

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

August 2022 Update



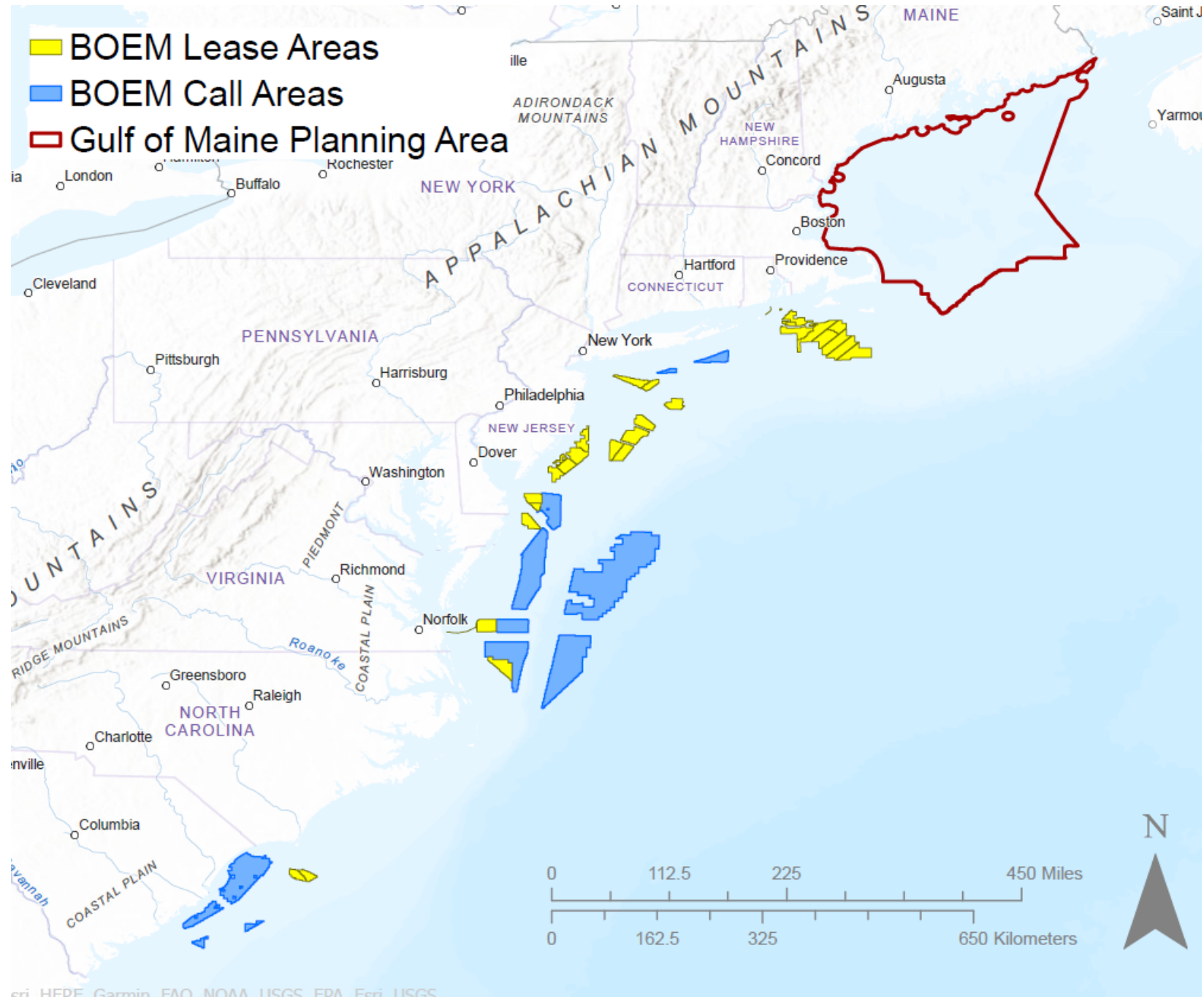
NEW
YORK
STATE

NYSERDA



Regional Ambitions for Offshore Wind

- Key component of state and federal plans to minimize climate change
- State procurement targets of >39 GW by 2040
- Two commercial-scale projects currently under construction
- Developers plan to bring 10.3 GW online by 2026



The Environmental Technical Working Group



- > Mix of stakeholders with technical expertise
- > Overarching objectives:
 - Better understand and manage potential effects of offshore wind development on wildlife
 - Develop collaborative processes to address priority issues
 - Reduce permitting risk and uncertainty for developers
- > Initiates Specialist Committees to work on specific needs



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Bird- and Bat-Related Efforts

Current E-TWG Efforts

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

Synthesis of regional
research priorities
and
recommendations

2022 State of the
Science Workshop

Other Updates

New York's third
competitive offshore
wind solicitation

Project WOW

Avian Displacement Guidance Specialist Committee



E-TWG effort in 2022-23 to inform pre- and post-construction monitoring for detecting and characterizing displacement, attraction, and macro- to meso-avoidance of marine birds at OSW facilities in U.S. waters



- **Chaired by USFWS and BOEM**
- **Primary end product: Guidance document**
 - Appropriate hypotheses and research questions
 - Brief review of study methods including sampling design and effect quantification considerations
 - Clear observational survey-based monitoring recommendations
 - Data transparency and sharing recommendations
- **Opportunities for stakeholder input:**
 - Comment period on draft guidance in early 2023



[Learn More](#)

www.nyetwg.com/avian-displacement-guidance

Synthesis of regional research priorities and recommendations



E-TWG effort in 2022-23 to provide interim guidance for regional-scale research and monitoring efforts in the eastern U.S.

- Broad in focus (multi-taxon and habitats)
- Two primary end-products:
 - Database of research needs and data gaps identified from pre-existing sources
 - Interim guidance for regional-scale research, including key terminology, general recommendations on study design and data transparency, prioritization criteria
- Opportunities for stakeholder input:
 - Stakeholder workshop **September 28** for input on database
 - Comment period on draft interim guidance in early 2023



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www.nyetwg.com/regional-synthesis-workgroup

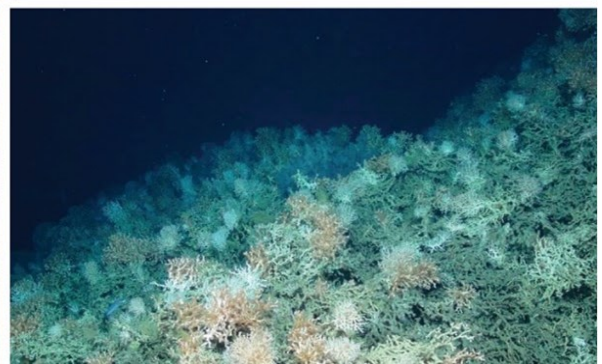
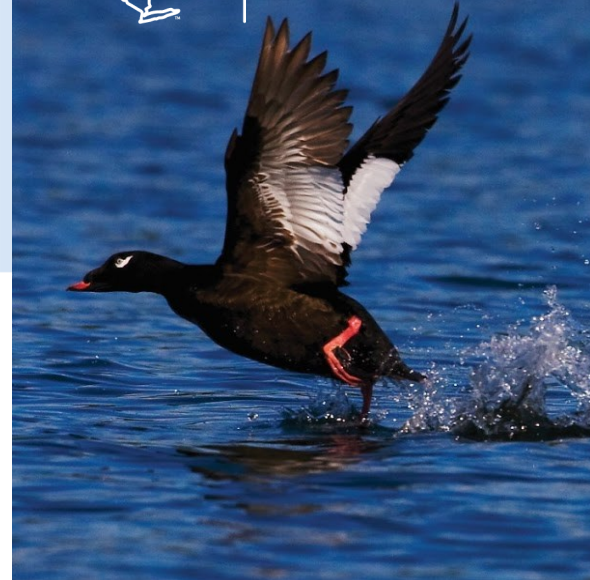
State of the Science Workshop July 26-28, 2022

>200 in-person participants, >50 oral presentations, and >25 poster presentations

- Theme: Building on existing knowledge and emerging collaborations
- Opportunities for stakeholder engagement:
 - Virtual registration (free) remains open on the E-TWG website for access to presentation recordings
 - Tune in for the virtual session September 21 (10:30 am-12:30 pm ET). For more information, sign up for the State of the Science Workshop mailing list (nyetwg.com)

More information:

www.nyetwg.com/2022-workshop



NYSERDA Offshore Wind Solicitation



2022 Offshore Wind Solicitation

- On July 27, 2022, Governor Hochul announced the release of **New York's third competitive offshore wind solicitation**, seeking at least 2,000 MW of renewable energy
- This will **expand New York State's existing ~4,300 megawatt portfolio** which currently consists of five offshore wind projects
- Solicitation award announcements are expected in **early 2023**



Learn More:

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/offshore-wind-2022-solicitation>

Wildlife and Offshore Wind

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



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

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

Wildlife and Offshore Wind (WOW) Project

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



- Lead PI: Douglas Nowacek, Ph.D.
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- Multi-institution consortium with varied expertise
- <https://offshorewind.env.duke.edu>

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