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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

November 20, 2025

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Status of the Offshore Wind Industry
- E-TWG Specialist Committees
- Fisheries TWG Updates
- Revisiting Priority on Sharing Lessons Learned
- Updates on Regional Research and Monitoring Efforts
- Wrap up & Next Steps



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
Name tags and table tents

Virtual

Name and org into Zoom box
Please stay on camera | mute unless speaking
Use raise hand function | be sparing with chat

If you have tech issues, contact Julia Gulka in the chat or via email at Julia.Gulka@briwildlife.org

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Introductions



CADMUS

- > E-TWG Lead: NYSEDA - 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
 - Zoe Korpi, zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org
 - Eleanor Eckel, eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org

- > Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus
 - Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078, bbrooks@cbi.org
 - Hadley Menk, 703-646-8059,
Hadley.menk@cadmusgroup.com

E-TWG Member Introductions

Around the room and Zoom:

- Name
- Organization
- Where you live
- First paid job

Lots of us in the mix today so aim for no more than 30 seconds per person

Status of the Offshore Wind Industry

Status of the Offshore Wind Industry

- Overall industry update
- New York State
 - State Energy Plan
 - NYS Procurements
 - Learning from the Experts
 - Updates from Empire Wind and Sunrise Wind



State Energy Plan

The State Energy Plan is updated every four years, providing a 15-year outlook to guide energy decision making

- > New York State is prepared to meet forecasted growth in electricity demand while maintaining system reliability and making progress toward a zero-emission grid.
- > A Pathways Analysis conducted for the Draft State Energy Plan found that even with the challenges of supply chain disruptions, high interest rates and inflation and an unstable and uncertain federal policy landscape, New York will continue to make progress toward its clean energy goals.
- > Review the Draft State Energy Plan: www.energyplan.ny.gov/Draft-2025

NYSERDA Comments on OSW Solicitations

NYSERDA submitted comments to the Public Service Commission

- Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard (Case 15-E-0302)
- In the Matter of New York Independent System Operator, Inc. Proposed Public Policy Transmission Needs for Consideration for 2022 (Case 22-E-0633)



NYSERDA Comments on OSW Solicitations

Options for Further Consideration and Study

- > **Develop a State-led offshore wind pre-development program** in which NY would co-invest in predevelopment activities specific to individual projects
- > **Evolve offshore wind procurement design to integrate competitive dialog processes and targeted open-book reviews**
 - Competitive dialog phase with pre-qualified bidders to refine key commercial and technical terms before final pricing
 - Open-book review for high volatility cost components
- > **Further explore enhanced transmission coordination frameworks**
 - Early collaboration between transmission and generation developers

Learning from the Experts

NYSERDA's Offshore Wind team hosts an educational webinar series to connect the public with independent experts in key topics in offshore wind

> 60 webinars since 2021

- We are looking for new topics. You can suggest a topic [here](#) or email Kate McClellan Press at kate.mcclellanpress@nyserda.ny.gov

Updates from NY Projects

- Empire Wind
- Sunrise Wind





Breakout Group Discussion

Given the status of the industry, how can the E-TWG be of the greatest value over the next three to four years?

- 15 minutes to have smaller group discussions
- Come back to the group with 1-2 key messages

Specialist Committees

Specialist Committees

Topic

Mechanism

External communications on
offshore wind and
environmental issues

Rapid Communications
Specialist Committee

Wildlife and Offshore Wind
FAQs

Whales and offshore wind
FAQs Specialist
Committee

Birds and offshore wind
FAQs Specialist Committee

Support development of
regionally
administered/managed
monitoring networks

NYSERDA support for two
RWSC working groups



Robert Yang

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

- > **Rationale:** The need for clear and timely information has never been greater given 1) increased attention to offshore wind development locally and nationally, and 2) potential public misunderstanding surrounding offshore wind and its environmental effects
- > **Goal:** Offer stakeholders easy-to-access, science-based information, resources, and communication strategies to anticipate communication needs and respond quickly as issues arise



Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

- > **Scenario Development – identify plausible scenarios that may require a response, along with response resources**
- > **Key public-facing resources on the scenario topic** that meet criteria for scientific integrity based on evidence basis, transparency, and production quality
- > **Potential credible communicators**, which are individuals or organizations that are trusted by their communities to provide accurate, science-based information who may potentially help to share information to the broader public and help to implement communication activities;
- > **Proactive and responsive communication activities** that communicators can engage in both before and after the particular scenario arises. Examples of proactive activities include hosting public outreach events and developing relationships with local media. Examples of responsive activities include fielding questions from the media and helping disseminate science-based information on a topic in the news.
- > **Key talking points** (general; TBD)

Key public-facing resources on the topic

- > For each scenario, we are identifying **existing public-facing resources** on the topic that we are putting into a database (referred to as the resource directory).
 - Included: Public reports, fact sheets, select news articles, websites and other science-based information that is generally accessible to the public.
 - Not included: Technical reports, scientific literature
- > We have developed a **rubric to assess these quality of documents for inclusion based on the following criteria:**
 - Evidence base (e.g., are there references, citations, quotes from experts)
 - Transparency (e.g., information on authorship, date, publication),
 - Production quality (e.g., layout, design, working links)
- > Also assessing complexity/audience, objectivity, and visual support as filters to support utility of the resource directory
- > In some instances, we are also identifying **key information gaps** (i.e., no existing publicly accessible resources)

Potential credible communicators

- > Developing a list of individuals that could potentially serve to help communicate science-based information on a particular scenario (or scenarios) to the public.
 - Include staff from environmental and conservation organizations, academia, state and federal agencies, regional entities, and community and fisheries groups.
 - In some cases, already within the network of one or more committee members, while in other cases we are identifying the types of individuals we think might be a good fit for the role, recognizing that additional steps will be required to engage these individuals in the process.



Proactive and responsive communication activities

- > For each scenario, we have identified potential activities that could be valuable to implement both
 1. Prior to any public awareness of an issue, and
 2. Once an event occurs or topic enters the public sphere
- > We anticipate that the communicators (as opposed to the committee) would be the ones implementing these activities
- > We have identified four primary communicator roles:
 - **Awareness/Informal** –lowest effort level “ask”; provided with the resources/information on a topic but are primarily being equipped with information to act on an informal basis
 - **Internal engagement** – Conducting outreach to individuals within an organization, whether that be staff or members
 - **External engagement** – Conducting public outreach activities with local communities, elected officials, and targeted groups (scenario-dependent)
 - **Media interactions** – Interacting with media to help facilitate science-based reporting. Proactively this includes relationship-building with local reporters and responsively includes fielding questions from reporters and releasing media statements (if possible)

Implementation

Committee and Support Staff Role

Identify science-based
resources

Existing public-facing resources on the topic in the resource directory and key information needs

Develop scenario response and
key talking points

Building out scenario responses and key talking points for each topic (as feasible in advance)

Reach out to potential credible
communicators to define roles

Engage via email with an online survey to gauge interest and willingness for engagement in this effort, define potential roles, and if not a good fit, get recommendations for others who could fill a credible communicator role. We plan to then schedule an informational virtual meeting.

Implementation

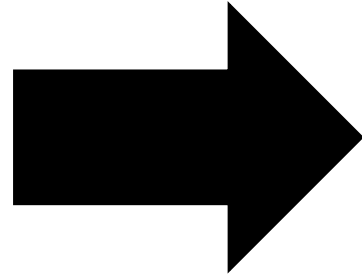
Committee and Support Staff Role

Identify science-based resources

Develop scenario response and key talking points

Reach out to potential credible communicators to define roles

Need for a catalyst between what the committee is doing and activating actions by credible communicators



Credible communicator roles

Awareness/Passive

Internal Engagement

Proactive: Outreach to members

Reactive: Outreach to members

External Engagement

Proactive: Outreach to communities, elected officials, others

Reactive: Outreach to communities, elected officials, others

Media interactions

Proactive: Relationship-building with local reporters

Reactive: Fielding questions from reporters*

* Releasing media statements as additional step if possible

Implementation

Committee and Support Staff Role

Identify science-based resources

Develop scenario response and key talking points

Reach out to potential credible communicators to define roles

Point of Contact

Activate credible communicators

Help facilitate proactive/reactive response

Connect developers with credible communicators for scenario-specific information

Credible communicator roles

Awareness/Passive

Internal Engagement

Proactive: Outreach to members

Reactive: Outreach to members

External Engagement

Proactive: Outreach to communities, elected officials, others

Reactive: Outreach to communities, elected officials, others

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Proactive: Relationship-building with local reporters

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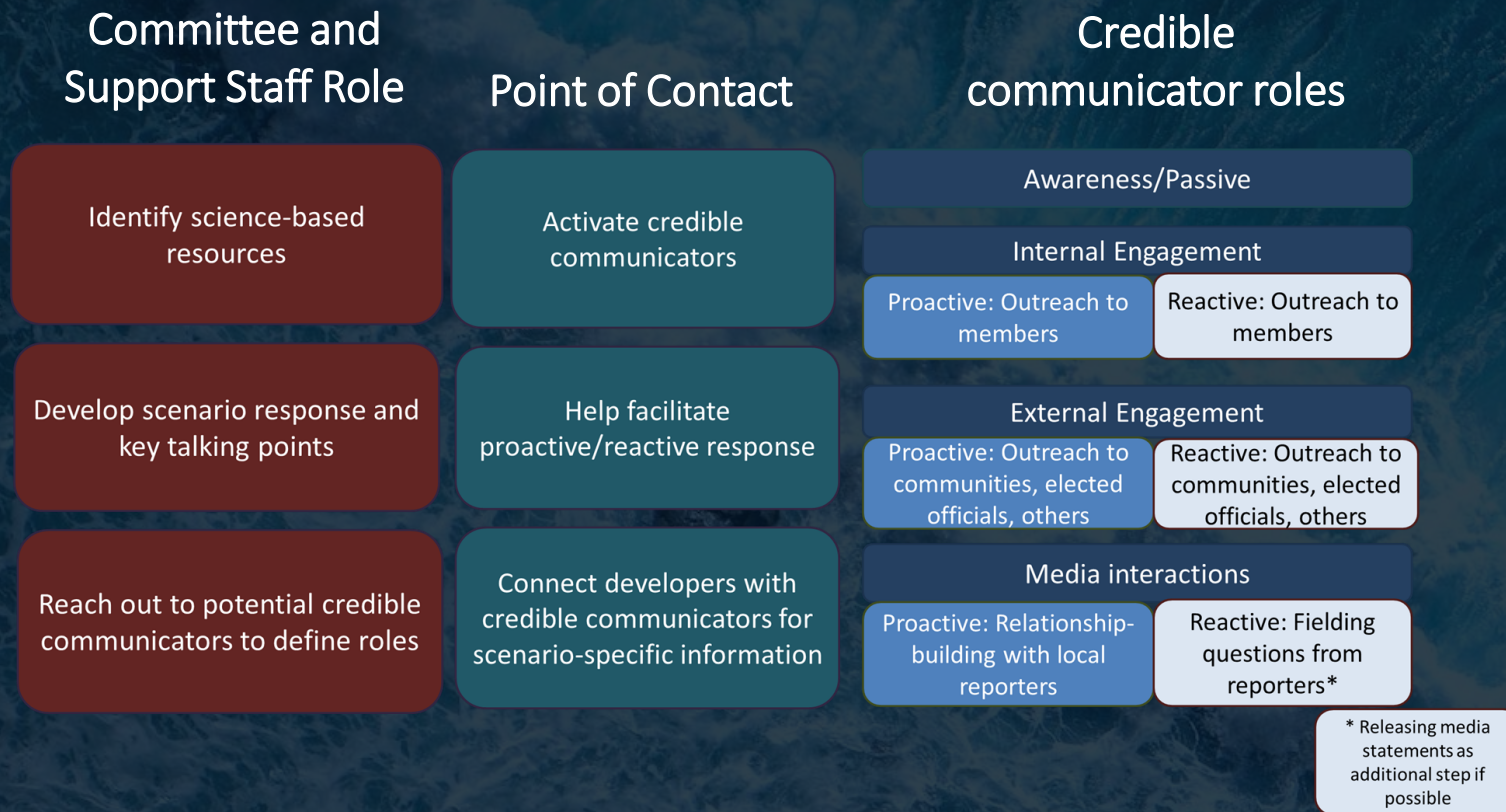
An aerial photograph of a turbulent ocean. The water is a deep blue-green color, with white foam from breaking waves creating a complex, swirling pattern. Several dark, jagged rocks are visible protruding from the water's surface. A large, dark blue oval with a thin white border is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the word "Discussion" in white text.

Discussion

- **Feedback on priority topics?**
- **Do we have a realistic process for engaging credible communicators?**
- **Do we have a realistic process for catalyzing responses?**
- **Other thoughts or concerns on overall process? Ways to strengthen the approach?**

Reach out to potential credible communicators to define roles

- Engage via email with an online survey to gauge interest and willingness for engagement in this effort
 - define potential roles, and if not a good fit, get recommendations for others who could fill a credible communicator role.
 - We plan to then schedule an informational virtual meeting.
- **Feedback on priority topics?**
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- Feedback on priority topics?
- Do we have a realistic process for engaging credible communicators?
- Do we have a realistic process for catalyzing responses?
- Other thoughts or concerns on overall process? Ways to strengthen the approach?

Whales and Offshore Wind FAQs

- Wrapped up the committee effort in summer 2025
- Developed a handout, fact sheet, and communications tool kit
- Hosted a webinar targeted at local conservation organizations to make aware of the resource

Is there anything else we can do to support the sharing or use of this resource?

<https://www.nyetwg.com/specialist-committees/wildlife-faqs/whale-communications>

Access the FAQ document here!



1. DOES OFFSHORE WIND KILL WHALES?

No – there is no evidence that offshore wind energy activities kill whales.

Noise from offshore wind energy development (including site assessment activities, construction, and turbine operations) is insufficient to directly cause mortality. However, sounds emitted during offshore wind energy development – like other marine activities including oil and gas development, shipping, and military activities – may impact whale hearing or behavior. A range of mitigation measures are in place to reduce risk of potential impacts to whales from offshore wind energy development in the United States.

A recent study in the U.S. Atlantic (Thorne & Wiley 2024) found no correlation between whale mortalities/injuries and the timing and location of offshore wind energy activities (site assessment surveys or construction) from 1995–2022.



2. WHAT ARE THE RISKS TO WHALES FROM OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT?

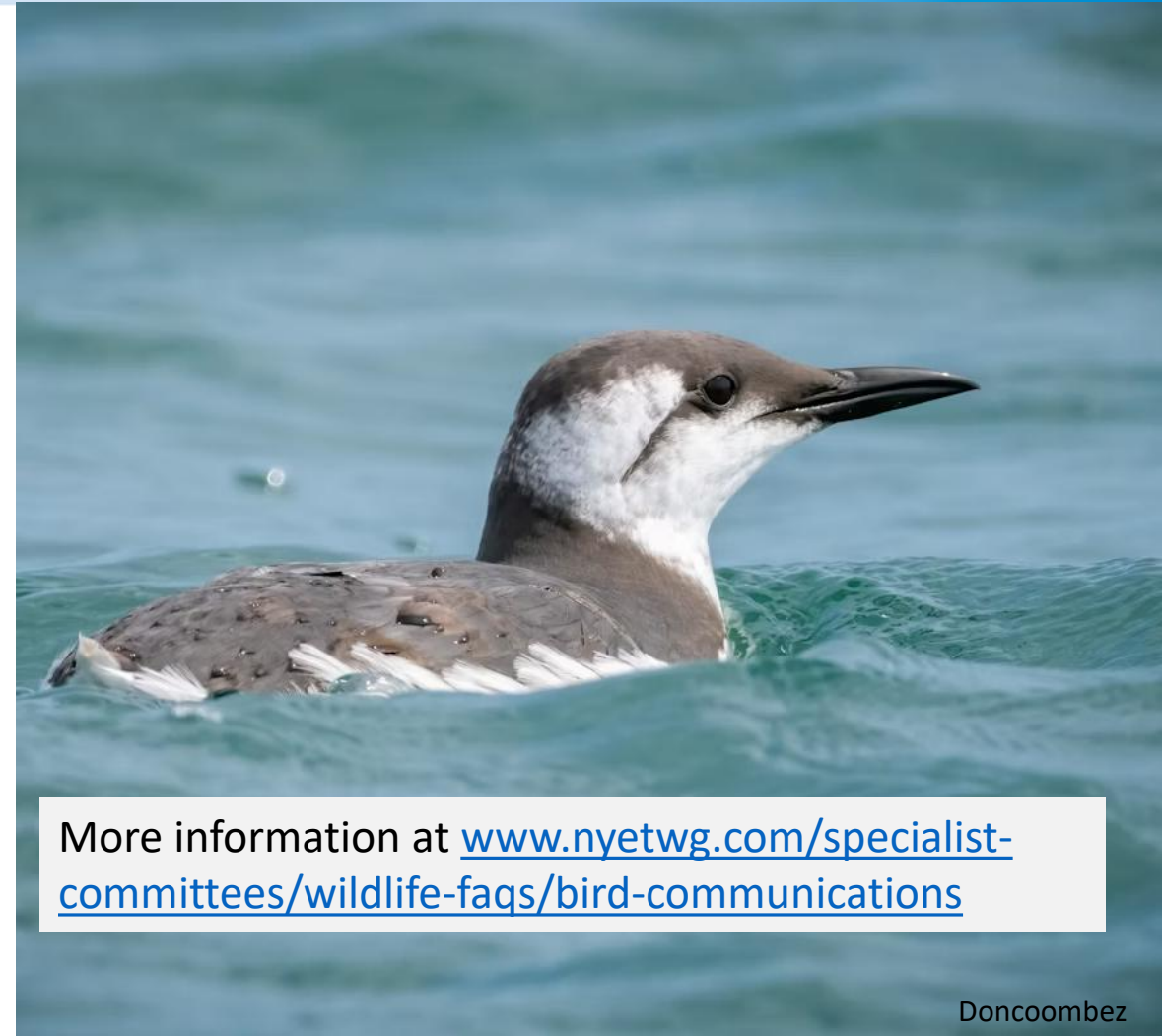
Marine mammals may be affected by offshore wind development via 1) underwater noise; 2) vessel interactions; and 3) changes to habitat and prey. The offshore wind industry follows a stringent federal permitting process to minimize and mitigate marine mammal disturbance. For example, being struck by boats is a leading cause of death for many whale species, but offshore wind vessels in the U.S. are required to follow strict speed restrictions and other safety requirements to prevent whale collisions.

3. WHAT MEASURES ARE USED TO PROTECT WHALES DURING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT?

Offshore wind mitigation and monitoring requirements are much more stringent than for other maritime industries. To reduce vessel-related risk, requirements include speed restrictions and dedicated observers on vessels. Mitigation to reduce sound-related effects during construction activities include temporal restrictions on turbine installation (e.g., pile-driving), the use of professional Protected Species Observers and passive acoustic underwater monitoring to detect whale presence and shut down activities if whales are detected nearby, gradual “ramping up” of sound to allow animals time to move away from sound-generating activities, and use of sound abatement systems (e.g., bubble curtains) that contain the sound and minimize the size of the “noisy” area.

Birds and Offshore Wind FAQs

- Committee was formed in December 2024 to develop communications materials to aid in the dissemination of accurate, science-based information about the potential effects to birds from offshore wind development
- The committee meets every ~6 weeks and is working to finalize at least 17 FAQs for an initial release in early 2026
- Topics include bird interactions with offshore wind development, potential effects to birds, monitoring and mitigation, regulatory context
- Plan to develop similar communications content (fact sheet, communications toolkit) similar to whales and offshore wind FAQs



More information at www.nyetwg.com/specialist-committees/wildlife-faqs/bird-communications

Supporting Regional Monitoring

- Providing technical support for two ongoing RWSC working groups:
 - Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group
 - Marine Bird Distribution Working Group
- **Goals:** To make wildlife monitoring more efficient and consistent, simpler for developers to achieve and support the development of frameworks and processes for coordinating, centralized decision-making on monitoring and study designs
- Met under BRI leadership starting in July 2025 and meeting every month or bimonthly
- Formed a “coordinating team” made up of RWSC staff, NYSERDA, BRI support staff, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help guide and coordinate activities of working group



Bird & Bat Tracking Working Group

Offshore Motus Guidance Update

Updating existing Offshore Motus Guidance for deploying Motus stations on offshore turbines and buoys based on stakeholder feedback – **late 2025**

Interim Tracking Guidance

Developing interim guidance for tracking birds and bats in relation to offshore wind energy development in the form of an FAQ document – **2025 - early 2026**

Longer Term Priorities

Develop comprehensive guidance for offshore tracking data collection and management, support coordination and planning of regional bird and bat tracking efforts and provide input on scoping new studies and analyses to support guidance and coordination.



RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative

Marine Bird Distribution Working Group

Data Standardization

Working with the Duke team to provide input as the Northwest Atlantic Catalog gets integrated into OBIS-SEAMAP – **ongoing**

Manuscript development

Indirect effects of offshore wind development on birds: mechanisms, consequences, and challenges (led by Juliet Lamb @ TNC) – **2025-early 2026 focus**

Working Group Webpage

Includes goals of working group, links to existing guidance, key scientific literature, species prioritization efforts, and marine bird distribution data – **finalizing and getting up on the RWSC website**

Longer Term Priorities

Coordinate with RWSC-funded research project, update guidance on how to study changes in marine bird distributions in relation to offshore wind development, explore integration of survey data and other data types into our understanding of changes in marine bird distributions



RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative



Lunch



- What's something that's important to you about your OSW work that you think others might not understand or appreciate?
- What's something you want to better understand about others in the E-TWG?
- When discussions go well in the E-TWG, what makes them successful?
- Conversely, when conversations don't go well, what's at play?

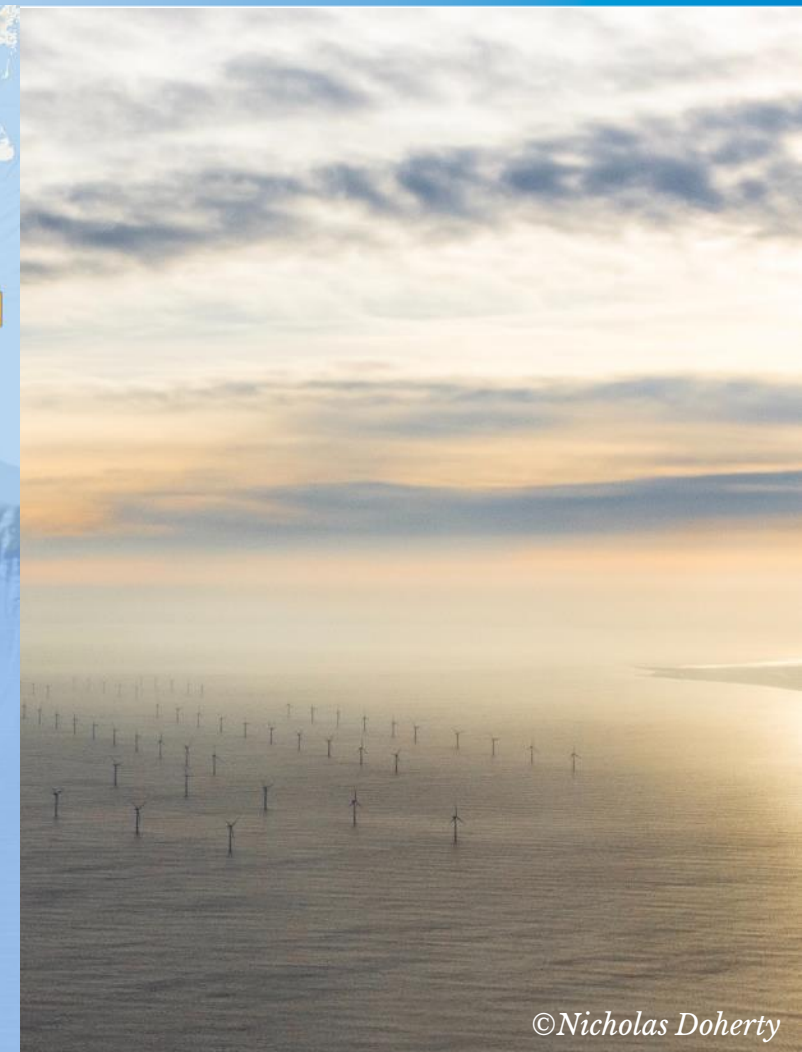
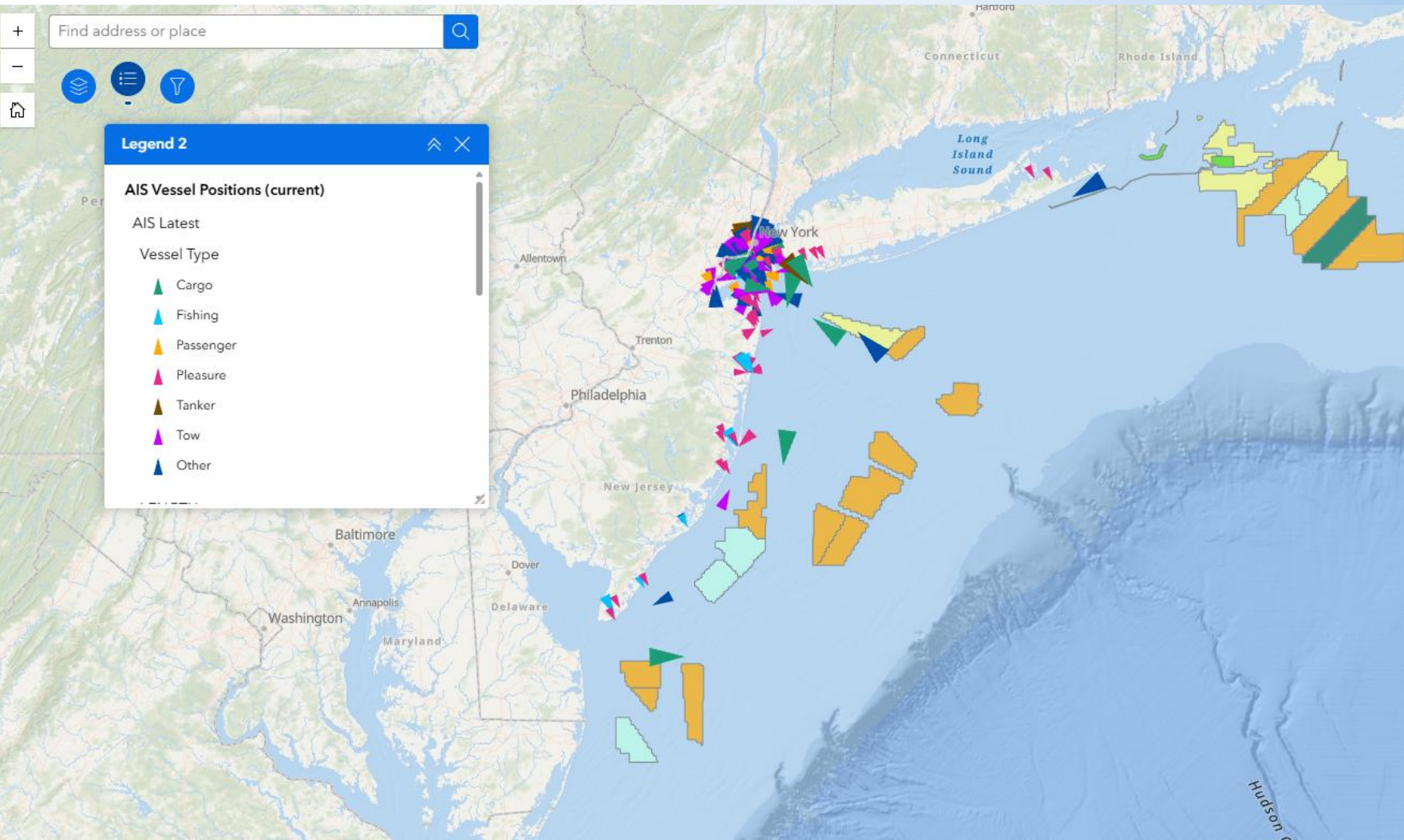
F-TWG Updates

Fisheries TWG Update

- F-TWG Lease Mapping Tool
- Cooling Water Outtake Study
- MDP Tool Update



Lease Mapping Tool



Cooling Water Use at Offshore Converter Stations

Final Report | Report Number 25-28 | September 2025



Cooling Water Use at Offshore Converter Stations



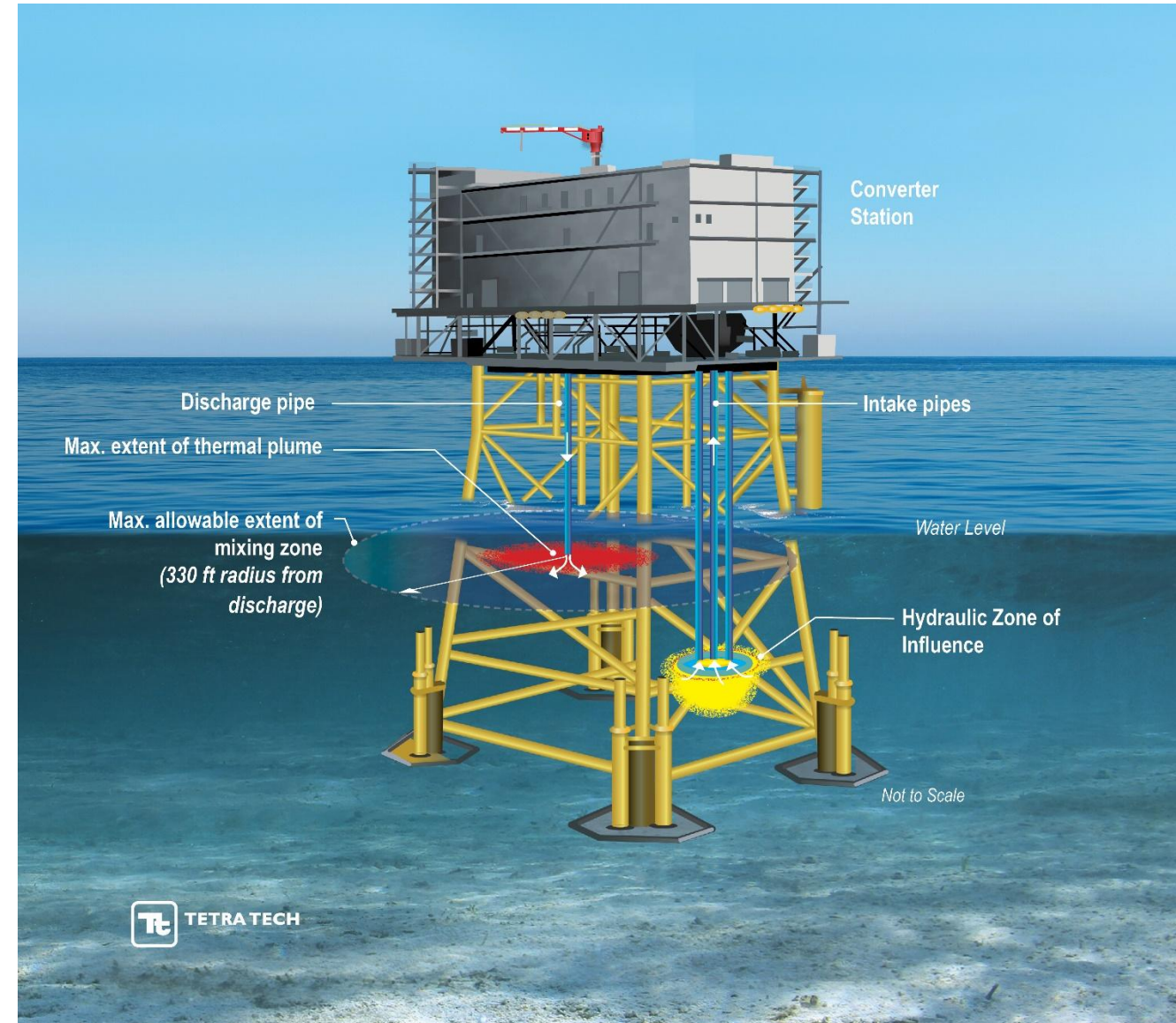
Brian Dresser

20 November 2025

What is an Offshore Converter Station?

Source: Tetra Tech

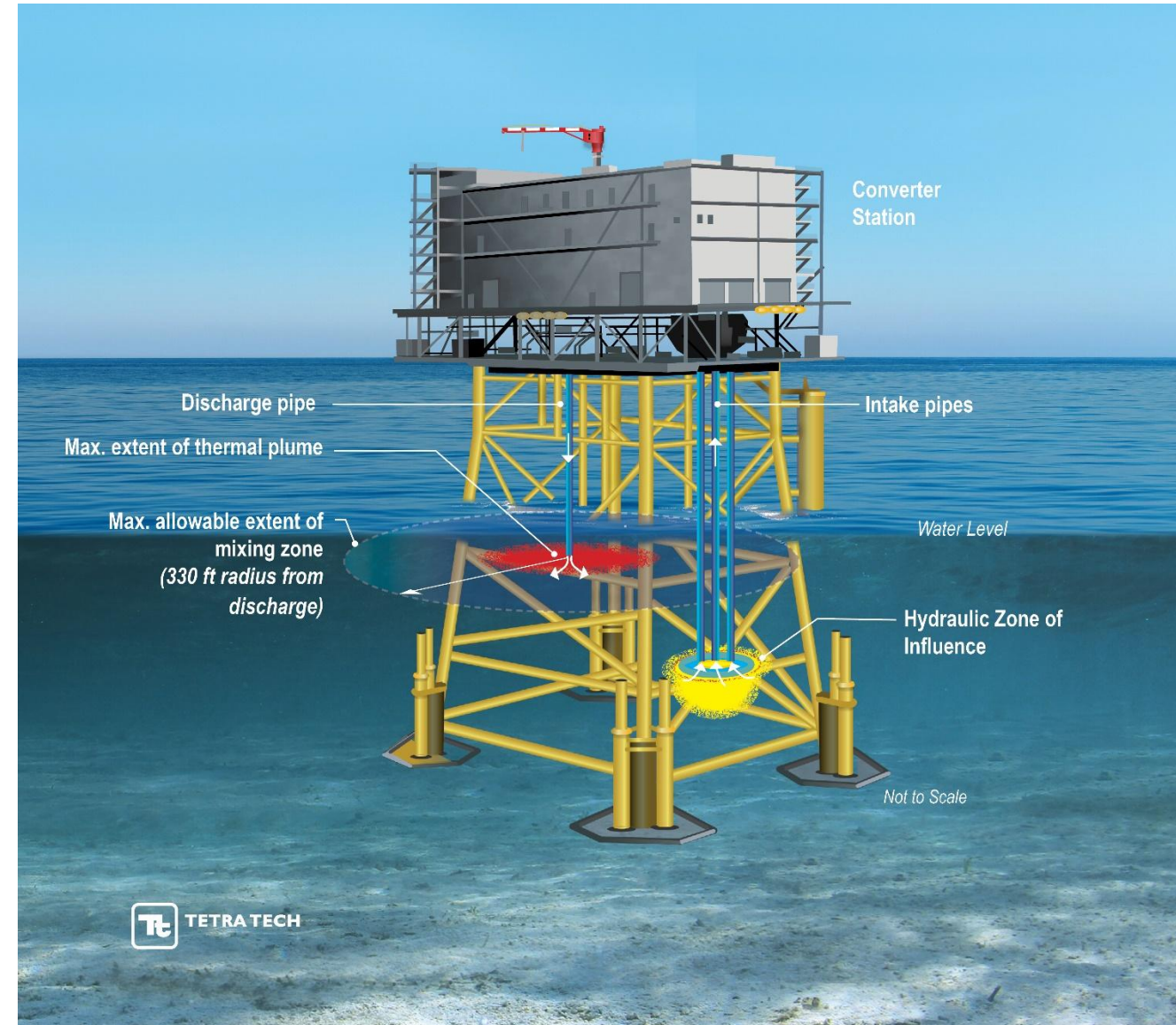
- Specialized substation – converts the **AC** generated by the windfarm, into **DC** for transmission via **HVDC** export cables
 - Typically needed for projects with long export cables > 50 km
- Conversion process generates heat, which requires cooling
 - Non-contact, once-through cooling (open-loop)
 - Closed-cycle cooling (closed-loop)
 - Other technologies (air cooling)
- ~10 operational in North Sea, one under construction in US
- Informed by 50+ years of NPDES/SPDES permitting and entrainment/thermal assessments at onshore and offshore facilities



Risks & Impacts of Once-Through Cooling Water

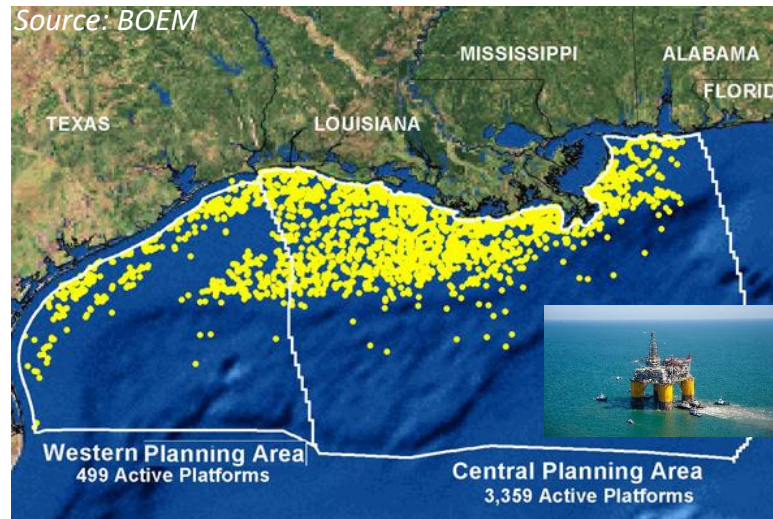
Source: Tetra Tech

- **Hydraulic Zone of Influence (HZI)**
 - Portion of water column partially-influenced by intake, relative to ambient currents
- **Impingement**
 - Not a concern if intake velocity does not exceed 0.5 fps
- **Entrainment**
 - Eggs/larvae withdrawn into cooling water intake
- **Chlorination**
 - Electrochlorination system used to minimize biofouling
 - Total residual oxidants must be below compliance level (30 µg/L) at point of discharge
- **Thermal Discharge**
 - Mixing zone
 - Must return to within 1.8°F (1°C) of ambient seawater, within 100 m (330 ft) radius of discharge



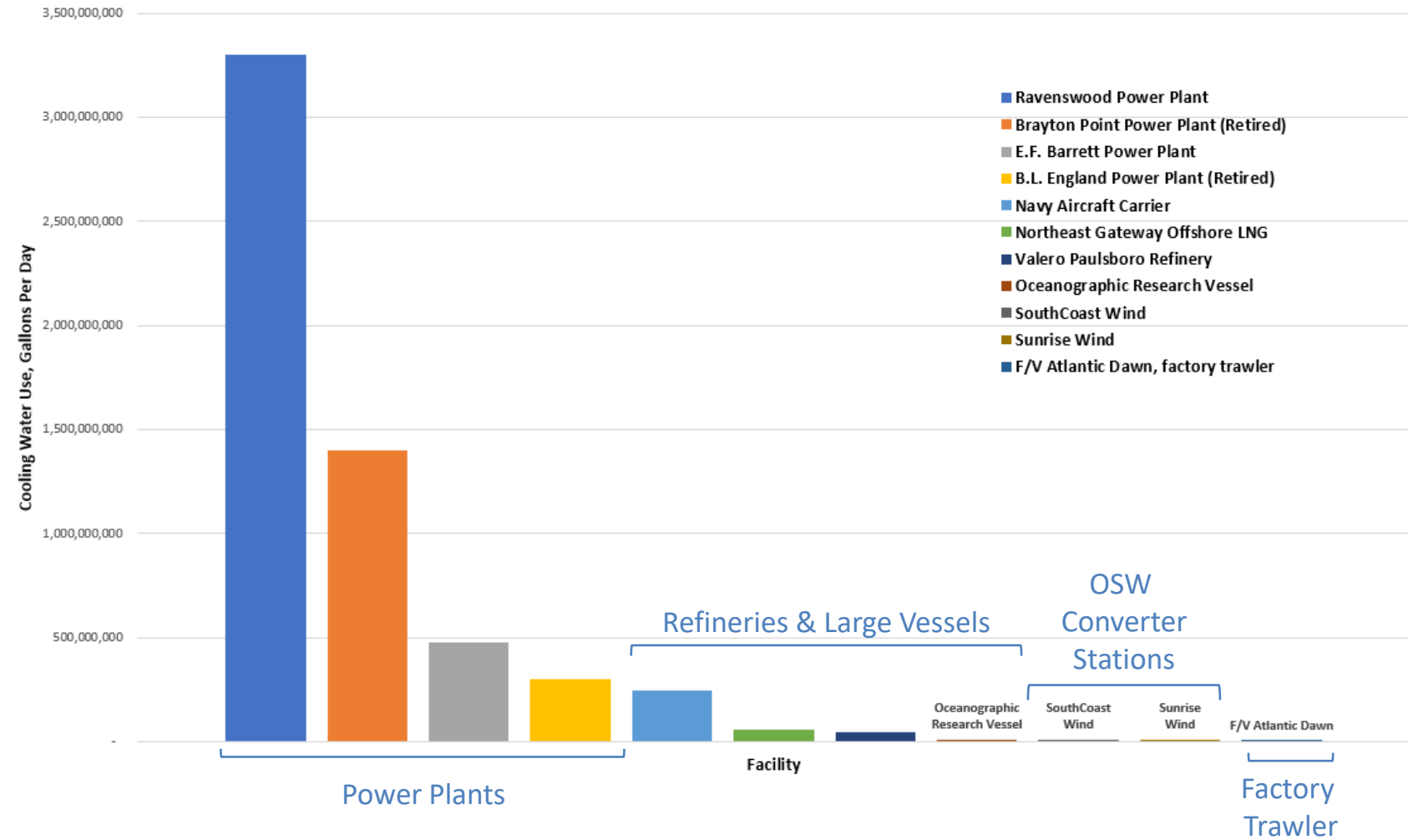
Other Sources of Cooling Water in the Ocean

- **Vessels** – engines cooled via sea-chest intakes
- **Offshore LNG ports** – engines cooled via sea-chest intakes
- **Offshore oil & gas platforms** – similar cooling design, with thousands of locations in the Gulf
- **Coastal power plants** – larger structures with intake screens, several hundred within coastal waters
- Permitting ranges from programmatic to individual:
 - Vessel General Permit
 - Vessel Incidental Discharge Permit
 - NPDES General Permit (offshore oil & gas)
 - individual NPDES permit (coastal power plants, offshore wind, offshore LNG)



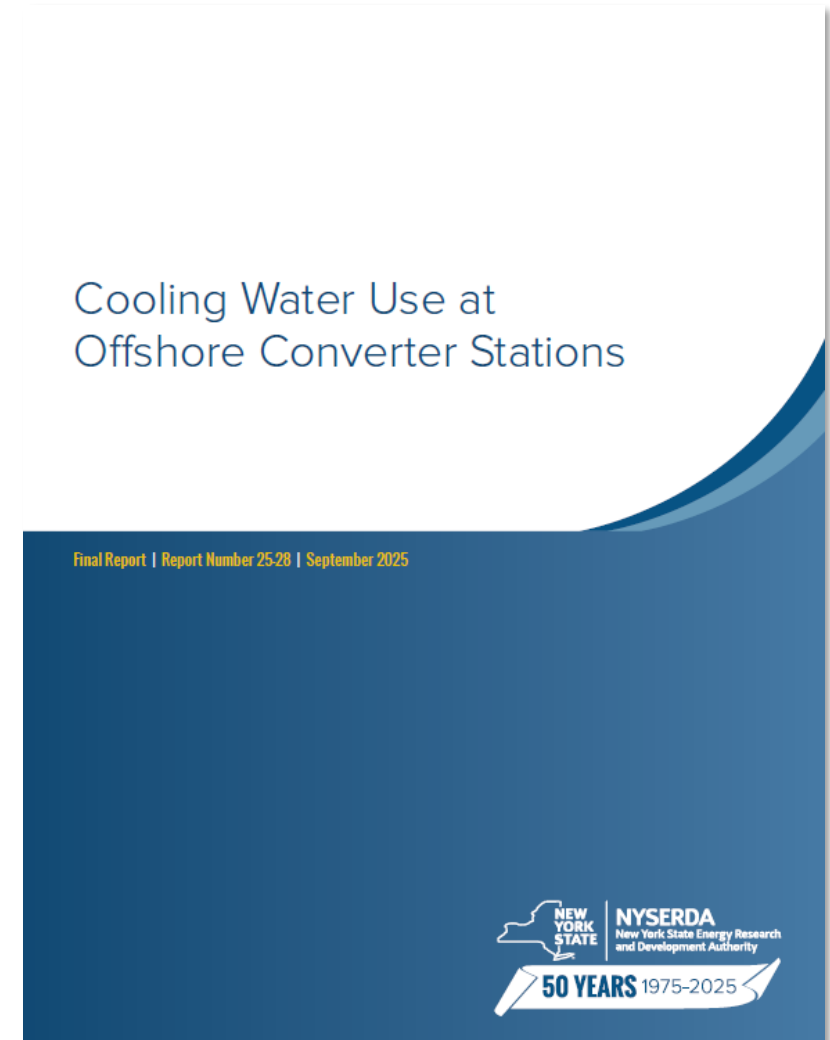
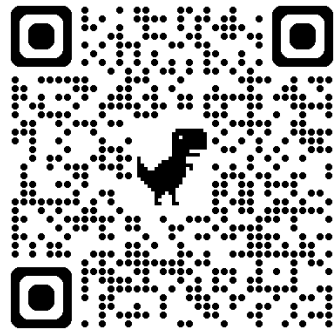
Scaling-up Cooling Water Uses in the Ocean/Coastal Habitats

Source	Volume of Cooling Water (gallons per day)
Coastal/Onshore Power Plants	250,000,000 to 3,300,000,000
Coastal/Onshore Refineries	45,000,000 to 300,000,000
Navy Vessels, in-transit	4,000,000 to 245,000,000
Offshore LNG Ports (Northeast Gateway)	up to 56,000,000
Offshore Oil & Gas Platforms	up to 50,000,000
Oceanographic Research Vessel	up to 10,000,000
Offshore Wind Converter Stations*	5,000,000 to 10,000,000
Other Commercial Vessels, in-transit (tug, ferry, fishing, etc.)	100,000 to 3,000,000



Acknowledgements

- Based on work performed under contract with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
 - Morgan Brunbauer (NYSERDA)
 - Jenessa Kay (Tetra Tech)
 - Tim Feehan (Tetra Tech)
 - Kevin Lamontagne (Tetra Tech)
- Please take a look at the Full Report available on the [NYSERDA Resource Library](#)



Mitigation Practices Database (MPD) Tool

Searchable database of potential mitigation practices relevant to avoiding, minimizing and offsetting potential effects of offshore wind development on wildlife, the environment and fisheries

Timeline

- 2018 – Initial development
- 2023 – moved to E-TWG site and converted to an R shiny application
- 2024-2025 – additional literature search to update content of the database

MPD version: 0.16.0 - Rapturous Artemis Instructions Filter Database Filtered References Glossary

Click the plus sign to select a category. If you want to select specific subcategories, press the down arrow to the left of the category checkbox to see the list of subcategories.

[Click to Filter Data](#)

[CSV](#) [Excel](#)

Filter categories

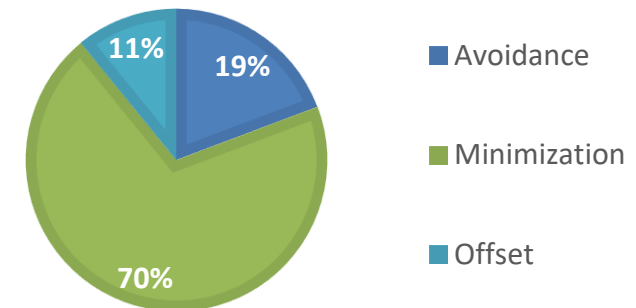
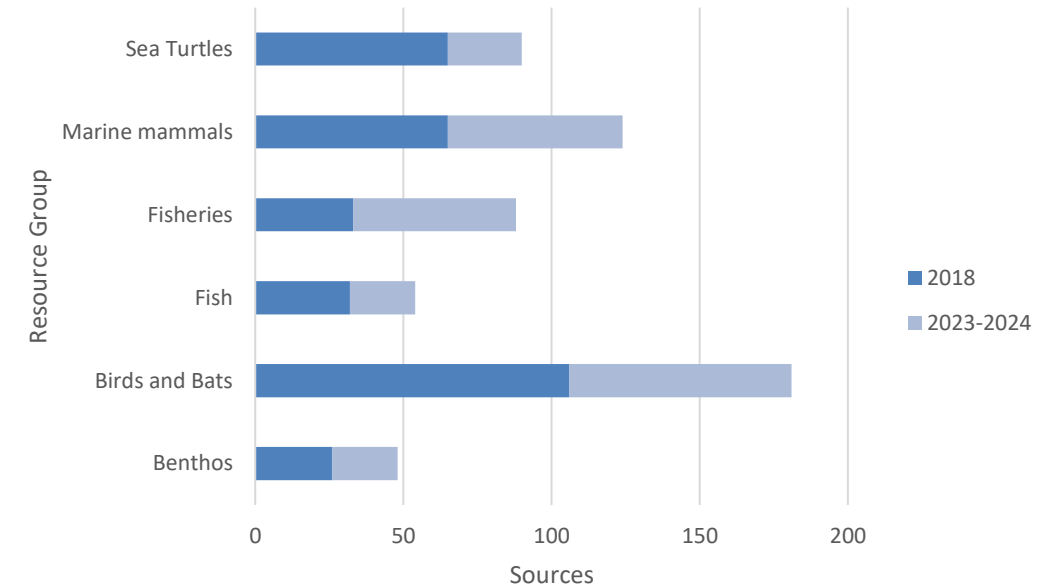
- ☒ Resource sub-group
 - ☒ Bats
 - ☒ Benthos
 - ☒ Birds
 - ☒ Fish
 - ☒ Fisheries
 - ☒ Marine Mammals
 - ☒ Sea Turtles
- ☒ Mitigation Type
 - ☐ Barriers
 - ☐ Compensation
 - ☐ Deterrence/Attraction Reduction
 - ☐ Engagement/Communication
 - ☐ Fisheries Safety
 - ☒ Lighting Alternatives
 - ☐ Limit An Activity
 - ☐ Shutdown/Low Power
 - ☐ Siting/Seasonality
 - ☐ Structure Configuration
 - ☐ Turbine Operation Parameters
 - ☐ Vessel Operation Parameters
 - ☐ Water Quality Management
- ☐ Stressors
- ☐ Potential effects
- ☐ Development phases
- ☐ Industry Origin
- ☐ Implementation status
- ☐ Mitigation hierarchy

Mitigation Approach	Description	Mitigation Type	Resource	Resource Summary
	Use warm white light instead of red light			Use of warm white L...
	Alter color of lighting			Increase visibility...
	Use xenon-gas lights ("white ice" bluish light) as white light alternative			Replace white paraf...
	Minimize lighting on wind farm infrastructure			Minimize lighting a...
	Minimize lighting on vessels			Vessel deck lights ...
	Minimize construction lighting			Area and work light...
	Implement timers/sensors for all lighting practicable			Automatic timers, a...
	Adjust lighting based on ambient conditions			Adjust lighting con...
	Minimize lighting glare			Minimize lighting g...
	Restrict lighting in locations near sensitive areas			Restrict lighting f...
	Reduce lighting at night			Reduce the amount o...
	Shield lights so that they point downward			Shield lights so th...
	Maintain minimum number of lights required			Maintain only the m...
	Use lighting on only a portion of turbines			Only a portion of t...
	Use on-demand navigation lighting			Use on-demand navig...

Showing 1 to 15 of 31 entries

Mitigation Practices Database (MPD) Tool

- 462 mitigation approaches in the updated database
- Added ~ 80 additional source documents
 - Recent sources (2019-2024)
 - More search terms to better represent avoidance and compensation



Revisiting the E-TWG Priority to Share Lessons Learned

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
 - Analyze real-time mitigation data from developers and make recommendations
- > **Timelines:**
 - Spring 2025- Summer 2026 (State of the Science)
 - After initial discussions – put data component on hold to revisit

2026 State of the Science on Offshore Energy, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Building on a strong foundation: deepening knowledge and finding collaborative solutions

- > The fifth State of the Science conference will take place at Stony Brook University on June 8-11, 2026. The call for abstracts and conference registration are now open!
- > Registration is free for E-TWG members and their alternates, as well as for members of active E-TWG Specialist Committees
- > Options for virtual attendance, including for speakers
- > Scientific Advisory Committee:

Kate Williams, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI; Committee Chair);
Sue Barco, RWSC; Sandi Brewster-Walker, Montaukett Nation; Colleen Brust,
NJ DEP; Grace Chang, Integral Consulting; Jon Choi, Duke University; Doug Christel, NMFS; Julia Dombrowski, NOWRDC; Cris Hein, NREL;
Ursula Howson, BOEM; Juliet Lamb, TNC; Julia Livermore, RI DEM; Carl LoBue, TNC; AJ Mabaka, Stony Brook University; Lisa Methratta,
NOAA; Laura Morse, JASCO; Kim Peters, Ørsted; Mike Pol, ROSA; Howard Rosenbaum, WCS; Brendan Runde, The Nature Conservancy



Deadline for abstract submissions: Dec. 12. www.nyetwg.com/2026-workshop

2026 State of the Science on Offshore Energy, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Building on a strong foundation: deepening knowledge and finding collaborative solutions

Actions to help address the “lessons learned” topic that emerged as a priority for the E-TWG in 2024-25:

- > Explicit inclusion of lessons learned in conference theme and call for abstracts
- > Focus on lessons learned in keynote(s) (TBD)
- > SAC is planning curated sessions focused on:
 - Science communications and knowledge exchange: Overcoming barriers to understanding
 - Coordinating monitoring across offshore wind energy projects
 - Lessons learned from regional research projects from the U.S. and around the globe



Deadline for abstract submissions: Dec. 12. www.nyetwg.com/2026-workshop

Analyze real-time mitigation data from developers and make recommendations

Goal: 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



Analyze real-time mitigation data from developers and make recommendations



Search NOAA Fisheries



[Find A Species](#) [Fishing & Seafood](#) [Protecting Marine Life](#) [Environment](#) [Regions](#) [Resources & Services](#) [About Us](#)

MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION

Incidental Take Authorizations for Renewable Energy Activities

This page lists Incidental Take Authorizations for renewable energy activities. Applications are typically posted once public review is initiated.

Publicly available data:

- Reviewed documents from 80 incidental harassment authorizations from OSW
- Assessed if/what data available from monitoring reports
 - 27 instances of PAM + PSOs used (see table)
 - Construction data: SFW and CVOW
 - 18 cases of PSO-only monitoring (not in table)

NOAA Fisheries: MMPA Incidental Take/Harassment Authorizations

Activity	PSO + PAM used
Construction	2
Site Characterization	25
Data Availability	
Raw datasheets provided (.xls)	12
PDF tables	11
Not available	4

Analyze real-time mitigation data from developers and make recommendations

Do we want to reconsider addressing this priority?

- Overall thoughts on this approach?
- Is this the right topic?
- If not, what are potential alternative topics?



A photograph of three humpback whales breaching the ocean surface. Their dark, wet skin is visible as they rise from the water, with their large, open mouths showing the pinkish interior. The water around them is splashing and white with foam. Above the whales, a large number of seabirds, likely albatrosses, are in flight. Some are in the air, while others are perched on the whales' backs. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Coffee Break

Updates on Regional Research and Monitoring

Coordinating regional research and monitoring efforts

Emily Shumchenia | RWSC Director
Reneé Reilly | ROSA Executive Director
November 20, 2025

Regional research & monitoring coordination

- ROSA & RWSC launched biannual **fisheries-** and **wildlife/habitat-** specific Funder Coordination meetings in early 2024
- **Strong support for the forum:** to share information about upcoming funding opportunities, lessons learned, and new tools for coordination
- Given the large number of RFPs slated for 2025, requests were made for a **joint** coordination meeting series focused further on **fine-scale coordination**

Regional research & monitoring coordination

- ROSA & RWSC have been tracking partners' offshore research solicitations and procurements processes - and participating in proposal review/selection
- Many funders have participated in proposal review/selection for each other (awesome)
- There is a huge opportunity for leveraging and coordination
 - Research entities submitting similar proposals to multiple funders
 - Funders soliciting research on similar/related topics
 - Geographic area of focus Atlantic OCS
 - Offshore wind theme present in many

Why regional coordination?

Spatial - Same study area

Personnel/Equipment - Committed to multiple projects

Expenses - Ship time, equipment, travel costs

Temporal - Same data collection period

Data pipeline - Outputs from one, inputs/supplements another

Contractual - Requirement to allocate effort/budget for coordination

Data - Same data types/products

Research Question - Same/similar/complementary

Engagement - Interaction with stakeholders and/or organizations

State of offshore research & mo

Since September 2024

- 16 new RFP processes (including RWSC & ROSA)
- >60 new projects
- ~\$45M invested
- ROSA & RWSC are facilitating coordination among funders to align projects – meeting monthly since August
- Do we anticipate this magnitude of research funding to continue?

Stage	Entity
Projects selected & Announced	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)
	NOAA Research Set Aside Program (NOAA RSA)*
	Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)
	Maine OSW Research Consortium (ME OSW RC) - 1st Round
	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Vessel Strike Risk Reduction (NFWF)*
Selection/ announcement underway	National OSW Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC)
	Northeast Sea Grant Consortium (NE SGC)
	New Jersey Research & Monitoring Initiative (NJ RMI)
	Maine OSW Research Consortium (ME OSW RC) - 2nd Round
	Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC)
	Marine Mammal Commission technology grants*
Open and Upcoming Funding Solicitations	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (Mass DMF) Fisheries Innovation Fund
	Maine OSW Research Consortium (ME OSW RC) - 3rd Round
	ME DOER BlueTech Innovation and Monitoring at the UMaine Demo Floating Turbine
	Annual NOAA Research Set Aside Program (RSA)*
	New York State Energy Research & Development Authority Sturgeon Request for Proposals (NYSERDA)
*RFP was not exclusively OSW-related studies	

RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative



Summary of new projects

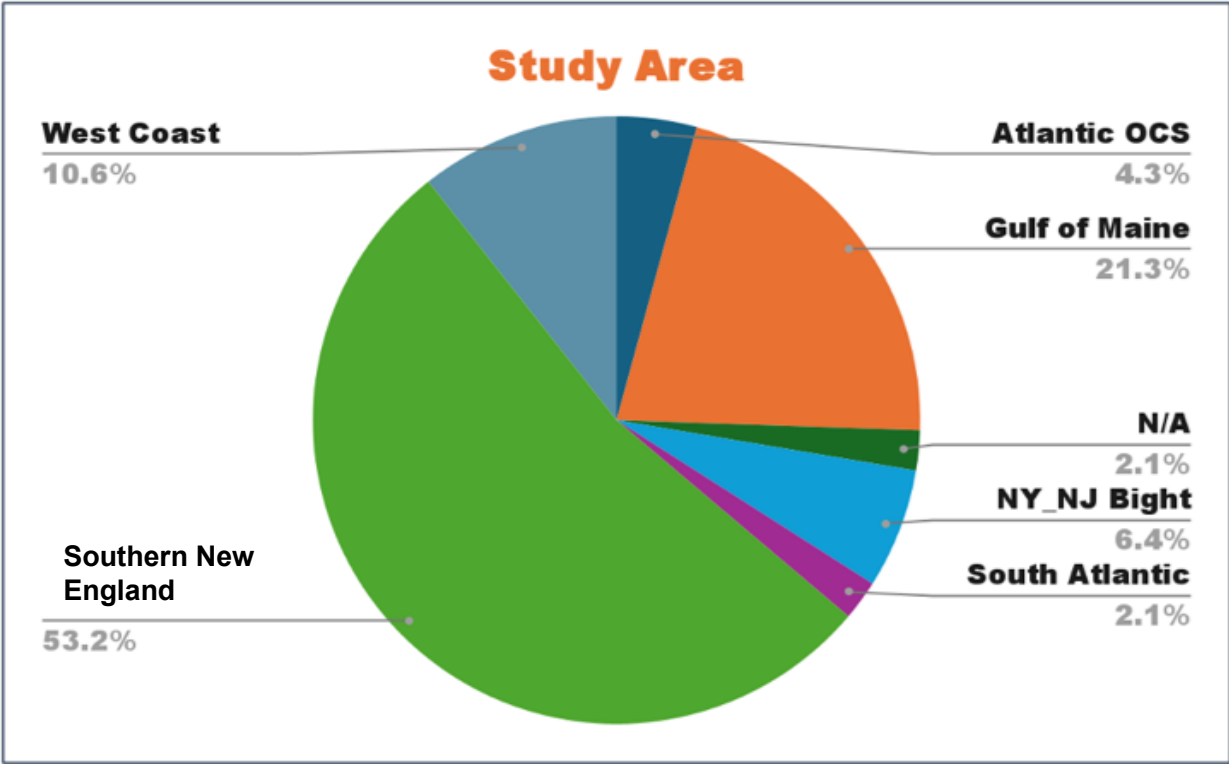
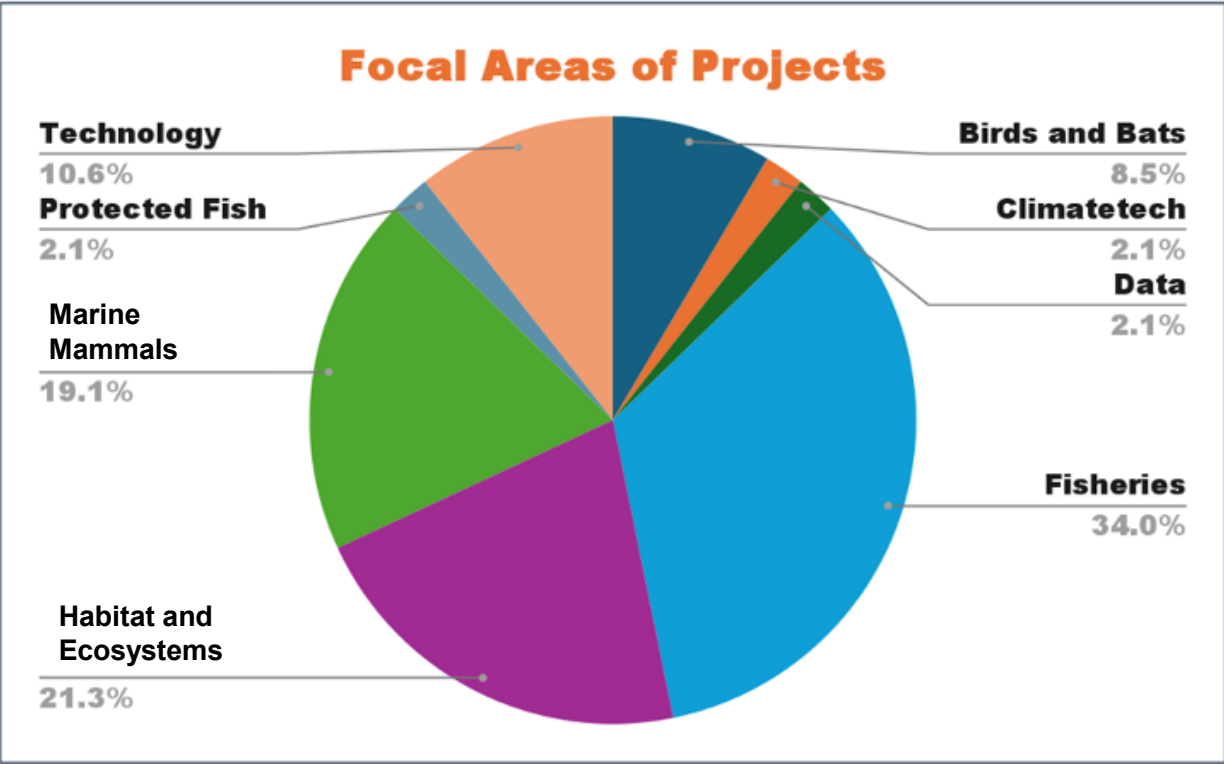
Mostly focused:
Southern New
England, Gulf of
Maine
Fisheries, Habitat

Topic Area	Funder(s)
Birds and Bats	Maine DOER, MassCEC, NJRMI, RWSC
Climatech	MassCEC
Fisheries & Protected Fish Species	Maine DOER MassCEC NJRMI ROSA NYSERDA
Habitat and Ecology	MassCEC NOAA Fisheries NJRMI RWSC
Marine Mammals	Maine DOER MassCEC Marine Mammal Commission NFWF
Technology	NOWRDC

Summary of new projects

Projects by topic & study region

Caveats: some projects span focal areas and study areas



Summary of new projects

Research entities receiving more than one award (as prime) as of September

- **WHOI** (NFWF, RWSC, NOAA Fisheries/BOEM)
- **SMAST** (ROSA)
- **New England Aquarium** (MassCEC, ROSA, MMC, NJRMI)
- **GMRI** (MassCEC, MaineDOER, ROSA)
- **University of Maine** (MaineDOER, ROSA)
- **INSPIRE Environmental** (MassCEC, ROSA, NJRMI)
- **BRI** (MaineDOER, NJRMI, RWSC)

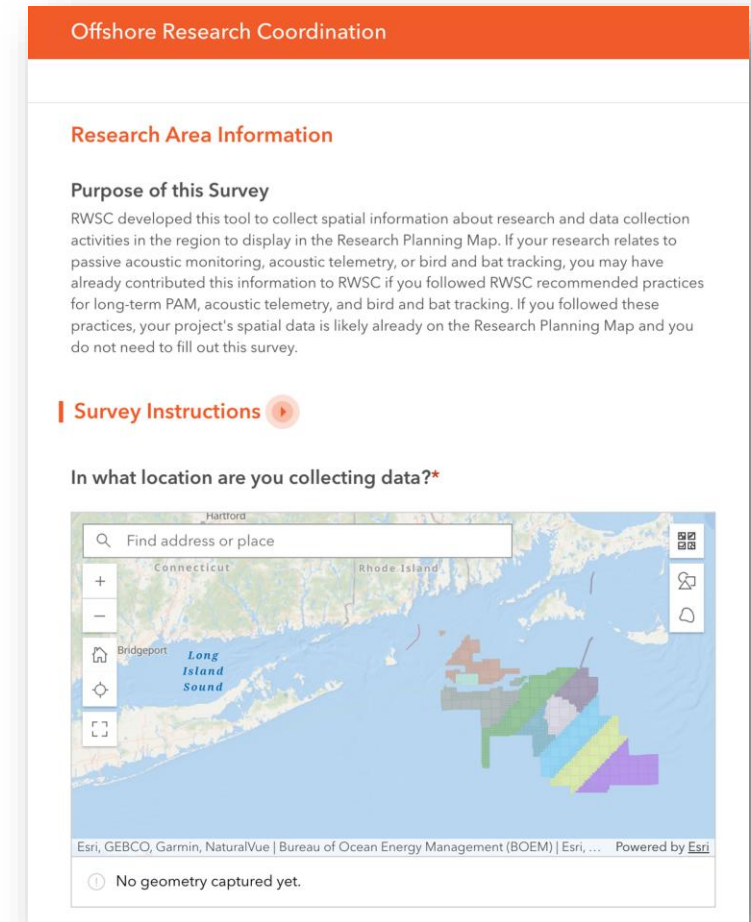
Coordination activities to ensure interoperable and compatible data

- Encourage/require investigators to participate in Subcommittee, ROSA Advisory Council meetings
- Require awardees to submit Data Management and Sharing Plans – ideally using RWSC's template that was made for this purpose
- Require investigators to follow RWSC and ROSA recommended practices (incl. IP policies, standards, & repositories)
- Leverage state ocean planning efforts

Specific examples of coordination

RWSC & ROSA are...

- Using subcommittees and public webinars as forums for researchers to present progress (e.g., Sept 22 webinar)
- Developing “Recommended practices for research funding coordination”(for funders) including suggested language for contract statements of work and budgets that provide for interface for coordination through RWSC and ROSA
- Coordinating information requests to developers, e.g., oceanography modelers seeking locations of installed foundations, turbine specifications



Specific examples of coordination

Other funders

- *New Jersey Research & Monitoring Initiative* requiring awardees to develop Data Management & Sharing Plans using RWSC template
- *Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium* coordinating with other funders in developing next RFP
- *National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium* inviting other funders to sit on project advisory committees
- *Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries* requiring applicants to use ROSA's pre-award DMSP template

Discussion – lessons learned

- Opportunity to use RWSC & ROSA as communication channels during all phases of research/data procurement – planning RFP, issuing RFP, eval/selection, announcement
- \$45-50M in research solicited over ~18 months
- Several entities receiving funds from multiple orgs
- Information needed to enable project-level coordination matches the info captured by ROSA FishFORWRD & RWSC Research Database
- Should future proposal evaluation criteria encourage:
 - Teams that include smaller institutions
 - Other non-research factors?
- Many orgs have fixed contract language; put coordination requirements for researchers into their scopes of work and specific budget line – 1-2 hours/month

Contact us



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RWSC

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Next Steps

>Specialist Committees

- Opportunities for additional input on products and processes

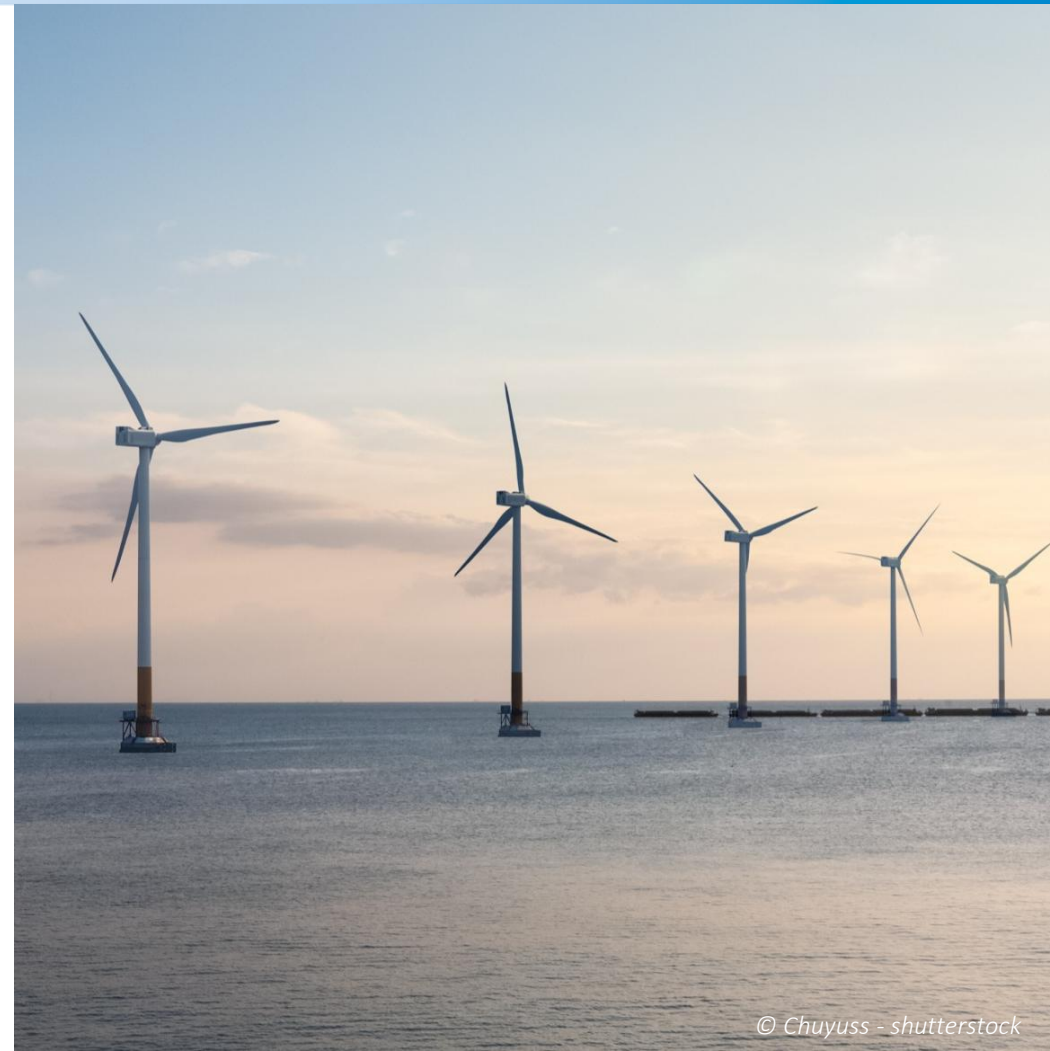
>2026 State of the Science Workshop

- June 8-11, Stony Brook University
- We hope to see you there!
- www.nyetwg.com/2026-workshop

>Lessons learned priority topic

>Meetings in 2026

- Project-specific EMP Meeting
- Lunch and Learn updates on NYSERDA research projects
- 1-2 in-person E-TWG meetings and virtual meetings as needed



Wrap Up & Next Steps

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> Questions? Comments?

> Thank you!