

RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Year in Review

MILESTONES



Membership: We at RODA are buoyed by the growing support we have received from the commercial fishing industry, after just one year! From North Carolina to Maine, our RODA members fish and operate in approximately 30 Federal and State-permitted fisheries. RODA members include major Atlantic fishing associations, dealers and affiliated infrastructure businesses, plus over 125 vessels across nine states. We have also received keen interest from fishermen on the West Coast and we are exploring the possibility of expanding our organization across the country, since we face many similar challenges and have strength in numbers. The concerns of our members will continue to be the driving force behind our work, so THANK YOU for the continued support.



RODA's Memorandum of Understanding with NOAA/NMFS & BOEM: In March 2019, RODA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The MOU identified areas of mutual interest between NOAA/NMFS, BOEM and RODA and thus promotes cooperation and collaboration between the agencies and with the commercial fishing industry represented by RODA. The MOU promotes engagement of the commercial fishing industry in the offshore wind development process, commits to identify the best way to incorporate fishing expertise to the planning and development process, and supports the development of regional research and monitoring efforts.

ROSA – Responsible Offshore Science Alliance: RODA is proud founding partner of ROSA, which formed in March 2019. ROSA is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing regional research and monitoring of fisheries and offshore wind interactions in federal waters through collaboration and cooperation. ROSA's work aims to: (a) increase salient and credible data on fisheries and wind development; and (b) increase the understanding of the effects of wind energy development on fisheries and the ocean ecosystems on which they depend. NMFS, BOEM, fishery management councils, five offshore wind energy leaseholders, and others have expressed support for ROSA. RODA will assist in organizational design and ensure the involvement of the commercial fishing industry during ROSA's research prioritization, communication and execution of science. RODA's Executive Director Annie Hawkins is currently serving as ROSA's Interim Chief Operating Officer.

Joint Industry Task Force: In January 2019, RODA announced the creation of the Joint Industry Task Force to improve communications between the commercial fishing industry and offshore wind energy developers. The Task Force provides a structured forum to explore improved approaches to project siting, design, operations, and decommissioning between the two industries. At the first meeting in June 2019, representatives from both industries created a Charter and Terms of Reference for the Task Force, which can be found on RODA's website. The five largest leaseholding developers have all committed to participation in the Task Force.

Data Trust: In partnership with Dr. John Manderson, RODA has held two workshops exploring the concept of establishing ways to allow fishermen to own the data they collect, and to ensure that it can be appropriately utilized to support the industry and its operations while maintaining privacy. We are currently seeking funding to continue this project.

Relationship-Building: RODA has identified a critical need for better communication and coordination with commercial fishing and seafood industry groups in other regions, in order to correct misinformation and identify ways to avoid pitfalls. We were proud to host two United Kingdom fishermen who provided invaluable information about wind energy to fishermen in NY and NJ in April and hope to repeat these exchanges. RODA has increased communication between East and West Coast fishermen in order to form a national strategy to improve the offshore wind energy leasing process. We have also developed strong relationships with staff and higher levels of the multiple relevant federal agencies, provided educational information at the request of federal and state lawmakers, and communicated extensively with offshore wind energy industry leaders, developers, transmission experts, technology manufacturers, consultants, and more to balance dialogues to be more aware of fisheries issues.



Staffing and Administration: We now have two full-time staff members and are close to hiring a third! We've also succeeded in assembling a fantastic team of vendors and consultants in order to rapidly achieve best practices for management policies, public relations, accounting, and more.

Online presence: We have worked with our public relations team, Stove Boat, to completely redesign our website to serve as a hub of information to members, potential members, and journalists. Check out the upgraded RODA website at rodafisheries.org or visit us on Twitter at @rodafisheries!



Events: RODA has been striving to ensure that fisheries are part of the conversation anytime offshore wind is the topic. To that end, we've elevated the voice of commercial fishing interests with presentations and participation at a large number of public events in the past year. Here are some of the events where our staff and board have formally represented RODA.



2018

August:

- ✓ American Fisheries Society (Atlantic City, NJ)
 - Presentation: *Scientific Tools and the Regulatory Process: Addressing Commercial Fishing & Offshore Wind Interactions*
 - Panelist: *Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Interactions*
- ✓ MAFMC (Virginia Beach, VA)
 - Presentation: *Introduction to the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance*

September:

- ✓ MA Fisheries Working Group Meeting (New Bedford, MA)
- ✓ Pacific Ocean Energy Trust, Ocean Renewable Energy Conference (Portland, OR)
- ✓ BOEM NY Bight Public Hearing (Long Branch, NJ)
- ✓ Business Network for Offshore Wind VA Offshore Wind Executive Summit (Norfolk, VA)
- ✓ NEFMC (Plymouth, MA)
 - Presentation: *Introduction to the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance*

October:

- ✓ Offshore Wind Reception, Residence of the Ambassador of Denmark (Washington, DC)
- ✓ American Wind Energy Association Offshore Conference (Washington, DC)
 - Panelist: *Best Practices and Lessons Learned: Fishing, Navigation, and Viewshed*
 - Panelist: *Using Commercial Fishing Data in Engagement and Development*
- ✓ RODA-hosted Transit Lanes Workshop for the MA/RI Wind Energy Areas (Warwick, RI)

November:

- ✓ NY Fisheries Technical Working Group Meeting (New York, NY)
- ✓ Northeast Regional Ocean Council Meeting (Portland, ME)
- ✓ BOEM Intergovernmental Task Force for NY Bight (New York, NY)
 - Presentation: *Reaction to the Draft Wind Energy Areas*

December:

- ✓ **RODA-hosted** Transit Lanes Workshop for the MA/RI Wind Energy Areas (Newport, RI)
- ✓ NEFMC (Newport, RI)

2019

January:

- ✓ Rutgers University RUCOOL Roundtable on the Cold Pool (Cape May, NJ)
- ✓ Chesapeake Environmental & Economic Summit (Annapolis, MD)
 - Panelist: *Sustainable Fisheries Management*

- ✓ NEFMC (Portsmouth, NH)
 - Presentation: Commercial Fishing Transit Lanes and Offshore Wind Energy in the NY Bight

February:

- ✓ Maine Fishermen's Forum (Rockport, ME)

March:

- ✓ **RODA-hosted** workshop exploring Fishing Industry Data Trust (Cape May, NJ)
- ✓ North American Seafood Expo (Boston, MA)
- ✓ Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (Long Branch, NJ)
 - Panelist: Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal and Regional Data Priorities
- ✓ University of Delaware (Newark, DE)
 - Guest Lecture: Scientific Tools and the Regulatory Process: Addressing Commercial Fishing & Offshore Wind Interactions
- ✓ **RODA-hosted** NY Bight Transit Workshop (joint with NYSERDA) (Port Jefferson, NY)
- ✓ National Governors Association Global Energy Solutions Summit (Washington, DC)
 - Panelist: Opportunities & Next Steps: What Does It Take to Unlock the U.S. Market for Offshore Wind?
- ✓ MA Fisheries Work Group Meeting (New Bedford, MA)
 - Presentation: Responsible Offshore Science Alliance

April:

- ✓ Business Network for Offshore Wind International Partnering Forum (New York, NY)
 - Panelist: Technical Working Groups: Advising the State of New York on the Responsible Development of Offshore Wind
 - Panelist: Minimizing Litigation Risk For Your Offshore Wind Project
 - Panelist: Improving Offshore Wind Energy Mitigation through Engagement with the Commercial Fishing Sector
- ✓ MAFMC (Avalon, NJ)
 - Presentation: RODA and ROSA Updates
- ✓ RODA-hosted Fishing industry meetings with UK fishermen (Montauk, NY and across NJ)
- ✓ NEFMC (Mystic, CT)
 - Presentation: RODA and ROSA Updates
- ✓ RODA-hosted workshop exploring Fishing Industry Data Trust (Point Judith, RI)

May:

- ✓ California Senate Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture Hearing: "California's Fisheries and Wildlife: Can They Co-Exist with Offshore Wind Energy Development?" (Eureka, CA)
 - Witness
- ✓ Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System Annual Meeting (Baltimore, MD)
 - Panelist: Offshore Wind Development

- ✓ American Wind Energy Association Windpower Conference (Houston, TX)
 - Panelist: *Balancing Co-existence in the Offshore - Many Users, One Ocean*
- ✓ NJ Marine Fisheries Council (Manahawkin, NJ)
 - Presentation: *RODA and ROSA*

June:

- ✓ Northeast Regional Ocean Council (Gloucester, MA)
- ✓ US Offshore Wind Conference (Boston, MA)
 - Moderator: *Regional Science and Monitoring for Fisheries and Offshore Wind Interactions*
- ✓ RODA-hosted Joint Industry Task Force meeting (Philadelphia, PA)

July:

- ✓ Rutgers University Partners in Science Workshop on Offshore Wind and the Mid-Atlantic Cold Pool (Tuckerton, NJ)
 - Panelist: *Partnership Frameworks for Offshore Wind and Cold Pool Research and Monitoring*
- ✓ NY Fisheries Technical Working Group Meeting (New York, NY)
 - Presentation: *Responsible Offshore Science Alliance*
- ✓ **RODA-hosted ROSA Meeting** (Philadelphia, PA)



Comment Letters: RODA has submitted over a dozen formal comment letters on specific regulatory actions this year proposed by BOEM, NMFS, NY State Energy Research and Development Agency, MA Environmental Policy Act Office, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, MA Dept. of Energy Resources, MA Division of Marine Fisheries, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Please contact us if you'd like copies.

Next Steps: 2019 will be an exciting year for RODA, with the Task Force and ROSA becoming fully operational. In the coming year, RODA intends to further increase our engagement through speaking events, comment letters, and direct interaction with the offshore wind energy sector. We will also continue to monitor developments in regional planning, federal aquaculture, marine mineral extraction, and other efforts that interact with commercial fishing.

RODA expects to grow our portfolio and our membership in the near future. We have grant proposals pending for several specific projects that would provide much-needed context for informing the regulatory process and the public. RODA will also continue to realize the value in the NMFS/BOEM MoU by working closely with both agencies to improve science and project plans to protect and promote fisheries.

We look forward to another productive year together!

