



RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

This year we've decided to change our annual "Year in Review" to coincide with the holiday season. That means, for one time only, we have 18 months of activities to report. So kick back, pour yourself an eggnog (or hot cocoa), and join in us reminiscing about RODA's second whirlwind year. We hope you'll return from some well-deserved rest with renewed energy to support U.S. fishing in 2021!

MILESTONES

Summary of Work

Over the past year, RODA staff worked hard to advocate on your behalf on the multitude of issues related to offshore development impacting fishing and seafood businesses. We submitted dozens of comment letters on pertinent federal and state issues, held and presented at countless meetings and webinars, led or partnered on multiple high-priority studies, and commissioned several more.

We are particularly proud of the collaborative work we have achieved through our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Our partnership with these agencies formed the foundation of the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA), a robust plan for leveraging industry knowledge to inform what is known and unknown about fisheries and offshore wind development interactions through the ongoing Synthesis of the Science Workshop and Report, and several other formal and informal engagement efforts.

As 2020 comes to an end, we are seeing changing guidance and legislation give fisheries and U.S. coastal communities higher priority in offshore wind decisions. We will continue on our mission to bring the fishing industry together on these issues and advocate on your behalf in 2021.

Membership

RODA is ecstatic to see how much the coalition has grown this past year! New members representing additional states, gear types, and fisheries continue to join the organization and our strength in numbers approach continues to gain traction at the national, state and local levels.

In the past year, our membership has expanded from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic to include representation in all three West Coast states and even a committee for party/charter vessels. Beginning our third year with 22 associations, 15 shoreside businesses, and 140 vessels as members is a real energy boost!

Board of Directors

RODA gained two new Board of Directors members, Peter Himchak of New Jersey and Capt. Jarrett Drake of Massachusetts. Capt. Bill Bright, Beth Casoni and Ben Landry have stepped down from their positions as Board members but remain in the RODA family; thank you for your leadership!



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

Staffing

RODA welcomed two new staff members in the past year: Dr. Fiona Hogan, Research Director and Erika Tillotson, Administrator. They have helped us meet the continued challenges facing our growing coalition and the broader fishing industry.

We also joined forces with Emily Patroli of ESP Advisors to monitor congressional issues of relevance to RODA and our members. Her tracking of legislation, hearings, briefings, rulemakings, and other relevant events in Washington related primarily to the topics of ocean planning and offshore development are regularly shared with RODA members.

RODA continues to build a relationship with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI). We thank principal Patrick Field for his great work facilitating the Synthesis of the Science workshop, Joint Industry Task Force meetings, and other joint efforts.

RODA's two summer interns, Alle Brown-Law and Amy Bosteels, drafted informational handouts on wind turbine technology and Mid-Atlantic fisheries descriptions. These will be posted to RODA's website once finalized.

Finally, we've coordinated a huge network of sub-contractors and partners on our many science and policy projects--not to mention the persistent heavy lifts from our members to participate in RODA's work. It takes a village to address these huge issues, and we're very proud of our community!

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EFFORTS

RODA continues to advocate for fact-based research and strives to improve the best available science on fisheries and other ocean uses. This past year, we successfully competed for grants from federal and state entities. Our staff and consultants have led these research projects and participated in several other science-related efforts. Outside of any specific project, we've also worked a lot with federal and state agencies on improving fisheries data utility in general, including workshops with NMFS' Cooperative Research Branch, the ocean data portal teams, and others.

Memorandum of Understanding with NOAA Fisheries and BOEM

Under the MoU with NMFS and BOEM, we have kicked off 3 separate but related projects designed to improve regional science and research: (1) ROSA; (2) The Synthesis of the Science; and (3) An Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

(1) Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)

After an impressive effort by RODA's Executive Director, several RODA board and general members, NMFS, BOEM, and wind energy company representatives, Dr. Lyndie Hice-Dunton was hired as the Executive Director of ROSA in Spring of 2020. Lyndie has been busy getting the organization operational, filling Advisory Council seats and working to address one of the time-sensitive concerns: a regional monitoring framework for offshore wind energy development.

RODA will work closely in partnership with ROSA. Currently Peter Hughes (co-chair), Katie Almeida, Annie Hawkins, Peter Himchak, and Mary Beth Tooley are the fisheries sector ROSA board members. Fiona Hogan is a working group expert for the Fisheries Monitoring Working Group and Lane Johnston sits on the Advisory Council on behalf of RODA, along with many RODA members and other fishing representatives. Check out ROSA's new website: www.rosascience.org.

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

(2) Fisheries and Offshore Wind: Synthesis of the Science

RODA staff are leading the planning team for the Synthesis of the Science, joined by staff from NOAA Fisheries, BOEM, and ROSA. This project has two integrated components, a virtual workshop (held in October 2020) 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*.

In October 2020, we held a three day virtual workshop with NMFS and BOEM to kick off the collaborative project. Over 560 participants attended the virtual workshop from all across the world.

To provide a forum of research and knowledge sharing between the fishing industry, offshore wind industry, federal and state agencies, and the public, the high-level topics covered by the workshop and report include:

- a. **Ecosystem Effects:** Modification to physical & benthic habitats, impacts to oceanographic processes - such as hydrodynamics, currents, Mid-Atlantic Cold Pool, and biological impacts to ecosystems and commercially harvested species;
- b. **Fisheries Socio-Economics:** Impacts to fishing operations, economic impacts, socio-cultural effects, and effects of multiple stressors;
- c. **Fisheries Management and Data Collection:** Fishery dependent and independent data collection and impacts on management from offshore wind development;
- d. **Methods and Approaches:** Cumulative impacts, regional science planning, innovative monitoring, and an integrated ecosystem assessment

The planning team has integrated fishing industry members into all phases of the workshop and report; recognizing and elevating their expertise is essential for the success of this project. Industry representatives participated in the plenary and breakout sessions of the workshop and some will serve as advisors to authors drafting the report.

This project was funded through a grant provided by NOAA Fisheries and will continue until summer 2021 when the report is finalized.

(3) Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

Forthcoming project: As a companion project to the Synthesis of the Science, RODA will lead the creation of an integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA) on offshore wind and fisheries for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. We are especially excited to be partnering with NOAA Fisheries on this as it will be the first IEA completed on offshore development. This project is just beginning, so stay tuned for details!



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

Fisheries Knowledge Trust

RODA has partnered with Dr. John Manderson (OpenOcean Research) and Steven Jacobs (Concitor) to develop a “Fisheries Knowledge Trust” designed to allow fishermen to maintain ownership and privacy of the data they collect, while ensuring that it can be appropriately utilized to develop products in support of industry-generated hypotheses. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provided funding for two pilot study fisheries, surf clam/ocean quahog and herring/mackerel, through which the team was able to develop the governance structure and foundation for the Trust. The pilot products, due in early 2021, are expected to provide much more complete information about spatial overlaps between fishing and offshore wind than regulatory products to date. The Trust is set up to expand to other fisheries that are interested in working with their own data and analysts, and has aligned its efforts with the ICES Working Group focused on *Standards and Guidelines for Fisheries Dependent Data and Science with Industry Initiatives*. While the FKT pilot projects are currently focused on the wind energy impacts on the fishing industry, the FKT is designed so that members of the fishing industry can develop credible science products to inform other sectors of ecosystem management policymaking, including fishery management.



Data Portals

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) partnered with RODA to engage commercial fishermen in the development of updated maps and data for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portals. To get your vital knowledge and input, RODA staff organized webinars with fishing industry representatives and organizations to determine the need and potential uses for fisheries data products, designed and reviewed draft products, and developed documentation and communications about the appropriate application and use of final data products.

Collaborative Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Commercial Fishing

RODA is working with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) on a project--also funded by NYSERDA--to assess fishing access in wind energy areas. We are working with Coonamessett Farm Foundation, staff from NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and industry Project Advisors on the fisheries-side tasks for this project. These include a comprehensive literature review and fishermen interviews to document risk and constraints associated with fishing in and around fixed foundation wind energy projects, as well as an assessment of data availability or gaps. In later phases, this information will be integrated into wind energy optimization models in order to identify possible mitigation designs to reduce impacts to fisheries. The full project runs through 2021 and is specific to the NY Bight. The current focus fisheries are Atlantic scallop and Atlantic surf clam/ocean quahog.



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

ICES Working Group (Working Group on Offshore Wind Development and Fisheries)

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea has convened an international working group on OSW and fisheries interactions. Staff from RODA, NMFS, and German and British science institutions are planning a workshop in March 2021 to address the economic and sociocultural impacts of marine energy expansion on fishing communities. This small working session will have dedicated seats for those with industry expertise and will be co-chaired by Annie Hawkins and Tara Hooper (University of Plymouth, UK). Annie was also scheduled to co-chair (with Antje Gimpel and Vanessa Stelzenmüller of Germany's Thünen Institute) a related session at this year's ICES Annual Science Conference in Copenhagen but due to COVID-19, this was rescheduled for 2021. Collectively, these efforts have greatly increased transatlantic science dialogue and information sharing about OSW and fisheries studies!

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

Over the past year, RODA staff and members have conducted multiple informational meetings with federal, state, and local elected officials and their staffs. Here are a few highlights of our work.

RODA Capitol Hill Reception (Oct 2019)

To demonstrate the need for engagement with RODA and our members at the federal level, we hosted a reception on Capitol Hill attended by several of our Board members, congressional staffers, and scientific leadership from NMFS. Congressman Lowenthal (CA-47) and Dr. Cisco Werner (NOAA) gave welcoming remarks in support of both RODA and ROSA's ongoing work.



House Natural Resources Committee Field Hearing (Sept 2019)

Reps. Lowenthal (CA-47) and Van Drew (NJ-2) with the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a field hearing in Wildwood, NJ on "Examining the Benefits and Potential Challenges for New Jersey's Growing Offshore Wind Industry." RODA's Director and Chairman each provided testimony underscoring the importance of the fishing industry.

OFFSHORE ACT (Sept 2020, letter submitted to Senate cosponsors)

RODA and ESP Advisors coordinated a letter from 50 seafood groups to the cosponsors of the Opening Federal Financial Sharing to Heighten Opportunities for Renewable Energy (OFFSHORE) Act of 2020.

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

FEDERAL AGENCY OUTREACH

To build understanding of industry concerns and identify areas for improvement, RODA also held numerous informational meetings with local, state and federal agencies.

Executive and International

The past year brought several opportunities to communicate directly with White House executive offices and staff. Of particular interest was the White House Summit on Partnerships in Ocean Science and Technology, which Annie attended in November 2019. RODA staff and members have also attended several meetings and events with European embassies, consulates, and private sector groups in order to better understand experiences abroad and their potential applicability to the U.S. industry.

NOAA & NMFS

In addition to the work under the MoU outlined above, RODA has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in several other ways throughout the year.

Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and Greater Atlantic Regional Office (GARFO)

As the region experiencing OSW development first, we frequently interact and collaborate with NEFSC staff, GARFO staff and the regional “Wind Team” on many of our projects. Of particular note is our work with NEFSC and GARFO on the Synthesis of the Science: Fisheries and Offshore Wind Development workshop and report. RODA is immensely grateful for the grant provided by NMFS to work on this project together. We see this as an opportunity for the relationship between fisheries scientists, managers and the fishing industry to continue to strengthen as offshore development may impact everything from the status of the biological resource and fleet behavior to monitoring plans and stock assessments.

Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), and West Coast Regional Office (WCRO)

RODA staff and members have coordinated meetings with NWFSC, SWFSC, and WCRO leadership and staff to share lessons learned and develop productive partnerships between the industry, and the scientists and managers who will be working on OSW review. These conversations have included ROSA and NEFSC representatives, with the goal of creating the best possible national strategies while also supporting region-specific needs. As OSW development plans accelerate on the West Coast, we plan to expand these collaborations and relationships with the science and management community.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office for Coastal Zone Management

To better understand the application and limitations of states’ Coastal Zone Management Act review authority - the process by which a state determines whether a proposed activity is consistent with its own environmental regulations - RODA held multiple outreach and information gathering calls with NOS representatives in the Office for Coastal Zone Management.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)

MAFAC took the unusual step of incorporating RODA’s comments demanding the need for a cumulative perspective when reviewing offshore development plans into its recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce on OSW. The report highlights the need for additional resources to address underfunded mandates to NMFS, impacts to annual surveys, and engagement in a national, strategic approach as development unfolds.

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

BOEM

RODA continues to build its relationship with BOEM and Department of the Interior leadership under the spirit of the MOU. Over the past year, we have primarily focused on information flow, improved communication, and informing the agency in ways to better engage the fishing industry. Specifically, we are currently collaborating with BOEM on the Synthesis of the Science workshop and report, have hosted an informational webinar with BOEM to answer questions about the Vineyard Wind cumulative impacts analysis, and have frequent informal calls with agency representatives. In December 2019, BOEM invited RODA to present at its first Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting. The meeting was very well attended and RODA Board Member Terry Alexander provided excellent remarks regarding fisheries concerns, including spatial data limitations.

Regional Fishery Management Councils

Addressing OSW development is a high priority for the NEFMC and MAFMC, and an emerging priority for the PFMF. While the Councils have limited ability to influence OSW development, they continue to identify issue areas, submit comment letters to regulatory agencies, and consider future impact to FMPs. RODA meets and communicates frequently with councils, commissions, and their staff. Currently, Annie sits on the Ecosystem and Ocean Planning AP for the MAFMC and Lane sits on the Habitat AP for the NEFMC. RODA board and members sit on many councils, committees, and advisory panels/bodies.



Peter Hughes - RODA Chairman

“Wow, RODA and RODA’s staff happenings in 2020 have truly been historic and monumental! With Covid, everyone in the world had to pivot and boy did the RODA staff do a great job pivoting. I invite you to enjoy this newsletter and please know, we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Have a blessed and safe 2021.”



Annie Hawkins - Executive Director

“The most amazing thing about the past year has been the huge amount of time and effort RODA’s staff, board, members, and like-minded colleagues have devoted both to getting this organization off the ground and making sure your voices are heard. Even during extremely difficult times for the industry and our country, I’m constantly impressed by our community’s ability to work faster, harder, smarter... and sometimes even have a little fun.”

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

RODA has maintained frequent contact with USCG over the past year. The majority of communications involved the Port Access Route Studies (PARS) used to analyze fishing vessel navigational needs with regard to OSW turbine spacing, particularly in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic regions (Sectors D1 and D5). We submitted a request for correction on that PARS, which was ultimately denied but we will continue working with USCG to improve these studies to the best of our ability. In July 2020, the interagency Wind Turbine Radar Interference Mitigation working group (DOE, DOD, FAA, USCG & NOAA) hosted a Marine Navigation radar webinar. Board members Capt. Eric Hansen and Capt. Tom Dameron represented RODA on a panel to present their experiences and concerns.



STATE AGENCIES AND WORKING GROUPS

California

To bring the concerns of the fishing industry to the forefront of the offshore development discussions, RODA members and staff have had multiple conversations with CA agencies and legislative offices regarding OSW and other related topics. In October 2019, Lane presented some of the baseline concerns from a fisheries perspective to California Energy Commissioners during their Integrated Energy Policy Workshop, including the lack of input by industry to project siting and design, and need for increased coordination amongst state agencies and with BOEM. She also reiterated these concerns during other public meetings such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council meeting and the September Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting.

Connecticut

RODA provided feedback through its members for the state's Commission of Environmental Standards regarding fisheries mitigation plans for its OSW procurement.

Maine

RODA staff held several calls with the Maine Department of Marine Resources and the Governor's Energy Office regarding emerging state policies on fisheries and OSW. These spanned several topics from the November 2020 announcement of plans to develop a "research project" in the Gulf of Maine to fisheries data challenges associated with ocean planning. Prior to that, in March 2020, RODA submitted a letter to the governors of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts regarding OSW development in the Gulf of Maine requesting full transparency, a fisheries-driven working group to establish industry recommendations, an evaluation of OSW policies in the context of an overall energy strategy, and a pause in OSW planning due to the ongoing pandemic.



Lane Johnston - Programs Manager

"This year, our growing presence of West Coast members was very exciting to me! I am always thrilled to work directly with all of our members across the country, and was particularly stoked by the representation of RODA members during the Synthesis of the Science workshop in October despite the limitations of the virtual setting."

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

Massachusetts

RODA participated in the state's Fisheries Working Group meetings through the latest in November 2019 and Fiona participated on a panel at the Environmental Business Council Offshore Wind Program in Boston in February 2020. We enjoyed close communication with the Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) during deliberations on OSW and fisheries studies supported by the state. Additionally, RODA and members expressed concern to multiple state offices about the state's agreement with Vineyard Wind regarding compensatory mitigation and co-signed a letter led by the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership stressing the lack of industry participation in its development.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire is in the process of developing an approach to OSW and fisheries policies. In October 2020, the NH Senate held a meeting of the Commission to Study Offshore Wind and Port Development. Annie presented on the need for inclusive and robust consideration of fisheries and fishing communities when studying OSW development. Later that month, the New Hampshire Environmental Business Council hosted its second annual "Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Maine" webinar, and Annie presented again on a panel with Cheri Patterson (NH Fish & Game) and David Goethel (F/V Ellen Diane).

New Jersey

RODA staff had frequent meetings with NJ elected officials and agencies, from state assembly members to mayors to Governor Murphy, participated in many public meetings, and submitted several comment letters. In particular, RODA directly communicated with the state regarding its workforce plan, participates on the Environmental Resources Offshore Wind Working Group, and speaks frequently with NJ Department of Environmental Protection staff and leadership.

New York

RODA continued its strong working relationship with NYSERDA and is particularly thankful for the support it has provided the organization on research projects, described above, and for its regional approach to fisheries issues. Annie and several RODA members participated as a member of the Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) at several of their meetings throughout the year. NYSERDA published the final report on Transit in the NY Bight including significant input from many RODA members. NYSERDA also supported a supplemental workforce development report to which many of you provided thoughtful input. The agency is also undertaking a Submarine Cable Burial Depth Assessment and is currently soliciting fishing industry input to inform its findings.

Oregon

The BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Task Force met in early June. RODA submitted a letter asking for better and earlier engagement with fishing communities coastwide. Many representatives on the Task Force referenced the letter during the meeting and several state employees have continued to follow RODA, including through attending the SOS workshop. In late 2019, Annie attended the Pacific Ocean Energy Trust conference and the Pacific Marine Energy Center's All-Center Meeting in Portland. We've also done outreach in Coos Bay, including meetings with the Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Coalition, Oregon Coast Energy Alliance Network, and Coos County Commissioner race candidates.

Rhode Island

In February 2020, Fiona gave an overview of RODA to fishermen in attendance during a Commercial Fishing Industry Climate & Energy Circle organized by Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island. RODA regularly speaks with Rhode Island state agencies and congressional offices.

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

SELECT NATIONAL/REGIONAL EVENTS

Consortium for Ocean Leadership (Oct 2019)

COL hosted an industry forum on US Offshore Wind. As part of the planning committee, Annie facilitated greater fishing representation during the forum and moderated a panel on “Achieving Effective Co-Existence of Fishing Activities and Offshore Wind” with several RODA members as panelists including Peter Hughes, Beth Casoni, and Noah Oppenheim.

Maritime Law Association (April 2020)

Annie presented at the Maritime Law Association’s annual meeting in April. Its members are prominent attorneys representing clients in all aspects of maritime activities including fisheries, shipping, insurance, etc. Many commented that they were unaware of the size and scope of offshore wind/fisheries conflicts and continue to brainstorm opportunities for joint work.

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (July 2020)

Annie participated in a convening of JOCI called “De-Risking Offshore Wind” intended to provide advice to the next Congress and Administration on opportunities to improve the OSW planning process.

National Fisherman/Pacific Marine Expo - Making Waves: Offshore Wind Power & Commercial Fishing (Nov 2020)

Panelists included RODA colleagues Bonnie Brady, Mike Conroy, and Annie Hawkins discussing the latest developments with proposed wind development, including the upcoming federal EIS on cumulative impacts of projects, the status of development on the west coast, industry concerns regarding safety and vessel access, and the state of relations between the fishing and wind industry.



Fiona Hogan - Research Director

“I am thrilled to join RODA and am excited to drive science-based approaches for fisheries and offshore wind development. I’m looking forward to working with our SOS white paper authors, which include experts from the fishing industry, academia, and federal agencies.”

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH OSW DEVELOPERS

JOINT INDUSTRY TASK FORCE

To provide a more structured dialogue for advancing input on project siting, design, and operations between the offshore wind energy and fisheries industries, RODA held three Task Force meetings along with a series of educational events this year. Avangrid, EnBW, and RWE Renewables joined as new Task Force members and Nancy Sopko from the Special Initiative for Offshore Wind joined in a coordinating role on behalf of the developer members.

High-level topics discussed during the meetings included: aids to navigation, process for input to array and layout design, fisheries liaisons and representatives, opportunities to improve general information flow between the industries, the need for a centralized informational hub for the fishing industry, and regional transmission. The Task Force produced recommendations for Aids to Navigation important to the fishing industry, based on input collected through surveys distributed coastwide. Task Force members also met with USCG representatives from District 1 and District 5 on their Offshore Structure PATON Guidance, including hearing explanations regarding turbine markings guidance and identification plans for the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions.

The Educational Series kicked off with an “Educational Forum” last October that covered the basics from both industries, from data collection and research to permitting and fisheries management. Follow-up educational seminars on the Jones Act, geological & geotechnical surveys and submarine power cables were held over summer and fall.



Erika Tillotson - Administrator

“As RODA’s administrator, I was pleased to see how much RODA has grown over the course of this year. Despite challenges caused by COVID-19, RODA still managed to overcome obstacles and have a very successful year. I’m really looking forward to building partnerships & expanding our membership in 2021.”



Emily Patrolia - ESP Advisors

“It has been a pleasure to support the RODA membership with the weekly federal policy newsletter and legislative tracking. RODA is a unique, engaged, and powerful membership and it is an honor to be a small part of the team!”

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

PROJECT-SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH OSW DEVELOPERS

At the request of members, RODA has facilitated discussion with OSW developers in the hopes of improving outcomes for fishermen from specific projects. RODA's goal is to provide transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in such communications.

Equinor proactively engaged the regional fishing industry outside of the regulatory process, in a transparent first-of-its-kind effort. Through RODA, affected fishermen held meetings with the Empire Wind project team to consider alternative layouts to minimize impacts to fishing. These meetings were open to RODA members and other regional industry members, and were particularly successful based on open communication and input directly influencing layout design.

Ørsted held port workshops in New Jersey with RODA centered around the Ocean Wind project. These discussions were specific to fishing, and produced better, more relevant information than other open meetings, including Ørsted's commitment to share charts.

Atlantic Shores held project discussions with locally affected RODA members in NJ throughout 2020 indicating a desire to work with impacted industry members on ongoing research efforts.

Vineyard Wind presented an informational webinar with RODA members on the compensatory mitigation plans developed with the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Dominion Energy has met with VA pot fishermen, who are supported by RODA including through submission of a formal request for commitments to improved communication and better opportunities for fishing industry input to research design.



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

COMMENT LETTERS AND COMMISSIONED STUDIES

In addition to providing comments during numerous public meetings, RODA submitted many written comments this year. Please contact our office if you'd like any copies!

BOEM

- Vineyard Wind Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Data Gathering and Engagement Plan
- Guidelines for Providing Information on Turbine and Substation Lighting and Markings

NOAA/NMFS

- Notice of Intent: Pacific Ocean AquaFarms Environmental Impact Statement
- NOAA Research and Development Plan
- MAFAC Considerations on Offshore Development Projects

United States Coast Guard

- Draft Report Massachusetts/Rhode Island Port Access Route Study (MARIPARS)
- RODA's Alternative Proposal in Response to Developers 1x1nm layout in Southern NE
- Request for Correction: MARIPARS Final Report
- Notice of Study for PARS: Seacoast of New Jersey and Approaches to the Delaware Bay
- Port Access Route Study (PARS): Seacoast of New Jersey and Approaches to the Delaware Bay Report
- Notice of Study for PARS: Northern New York Bight
- Building and Sustaining Partnerships in Ocean Science and Technology

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

- Jones Act Proposed Modification and Revocation of Ruling Letters

Department of Energy

- Request for Information: Offshore Wind Environmental Research & Environmental Monitoring and Impact Mitigation Technology Validation Funding Opportunity



Council on Environmental Quality

- Proposed Updates to NEPA Regulations

National Science Foundation

- National Science Foundation: Request for Information on Opportunities and Constraints to Building and Sustaining Partnerships in Ocean Science and Technology

Independent Studies

- Georgetown Economic Services "Potential Employment Impact from Offshore Wind in the United States - The Mid-Atlantic and New England Region"
- Dr. Thomas Sproul "Review of The Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Port Access Route Study" requesting refined analysis of spacing concerns, transit lanes, and radar interference

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

- Request for Comment on Massachusetts Offshore Wind Transmission
- Second Request for Comment on Massachusetts Offshore Wind Transmission

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection & Board of Public Utilities

- New Jersey Offshore Wind Strategic Plan
- New Jersey BPU Solicitation #2 Draft Guidance Document - Section 10: Fisheries Protection Plan
- New Jersey Offshore Wind Transmission Information Gathering

California Energy Commission

- Notice of Availability of Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind Energy off the Central Coast of California

PRESS COVERAGE

RODA has worked with Stove Boat Communications to produce and distribute 12 press releases since August 2019. This work has helped put us firmly in the public spotlight on issues related to the intersection of offshore wind development and the commercial fishing industry, resulting in 496 press articles including RODA during that time frame. News organizations including the Associated Press, Politico, Forbes, the Boston Globe, NPR, as well as numerous local and regional outlets across New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and the West Coast, published articles about RODA or interviewed staff. Both seafood and wind industry trade publications frequently reference our work and recommendations. Coverage has spotlighted BOEM's SEIS for the Vineyard Wind project, congressional activities, RODA's requests to accommodate fishermen during the COVID-19 pandemic, transit lanes and the Coast Guard's study on turbine layout, and the politics surrounding offshore wind development, to name just a few topics.

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

In the land of endless webinars, RODA has participated in too many meetings and events to list them all. In addition to the topical items mentioned above, RODA hosted and attended meetings with members across the country. These included a RODA booth and multiple presentations on our work at the Maine Fishermen's Forum, port and facility meetings with fishermen from Gloucester to Reedville, Clackamas to San Diego, many places in between, and more. RODA held its first all-members meeting in May 2020 to discuss OSW mitigation models from U.S. industries and abroad. Members were supportive of pursuing transparent and equitable approaches to mitigation when business and environmental impacts are not avoided.



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

2021 OUTLOOK

RODA's work is not slowing down anytime soon! And neither is offshore development. Next year is all about networking and coalition-building. Here are several hot topics coming down the pike that will continue to challenge the industry and require a strong coalition.

HOT TOPICS

OFFSHORE WIND

You all know this issue has been RODA's main focus since our inception. We expect an expanded pace and scope nationally, from processing the existing project proposals off of Southern New England, the Mid-Atlantic, California, and Hawaii, to new projects developing in the Gulf of Maine, the New York Bight, and the West Coast, to planning activities in the Gulf of Mexico, Oregon, the Southern Atlantic, and Washington.

FEDERAL AQUACULTURE

Between the Executive Order earlier this year, a revived AQUAA Act in Congress, and multiple proposed projects, large-scale U.S. aquaculture is closer than ever before. It's imperative to represent your interests now--as policies and processes are being created and tested--in order to ensure that they are inclusive, fully informed by science, and planned to reduce spatial or environmental conflicts.

"30 BY 30"

Congress and the Biden Administration have indicated strong interests in pursuing policies that would close 30% of U.S. oceans to commercial fishing. We need to diligently advocate for closed areas to be based only on science and only be designated through transparent and inclusive processes.

AMERICAN SEAFOOD PROMOTION

We want to keep you fishing! And one of the best ways to do that? By sharing with the American consumer how sustainable, delicious, and nutritious your seafood products are! RODA will assist our members in your good efforts to elevate the value of American seafood, to ensure the longevity of the industry and all of the coastal communities you support. We expect a seafood promotion campaign to work in lockstep with your businesses and marketing efforts, adhering to our same adage of "strength in numbers." This is a critical component of promoting fishermen's interests vis-a-vis offshore development, as rampant misinformation about commercial harvesting marginalizes your importance to our nation.

SHORESIDE ACTIVITIES, VESSEL SERVICES, AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

RODA has been paying much closer attention to these aspects of offshore development, including the Jones Act, and in late 2019 Annie attended the WorkBoat show in New Orleans to learn more about employment, insurance, and workforce considerations. There are many maritime issues associated with offshore development that will affect your operations at sea and on shore. We will continue to learn more about these to inform you and will strive to put your considerations, concerns and value at the forefront of the discussion to the best of our ability.

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

In an age of globalization, many of the policy proposals and misinformation campaigns facing the industry are rooted in large international networks. We've learned that fishermen all over the world face very similar challenges, often involving the same actors. RODA is actively building relationships with fishing organizations in Europe and elsewhere in the spirit of drawing more attention to the realities of commercial fishing, fisheries science, and food security.



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2020

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

We humbly ask all our members to help us in the following ways to ensure our coalition is as strong as ever.

- **Strength in Numbers!** Let's continue to grow our membership in existing and new regions. Our work benefits the entire industry and our membership roster shows just how much our community matters.
- **Build our Partnerships!** RODA seeks to build partnerships and expand membership outside the harvester and processor sectors to associated services and businesses. Remember that membership is open to all fishing-dependent businesses who share our values of supporting healthy, thriving U.S. fisheries and working together to advance consensus positions. More diverse coverage can only help; stronger representation means a stronger coalition. We have multiple membership categories; if someone is interested in joining, reach out and let's see where they fit.
- **Expand our Portfolio!** Ocean development is rising to national attention and we know there are a lot of topics that deserve elevation from our broad membership. RODA plans to become more active on these issues and needs your help identifying and prioritizing them.
- **Tell us How to Improve!** Creative direction and constructive criticism are always welcome. This year we plan to get more targeted feedback from membership on strategic direction and priorities, and hope to introduce many more of you to each other.

About the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

RODA represents fishing industry associations and companies dedicated to improving the compatibility of offshore developments with their businesses. RODA's approximately 170 members represent every Atlantic coastal state from North Carolina to Maine, and Pacific coast members in California, Oregon and Washington. Contact us at info@rodafisheries.org.



John Manderson - OpenOcean Research

"It has been excellent working with Annie and Fiona at RODA on development of the fishery knowledge trust (FKT). We believe the FKT will prove to be a vital tool enabling fishing industry experts to collaborate in an information rich environment to develop science products to better inform marine ecosystem policymaking. I also want to congratulate RODA and their for developing and executing an innovative virtual workshop "Fisheries and Offshore Wind: Synthesis of the Science". They did a marvelous job and the execution was excellent"



Photo Credit: Cole Griffin

