

**New York Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)
Meeting Summary –20 November 2025**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
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Disclaimer: While all efforts were made to accurately represent E-TWG discussions, the views expressed in this summary may not represent the views of all E-TWG members.

Background

As part of New York State's efforts to responsibly develop offshore wind (OSW) energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) convened the Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG) in 2018 to provide input to the state¹. On November 20, 2025, the E-TWG held an in-person meeting at the Building Energy Exchange Building at 31 Chambers St, New York City, NY and via video conference. All participants who attended in person or virtually are listed in Appendix A.

This summary is intended to capture the key points of discussion and action items identified during the meeting and is loosely organized according to the structure of the meeting agenda (Appendix B). Opinions are not attributed to specific E-TWG members unless there is a clear reason to do so. For topics where there were differences of opinion among E-TWG members, this summary identifies areas of agreement as well as the different perspectives offered during meeting discussions.

Action Items

- E-TWG members interested in suggesting topics or providing feedback on the “Learning from the experts” webinar series should fill out the form [here](#) or alternatively reach out to Kate McClellan Press (kate.mcclellanpress@nyserda.ny.gov).
- E-TWG members should reach out to Kate Williams (kate.williams@briwildlife.org) with any additional feedback, questions, or concerns regarding the Rapid Communications Committee's next steps, including outreach to potential trusted communicators and implementing scenario responses.
- E-TWG members are encouraged to register and/or submit abstracts for the 2026 State of the Science taking place June 8-11 2026 at Stony Brook University on Long Island. Members can register and submit abstracts [here](#).
- E-TWG members are encouraged to review the draft New York State Energy Plan located [here](#).

Welcome and Introductions

Bennett Brooks (Consensus Building Institute, or CBI) provided a brief introduction and invited all meeting participants, both in person and online via zoom, to provide introductions about their respective organizations. The focus of the meeting was to 1) discuss E-TWG activities, including the 2026 State of the Science Workshop and Specialist Committee efforts, and 2) provide updates and feedback on relevant regional efforts.

Update on the Status of the Industry

New York State Offshore Wind

Kate McClellan Press (NYSERDA) provided an update on the draft [New York State Energy Plan](#), which E-TWG members are encouraged to review. The final draft of the State Energy Plan is scheduled to be released by the end of the year.

The State Energy Plan is updated every four years to provide a 15-year outlook on New York's energy landscape. New York State is on track to meet forecasted growth in electricity demand while

¹For meeting agendas, summaries, and presentations, see: <http://nyetwg.com/e-twg-meeting-archive>

maintaining system reliability. Even with present challenges including an uncertain federal policy landscape, high interest rates and inflation, and supply chain disruptions, New York is continuing to make progress towards its clean energy goals and achieving a zero-emission grid. NYSERDA has just finished addressing public comments on the draft State Energy Plan following the closure of the public comment period on October 6, 2025.

Additionally, NYSERDA submitted [comments](#) to the Public Service Commission at the end of October on two matters related to offshore wind solicitations, the Large Scale Renewable Program and Clean Energy Standard proceeding, and a proceeding on a transmission program to bring energy to New York City. NYSERDA's comments presented several options for further consideration and study, including:

- Developing a state-led offshore wind pre-development program, with New York co-investing in pre-development activities specific to individual projects.
- Evolving offshore wind procurement design to integrate competitive dialog processes with pre-qualified bidders to refine key terms before final pricing, and open-book review for high volatility cost components.
- Exploring advanced transmission coordination frameworks and enabling earlier collaboration between transmission and generation developers.

Finally, NYSERDA has hosted 60 "[Learning from the experts](#)" webinars since 2021, where the public can connect with independent experts covering key topics in offshore wind. NYSERDA is looking for new topics for these webinars, and E-TWG members are encouraged to suggest topics through the [online form](#) or by contacting Kate McClellan Press (kate.mcclellanpress@nyserda.ny.gov).

Sunrise Wind Update

Michael Evans (Ørsted) shared an update on the Sunrise Wind project. Sunrise has made significant progress on construction, with 44 of 84 monopile foundations installed, scour protection installed at 65 of 84 positions, and the offshore converter station installed. The offshore conversion station is particularly notable as Sunrise is the first offshore wind project in the United States to use high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission technology. Boulder relocation along cable routes and locations has also been completed and landfall horizontal directional drill conduits have been installed on the south shore of Long Island. Ørsted's current focus is installing export cable over the winter, with turbine installation scheduled to begin in early 2026. Offshore construction is scheduled to continue in 2027.

Empire Wind Update

Jennifer Dupont (Equinor) shared an update on the Empire Wind project. All monopiles have been installed on Empire 1, and the export cable has been laid. The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal is 75% finished. The operations and maintenance building and the offshore substation have been completed. Next steps include installing towers, nacelles, and blades.

Questions

- **When is the first power expected for Sunrise Wind and Revolution Wind?** Michael Evans (Ørsted) responded that Revolution's date of first power depends on the construction of the onshore substation but is estimated at some time in the first half of next year (2026). Sunrise Wind's first power is expected in Q4 of 2026, with full power expected in the summer of 2027. Kim Peters (Ørsted) shared an update on the South Fork Project which has begun supplying power. In September South Fork powered approximately 70,000 New York homes and is active

in producing power 92% of the time. Reports with further information about South Fork are available online.

Breakout Groups

E-TWG members were split into breakout groups for a 15-minute discussion to identify how the E-TWG can be of the greatest value over the next 3-4 years. Groups were asked to share their key takeaways after the completion of their discussion. The bullets below summarize topics/themes that emerged during the breakout group discussions and should not be interpreted to represent the opinions of the full E-TWG.

Consensus Building

- The E-TWG can serve as a space to connect federal and industry members, providing an opportunity for candor and connection, helping build trust and consensus while recognizing differing perspectives.
- There is a need for continued motivation and momentum in the industry. The E-TWG can keep developers motivated to make projects better for the environment and help maintain enthusiasm for offshore wind projects.

Communication and Sharing Lessons Learned

- The E-TWG can serve as a place to align messaging around offshore wind to sustain public support through effective communication. Coordinating messages around key topics, such as the impacts of offshore wind, can help combat misinformation.
- Ensuring communications materials are accessible to various audiences, including the general public as well as technical stakeholders, is important. This may include identifying how the lessons learned from offshore wind development are applicable to other uses of the ocean or other offshore activities.
- The E-TWG can provide valuable communication with the public. There is a need for intermediaries to connect with scientists and policymakers.
- More positive scientific storytelling is needed to maintain momentum for offshore wind projects.
- Collecting and sharing lessons learned from these early offshore wind projects is a key role the E-TWG should play. There is a need for a forum to collect these lessons learned and turn them into communications materials that can be shared with stakeholders and the public.

Prioritizing Research Funding

- Homing in on specific research needs and goals should be a priority so that developers are ready when offshore wind projects become a policy priority again and so that permitting authorities have the information they need to review permits efficiently.

Aligning Regional Monitoring

- Supporting the coordination of regional monitoring efforts is important so developers understand what monitoring efforts are needed and the associated cost.
- There is a need for data collection on monitoring and mitigation efficiency to understand which efforts work, and which are not worth investing in.

- Communicating at a regional level will help provide a clearer picture of whether monitoring programs are occurring, where efforts may have lapsed, and how implementation relates to offshore project status.

Reforming the Permitting Process

- Discussions around the length and expense of the permitting process and how to address permitting delays may be worthwhile.

Specialist Committees

Rapid Communications Specialist Committee

Julia Gulka (Biodiversity Research Institute or BRI) provided an update on the recent work of the Rapid Communications Specialist Committee (SC). This committee was formed in summer 2025 following a discussion at the last E-TWG meeting in April 2025, where E-TWG members identified a need for clear and timely information as there is increased attention on the offshore wind industry and continued misinformation about offshore wind's environmental impacts. The goals of the committee include providing easy access to science-based information, resources, and communications strategies for stakeholders as topics arise in the public sphere.

The SC developed a list of plausible scenarios that could arise within the public sphere related to offshore wind and environmental issues, which could benefit from pre-developed response resources and communications strategies. Scenarios were broken down by priority, with Tier 1 scenarios listed as high priority (the Committee is currently building out responses), Tier 2 as lower priority (next steps to identify responses), and Tier 3 as outside the environmental scope of the E-TWG's work, but still important to document and pass on to more relevant groups to address.

The SC is currently identifying existing public-facing resources (e.g., fact sheets, public reports, websites, news articles) on scenario topics and is putting these topics into a resource directory. Resources are then being assessed for inclusion based on: 1) evidence base (source has citations, references, and/or quotes from experts), 2) transparency (Source includes information on authorship, date, publication), and 3) production quality (source has a good design, layout, and has functional hyperlinks). To ease navigation of the resource directory, resources can be filtered by audience/complexity, objectivity, and visual support. The Committee has also been identifying key gaps in available information, such as topics where no publicly available resources exist.

The SC is also developing a list of individuals who could serve as potential credible communicators to communicate science-based information on particular scenarios to stakeholders and the public. These individuals could include staff from state and federal agencies, academia, regional entities, environmental and conservation organizations, community groups or fisheries groups. Communicators could assume four primary roles:

- Awareness/informal: Communicators are provided with resources/information on a topic, but are equipped to act mostly informally or pass on resources.
- Internal engagement: Communicators conduct outreach to individuals within an organization, i.e. staff or members.

- External engagement: Communicators conduct outreach with local communities, elected officials, and targeted groups, depending on the scenario.
- Media interactions: Communicators interact with media to facilitate science-based reporting (e.g., relationship building, fielding questions, releasing media statements).

The SC is looking for feedback from the E-TWG on implementation, including how best to reach out to credible communicators and how to catalyze activity if a scenario unfolds.

Members of the SC also presented feedback on the committee process and discussions to date, including:

- The importance of building trust with communicators and understanding their desired level of engagement ahead of time.
- Identifying points of contact willing to serve as intermediaries between the public/press and communicators that understand the constraints of the various groups involved.
- Creating and maintaining an order of operations and ensuring communicators are equipped with as much information as possible to make scenario response rapid and effective.
- The value of developers being prepared with internal resources ahead of time to respond effectively and optimize the resources the Committee can provide.

Discussion

- An E-TWG member suggested running “drills” to allow communicators to practice responding to situations as they unfold in order to feel more prepared. A developer member pointed out that some communicators may not feel comfortable engaging with a large group, so providing drill and training opportunities in smaller groups might remove the pressure to be part of a large network of communicators.
- An E-TWG member suggested that integrating developers’ communications team with the wider network of communicators would allow a more seamless exchange of information.
- Several members recommended elevating select Tier 2 topics to a higher priority for response development.
- Engaging credible communicators in the right way is key. Approaches that could be valuable to help this process include:
 - Mapping communicators across scenarios to identify potential connections with E-TWG and SC members, which could allow for more effective initial engagement.
 - Understanding how communicators want to be engaged. Providing options such as closed-door meetings with elected officials and/or the media may make some communicators more comfortable than asking them to interact in a public manner.
 - Providing media training and/or drill opportunities for credible communicators. This could help communicators understand how to speak the language of journalists and what options are available for speaking with the press.
- Several E-TWG members supported the idea of beginning the process with an invitation-only webinar to introduce the work already done by the SC and explain what would be asked of communicators and to follow up the webinar with a survey via email to determine comfort levels and preferred roles of communicators.
- Each scenario may require a different process. For example, a webinar may work better for some groups than others.

- Decentralizing responses in some scenarios could be valuable and having a fluid response system may also be most effective rather than a linear “chain of command.” This can also be helpful for situations where the correct person to contact is not immediately obvious; ensuring everyone involved is contacted can speed up the process of getting the right message out.
- Proactive outreach to the media is key to ensure journalists go to credible communicators first when they have questions. Connecting journalists to relevant experts in a timely manner is important for effective media outreach.
- A member suggested reaching out to the research group at Brown University ([The Climate and Development Lab](#)) studying anti-offshore wind sentiment to find out what themes are showing up in their literature.
- An E-TWG member encouraged other members to attend legislative hearings and to build relationships with new legislators to start conversations around the positive impacts of offshore wind.

Whales and Bird FAQ Efforts

Whales and Offshore Wind FAQs

Kate Williams (BRI) provided an update on the [Whales and Offshore Wind Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#), which were completed this summer (2025). The Whale Communications Specialist Committee developed a list of FAQs on the potential impacts of offshore wind on whales, as well as a handout, fact sheet, and communications toolkit including social media copy. The SC held a webinar for smaller nonprofits and environmental organizations to make them aware of these resources. E-TWG support staff are interested in feedback from the E-TWG on ways to further encourage use of the FAQ document.

Discussion

- **Are there plans to update the FAQ document as monitoring increases alongside construction operations?** Kate Williams (BRI) confirmed that the SC is not planning to reconvene, and the document is intended to be static, although targeted updates may be considered.
- **Is there tracking and monitoring of if/how these resources are being used?** Kate Williams (BRI) shared that there is currently a survey on the website which includes questions about how people are using the resources. So far, there have only been a few responses. Informally, users have shared with the committee that the resources are being used to inform webinar planning, discussions with the public, public comments, and similar efforts. There currently isn’t an effective way to track how many people are using the FAQ resources. Julia Gulka (BRI) confirmed that views of the FAQ webpage are tracked, but it is difficult to count how many people are using the resources.
- **Is there a palm card version that NYSERDA could take to boat shows?** Kate McClellan Press (NYSERDA) responded that the FAQs have been shared with the NYSERDA liaison who attends recreational boating events, and that NYSERDA takes materials to public meetings.

Bird and Offshore Wind FAQs

Kate Williams (BRI) shared an update on the efforts of the Bird Communications SC developing FAQs on birds and offshore wind, which was formed in December 2024 to develop communications materials to aid in the dissemination of accurate, science-based information about the potential effects of offshore wind development on birds. The committee is following a similar process as for the Whale

Communications SC and is currently meeting every six weeks. Currently, there are about 20 FAQs in various stages of development, with topics including monitoring and mitigation, bird interactions with offshore wind development, and regulatory context, with plans to finalize an initial release in early 2026. As with the whale FAQ effort, the SC is planning to develop supporting materials including a fact sheet and communications toolkit, which will be a focus of the committee's next meeting in December 2025. These FAQs will fill an important gap in available information.

Discussion

- An E-TWG member pointed out that this effort is crucial to being proactive in ensuring the public understands why different wildlife taxa are focused on at different stages of offshore wind development. Ensuring that regulatory agencies have access to these FAQ documents and that they're enabled to use them will be important because the public is likely to come to federal agencies with questions.

RWSC Working Group Support

Kate Williams (BRI) provided an update on technical support provided by BRI under the auspices of the E-TWG to two ongoing Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) working groups, the Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group and the Marine Bird Distribution Working Group. The goal of these working groups is to develop guidance to make monitoring more consistent and effective, and to support the development of frameworks and processes for coordinating monitoring and study designs regionally. Meetings began in July 2025 and have been held monthly or bimonthly, with a coordinating team comprised of staff from RWSC, NYSEDA, BRI, TNC, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .

Bird and Bat Tracking Group

The Bird and Bat Tracking Working Group is meeting monthly to work on several guidance development efforts. This includes updating existing [Offshore Motus Guidance](#) based on stakeholder feedback on processes for deploying Motus stations on offshore turbines and buoys. Common themes emerged in the comments, including updating language to be more specific on the number of antennae per Motus station, and feedback that the existing guidance is being used by a more diverse group of stakeholders than initially imagined, including to inform deployment of terrestrial Motus stations. The group intends to incorporate this feedback to make the guidance useful for a wider variety of technical and non-technical stakeholders, with a revised draft planned to be released by the end of 2025.

Additionally, the group is developing interim guidance for tracking birds and bats in relation to offshore wind development in the form of FAQs to be released early next year (2026). These FAQs emerged as a top priority and will be rolled into a more comprehensive guidance document to be published by the end of 2027. Long term priorities of the working group include supporting the coordination of regional bird and bat tracking efforts and providing input on scoping new studies to support guidance and coordination efforts.

Marine Bird Distribution Working Group

The Marine Bird Distribution Working Group is working with a Duke University team to provide input as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)-funded North Atlantic Seabird Catalog is integrated into Ocean Biodiversity Information System Spatial Ecological Analysis of Mega vertebrate Animal Populations (OBIS-SEAMAP). The Catalog will continue to exist in its own portal but will also be included as part of OBIS-SEAMAP.

Additionally, members of the group are developing a working group webpage, as well as developing a manuscript on the indirect effects of offshore wind development on birds, with the latter effort led by Juliet Lamb (The Nature Conservancy). The manuscript outlines current knowledge about the potential consequences of indirect effects of offshore wind on birds (e.g., displacement, changes in patterns). It also discusses challenges and next steps, and key takeaways on the importance of understanding changes in marine bird distributions in relation to offshore wind development. Long term priorities of coordination with an RWSC research project on designing studies of marine bird distributions at a regional scale (which includes updating avian displacement guidance previously developed by the E-TWG with additional quantitative information) and exploring integration of multiple data types into our understanding of bird distributions.

Discussion

- **It's been six years since the Bird and Bat Specialist Committee published a [best practices document](#) suggesting mitigation and monitoring approaches. Should we look at updating that with recent lessons learned?**
 - Kate Williams (BRI) responded that the group has not considered updating those best practices but will discuss updating this document or ways in which this information could be pulled into other existing efforts (e.g., guidance document, bird FAQs).

Fisheries TWG Updates

Brian Dresser (Tetra Tech) provided an update on recent tools to come out of the Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG), including the Lease Mapping Tool, and the Cooling Water Use at Offshore Converter Stations report.

Lease Mapping Tool

Brian shared a demonstration of the Lease Mapping Tool. This tool was initially developed in 2019 at the request of the fishing industry and includes information on offshore wind lease names, locations, states that may participate in procurement, and contact information for fisheries liaisons. Updates have been made to the tool, which has been available to use via the [F-TWG website](#) since May 2025.

- The tool now includes automatic identification system (AIS) data to provide near-real-time locations of vessels operating in and around lease areas, highlighting vessels associated with OSW projects.
- The tool highlights OSW lease areas by project stage (e.g., under permitting, under construction, in operation).
- Project-level information in the attribute table now has additional vessel information (e.g., vessel name, vessel size, other identifying information). For more details on the vessels, users can search the Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number provided by the AIS data to get information on where the vessel is headed or its route.

Next steps include incorporating vessel information directly into the tool, which would enable users to click on the vessel and get information directly rather than having to search the MMSI number through a vessel finder website.

Discussion

- **For the information on specific lease areas, is that dataset managed by the F-TWG or is it pulled from elsewhere?**
 - Brian confirmed that this information is managed by the F-TWG, and generally updated quarterly with personnel movement as contacts change jobs. Occasionally the F-TWG reaches out to developers for updated information on points of contact for projects.
- **What is the best way for developers to update the point of contact information included in the tool?**
 - Brian confirmed that information can be sent to him (brian.dresser@tetrattech.com). Brian shared that the F-TWG typically starts with publicly available information to update points of contact and then may contact developers if more information is needed.
- **What is the geographic scope/coverage of the Lease Mapping Tool? Will there be any long-term data analysis on the use of these areas?**
 - Brian responded that the geographic coverage is limited to southern New England through the Mid Atlantic, more specifically Martha's Vineyard/Nantucket down to Delaware. Nothing south of US Wind is included. Brian emphasized that there are many possible ways to use this data in the long term, including looking at vessel tracks over time. The data from the tool is not currently being analyzed.
- **Are there plans to update this information as infrastructure is installed, or do you need to wait for the basemap to update?**
 - Brian responded that the map is based on a nautical chart from National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, so the infrastructure updates are not being updated separately for the tool.
- **How often is the AIS data updated?**
 - Brian answered that AIS data is updated every 10 minutes.
- NYS Dept. of State shared that they have ESRI layers that could be linked to the tool. Brian responded that linking other data could be helpful, and that this could be discussed with Morgan Brunbauer (NYSERDA).

Cooling Water Use at Offshore Converter Stations

Brian Dresser (Tetra Tech) shared an update on the report written by F-TWG on Cooling Water Use at Offshore Converter Stations. Comments on the draft report were collected and incorporated starting in September 2024, and the [finalized version](#) is now available. Cooling water intake and discharge regulations have long been in place under the Clean Water Act, but cooling water is new to offshore wind in terms of its impact on marine environments. High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) substations on projects such as Sunrise Wind convert AC power generated by the wind farm to DC power, a process which generates heat and requires cooling water to facilitate. HVDC cables require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit. The report sought to provide more clarity on the relative impacts of offshore wind cooling water intake and discharge on the environment, and the topics covered are summarized below.

- Power plants are by far the biggest source of cooling water in coastal environments, with volumes ranging from a couple hundred million gallons to three billion gallons per day. Other

sources that use cooling water include vessels, offshore liquid natural gas ports, and oil rigs. Each source has different requirements for cooling water.

- There is no standard amount of cooling water yet for offshore wind converter systems, however, it's estimated at 5-10 million gallons/day.
- Impacts of cooling water intake and discharge from an offshore wind converter station include:
 - Impact on currents and/or bathymetry in the hydraulic zone of influence, or the portion of the water column around the cooling water intake.
 - Entrainment, where eggs/larvae withdrawn into the cooling water intake
 - Impingement, where larger organisms that could get stuck on screens. If intake is less than 0.5 feet per second, this should not be an issue.
 - Chlorination, whereby an electrochlorination system is used to minimize biofouling. This system is designed to only use enough oxidants so that all oxidants will be used up before discharge, maintaining compliance with the 30 µg/L limit at the point of discharge.
 - Thermal discharge whereby heated water is discharged back into the ocean in the mixing zone. The mixing zone is a 100m diameter around the point of discharge; heated water must return to within 1 degree Celsius of ambient seawater within that diameter.

Mitigation Practices Database Tool

Julia Gulka (BRI) shared an update on the [Mitigation Practices Database \(MPD\) tool](#) developed by the E-TWG. The MPD tool was originally developed in 2018 to provide a searchable database of mitigation practices relevant to minimizing or avoiding impacts of offshore wind on wildlife, the environment and fisheries. BRI and Tetra Tech have recently updated the tool with new information from recent sources (2019 - 2024), adding an additional 80 source documents for a total of 462 mitigation approaches in the updated database. Many of the new sources are focused on minimizing impacts, and some were pulled from related industries such as terrestrial wind. More search terms were also added to better represent sources focused on avoidance and compensation.

Revisiting the Lessons Learned Priority Topic

Kate Williams (BRI) provided an update on the E-TWG of the priority topic of sharing lessons learned, which includes sharing research, monitoring methods, and effects findings, informing methodological improvements, and guiding future projects. The goal of sharing lessons learned is to improve future monitoring and mitigation efforts, eliminate duplicated or unnecessary effort, and share findings related to offshore wind effects on wildlife. Kate shared that there are two potential mechanisms for sharing lessons learned: having it be a theme for the 2026 State of the Science Workshop, and collating mitigation data across offshore wind projects for a regional scale analysis which can inform recommendations for future mitigation efforts. The first mechanism is being pursued, while after discussions in early 2025 the data analysis component was put on hold to revisit at a later date.

2026 State of the Science Workshop

The fifth State of the Science on Offshore Energy, Wildlife, and Fisheries conference will take place at Stony Brook University on June 8-11, 2026. The call for abstracts is currently open until December 12, 2025. Registration is also [open](#), and E-TWG members and Specialist Committee members are

encouraged to register. Registration is free for E-TWG members and their alternates and current Specialist Committee members. The conference will also feature options for virtual attendance, including for speakers, with virtual speakers prerecording presentations but being available to answer questions live.

The 2026 conference theme is “Building on a strong foundation: deepening knowledge and finding collaborative solutions”. The Scientific Advisory Committee will be reviewing submitted abstracts with a focus on lessons learned from offshore wind projects and other related industries. The Scientific Advisory Committee is also planning curated sessions focused on science communications and knowledge exchange, coordinating monitoring across offshore wind projects, and lessons learned from regional research projects in the U.S. and globally, as well as a potential keynote focused on how to update the state of knowledge and inform better decision making.

Discussion

Bennett Brooks (CBI) prompted the group to consider whether there are other ways to think about lessons learned, and to share suggestions for integrating a lessons learned theme into the 2026 State of the Science Workshop.

- A developer member shared positive feedback on the lessons learned theme for the conference and shared that their team is currently figuring out what they can share about lessons learned from foundation installation. They asked if these abstracts should be submitted as normal abstracts, outside of the curated sessions. Kate Williams (BRI) confirmed that abstracts can be submitted as regular abstracts outside a curated session.
- A developer member suggested updating TWG websites before the State of the Science to include more recent pictures of U.S. offshore wind projects, pointing out that the current pictures are from European projects that don't accurately depict U.S. offshore wind. Accurate photos can help the public understand what U.S. offshore wind projects actually look like.
- An E-TWG member asked if there are credible communicators identified by the Rapid Communications SC who may be interested in attending the conference. Kate Williams (BRI) responded that while there may be some overlap between communicators and those interested in attending the conference, many are not on the mailing list for State of the Science as the list only includes those who have attended in the past. Support staff will consider opportunities to engage this group.
- An E-TWG member suggested inviting a plenary speaker from Stony Brook's Science Communication program to motivate attendees about the importance of effective communication. Kate Williams (BRI) responded that this is a good suggestion. Another member suggested a focus at the workshop on what works and what doesn't in communication, and the psychology of good communication, separately from the tools that E-TWG is making available as resources.
- An E-TWG member suggested holding a demonstration of the simulation at the United States Maritime Resource Center facility in Newport which shows what it's like to drive ships through lease areas.

Data Compilation and Analysis

Kate Williams (BRI) gave an overview of the proposal to conduct a pilot effort in regional data synthesis and analysis, focusing on the effectiveness of real-time marine mammal mitigation efforts such as

Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) and Protected Species Observers (PSOs). This could serve as a test case for developing standardized data processes for regional scale analyses. Support staff did some initial exploration of available PAM and PSO data to better understand data availability for this type of analysis. Kate and Bennett Brooks (CBI) asked the E-TWG to consider whether the E-TWG wants to pursue this component at this time, or if there is any feedback on this approach or alternative topics.

Discussion

- **What question are we trying to answer with this data analysis?**
 - Kate Williams (BRI) responded that the goal is to assess the efficacy of PSOs vs. PAM at detecting marine mammals, which we heard from previous E-TWG discussions could be valuable to inform mitigation monitoring moving forward.
- **Why are we separating these two datasets, when they are often used together?**
 - Kate Williams (BRI) responded that there has been feedback that one dataset is more effective than the other, and that identifying the cost efficiency of each dataset would be useful.
- **Are there parameters to optimize within these two systems of data collection to make sure mitigation is effective and that we're not just comparing the two?**
 - A developer member expressed support for this idea and noted that it would be a very technical analysis.
- Several developer members suggested waiting until more data is publicly available from construction of current projects, potentially in 2027. An additional topic that came up as of interest was mitigation for vessel strike risk (e.g., speed restrictions and infrared camera use), with developer concerns about the 10-knot speed restriction.
 - An E-TWG member asked if a group looking at vessel strike and infrared camera use is still meeting. Another member indicated that there were some workshops last year on the topic and a request for proposals went out for developing technology for these concerns. NOAA Fisheries was writing a document on the qualification criteria and the selection of monitoring systems last year, but the status of that document is not known. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has some public information on what's been done to address vessel strike risk, but it may not include specific guidance on choosing technologies.
 - A developer member shared that an acoustically monitored corridor has been very successful at allowing developer vessels to exceed the 10-knot limit at certain times. They pointed out that offshore wind has an excellent track record so far, with no whale strikes. The member suggested a literature review pulling statistics on vessel strikes across industries and highlighting the practices that are required of offshore wind operators (e.g., thermal cameras) that have prevented vessel strikes.
 - Multiple members across sectors expressed support for the focus on vessel strike data, noting that other vessels including ferries are legally allowed to go much faster, causing risk to wildlife. They indicated that putting into perspective the impacts of other vessels vs. offshore wind vessels could help with public perceptions. Another member noted that even basic statistics such as how many vessels have been added as a result of offshore wind projects versus the number of hours of construction and the lack of

incidents, would be useful. A Duke University student recently published a thesis on offshore wind vessel activity, but more information is needed.

- An E-TWG member suggested a workshop to brainstorm how to evaluate mitigation costs and effectiveness, with a goal of informing a more streamlined permitting process. This workshop could involve developers, regulators, and independent assessors such as academics.
- An E-TWG member noted that projects have unique seabeds and environmental factors, so context should be kept in mind when doing any sort of analyses on mitigation tools that worked and cautioned against oversimplification with potential site-specific characteristics influencing results. They agreed that streamlining the permitting process would be beneficial and suggested this analysis could form a good PhD project.
- A developer noted that developers are identifying these lessons learned as projects are under construction and become operational, so capturing these lessons sooner rather than later is advised.

Coordinating Regional Research and Monitoring Efforts

Emily Schumchenia (RWSC) and René Reilly (Responsible Offshore Science Alliance, or ROSA) shared an update on their joint effort to coordinate regional research and monitoring efforts. In 2024, ROSA and RWSC launched biannual fisheries and wildlife/habitat-specific research funder coordination meetings to track work funded through competitive solicitations. These meetings present an opportunity to share lessons learned, tools for coordination, and new funding opportunities. Given the large number of requests for proposals (RFPs) this year, requests were made for a more regular meeting series focused on fine-scale coordination. ROSA and RWSC have been tracking partners' offshore research solicitations and procurement processes and participating in proposal review and selection. There has been strong support for the forum, with funders inviting ROSA and RWSC to participate in proposal review and selection, and funders participating in the review and selection process for other funders.

This process provides opportunities for leverage and coordination across projects, including for:

- Research entities submitting similar proposals to multiple funders
- Funders soliciting research on similar or related topics
- Projects with a geographic area of focus on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf
- Projects with an offshore wind focus

Regional coordination is important for a variety of reasons:

- Managing overlaps in project time or area of focus
- Avoiding engagement fatigue or stakeholder burnout
- Data standardization
- Maximizing efficiency in research budgets and research topics

Since September 2024, there have been 16 new RFP processes, 60 projects selected, and \$45 million invested largely in offshore wind related studies. The coordination group has been meeting monthly since August to track open and upcoming funding and summarize information on project topics and research entities.

Recommended examples of coordination activities to ensure interoperable and compatible data include:

- Encouraging or requiring investigators to participate in RWSC Subcommittee and ROSA Advisory Council meetings
- Requiring awardees to submit Data Management and Sharing Plans, ideally using the template developed by RWSC
- Requiring investigators to follow RWSC and ROSA recommended practices, such as intellectual property policies, standards and repositories
- Leveraging state ocean planning efforts

Examples of active coordination RWSC and ROSA are currently undertaking include:

- Using ROSA/RWSC webinars and Subcommittees as a way for researchers to share their progress and findings. Researchers have reacted positively to this, and some asked for another webinar opportunity to share projects that were not yet ready at the time of the initial webinar.
- Developing “Recommended practices for research funding coordination” for funders, which will include suggested language for contracts to facilitate researcher coordination and interaction with RWSC and ROSA
- RWSC/ROSA acting as an aggregator of information to disseminate information from developers to researchers, avoiding stakeholder fatigue if multiple researchers want access to the same information

Several other funders have adopted some of RWSC & ROSA’s recommendations, such as requiring awardees to develop Data Management and Sharing Plans, coordinating with other funders to develop RFPs, and inviting other funders to sit on project advisory committees. This work has already resulted in several lessons learned, including feedback that large research entities tend to secure more funding from multiple funding sources. The committee is currently brainstorming ways to incentivize funding of smaller institutions. Additionally, many funders have fixed contract language, so putting coordination requirements into scopes of work and budgets (i.e. in the RFP development phase) would be beneficial, as well as ensuring that researchers are compensated for their coordination and data management work as part of their grants. The group also noticed that the information needed to enable project-level coordination matches information captured by ROSA’s [FishFORWRD](#) and the [RWSC Research Database](#). These databases can be used to oversee project coordination. Overall, there is an opportunity for RWSC and ROSA to serve as a communications channel during all phases of the research and data procurement process, from RFP planning to selection and announcement.

Discussion

- Kate McClellan Press (NYSERDA) shared that NYSERDA puts language on coordination into scopes of work during the RFP stage so that coordination expectations aren’t a surprise after the contract is awarded. Researchers should be paid for coordination time. Kate also asked the group how to include early career researcher outreach and how to include students in the process.
- Several E-TWG members expressed support for the initiative.
- A developer member asked if there is a way to find out which projects are answering fundamental questions about offshore wind impacts and mitigations, and when those answers might be expected.
 - Emily Schumchenia (RWSC) responded that researchers are required to articulate what the results will be (in terms of the types of data produced) and when those results might

be ready as part of their data management and sharing plans. Having these projects in one database helps answer these questions.

- Reneé Reilly (ROSA) shared that a [gaps analysis](#) was recently published using the FishFORWRD database, which mapped project priorities and research needs. The analysis classified priorities as explored or addressed, to identify where research gaps exist without closing the door on further research of existing topics. This project was peer reviewed and provides a template for future gaps analyses.
- **Can we have numbers on the money invested in research since 2016?**
 - Reneé Reilly (ROSA) responded that there have been 240 fisheries/offshore wind related projects, but ROSA can add up the funds and report back.
- **How much is the funders group discussing incorporating communications and outreach expectations?**
 - Kate McClellan Press (NYSERDA) responded that as a funder, NYSERDA puts language about communication of results into solicitations and contracts. NYSERDA requires researchers to create one-pagers for lay audiences about their research findings, and potentially other communications materials depending on the project.
 - Emily Schumchenia (RWSC) shared that RWSC-funded projects are required to report findings quarterly. RWSC assists their projects in developing a research outcome brief, which includes what the work does and why it matters. RWSC has also found that funders want to know what the results of the study are before the public release of this information, as questions might be directed at the funding organization about the study results, and they want to be prepared. RWSC and ROSA are good forums for sharing these results internally.
 - Reneé Reilly (ROSA) shared that ROSA also regularly presents to fisheries councils, such as the New England and Mid Atlantic fisheries management councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This means that ROSA has existing relationships with these communities and is able to help communicate positive progress on offshore wind to these groups.
- **What are the priority topics for research?**
 - Emily Schumchenia (RWSC) responded that the RWSC and ROSA are great places to discuss that question.
- **Project studies in the past have had issues with not being able to share information. Have there been changes in the ability to share offshore wind project scientific studies?**
 - Reneé Reilly (ROSA) responded that project studies are often species distribution heavy because of monitoring requirements. Progress has been made in changing the narrative around data sharing based on timescale and resolution. This is critical for making it less risky for developers to share data and metadata.
- An E-TWG member suggested that research should also include counter studies, such as what could happen with offshore wind projects that aren't able to be finished or have to be dismantled. This could include the impact on carbon emissions, etc.
- **Has this initiative been pitched to the press?**
 - Emily Schumchenia (RWSC) confirmed this has not been pitched to the press.
 - An E-TWG member expressed support for the approach of engaging with specific communities, such as the fisheries community, as opposed to going to the press.

Wrap Up

Bennett Brooks (CBI) and Kate McClellan-Press (NYSERDA) wrapped up the meeting by thanking all attendees for participating. Both also provided reminders on the following:

- There are many opportunities for input on the activities of the Rapid Communications Specialist Committee, including ideas for mapping credible communicators and recommendations for how to develop “drills” or media trainings for communicators. E-TWG members are encouraged to share feedback and ideas with support staff (julia.gulka@briwildlife.org).
- The 2026 State of the Science will be held June 8-11, 2026 at Stony Brook University. A key focus will be lessons learned from U.S. offshore wind development. E-TWG members interested in participating in conversations about how the lessons learned theme should be implemented should reach out to support staff (kate.williams@briwildlife.org). Support staff will follow up with E-TWG members regarding abstract review and other conference details.
- Support staff are also interested in incorporating a science communication theme and student involvement in the 2026 State of the Science. Members with ideas for how to incorporate these themes are encouraged to reach out to support staff (kate.williams@briwildlife.org). The Scientific Advisory Committee will reach out to Stony Brook to ask if one of their Science Communication staff might be interested in speaking at the conference.
- Support staff will look into updating the imagery used on the E-TWG website to more accurately reflect U.S. offshore wind projects.
- NYSERDA is currently planning for 2026 E-TWG meetings. Potential ideas for meeting topics include project-specific update meetings, lunch and learn series on projects to provide short updates on specific project milestones, and using virtual meetings prior to the State of the Science in June.

Appendix A: List of Participants

Point of Contact	Organization	Stakeholder Type	Role
Kate McClellan Press	NYSERDA	State Govt.	Convener/chair
Isabella Betancourt	NYS Dept. of State	State Govt.	New York State
Koen Broker	Shell Renewables	Developer	Advisor
Elise Campbell	Avangrid Renewables	Developer	Advisor
Kira Dacanay	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Federal Govt.	Observer
Julia Dombroski	Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative	Regional Entity	Observer
Jennifer Dupont	Equinor	Developer	Advisor
Hollie Emery	MA Coastal Zone Management	State Govt.	Observer
Mike Evans	Ørsted	Developer	Advisor
Catherine Fede	NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation	State Gov.	New York State
Elise Frazier	VA Coastal Zone Management	State Govt.	Observer
J Christopher Haney	National Audubon Society	eNGO	Advisor
Kristen Hislop	Invenergy	Developer	Advisor
Atma Khalsa	Avangrid Renewables	Developer	Advisor
Lucy Lefkowitz	National Wildlife Federation	eNGO	Advisor
Kristi Lieske	DE Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	State Govt.	Observer
Carl Lobue	The Nature Conservancy	eNGO	Advisor
Becca Loomis	Natural Resources Defense Council	eNGO	Advisor
Elizabeth Marsjanik	Vineyard Offshore	Developer	Advisor
Amanda Mayhew	RWE	Developer	Advisor
Caitlin McGarigal	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection	State Gov.	Observer
Maeve Munnely	Vineyard Offshore	Developer	Advisor
Darrell Oakley	Equinor	Developer	Advisor
Kimberly Peters	Ørsted	Developer	Advisor
Patrick Roberts	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Govt.	Observer
Emily Shumchenia	Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative	Regional Entity	Observer
Esther Siskind	Vineyard Offshore	Developer	Advisor
Sarah Trabue	Wildlife Conservation Society	eNGO	Advisor
Stephanie Vail-Muse	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Govt.	Observer
Sharon Whitesell	Ørsted	Developer	Advisor

Support Staff

Bennett Brooks (Consensus Building Institute)
 Eleanor Eckel (Biodiversity Research Institute)
 Julia Gulka (Biodiversity Research Institute)
 Mary McElroy (Biodiversity Research Institute)
 Hadley Menk (The Cadmus Group)
 Kate Williams (Biodiversity Research Institute)

NYSERDA Staff

Janna Herndon (NYSERDA)
Jeremy Magliaro (NYSERDA)
Valeria Milesi (NYSERDA)

Other Attendees

Brian Dresser (Tetra Tech)

Appendix B: Meeting Agenda

New York Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)

Meeting Agenda

20 November 2025 - 9:30 – 4:30 pm EDT

Location: Building Energy Exchange, 31 Chambers St, New York, New York, and online via Zoom

Meeting Objectives

Discuss various E-TWG efforts including specialist committees and the State of the Science and regional relevance efforts.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
9:30 -10:00 am	<i>Breakfast Social (coffee and light refreshments provided)</i>
10:00 - 10:20 am	Welcome
10:20 - 11:00 am	Status of the Offshore Wind Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates• Discussion
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Specialist Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid Communications Committee Discussion• Updates on Whale and Bird FAQ efforts and RWSC Working Group Support
12:15 -1:15 pm	<i>Lunch (provided on site)</i>
1:15 - 1:45 pm	Fisheries TWG and Other Updates
1:45 - 3:00 pm	Revisiting the Lessons Learned Priority Topic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 1: 2026 State of the Science Workshop• Part 2: Data compilation/analysis
3:00 - 3:30 pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>
3:30 - 4:15 pm	Coordinating Regional Research and Monitoring Efforts
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Wrap Up & Next Steps