Environmental Technical Working Group

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

NEW YORK STATE | NYSERDA

Introductions

> 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

> Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus

- Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078, bbrooks@cbi.org
- Amanda Gherezghiher 703-247-6012, Amanda.Gherezghiher@cadmusgroup.com

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Masterplan 2.0: Deep Water
  - Goals, Study Plans, Timeline
  - Discussion
- Whale Mortality Events
  - Background
  - Brainstorm Solutions and Information Needs
  - Discussion
- eNGO Priorities for Wildlife and Offshore Wind Development
- Reminders and Wrap Up

Masterplan 2.0: Deep Water

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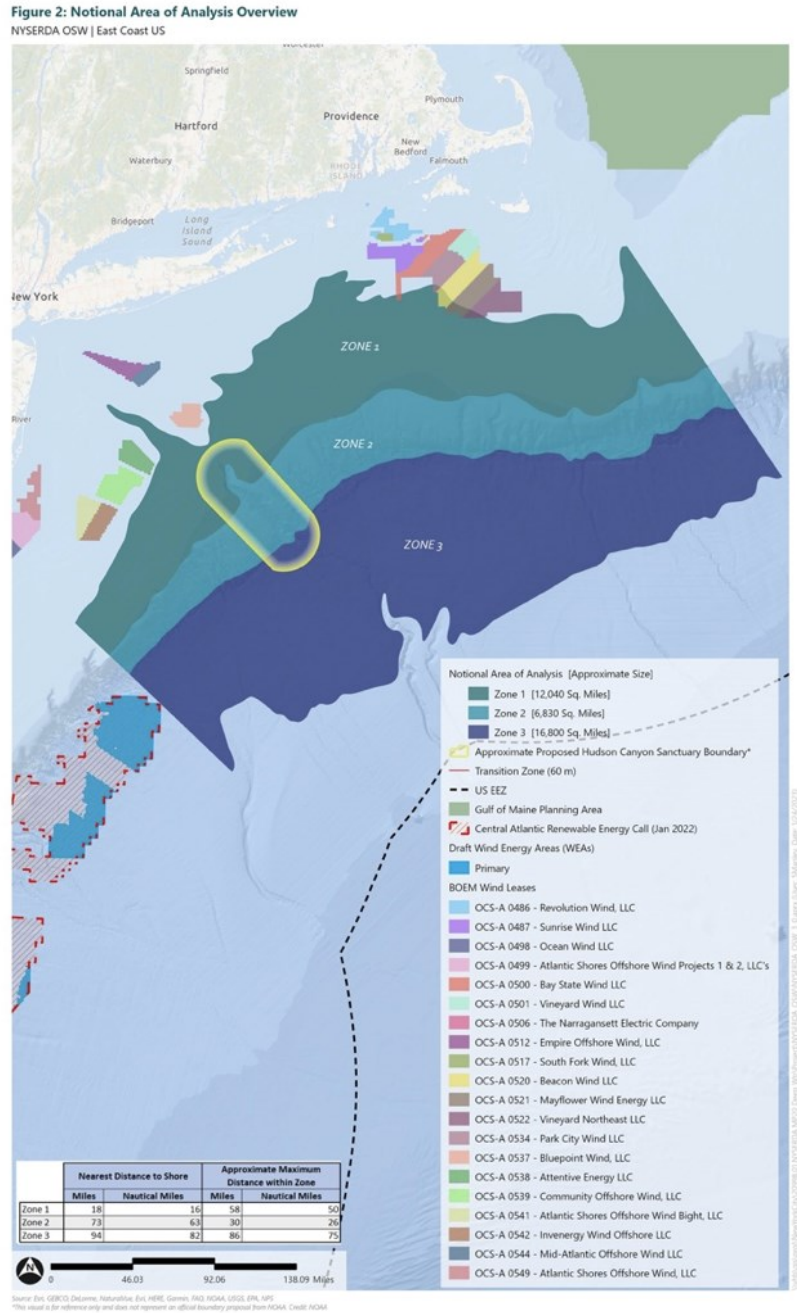
Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water

- Serve as an organizing principle for all OSW work that will ensure a continued, robust, transparent, and proactive approach to meeting New York's goals of 9GW and beyond.
- An opportunity for NYS to evaluate and characterize the risks and opportunities for offshore wind development in a comprehensive, sequential, and logical approach for achieving 9GWs and beyond.
- Build on the success of New York's original master plan and unlock the next frontier of offshore wind development.

MP 2.0 OUTCOME:

- The identification of areas in the region of greatest and least risk to environmental and fisheries resources and users and to recommend to BOEM areas or topics for further assessment
- A Master Plan describing NYS's integrated approach to the continued development of the OSW industry, and NYS serving as a hub for that industry



Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water

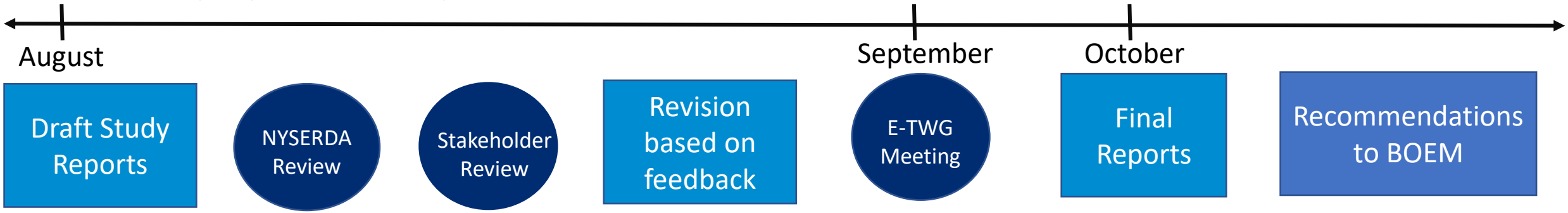
> Study Plans

- Environmental and Fisheries Site Assessment Studies
- Deep Water Wind Technologies: Concepts Study
- Maritime, wind resources assessment, oceanographic conditions, feasibility based on distance and depth

Environmental and Fisheries Assessments

> Timeline for Stakeholder Engagement

- Form project advisory committees to inform each of the studies (ASAP)



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

09 March 2023

Key Personnel

Management

Sarah Zappala
Contract Manager

Anwar Khan
Project Manager

Kate Estler
Deputy Project Manager

Technical Leadership

Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

Dr. Kristen Ampela

Dr. Dan Engelhaupt

Birds and Bats

Dr. Wing Goodale

Benthic Habitats

Kate Estler

Fish and Fisheries

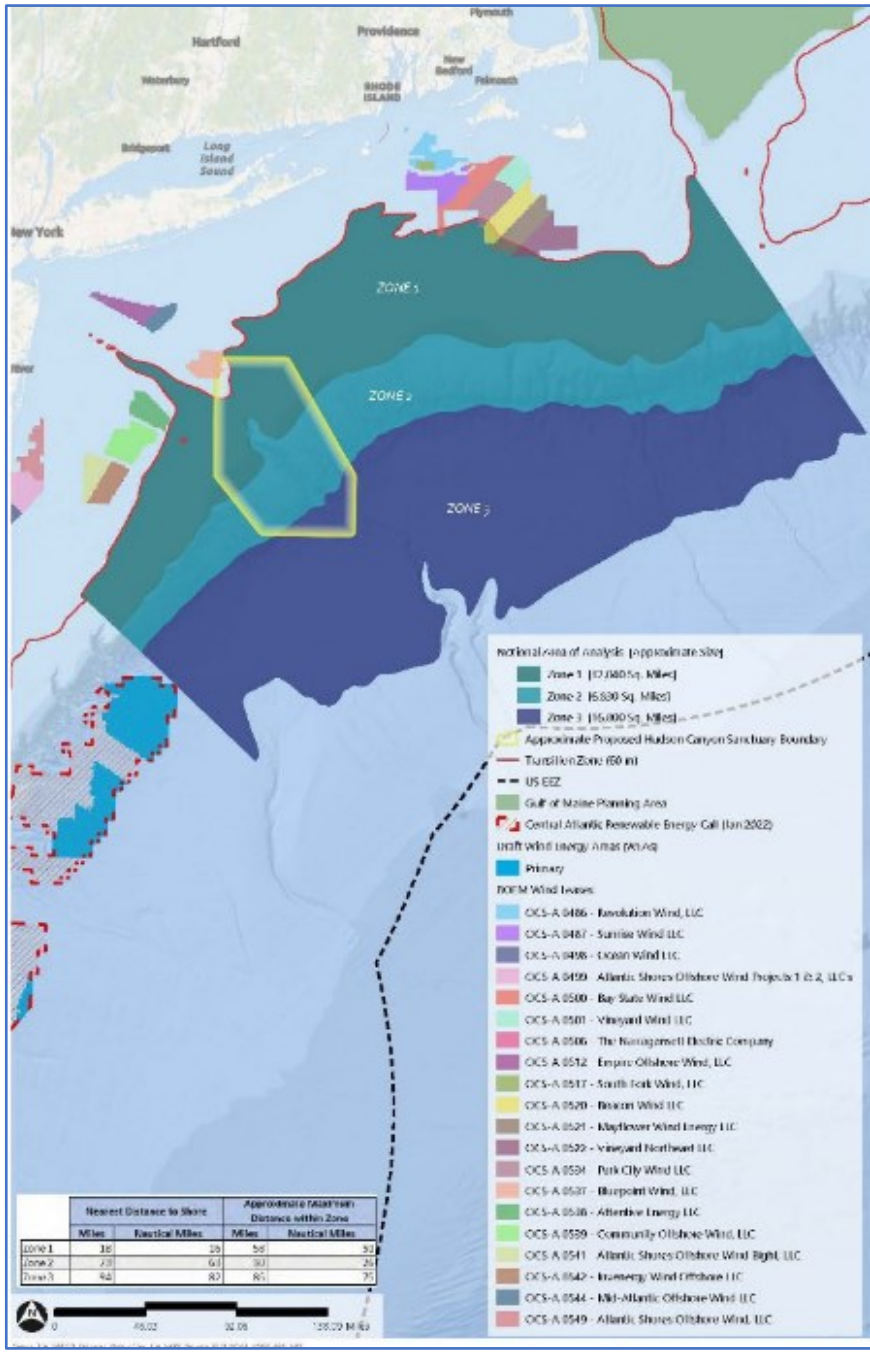
David Davis

Environmental Sensitivity Analysis

Jaak Van den Sype

Project Objectives

- Conduct desktop assessments to review and synthesize available and relevant existing data sets on key resources:
  - Marine mammals and sea turtles
  - Birds and bats
  - Fish and fisheries
  - Benthic habitats
- Identify existing data and ongoing research within and adjacent to the Area of Analysis (AoA)
- Identify potential stressors from all phases of OSW development with a focus on deep water technology
- Provide recommendations on minimization and mitigation options to reduce potential risk
- Identify future research needs and opportunities to address data gaps
- Engage with experts through Project Advisory Committees and E- and F-TWGs



TASK 1 - Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles

Methods:

- Identify existing data sources
- Characterize marine mammal and sea turtle abundance/density, distribution, and temporal use-patterns
- Identify potential risks to marine mammals and sea turtles from all phases of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices

TASK 2 - Birds and Bats

Methods:

- Identify existing data sources
- Develop spatial risk assessment, through:
  - Foraging analysis
  - Marine bird exposure and vulnerability assessment
  - Tracking data
- Identify potential risks to birds and bats from all phases of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) – Will perform spatial risk assessments, evaluate potential impacts to birds and bats from fixed and floating OSW, make recommendations for future studies and technologies, and support stakeholder engagement

TASK 3 - Fish & Fisheries

Methods:

- Identify and summarize existing data on key fish, shellfish, species of concern, and sensitive habitats
- Assess potential impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries
- Identify areas of least environmental and socioeconomic risk
- Identify potential species-specific vulnerabilities to stressors from all stages of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices
- Identify new opportunities for fisheries engagement

TASK 4 - Benthic Habitats

Methods:

- Characterize the benthic characteristics of the AoA, including:
  - Geophysical
  - Biological
  - Presence of unique habitats
  - Presence of threatened, endangered, or vulnerable species
- Identify potential risks to the benthic environment from all phases of OSW development
- Identify data and research gaps or uncertainties and recommendations for specific methods and research tools to address these gaps
- Summarize relevant mitigation and monitoring practices

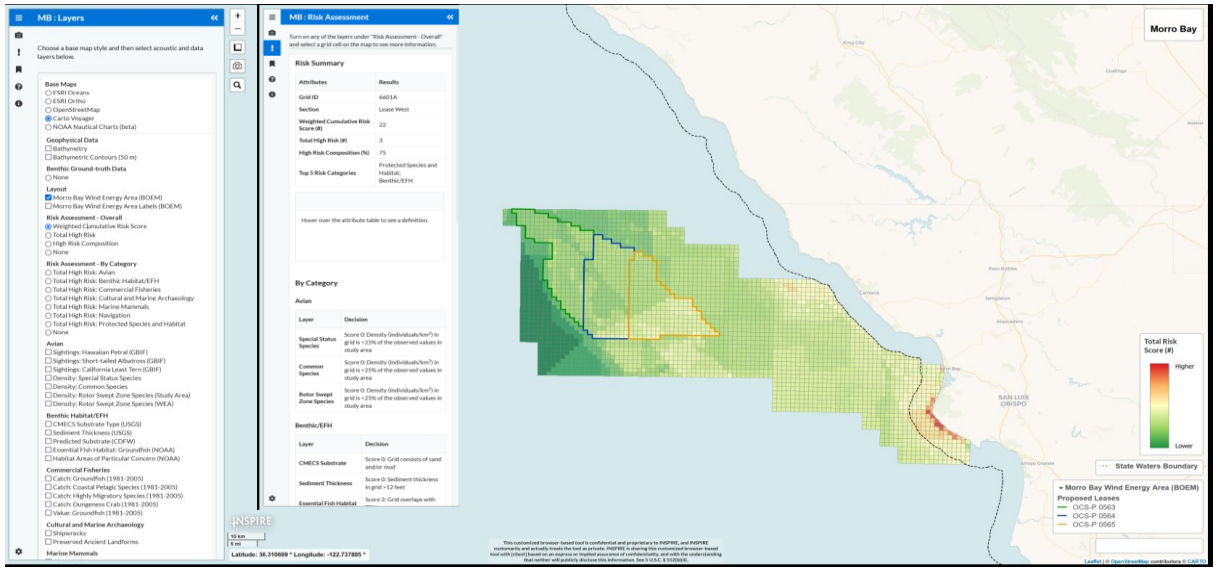
Inspire – Will provide support for regulatory process, evaluating potential impacts to benthic resources from fixed and floating OSW and recommendation for future studies and technologies.

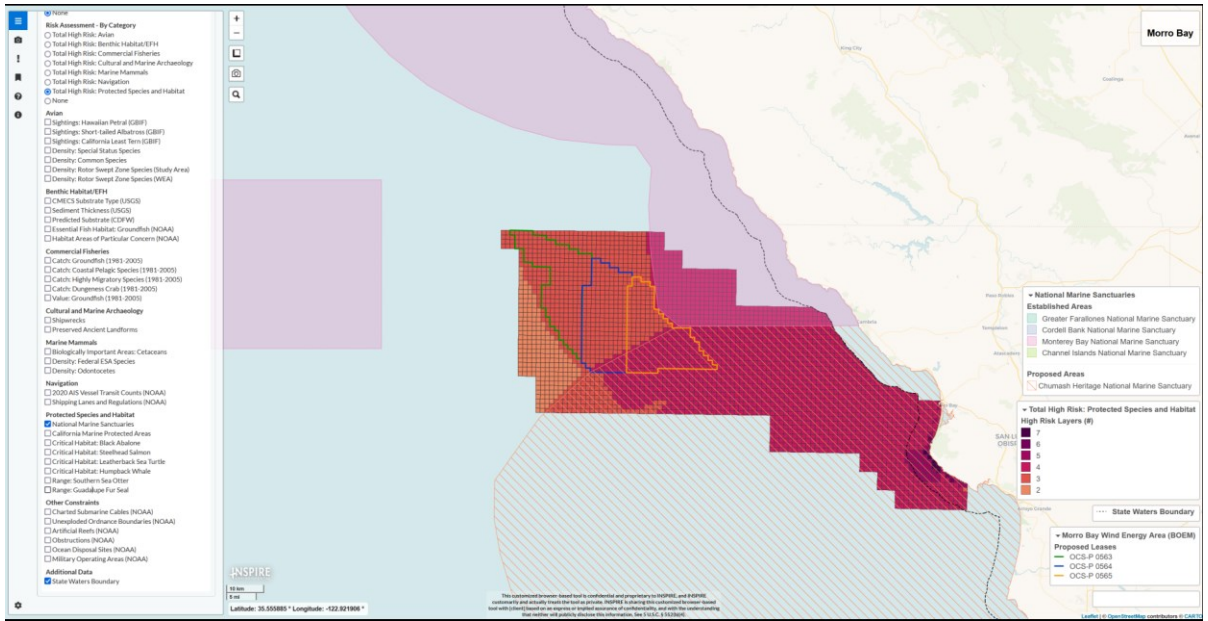
University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography – Will provide support for recommending future studies and technologies to close data gaps and for sources of benthic data.

TASK 5 - Environmental Sensitivity Analysis

Methods:

- Review stressors, risk weighting, and overall methodology in Master Plan (2017) and other relevant risk assessment models
- Develop a model to incorporate the temporal and spatial risks identified in Tasks 1 – 4 on the marine resources from potential stressors and the level of risk associated with the stressors on a particular receptor during each phase of OSW development
- Provide geographic depictions of relatively high and low areas of potential conflict for OSW development and associated stressors





Master Plan 2.0: Deep Water

Discussion

> Are we missing anything key from the study plans?

> Are there specific resources or other considerations that you can identify?

> Please email Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov if you are interested in volunteering for one of the PACs or have recommendations for outside experts to reach out to

Whale Mortality Events

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Whale Mortality Events

Background

- 23+ dead whales have washed ashore along the East Coast since early December, including 12 in New Jersey and New York
- While post-mortem examinations have suggested that ship strikes are likely the cause of many of the deaths, but some politicians and several other groups are blaming offshore wind development activities

Justin Lane/EPA, via Shutterstock

Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation Institute.

Whale Mortality Events

NPR

Dead whales on the east coast fuel misinformation about offshore wind development

Experts don't know what's behind the years-long trend of whale deaths. But there's no evidence connecting the deaths to offshore wind...

1 week ago

WHYY

30 N.J. mayors call for moratorium on offshore wind activity and further investigation into whale deaths

Currently no evidence suggests that offshore wind farms or surveys have caused the recent spike in whale deaths. Necropsies have found the...

1 week ago

Fox News

Third dead whale found miles from offshore wind farm in less than a week

The third dead whale was discovered in less than a week in Virginia Beach, Virginia, miles from one of two operational wind farms in federal...

3 weeks ago

TIME

Whale Experts are Caught in a Wind Power Culture War

Some New Jersey politicians have called for a moratorium on offshore wind work until it can be ruled out as a cause of the whale deaths,...

3 weeks ago

Press of Atlantic City

Ørsted: No sound surveys have been part of wind project work ...

After a spate of deaths of humpback whales, which have washed up on ... the offshore work on the wind power projects with the whale deaths...

1 month ago

Herald Community Newspapers

NOAA: Recent whale deaths not linked to offshore wind

NOAA: Recent whale deaths not linked to offshore wind. Whale deaths part of 'unknown mortality event'. Posted Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:29...

4 weeks ago

Whale Mortality Events

Discussion

> What solutions or information will be helpful to improve outcomes?

- Potential considerations: communications, coordination
- Example:
  - Issue: Lack of transparency in where and when development activities are occurring
  - Potential solution: Communication tool representing dashboard of activities

> What role can the E-TWG play?

Justin Lane/EPA, via Shutterstock

Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation Institute.

First 15 minutes

- What solutions/information will be helpful to improve outcomes?

Last 5 minutes

- What role can the E-TWG play? Which of the ideas from above discussion should/could the E-TWG pursue?

We will be using Jamboard to list ideas/solutions with stickies (link in chat) with one slide per group – please go to the slide with your group number on it

eNGO Priorities for Wildlife and Offshore Wind Development

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Reminders and Wrap Up

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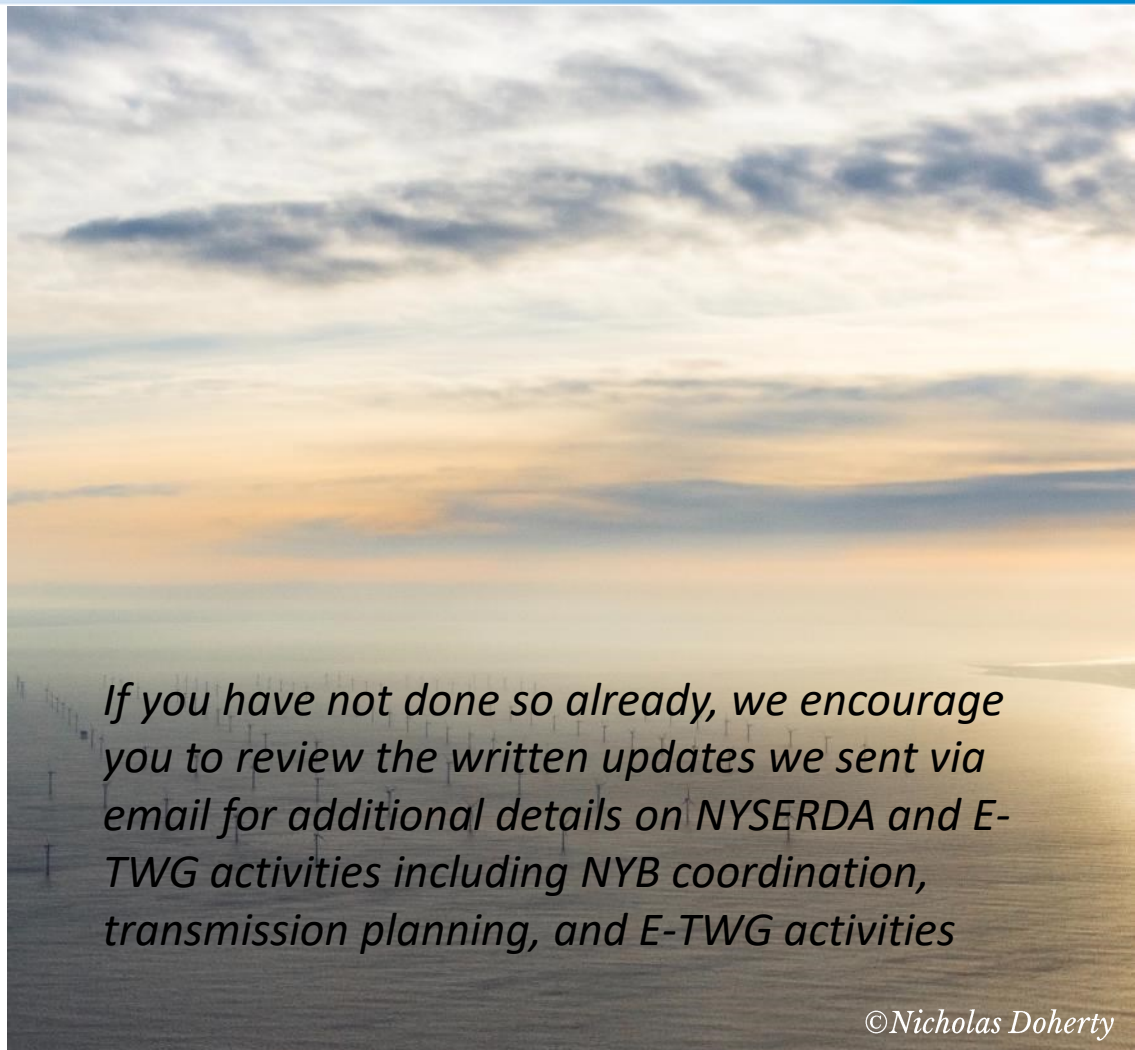
Written Updates

- Next steps on coordination among NYB leases
- Transmission planning
- State of the Science Workshop 2024
- E-TWG Specialist Committee activities

- *Questions on any of the written updates?*



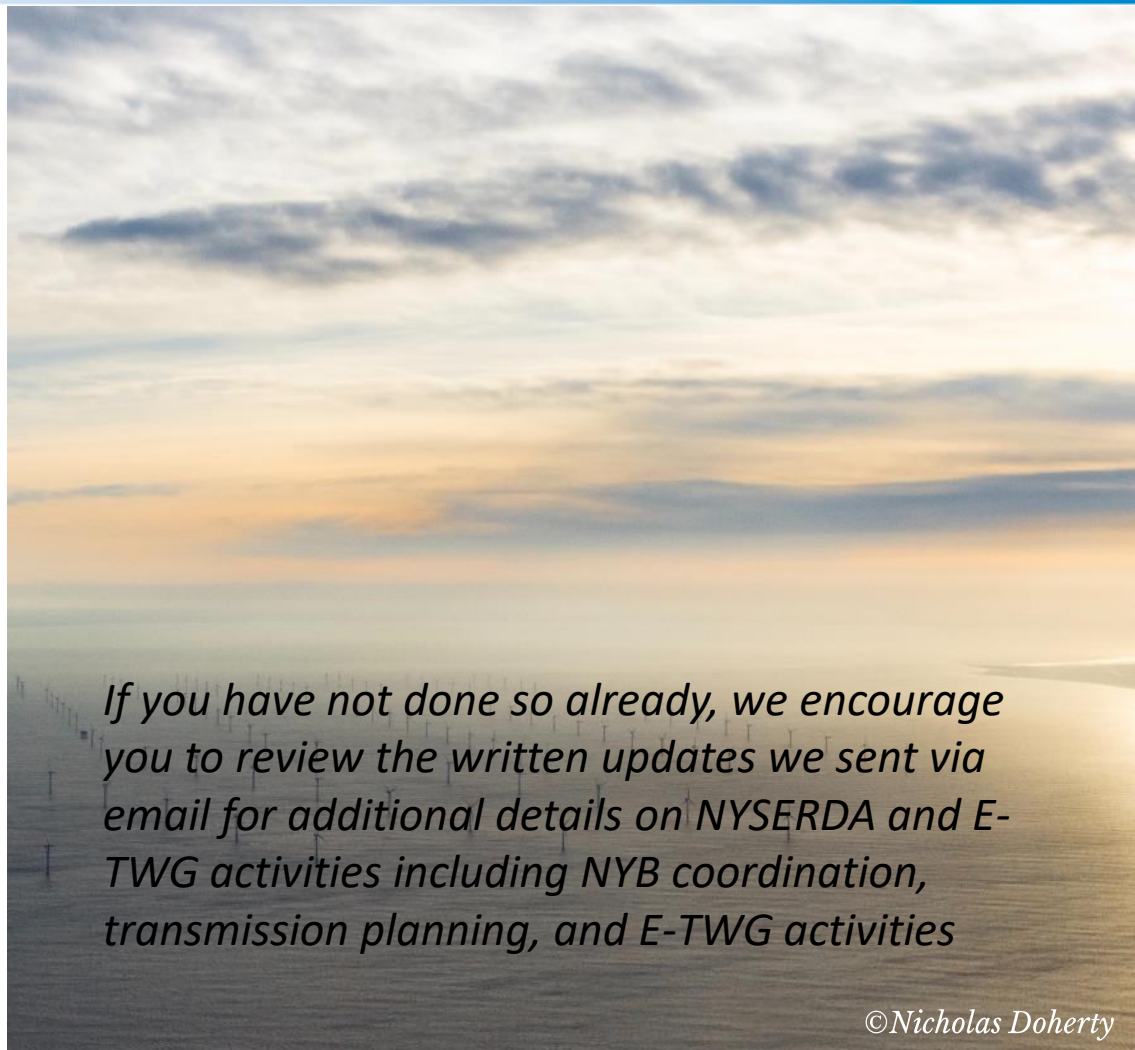
Updates

- New Jersey's third solicitation for 1.2 to 4 GW of offshore wind is now open through June 2023

Reminders

- Designating primary/secondary E-TWG representation
- Please email kate.williams@briwildlife.org to be on the 2024 State of the Science Planning Committee
- E-TWG Specialist Committees
  - Regional Synthesis Workgroup: E-TWG feedback on draft guidance document in mid-April
  - Avian Displacement Guidance: Draft for E-TWG review in summer/fall
- Marine Law Symposium – April 20-21

Can Offshore Wind Development Have a Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity? Regulatory and Scientific Perspectives and Considerations
Learn more at: https://law.rwu.edu/events/marine-law-symposium



Wrap Up & Next Steps

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> Questions? Comments?

> Thank you!