



ROSA
Responsible Offshore
Science Alliance



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE SCIENCE ALLIANCE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In May 2023, I had the honor of assuming the role of leading the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance. I hold with a strong sense of commitment to the organization's mission to advance the research, monitoring, and methods on the effects of offshore wind energy development on fisheries. In the months that have followed, my appreciation for the ROSA community has only grown and further strengthened that commitment. Before I became executive director, ROSA had already built bridges across sectors, and I am eager to further that work and mission in the coming years.

Every organization evolves through time, but it is no small feat for ROSA to have transitioned to new leadership in 2023. The incredible staff and board leadership should be proud to have achieved a seamless transition while continuing their work in the fisheries and OSW space. As I am sure you are aware, we are at a pivotal moment not only for our organization, but also for the fishing and offshore wind development industries. The environment in which we are all working is changing rapidly. Being equipped to adapt with it remains a priority for ROSA and our partners.

ROSA highlights from 2023 include successfully securing our first contract to administer regional research, beginning development of a new ROSA Strategic Plan, and launching a vitally important workshop series around offshore wind fisheries monitoring. By bringing together dedicated fishing, offshore wind development, and regulatory and scientific leaders, we continue to support and elevate solutions to address the most pressing scientific questions facing our community today. While regional coordination and collaboration in this area of science is widely agreed upon as important, ROSA is uniquely situated to effectuate and support that coordination and collaboration.

The Board of Directors also held a workshop to further develop the governance of the organization as a starting point for establishing new policies and procedures. At its December meeting, the Board elected two new members to begin their terms in January 2024: Fred Mattera, Executive Director of the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island, and Ross Pearsall, Senior Fisheries Relationship Manager at Ørsted.

As ROSA moves into 2024 and this new phase, staff will be leaning more heavily than ever on our Advisory Council and Research Advisors to provide their guidance and expertise.

Thank you for being part of our community. We look ahead to the new year with excitement for the opportunities and with the determination to meet the challenges.



2023 MILESTONES

Welcome Renee Reilly

2023 was a year filled with growth for ROSA with the onboarding of a new Executive Director, Dr. Reneé Reilly, who officially assumed the role of executive director on May 8. Reneé comes to ROSA with a strong background in fisheries management science and offshore wind development. Her experience includes close work with state, federal, and regional regulatory agencies; fishing industry representatives; and offshore wind developers to identify research priorities and science-based approaches to understanding effects of development. Reneé will strengthen these relationships while advancing ROSA as a research leader examining regional impacts of development and co-existence between fisheries and offshore wind development.

Strategic Planning Process

The transition of leadership at ROSA provided an opportunity to launch a new strategic planning process. ROSA staff reached out to Board Members, Advisory Council members, and Research Advisors to actively solicit feedback on 1) what the organization has been executing effectively, 2) where adjustments could be made to increase efficacy, and 3) what strategic direction to take in the next 5 years.

Staff have translated that feedback into a forward-facing draft plan, presenting the key strategies to the ROSA Board of Directors, then to the Executive Committee, Advisory Council, and New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. The final draft will be presented for formal review by an external panel in the first quarter of 2024.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR COMMITMENT

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

2023 INITIATIVES

Taking its direction from priorities set by the ROSA Advisory Council, staff executed the following initiatives in 2023.

Regional Research Fund Program

As part of its federal contract, Equinor Services is funding the ROSA-led set up and administration of a regional project funding program. Following completion, ROSA will establish a framework for the program and began the search for a new staff member to develop the work plan for regional request for proposal development.

Offshore Wind Fisheries Monitoring Plan Development, Implementation, & Evolution Sessions

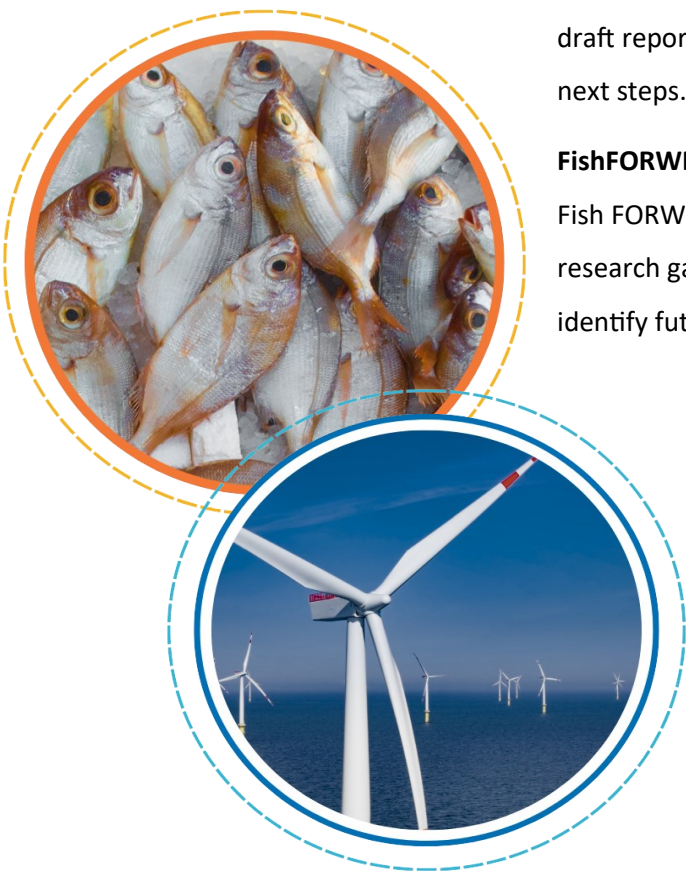
In 2023, ROSA launched monitoring plan sessions with individual sectors. These forums allowed staff to gather information, document questions and concerns, identify potential solutions, and encourage collaboration. ROSA sought to provide a neutral space to promote an honest discussion of challenges and solutions.

Topics included high-level scientific questions and opportunities for coordinating data collection, standards, and information sharing. Follow-up sessions may focus on specific methods and tools, such as optimizing acoustic telemetry networks, paired eDNA sampling, gear-types, taxa, or topic areas, such as socioeconomics.

The first three sessions were held virtually in December 2023 for offshore wind developers, regulators, and the science & research community. An in-person session for the fishing industry was held in early 2024. The final cross-sector session will be held later in 2024 and will include a symposium to review the draft report. At this time, ROSA staff will also host an inclusive discussion on next steps.

FishFORWRD

Fish FORWRD is ROSA's database of research priorities, ongoing research, and research gaps related to offshore wind and fisheries that will be used to identify future research priorities. The database was first developed as a spreadsheet. With assistance and support from WSP and Attentive Energy, a webtool prototype was developed for the ROSA website and was tested by staff and users. The final webtool will go live in Spring 2024.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Sector partnerships are critical to ROSA's mission. In 2023 these efforts included working with:

National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC)

ROSA is collaborating with regional fishermen, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and the University of Maine as part of a grant project to influence the engineering design of floating offshore wind structures to ensure co-existence with recreational and commercial fishing. In 2023, a Project Advisory Committee of developers and federal and state regulators was formed and a [Project Dashboard was launched](#).

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind (RWSC)

ROSA staff continue to participate in several of the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind's (RWSC) subcommittees: Protected Fish Species, Data Governance, and Ecosystem & Habitat. RWSC's Science Plan is a key tool for coordinating wildlife offshore wind research and monitoring. ROSA staff participated in the plan development. Along with its subcommittee participation, ROSA's close collaboration with RWSC continues.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2023, ROSA staff participated in a number of conferences to engage the OSW and fishery communities in conversations about key topics related to regional offshore science. Highlights include:

Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Symposium

ROSA teamed up with the fishing and offshore wind industries, federal and state regulators, and environmental NGOs to again host a symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sixteen presentations and posters on the topic of Interactions Between Offshore Wind, Fisheries, and Fisheries Resources were included on the agenda. ROSA staff, Advisory Council members, and Research Advisors also presented.

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Our Research Director Mike Pol continued to chair an ICES Working Group on Species and Size Selective Experiments to update best practices and guidelines for understanding how fishing gear design impacts the size and species in the catch. He also attended the ICES Annual Science Conference in Spain and presented a poster on the working group's activities.



2024 Goals

Staff expansion

Increasing the organization’s capacity through the addition of a new Research Project Manager and Communications Associate at ROSA will be a tremendous opportunity and goal for 2024. The hiring search process came to a close at the end of 2023, and the new, expanded staff are set to begin in early 2024.

We will also be seeking a summer intern to assist ROSA on the policy side by analyzing and comparing our current monitoring guidelines with those being used by offshore wind developers.

Outreach & expanded community engagement

Part of ROSA’s new strategic plan will be work with our Advisory Council and Research Advisors. To broaden our outreach and community engagement. We will also launch a communications strategy to expand our digital reach.

Report

The next steps for the OSW Fisheries Monitoring Plan sessions will be to hold in-person sessions, and for ROSA staff to draft a report detailing the sessions’ outcomes. The report will not only serve the community by highlighting key concerns, challenges, and potential solutions surrounding these plans, but it will also provide internal guidance as ROSA begins updating the OSW Project Monitoring Framework and Guidelines.

Regional Research Program launch

A key strategic goal for 2024 will be the development and implementation of ROSA’s Regional Research Program. A significant partner engagement will be integral to the success of this new program, and we look forward not only to providing the mechanisms for that engagement but also to translating feedback into action as we move forward.

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