup)

Sign up for E-TWG mailing list to be notified of public feedback period

# U.S. Atlantic Offshore Wind Environmental Research Recommendations



NYSERDA



## Database of data gaps and research needs – now available

- Available on Tethys (link below)
- Developed by collating research needs and data gaps from existing literature, with public feedback process
- Researchers and funders can easily access, sort, and prioritize research recommendations in database

## Pacific Offshore Wind Environmental Research Recommendations database also accessible



<https://tethys.pnnl.gov/atlantic-offshore-wind-environmental-research-recommendations>



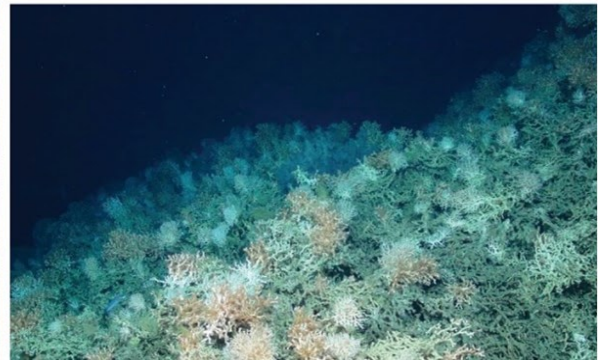
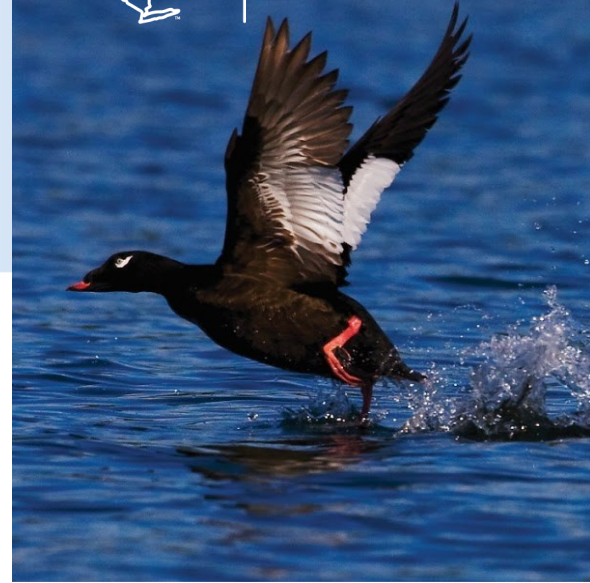
# State of the Science Workshop

The next State of the Science Workshop will be in 2024!

- Planning process ongoing
- We are excited to announce that we will be soliciting sponsorships for the workshop – please email [kate.Williams@briwildlife.org](mailto:kate.Williams@briwildlife.org) if you are potentially interested in learning more
- Sign up for the workshop mailing list for updates

More information:

[www.nyetwg.com/2024-workshop](http://www.nyetwg.com/2024-workshop)





# NYSERDA Offshore Wind Masterplan 2.0



## NYSERDA has initiated a Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water planning process

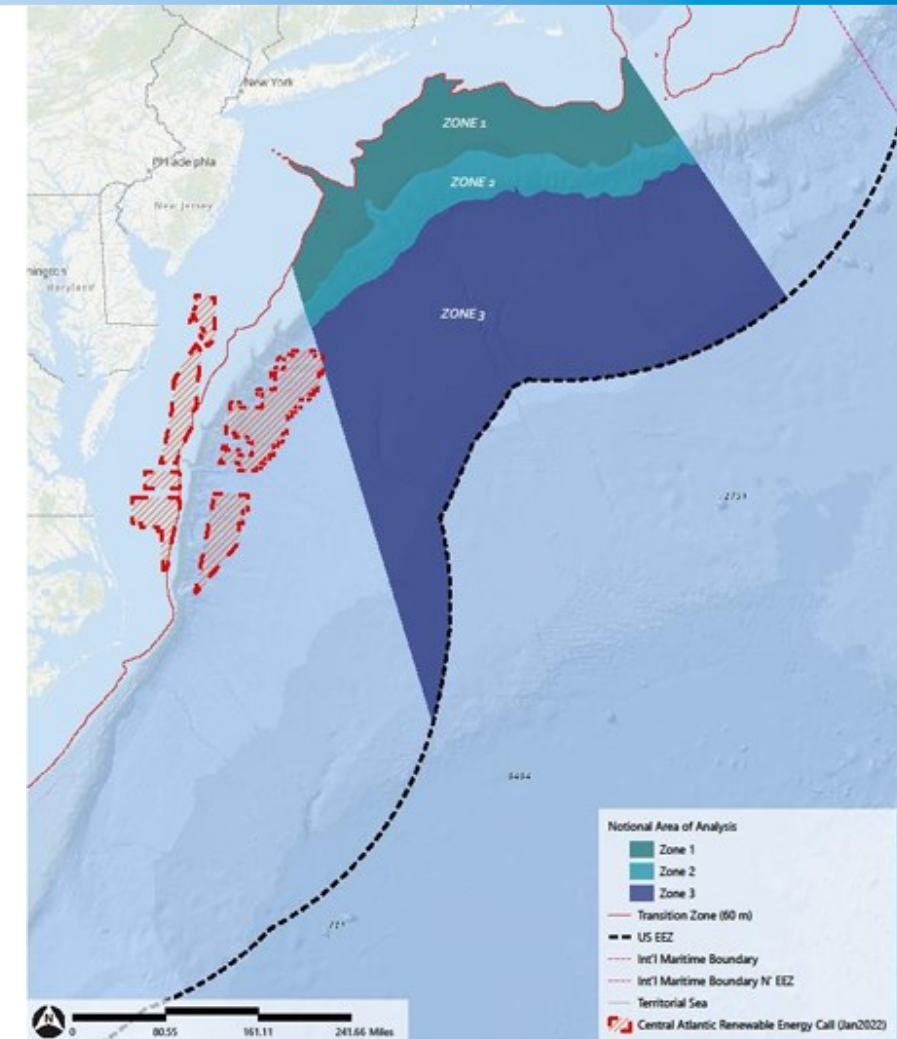
- To meet New York's ambitious offshore wind goals, additional lease areas may be needed

### Goals:

- Identify additional areas in the region that are deeper than 60-meters to recommend to BOEM for consideration as future lease areas
- Provide a clear process to address transmission/interconnection related concerns

### Learn More

[www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Offshore-Wind/About-Offshore-Wind/Master-Plan](http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Offshore-Wind/About-Offshore-Wind/Master-Plan)



# SCRAM

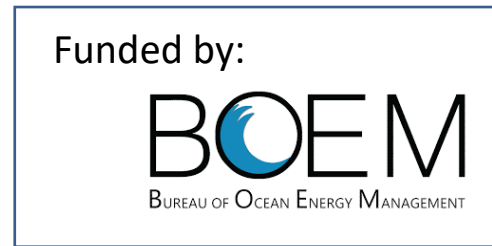
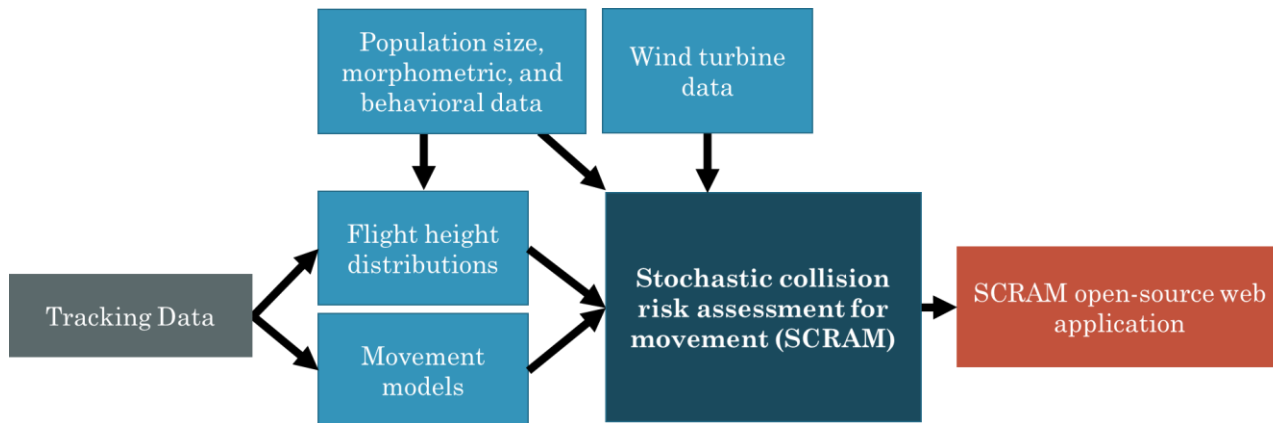


## SCRAM: STOCHASTIC COLLISION RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MOVEMENT



Benjamin Hack

- An online tool for running stochastic collision risk models (sCRM) for offshore wind farms in eastern U.S.
- SCRAM incorporates movement models from Motus data and regional population data instead of densities from at-sea surveys (as with other CRMs)
- Flight speed and occupancy estimates derived from tracking data rather than bird passage rates per unit time (referred to as “flux” in Band 2012)
- Current version specific to T&E species in the eastern U.S. (Piping Plover, Red Knot, Roseate Tern)
- Initial version in review with USFWS and BOEM, with planned release in early 2023 and continued development through 2024



# Wildlife and Offshore Wind

A Systems Approach to Research and Risk Assessment for Offshore Wind Development from Maine to the Carolinas



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

**BOEM**  
Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

Environmental Research, Validation of Tools and Methods, and Multi-Year Evaluation of Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Development on Wildlife in U.S. Atlantic Waters (\$7.5 million)

# Wildlife and Offshore Wind (WOW) Project

- 5-year project (2022-2027) funded by DOE and BOEM
- Three Areas of Research Focus:
  - Research to assess impacts of construction noise on marine species
  - Changes in habitat and changes in marine species' use of habitat in offshore wind lease areas and surrounding areas
  - Research to assess collision risk for birds and/or bats
- Bird/bat-focused project team w/in the broader consortium:
  - BRI, Stony Brook U, URI, plus federal agency scientists
- Bird/bat research strategy:
  - Build from other field efforts wherever possible
    - Focus on analyzing survey data and other data being collected by OSW developers and others
  - Gather new data to fill key gaps:
    - GPS/GSM tracking data focused on Northern Gannets and Great Black-backed Gulls
    - Passive acoustic data for bats
    - Continue developing technological capacity for offshore Motus deployments
  - Integration with RWSC bird/bat subcommittee



- Lead PI: Douglas Nowacek, Ph.D. [doug.nowacek@duke.edu](mailto:doug.nowacek@duke.edu)
- Multi-institution consortium with varied expertise
- <https://offshorewind.env.duke.edu>

Email [Kate.Williams@BRIwildlife.org](mailto:Kate.Williams@BRIwildlife.org)