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RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE SCIENCE ALLIANCE
Year in Review

The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) advances research, monitoring and methods on the effects of offshore wind energy development on fisheries across US federal and state waters.



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

Message from the Executive Director

Two thousand and twenty-two was an exciting year of growth and transition for the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA). High priorities for the organization were developing the research framework, transitioning to administering research, demonstrating leadership in the field, and fundraising. As I write this message, I am pleased to report that ROSA is in the process of finalizing an agreement to administer a multi-million dollar research fund, which will support competitive projects related to the potential impact of offshore wind on fisheries for several years. ROSA is thrilled to have been selected to manage these funds, which allow the organization to embark on research administration – a goal we have had since inception.

Throughout the year, Research Director Mike Pol and I collaborated with a broad group of organizations, agencies, and thought leaders who are working to advance science at the intersection of offshore wind and fisheries. We engaged the consultant WSP to help develop a database, as part of the regional research framework, to assist with research prioritization. And, with the help of our Administrator Helen Henderson, we made a concerted effort to raise and diversify funds for ROSA. Thank you to all who generously fund ROSA's work; delivering on our mission would be impossible without your support.

Other highlights of 2022 include: convening researchers throughout the field for presentations and discussions at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting and at a pre-meeting workshop during the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority State of the Science Workshop; launching a new website for ROSA with improved design, navigation, and content; and engaging our first intern, Will Shoup from Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), who was a tremendous asset during the summer.

As we look toward 2023, I am optimistic that ROSA will continue to develop as the organization enters a new phase of growth. I will be leaving the organization at the end of this year, but I am confident that ROSA's incredibly talented staff and advisors will expand the vision we have started. It has been a privilege to serve as ROSA's first executive director and to witness the organization's growth over almost three years. The ROSA community has expanded to encompass almost 500 individuals who are following our work, over 100 of which volunteer their time regularly to contribute to our mission. The community has produced a number of robust tools to assist with regional research and ROSA is now poised to start administering research. Coordination of researchers has, and I am sure will continue to be, a high priority. I am certain that the ROSA community and the next executive director will continue to advance critical research at the intersection of offshore wind and fisheries.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me during my tenure at ROSA, especially our staff members who have worked tirelessly to deliver our work with excellence.

Best Regards,

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Projects

ROSA executed the following projects in 2022, taking its direction from priorities set by the ROSA Advisory Council:

- Report and Recommendations on Fisheries Resource Data Production, Storage, and Accessibility** ROSA published a [report](#) that highlights the results from a ROSA-commissioned study on the current status of data standardization and sharing related to potential impacts of offshore wind on fisheries. As a follow-up to this project, ROSA intern Will Shoup reached out to researchers along the East Coast, requesting data from fishery research programs; Will discovered that obtaining data was difficult, and when available, there is little standardization in how data is being collected. These results were presented to the ROSA Advisory Council in October for discussion, and ROSA was directed to draft template data accessibility agreements between developers and researchers, and work collaboratively to set and advance data standards. Progress on these efforts is planned for 2023.
- Regional Framework Database** As part of its development of a regional research framework, ROSA worked with consultant WSP on the creation of a two-part [Fish FORWRD](#) database: one that synthesizes existing research priorities and one that compiles research being undertaken by programs along the East Coast. The analysis of data in these databases highlights gaps in research that can inform future research prioritization. The consultant also developed a [report](#) that outlines how to use the databases and how they were created. ROSA has embarked, with financial support from WSP and Attentive Energy, on developing an interactive, searchable version of this database that will be stored on the ROSA website, which should be available by spring 2023.
- Research Administration** ROSA is in the process of finalizing an agreement to administer a multi-million dollar research fund, which will support competitive projects related to the potential impact of offshore wind on fisheries for several years.
- Fishermen's Ecological Knowledge** In conjunction with several fishermen's ecological knowledge (FEK) researchers, ROSA helped develop comments calling for development of protocols for the collection of FEK to a Bureau of Energy Ocean Management request for information (RFI) for the Gulf of Maine. The RFI gauges interest in and potential impacts from development of commercial leases for offshore wind in that area.
- The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Article** Lyndie Hice-Dunton co-authored an [article](#) titled "Offshore wind energy development: Research priorities for sound and vibration effects on fisheries and aquatic vertebrates" that appeared in the January issue of *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. This article outlines seven short-term research priorities for exploring potential sound and vibration effects of offshore wind on populations and marine ecosystems.



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Partnerships

The following partnerships were developed and sustained in 2022:

- **National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium Grant Project** A collaboration led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, including ROSA and the University of Maine, received a grant from the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium for a project titled “Co-Design Solutions for US Floating Offshore Wind Farms and Fishing Compatibility.” This project’s aim is to enhance coexistence of fisheries and floating wind by bringing together engineers and fishermen to codesign floating wind turbine platforms, mooring lines, dynamic cables, and anchors. The project team will be collaborating with fishermen from North Carolina to Maine. This effort is scheduled to kick off in March 2023 and continue until September 2025.
- **Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind (RWSC)** Due to synergies between RWSC’s mission and that of ROSA’s, the organizations’ teams meet regularly to collaborate and coordinate research efforts.

Outreach

Throughout 2022, ROSA staff participated in a number of conferences to engage interested parties in conversation about key topics related to regional offshore science. The following are highlights of some of these presentations:

- **Regional Prioritization Research Meeting** Several organizations, including ROSA and the Regional Synthesis Workgroup of the Offshore Wind Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG), hosted a meeting to discuss general prioritization criteria related to research being undertaken to better understand the effects of offshore wind energy development on wildlife and fisheries. The meeting also addressed processes that could help identify priority studies for funding in the immediate term. An overview of the meeting is available on the [ROSA website](#).
- **Non-Extractive Sampling Techniques Workshop** ROSA hosted a workshop on non-extractive sampling techniques for resource assessment at the 2022 New York State Energy Research & Development Authority State of the Science Workshop. A summary, which provides highlights of the workshop, abstracts from the presentations, dialogue details, and resources, is available on the [ROSA website](#).



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Thank you to all in the ROSA community for your contributions to ROSA's mission during 2022. We look forward to our continued collaboration in 2023!

- **American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting Symposium** In conjunction with other partners, ROSA co-hosted a symposium titled *Offshore Wind, Fish, and Fisheries: Emerging Knowledge and Applications* at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. With permitting and development timelines for offshore wind varying widely across regions of the US, this symposium presented an opportunity to share learnings and knowledge. This well-attended two-day event included sixteen presentations, two discussion sessions, and several poster presentations.
- **International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Annual Science Conference** Lyndie Hice-Dunton attended a theme session titled *Methodologies to assess the impact of offshore wind development on fishery data collections* at the ICES Annual Science Conference. This session brought together researchers from the US and Europe to discuss challenges related to offshore wind and fisheries and share recent research.
- **American Clean Power Offshore Windpower Conference and Exhibition** Lyndie Hice-Dunton participated in two panels at the American Clean Power Offshore Windpower Conference and Exhibition: one titled "Offshore Wind Science: How Industry is Supporting Today's Research Priorities" and one titled "Telling Our Story: Collaboration for Coexistence Amongst All Ocean Users."
- **American Floating Wind Offshore Summit** Mike Pol participated in a panel at the American Floating Wind Offshore Summit hosted by the University of Maine, titled "Addressing the Unique Ecological and Environmental Challenges in Floating Wind."



2023 Goals

ROSA's new executive director will work with staff and the ROSA Board of Directors to develop strategic goals for 2023. General goals for the organization, based on accomplishments in recent years, include:

Launch research administration.

- Finalize the agreement to administer a multi-million dollar research fund.
- Work with ROSA Research Advisors and others to develop a request for proposals (RFP) using the [Fish FORWRD](#) database and the outcomes of the [regional prioritization research meeting](#) to help determine research focus areas.
- Hire a new staff member to manage ROSA's RFP process and research portfolio.

Expand coordinated regional research and monitoring.

- Implement next steps outlined in the [Report and Recommendations on Fisheries Resource Data Production, Storage, and Accessibility](#), guided by feedback that was provided at the October 2022 ROSA Advisory Council meeting.
- Work with researchers to develop best management practices and standardized methods for data collection.
- Continue to advocate for better data storage and sharing.

Continue to expand ROSA's funding sources.

- Secure commitments from additional sponsors to support ROSA's operations.
- Explore opportunities to work with partners on grants, workshops, research administration, and other projects.