



## **Advisory Council Meeting**

June 18, 2025 | Meeting Summary

*Developed by the Consensus Building Institute*

### **Meeting-In-Brief**

On June 18, 2025 the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council (AC) met, convening 61 members and participants (a list of attendees can be found in Appendix A), two facilitators, and four ROSA staff members.

At this meeting, ROSA shared brief updates on operations and projects including the Data Governance Program (presented by Mike Pol); the Research Gaps Analysis Peer Review (presented by Tricia Perez); and the Co-Design Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind Farms and Fishing Compatibility project (collaboration between NREL, the University of Maine, and ROSA; presented by Mike).

State partners representing the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) presented updates about the Massachusetts Fisheries Innovation Fund's Request for Proposals (RFPs) solicitation. Megan Suslovic, Maine Governor's Energy Office, Erin Wilkinson, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Brad Schondelmeier, MA DMF shared learnings from Scotland's experiences with floating offshore wind and reviewed the implications for Maine's fishing industry. The Gulf of America Alliance provided the draft mission and vision statements for the Regional Science Entity and provided an overview of ocean research partnerships.

Research highlights from a Regional Monitoring Network project were presented by Doug Zemeckis. Researchers from the University of Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science & Management presented on their recently-published project, "A synthesis of socioeconomic and sociocultural indicators for assessing the impacts of offshore renewable energy on fishery participants and fishing communities."

Meeting materials including the agenda and presentations can be found on ROSA's website: [www.rosascience.org/our-work/advisory-council-priorities-and-meetings/](http://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 poll<sup>1</sup> for participants to share their relation to ROSA, the industry they represent, and the region in which they primarily work.

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<sup>1</sup> Of the 47 participants who responded to the poll, 19 were ROSA Advisory Council members or alternates, 2 were ROSA Board members, 4 were ROSA Research Advisors, and 21 were interested others. 12 participants represented state agencies; 8 represented universities; 8 represented offshore wind developers; 3 represented federal agencies; 5 represented NGOs; 4 represented consulting firms; 3 represented regional fishery councils or commissions, and 2 represented commercial fishing. Of the respondents, 22 reported working primarily in New England; 16 primarily in the Mid-Atlantic; 5 in other locations; and 2 on the Pacific Coast.



## **ROSA Updates**

ROSA Staff began the meeting with brief updates and announcements. New member Vincent Balzano was welcomed to the ROSA Board.

Staff introduced the 2025 summer interns, Maryam Krauss and Tori Newton, both graduate students in Environmental Management at Duke University.

### **Regional Research Program**

Tricia Perez provided a status update for the ROSA Regional Research Program RFP, which is currently in the final project selection and negotiation stage. A total of 48 concept papers responded to the RFP with 24 applicants invited to apply, and 23 full applications received. Ultimately, 10 proposals for advancing regional solutions for fisheries and offshore wind were selected: 3 projects on supporting fisheries access; 1 project on understanding potential offshore wind impacts to larval fish; and 6 projects on fisheries monitoring, data integration, evaluation, and analysis. Two of the selected projects focused on the Gulf of Maine (GOM) region, four focused in the Southern New England (SNE) region, and four focused on SNE and the Mid-Atlantic.

### **Data Governance Program**

Mike Pol provided an overview of the ROSA Data Governance Program and its goal of developing guidance and standardized data management practices for offshore wind fisheries data to support future regional analysis. In addition, Mike provided a brief summary of the June 11-12 NREL Environmental Data Strategy Workshop in Washington D.C., which sought to bring industry stakeholders into conversation about the current status of offshore wind data streams and drive towards a standardized methodology for data sharing. This workshop addressed benthic visual, ocean conditions, and protected species observer data.. Next, Mike provided an update on the Data Governance Briefing held on May 29, 2025 which brought together over 70 attendees from the broader community to encourage support for ROSA's Data Governance Program beyond current efforts. From July to September, the Data Governance Program Working Groups' will work to draft recommendations and will be available for community comment with feedback incorporated. The Joint Image & Fishing Gear Data Group will convene on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 from 15:00-16:00 on Zoom.

### **Gaps Analysis Peer Review**

Tricia Perez provided an update on Research Gaps Analysis Peer Review, which seeks to create a common understanding of progress made and research still needed to understand the impacts of offshore wind on fish and fisheries on the U.S. East Coast. The purpose of the 2025 Peer Review is to assess the methods used to conduct the Research Gaps Analysis and validate the results. Upcoming project deliverables include a final report to be submitted this fall, as well as the FishFORWRD Gaps Analysis Tab will be added. The outcomes of the Gaps Analysis will be used to inform future ROSA RFP Topic Areas.



## **Sunrise Wind Regional Research**

Reneé Reilly shared that a research agreement has been made between ROSA and Ørsted's Sunrise Wind project. The Sunrise project was selected in the NY4 Solicitation and requires \$5,000/MW for fisheries and offshore wind research.

## **2025 American Fisheries Society Symposium**

The 2025 American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Meeting will take place in San Antonio, Texas on August 10-14th. The early registration deadline is extended until July 8th, 2025. During the meeting, the Offshore Wind, Fish and Fisheries Symposium will be co-convened by people from BOEM, NMFS, ROSA, NYSERDA, TNC, and TetraTech. Tricia will be presenting on Research Gaps, and Mike and Tricia will also staff a ROSA exhibit.

## **NREL Co-Design Project Report**

Mike provided an update on the Co-Design Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind Farms and Fishing Compatibility project. Their research seeks to develop novel floating array design concepts for the U.S. industry through a co-design process with U.S. commercial and recreational fishermen that optimize the potential for floating wind farms to coexist with fishing activities. Thus far, four interviews were completed in the Gulf of Maine, and two interviews were completed in the Mid-Atlantic. At the single turbine scale, mooring anchoring radius was identified as the most critical design variable. Key insights at the array scale include that: fishing compatible layouts are site specific, and there is not a one size fits all solution; transit lanes are a common request from fisheries; and uniform grids (predictable) layouts are preferred by fishermen and the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Project collaborators are currently developing energy production-optimized layouts for defined fishing lane ideas with the goal of sharing these back to original interviewees and other fishermen in GOM for feedback. At this point, the release of the report on fishing input has been paused by NREL. Continuation of the project is contingent on DOE approval or identification of other funds by the funder, National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium.

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## **Partner Updates**

### **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF)**

Brad Schondelmeier of MA DMF provided updates on the Massachusetts Fisheries Innovation Fund's (FIF) RFP Solicitation 1. The FIF is a \$1.75 million mitigation fund created by Vineyard Wind to "support programs and projects that ensure safe and profitable fishing continues" as current and future offshore wind projects are developed. Other developers are slated to contribute additional mitigation funds, with the possibility of amassing \$2.3-4.8 million in the future. The RFP Solicitation 1 will be released at the end of June and posted to CommBuys and the DMF website. Proposals are due on August 15, 2025, with a project start of January 1, 2026. Applications will be evaluated based on their support for co-existence of marine fisheries and offshore wind development, direct engagement (or collaboration) with commercial or for-hire fishing, etc. Eligible applicants include commercial fishing businesses, non-profit



fishing or research organizations, shoreside infrastructure businesses, academic institutions or public sector entities.

### **Maine/Massachusetts Floating Offshore Wind Study Tour in Scotland**

Collaborators from the Maine Governor’s Energy Office (ME GEO), Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR), and MA DMF presented findings from their study tour of floating offshore wind (FOW) in Scotland and shared implications for Maine’s fishing industry. Compared to Scotland, study tour participants felt that the Gulf of Maine siting/leasing process strongly benefitted from using extensive outreach and fisheries data to deconflict Lease Areas. Scotland and the US share many of the same research questions (EMF, displacement modeling, coexistence, cumulative impacts) and both experienced funding limitations. Participants highlighted the potential for fixed gear fishing within arrays but cautioned that mobile gear will be highly dependent on layout and perhaps just not possible. In Scotland, both developers and fisheries want more government intervention to facilitate coexistence and baseline statutory requirements. The outcomes of this study tour will support the project’s objectives of establishing a common understanding of FOW technology; understanding the status of FOW development in Scotland (including planning and policy, science and research, and engagement with the fishing industry); learning about the Kincardine FOW project (with a focus on the technology employed, the design and installation process, and engagement during development); and exchanging best practices for assessing and mitigating the impacts of FOW development on the fishing industry and wider coastal communities.

### **Gulf Regional Science Entity**

The Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA, formerly Gulf of Mexico Alliance, GOMA) provided an update on the development of its Regional Science Entity, which seeks to facilitate the collection, standardization, and dissemination of credible research and monitoring data on wildlife and marine ecosystems and impacts on local communities, supporting the next generation of environmentally responsible offshore energy development in the Gulf of America. A near-final draft of the Concept Paper was circulated in April 2025, and on May 5, 2025, GOAA convened an “All Hands” meeting workshop in Biloxi, MS.

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## **Research Highlights**

### **Regional Monitoring Network: A Conceptual Plan**

Doug Zemeckis from Rutgers University presented “Offshore Wind Farm Contributions to a Regional Environmental and Ecological Monitoring System to Address Multi-User Needs”, which is a project funded by the New Jersey Offshore Wind Research & Monitoring Initiative. The project developed guidance which was included in New Jersey’s third OREC solicitation and is creating a conceptual plan to integrate individual Wind Energy Areas into a cohesive regional environmental and ecological observing network. Stakeholder input defined three core objectives: 1) distinguishing wind-farm impacts from natural variability, 2) informing living marine resources management, and 3) supporting regional ocean planning initiatives. The plan identifies roughly 31 key physical, chemical, and biological variables to be measured via a mix of fixed infrastructure, mobile platforms, and biological tagging, paired with



coordinated deployment strategies that maximize spatial coverage and data comparability. Finally, it outlines robust data-quality, governance, and sharing protocols. For those seeking to provide input to the project team, please contact Doug at [zemeckis@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:zemeckis@njaes.rutgers.edu).

### **Socioeconomic & Sociocultural Impact Assessments**

Ellen Willis-Norton of the UC Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science & Management presented her co-authored paper entitled “A synthesis of socioeconomic and sociocultural indicators for assessing the impacts of offshore renewable energy on fishery participants and fishing communities.” With their research, they sought to understand the socioeconomic and sociocultural impacts of offshore wind development to inform mitigation strategies and develop data collection, monitoring, and adaptive management strategies. They conducted a systematic review of 67 studies examining three primary causes for fisheries displacement: vessel preclusion from marine renewable energy sites; marine spatial closures; and shifts in fishery operations due to climate change. The published paper can be accessed via this [link](#).

### **Action Items, Next Steps, and Other Business**

#### **TechSurge: Fisheries & Benthic Monitoring, Oct 8-9, URI**

The Marine Technology Society’s TechSurge: Fisheries & Benthic Monitoring convening will be held in person on October 8-9, 2025 at the University of Rhode Island in Narragansett, Rhode Island. The event will include a review of advancements in benthic mapping technologies, monitoring technologies applicable to offshore development, and a panel of fishing community members.

- **Early Registration Deadline:** August 8, 2025
- **Call for Abstracts Deadline to Submit:** June 20, 2025
- **Abstract Notification:** July 30, 2025
- **Abstract Presentations Due:** September 26, 2025

### **Upcoming ROSA Advisory Council Meeting**

The next ROSA Advisory Council Meeting will be held on September 25th from 1-4pm ET on Zoom.



## Appendix A | ROSA Council Member and Alternates Attendance

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Sam Asci            | SouthCoast Wind   |
| Audrey Bard         | Equinor   |
| Robert Beal         | Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission                             |
| Morgan Brunbauer    | New York State Energy Research and Development Authority                |
| Colleen Brust       | New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection                       |
| Pat Campfield       | Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission                             |
| Kyle Cassidy        | SouthCoast Wind   |
| Doug Christel       | NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO)       |
| Joe Cimino          | New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection                       |
| Jennifer Couture    | New England Fishery Management Council                                  |
| Greg DeCelles       | Ørsted  |
| Michelle Duval      | Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council                                 |
| Joe Grist           | Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; VA Marine Resources Commission |
| Brian Hooker        | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management                                       |
| Todd Janeski        | Virginia Marine Resources Commission                                    |
| Elizabeth Kordowski | Equinor   |
| Julia Livermore     | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management                     |
| Melissa Smith       | New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)                          |
| Brad Schondelmeier  | Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries                              |
| Eric Reid           | Fisheries Consultant  |
| Rick Robins         | Community Offshore Wind   |
| Robert Ruhle        | F/V Darana R  |
| Casey Yanos         | Maine Department of Marine Resources                                    |



## Participants

|                 |                     |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Kiara Acevedo   | Atma Khalsa         | Priya Rathod        |
| Reece Aponte    | Jeff Kneebone       | Desray Reeb         |
| Katy Bland      | Maryam Krauss       | Dave Reed           |
| Sarah Borsetti  | Caitlin McGarigal   | Chris Rillahan      |
| Jeffrey Brust   |                     | Lela Schlenker      |
| Kaycee Coleman  | Elizabeth Methratta | Angela Silva        |
| Michael Crowley | Abby Mohan          | Laura Singer        |
| Keith Dunton    | Tori Newton         | Albie Solana        |
| Alison Frey     | Jenna O'Del         | Shayna Steingard    |
| Brian Gervelis  | Kris Ohleth         | Meghan Suslovic     |
| Keith Hankowsky | Desen Ozkan         | Erin Wilkinson      |
| Thomas Heimann  | Emmie Page          | Ellen Willis-Norton |
| Sarah Hudak     | Samuel Pierson      | Doug Zemeckis       |

## Staff and Facilitators

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Reneé Reilly    | ROSA                         |
| Mike Pol        | ROSA                         |
| Tricia Perez    | ROSA                         |
| Helen Henderson | ROSA                         |
| Patrick Field   | Consensus Building Institute |
| Ashley Eugley   | Consensus Building Institute |