



Advisory Council Meeting

March 27, 2025 | Meeting Summary

Developed by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting-In-Brief

On March 27, 2025 the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council (AC) met, convening 63 members and participants (a list of attendees can be found in Appendix A), two facilitators, and 4 ROSA staff.

At this meeting, ROSA shared brief updates on operations and projects with focus on the FishFORWRD Research Gaps Analysis peer review process and the Data Governance Program's progress. Orran Brown Jr., BrownGreer, and Olivia Burke, Carbon Trust, gave an overview of the Regional Fund Administrator.

State partners representing Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF), Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium (ME OSW RC), and New Jersey Offshore Wind Research & Monitoring Initiative (NJ RMI) shared updates about ongoing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and overviews of funded research projects. Fiona Hogan (Responsible Offshore Development Alliance), shared an invitation to an upcoming Synthesis of the Science: Floating OSW event. Mike Long (Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation), provided a review of Ventless Trap surveys conducted between 2021 and 2024 for the South Fork Wind and Revolution Wind projects.

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

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

State of Play

Patrick began the meeting by acknowledging the offshore wind sector's state of flux and anticipated having more clarity about national energy priorities at an upcoming Advisory Council meeting. Reneé Reilly, ROSA Executive Director, emphasized ROSA's role as a trusted, nonpartisan platform for science-based collaboration and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to coordinated, transparent

¹Of the 38 participants who responded to the poll, 16 were ROSA Advisory Council members or alternates, 6 were ROSA Research Advisors, 4 were ROSA Board members and 12 were interested others. 4 participants represented commercial fishing, 1 represented recreational fishing, 3 represented consulting firms, 4 represented federal agencies, 2 represented non-profit organizations, 8 represented offshore wind developers, 3 represented regional fishery councils or commissions, 8 represented state agencies, and 3 represented universities. Of the 38 participants, 21 work primarily in New England, 11 in the Mid-Atlantic, 2 in South Atlantic, 1 in the West Coast, and 2 in other locations.



research informing responsible offshore wind development decisions. Ruth Perry, ROSA board member, commended both speakers and reiterated the organization's crucial importance.

ROSA Updates

ROSA Staff began the meeting with brief updates and announcements. First, the [2024 Year in Review](#) and [New England Fishery Management Council \(NEFMC\) Offshore Wind and Fisheries Session summary](#) were highlighted as being available on the ROSA website.

ROSA has completed interviews for 2025 summer internship candidates and is now finalizing selections. The applicant pool primarily consists of graduate students, with recent graduates also under consideration.

ROSA recently reviewed 48 concept papers for the Advancing Regional Solutions for Fisheries and Offshore Wind regional RFP which will fund research across three topic areas. After inviting 24 proposals to advance, ROSA is now conducting technical merit reviews of 23 full applications. Final project selection is scheduled for June.

The release of the NREL Codesign Project Report is paused and ROSA is pursuing alternative publishing options, including the possibility of ROSA publishing the report as it has done for other projects.

FishFORWRD Update & Peer Review

Tricia Perez, ROSA Research Program Manager, reported that 54 new projects were added to the [FishFORWRD](#) webtool in January, complete with high level summaries. The second phase of FishFORWRD is a [Research Gaps Analysis](#), an effort to create a common understanding of explored research areas and remaining research gaps. Tricia outlined the Research Gaps Analysis methodology and is soliciting volunteers familiar with each research category to participate in the 2025 Gaps Analysis Peer Review. Peer review teams will be confirmed in April and ROSA will disseminate results in August.

Data Governance Program

Mike Pol, ROSA Research Director, shared a brief history of the [Data Governance Program](#) and reminded attendees that the Data Governance Committee convened for the first time in February, 2025. Over 43 people representing a broad range of industries and expertise gathered to discuss existing repositories and prioritize data groups to explore first. Image data and fishing gear data were identified as high priority. Over the next few months members of the committee will join work groups to discuss each data group and form recommendations to share with the community for feedback.

Regional Fund Administrator

Orran Brown Jr., BrownGreer, and Olivia Burke, Carbon Trust, presented an overview of the Regional Fund Administrator beginning by introducing themselves and the project team. BrownGreer in partnership with the Carbon Trust were selected to engage stakeholders and design the regional compensation framework for the Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast and Offshore Wind.



The Design Oversight Committee (DOC) and For-Hire Committee (FHC) will meet regularly to develop the regional compensation fund, addressing different project components on a 2-3 month rotating schedule. From May to July 2025, discussions will focus on eligibility criteria. Olivia shared that the plan is to report findings and finalize the fund design between February and June 2026.

State Updates

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)

Nils Bolgen, MassCEC, shared an overview of the 2024 Science and Research Solicitation results. The solicitation aimed to fill scientific research gaps, foster partnerships, and expand Massachusetts' offshore wind research capacity. In January, \$2.6 million was awarded across seven projects covering technology, wildlife, fisheries, and habitats. Implementation will emphasize developing concise, illustrated project summary sheets communicating issues, activities, findings, and policy implications. While reflecting on the process, Nils proposed regional funding collaboration as the optimal approach for future solicitations and considered the potential role ROSA might play in this collaborative strategy. A participant asked whether these projects could be incorporated into the biennial NYSERDA State of Science meeting to have their results shared with a broader group of stakeholders.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF)

Brad Schondelmeier, MA DMF, made a brief announcement regarding the finalization of the RFP for a fisheries innovation fund worth \$1.75 million as one of the funds negotiated with OSW developers. Brad encouraged those with projects in mind to be on the lookout for the RFP's release in the upcoming months and confirmed that he will share the RFP announcement with ROSA to distribute.

Maine OSW Research Consortium

Katy Bland, Maine SeaGrant, reported on three rounds of the Maine OSW Research Consortium's RFP process for studying floating offshore wind impacts in the Gulf of Maine. The consortium follows a process of developing research questions, scoping, prioritization, and then issuing research calls and has begun two cycles with a third underway. The initial 2023 funding round supported three projects: fisheries coexistence strategies, socioeconomic data inventory, and seafloor mapping near the research array, with reports coming soon. At the end of 2024 proposals were solicited and all are currently under review by the Governor's Energy Office. Research calls for the third round are expected later this year.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

Caitlin McGarigal, NJDEP, presented an update regarding ongoing Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring Initiative (RMI) projects. RMI funds come from a regional research fee tied to the power purchase agreements between developers and the state. Given tight funding, the RMI is considering the best way to prioritize data needs and distribute funds to maintain as many projects as possible. Caitlin highlighted some of the current research projects funded by RMI and shared an update on the review process for the recent research solicitation. The full \$4.75 million announced in the RFP is not expected to be awarded. Awarded proposals are expected to be announced by the end of May or early June with priority given to projects with the most urgent contributions to regional offshore wind science.



Research Highlights

Synthesis of the Science on Floating Offshore Wind

Fiona Hogan, The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), shared that RODA will host a virtual workshop on May 1st about floating wind energy technology as part of its Synthesis of the Science: Offshore Wind and Fisheries Interactions project. More information about the workshop and registering can be found [here](#).

Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF)

Mike Long, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF), provided a review of Ventless Trap surveys conducted between 2021 and 2024 for the South Fork Wind and Revolution Wind projects. These surveys, designed using a Before-After Control-Impact (BACI) methodology, were conducted across five designated areas with standardized sampling protocols.

Mike shared a summary of findings on various species, including lobsters, Jonah crabs, rock crabs, and black sea bass. Preliminary results indicated a potential increase in lobster abundance within the wind farm areas, Jonah and rock crab abundance results were mixed, and black sea bass showed a decrease in abundance wind farm survey areas, which is somewhat surprising given the species has seen an increase in other surveys. Mike noted that these surveys can also facilitate supplementary research, seafood donation programs, and are conducted with industry partner data sharing. The South Fork Wind survey is slated to continue through 2026 and the Revolution Wind survey through 2028. Mike highlighted that CFRF and fishermen who work on these surveys maintain access to the data following the conclusion of the project.

Action Items, Next Steps, and Other Business

Patrick thanked presented attendees for joining the meeting and reviewed the future topics that arose from the meeting:

- 1) Considering how pooled research dollars may advance science and efficiency going forward
- 2) Learning from research projects as they move forward
- 3) Sense of OSW direction in coming months
- 4) Summary of OSW floating learnings from the upcoming RODA event
- 5) ROSA Regional RFP awardee introductions

The Next AC meeting is June 18th 1-4pm ET.



Appendix A | ROSA Council Member and Alternates Attendance

Sam Asci	SouthCoast Wind
Audrey Bard	Equinor
Crista Bank	Vineyard Win
Robert Beal	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Deirdre Boelke	RWE Renewables/Community Offshore Wind
Morgan Brunbauer	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Colleen Brust	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Kyle Cassidy	SouthCoast Wind
Doug Christel	NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO)
Joe Cimino	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Greg DeCelles	Ørsted
Michelle Duval	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Brian Hooker	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Lane Johnston	Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA)
Kirk Larson	Lindsay L Inc.
Julia Livermore	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Frederick Mattera	Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
Trish Murphey	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
Cheri Patterson	New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Ruth Perry	Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Bruce Pohlott	International Game Fish Association
Melissa Smith	New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)
Brad Schondelmeier	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Eric Reid	Fisheries Consultant
Daniel Salerno	Sector Manager for Northeast Fishery Sectors V and XI
Sebastian Velez	TotalEnergies
Michael Waine	American Sportfishing Association
Casey Yanos	Maine Department of Marine Resources

Participants

Katy Bland	Dave Bethoney	AJ Mabaka
Fiona Hogan	Caitlin McGarigal	Angela Silva
Alison Frey	Will Shoup	Orran Brown, Jr.
Elizabeth Methratta	Sarah Hudak	Lela Schlenker
Emmi Page	Ron Larsen	Dave Bethoney



Keith Hankowsky	Nils Bolgen	Olivia Burke
Isabella Betancourt	Michael Long	
Ron Larsen	Hadley Clark	

Staff and Facilitators

Reneé Reilly	ROSA
Mike Pol	ROSA
Tricia Perez	ROSA
Helen Henderson	ROSA
Patrick Field	Consensus Building Institute
Meira Downie	Consensus Building Institute