



Advisory Council Meeting

December 19, 2024 | Meeting Summary

Developed by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting-In-Brief

On December 19, 2024 the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council met, convening participants (a list of attendees can be found in Appendix B), facilitators and ROSA staff. At this meeting, ROSA staff gave updates on the Acoustic Telemetry Committee's, NREL Co-Design Project, regional RFP, Data Governance Program, and Funder Coordination Meeting. ROSA Partners also gave updates about relevant research and programs such as a regional RFA, research planning map, stock enhancement research and ROSA impact assessment. The meeting concluded with ROSA staff asking participants to reflect on the previous year and provide feedback to improve ROSA work in the upcoming year.

Welcome

Reneé Reilly opened the meeting by outlining the meeting agenda and reminding participants of ROSA's organizational history and mission. Reilly shared updates on the executive committee, including the appointment of Morgan Brunbauer and reminded members to give input on the draft data policy for the regional RFP. Facilitator Patrick Field (Consensus Building Institute) initiated an introductory poll¹ for participants to share their relation to ROSA, the industry they represent, and the region in which they primarily work.

ROSA Updates

ROSA staff gave brief updates regarding ongoing programs such as the regional RFP, Data Governance Program and Funder Coordination Meeting. In regards to the regional RFP, Tricia Perez, ROSA, mentioned that concept papers are being received and final projects will be selected in June and gave thanks for input on topic areas.

Mike Pol, ROSA, discussed the progress of the Data Governance Program, including the development of a data glossary, interviews with data partners, and the launch of the data governance committee in February 2025.

¹ Of the 58 participants who responded to the poll: 27 were ROSA Advisory Council members or alternates, 17 were ROSA Research Advisors, 2 were ROSA Board members and 12 were interested others. Three participants represented commercial fishing, 4 represented recreational fishing, 6 represented consulting firms, 3 represented federal agencies, 4 represented non-profit organizations, 8 represented offshore wind developers, 3 represented regional fishery councils or commissions, 12 represented state agencies, 10 represented universities, and 5 represented other entities. Of the 58 participants, 22 work primarily in New England, 26 in the Mid-Atlantic, 3 in South Atlantic, 1 in the Pacific Coast, and 6 work in other locations.

Tricia Perez then shared her synthesis of the second Funder Coordination Meeting. The objective of this group is to gather funding entities on the East Coast to optimize research and monitoring dollars for fisheries and offshore wind by aligning policies and avoiding duplication. At the meeting Perez shared three regional research coordination resources: regional coordination request, data policy, data management and sharing plan. Those interested can access the information listed under Funder and Researcher Resources on the ROSA webpage: <https://www.rosascience.org/research-coordination/>.

Mike Pol updated attendees on the Acoustic Telemetry Committee's work and the NREL Co-Design Project. Recently the Acoustic Telemetry Committee group has updated a fact sheet created in partnership with RSC and the next committee meeting is scheduled for mid February. The NREL Co-Design Project has completed its first round of interviews with key informants and developed a report that documents spatial requirements, comfort level ratings and other concerns that fishermen expressed about pitching folks to floating offshore wind.

Discussion

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

- For the Regional RFP, how will you be reviewing proposals?
 - *As a part of the concept paper we requested three suggested reviewers and then we will do an external review for full applications after March.*
- What is the ultimate end goal of the NREL Co-Design project?
 - *The outcome will be recommendations regarding fishing gear type and vessels and spatial needs. The report will be offered as information to the individual developers, engineers to then design their arrays how they see fit.*
- The NREL Co-Design project may be helpful, beyond a product for developers, for BOEM to potentially use in their permit reviews.
- Measuring the fishermen's comfort level of working in floating arrays is subjective. Have you considered attempting to determine the price you could assign to a risk- similar to insurance companies?
 - *That is an interesting angle I had not considered.*

Partner Updates

Regional Fund Administrator

Morgan Brunbauer, NYSERDA, reported updates about the Regional Fund Administrator announced on November 4th. Two parallel committees have been established to provide guidance and feedback alongside a broader engagement process for both commercial and recreational fishing industries. The Design Oversight Committee (DOC) has already conducted its first meeting, which focused on member introductions and familiarization with the RFA. The recreational fishing committee will convene in January. In the coming months there will likely be the launch of broader workshops and one-on-one conversations, along with ongoing committee meetings.

Research Planning Map

Jordan Katz, RWSC, provided a detailed overview of the regional resource planning map that RWSC launched in July. The Research Planning Map displays the locations (points, transects, areas) where wildlife and environment data are being collected to support offshore wind research. The presentation

included information on the process of gathering receiver locations and the development of the map layers. The map is available on the linked webpage: rWSC.org/map. There is a video on the RWSC website that explains the map functions in more detail. Participants were asked to share receiver locations with RWSC if they are not currently public.

Discussion

Renee Reilly requested input about prioritization of monitoring methods layers to be added to the resource planning map. Comments are noted below.

- e-DNA would be useful and several participants reinforced this suggestion
- Fixed mooring observing systems like telemetry will be most useful, such as long term deployments of environmental/e-DNA loggers. I think projects that use deployed gear, trawls, pots, etc. will necessarily randomize deployments and this will not be as useful for regional perspectives.

Fisheries Mitigation and Stock Enhancement

Surfclam Stock Enhancement Workshop

On November 20th 2024, 43 stakeholders gathered for a Surf Clam Stock Enhancement Workshop to establish mitigation standards and stakeholder roles, explore scenarios and practical steps for regional scaling, and develop immediate short term and long term actions. Tom Dameron, Surfside Foods, gave a brief summary of the event and emphasized the importance of collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

State of Surfclam Research

Daphne Munroe, Rutgers University, updated attendees about ongoing surf clam stock enhancement research, including experiments and evaluation of hatchery capacity, seed survival and growth in the ocean, and offshore aquaculture potential. Upcoming research includes use of machine learning to identify locations suitable for enhancement and observation of key predation behaviors.

Scallop Stock Enhancement Workshop

Dave Rudders, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, synthesized a scallop stock enhancement workshop which convened stakeholders, experts, and decision-makers to understand the state of scallop enhancement. Rudders outlined four focal areas: seed production, planting and transplanting, ecological considerations, and regulatory management.

Discussion

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

- I noticed two big problems using the Japanese seed production model to study Blue Crabs in Chesapeake Bay. One is that natural production can swamp your ability to enhance. And then the second issue is mobility, which is going to be a bigger issue for the scallops and the surfclam seeds.
 - *For surfclams we would be producing animals in a hatchery and seeding them out at 1520 millimeter sizes to avoid the early life constraints. There is also new information about recruitment density. In terms of mobility you are right, we expect that they will move if they have to.*
 - *I agree with you. I think that one of the rate limiting steps is going to be scaling, but there may be ways to increase your yield per recruit a little bit which could help.*

Impact Assessment- ROSA's monitoring guidelines on COP development

Delaney McBride, University of North Carolina Wilmington, introduced her project which assessed COPs, published since the first edition of ROSA's monitoring framework in 2021, to better understand ROSA's impact and identify gaps in their recommendations. After sharing the assessment's methodology and high level findings, McBride offered three suggestions:

1. Pursue collaboration for emerging projects in the Mid Atlantic region
2. Leverage collaboration to develop a stakeholder centered approach to this research design
3. Develop a data storage and data sharing protocols that foster communication across projects to enhance regional ecosystem knowledge

Reneé Reilly thanked McBride for her work over the summer as a ROSA intern and applauded the policy analysis she conducted.

ROSA Advisory Council 2025 Planning

Reneé Reilly announced the approval of ROSA's strategic plan by the board of directors. ROSA will move forward focusing on three key objectives: administering regional offshore wind and fisheries research, facilitating the assessment of regional impacts and also building coordination through engagement. Pat Field, CBI Facilitator, led participants through an online polling exercise to gain feedback from the group on ROSA's 2025 work plan (results of the full exercise can be found in Appendix A).

Discussion

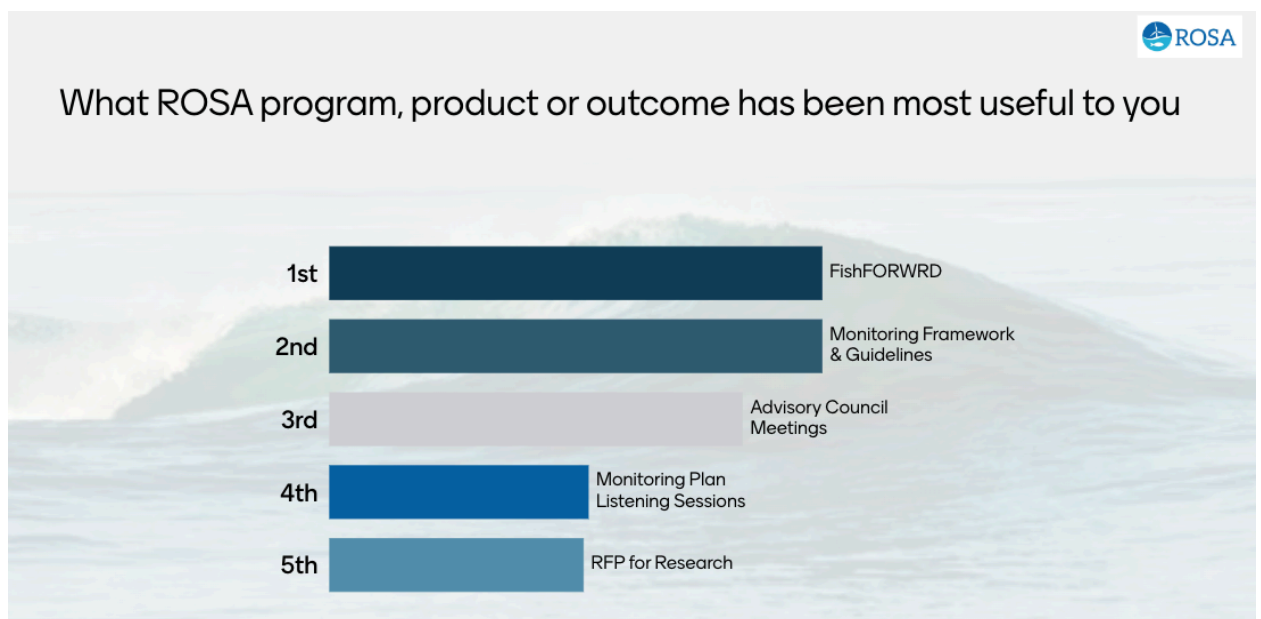
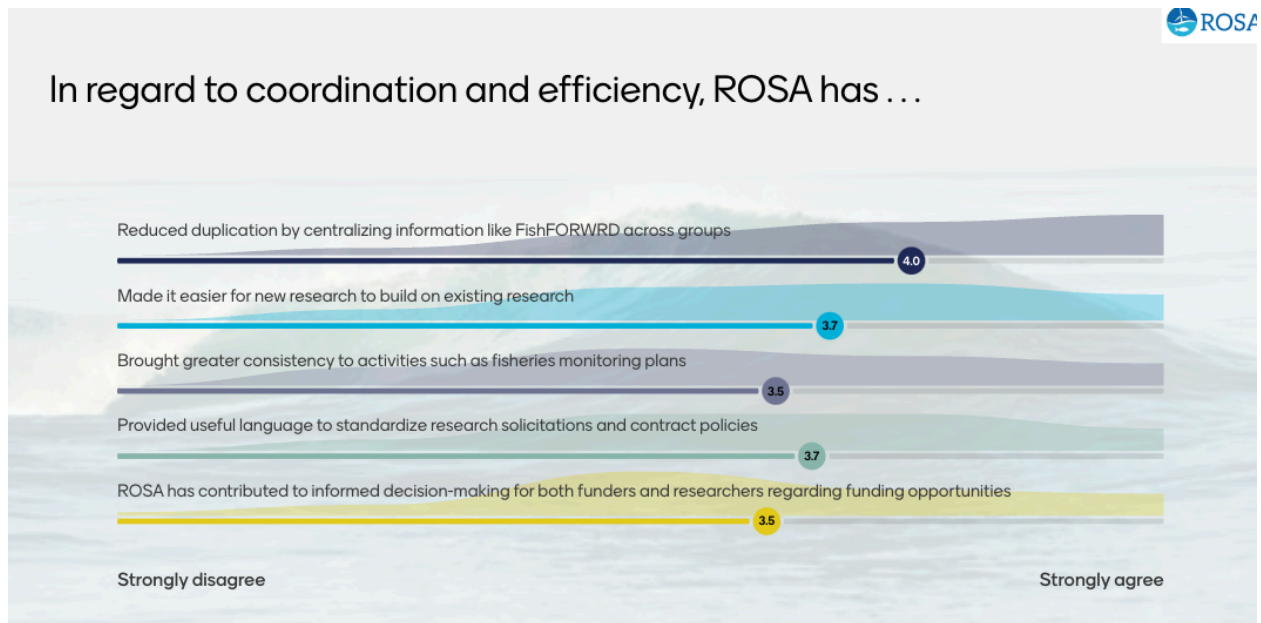
Attendees could answer the following open response questions anonymously or share insights aloud. Participants' verbal and written feedback is summarized below:

- *What is/are the one or two most valuable services that ROSA provides?*
 - Most respondents emphasized the importance of ROSA's regional, funding and research coordination efforts.
 - Participants mentioned ROSA being a cross sector neutral space for networking and discussion and appreciated their convening/facilitation services.
 - Participants noted appreciation for ROSA's dissemination and compilation of relevant scientific research.
 - A few participants expressed interest in how fishermen are incorporated into ROSA's work.
- *In what ways has ROSA increased collaboration among stakeholders? How could it better foster collaboration in the future?*
 - Respondents felt that ROSA provided a central, transparent, inclusive forum for discussion, collaboration and research. One participant felt that ROSA helps break down barriers between researchers and stakeholders.
 - Respondents recommended hosting smaller workshops. One participant encouraged that fishermen be compensated for participation in small workshops.
 - One respondent suggested checking in with stakeholder groups individually and another respondent recommended creating more small working groups and opportunities for direct engagement.
 - FishFORWRD was mentioned by multiple respondents. Moreover, one participant appreciated the clearinghouse role ROSA has played for ongoing and upcoming research.

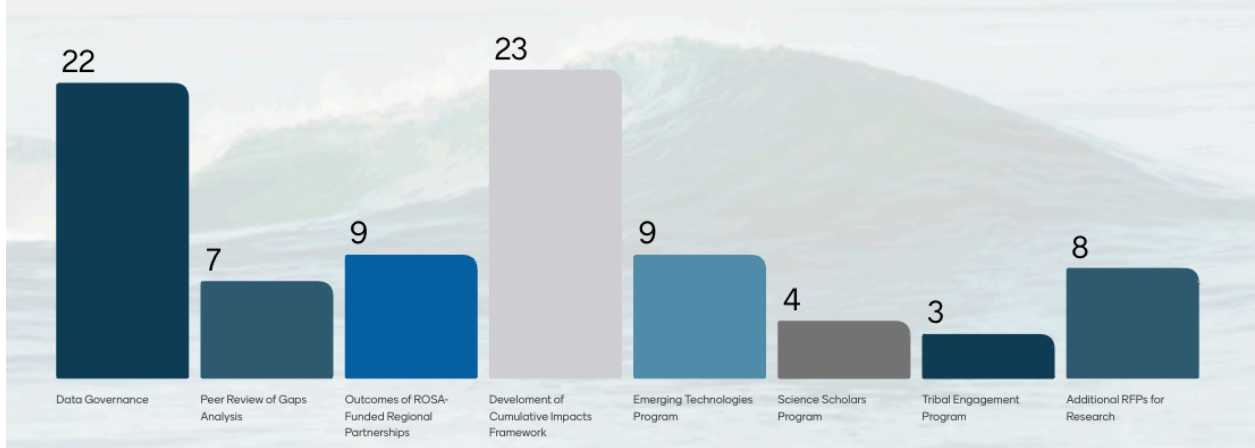
Closing remarks & Meeting Updates

Reneé Reilly congratulated Mike Pol, ROSA, for his recent appointment to the National Academies Standing Committee. Reilly closed the meeting by sharing upcoming ROSA related events, including the Cooperative Research Summit in Portland, Maine, and a research symposium at the New England Fisheries Management Council poster session in January. The meeting concluded with a reminder to reach out with any additional feedback on the work plan, corrections for FishFORWRD or interest in attending the Data Governance Committee's kickoff meeting.

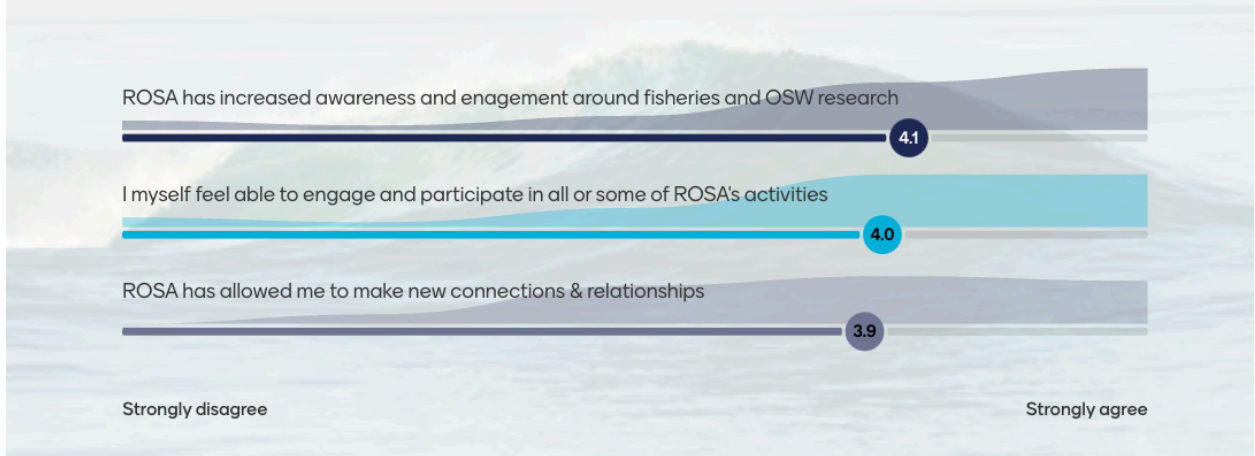
Appendix A | Mentimeter Results



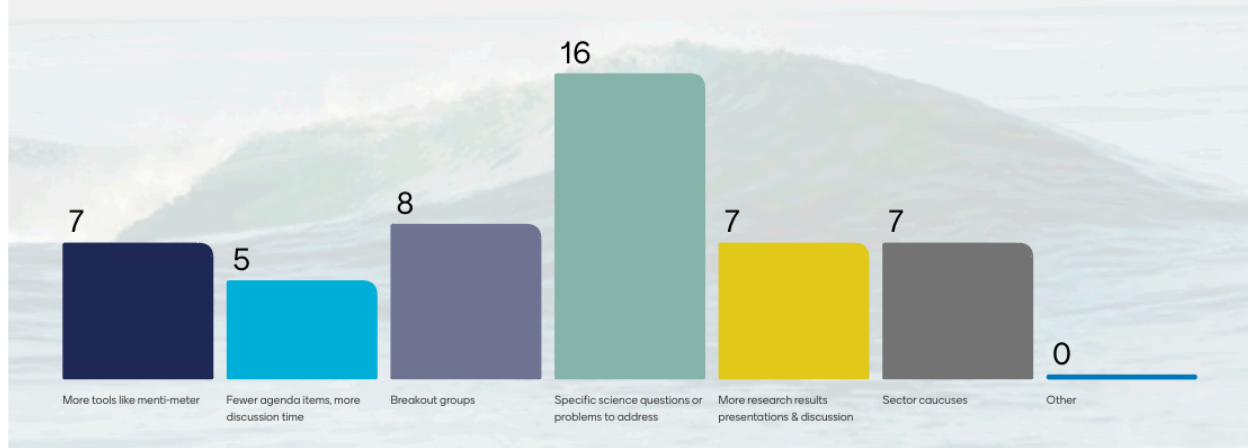
What future ROSA program, products, or projects do you think will provide the most value to your sector?



In regards to ROSA's communications and events



How can ROSA encourage more dialogue and input from the Advisory Council?



Appendix B | Attendance

ROSA Council Member and Alternates Attendance

Chris	Batsavage	Alternate
Sam	Asci	Alternate
Bob	Beal	Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission
Rick	Bellavance	Priority Charters, LLC
Morgan	Brunbauer	NYSERDA
Colleen	Brust	NJDEP
Joe	Cimino	Alternate
Justin	Davis	Alternate
Greg	DeCelles	Ørsted
Michelle	Duval	MAFMC
Ryan	Green	Alternate
Joe	Grist	Alternate
Todd	Janeski	Alternate
Kirk	Larson jr	Lindsay L Inc.
Catherine	McCall	MDNR
Trish	Murphey	NCDEQ
Michael	Pierdinock	CPF Charters

Bruce	Pohlot	International Game Fish Association
Alex	Schneider	Alternate
Melissa	Smith	NEFMC
Mike	Waine	American Sportfishing Association

Participants

Audrey	Bard
Sarah	Borsetti
Yong	Chen
Kevin	D.
Tom	Dameron
Alison	Frey
Brian	Gervelis
Ed	Hale
Sarah	Hudak
Jordan	Katz
Ron	Larsen
Liz	Levandoski
Delaney	McBride
Caitlin	McGarigal
Chris	McGuire
Thomas	Moorman
Joe	Myers
Tasha	O'Hara
Emmie	Page
Nicky	Roberts
Mark	Rousseau
Margaret	Rubega
David	Rudders
Brendan	Runde
David	Secor

Will	Shoup
Emily	Shumchenia
Mike	Sissenwine
Dara	Wilber
Elizabeth	

ROSA and Consensus Building Institute Staff

Reneé Reilly	ROSA
Mike Pol	ROSA
Tricia Perez	ROSA
Helen Henderson	ROSA
Patrick Field	CBI
Meira Downie	CBI