



© 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*



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](mailto:Julia.Gulka@briwildlife.org)*

# 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](mailto:Julia.Gulka@briwildlife.org)*

# Introductions



- > E-TWG Lead: NYSERDA - 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
  - Kate Williams x108, [kate.williams@briwildlife.org](mailto:kate.williams@briwildlife.org)
  - Julia Gulka x303, [julia.gulka@briwildlife.org](mailto:julia.gulka@briwildlife.org)
  - Zoe Korpi, [zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org](mailto:zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org)
  - Eleanor Eckel, [eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org](mailto:eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org)
- > Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus
  - Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078, [bbrooks@cbi.org](mailto:bbrooks@cbi.org)
  - Hadley Menk, 703-646-8059, [Hadley.menk@cadmusgroup.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:kate.mcclellanpress@nyserda.ny.gov)

# Updates from NY Projects

- Empire Wind
- Sunrise Wind



A high-angle aerial photograph of the ocean, showing deep blue water and white, foamy waves crashing. A small, dark rock is visible in the lower-left foreground. A large, dark blue circular overlay with a thin white border is positioned in the upper-left quadrant of the image, containing the text.

# 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 |  |
| Support development of regionally administered/managed monitoring networks | Birds and offshore wind FAQs Specialist Committee  |  |
|  | 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

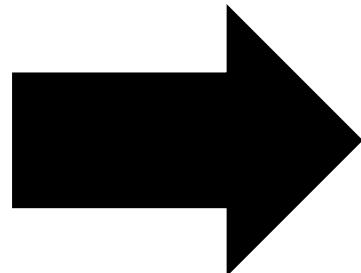
## Committee and Support Staff Role

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

Media interactions

Proactive: Relationship-building with local reporters

Reactive: Fielding questions from reporters\*

\* Releasing media statements as additional step if possible



# 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?**
- **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?**

## Committee and Support Staff Role

### Point of Contact

### Credible communicator roles



- **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!



## OFFSHORE WIND & WHALES

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 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?

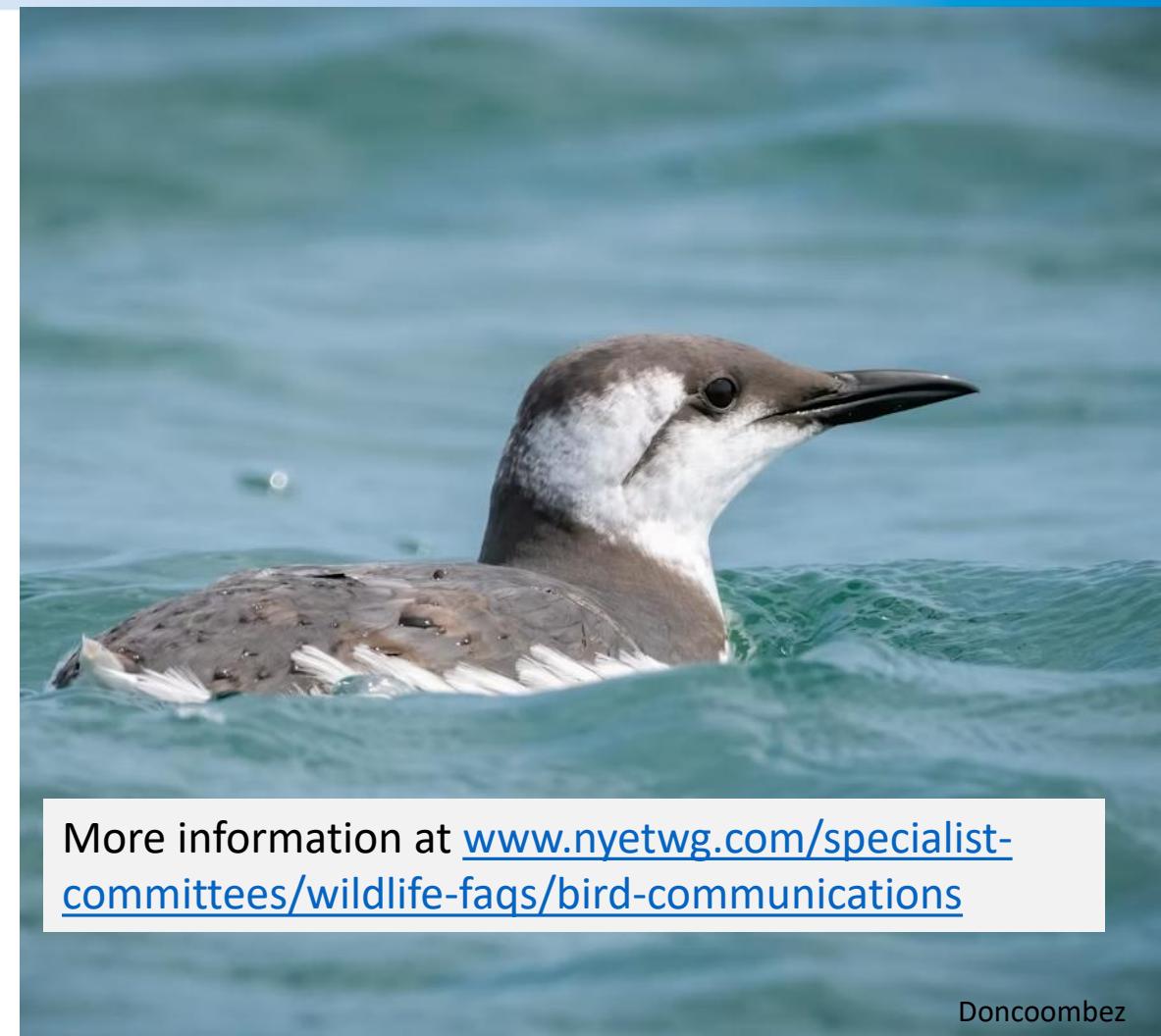
Marine mammals may be affected by offshore wind development via 1) underwater noise; 2) vessel interactions; and 3) changes to habitat and prey. The offshore wind industry follows a stringent federal permitting process to minimize and mitigate marine mammal disturbance. For example, being struck by boats 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](http://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

A close-up photograph of a cormorant with its head above water. The bird has dark feathers, a long neck, and a hooked beak. It is holding a small, silvery fish with its beak. The water is greenish-blue with ripples and small white bubbles. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "Lunch" in white.

# 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?

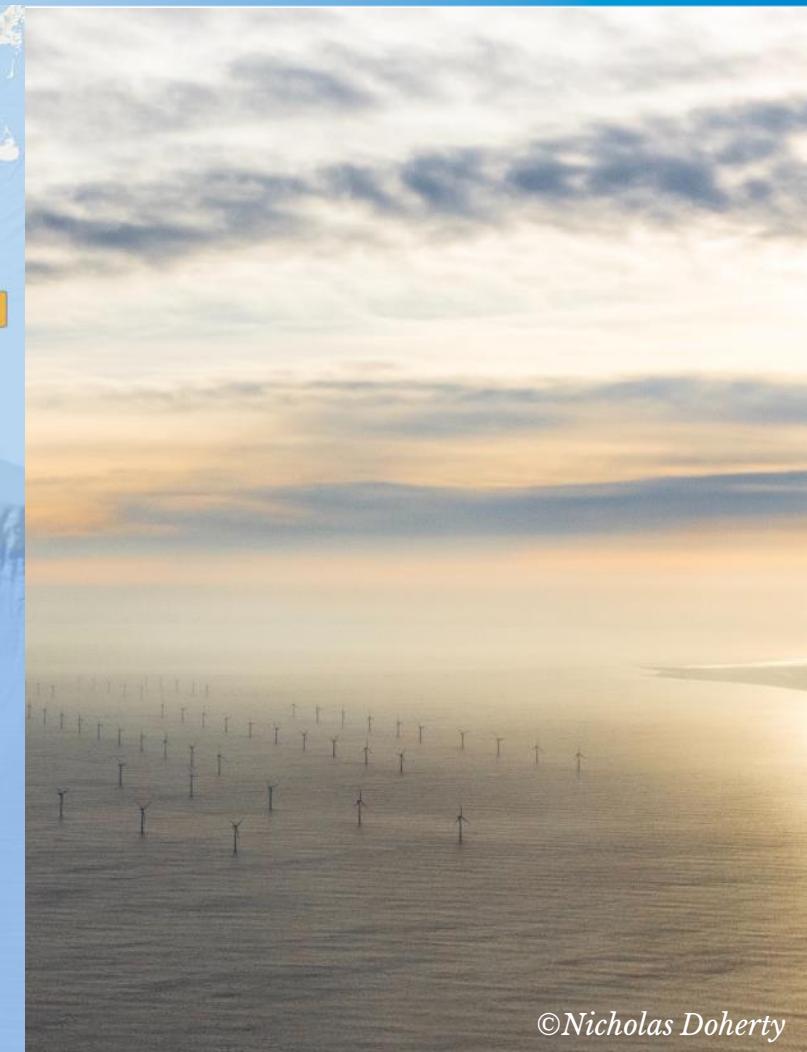
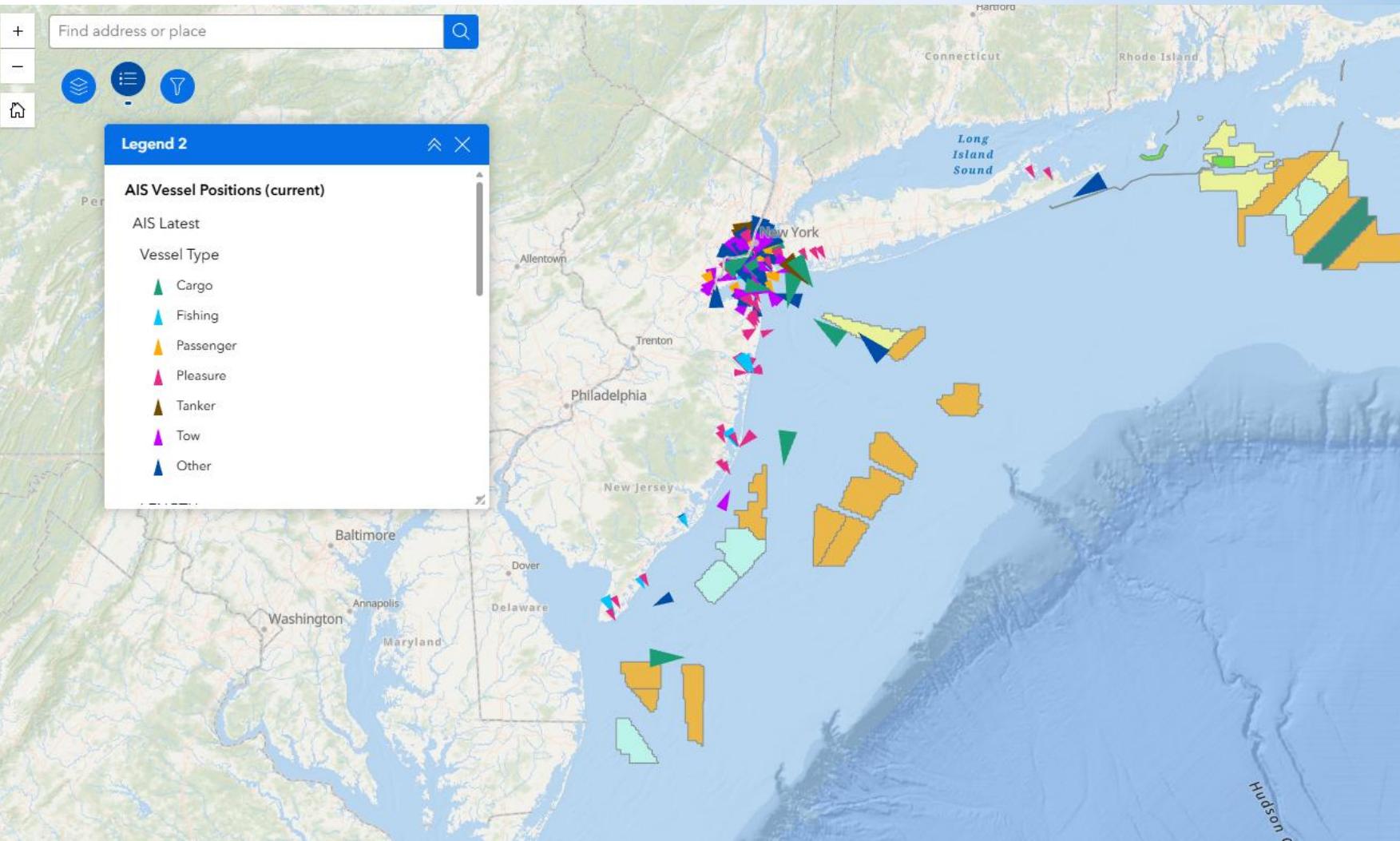
# F-TWG Updates

# 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



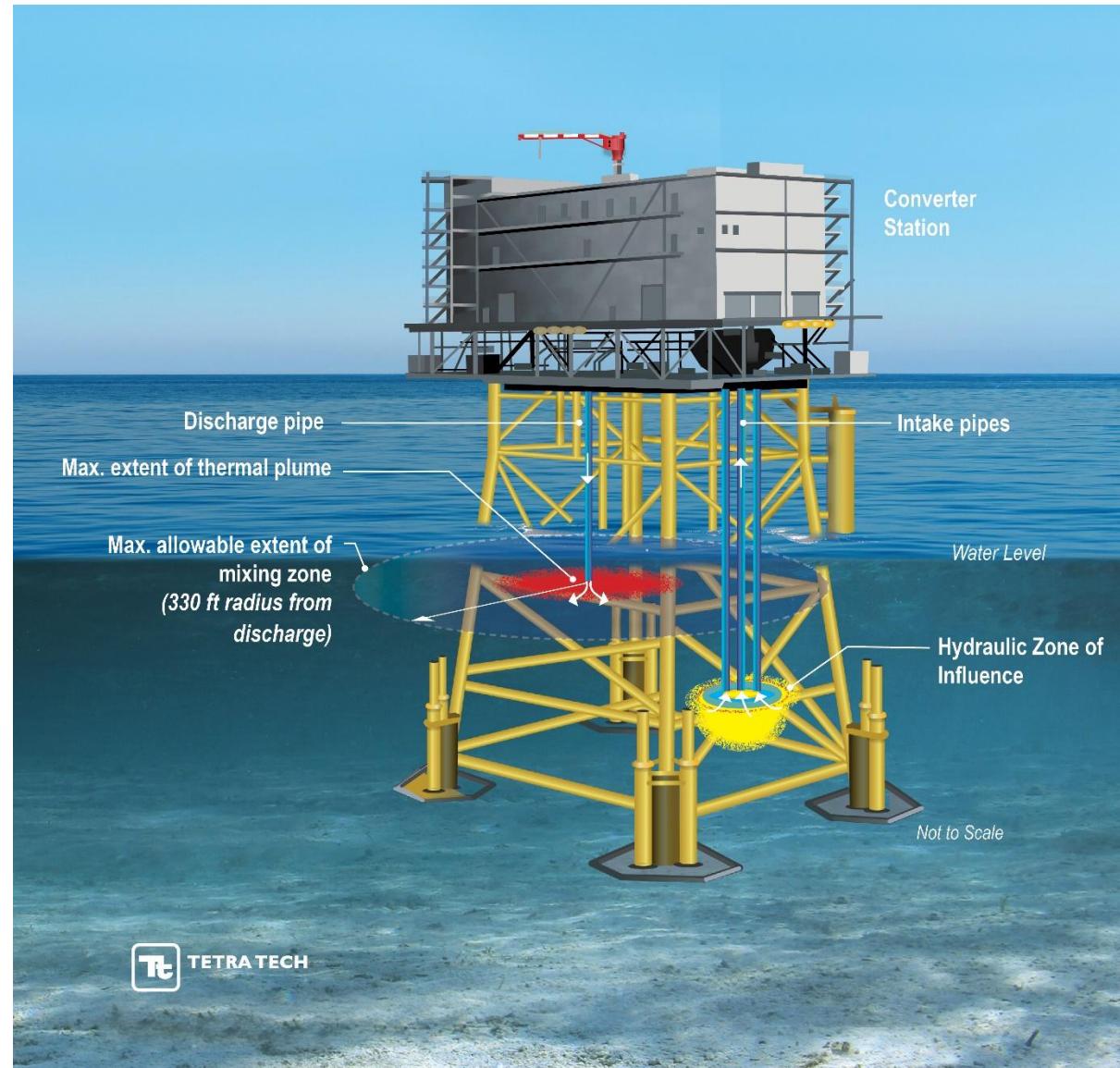
**TETRA TECH**

*Leading with Science®*

# What is an Offshore Converter Station?

- 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

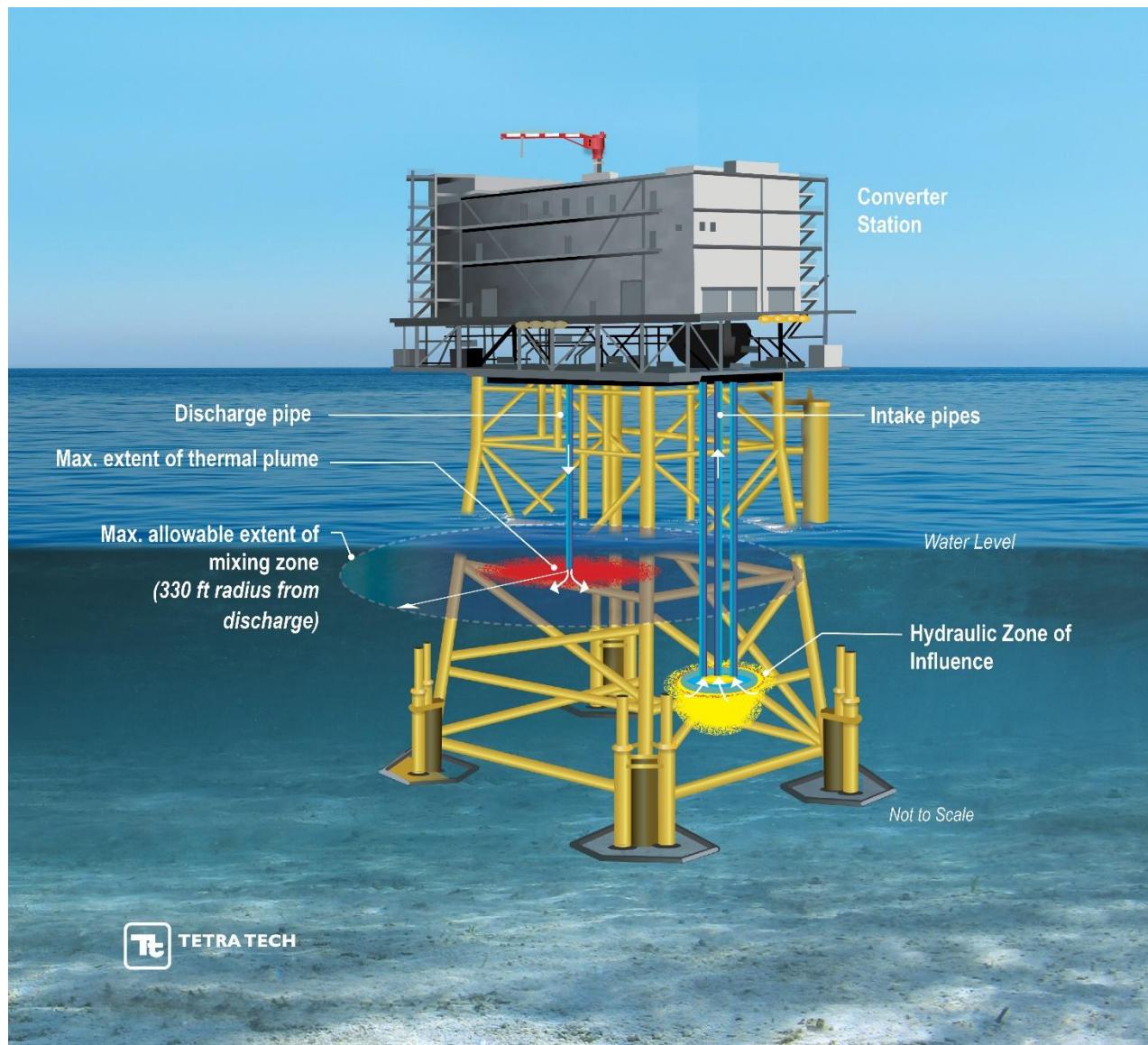
Source: Tetra Tech



# Risks & Impacts of Once-Through Cooling Water

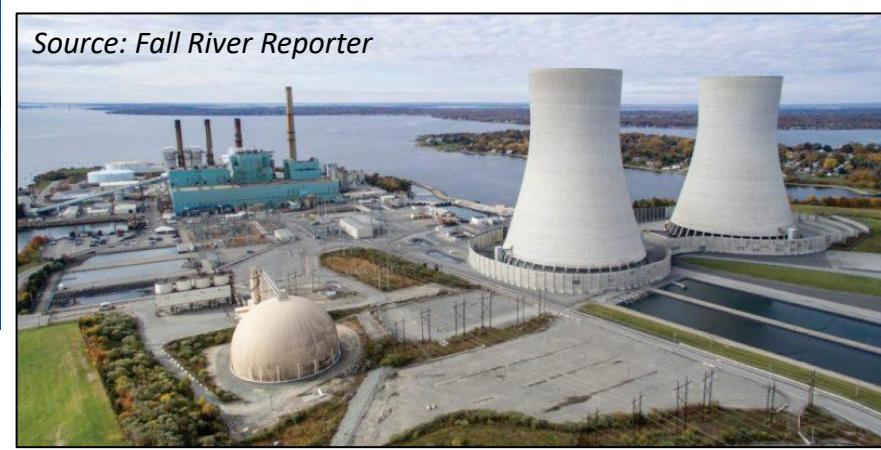
Source: Tetra Tech

- **Hydraulic Zone of Influence (HJI)**
  - 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



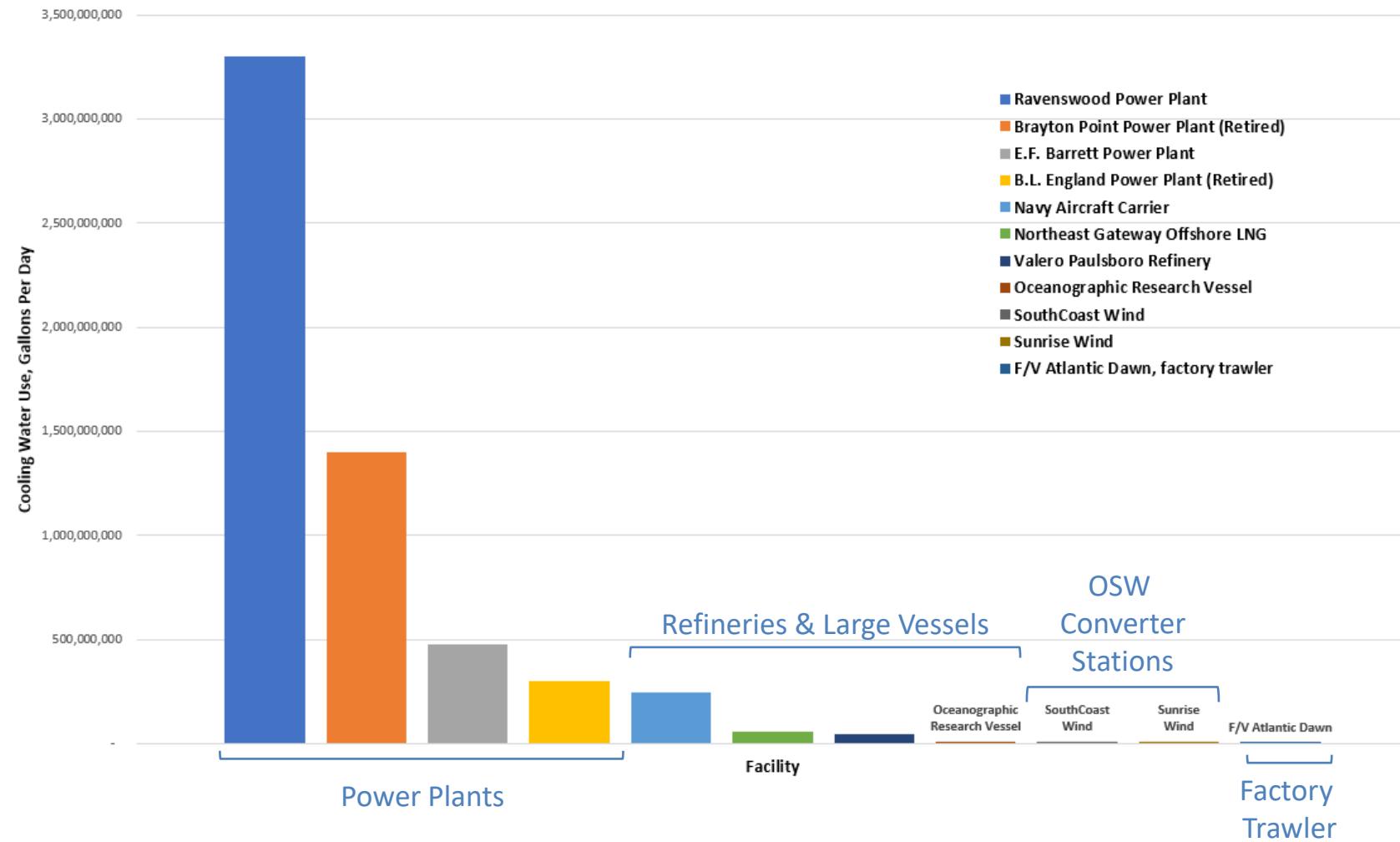
# Other Sources of Cooling Water in the Ocean

- **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                          |
| <b>Offshore Wind Converter Stations*</b>                         | <b>5,000,000 to 10,000,000</b>            |
| 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 Brubauer (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](#)



Cooling Water Use at  
Offshore Converter Stations

Final Report | Report Number 25-28 | September 2025



# 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](#)

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

Click to Filter Data

Click to Filter Data

Filter categories

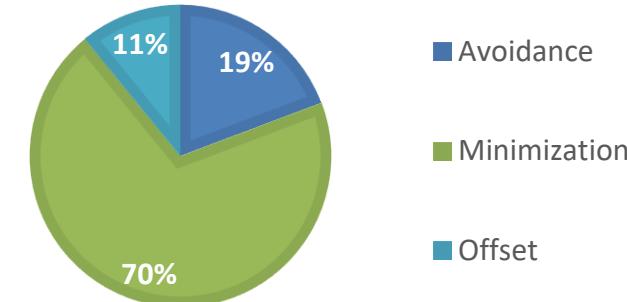
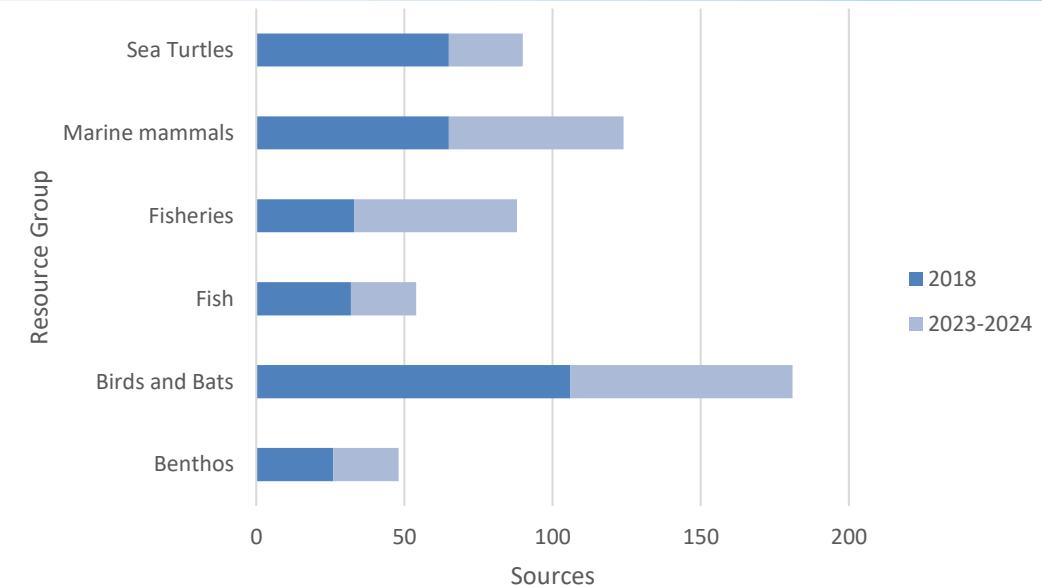
- Resource sub-group
  - Bats
  - Benthos
  - Birds
  - Fish
  - Fisheries
  - Marine Mammals
  - Sea Turtles
- Mitigation Type
  - Barriers
  - Compensation
  - Deterrence/Attraction Reduction
  - Engagement/Communication
  - Fisheries Safety
  - Lighting Alternatives
  - Limit An Activity
  - Shutdown/Low 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 Sub |
|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 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](http://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



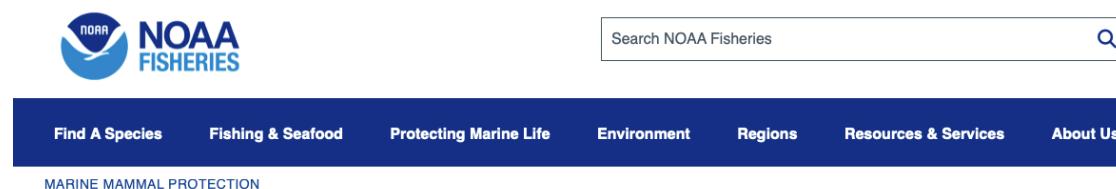
Deadline for abstract submissions: Dec. 12. [www.nyetwg.com/2026-workshop](http://www.nyetwg.com/2026-workshop)

# 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



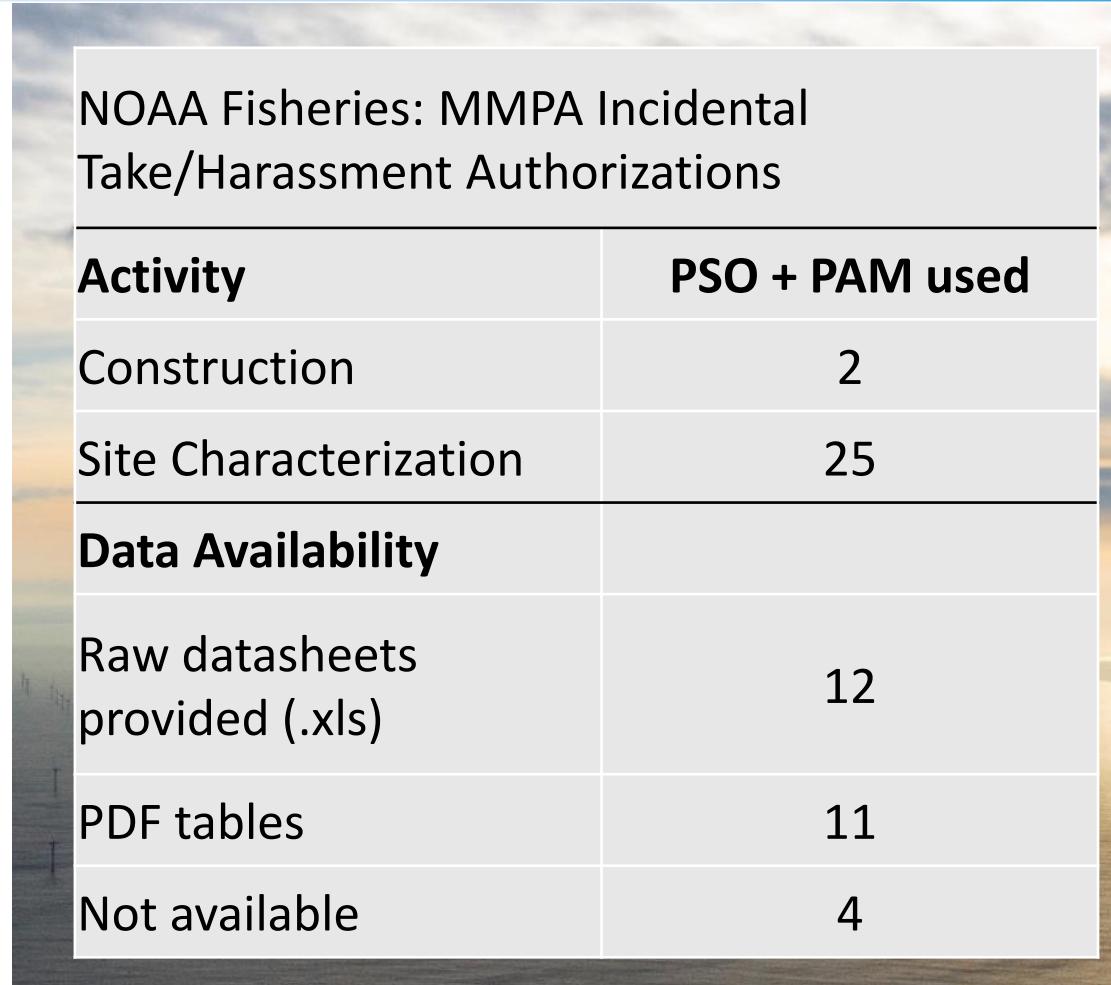
The screenshot shows the NOAA Fisheries website. The header features the NOAA Fisheries logo and a search bar labeled "Search NOAA Fisheries". Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links: "Find A Species", "Fishing & Seafood", "Protecting Marine Life", "Environment", "Regions", "Resources & Services", and "About Us". A secondary navigation bar below it includes "MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION". The main content area is titled "Incidental Take Authorizations for Renewable Energy Activities".

## 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 in the ocean. Their dark, patterned tails are visible above the water's surface, creating white spray. Numerous seagulls are flying around the whales, particularly around the middle one. The water is a vibrant turquoise color.

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

# Summary of new projects

**Mostly focused:**

**Southern New  
England, Gulf of  
Maine**

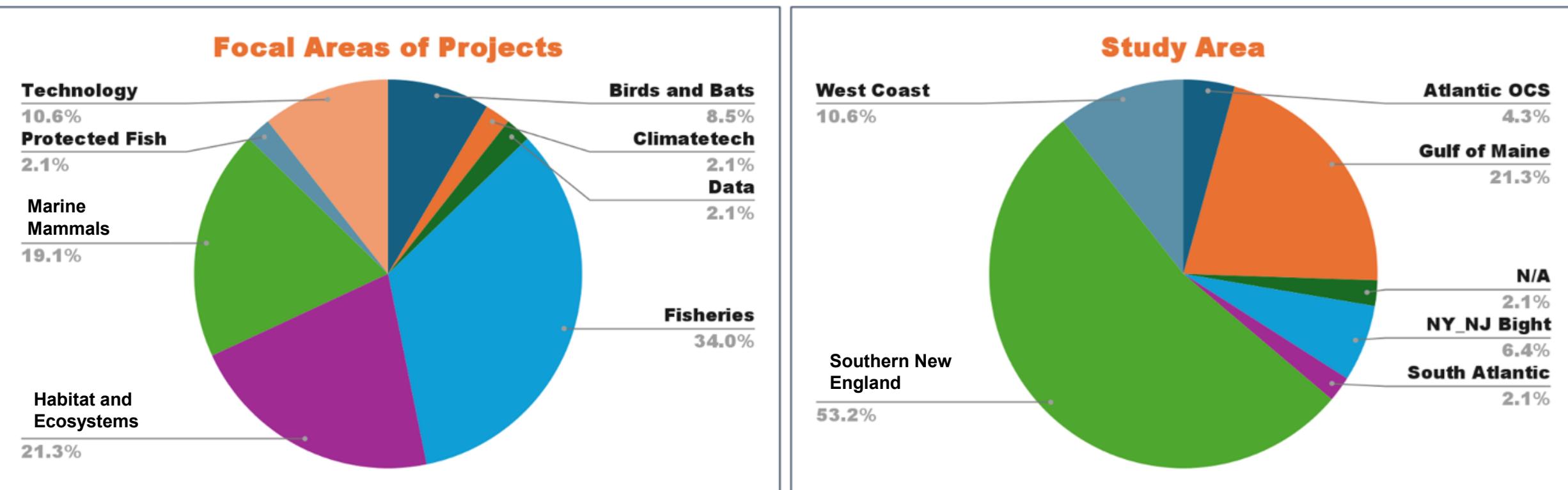
**Fisheries, Habitat**

| Topic Area                         | Funder(s)   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Birds and Bats                     | Maine DOER, MassCEC, NJRMI, RWSC                          |
| Climatech                          | MassCEC   |
| Fisheries & Protected Fish Species | Maine DOER<br>MassCEC<br>NJRMI<br>ROSA<br>NYSERDA         |
| Habitat and Ecology                | MassCEC<br>NOAA Fisheries<br>NJRMI<br>RWSC                |
| Marine Mammals                     | Maine DOER<br>MassCEC<br>Marine Mammal Commission<br>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

Offshore Research Coordination

**Research Area Information**

**Purpose of this Survey**

RWSC developed this tool to collect spatial information about research and data collection activities in the region to display in the Research Planning Map. If your research relates to passive acoustic monitoring, acoustic telemetry, or bird and bat tracking, you may have already contributed this information to RWSC if you followed RWSC recommended practices for long-term PAM, acoustic telemetry, and bird and bat tracking. If you followed these practices, your project's spatial data is likely already on the Research Planning Map and you do not need to fill out this survey.

**Survey Instructions**

In what location are you collecting data?\*

Find address or place

Connecticut Rhode Island

Hartford Bridgeport Long Island Sound

Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) | Esri, ... Powered by Esri

No geometry captured yet.

# 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

---



Emily Shumchenia, RWSC Director  
[emily.shumchenia@rwsc.org](mailto:emily.shumchenia@rwsc.org)

Julia Dombroski, RWSC Research Director  
[julia@rwsc.org](mailto:julia@rwsc.org)

Reneé Reilly, ROSA Executive Director  
[renee@rosascience.org](mailto:renee@rosascience.org)

Mike Pol, ROSA Research Director  
[mike@rosascience.org](mailto:mike@rosascience.org)

Tricia Perez, ROSA Research Program Manager  
[tricia@rosascience.org](mailto:tricia@rosascience.org)

# 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](http://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

E-TWG Lead: NYSERDA - 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

- Kate Williams x108, [kate.williams@briwildlife.org](mailto:kate.williams@briwildlife.org)
- Julia Gulka x303, [julia.gulka@briwildlife.org](mailto:julia.gulka@briwildlife.org)
- Zoe Korpi, [zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org](mailto:zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org)
- Eleanor Eckel, [eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org](mailto:eleanor.eckel@briwildlife.org)

Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus

- Bennett Brooks 212-678-0078,  
[bbrooks@cbi.org](mailto:bbrooks@cbi.org)
- Hadley Menk, 703-646-8059,  
[Hadley.menk@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:Hadley.menk@cadmusgroup.com)

> Questions? Comments?

> Thank you!