Advisory Council Meeting

JUNE 12, 2023 | Meeting Summary

Developed by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting-In-Brief

On June 12, 2023, the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council met, convening 45 participants (a list of Council attendees can be found in Appendix A), two facilitators, and two ROSA staff. At this meeting:

- ROSA shared the status of offshore wind and fisheries work, overview of ROSA's future direction, along with a warm welcome of the new Executive Director, Dr. Reneé Reilly.
- ROSA shared updates on the Fish FORWRD & webtool development and discussed the Floating Co-design project.
- The Advisory Council had an in-depth discussion and gave advice on research procurement protocols and lessons learned, pending a new role as grant administrator for ROSA.

Meeting materials, including the agenda and presentations can be found on ROSA's website: https://www.rosascience.org/advisory-council.

Welcome

Facilitator Patrick Field (Consensus Building Institute) oriented participants to ground rules and the agenda and welcomed Dr. Reneé Reilly as new Executive Director. Dr. Reilly has been working on offshore wind research for several years, including in fisheries, ecology, and management. She is committed to ensuring that the work ROSA does is regional and collaborative.

Overview of Current Status of Offshore Wind & Fisheries Work

Brian Hooker gave an update on the status of Gulf of Maine (GoME) offshore wind lease areas. In October 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) received a request for interest for commercial leasing. BOEM published a call for application, which ended on 6/12. Their team will post comments received. In addition, as of March 2023, there was no competitive interest for the Gulf of Maine, state-led research lease. In May they published an Environmental Assessment (EA)) for the research Lease Issuance, which includes site assessment and activities. They hope to publish this for public comment soon, including geological and biological surveys. This will all be in place before the application goes forward.

Kathryn Ford of NOAA updated ROSA on the Federal Survey Mitigation work. Dr. Ford shared that the problem is that fourteen long-term resource surveys will be altered by offshore wind. To address this, their team published a strategy in December 2022. Their approach includes: establishing an

implementation team in May composed of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and BOEM; preparing detailed mitigation plans; working with Dr. Gavin Fay University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth on the Survey Simulation Experiment and Evaluation Project (SSEEP); coordinating with ICES to work on the wind portfolio as it expands through Europe; and lastly, publishing a scientific article now under review: *OWD project-level monitoring in Northeast Shelf: Evaluating potential to mitigate impacts to long-term scientific surveys.* Their next steps are to finish plans, start a public review of plans, and share project level standardized monitoring and data sharing recommendations.

Pat Field, of Consensus Building Institute, shared an update on regional fisheries compensatory mitigation. Eleven states are working to identify a regional funding administrator to design and administer a compensatory fishing mitigation claims process. The States have met with Offshore Wind (OSW) developers and fish advisors and have created a final scoping document that was issued in late April 2023. Now, they are meeting to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek out an administrator to design and develop a regional claims process. The timing is likely to be late summer or early fall for the release of the RFP. The process may cost up to $2m for the design and development phase. The goal is to have multi-sectoral funding. Individual working groups are beginning to develop the Regional Fund Administrator governance and procurement. See more here: https://offshorewindpower.org/fisheries-mitigation-project

Fiona Hogan of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance summarized some of their organization's recent efforts. The Synthesis of the Science final report was published this year in partnership with NMFS and BOEM. The report can be found via this link: https://rodafisheries.org/portfolio/synthesis-of-the-science/. This work is a very important step in capturing what is and is not known about the potential effects and impacts of OSW development on fisheries and fish ecology, biology, socioeconomics, and other elements. The report includes recommendations for future work. RODA is currently engaged in a new project on floating turbine technology and a workshop is expected late in 2023.

Below are questions and comments that followed the updates. Questions are in regular type and responses are *italicized*.

- Any specifics on the eDNA that NOAA mentioned?
    - *We are seeking to find correlations between eDNA and bottom trawl surveys and eDNA and acoustics. This method is now part of the survey mitigation framework and will require more sampling. We think that we'll need it for the future as OSW development increases.*

Future ROSA Direction

Dr. Reilly offered background on where ROSA is and where it is going. She reminded the group that there is so much happening at such a rapid pace and that ROSA wants to support regional efforts and collaboration. She underscored the importance of ROSA generating spaces and conversations for such collaboration.

Regarding ROSA's future direction, Dr. Reilly has talked to many in fisheries, research, and OSW development sectors to further understand how ROSA can be helpful. One important item is coordinating OSW fisheries monitoring. It will be important to keep the ROSA monitoring framework and guidelines updated. There is also a need for neutral space to share fisheries monitoring plans across OSW projects during their development, and as they evolve. This is an opportunity to share the logistical

needs and approaches through workshops, webinars, and other modes. She shared the thought that it might sound simplistic, but the only way we can find a regional framework or answer is by knitting together all these separate efforts.

ROSA's Research Director, Mike Pol, shared that the objective for research and monitoring is to determine regional impacts. ROSA is meeting with Vineyard Wind and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, among others, about combined regional survey design. This has the potential to solve a variety of issues, including efficiencies, standardization, learning across projects, and reduced risk.

Below are questions and comments that followed. Questions are in regular type and responses are *italicized*.

- Do you see yourselves as synthesizing this information and providing reports? Or something else?
    - *We are more about regional process and approach, not the outcome. More about creating spaces for things to happen. There is not just one place for that to happen and we want to support science efforts in numerous ways. We are going to be looking to partner with different players in the space. There's a lot to do and a lot of analyses to support.*

Current ROSA Status Updates

Dr. Pol shared Fish FORWRD and Webtool development updates. Fish FORWRD is going to be an important tool for helping prioritize funding. The intention is to have it as an easy-to-access on-line community resource, rather than a downloadable excel sheet that can be found right now. The webtool will replace the spreadsheet in the next 6 months.

Below are questions and comments that followed. Questions are in regular type and responses are *italicized*.

- How often is the database updated and at what frequency?
    - *The intent is to update 2x per year. We have internal funding to do that now seeking funding to support ongoing updates. We want to keep it fresh otherwise it will not continue to be useful.*
- A commenter suggested the following are also good examples of web searches:
    - *Data.gov*
    - *Google strings - keyword searches*
    - *https://tethys.pnnl.gov/knowledge-base-wind-energy*

Dr. Pol shared that ROSA is also working with National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and University of Maine on a Floating Wind Co-Design Project, funded by the National Offshore Wind Energy Consortium (NOWRDC), where ROSA is funded for approximately $122k. The idea is to bring together engineers designing floating OSW and fishermen to find designs that encourage co-existence. UMaine will lead the fixed-gear fishermen in the Gulf of Maine; ROSA will lead in the Central Atlantic, working with Willy Goldsmith representing the recreational fishing community and Dewey Hemilright representing pelagic longliners. This is a two-year project that starts this month and will be shared broadly with the ROSA Advisory Council.

Below are questions and comments that followed the initial presentations. Questions are in regular type and responses are *italicized*.

- Will gill nets be considered in the Mid-Atlantic work?
    - *It Is not proposed to do that in the Mid-Atlantic region.*
- How do you think all this work will work with RODA?
    - *This is something that we will need to discuss. Makes sense to coordinate with all interested parties to the greatest extent possible.*

Research Procurement

Dr. Reilly noted that ROSA is in an in-between phase as we wait to confirm its new role as a funding administrator for fisheries research work on offshore development from New York's last solicitation. Once contracts are in place, ROSA will be thoughtful about the mechanisms to solicit and distribute funds.

ROSA asked the Advisory Council members for advice on how to effectively and efficiently administer research funding and how to relate RFPs to research priorities. To do this, a small panel presented their views to the Advisory Council

Morgan Brunbauer, NYSERDA, said that NYSERDA has a formalized process on how to issue RFP and Public Opportunities Notice. They developed a research plan built heavily on stakeholder/community needs. They had lots of conversations to try to understand what they needed. NYSERDA also attempted not to be so definitive on what they might be proposing right off the bat and vetted the research topics with the stakeholders and asked questions like "is this the right topic or direction?" From that engagement, NYSERDA drafted a formal RFP. His advice is to make sure to consider conflicts of interest and scoring rubrics (qualifications, cost, good, not good, etc.).

Colleen Brust, NJDEP, worked to distribute funds from a power purchase agreement of $10k/MW for wildlife and fisheries. New Jersey launched a dozen research projects that are regional; half a dozen projects are in development. Their guiding principles are that it must be relevant and important to NJ and at a regional scale. They work cooperatively as best as they could, including involving New Jersey's statewide working group that meets quarterly. Industry members have been very cooperative in identifying research needs, as have federal government agencies and other states.

Christine Sloan, National Offshore Wind Energy Consortium (NOWRDC), noted that they had $41 million in an original funding pool from multiple sources. The Consortium included membership from seven different states, agencies, the public, and developers. NOWRDC collaborated with the OSW industry and supported them to fund research and development, but with a strategy in mind. The strategic goals included reducing the cost of energy and advancing innovation. The Consortium worked with national research institutes as well as small entrepreneurs and were able to fund a range of organizations across topics. The Consortium focuses on innovation, fixed and floating engineering, and environmental and conflicting-needs mitigation. The Consortium worked closely with other members for more proposals they wanted to see. They also do a lot of facilitation and coordination in this space.

Below are the questions and comments on procurement. Questions are in regular type and responses and comments are *italicized*.

- Where to draw the line in specificity for RFPs? How to distribute RFPs to reach a broader

audience? What are performance metrics that should be considered when evaluating applicants?

- *As an example, NJ started wide and then zoomed in. They focused on contracting with known institutions. In NJ there is such a depth of experts and so the state went straight to them and asked them if they had the capacity to do this project in some cases. There were a lot of conversations about who is the best in this field, who is publishing, and to develop the project we wanted. NJ did a broad solicitation. They received many fabulous proposals (over 100), and it was hard for a small staff to look through them all in detail. It's important to think about staff capacity and who the partners will be to review proposals. Make sure you have enough people, so they are not spread so thin. Because NJ has a roadmap, though broad, it covers several different topics about offshore wind and we were able to use this to prioritize projects.*
- *BOEM did something similar with the Department of Energy, which was a very rigorous process. BOEM did another solicitation with Rhode Island and Massachusetts a few years ago, which might be more applicable. One can have a lot of broad topics within the range of regional projects, but there might be a way to fund some things under each topic area. Some scores may be weighted, for example points for a new organization in this field or for an organization that has received many grants in this field. Consider how much you want to diversify or expand the range of research entities and expertise.*

- What's the role of the fishing industry in all these different stages?
  - *The fishing industry can have a role in research scoping and prioritization to project selection, serve on project oversight or advisory bodies as the research is being conducted, and may even be on the research team collecting data.*

- How can we think about research prioritization?
  - *One can turn back to the community and crowdsource the knowledge. ROSA intends to use their Research Advisors, the Advisory Council, and others to help focus, frame, and shape this effort.*
  - *NMFS noted it published a paper regarding the agency's research priorities regarding fisheries and offshore wind. The Methratta et al 2023 paper can be found here: https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mcf2.10242*

- What types of research will we ask for and what kind will we fund? We should have a discussion and formalize this.
  - *MA DMF recommended fisheries studies for offshore wind development: https://www.mass.gov/doc/recommended-fisheries-studies-for-offshore-wind-development/download*
  - *NJ started with asking what known effects are the highest priorities and what entities are most impacted? EMF might not be the priority, for instance, but fishing vessel routes might be. Then one can create a scientific question from that. Is it possible to answer? Is there capacity to answer the question within the resources available?*
  - *Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and Rhode Island worked with BOEM in 2019. They started with a scoping study that was very well vetted among agencies and stakeholders. They had 8 different evaluation teams with resource agencies, NGOS, fisheries, and developers. Good input was received during the review process, and it went surprisingly well with a lot of participation from fisheries. When it was done, there was not a lot of pushback, which was a sign of success.*

- The OSW research community already suffers from “analysis paralysis” to some degree. The Advisory Council should be clear about what they think ROSA should be doing and then workshop that through with the fishing industry and the states.

- Should ROSA produce one agreeable list? Is there a single regional priority list? Is there really a ROSA way? Is there a definitive identity of ROSA different from the collective here? Funding meaningful research is the most important outcome.

Closing remarks & Meeting Updates

Dr. Reilly then shared her reflections on the conversation. ROSA wants to bring diverse input not only from members but from their constituencies. ROSA also wants broad solicitations, to avoid analysis paralysis, and to report out transparently to the fishing industry and OSW research community.

Dr. Reilly shared other announcements; ROSA is

- Seeking to align with the RWSC so as to avoid being duplicative, but rather synergistic.
- Attending Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and New England Fisheries Management Council meetings.
- Participating in drafting practices for regional offshore wind wildlife research through NYSERDA’s Regional Synthesis Working Group.
- Upcoming meetings:
    - Offshore Wind, Fish, and Fisheries– Emerging Knowledge and Application – Symposium at AFS Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI, August 24. https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/.
    - Theme Session: Ecosystem science needed to support a new era of offshore marine renewable energy - ICES Annual Science Conference, Bilbao, Spain, September 11-14, 2023.
    - Offshore WINDPOWER - Boston, October 3-4, 2023.
    - Pathways for sustainable coexistence of offshore energy, fisheries, and marine conservation: From local empirical evidence to global perspectives – symposium at the 9th World Fisheries Congress, Seattle, March 3-9, 2024. Call for Abstracts.

Dr. Reilly thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix A | ROSA Council Member and Alternates Attendance

Katie Almeida	The Town Dock
Chris Batsavage	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Bonnie Brady	Long Island Commercial Fishing Association
Morgan Brunbauer	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Colleen Brust	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Cassie Canastra	BASE New England
Douglas Christel	National Marine Fisheries Service
Joe Cimino	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Greg DeCelles	Ørsted
Willy Goldsmith	American Saltwater Guides Association
Lane Johnston	Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA)
Andy Lipsky	NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)
Julia Livermore	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Mike Pol	ROSA
Renee Reilly	ROSA
Sebastian Velez	TotalEnergies
Kevin Wark	Endeavor Fisheries

Appendix B | Other Participant Attendance

Calvin Alexander	Sea Risk Solutions
Sarah Borsetti	VIMS
Eleanor Evans	Environmental Design & Research, DPC
Andrew Fisk	CT DEEP
Kathryn Ford	NOAA/NMFS/NEFSC
Amalia Harrington	Maine Sea Grant
Helen Henderson	ROSA

Susan Herz	EDR
Lyndie Hice-Dunton	NOWRDC
Peter Himchak	LaMonica Fine Foods
Fiona Hogan	RODA
Sarah Hudak	Sea Risk Solutions
Atma Khalsa	Avangrid Renewables
Caitin McGarigal	NJDEP
Ethan Muller	New York Sea Grant
Tricia Perez	U.S. DOE
Andrew Scheld	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Laura Singer	SAMBAS Consulting LLC
Ursula Howson	BOEM