



© 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



NYSERDA

September 29, 2026

Introductions



CADMUS

> E-TWG Lead: NYSERDA – 518-862-1090

- Kate McClellan Press x3110,
Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov

> Technical Support: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) – 207- 839-7600

- Kate Williams x108, kate.williams@briwildlife.org
- Julia Gulka x303, julia.gulka@briwildlife.org
- Zoe Korpi, zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org
- Katrina Zarrella Smith,
katrina.smith@briwildlife.org

> Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus

- Bennett Brooks, 646-761-0652, bbrooks@cbi.org
- Hadley Menk, 703-646-8059,
Hadley.menk@cadmusgroup.com

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- NYSERDA Environmental Research RFI
- E-TWG member updates
- E-TWG knowledge transfer and engagement
- E-TWG committee efforts
- State of the Science conferences
- Wrap up and next steps



Ground Rules

- Contribute—your perspectives are important
- Share time—lots to cover and many people around the table
- Integrate ideas and pose questions
- Stay focused on the agenda
- Avoid multitasking and other distractions



*Please stay on camera
Bring a tech-adaptive mindset

Introductions

What was your best taste of summer?



NYSERDA

NYSERDA

Environmental Research RFI

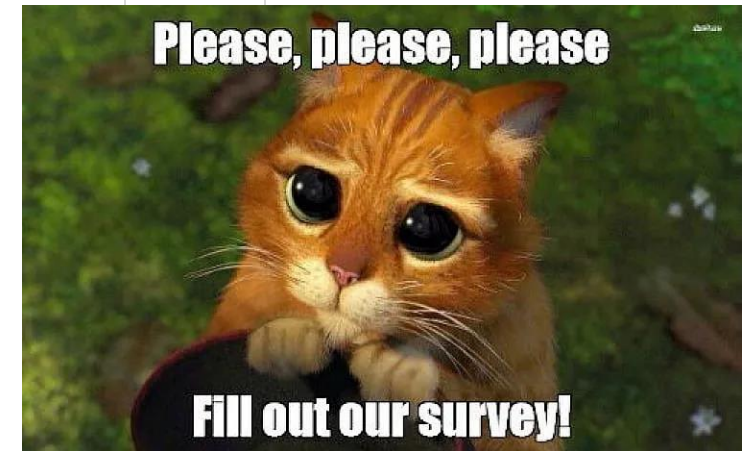
Environmental Research Program's Marine and Coastal Resources Energy Research Plan

- The research planning process identifies critical gaps and research needs for New York State related to energy and environmental impacts
- It incorporates stakeholder input through the RFI, working groups, and other engagement
- It guides research funding decisions, coordinates research efforts, and helps track progress

Environmental Research Program's Marine and Coastal Resources Energy Research Plan

- **2015 Marine Wind and Wildlife Research Plan**
- **2017–2018 Offshore Wind Master Plan**
- **U.S. Atlantic Offshore Wind Environmental Research Recommendations Database**
- **Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative Science Plan**
- **ROSA Research Gaps Analysis**
- **Offshore Research Funding Coordination Working Group**

RESPONDENTS



RFI Analysis

1

**Respondent
composition**

Research priorities

Program priorities

Stakeholder Engagement and Review

2

**Underrepresented
groups**

**State agencies (Ocean
Action Plan)**

**Technical Working
Groups**

**Regional research
organizations and
critical funders**

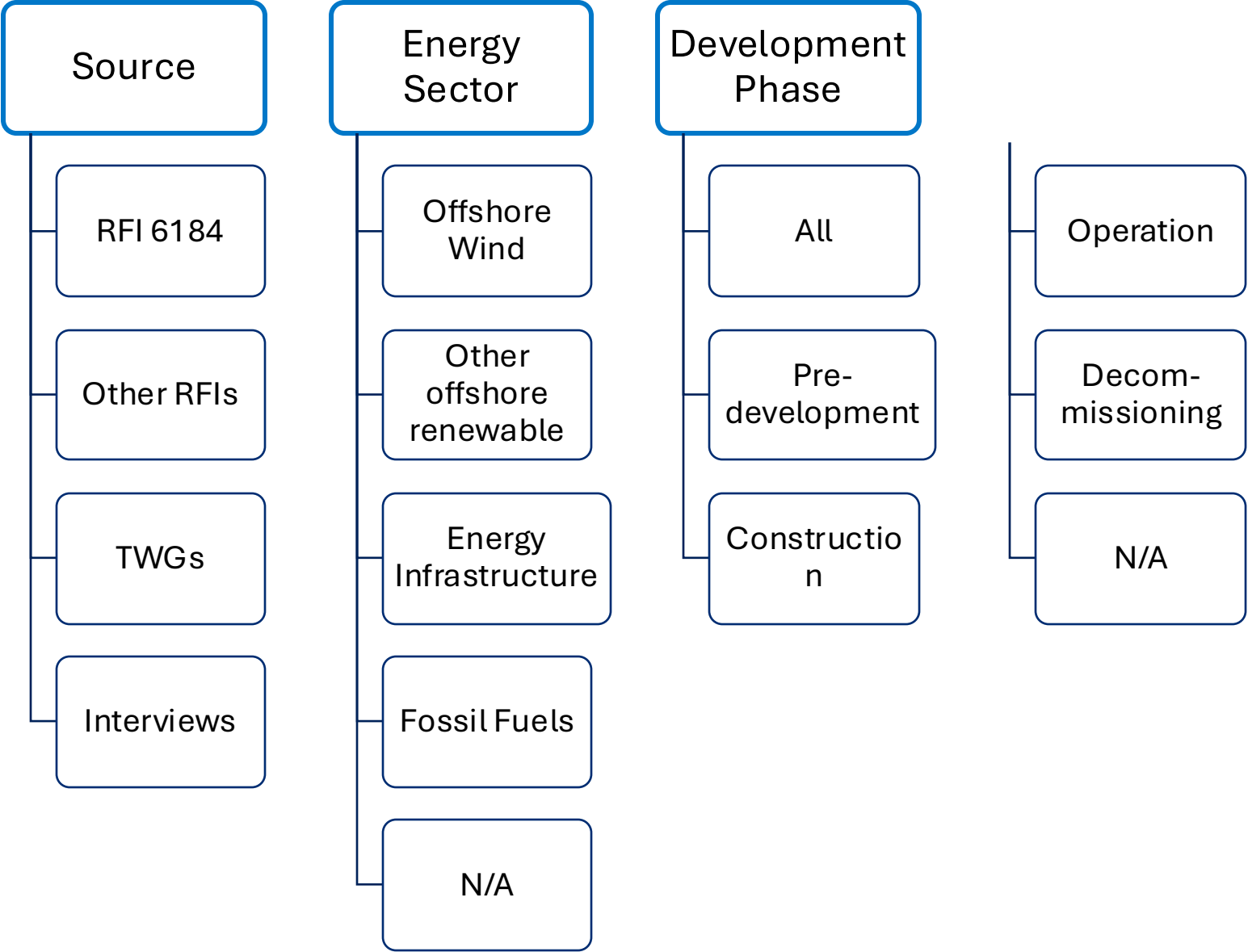
Research Plan Development

3

**Summary of research
priorities**

**Operationalization of
program priorities (data,
communication,
collaboration)**

**Process for
prioritization and
evaluation**



RFI Analysis

1

**Respondent
composition**
Research priorities
Program priorities

Stakeholder Engagement and Review

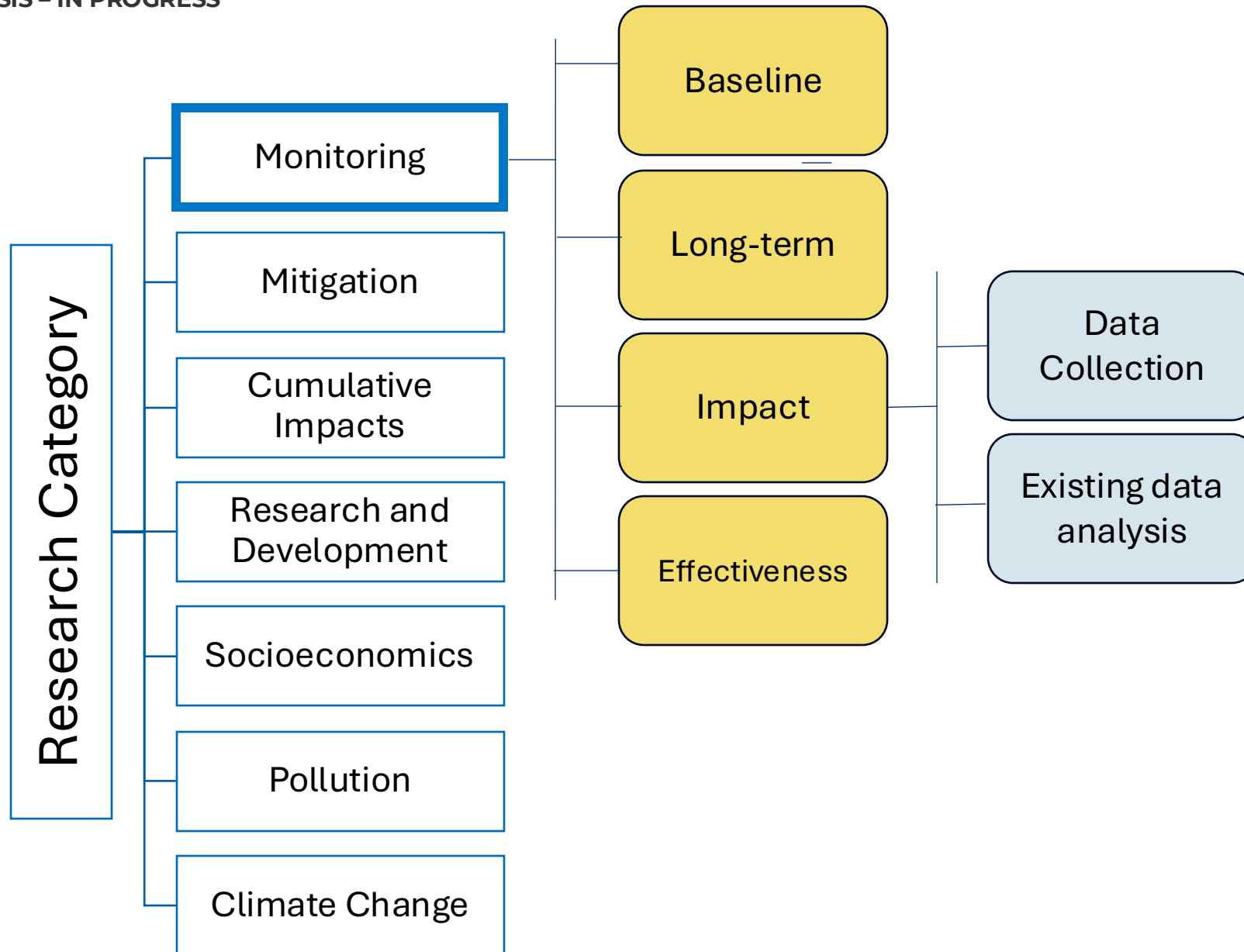
2

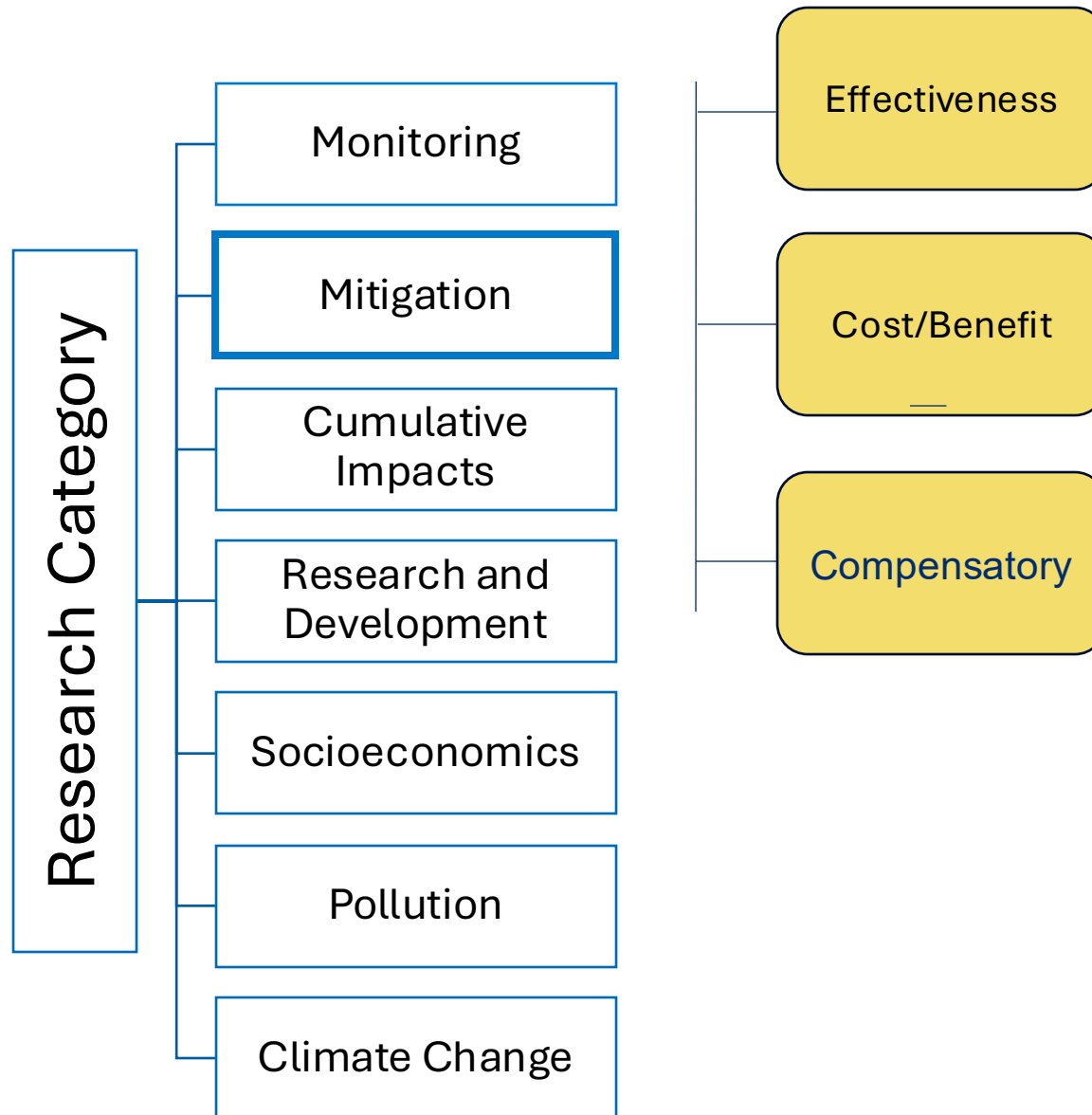
**Underrepresented
groups**
**State agencies (Ocean
Action Plan)**
**Technical Working
Groups**
**Regional research
organizations and
critical funders**

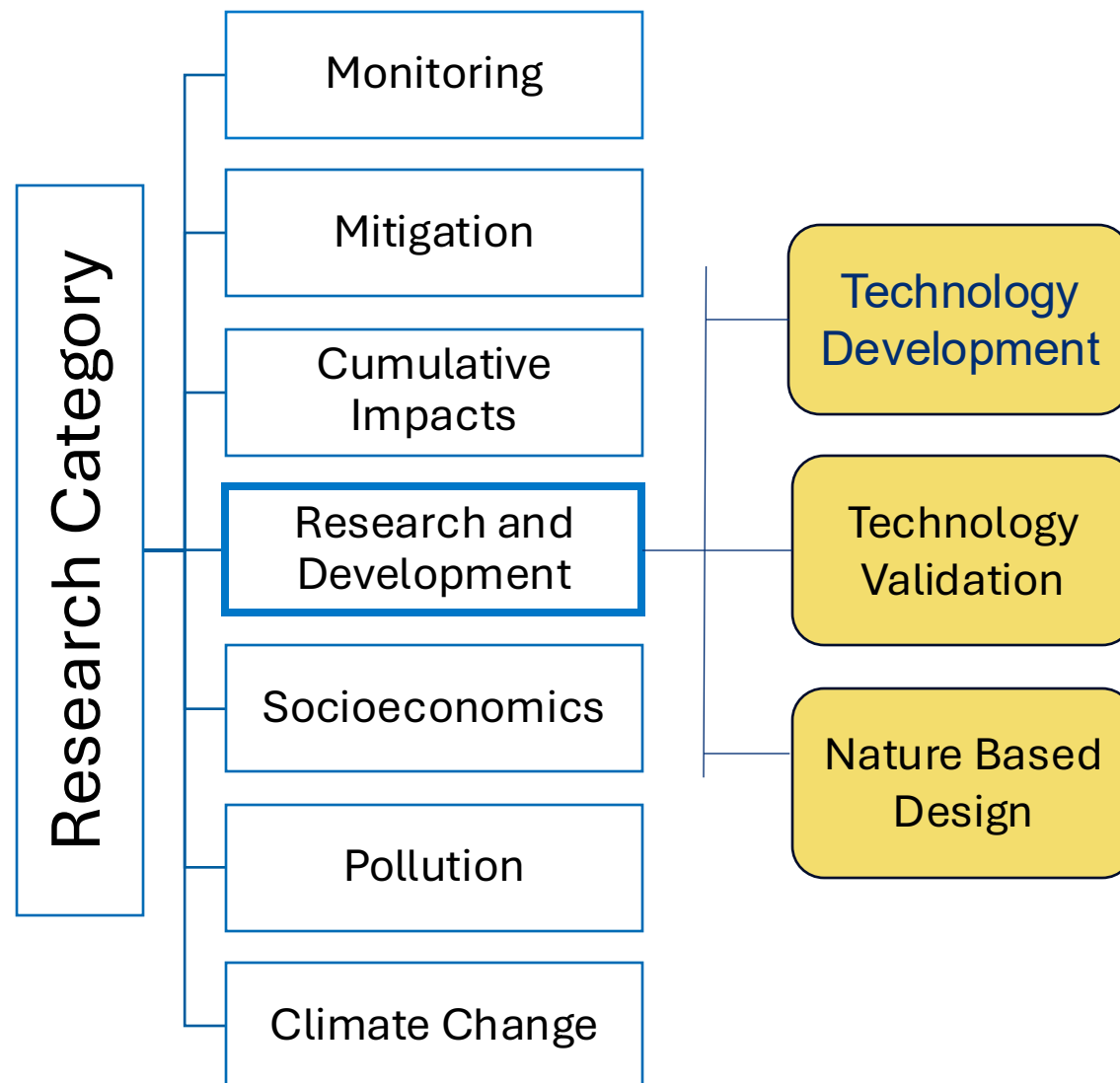
Research Plan Development

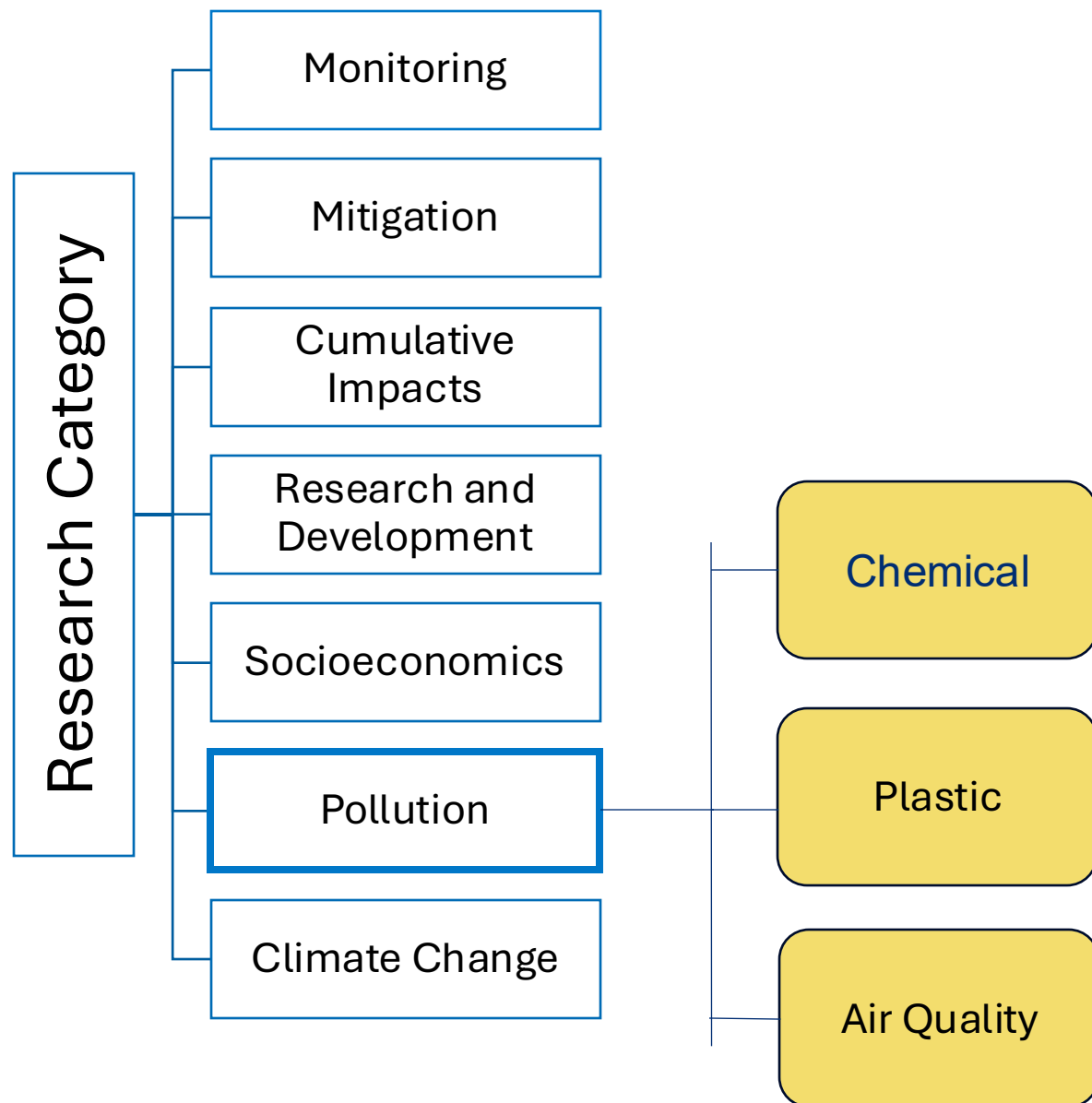
3

Research priorities
**Operationalization of
program priorities (data,
communication,
collaboration)**
**Evaluation/prioritization
criteria**









- **Are there key themes missing or that need greater emphasis?**
 - **As projects shift from planning and construction to operation, what studies should be prioritized?**
 - **Anything else? What do you think are the most important/urgent research needs?**
- Can this be done with existing project data or does it require new data collection?

Data Infrastructure

Sharing

1

- Publicly accessible
- Timely
- Standardize requirements
- Balance transparency with proprietary/sensitivity considerations

Standards

2

- Improve interoperability
- Metadata requirements
- Documented quality control

Preservation

3

- Long-term support for data storage, hosting, and maintenance

Communication and Coordination

Audiences

1

- Identify interested audiences

Materials

2

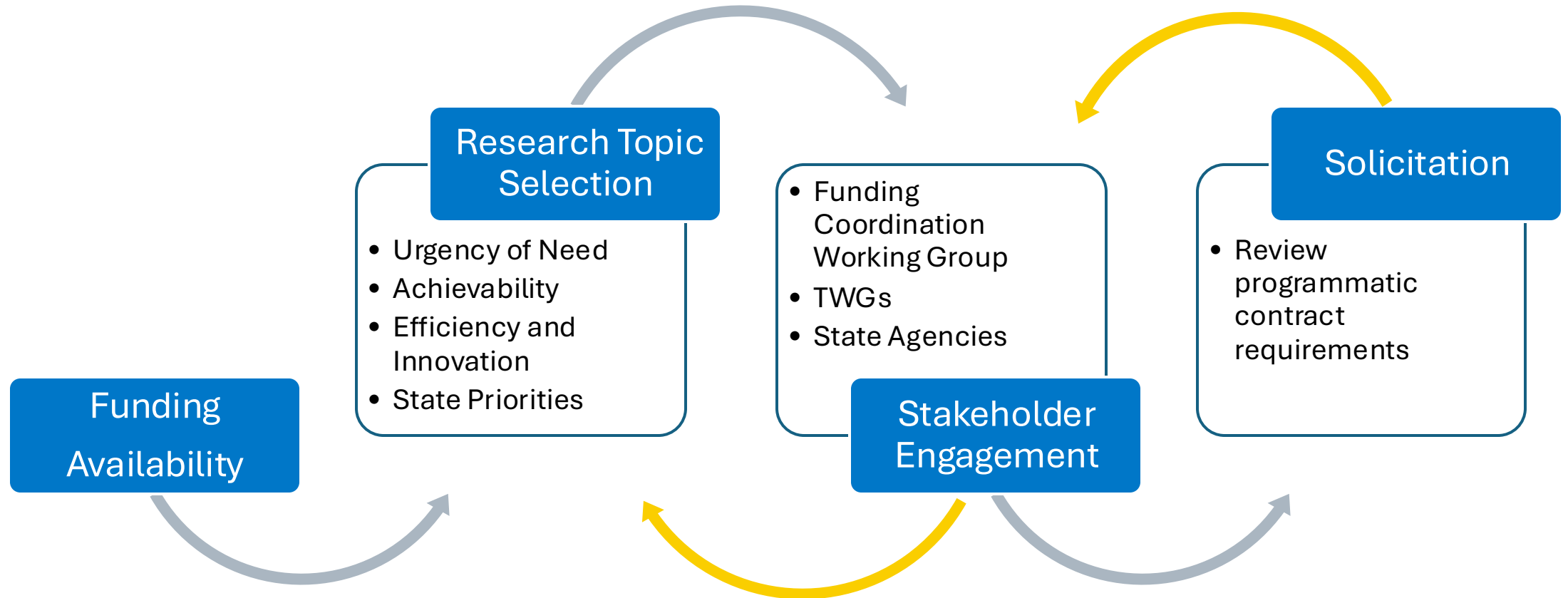
- Tailor to audience
- Emphasis on accessible: policy briefs, webinars, visual, interactive
- Long-term maintenance
- Education: class-room ready resources

Coordination

3

- Increase tribal engagement
- Coordination across sectors to avoid duplication, share findings, joint funding
- Centralized access to research and updates

PROCESS IN RESEARCH PLAN



Data, Communication, Collaboration, and Process

- What do you think are the most important/urgent data needs?
- What do you think are the most important/urgent communication needs?
- Are there big-picture collaboration or process needs that NYSERDA could help to address?
- Are there key themes missing or that need greater emphasis?



E-TWG Member Updates

- Long Island Sound Sensitivity Analysis, Isabella Betancourt
- New York whale-related legislation, Carl LoBue
- Sunrise Wind Project update, Mike Evans
- Empire Wind Project update, Jordan Carduner
- NRDC adaptive management report – Francine Kershaw
- Others?



NYSERDA

BREAK (12:15–1:25)

choose your path

STEP
AWAY
what
color
are the
leaves
outside?

EAT AT
DESK
reply to
that email

E-TWG Member

Knowledge Transfer and Engagement

E-TWG Membership

Developers – Significant individual turnover, loss of long time participants

- Current: Avangrid, Dominion, Equinor, Invenergy, Orsted, RWE, Shell, TotalEnergies, Vineyard Wind
- Lost: Atlantic Shores, SouthCoast Wind, US Wind

Environmental and nonpartisan NGOs – Stable participation

- Current: National Audubon, NWF, NRDC, TNC, WCS, NYOWA

State Government – Relatively stable with few missing states

- Current: New York (NYSERDA, DOS, DEC), New Jersey (DEP, BPU), Connecticut DEEP, Massachusetts CZM, Delaware DNRE, Maryland DNR, Virginia DEQ, North Carolina WRC
- Lost: Maine, Rhode Island

Federal Government – Lower engagement than previously

- Current: BOEM, NOAA, USFWS

Regional Entities/Liaisons – Added recently to improve coordination

- Current: RWSC, F-TWG

- **Instability in current events and organizations' directives**
- **Recent changes in:**
 - **Turnover rate**
 - **Areas of expertise and subsequent balance of expertise**
 - **Contributions/engagement**

E-TWG Membership: Breakout Room Discussion

- How do we ensure knowledge transfer when long-time E-TWG members leave?
- How do we get the right expertise and input to support E-TWG priorities?
- Is there anything we can do to ensure we are getting perspectives from all sectors?

Take 10 minutes. Designate one person to present your group's key points to everyone when we return.



BREAK (come back by 2:13)

E-TWG Committees

Updates

Bird Communications Specialist Committee

FAQ Document: 23 FAQs answered

Goals: provide scientifically sound, accurate answers to address common questions, and create resources for stakeholders who communicate directly with the general public and receive questions related to birds and offshore wind development

Topics include: Foundational Questions and U.S. Atlantic Context, Potential Offshore Wind Energy Development Effects on Birds, Monitoring, Mitigation, and Regulatory Context



Register here!

Final FAQs and associated comms materials coming in October!

Informational Webinar: 10/23, 11a-12p

- Q&A Panelists: Chris Haney (National Audubon) Juliet Lamb (TNC), Nick Lund (Maine Audubon), Kate McClellan Press (NYSERDA)

Frequently Asked Questions: Offshore Wind and Birds

April 2026
Version 1.0



Photo credit: White-winged Scoter © Daniel Poleschook

Developed by the Bird Communications Specialist Committee of the Environmental Technical Working Group, with support from the Biodiversity Research Institute

nyetwg.com/specialist-committees/wildlife-faqs/bird-communications

Sunsetting Committee

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee



Goal: Offer stakeholders easy-to-access, science-based information to anticipate communication needs and respond quickly as needs arise.

- Disseminate accurate info
- Be proactive & responsive
- Offer flexibility

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

Resources

Offshore Wind Media Archive
Public facing resources across a range of relevant topics

Infographic Library
Public facing visuals

Helpful links flyer
Curated E-TWG and sci-comm resources

Key talking points
Internal use for 14 topics

Support Roles

BRI support staff as connector and steward of resources

Developer contacts for project-specific scenarios

Turn Forward to support in media and elected officials role

Knowledge Sharing Network

Invitations to potential communicators
Opt-in to flexible roles

Shared participant list to know who else is involved

Still actively recruiting

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

Resources

Offshore Wind Media Archive

Public facing resources across a range of relevant topics

Infographic Library

Public facing visuals

Helpful links flyer

Curated E-TWG and sci-comm resources

Key talking points

Internal use for 14 topics

Offshore Wind Media Archive

The Offshore Wind Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) formed a specialist committee in June 2025 to aid in the dissemination of accurate, science-based information around the environmental impacts of offshore wind energy development. The committee developed an **Offshore Wind Media Archive** to house public-facing resources (e.g., fact sheets, reports, news articles, webinars) on environmental topics relating to offshore wind energy development.

The media archive was developed using multiple criteria to assess scientific credibility and public reach. See the User Manual for a guide to sorting and filtering the archive. *Clicking the "Launch Media Archive" button or "View larger version" in the bottom right corner of the table below will redirect you to the Airtable host site.*

Launch Media Archive

User Manual

Title	Author(s)	Hosted By	Year	Resource Type
NOAA Educational Resources - Oil Spills	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	2025	FAQ
NOAA Glossary: MMPA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	2024	Website
Marine heat waves cause mass seabird die-offs, beach survey shows	Hannah Hickey	University of Washington	2023	News/Magazine Article
NOAA Glossary: ESA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	2022	Website
Contrary to politicians' claims, offshore wind farms don't kill whales. Here's why	Christina Larson, Jennifer Larson	The Associated Press	2023	News/Magazine Article
Using the beach near an offshore wind farm	Clean Energy Council	Clean Energy Council	2025	Fact Sheet
Offshore Wind Development and Marine Mammals	Marine Mammal Commission	Marine Mammal Commission	2021	Fact Sheet

Available at <https://www.nyetwg.com/offshore-wind-media-archive>

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

Resources

Offshore Wind Media Archive
Public facing resources across a range of relevant topics

Infographic Library
Public facing visuals

Helpful links flyer
Curated E-TWG and sci-comm resources

Key talking points
Internal use for 14 topics

New E-TWG Flyer

- Highlights “Resources” that are hosted on the E-TWG website that aid in communications and the current science around the environmental effects of offshore wind development
- Shareable in email or print

We will share this with you all and the Knowledge Sharing Network via email



E-TWG CURATED RESOURCES



The [Environmental Technical Working Group \(E-TWG\)](#) is an independent advisory body to the State of New York with a regional focus on offshore wind and wildlife issues along the U.S. Atlantic coast. Typically-based committees within the E-TWG develop communication materials to aid in the dissemination of scientifically accurate, readily understandable information related to the impacts and interactions of offshore wind energy development with marine wildlife in the region.

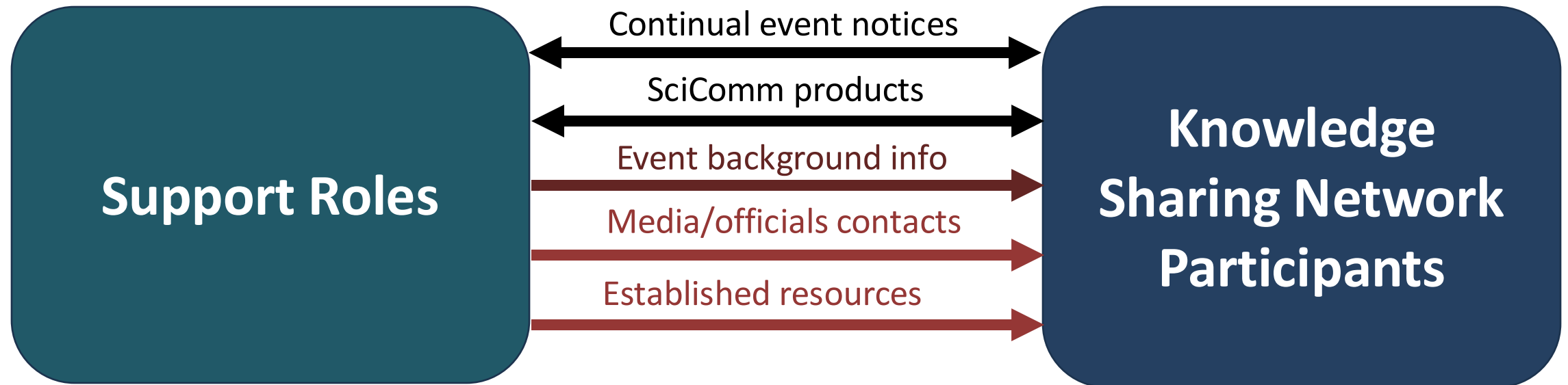
- Get science-informed answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on whales or bird interactions with offshore wind energy development. FAQs were developed using a multi-stage review process with input from committee members, scientific support staff, and topic-area experts that are external to the E-TWG.
- Search practices to avoid, minimize, and offset potential effects from offshore wind energy development on wildlife, the environment, and fisheries using the [Mitigation Practices Database \(MPD\) Tool](#).
- Visit the [Webinar Library](#) for informational videos related to offshore wind energy development and wildlife, ranging from technical to broadly public-facing.
- Explore the [Offshore Wind Media Archive](#) for broadly public-facing information in a variety of formats, searchable by options such as topic, author, and scientific credibility and public reach ranking.
- Tour the [Infographics Library](#) for a collection of visual interpretations of topics related to offshore wind energy development and the environment.
- Dig into more collections of resources on the [E-TWG website](#). Current committee efforts, regional collaborations, and informational updates are added regularly!

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

Knowledge Sharing Network

- Reaching out to potential communicators to join network
- Hosting informational webinars
- Still actively recruiting – interested in joining? Know someone who would be a good fit?

**Ramping down
committee work**



Hear about an event that could use science-based resources and knowledgeable experts to speak to the public/media/elected officials? Reach out to katrina.smith@briwildlife.org

RWSC Working Groups

E-TWG support staff from BRI are providing scientific and technical support for two Working Groups that are part of the RWSC Bird and Bat Subcommittee

> Marine Bird Distribution Working Group

- Goals: Encourage use of surveys as key method for assessing marine bird distributions and distribution change; explore ways to integrate multiple data types to assess changes in marine bird distributions; improve guidance on monitoring methods; coordinate regional-scale data collection and analysis

> Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group

- Goals: Support strategic planning and coordination of regional bird and bat tracking; develop guidance for offshore tracking methods, data management, and sharing; scope new studies and analyses to support working group objectives

Learn more: <https://rwsc.org/bird-bat-subcommittee/>

RWSC Working Groups

Learn more: <https://rwsc.org/bird-bat-subcommittee/>

Meeting monthly or bimonthly since July 2025

Accomplishments to date:

> Marine Bird Distribution Working Group

- Coordinating with Duke to integrate the Northwest Atlantic Seabird Catalog into OBIS-SEAMAP (beta version in review, final version coming soon)
- Developing a manuscript: *Behavior-mediated effects of offshore wind energy development on birds: mechanisms, consequences, and challenges* (in review at Marine Ecology Progress Series)
- Coordinating with the RWSC-funded project: *Avian Vulnerability Estimation and Power Analysis (AVEPowA)* project

> Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group

- Published answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Tracking Birds and Bats in Relation to Offshore Wind Energy Using the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. Now available on the RWSC Bird and Bat Tracking Webpage
- Updated existing Offshore Motus Station Deployment and Calibration Guidance to better reflect best available science
- Developed the RWSC Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group Project Database provides a centralized location for information on tracking studies that are collecting offshore movement data.

RWSC Working Groups

Learn more: <https://rwsc.org/bird-bat-subcommittee/>

Priorities through 2027

> Marine Bird Distribution Working Group

- Continue coordinating with Duke to integrate the Northwest Atlantic Seabird Catalog into OBIS-SEAMAP and pursue publication of manuscript
- In coordination with AVEPowA, support update to the Avian Displacement Guidance that was developed by an E-TWG Specialist Committee (2024; www.nyetwg.com/specialist-committees/avian-displacement)
- Develop a roadmap for cooperative funding of regional-scale surveys

> Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group

- Develop Motus data resources including data management and sharing recommendations and interactive resource table
- Develop avian species prioritization to inform selection of focal species for tracking studies (focused on understanding risk from offshore wind energy development)
- Develop a collaborative monitoring framework to improve strategic planning for coastal Motus stations in relation to offshore wind energy development

Interested in being involved? Email Julia.Gulka@briwildlife.org

An aerial photograph of a turbulent ocean. The water is a deep, dark blue, with large, swirling eddies and white foam from breaking waves. Several dark, jagged rocks are visible protruding from the water's surface, particularly in the lower half of the frame. The overall scene conveys a sense of power and movement.

E-TWG Committee Member Input

- Impressions and takeaways from the committee process so far?
- Other questions?

E-TWG Efforts

Next Steps

Additional E-TWG Priorities

- Discussions to identify potential topics for E-TWG to pursue in the future related to lessons learned
- Potential topic areas:
 1. Aligning project monitoring with regional science needs
 2. Compensatory mitigation
 3. Activities to support technology validation
 4. Lessons learned from development to date
- Potential mechanisms for implementation:
 - Report/summary from the conference
 - Workshop that could produce a workshop report
 - Specialist Committee effort (end product TBD)
 - Research project scoping for inclusion in NYSERDA Research Plan

Does one of the four topics feel least useful/pertinent for the E-TWG to pursue right now?

1. Improve Ability of Project Monitoring to Meet Regional Needs

- **Goal: Help address discrepancies between individual project compliance monitoring and best science**
- Already pursuing coordinated monitoring frameworks via RWSC bird and bat working groups - other needs?
- How do we help address practical barriers to coordination efforts like POWERON?
- Where are the biggest gaps between compliance monitoring and best science?

2. Compensatory Mitigation

- **Goal: Review evidence of change for potential compensatory mitigation measures to inform implementation**
- Identify :
 - Available conservation measures
 - Level of evidence for effectiveness
 - Ability to validate/quantify
 - Key research gaps (to inform future RFPs)

3. Technology Validation

- **Goal: Help address disconnect between advances in monitoring/mitigation technologies and validation and regulatory acceptance of those advances**
- Identify key types of technology to focus on (ex. technological alternatives to vessel speed restrictions)
- Support development of weight of evidence (e.g., via expert elicitation) or formulate certification criteria

4. Lessons Learned from Development to Date

- **Goal: provide forum for developers and regulators to (qualitatively) share lessons learned from monitoring activities**
- Encourage frank sharing regarding 1) challenges with carrying out monitoring plans and 2) potential/realized solutions
- Examples of possible topics: assessment of what was learned from EMF monitoring, marine mammal monitoring during construction

An aerial photograph of the ocean with deep blue and turquoise waves. The left side of the image is darker, while the right side is brighter with more visible white foam from the waves.

Feedback on topic areas?

1. Aligning project monitoring with regional science needs
2. Compensatory mitigation
3. Technology validation
4. Informal sharing of lessons learned from development to date

Does one of the four topics feel least useful/pertinent for the E-TWG to pursue right now?

Whiteboard activity

1. Focus: what are the goals, scope, audience, end products?
2. Process: best mechanisms for pursuing each topic

An aerial photograph of a turbulent ocean. A large, bright white wave crest is visible in the upper left, cascading down towards the center. The water is a deep, dark blue-green color. A single, dark, irregularly shaped rock is visible in the lower center, partially submerged in the churning water. The overall scene conveys a sense of power and movement.

Discussion

- Additional feedback on topic areas?
- Which topic should be prioritized for work in 2027?

State of the Science Conferences

2026 Recap

2028 and Beyond

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

June 2026

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

Highlights

- 460 participants (in-person + virtual)
- 21 symposia, 70 full-length talks, 24 lightning talks, 67 posters
- 10 side meetings, workshops, TechSurge

Exit Survey

- 73 respondents (58 in-person, 8 virtual, 7 both)

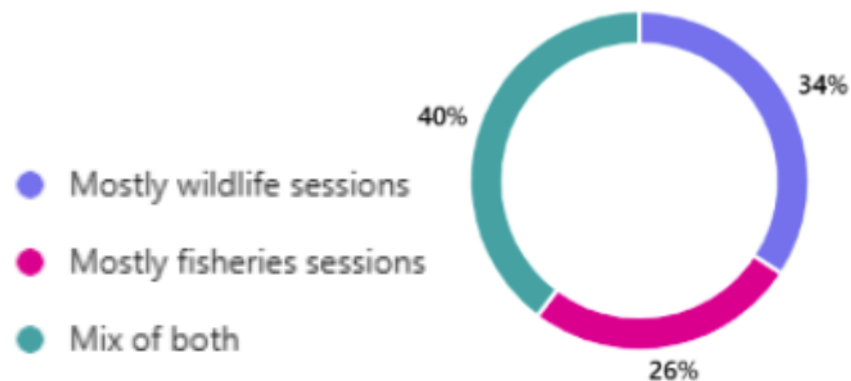


Submit your 2026 photos to
katrina.smith@briwildlife.org

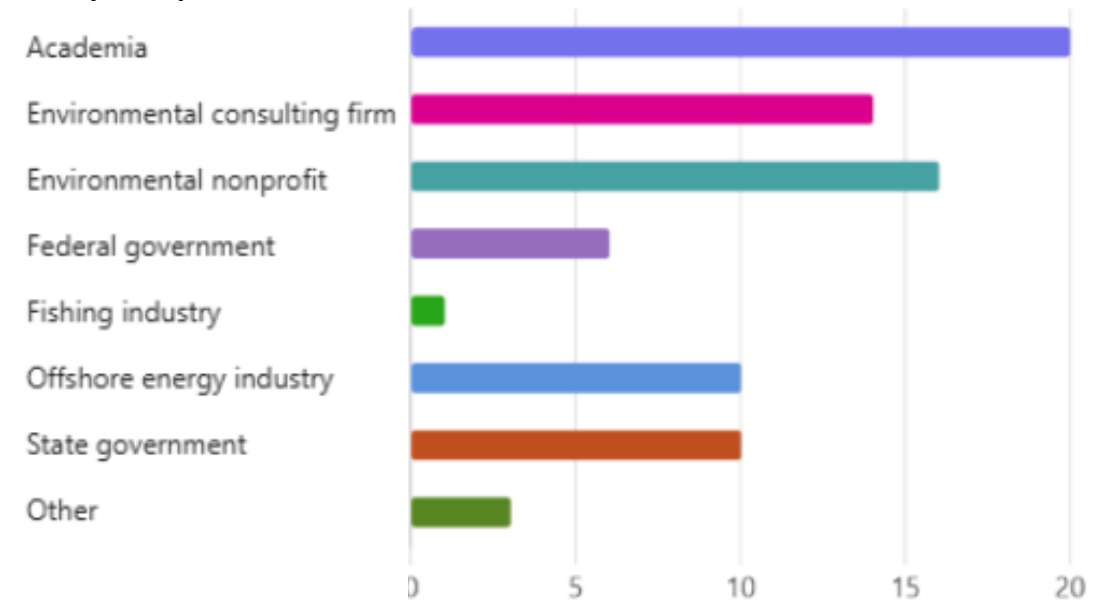
Survey Results

Attendance

- 60% were returning participants
- Significant student participation
- 60% attended side meetings
- Balance of wildlife & fisheries



Survey respondent affiliation:



Survey Results

Positive feedback on scientific program (high-quality presentations, excellent keynote) and conference culture/logistics (organized, welcoming, friendly, strong networking, diverse cross-sector participation)

Attendance & programming suggestions

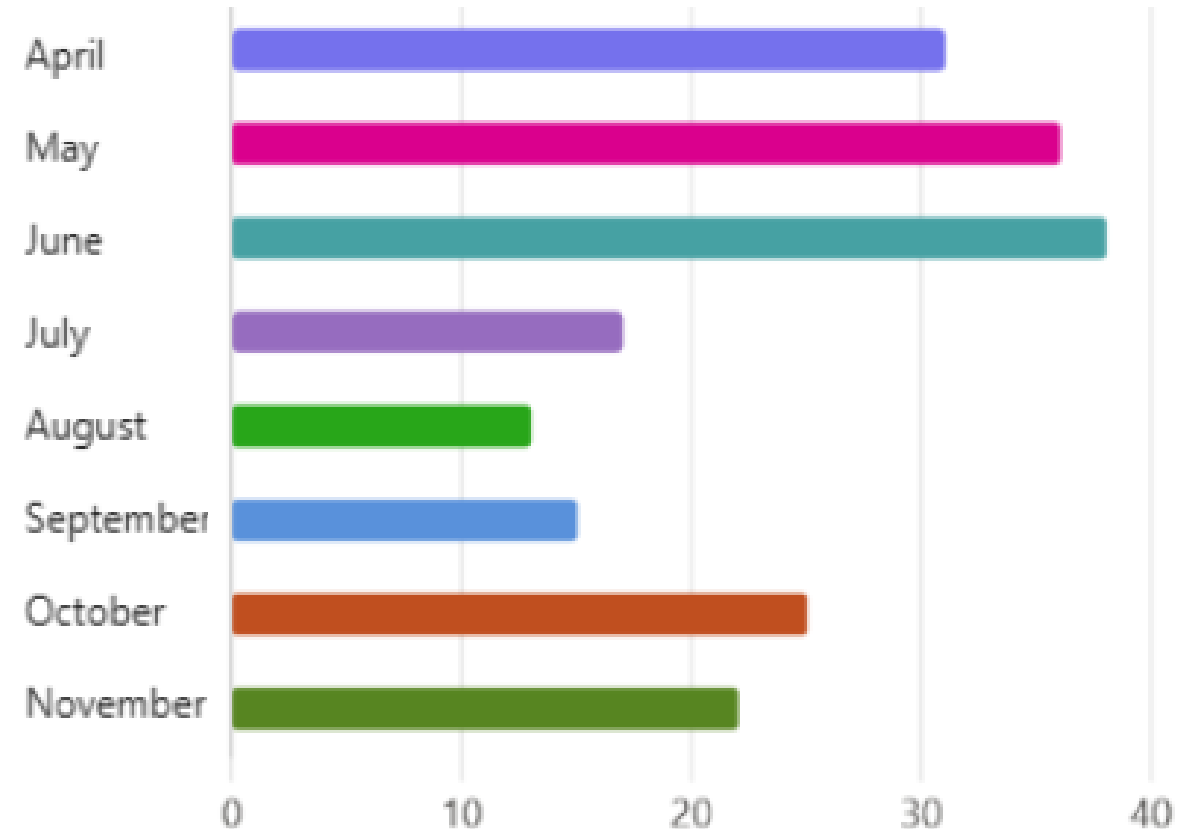
- Promote earlier
- Expand affordable housing & travel support
- **Expand networking events and discussion opportunities**
- Less overlap between sessions and more time between sessions
- **More fisheries, fishing communities, social sciences, socioeconomics**

Tension between time for networking/discussion and presentation slots in the program

Survey Results

Logistics

- April, May, and June preferred*
- Gathering space important
- Easy transport between venue and lodging
- Affordable travel and lodging
- Virtual: improve livestream capability



Survey Results and Input for 2028

Logistics

- April, May, and June preferred*
- Gathering space important
- Easy transport between venue and lodging
- Affordable travel and lodging
- Virtual: improve livestream capability

Tradeoffs with venue and timing: University campuses provide many logistical advantages, but timing is restricted to summer

Take the poll: should we switch up location or timing for 2028?

Planning Committees

Organizing Committee

Members

- NYSERDA science staff who work on offshore wind and wildlife/ fisheries
- E-TWG and F-TWG support staff
- NYSERDA Events staff

Key Roles

- Identify a Scientific Program Chair (SPC) and form the SAC
- Event planning
- Support SPC and SAC activities
- Final decision-making for the event and (via SPC) scientific program
- On-site logistics and event management

Scientific Advisory Committee

Members

Scientists and other topical experts across wildlife taxonomic groups, fisheries, oceanography, technology, geography, etc.

Key Roles

- Assist SPC with development of conference theme, call for abstracts, select symposia
- Participate in abstract review and scoring
- Support development of scientific program
- Identify potential plenary/keynote speakers
- Attend conference and moderate at least one session, if requested

Scientific Program Chair: Duties & Responsibilities

- **Oversee formation of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)**
- **Participate in the Organizing Committee and the SAC**, and ensure communication between the two
- Oversee formulation of the **conference theme** and **call for abstracts**
- Oversee **abstract review process** and help make final decisions on acceptances
- **Develop the scientific program**, including inviting plenary/keynote speakers
- Help **encourage conference participation** by advertising it to relevant individuals and groups
- **Communicate expectations** to session organizers and moderators
- **Attend the full duration of the conference in person** and support individual sessions as needed
- **Present during opening and/or closing sessions** at the conference
- Support development of a **post-conference survey**

The SPC is a member of both the SAC and the Organizing Committee and is selected by the Organizing Committee. The SPC carries out responsibilities with support and input from rest of Organizing Committee, SAC, and E-TWG and F-TWG members.

Scientific Advisory Committee

2026 Representation:

BRI (Chair)	
NYSERDA	NOWRDC
NJ DEP	ROSA
RI DEM	TNC
Montaukett Nation	WCS
BOEM	JASCO
NOAA	Integral Consulting
NMFS	Ørsted
NLR	Duke University
RWSC	Stony Brook University

**Interest in new/diversified
Scientific Program Chair
(or Chairs)?**

Suggestions/volunteers?

2028 Chair must be
finalized by Dec. 2026

Planning for the Future (2030+)

Current landscape: State of the Science is fully funded by NYSERDA. Over the years, E-TWG and Scientific Advisory Committee members have discussed the possibility of diversifying funding. NYSERDA remains supportive of funding future conferences.

Goal: Ensure that we are laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term funding to support the SotS conference for many years to come.



Discussion

- Feedback on importance of diversifying funding
- What are E-TWG priorities for planning/structuring the conference?
 - Scientific program
 - Logistics
 - Attendance
- How do we ensure long-term success?



Wrap Up & Next Steps

E-TWG Lead: NYSERDA – 518-862-1090

Kate McClellan Press x3110,

Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov

Technical Support: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) – 207- 839-7600

Kate Williams x108,

kate.williams@briwildlife.org

Julia Gulka x303, julia.gulka@briwildlife.org

Katrina Zarrella Smith

katrina.smith@briwildlife.org

Zoe Korpi, zoe.korpi@briwildlife.org

Facilitation Support: CBI and Cadmus

Bennett Brooks – 646-761-0652,

bbrooks@cbi.org

Hadley Menk – 703-646-8059,

Hadley.menk@cadmusgroup.com

