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RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE SCIENCE ALLIANCE Year in Review



The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)'s mission is to advance regional research and monitoring of fisheries and offshore wind interactions through collaboration and cooperation. ROSA efforts currently focus on the waters from Maine to North Carolina.



ROSA is dedicated to research, regional collaboration, and communication on offshore wind and fisheries.

Message from the Executive Director

When I was invited last February to serve as ROSA's first Executive Director, I never imagined that we would be creating the structure for the organization, holding the first meetings of governing bodies, and building partnerships—all by videoconference, in the middle of a pandemic. Despite the challenges that the global health crisis has presented, we made great progress in 2020, and I am very proud of the work that we in the ROSA community have collectively done.

Highlights of the year include:

- Establishment of the **Advisory Council**, which guides our research and monitoring goals, through an inclusive selection process. The council, comprised of representatives from a range of sectors, convened for two productive working meetings.
- Creation of draft guidelines, by ROSA's first working group, to inform the development of fisheries and monitoring plans at commercial offshore wind farms. This project has been a great proof of concept for the organization and a transparent process, with many sectors being represented on the working group and more than 200 comments submitted from members of the community. Final guidelines will be available early in 2021.
- Participation in the Synthesis of Science workshop, the first of its kind, that helped us all better understand existing science and data gaps that need to be addressed for fisheries and offshore wind. This meeting, and the forthcoming report, will be instrumental in helping ROSA set research priorities.

In early 2021, we will be focusing on selecting Research Advisors, who will provide guidance on scientific research, and working on data management and coordination. We have begun compiling an inventory of ongoing research and will be forming a committee to lead on data management.

We will also be hiring a Research Director early in the year. Top priorities for this individual will be to help us determine how to prioritize research, generate baseline data before construction begins, and develop regional monitoring approaches—all of which members of the community have underscored as being critical next steps. With direction from the Advisory Council, our goal is to establish joint funding for some research projects and begin undertaking research in the latter half of 2021.

You can read more about ROSA's 2020 accomplishments and goals for 2021 in this document.

Thank you to all who played a role in establishing ROSA during 2020 and to everyone in this talented community who will help drive forward research in years to come. I would like to extend a special thanks to our founding partners, NOAA, BOEM, RODA, offshore wind developers and the Consensus Building Institute, for their hard work and vision, and to the offshore wind companies that provided funding to get our collaborative off to a strong start: Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, Equinor, Mayflower Wind Energy, Ørsted, and Vineyard Wind.

I look forward to continuing our partnership in 2021—and to diving into the heart of our mission: research and monitoring. I am confident that—together—we can develop research that will inform a wide range of critical decisions at the intersection of offshore wind and fisheries.

Best Regards,

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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ROSA Governance

Establishing an effective and inclusive governance structure to support the development of credible research was a high priority for 2020. The Board of Directors, comprised of equal numbers of ROSA founders from the commercial fishing and offshore wind sectors, set up the organization for success and hired ROSA's first Executive Director, Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ph.D., early in the year.

Through a transparent and inclusive process, which involved outreach to state governors and federal agencies to appoint members, meetings with state agencies, webinars, and an open application process for fishermen, ROSA selected members of the Advisory Council, which will guide our research and monitoring goals. Council members include representatives from commercial and recreational fishing industries, offshore wind developers, federal agencies, the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and interested states. The council held two working meetings last fall: a kick-off meeting and a meeting that focused on setting short-term priorities, data management goals, and information-sharing tools, among other topics. Committees and working groups will be created in 2021 to address a range of substantive topics raised in the council discussions.

In addition, ROSA put out a call for Research Advisor applications in November, and advisors will be selected in early 2021. Research Advisors will provide guidance to ROSA on research related to their respective areas of expertise. ROSA will pay close attention to diversity of representation of sectors and geographies when selecting advisors.

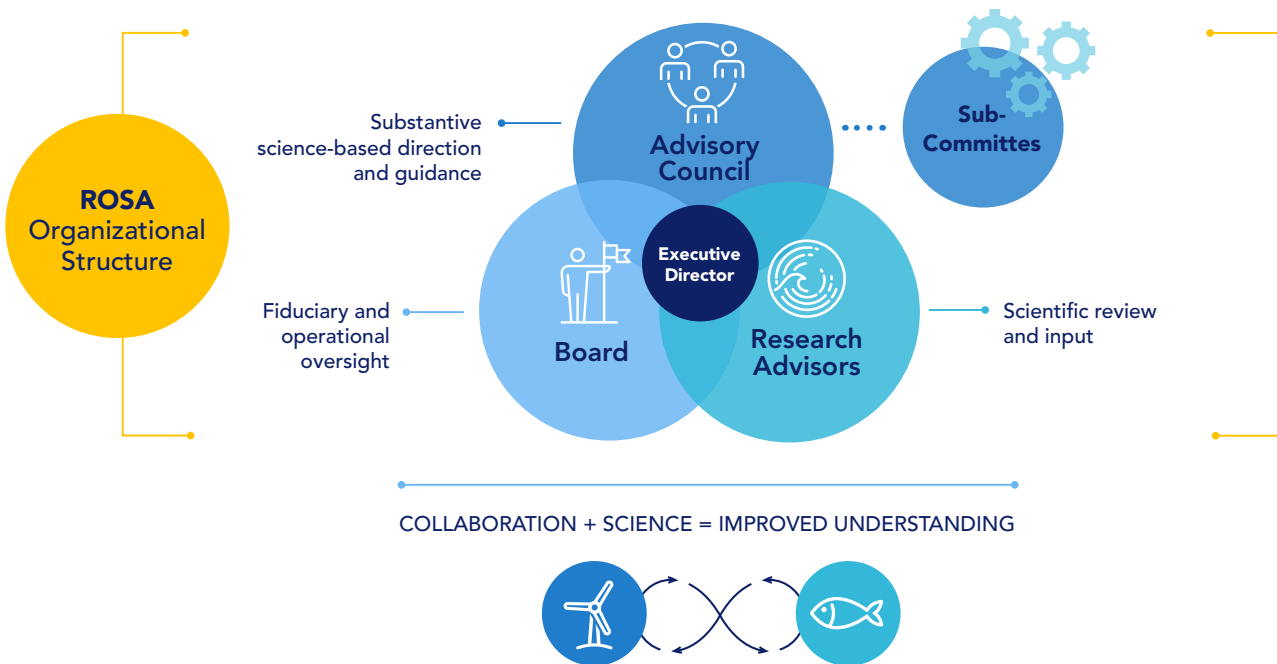
With these structures in place, ROSA is poised to delve deeply into the work of research and coordinated monitoring.

More information on ROSA's governance can be found on the [ROSA website](#).



"ROSA is a major step for the Northeast region—moving us from a site-by-site, state-by-state consideration of wind energy development to a regional collaborative framework. In essence, ROSA is a critically important step toward an ecosystem approach to science and management in the Northeast U.S. Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem."

JON HARE, NOAA FISHERIES NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



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Outreach

Partnerships and collaboration are at the core of ROSA's work. To lay the foundation for cooperative efforts, Executive Director Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ph.D., began the process of reaching out to key constituencies in 2020, an effort that will continue in 2021. During 2020, Lyndie made presentations at more than 30 meetings including:

- Global Ocean Summit panel – “Northeast US Continental Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem: A holistic perspective”
- National Governor's Association – Offshore Wind Summit for Governor's Energy Advisors – panel discussion on “Stakeholder Engagement”
- US Offshore Wind 2020 Virtual Conference panel – “Identifying and Addressing Environmental Information Gaps and Collaborating Across Projects, States, and Stakeholders to Advance Offshore Wind”
- International Partnering Forum for Offshore Wind panel – “Prioritizing Research for the Environmental Effects of Offshore Wind”
- General ROSA updates to the New England Fishery Management Council, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, New York Fisheries Technical Working Group, and others

ROSA has also been collaborating closely with the coordinators of the **Regional Wildlife Science Entity (RWSE)**, whose mission is to support research and monitoring on wildlife and offshore wind energy. Partnership with RWSE, as well as many other organizations undertaking complementary work to that of ROSA, will be a priority for 2021.



“The hard work of ROSA has helped foster enhanced collaboration amongst diverse stakeholder groups, and has significantly advanced the identification of priorities and best practices for monitoring the environmental impacts of offshore wind development.”

GREGORY DECELLES, ØRSTED

Research and Monitoring Working Group

Even before the Advisory Council was established, a number of members of the ROSA community volunteered to participate in a working group to draft critical guidance—to inform the development of research and monitoring plans at commercial offshore wind farms and associated areas. These guidelines build on existing BOEM guidance, outlining the fundamental elements to include in offshore wind fisheries survey and monitoring plans. The guidelines also identify primary resources to help draft and review such plans.

The process for developing the guidelines is indicative of how ROSA will conduct its ongoing initiatives. A working group, representing various sectors involved in fisheries and wind development, including state and federal government fisheries managers, fisheries scientists, fishing industry representatives, and offshore wind developers, created the draft guidelines. The draft guidelines were then presented to the ROSA community for comment, and the final guidelines will be available early in 2021 on ROSA's website for anyone who would like to use them. ROSA hopes that these guidelines will be a great first step toward improving regional coordination.

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"I see great value in working with ROSA to help Identify regional research needs and priorities. The ROSA process will help inform and navigate the science moving forward and give stakeholders some answers and boost confidence around issues and concerns that have been expressed by different stakeholder groups up and down the East coast. I believe the science and collaboration these meetings can foster are extremely valuable to ensure sound research moving forward."

KEVIN WARK, F/V DANA CHRISTINE II

Synthesis of Science Meeting

ROSA's Executive Director and hundreds in the ROSA community participated in the **Synthesis of Science workshop**, hosted by RODA, NMFS, and BOEM, in October. This meeting was designed to bring together individuals from a range of industries and sectors to discuss existing science and identify gaps in research related to offshore wind and fisheries. Presentations ranged from Benthic Habitat Modification to Phytoplankton and Zooplankton to Socio-Economics. More than 560 people from the US, UK, and Europe participated in the workshop, which included many opportunities for discussion and brainstorming. A report outlining the state of science and research gaps that must be addressed will be produced in the spring of 2021 and will be a valuable resource to ROSA as it begins to outline research priorities.

Website and Newsletter

To ensure clear communication and transparency about ROSA's work, the organization launched a website and newsletter last summer. The website provides information on ROSA's mission, leadership, Advisory Council's meeting and initiatives, as well as resources on a range of topics.

Individuals who have not signed up for regular updates from ROSA may do so on the website: www.rosascience.org.

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2021 Goals

ROSA is excited to build on the foundational efforts of 2020 and advance its research and monitoring work in 2021. Goals for the year include:

January-June:

- Select Research Advisors.
- Release the ROSA Interim Fisheries Resources Research and Monitoring Guidelines.
- Establish a Data Management Committee of the Advisory Council.
- Hire a Research Director.
- Collaborate with RODA, NMFS, and BOEM on the Synthesis of the Science report that will outline research areas that need prioritization. This report will inform the Advisory Council's recommendations for ROSA research.
- Explore joint research funding opportunities.
- Convene a meeting with the Regional Wildlife Science Entity and others working on research related to fisheries and offshore wind, to enhance collaboration.

July-December:

- Set near-term research priorities.
- Continue to explore regional monitoring frameworks and data management strategies.
- Secure joint funding for research priorities and issue a request for proposals.
- Lead or collaborate on the research.

The Advisory Council will meet several times during 2021 to guide all of the above-outlined work.

Thank you to all in the ROSA community for your dedicated efforts! We look forward to collaborating with you this year.