

Developing a Framework for Identifying Regional Research and Monitoring Needs

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American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting
August 22, 2022



RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE
SCIENCE ALLIANCE

ROSA Background



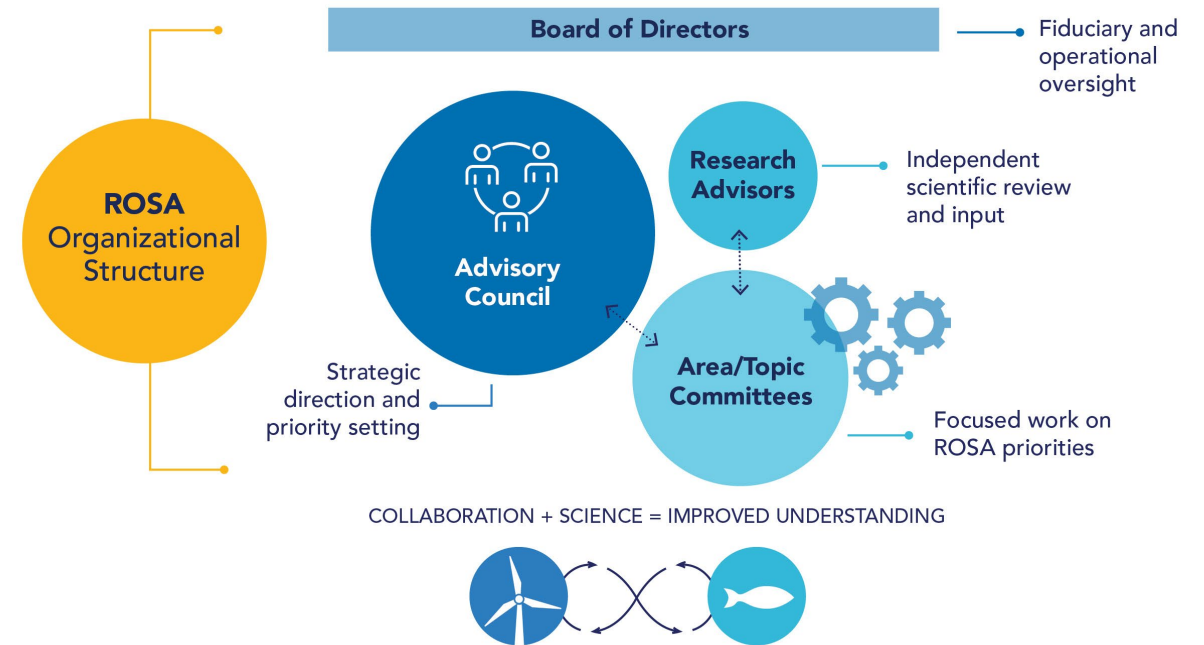
- Recognized need for **coordinated regional science** related to offshore wind development and fisheries
- **Limited capacity** within existing groups and agencies
- Forum needed to **improve cooperative partnerships**
- Need to **increase salient and credible data and improve our knowledge** of the effects of wind energy development on fisheries and ocean ecosystems

ROSA formed in early 2019 as a 501(c)3 through a joint industry partnership between the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) and Offshore Wind developers



ROSA Objectives

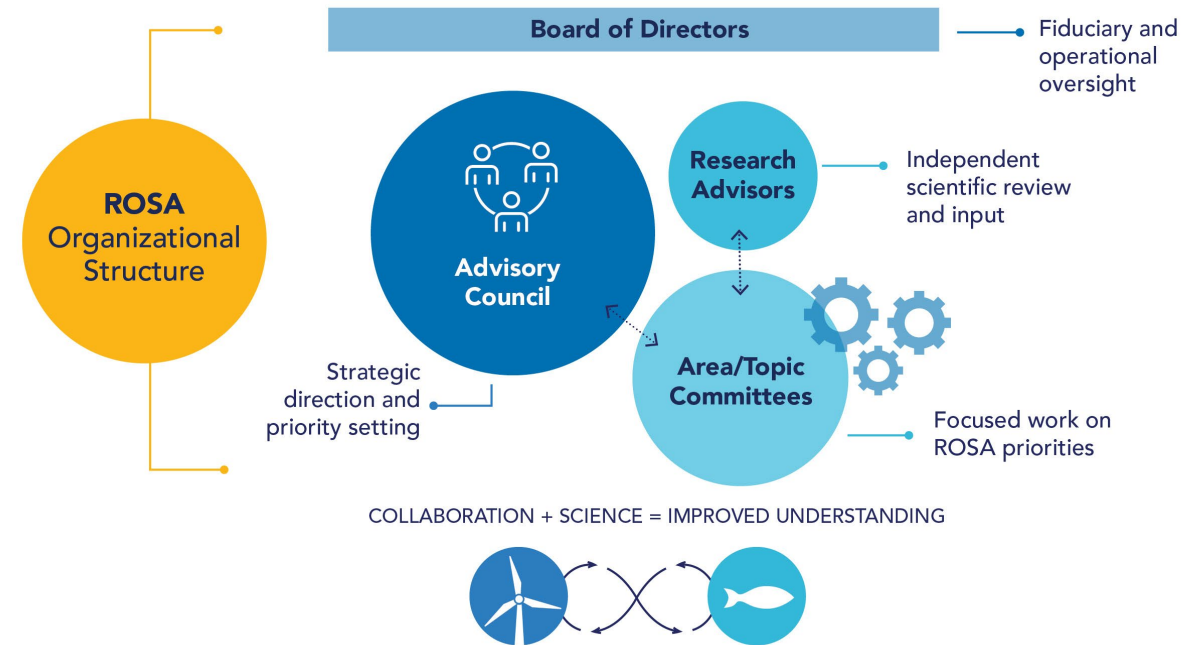
- Identify **regional research** and **monitoring** needs
- Provide a forum for **coordinating existing programs**
- Advance regional understanding through **collaboration, partnerships, and cooperative research**
- Facilitate and improve **standardization** and **access to data** and **administer research**
- **Disseminate research** and **communicate findings**



More details at: <https://www.rosascience.org/>

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Need for Regional Research Framework

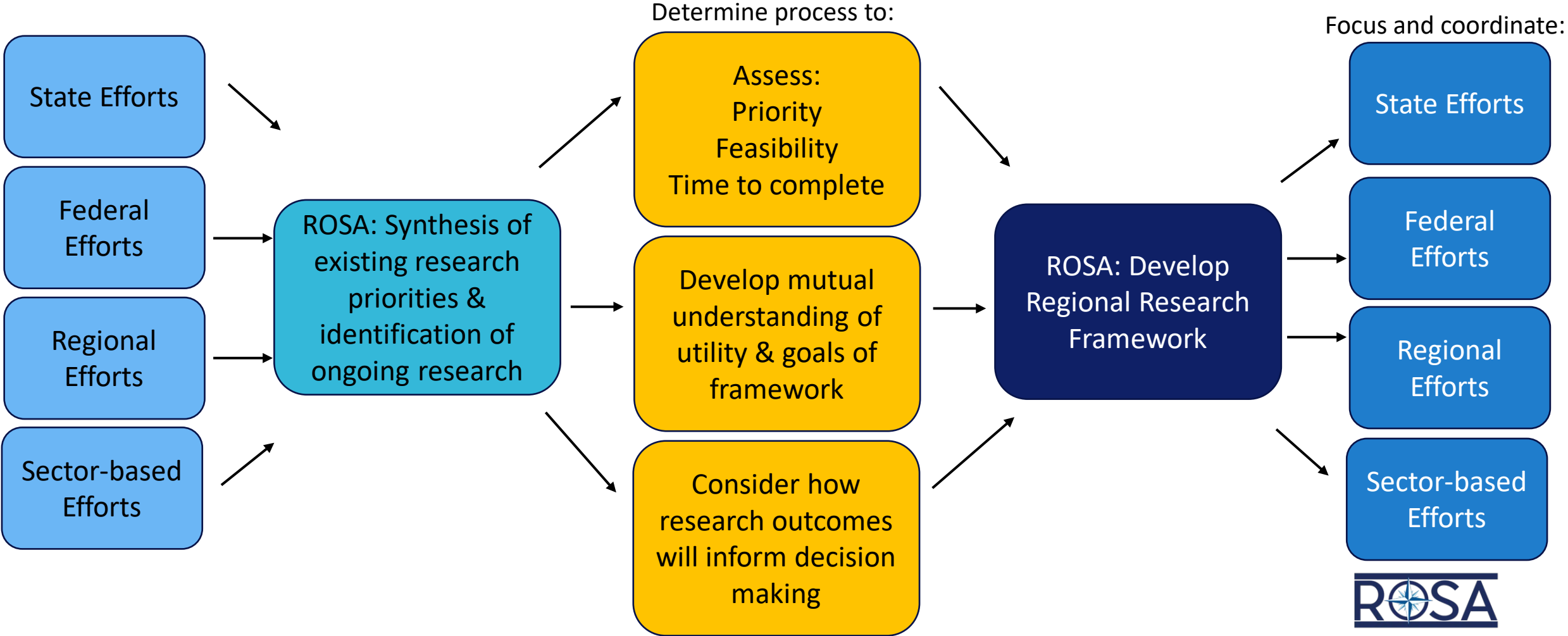


PARTNERSHIP
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH
DATA ACCESS
COMMUNICATION

- Many good and thoughtful research needs have already been identified through various efforts such as state, federal, or sector-based workshops and reports
- However, there is no shared framework or understanding of cross-sector priorities that could help focus existing resources
- Several large state/developer funds are being established that are seeking to at least be informed by region-wide priorities
 - **\$10,000/megawatt (~\$50 million)** for regional research and monitoring for wildlife and fish/fisheries in latest procurement agreements in NY and NJ
 - Additional funding anticipated through future procurement agreements in NY and NJ and possibly other states
- Objective, transparent processes are needed to help focus resources and research efforts in a coordinated way

Regional Research Framework

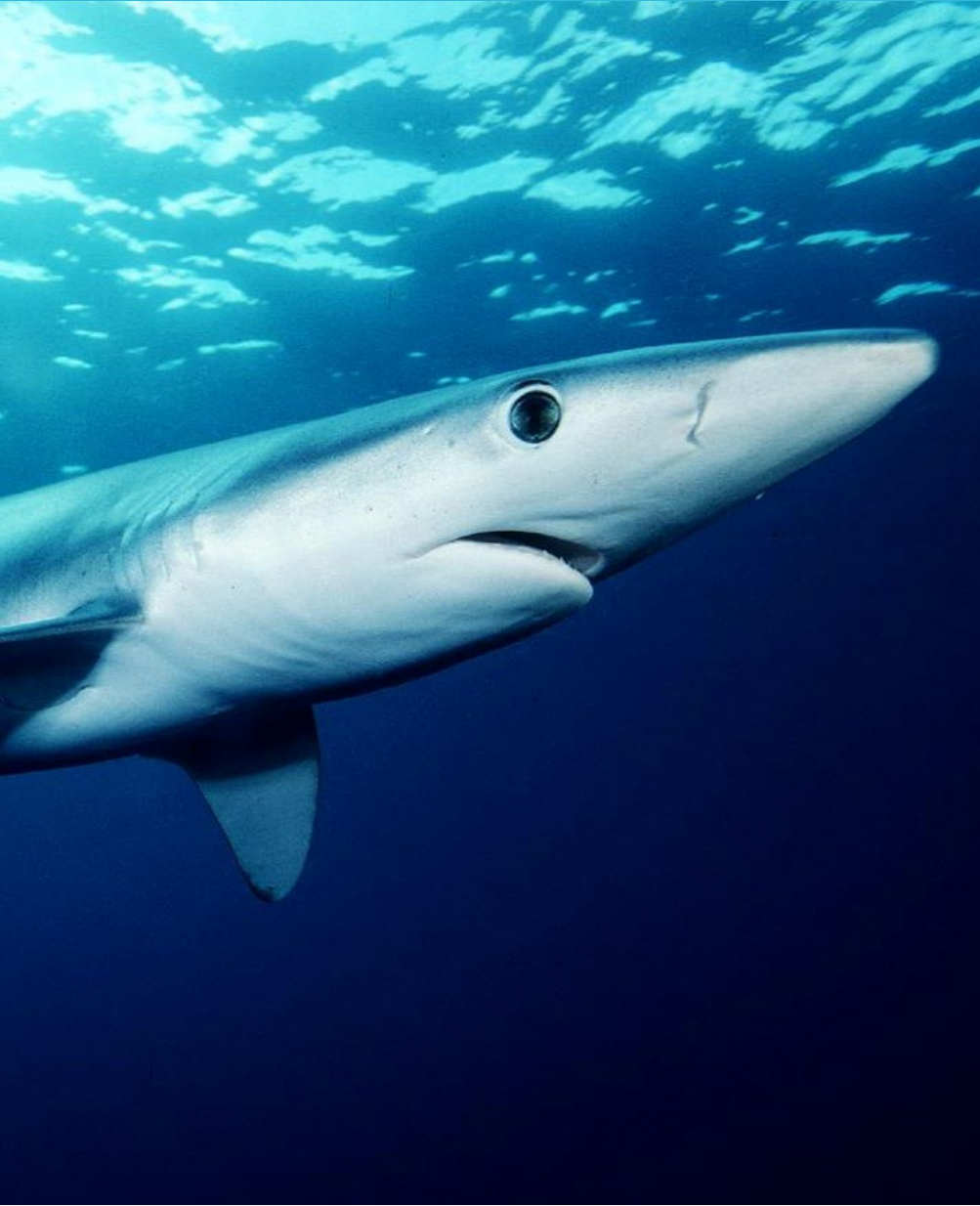
Many efforts have identified research gaps and needs. What's missing is a Choice-Making process to refine, hone and prioritize these topics



Synthesis of Research Priorities

- Over **240** research priorities identified from almost **30** sources
- Compiled into database that allows user to refine list by areas of interest such as:
 - **Research need topic** : 15 categories such as habitat fragmentation, sound impacts, or economic impact
 - **Spatial scale**: individual turbine to national
 - **Animal group**: e.g. zooplankton, demersal, HMS, etc.
 - **Windfarm development stage**
 - **Location**
 - And others...
- Examples:
 - Area of interest:
 - Research needs related to sound/vibration impacts on species distribution/composition of fish-narrows list to **4** identified research priorities
 - Research needs related to impacts on species distribution/composition and habitat fragmentation/modification- **30** identified priorities
 - Research needs related to economic impacts on fisheries- **6** identified priorities

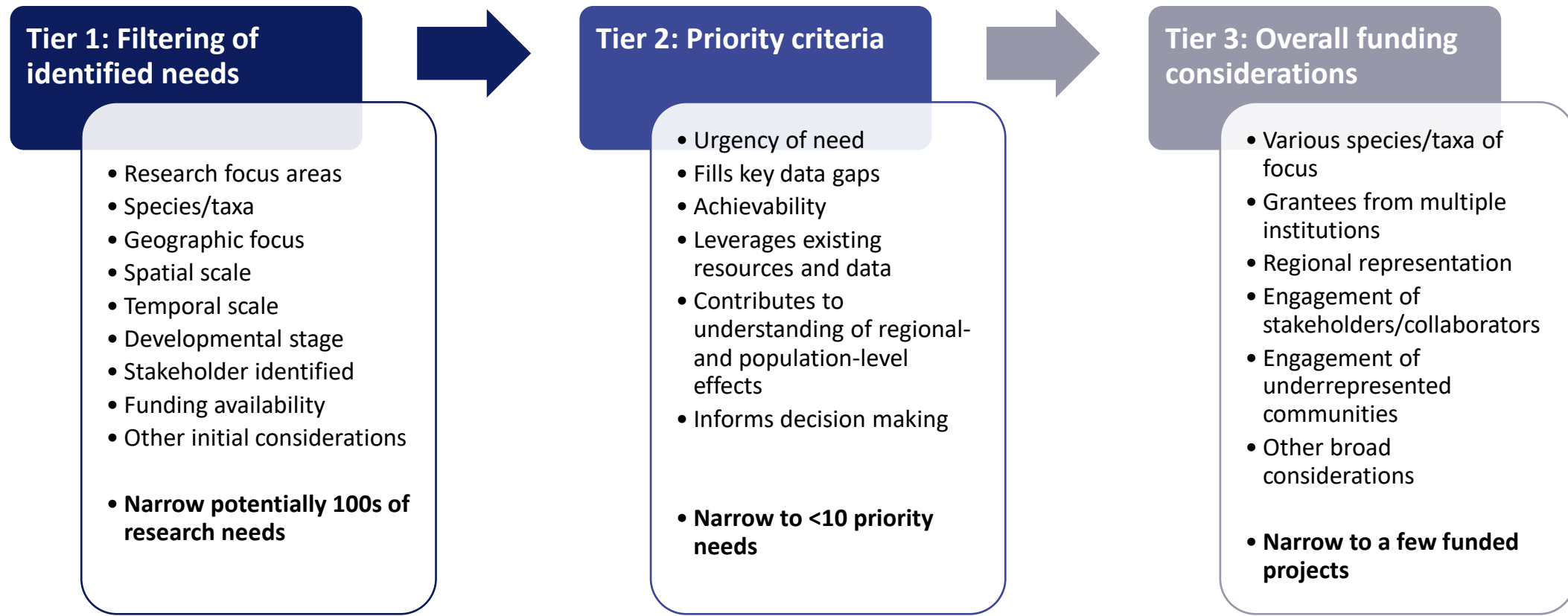
Synthesis of Ongoing Research & Gap Analysis



- Primarily studies funded by state & federal research grants and offshore wind developers
 - Captures information such as research need category, project location, spatial scale, temporal scale, project PI & partners, funding entity, etc.
- **Ongoing research** compared to **identified research needs** in a semi-quantitative assessment of level that the priority has been addressed
 - Not addressed, partially addressed, adequately addressed
- One of many steps that could help narrow list of priorities
- Process/focus could vary by **organization** and **individual needs**

Conceptual approach: Tiered Decision Making

- Prioritization criteria could be one part of a multi-step decision process
- Each entity would identify process based on their needs or focus



**Conceptual example for discussion purposes only*

Regional Research Framework – Next Steps

- Refining databases of research priorities and ongoing research
- Refining gap analysis and summary data
- Refining prioritization criteria for sorting lists
- Databases (spreadsheets), report, and instructions will be available on the ROSA website late 2022
- Potential to build more structured database in the future
- Intended to be a widely available resource

**If you're interested in seeing the draft databases, see me this week or reach out via email (Lyndie@rosascience.org)*

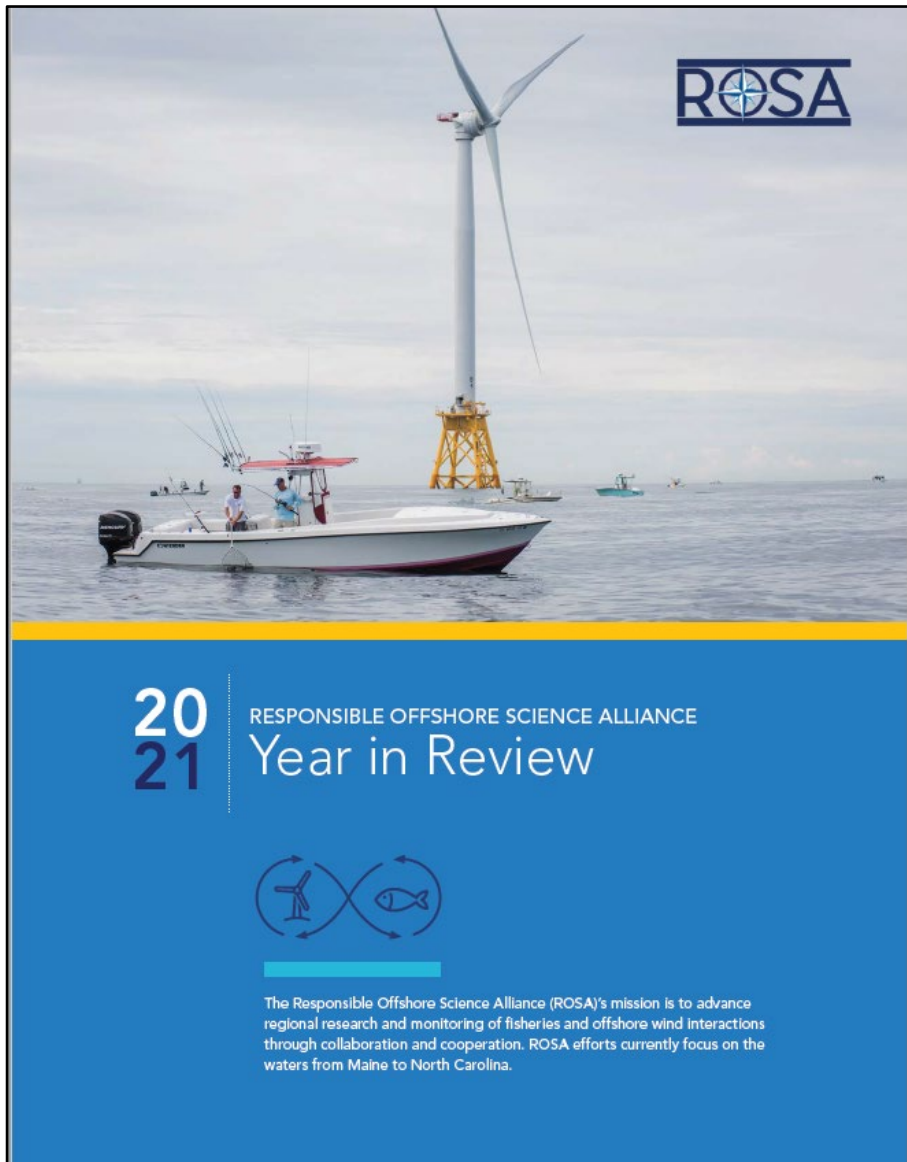


Takeaways



- Need for coordinated regional science related to offshore wind development and fisheries
- Identifying regional research and monitoring needs and providing a forum for coordinating existing programs are key ROSA objectives
- No “one size fits all” approach- different efforts, entities, or funding opportunities
- Goal: create objective, transparent tools to aid in research coordination

For more information



[ROSASCIENCE.ORG](https://rosascience.org)

- Organizational details, research & monitoring resources
- Info on previous and future Advisory Council meetings
- Sign up for our mailing list!

****New, more comprehensive website coming this Fall!***



Contact us:

- Dr. Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Executive Director:
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