



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

Fisheries and Offshore Wind Energy: Synthesis of the Science

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

The Fisheries and Offshore Wind Energy: Synthesis of the Science project consists of two integrated components, **a virtual workshop** and **a published report**, which together have the overarching purpose of enhancing regional and national understanding of existing science and data gaps related to offshore wind interactions with fish and fisheries.

This joint effort brings together the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA).

PROJECT GOAL:

Through a collaborative process co-designed by fishermen, wind developers, and our state, academic, and federal partners, this effort will advance the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance's (ROSA) regional science efforts, by describing the current state of science, existing research and monitoring programs, data gaps, and solicit input into priority research questions.

Project Objectives:

1. Introduce fisheries science, management, and industry experts to the topic of offshore wind energy and fisheries interactions in order to inform their work, leverage existing knowledge, create networks among interested professionals, and develop effective approaches to short and long term cross-disciplinary challenges;
2. Model best-practices to successfully engage the fishing industry in scientific processes and setting research and monitoring agendas;
3. Integrate offshore wind energy development into existing science and research efforts in the field of fisheries science and management;
4. Begin to establish a shared body of understanding and knowledge on offshore wind energy and fisheries interactions;
5. Identify data and knowledge gaps relevant to the study of marine fisheries biology and behavior, ecosystem function, and fisheries operations for use in future scientific and policy decisions;
6. Provide fora for open discussion to set relevant research and monitoring priorities for impacts to fish and fisheries; and
7. Promote future collaborative work across disciplines and sectors.

WORKSHOP GOALS

- Present the report framework and high-level overview of key topics by section
- Initiate dialogue between authors and among participants to frame issues and foster research collaboration
- Identify important constituents and groups to work with the authors during the drafting process to ensure inclusive representation in the report and for recommendations of future research priorities
- Inform and advance ROSA's regional science efforts through the synthesis of information across expert networks

CODE OF CONDUCT

The workshop will be hosted entirely on the Zoom platform (webinar and breakout tools). Participants in the Synthesis of the Science workshop are expected to:

- Stay on track with the agenda
- Focus on scientific and technical matters -- politics and decision-making are outside the purview of this effort
- Use the electronic tools offered to provide input and comment
- Keep written comments in the webinar chat, Q&A, and other means constructive, substantive, and focused on the workshop content without disparaging remarks toward any organizations or individuals

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

The convening parties of the workshop maintain responsibility for all press communications about the project. This event is a *workshop* and is not intended for the media. We respectfully request that participants contact the project planning team regarding distribution of information related to the project.

Although this is a virtual event, invited participants should be prepared to share their ideas during the workshop. Plenary presentations will be recorded and posted online shortly after concluding. Contributing authors will determine presentation formats based on the most effective way to share information and gain additional input; presenters may elect to present individually, host a panel discussion, pose questions using online polling software, or utilize other tools that foster discussion in a virtual setting. Breakout sessions will also be recorded, and key outcomes and shared information will be captured in a final workshop report.