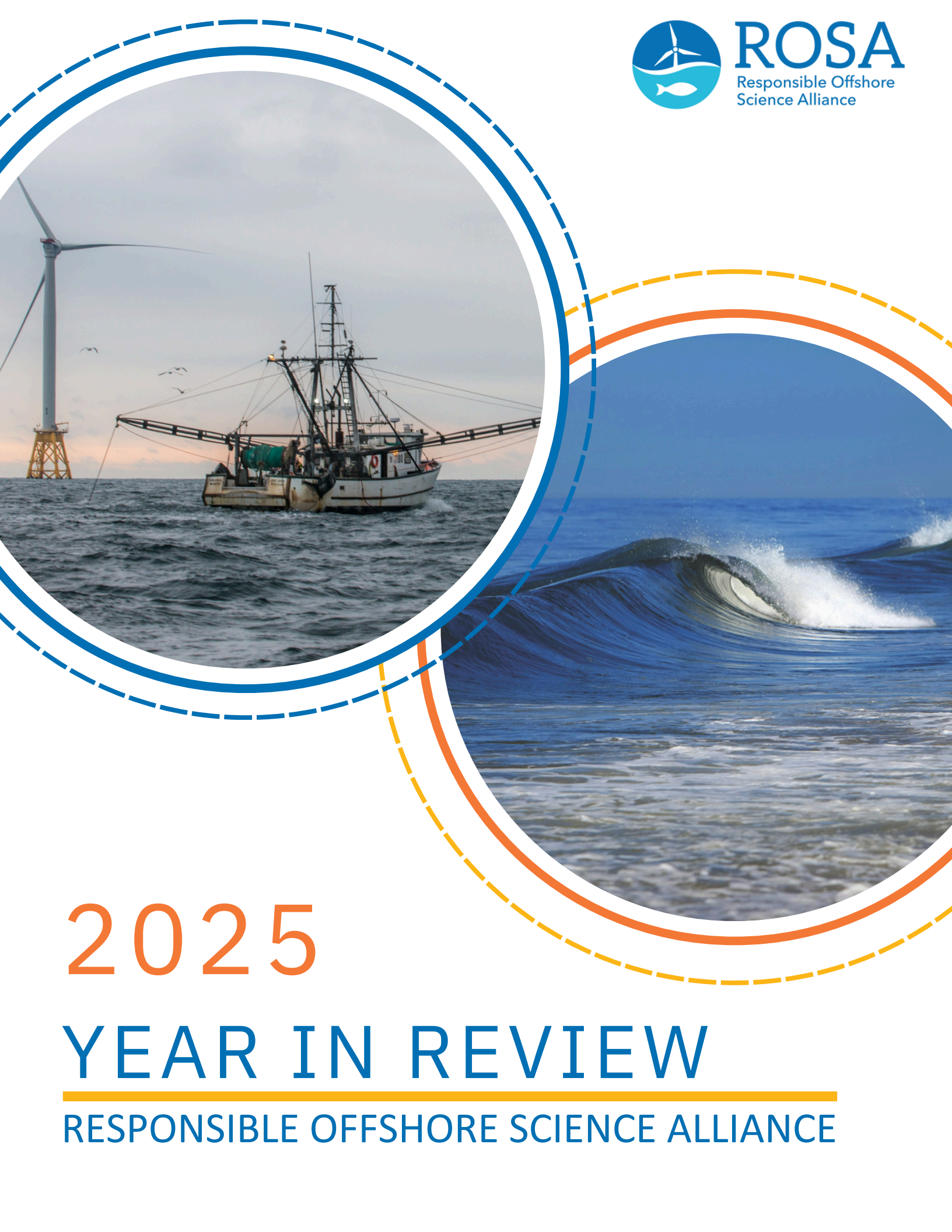




ROSA
Responsible Offshore
Science Alliance



2025

YEAR IN REVIEW

RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE SCIENCE ALLIANCE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2025 and look ahead to 2026, I am reminded that ROSA's core purpose, to advance credible regional fisheries science, remains as vital today as when the organization was founded. This past year brought significant changes to United States federal policy, creating uncertainty for many in the offshore wind and fishing sectors. Yet through this period of transition, ROSA has remained steadfast in our commitment to advancing the science needed to understand how our ocean resources can be responsibly managed for generations to come.



In times of change, it becomes even more important to stay focused on our guiding principles: to be Scientific, Collaborative, Objective, and Transparent in all we do. The questions we are working to answer about fish behavior, ecosystem function, and fisheries access do not change with shifting ocean uses. These questions matter today and will continue to matter in the future.

In recognition of the evolving ocean environment and the multiple activities that interact with fisheries, ROSA's Board of Directors proactively expanded the organization's mission statement in 2025. ROSA now serves "to provide for and advance regional scientific research, monitoring and understanding of fisheries and *the interactions with blue economy activities* in state and federal waters of the U.S. through collaboration and cooperation." This evolution reflects our commitment to addressing the full spectrum of interactions facing fishing communities, from offshore energy to other emerging ocean uses, while maintaining our core focus on fisheries science and industry support.

The work we do at ROSA transcends any single energy policy or development timeline. Our focus is, and will always be, ensuring that fisheries science is robust, that fishing communities have a voice in ocean management decisions, and that the data collected today serves the needs of tomorrow. Whether ocean development accelerates, pauses, or shifts direction, the fishing industry will continue to operate in an increasingly complex ocean environment, and the need for coordinated regional science will only grow.

This past year demonstrated the strength of ROSA's collaborative approach and the value of the platform we have built together. 2025 was defined by milestones that strengthen ROSA's role as a trusted convener and advocate for rigorous science. We launched our inaugural Regional Research & Monitoring Program and advanced data governance to ensure existing research investments deliver maximum impact.

I am grateful to our Board of Directors for their steady guidance through this evolving landscape, ensuring ROSA remains mission-focused and responsive to stakeholder needs. Our staff has demonstrated remarkable dedication and expertise, advancing complex scientific work while maintaining the trust and engagement of diverse partners. And to the fishing and offshore wind industry members who participate in our Advisory Council, share their knowledge, and hold us accountable - thank you. You are the reason this organization exists, and your voices guide everything we do.

The challenges facing fisheries, offshore wind development, and ocean management are complex, but ROSA's ability to bring people together around shared questions and collaborative solutions is more valuable than ever. As we enter 2026, we do so with clarity of purpose, strength in our partnerships, and unwavering commitment to advancing the science that supports sustainable fisheries and responsible ocean stewardship.

Thank you for your continued support of ROSA's work. Together, we will ensure that ocean users have the information, voice, and advocacy they need, regardless of what changes may come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gini Zilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint background image of a seagull on a nest.

2025 MILESTONES



1 Launch of ROSA's Regional Research & Monitoring Program

Through the inaugural Regional Request for Proposals process, ROSA **announced over \$3 million in funding** to advance understanding of regional and cumulative effects of offshore wind on fish and fisheries and support meaningful solutions to the challenges surrounding responsible ocean co-use. Funding for these projects is provided by the Empire Wind 1 project, which is being developed by Equinor, LLC, as included in the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) New York 4 solicitation for awarded Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates.

ROSA **selected 10 projects** across **three different themes** that address key regional research and monitoring questions identified as high priority by members of ROSA's **organizational structure**. Research needs were considered and prioritized from those included in ROSA's Fish and Fisheries OffshoRe Wind Research Database (**FishFORWRD**).

- Three selected projects will **support fisheries access** by enhancing our understanding of the ability of existing fisheries to operate within or near offshore wind farms and to foster the development of industry-supported innovations.
- One selected project will advance the current state of knowledge on the potential of offshore wind development to impact the **survival, transport, settlement, and distribution of commercially important fish and invertebrate larvae**.
- Six selected projects will explore the use of available data and/or conceptual frameworks to **inform regional fisheries monitoring and cumulative assessments** through data integration, evaluation, and analysis.

"After five years on the board, I'm proud of the momentum ROSA has created and our board remains committed to supporting the organization's long-term growth. The inaugural Regional RFP shows meaningful progress toward collaborative, responsive regional science that benefits the blue economy and the communities that rely on healthy ocean ecosystems."

*- Scott Lundin
ROSA Board Member*

Project Fact Sheets for each awarded project providing a brief overview of project goals and objectives can be found on our website [here](#). Special thanks to 2025 Summer Intern Tori Newton for her help in designing the project fact sheets featured on this page.

2025 MILESTONES



FishFORWRD Advancements

ROSA's Fish and Fisheries OffshoRe Wind Research Database ([FishFORWRD](#)) continued to grow in 2025. FishFORWRD is a catalog of all East Coast research, monitoring efforts, programs and stated research needs for offshore wind, fish, and fisheries. The tool allows users to filter research projects and research needs by location, receptor, funder, and more. **Over 70 research projects and monitoring efforts were added** to the database in 2025 through our bi-annual updates. These updates provide researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders with the most comprehensive collection of offshore wind and fisheries research projects and monitoring efforts on the Atlantic Coast.

Representing a major milestone, ROSA released a **significant update to FishFORWRD with the addition of the [Research Gaps Analysis](#) tool**. This new capability enables a consistent, transparent assessment of how current research addresses stated needs, identifies remaining gaps, and makes this information readily accessible through the FishFORWRD platform.

The process began in 2022, when ROSA and partner WSP worked to assess the degree to which research priorities had been addressed. In 2024, ROSA conducted the Research Gaps Analysis and shared preliminary results with the Advisory Council, Research Advisors, and the broader ROSA community. The analysis: (1) consolidated overlapping research needs published by various entities into a set of [Summarized Research Needs](#) and (2) systematically matched the objectives of ongoing and completed projects in FishFORWRD to those needs, with remaining unmet needs identified as research gaps.

Before publishing the results in FishFORWRD, ROSA convened a formal **peer review** in summer 2025, engaging 15 subject-matter experts to evaluate and strengthen the analysis. In November 2025, the final results were released through a new Research Gaps Analysis tab in FishFORWRD. An accompanying video tutorial and additional resources are also available to support users. A Final Report sharing these results, the peer review process, and peer reviewer discussion will be released in the coming months.

Total Project Count

240

Developer Monitoring Plan Surveys

81

Research Categories

11

Active East Coast
Funding Entities

36

Total Unique Research Needs

72

Types of
Methodologies Employed

19

In 2026, ROSA will continue expanding FishFORWRD and updating the Research Gaps Analysis as new projects emerge, creating a living framework that supports informed decision-making and coordinated, strategic investment across the offshore wind community.

2025 MILESTONES



Data Governance Program

ROSA's Data Governance Program established a formal Committee in February 2025 to take concrete steps in collaboration with the offshore science community to maximize the value of the data the offshore research community collects by ensuring it is maintained, free, and as widely accessible as possible. **Over forty data experts engaged** to discuss a broad range of data topics, all focused on ensuring data collected on fish and fisheries and ocean uses are reusable for future analyses. Based on their guidance, **two working groups are now seeking to address data standards and promote consistency across research projects**, focusing on image data and fishing gear data. The core tenets and policies of our Data Governance strategy include:

- Working to ensure our research outputs are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR)
- Providing practical guidance on data sharing, privacy, and security measures
- Creating opportunities for collaboration and integration with states or organizations' existing data practices

Guidance on data standards and repositories for fishing gear data is forthcoming in the New Year.

ROSA partnered with the Regional Wildlife Science Consortium (RWSC), Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), and Intertidal Agency to identify policy and process needs related to standardized data collection, documentation, storage, and reuse of data on fisheries and ocean development. With funding provided by MARCO, we collaborated with ROSA's Advisory Council, Research Advisors, and the broader research and management community to facilitate knowledge sharing and avoid duplication of efforts.

"ROSA's Data Governance Program is providing an important example of how to tie data from different sources all together – moving from isolated, stored data to standardized formats & metadata will make long-term information accessible & more valuable, whether the data are informing ecosystem health or structural health."

*- David Ciochetto
Rhode Island Coastal Resources
Management Council*

The Data Governance Program work of 2025 culminated at the **Data Governance in Motion** workshop in November in Cambridge, MA, with hybrid participation from across the country. Attendees from 26 states - representing research institutes, developers, fisheries management councils, and state and federal agencies - came together for a full-day forum focused on advancing standards for ocean and fisheries data sharing. Workshop attendees provided guidance on specifying contract language to facilitate data sharing, focusing on data standards and then design standards, and integrating with other regional efforts. The future of the data governance program will create additional opportunities to advance much-needed collaboration to strengthen our collective understanding of fisheries data governance and ocean science.

ROSA Collaborative Research

Floating Offshore Wind Co-design Research Advancement

2025 brought the closure of our multi-year project to develop fishing-informed floating offshore wind design. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC), the project brought together offshore wind design engineers from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL, project lead; now National Lab of the Rockies), ROSA staff, and University of Maine partners Everett Rzeszewski and Damian Brady. Although project funding ended earlier than anticipated, we completed many tasks ahead of schedule, and the work will conclude with a substantive final report and the potential for additional publications.

The project engaged expert commercial and recreational fishermen to define the spatial needs of different fishing gears, which NREL engineers used to develop floating offshore wind array (FOSW) designs that accommodate fishing activity. These designs were iteratively refined through multiple rounds of fisherman review. The final report will assess the impacts of these fishing-informed designs on annual energy production, providing valuable insights for future offshore wind development.



"Floating offshore wind may be a bit far on the horizon, but I hope the results from this project will shed light on opportunities to advance co-use of energy production and fishing. Our fishing experts educated me on the complexities of choosing when, where, and how to fish and our engineering partners found creative ways to turn their input into innovative array designs, looking for win-win scenarios."

- Dr. Mike Pol

Research Director, ROSA

SCIENCE SCHOLARS

In 2025, ROSA welcomed **two outstanding graduate student interns** from Duke University who contributed meaningfully to our work in fisheries science, data governance, and our regional research program projects. Through hands-on engagement with researchers, managers, and fishing communities, the internship program provided valuable mentorship and professional skill-building for these emerging marine scientists, while also strengthening ROSA's capacity through fresh perspectives and added research support.



Interning with ROSA was a deeply rewarding experience. It enriched my understanding of the offshore wind sector and current scientific research in the field. Throughout the internship, I broadened my professional network, enhanced my science communication skills, and learned how to present technical information in ways that resonate with diverse stakeholders."

- Tori Newton, ROSA Summer 2025 Intern



ROSA helped inaugurate a **fellowship program**, working with NYSEDA, to support A.J. Mabaka, a graduate student at Stonybrook University. A.J. is being supported for one year and is concentrating on understanding distributions of sea scallops and potential impacts from offshore wind.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, ROSA staff maintained a steady pace of attending, presenting, and hosting science-based sessions, forums, and meetings. ROSA led and contributed to several high-impact outreach efforts that advanced dialogue on offshore wind, fisheries, and data-driven ocean management.

- **New England Fishery Management Council Offshore Wind & Fisheries Research Session** - ROSA organized the session convening scientists, industry experts, and regulators to explore innovative approaches to regional fisheries monitoring and improved data governance.
- **155th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting** in San Antonio - ROSA exhibited and, for the fifth consecutive year, developed and led a special session on offshore wind, fish, and fisheries. Research Director Mike Pol and Research Program Manager Tricia Perez played key roles in the collaborative session *Offshore Wind, Fish, and Fisheries – Emerging Knowledge and Future Applications*, with Tricia presenting on identifying research gaps using FishFORWRD and Mike serving as a session co-convenor.

"The ROSA team provided me with a fulfilling interning experience rooted in collaboration, creativity, and teamwork. I received continuous support and guidance from the team and always felt included in their efforts. ROSA's extensive network also allowed me to immerse myself in a new field and build meaningful connections with professionals across multiple industries."

- Maryam Krauss, ROSA 2025 Summer Intern



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Fisheries & Benthic Monitoring TechSurge



Image Credit: Alex DeCiccio, URI/Inner Space Center

ROSA partnered with the *Marine Technology Society*, *University of Rhode Island*, *Rhode Island Sea Grant*, , the *Inner Space Center*, and the *Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI)*, and the *Northeast Regional Ocean Council* to hold a TechSurge in fall 2025. ROSA staff moderated panels, including one centered on fishing community perspectives, and engaged with cross-sector experts on emerging technologies and regional science coordination to support responsible offshore development. The closing panel advanced the regional dialogue on data sharing and fisheries management along with the Regional Ocean Planning bodies and the Ocean Observing System Regional Associations.

Sharing ROSA's Work

ROSA's Executive Director, Dr. Reneé Reilly moderated a panel at the *Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum* that focused on data governance and the principles of FAIR data, contributing to broader discussions on marine spatial planning and ocean sustainability. Dr. Reilly also provided an update to the *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)*, highlighting ROSA's recent progress in regional fisheries monitoring data governance and reinforcing alignment with ASMFC's strategic priorities for sustainable ocean management.



"The formal working group that RWSC and ROSA launched to coordinate among funders of offshore research represents a crucial step forward. This initiative creates a space where funders can discuss potential priorities and funding strategies before finalizing their commitments. ROSA has been an essential partner bringing their understanding of ongoing fisheries research and remaining data gaps directly to the funders. This collaborative approach is enabling public and private funders to direct their resources toward complementary research and data collection efforts with greater strategic alignment than was previously possible."

-Emily Shumchenia, Director, RWSC

OFFSHORE RESEARCH FUNDER COORDINATION

The Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) and ROSA are convening over a dozen individual funders of research and data collection in US Atlantic waters. Beginning in August 2025, these funders began meeting regularly to identify coordination opportunities among the 50+ individual new projects they are funding offshore in late 2025-early 2026.

By examining the drivers of coordination among projects, such as spatial, temporal, and research question overlap, the regional science entities are ensuring that scientific findings can inform decision-making across jurisdictions and sectors.

On The Horizon

As we look back on the past year and ahead to what’s next, we are proud to celebrate the partnerships and people who continue to shape and strengthen our organization.

Regional Research & Monitoring Program Growth

ROSA has partnered with Sunrise Wind to expand the Regional Research & Monitoring Program. We look forward to working with an additional New York project to continue advancing regional research and monitoring.

State & Developer Partners Expansion

In 2025, we were honored to continue our many long-standing ocean developer, fisheries, and state relationships. ROSA was especially grateful for our [ongoing financial supporters](#). We also welcomed new support from the states of **Connecticut** and **Massachusetts**, along with a new company partnership with **US Wind**. These many stakeholders and interests expand our reach and deepen coordination across the ocean economy and fisheries communities. We look forward to new collaborations in 2026 and beyond.

Board Members

We also extend our sincere gratitude to our departing board members, whose leadership from the organization’s founding through five years of growth helped build a strong and trusted foundation. At the same time, we warmly welcome our new board members, whose expertise, energy, and commitment will carry the organization forward as we navigate new opportunities and changes in the year ahead.

ROSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Hughes Co-Chair	Ruth Perry, PhD* Co– Chair	Mary Beth Tooley* Director	Rachel Pachter* Director	Julia Livermore, PhD Director
Katie Almeida* Secretary	Scott Lundin Treasurer	Ross Pearsall Director	Fred Mattera Director	Robert Beal Director
Doug Copeland* Director	Brian Hooker* Director	Gregory Lampman Director	Kevin Wark Director	Vincent Balzano Director

**Outgoing member at the end of 2025. Please join the ROSA staff in thanking our board members for their incredible dedication and service.*