



Advisory Council Meeting

JUNE 14, 2024 | Meeting Summary

Developed by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting-In-Brief

On June 14, 2024, the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council met, convening 83 participants (a list of attendees can be found in Appendix A), two facilitators and 3 ROSA staff.

At this meeting, ROSA shared updates and received feedback on the Fish FORWRD webtool, regional monitoring plans, and the ROSA strategic plan process. In cross-sector breakout group discussions, participants offered feedback on monitoring solutions going forward. Jennifer McCann, University of Rhode Island (URI), and Pankaj Lal, Montclair State University, presented updates on recreational fishing data.

Meeting materials including the agenda and presentations can be found on ROSA's website:

www.rosascience.org/our-work/advisory-council-priorities-and-meetings/.

Welcome

ROSA Executive Director René Reilly welcomed participants and reminded them of the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance's (ROSA) inception and mission. In early 2019 ROSA became a 501(c)3 through partnership between ROSA and OSW developers to advance research, monitoring and methods on the effects of offshore wind energy development on fisheries across US federal and state waters. ROSA serves as an objective resource for all sectors and facilitates coordination of regional scientific research to collaboratively and efficiently deepen understanding.

Facilitator Patrick Field (Consensus Building Institute) oriented participants to the agenda and initiated an introductory poll¹ for participants to share their relation to ROSA, the industry they represent, and the region in which they primarily work.

¹ Of the 55 participants who responded to the poll: 21 were ROSA Advisory Council members or alternates, 4 were ROSA Research Advisors, 5 were ROSA Board members and 25 were interested others. Four participants represented commercial fishing, 2 represented recreational fishing, 6 represented consulting firms, 5 represented federal agencies, 3 represented non-profit organizations, 11 represented offshore wind developers, 4 represented regional fishery councils or commissions, 10 represented state agencies, 5 represented universities, and 4 represented other entities. Of the 55 participants, 19 work primarily in New England, 21 in the Mid-Atlantic, 3 in South Atlantic, 2 in the West Coast, and 8 in other locations.

ROSA Updates

The ROSA board provides primarily fiduciary and vision support for the organization. ROSA recently added five new board members to expand the board and include diverse perspectives. The new board members are Bob Beal, Brian Hooker, Greg Lampman, Julia Livermore and Kevin Wark.

There is an opening on ROSA's Executive Committee for a mid-Atlantic state representative. The Executive Committee is a ten person subset of the Advisory Council that meets quarterly to provide guidance on the Advisory Council's agenda setting, priorities and topic areas, and general administrative questions. The Executive Committee is composed of two representatives from commercial fishing, recreational fishing, OSW development, regional organizations and state representatives. Nominations are due via email to info@rosascience.org on June 21, 2024.

Fish FORWARD Demonstration

Tricia Perez, ROSA, shared an overview of the Fish FORWARD project and objectives: increasing awareness of ongoing work, avoiding duplication and identifying gaps. Tricia demonstrated the [Fish FORWARD webtool](#) and responded to questions and comments from participants.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and ROSA responses are italicized below.

- Suggestion to include a primary contact for each project to enable collaboration among researchers.
 - *We want to do that if their email is public.*
- Suggestion to reach out to Fishery Management Councils to increase awareness about this tool. The Mid-Atlantic Management Council has an offshore wind (OSW) subgroup that would likely be interested.
- Suggestion to share the FishFORWRD Webtool with the New England Council's Habitat Committee when publicizing Fish FORWARD.
- What is the schedule for release of Fish FORWARD, and what outreach will be conducted?
 - *This was discussed at a recent funder meeting. ROSA has almost met with each developer to review implemented fishery monitoring plan information. We are also working with WSP to conduct a gaps analysis, which should be available in July or August.*
- What is the plan to keep this tool current, reviewed and updated?
 - *We will likely make biannual updates, to align with funder coordination meetings. We expect biannual updates to be a lighter lift than this large update.*

Funder Coordination Meeting

Tricia gave a synopsis of the first funder coordination meeting held on May 28 to coordinate research and monitor research funds for fisheries and offshore wind. The meeting included discussion on how each funding entity funds projects and their future funding priorities. ROSA is considering convening funders biannually to share updates. After the funder coordination meeting, ROSA shared recommendations about how researchers could collaborate with ROSA through Fish FORWARD, participating in ROSA meetings and data governance.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions

and comments, and ROSA responses are italicized below.

- Can ROSA include projected timelines specific to Fishery Monitoring Plans (FMPs) in Fish FORWRD?
 - *ROSA could consider adding FMP as an attribute so they could be filtered out, and changing attributes from project start to projected end. Contributors have generally been willing to share project timelines, so we have access to this information.*

ROSA Request for Proposals (RFP) Development Process

Tricia shared that the RFP development plan is anticipated to be complete in July. The next step is to define research topic areas based on Fish FORWRD, and input from the funder coordination meeting, Advisory Council, and research advisors.

ROSA is looking for Advisory Council members to meet to discuss research gaps and topics in terms of importance, urgency, and achievability. A list of preliminary research categories was shared, including resource monitoring and survey adaptation. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 8.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and ROSA responses are italicized below.

- Suggestion to include fisheries enhancement and differentiating effects of climate change from offshore wind as potential research categories.

Acoustic Telemetry Committee and ACT Network Meeting Update

Mike Pol, ROSA, gave a summary of the Acoustic Telemetry Committee meeting on May 3, 2024. The committee continued revising monitoring guidance, and discussed disruption of acoustic arrays, sharing receiver locations, and data sharing. Next steps will be determined proceeding the Atlantic Cooperative Telemetry (ACT) Network Meeting Offshore Wind Workshop (June 3 - 6). The ACT Network Meeting c focused on minimum data standards, data accessibility, and data products for integration to Federal Surveys. ROSA offered to co-author a draft guidance document and was requested to continue the Acoustic Telemetry Committee.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and ROSA responses are italicized below.

- Those working on acoustic telemetry are already interoperating and compatible; this technology is regional in nature.
- With regards to the mapping of receivers, is ROSA working with RWSC on their [spatial tool](#)?
 - *Yes, RWSC and ROSA are in close communication and collaboration.*

Intern Introductions

Reneé closed the ROSA update portion of the meeting by introducing ROSA's summer interns Delaney McBride and Nusrat Noor. Delaney McBride is supporting the monitoring guidelines work and Nusrat Noor is helping with habitat initiatives over the summer. She underscored the importance of orienting interns to ongoing work and introducing them to leaders in the field.

Partner Updates

BOEM

Mike Pol, ROSA, briefed meeting participants on BOEM environmental studies fishery projects. Each year, BOEM creates a studies development plan that includes strategic science questions selected from proposed study ideas. The 2025-2026 studies development plan includes topics such as: cumulative effects, acute and chronic effects of sound, exposure to hydrocarbons or other chemicals, habitat and landscape alteration, future ocean conditions and dynamics, social sciences, emerging technology, and long-term monitoring. Mike Pol shared a few of the 2024 proposed fishery projects and fish-related projects underway.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and ROSA responses are italicized below.

- How does BOEM establish their research priorities?
 - *BOEM issues a call, and scientists respond.*
- As part of the process BOEM has established an external review committee at the National Academy of Sciences; the group is called COSA and information can be found at: [BOEM Information on COSA](#) and [National Academy of Sciences Information on COSA](#)

NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Andrew Lipsky shared that NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center is implementing the NOAA Fisheries & BOEM Survey Mitigation Strategy and conducting multiple offshore wind fisheries and protected species research. He spotlighted five recent publications. Andrew spoke to the overlap and differences between survey mitigation data and project-level monitoring.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and presenter responses are italicized below.

- Can you share more about the overlap in the Venn diagram image? Are those data you think useful in survey mitigation?
 - *The venn diagram is a conceptual depiction of the work in that [publication](#), where we looked at nine development projects and 67 studies at project level with various monitoring efforts.*
- Thank you for sharing all of these updates. How will the vulnerability assessment work?
 - *We are modeling the vulnerability assessments off of [Hare et al \(2016\)](#); We use the same analysis and logic model to model potential vulnerabilities from offshore wind.*
- Is there a link available for “Offshore wind energy development and highly migratory species: ecological, fishery and management implications (Hendon et al. 2024)”?
 - *The HMS paper is still considered in press and pending publication and is not yet publicly available.*

Regional Fund Administrator

Patrick Field, facilitator, introduced the Regional Fund Administrator (RFA), a joint initiative of 11 coastal states along the Atlantic Ocean, to streamline fisheries compensatory mitigation funds. Patrick shared the call for interested parties directly connected to the commercial fishing industry to be a part of a Design Oversight Committee (DOC) of the RFA. NYSERDA is the lead procurement agency for this

joint effort, and the DOC will serve as the rudder . Applications are due by July 19, 2024 and can be submitted online (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPQT7JX>) or via mail (

Patrick Field, DOC Application, CBI,
2067 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 570,
Cambridge, MA 02140-1340)/

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and Patrick's responses and italicized below.

- Has an RFA been selected?
 - *Proposals have been accepted but no selection has been made. The selection will hopefully be made this summer.*

Monitoring Solutions Going Forward

Dr. Renee Reilly shared that ROSA is working to coordinate offshore wind fisheries monitoring. To contribute to this, ROSA has hosted sector-specific sessions on developing monitoring guidance documents. ROSA is still looking for feedback on a few remaining questions, specifically: Design & implementation (specificity vs. flexibility of guidance); permitting of survey methods/risk of protected species takes; varying lengths of pre-construction sampling recommendations/requirements; logistic constraints, e.g., control area selection, insufficient time for baselines; separation of climate effects from OSW effects; and a lack of leverage for fishing industry, e.g., advocating for greater requirements for assessing impacts to fishing.

Participants were divided into four cross-sector breakout groups to discuss these questions. High-level takeaways were shared in plenary following the breakout groups.

One group discussed the benefits of flexibility, but also noted the need for specificity when starting from scratch. Another group focused on the flexibility versus specificity challenge and drew from conch fishery as an example of guideline challenges. This group noted that research questions vary by lease area. ROSA could take on the role of setting the stage at the beginning of projects and synthesizing results at the end. This group noted that Fisheries Management Councils could make recommendations to ROSA. Multiple groups looked at regulation as the way to standardize monitoring timing as there are varying lengths of pre-construction and number of years to determine a baseline. One group discussed a tiered approach for deciding what to monitor in lease areas. Multiple participants emphasized the importance of considering climate change impacts when establishing baseline data guidance. One group recommended guidance that uplifts what is already available rather than reinvents the wheel.

Recreational Fishing Data Updates

Jennifer McCann, University of Rhode Island (URI), updated participants on ongoing work to advance understanding of recreational fishing, specifically angler behavioral changes due to offshore wind energy development. This work focuses on offshore waters from Massachusetts to New Jersey. The URI team uses a collaborative, trusted, and transparent process that protects the privacy of the fishing community. Jennifer stressed the need for data in the following categories: geospatial, catch effort, economic motivations, incorporating recreational fishing data into large data sources, and impacts in terms of mitigation payments.

The URI team focused on avoiding priority recreational fishing hot spots during offshore wind energy siting processes, determining appropriate mitigation measures that benefit the fishing community, and contributing to the monitoring of long-term recreational fishing behavior change. A standardized process done at a regional scale is needed to develop a baseline dataset for the recreational fishing community. The URI team will be developing the Rhode Island Fishing Tool this summer, collecting data in the fall, and presenting results the following year.

Pankaj Lal, Montclair State University Director of Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center, shared an overview of recent research: “Monitoring the Socioeconomic Impacts of Offshore Wind Development on Recreational Fisheries Economy.” The study estimates and tracks the nature and size of offshore wind farms’ potential effects on recreational fishing by using estimated sector-specific and regional-level multipliers. The study focuses on the Atlantic Shores offshore wind area (Ocean Wind 1 and 2), but has flexibility and utility beyond the study area as it complements NOAA Fisheries’ Marine Recreational Information Program.

The study used a Saltwater Registry Database survey and Qualtrics survey. The Saltwater Registry Survey targeted coastal areas in New Jersey popular for saltwater fishing and within a reasonable proximity to announced offshore wind projects (e.g., Long Beach Island, Atlantic City, Ocean City). Pankaj Lal shared an overview of the questions in the two surveys.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and presenter responses and italicized below.

- I was blown away that paragliding and offshore wind energy are compatible use.
 - *Based on European activities it can be compatible.*
- This is great. Is there a timeframe for implementing surveys and when you’re done?
 - *Full completion is expected in May 2025, but we may receive a three-month extension from DEP.*

Regional Items of Interest and Relevant Upcoming Meetings

Reneé, ROSA, extended an open invitation to the NYSEDA state of the science. The event hosts 130 people in-person and participants can also attend virtually. They’re finalizing the keynote speaker. The agenda is available online. ROSA has a symposium side meeting on scientific questions remaining around surf clam stock assessments. Reneé noted that she anticipated a full and productive meeting and gave thanks to NYSEDA for hosting.

Closing remarks & Meeting Updates

Appendix A | ROSA Council Member and Alternates Attendance

Daniel Salerno	Sector Manager for Northeast Fishery Sectors V and XI
Catherine McCall	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chris Batsavage	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Colleen Brust	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Douglas Christel	National Marine Fisheries Service
Greg DeCelles	Ørsted
Michelle Duval	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)
Mike Waine	American Sportfishing Association
Sebastian Velez	TotalEnergies
Todd Janeski	Virginia Commonwealth University
Andrew Lipsky	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Jarrett Drake	Drake Lobster
Jennifer Daniels	Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Justin Davis	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Mark Rousseau	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Matthew Manberg	TotalEnergies
Michelle Bachman	New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)
Patrick Campfield	Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
Richard Wong	University of Delaware
Sam Ascii	SouthCoast Wind
Samuel Beirne	Maryland Energy Administration
Brian Hooker	BOEM
Deirdre Boelke	Community Offshore Wind
Kirk Larson	Lindsay L Inc.

Appendix B | Participants

Jon Pye	Kelly Whitmore
Angela Silva	Ron Larsen
Danny Bryant	Elizabeth Beyer
Amalia Harrington	Jennifer Couture
Nathan Martin	Marcus Chevitaese
Sarah Hudak	Jennifer Daniels

Jordan Katz	Laura Singer
Will Poston	Justin Davis
Mike Pol	Tricia Perez
Jarrett Drake	Will Poston
Delaney McBride	Nustrat Noor
Atma Khalsa	Claire Ober
Thomas Heimann	Mindy Hamlin
Bob Beal	Crista Bank
Mark Rousseau	Ryan Green
Julia Livermore	Fred Mattera
Shannon Bohman	Peter Himchak
Melissa Errend	Katie Almeida
Emmie Page	Will Shoup
Richard Wong	Joe Cimino
Sean Lucey	Laura Morse
Ruth Perry	Kayla Walsh
Dave Secor	AJ Mabaka
Tom Dameron	Caela Howard
Clifford Goudey	Beth Bowers
Samuel Beirne	Jennifer Daniels
Chris McGuire	Jennifer McCann
Patrick Campfield	Willy Goldsmith
Pankaj Lal	Sarah Borsetti