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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*



**NYSERDA**

# Introductions



CADMUS

- > E-TWG Lead: NYSEERDA - 518-862-1090
  - Kate McClellan Press x3110,  
[Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov)
  
- > Technical Support: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) - 207- 839-7600
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- > Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus
  - Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078, [bbrooks@cbi.org](mailto:bbrooks@cbi.org)
  - Stefanie Sganga 617-673-7018,  
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# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- E-TWG Activities Updates
- Masterplan 2.0
  - Overview
  - Key findings from individual studies
  - Breakout group discussions
  - Environmental sensitivity study
  - Full 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 (virtually and in person)
- Integrate ideas and pose questions
- Stay focused on the agenda
- Avoid multitasking and other distractions
- We all have our unique challenges in a hybrid environment – it will take all of us being mindful to make this work

## In Person

Make space for virtual participants  
Avoid side conversations – impacts sound quality

## Virtual

\*Please stay on camera  
Bring a tech-adaptive mindset



# In Person Logistics

- Food/Coffee
- Restrooms
- Name tags and table tents
- Seating organization



# Virtual Logistics

- Rename yourself in the participants tab with first & last name, affiliation
- If you don't have optimal internet, join the meeting via computer for video and dial in for audio
- Use the raise hand function if you would like to contribute (and don't forget to put it down afterwards)
- Use the chat sparingly
- Mute yourself when not speaking

If you have tech issues, contact Julia Gulka in the chat or via email at [Julia.Gulka@briwildlife.org](mailto:Julia.Gulka@briwildlife.org)

# E-TWIG Activities Updates

# Whale Communications Committee

- > **Monthly meetings since May**
- > **Goal:** Develop communications materials to aid in the dissemination of current, accurate, and readily understandable information around recent whale mortality events and the level of potential risk to whales from offshore wind energy development activities
- > **Primary products:**
  - Working FAQ document that can be used by various groups in their own communications around topics of interest
  - Public survey to solicit input on topics and identify experts to support FAQ development

<https://www.nyetwg.com/communications-resources>





# Whale Communications Committee

- > Are there non-communications related approaches that the E-TWG is interested in pursuing on this topic?

<https://www.nyetwg.com/communications-resources>



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# 2024 State of the Science Workshop

- > July 16-19, 2024, on Long Island (tentative)
- > Addition of a fisheries focus
- > 3.5 days total (including half day of side meetings)
  - Day 1: conference
  - Day 2: conference AM, side meetings PM
  - Day 3: conference
  - Day 4: conference AM
- > 2-stage call for abstracts planned



# 2024 State of the Science Workshop

## > *Taking an Ecosystem Approach: Integrating Offshore Wind, Wildlife, and Fisheries*

### > Sessions will focus on:

- Understanding wildlife and wildlife habitat: populations and distributions
- Offshore wind development effects and species/ecosystem responses
- Offshore wind development effects and fisheries: social/economic responses
- Monitoring, minimization, and mitigation approaches
- Cumulative impacts of offshore wind energy development
- Collaborative processes to improve development and conservation outcomes (including guidance, data sharing, and other collaborative efforts)
- Integration of fisheries data, marine protected species, and wildlife data to identify wind energy areas and planning areas
- Ecosystem interactions: physical and biological interactions and changes in ecosystems across trophic levels in response to offshore wind and other stressors

# 2024 State of the Science Workshop

## Scientific Planning Committee

- NMFS, BOEM, USFWS, Vineyard Offshore, Ørsted, Invenergy, Integral Consulting, TNC, WCS, NOWRDC, ROSA, LIFCA, members of organizing committee

## Organizing Committee

- NYSERDA, BRI, Tetra Tech





# Regional Synthesis Workgroup

[Atlantic  
Database of  
Research Needs](#)



[Recommendations  
for Regional  
Research](#)



> Met from Dec. 2021-Aug 2023



> Goals:

- Inform immediate decision-making by states, developers, and others about regional research activities to fund
- Help feed into Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative efforts

> Primary products:

- Database of research needs and data gaps compiled and synthesized from existing sources
- Guidance for regional-scale research to complement the database

> Many thanks to workgroup members!!

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

Responsible Practices for Regional Wildlife  
Monitoring and Research in Relation to  
Offshore Wind Energy Development

August 2023



Developed by the [Regional Synthesis Workgroup](#) of the [Environmental Technical Working Group](#), with support from the Biodiversity Research Institute

# Avian Displacement Guidance Committee

- > Co-chaired by BOEM and USFWS
- > Meeting ~monthly since May 2022
- > 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:
  - Initial guidance document that includes identification of displacement and attraction-related questions and the appropriate methodologies to address those questions, with a focus on informing study designs for boat/aerial surveys
  - Interim recommendations for using existing avian baseline data for site characterization



# Avian Displacement Guidance Committee

- Draft recommendations for pre- and post-construction monitoring are available for you to review
- Please provide input by **September 29**
- This is an E-TWG-only review; the public review period will begin in October

Questions?

## Timeline

- September – E-TWG Review
- Oct 4 – Committee meeting to discuss feedback
- Oct 16 – Public webinar
- Oct 16-Nov 3 Opportunity for public input
- November – Committee revise document based on feedback
- December – Finalize document







# New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan 2.0 Deep Water

11 September 2023

Environmental Technical Working Group



NEW  
YORK  
STATE

NYSERDA

# New York State Offshore Wind Goals

July 2019, New York State signed into law the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act)

- > Mandates a minimum of 9 GW of offshore wind by 2035
- > Requires New York State achieve an 85% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2050 and 100% zero-emissions electricity by 2040
- > Created a Climate Action Council (CAC) charged with developing a scoping plan to provide recommendations to meet Climate Act targets and place New York on a path toward carbon neutrality

The CAC scoping plan suggests 16-18 GW of offshore wind energy may be necessary to ensure New York State achieves its Climate Act mandate.

- > Planning, analysis, and engagement is critical for responsible development
- > Additional lease areas may be needed



**5 years  
BOEM Planning &  
Analysis to Lease Auction**

**4-5 years  
BOEM Planning & Analysis  
to Lease Auction**

BOEM issues Call for Information and Nominations in New York Bight



Lease auction in New York Bight

NY Bight Proposed Sale Notice

Regional OSW leases per Inflation Reduction Act

Consultations with States and stakeholders

Analysis and engagement



NYS Master Plan + Policy Options Paper

Order from Public Service Commission

Climate Act codifies 9GW goal

New York Power Grid Study  
PSC PPTN

PSC Order on Power Grid Study

NYS Master Plan 2.0 Studies  
Analysis and engagement

9GW x 2035 target

NYSERDA Issues Request for Information

PSC authorizes OSW procurements to meet Climate Act mandate

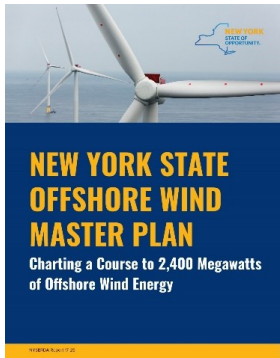
NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

2.0 Areas for Consideration

New York's 1<sup>st</sup> OSW solicitation

New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> OSW solicitation

New York's 3<sup>rd</sup> OSW solicitation



**NYSERDA**



# Master Plan 2.0 Objectives

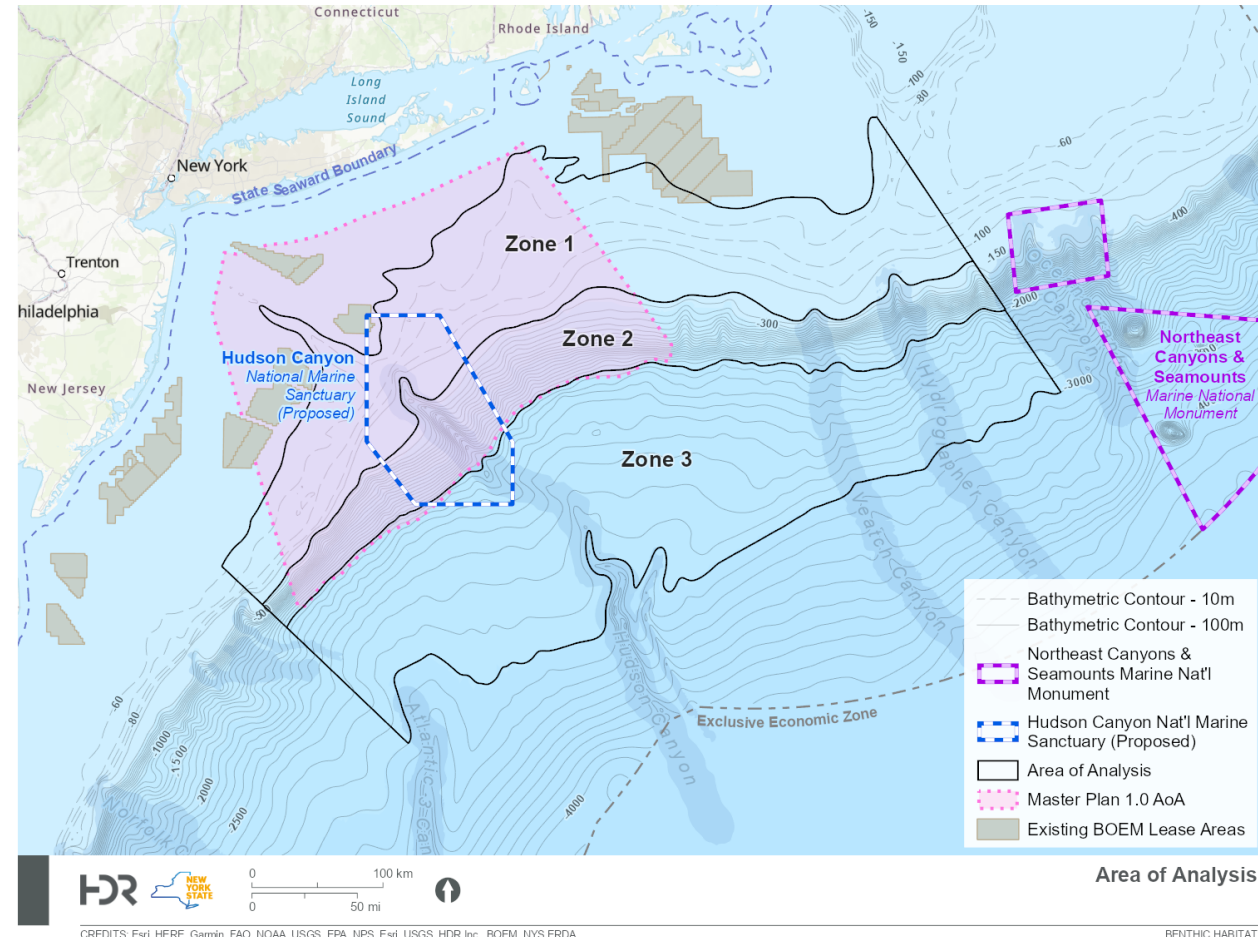
- > Serve as an **organizing principle** for all offshore wind work ensuring a robust and transparent strategy for achieving New York's 9GW goal
- > Foster ongoing and proactive **stakeholder engagement**
- > Enable New York State to assess and **characterize the risks and opportunities** for offshore wind development in a comprehensive, sequential, and logical approach to achieve 9GW and beyond

# Master Plan 2.0 Geographic Scope

## Master Plan 2.0 Study Area:

Study area extends east from the 60-meter contour out past the continental shelf break to the edge of the 3,000-meter contour.

- > **Zone 1** (remaining shelf) extends from the 60-meter contour to the continental shelf break.
- > **Zone 2** spans the steeply sloped continental shelf break (unique canyon habitats).
- > **Zone 3** extends from the continental shelf break out to the 3,000-meter contour.



# Master Plan 2.0 Track 1 Studies: To inform “Areas for Consideration”



Credit: NOAA Fisheries

## Environment

- > Birds and Bats
- > Fish and Fisheries
- > Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- > Benthic Habitats
- > Environmental Sensitivity Analysis

## Maritime Activity

- > Maritime Assessment: Commercial and Recreational Uses

## Technology

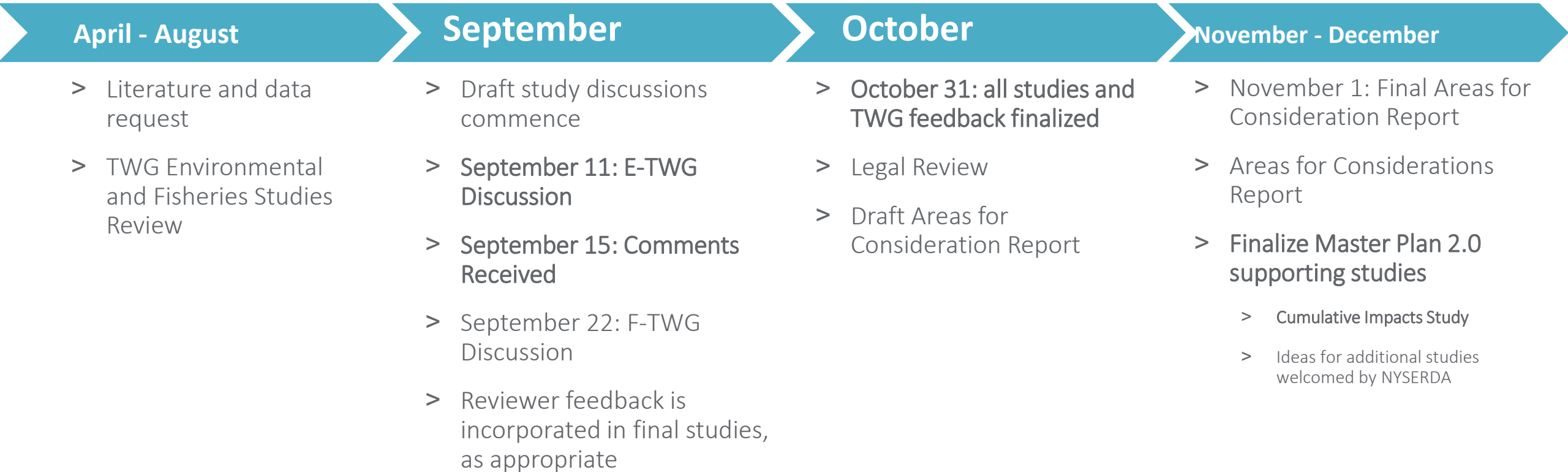
- > Offshore Wind Resource Assessment
- > Deep Water Wind Technologies: Technical Concepts

## Feasibility

- > Technology Assessment and Cost Considerations



# Master Plan 2.0 2023 Timeline



## Timeline Goal:

**Seek to make a formal request of BOEM early in 2024 based upon consideration of studies, support from regional states and stakeholders, and concurrence from State agencies.**

# Potential Master Plan 2.0 2024-2025 Studies:

## Environmental, Fisheries, Maritime

- > Cumulative Impacts Study

## Transmission

- > Transmission planning and interconnection

## Supply Chain

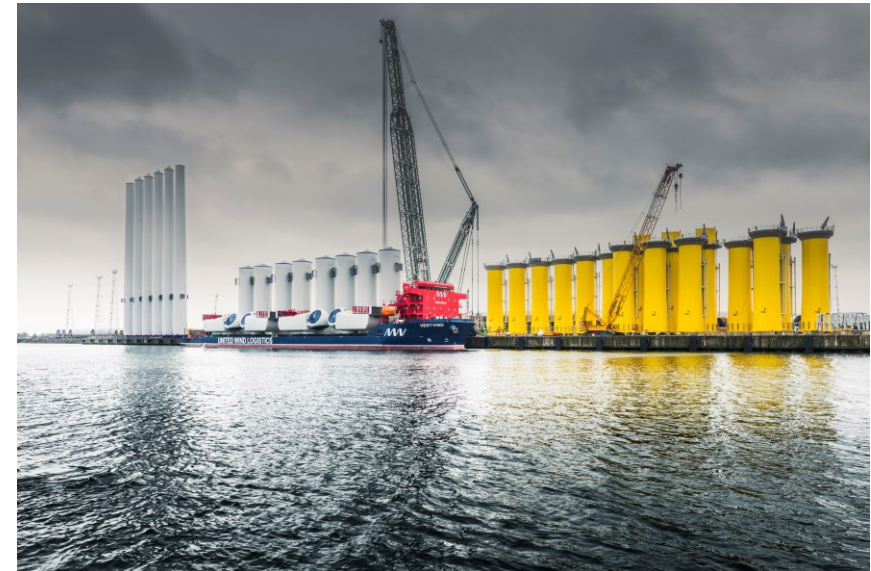
- > Port Performance Permitting
- > Wind Turbine Vessel and Technology Study
- > Supply Chain Opportunities Analysis

## Workforce

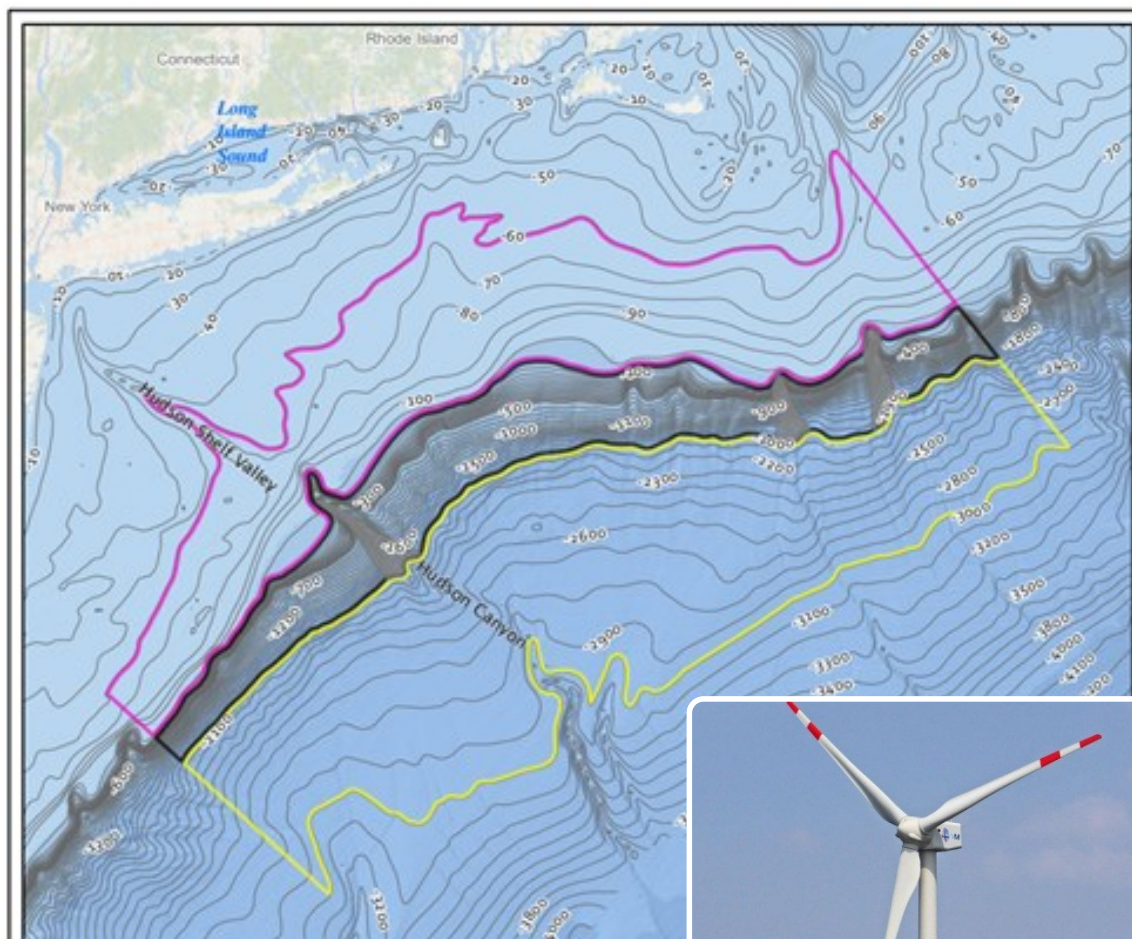
- > Workforce Opportunities

## Disadvantaged Communities

- > Disadvantaged Communities: Cumulative Impacts
- > Catalogue of Assets



Credit: Vestas



# Deep Water Wind: Technical Concepts Study

**Brian Dresser**

11 Sept 2023





# **Environmental and Fisheries Site Assessment Studies Supporting New York's Offshore Wind Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water**



11 September 2023





**Breakout  
Groups  
35 min**

## Topics for discussion

- **Completeness**
  - *What information/data is available that wasn't included?*
- **Key data gaps and information needs**
  - *What gaps should be filled in the future and/or taken into consideration in interpreting results?*
- **Geographic areas of particularly high risk**
- **Key messages for NYSERDA**

*In person: Please take a handout  
Virtual: Please use virtual board (link in chat) for brainstorming – will keep open until Sept 15*



**Thank You**



# Reminders

- **E-TWG Specialist Committees**
  - **Avian Displacement Guidance: Draft for E-TWG review until September 29**
  - **Whale communications: Survey for input on topics to address in the FAQ**

*If you have not done so already, we encourage you to review the written updates we sent via email for additional details on NYSERDA and E-TWG activities*



# Wrap Up & Next Steps

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

- Kate McClellan Press x3110,  
[Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov)

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**> Questions? Comments?**

**> Thank you!**