



Advancing Regional Solutions for Fisheries and Offshore Wind

Anticipated Timeline

RFP Release	November 18, 2024
Concept Papers Submission Deadline	December 20, 2024
Full Application Submission Deadline	March 14, 2025
Project Selection	June 2025
Earliest Project Start	August 2025

Award Information

The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) expects to make **\$3,442,500** available for funding projects selected through this solicitation process. ROSA plans to fund **5-8 projects** under this Request for Proposals (RFP) and may select none or multiple awards in accordance with the RFP objectives, goals, and selection criteria. ROSA reserves the right to extend and/or add funding to the RFP should other funding sources become available or reduce the funding of the RFP should expected funding sources not materialize or decrease available funding.

Funding for projects awarded from this RFP is being 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](#)¹.

Through this RFP, ROSA is seeking proposals under the following research categories, addressing key regional research questions identified as high priority by the ROSA [organizational structure](#)² and the broader fisheries and offshore wind community. Research needs were considered and prioritized from those included in ROSA's Fish and Fisheries OffshoRe Wind Research Database (FishFORWRD). More information can be found on ROSA's website [here](#)³.

Topic Area	Total Funding Per Topic Area	Anticipated # of projects	Max. Request per Proposal	Max. Period of Performance
1 Supporting Fisheries Access	\$1,600,000	2-3	\$750,000	3 years
2 Understanding Potential Offshore Wind Impacts to Larval Fish	\$1,200,000	1-2	\$1,000,000	3 years
3 Fisheries Monitoring: Data Integration, Evaluation, & Analysis	\$642,500	2-3	\$250,000	2 years

¹ <https://portal.nysed.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00P8z000003cmKBEAY>

² <https://www.rosascience.org/about/leadership/>

³ <https://www.rosascience.org/resources/fishforwrld/>

ROSA reserves the right to reallocate funds as necessary between each topic area to provide for funding flexibility to meet the desired objectives of this funding opportunity. ROSA may fund selected proposals in phases or assign a Project Advisory Committee to help guide the project. ROSA reserves the right to build teams between selected awardees and stakeholders and/or other supported research to maximize the value of the research effort and/or to improve regional coordination. Projects are expected to start no sooner than August 2025.

Eligibility

The following types of domestic entities are eligible to apply:

- Institutions of higher education;
- For-profit entities;
- Nonprofit entities;
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs);
- Tribal nations (recognized and unrecognized)

The following entities are eligible to apply as subcontractors

- Federal agencies;
- State and local government agencies;
- Foreign entities (subject to compliance with applicable legal requirements)

Proposal Submission

Concept papers and full applications are to be submitted by the deadline to info@rosascience.org. Applicants must submit a concept paper by the deadline above to be eligible and invited to submit a Full Application. More information on required components and format can be found below in Section III.

All concept papers and invited full applications must be received by **5 p.m. ET** on the date noted in the above table. Late submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete proposals may be subject to disqualification. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all components and all pages have been included in the proposal.

Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to ROSA at info@rosascience.org and received by December 4, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET. Any changes or updates to this RFP, and answers to questions received, will be posted on ROSA's website at <https://www.rosascience.org/regional-rfp/>.

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I. Introduction

To meet federal and state clean energy goals, offshore wind development has expanded on the U.S. East coast in the last decade - deepening the need among those active in Atlantic waters to better understand interactions between offshore wind, marine ecosystems and ocean users. Several efforts have been made to identify critical research needs related to offshore wind and fisheries. To address these needs, numerous organizations (e.g., Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, NYSERDA, U.S. Department of Energy, New Jersey Research and Monitoring Initiative, NOAA Sea Grant Northeast Consortium, National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium, and others) have initiated research and monitoring efforts at various spatial and temporal scales. Alongside these competitive solicitations and other funding mechanisms for research, significant amounts of project level fisheries data are also being collected by each offshore wind developer through Fisheries Monitoring Plans, as required by the offshore energy regulatory agency Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). However, many critical research questions remain, particularly those that demand regional approaches to effectively inform decision-making.

The NYSERDA E-TWG Regional Synthesis Workgroup defined regional research questions as: a) requiring data from a broader geographic scope than a single wind farm site, b) focusing on methodologies or mitigation strategies to support environmental research, risk assessments, and adaptive management decisions, and/or c) contributing to a deeper understanding of ecosystem processes, even if these studies occur at smaller scales. Regional offshore wind fisheries research improves our understanding of the effects of offshore wind on wildlife populations, marine ecosystems, and coastal economies. This understanding includes characterizing potential consequences and cumulative impacts that could help inform mitigation and adaptive management decisions.

ROSA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance research, monitoring, and methods on the effects of offshore wind on fisheries across US federal and state waters. Formed by the fishing and offshore wind industries, ROSA has been charged with supporting, advocating for, and advancing rigorous science around fisheries, habitats, and offshore wind development. ROSA facilitates, executes, and promotes research that is Scientific, Collaborative, Objective, and Transparent: our Four Guiding Principles. At the heart of ROSA's work is a community – of fishermen, offshore wind developers, academics, government representatives, and others – united behind a common goal: objective, collaborative science. Together, we aim to generate scientific data to support effective decision-making and policy. ROSA proudly serves as a regional science entity and this RFP is an important step in fulfilling our mission.

The objectives of ROSA Regional RFPs are to: identify and fund hypothesis-driven science that follows a research plan, leverage ongoing research and coordination activities, and deliver timely results to inform fisheries and offshore wind planning, management, and assessment. Overall, the goal of this ROSA Regional RFP is 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 through regional research and publicly-available data and data products.

II. Research Topic Areas

Proposals are encouraged to leverage other research funding, partnerships, and resources. Applicants should consider how their work builds on existing efforts in the region and how actionable findings can be made available early in the project performance periods and provided to offshore wind and/or fisheries managers and regulators upon completion.

ROSA recommends all applicants review the following prior to submission:

- a) ROSA's [FishFORWRD](#)⁴ to ensure the proposal of novel work and to coordinate with and/or leverage ongoing research;
- b) the [Responsible Practices for Regional Wildlife Monitoring and Research in Relation to Offshore Wind Energy](#)⁵ document released by the NYSERDA E-TWG Regional Synthesis Workgroup to aid in developing regionally relevant study designs and research plans.

Topic Area 1: Supporting Fisheries Access

Offshore wind exists at several stages of development on the East Coast. Planned leases and existing projects overlap with areas traditionally used by both commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as areas projected to support future fisheries due to climate change. This overlap can create challenges that affect fishing operations, with varying impacts dependent on factors such as gear type, fishing vessel activity and transit, configuration of leases, and/or turbines and cables within lease sites. While these areas are intended to remain accessible to fishing activity during the operational phase, logistical questions persist concerning preclusion of fishing gears, activity, and subsequent outcomes.

Achieving successful coexistence between the offshore wind and fishing industries will depend on research on non-compensatory strategies that can sustain fishing activity within and around offshore wind areas. While existing research (see 'Fisheries Access & Gear Modification' category in [FishFORWRD](#)) has started to explore compatibility between the offshore wind and fishing industries, ROSA believes there are still significant opportunities to pursue, given the wide variation in commercial fishing operations on the East Coast among gear types, techniques, and vessel sizes.

This topic area seeks to advance strategies and solutions to support the coexistence of fishing effort and activity with offshore wind or to mitigate loss of access. The objective of this topic area is to enhance 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 in gear technology, fisheries and stock enhancement, and other non-compensatory mitigation strategies. These projects are expected to produce critical insights and practical solutions for sustaining fishing activity in the context of offshore wind development by providing more clarity on the

⁴ <https://www.rosascience.org/fishforwrld/>

⁵ https://www.nyetwg.com/_files/ugd/78f0c4_32faf704418048239eb2b8c3259711db.pdf

ability to fish within and around wind farms, and/or catalyze industry-supported solutions to sustained fishing access. Applicants are strongly encouraged to propose research that includes meaningful partnership with the fishing industry, including partnering with fishing industry members in project development, use of local fishing vessels in deployments, and participation of fishing industry members on project teams.

Projects submitted to this topic area could address:

- Aspects of preclusion of fishing activity (e.g., insurance restrictions, turbine spacing, cable protection)
- Gear modification techniques or technologies that enhance access to fishing within offshore wind farm arrays
- Analyses to inform non-compensatory mitigation efforts for fisheries (e.g., model-simulated fishing activity and economic outcomes)
- Fisheries and stock enhancement to support increased fishing opportunities
- Other non-compensatory mitigation strategies promoting coexistence of fishing activity with offshore wind

Applications Not of Interest

- Projects addressing state, federal, or regional survey gear modifications or design

Topic Area 2: Understanding Potential Offshore Wind Impacts to Larval Fish

The development of offshore wind energy along the U.S. East Coast has the potential to alter key oceanographic processes, including circulation patterns, nutrient transport, and larval dispersal. Recent studies using coupled hydrodynamic-larval dispersal models have shown that large offshore wind installations could impact the dispersal and settlement patterns of commercially significant species, such as Atlantic sea scallops in Southern New England (Ex-77 & Ex-80 in [FishFORWRD](#)), with additional research underway on Atlantic sea scallops, Atlantic surfclam, and black sea bass in the Mid-Atlantic (Ex-7 in [FishFORWRD](#)).

Alterations in hydrodynamic and thermal conditions could impact the connectivity between different life stages of marine organisms, thereby influencing population dynamics and the resilience of marine communities. Understanding these processes for commercially important fisheries is crucial for the effective management of fisheries and the sustainable development of offshore wind energy.

The objective of this topic area is to 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. Proposed projects are expected to describe and provide actionable information about these potential impacts and/or identify potential for mitigation.

Projects submitted to this topic area could:

- Model regional impact of offshore wind development on larval fish and invertebrate survival, transport, settlement and distribution
- Conduct larval biological, physiological or other studies to improve model parameter and outputs
- Propose other research approaches to advance the objective of this topic area

Topic Area 3: Fisheries Monitoring: Data Integration, Evaluation, & Analysis

Data collection efforts to assess the effects of offshore wind development are being conducted by multiple state and federal agencies, university researchers, contractors hired by offshore wind developers, nonprofit organizations, and others. This monitoring generally occurs at the level of each offshore wind project with few efforts currently underway designed to assess regional or cumulative effects. Monitoring approaches must produce usable and actionable data at the project and regional scales for both assessments and decision making. Validation for some monitoring approaches has begun (see 'Resource Monitoring' category in [FishFORWRD](#)), but is still needed for additional methods.

Outside of a coordinated regional program such as the Partnership for an Offshore Wind Energy Regional Observation Network ([POWERON](#)⁶), assessment of regional or cumulative impacts for fish and fisheries will require accessing, combining and analyzing data collected by different data creators, using different collection methods, sampling frameworks, and data storage systems. It is critical to understand what types of data can be leveraged and integrated to detect and understand impacts beyond the project-footprint scale and to inform optimal designs for regional and cumulative impact assessments.

Advancements in regional monitoring and data integration can help to build our predictive capacity, design regional monitoring programs to avoid data-rich information-poor datasets, facilitate tackling future undefined research questions, and promote interdisciplinary research. The objective of this topic area is to explore the use of available data and/or conceptual frameworks to inform regional fisheries monitoring and cumulative assessment capability.

While the data used in projects proposed in this topic area is not required to originate specifically from offshore wind fisheries research and monitoring efforts (e.g., offshore wind developer Fisheries Monitoring Plans), the outcome(s) of the proposed work must be applicable to

⁶ <https://www.boem.gov/newsroom/press-releases/boem-announces-poweron-acoustic-monitoring-program-offshore-wind-projects>

advancing regional fisheries monitoring strategies or to conducting regional or cumulative impact assessments of offshore wind on fish and fisheries. Applicants must explain their access to the data to be used.

Applicants are encouraged to produce recommendations from their findings including suggestions of data standards or future needs to successfully integrate data or improve the monitoring methodologies assessed.

Projects submitted to this topic area could address:

- Evaluating the applicability and integrity of existing monitoring strategies and sampling techniques to detect impacts and contribute to regional impact assessments and fisheries management, e.g., creating a baseline, best practices for monitoring methodology on fisheries
- Integrating data from multiple methods and/or sources across scales demonstrate feasibility and validate approaches. Methods could include telemetry, eDNA, trawl surveys, pot and trap, aerial surveys, oceanographic surveys, socioeconomic data, benthic data, etc. Sources could include fisheries or benthic monitoring plan data, academic research data, state and federal data sources, etc.
- Other examples using available data or frameworks that support the objective of this topic area

Applications Not of Interest

- Studies proposing the collection of new data

III. Application and Submission Information

The application process will include two submission phases. ROSA will accept concept papers prior to full applications. A concept paper must be submitted in order to be eligible and invited to submit a full application. An entity may submit more than one concept paper and full application to this RFP as long as each application describes a unique, scientifically-distinct project. Proposals should provide sufficient and succinct information to address the required elements of the proposal and best meet the selection criteria provided in Section IV.

Proposal Requirements for All Topic Areas

To promote effective coordination and best available science, awarded projects will be expected to adhere to the following requirements and expectations. Additional requirements may be included within topic area descriptions. Additional ROSA policies that will apply to Awardees can be found in the Section V. Applicants should include these requirements in their proposal narrative and/or Research Implementation Plan.

- Coordination
 - [FishFORWRD Updates](#)⁷: At project kickoff, Awardees shall submit project information to ROSA's FishFORWRD, review its accuracy and provide applicable updates every 6 months.
 - [Research Planning Map](#)⁸: At project kickoff, or as soon as information is known, Awardees shall submit coordinates of any sensors, sampling stations, or other research activities to ROSA upon request for inclusion in the RWSC Research Planning Map fisheries research layer(s).
 - [ROSA Research Advisor](#)⁹: Project PI shall serve as a ROSA Researcher Advisor (if not already) to support ROSA scientific activities and provide guidance on matters related to scientific research.

- Quarterly Reporting of Project Progress to ROSA
 - see "Project Performance Reporting" in General Terms and Conditions

- Deliverables - at minimum, deliverables will include:
 - Data Sharing & Management Plan - updated annually
 - Project Fact Sheet
 - Quarterly Progress Reports
 - Final Report
 - Final Data/Data products/code provided to ROSA

- Communication of Results
 - Public facing Project Fact Sheet that includes project objectives, methods, and outcomes to be updated every 6 months and displayed on ROSA's website.
 - Annual Presentation to the ROSA Advisory Council
 - Presentation of results at the NYSERDA State of the Science or another relevant conference (include travel in budget)
 - Submission of results to peer-reviewed literature. ROSA may choose to additionally independently review project final reports.

Concept Papers

Submit the concept paper as one document with the following components. Material beyond the stated page limits will not be examined by the Technical Review Panel.

- Cover Page (1 page)
 - Brief Project Title & Full Project Title
 - Research Topic Area Addressed

⁷ <https://www.rosascience.org/fishforwrld>

⁸ <https://rwsc.org/map/>

⁹ <https://www.rosascience.org/about/leadership/research-advisors/>

- o Names, titles, affiliations, and contact information of Principal Investigator (PI), co-PIs, and other project partners
- o Total budget request
- o Names and contact information of three (3) experts who can provide an external peer review of the full proposal. Conflicts of interest can be avoided by suggesting individuals outside of the PI or other collaborators' home institution(s) or with whom applicants have not had a working relationship
- Project Description (3 pages)
 - o Summary of the project, including the research question, hypotheses, general methods, and outcomes
 - o Description of the current state of the literature including key limitations and challenges this work would address
 - o Description of how the proposed research addresses the topic area selected and would provide regional benefit to the offshore wind and fisheries fields
 - o Brief organizational work plan and schedule
 - o Evidence of prior experience and expertise of the PI and project team, including detail of collaboration, consultation, or participation with fishing industry members

Full Applications

Submit each full application material with the following components. Material beyond the stated page limits will not be examined by the Technical Review Panel. Applicants should address an audience that has expertise broadly in fisheries and/or offshore wind, but not necessarily in the area addressed in the proposal.

1. Project Fact Sheet for Public Release (1 page)
 - o One-page summary of project information that is suitable for dissemination to the public. Project Fact Sheet should include: the name of the applicant, the lead project manager/principal investigator(s), the project title, and a paragraph including the objectives of the project and a description including methods to be employed and expected timeline, the potential impact of the project (e.g., benefits, outcomes), major participants (for collaborative projects). This Sheet should not include any proprietary or business-sensitive information as ROSA may make this information available on the ROSA website after project selections are made. Project Fact Sheets are encouraged to use pictures or diagrams.

2. Proposal Narrative (15 page limit)

- o Cover Page
 - Brief Project Title
 - Full Project Title
 - Research Topic Area Addressed
 - Names, titles, affiliations, and contact information of Principal Investigator (PI), co-PIs, and other project partners
 - Total budget request
- o Identification of Problem
 - Describe the specific problem or area of interest addressed through the proposal, including an evaluation of the state of the knowledge that supports this proposal.
- o Research Question, Project Objectives and Relevance
 - State project objectives that are clear, simple, and understandable. The proposal should provide a clear research question, hypothesis, and expected outcome(s). This section should describe the relevance of the proposed project to the objectives of the topic area addressed.
- o Research Plan
 - Describe the overall approach to be taken to address the problem identified. Discuss in detail the research design and the methods that will be used to achieve the specific aims of the project and necessary to accomplish each task, including projected sample sizes/treatment units, effect sizes, analytical approaches, a process for evaluating effectiveness and validity of results. The Research Plan should include a high-level description of the project schedule that considers separation of performance periods and expected end results of those performance periods. A more detailed Research Implementation Plan with specific tasks, milestones, and deliverables is requested separately.
- o Regional Impact
 - Describe the beneficial regional impact of the project and practical application to a range of stakeholders and parties. Include an explanation of project outputs, i.e., how the project will engage with and disseminate research findings or products to relevant stakeholders and parties, and what role ROSA can play in incorporation of results into our activities.

- Describe the relationship of the proposed research to planned offshore wind development timelines and/or related projects, programs, or other ongoing offshore wind and fisheries research and monitoring activities. Applicants should consider how their work builds on or complements related efforts, while not being duplicative.
- o Project Management and Expertise
 - Briefly describe the role of each project team member and the steps the project team will take to coordinate within team members and collaborators to complete project tasks and achieve project objectives. Include a role for a Data Manager. A more detailed assignment of each task to project team members is required in the Research Implementation Plan. ROSA encourages fishing industry involvement or cooperative research elements for each proposal.
 - Describe the prior experience, skills, and expertise of the PI and project team and how this experience enables the applicant to achieve project objectives.
 - Include explanation of any current or pending support and/or equipment, facilities or resources that may be leveraged to further the project.
 - If field work is proposed, the proposal also must describe whether the investigators have the necessary permits in hand (list relevant permit numbers and who on the project team holds them), or what steps the investigators have taken to obtain the necessary permits. If no permits are required, this section must indicate “no permits are required.” Applicants can review the following links [here](#)¹⁰ and [here](#)¹¹ to better understand requirements.

3. Research Implementation Plan (Template Provided)

- o Complete the Research Implementation Plan template that includes a table for Tasks, Milestones and Deliverables. Using the format of a Gantt chart, this table should be a visual representation of the timeline description of project activities included in the proposal’s Research Plan in the Proposal Narrative that includes start and completion timelines for all major tasks. This Gantt chart will also include required reporting (quarterly meetings with ROSA), major project deliverables, and milestones or other key events. Applicants should ensure that all described coordination, reporting, deliverable, and communication requirements are

¹⁰<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-06/NOAAFisheriesGreaterAtlanticRegionPermittingConsiderationsforFisheriesSurveysforOffshoreWindDevelopment20Jun2023.pdf>

¹¹<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-06/NOAAFisheriesGreaterAtlanticRegionProtectedSpeciesBestManagementPracticesandRiskReductionMeasuresforOffshoreWindFisherySurveys20Jun2023.pdf>

reflected in the Research Implementation Plan. A table for Roles of Team Members is also included in the template. Please use the provided templates for consistency.

- o Selected projects should expect to start no sooner than August 2025

4. Data Management & Sharing Plan (Template provided)

- o A Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMSP) is a formal document that outlines how research data will be handled, stored, shared, and preserved throughout the lifecycle of a project. The plan demonstrates the researcher's commitment to good data management practices (e.g., FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and ensures that data are available for future research.
- o The Pre-Award Data Management & Sharing Plan (DMSP) template is provided for applicants to consider and address the management of data being proposed. This plan requires researchers to provide a list of the specific data being collected, which data will be shared and how, where those data are being stored and secured, any access constraints, etc. This plan will be considered as part of the selection process.
- o After projects are selected, a more detailed Post-Award DMSP will be developed between selected project teams and ROSA staff. This full version of the document will be finalized within 6 months of the project being awarded. The designated Data Manager on the project team will continue to update the document at least annually.

5. Budget Justification & Proposed Payment Schedule (Template provided)

- o Complete the template provided for all project costs including an itemized budget and associated justification (Sheet 1). The maximum value assigned to subcontracts must be less than 50% of the final budget amount. If fields do not apply, leave them blank or remove them from the budget included in the submitted proposal.
- o Applicants must include a proposed payment schedule (Sheet 2). Project payments should be deliverables-based.
- o Indirect Cost Policy
 - ROSA does not allow for indirect expenses (i.e., overhead costs) greater than 15% to be charged to contracts for research services provided in support of the ROSA Regional Research Program.

- Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) includes all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subcontract under the prime contract). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subcontract in excess of \$50,000.
6. Resumes (3 page limit for each major participant compiled into one document) highlighting relevant experience/expertise and demonstrating capacity to take on the proposed work.
 7. Letters of Commitment (1 page limit each compiled into one document)
 - o Letters are required from funded project partners such as fishing industry representatives, offshore wind developer representatives, or other partners who are offering expertise and/or resources to the PI, co-PI(s) and project objectives.
 8. Letters of Support (1 page limit each compiled into one document; optional)
 - o Letters of support are limited to unfunded collaborators and/or affected parties that will directly participate in and/or benefit from the proposed work. Letters of support from non-academic partners and/or users of the project outcomes are especially encouraged and should describe how the research will have regional relevance and practical application.

Format For Application Materials

Submit a complete proposal with application materials not to exceed stated page limits. Any material exceeding the stated page limits will not be reviewed by the Technical Review Panel or ROSA. Each page of the proposal materials should include a page number. Proposals should provide sufficient and succinct information to address the required elements of the proposal and best meet the selection criteria. Templates can be downloaded on ROSA's Regional RFP webpage at <https://www.rosascience.org/regional-rfp/>

All materials should be submitted together in PDF format with 1" margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12-point (except in figures or tables, which may be 10-point font), single- or double-spaced. Proposal materials should be searchable and PDFs should be created by direct conversion from MS Word, or other conversion utility, rather than scanning.

Concept Papers	
Concept Paper	4 pages

Full Applications	
Project Fact Sheet	1 page
Proposal Narrative	15 pages
Research Implementation Plan	Template
Data Management & Sharing Plan	Template
Budget Justification & Proposed Payment Schedule	Template
Resumes	3 pages per resume
Letter(s) of Commitment	1 page per letter
Letter(s) of Support <i>(optional)</i>	1 page per letter

Submission

All application materials for concept papers and full applications submissions shall be emailed to info@rosascience.org. Concept papers should be submitted as a PDF with the following file name “PI Last Name”_ROSARFP01_”Brief Project Title”_CP. All components for the full application should be combined and submitted as one PDF file with the following file name “PI Last Name”_ROSARFP01_”Brief Project Title”.

All **concept paper** submissions must be received by **5pm EST on December 20, 2024**, for consideration.

All **full application** submissions must be received by **5pm EST on March 14, 2025**, for consideration

IV. Evaluation and Selection Process

Concept papers will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness. Applicants who have submitted eligible concept papers deemed responsive to the RFP using the criterion below will be contacted by ROSA and invited to submit full applications. To promote transparency and administer a fair selection process, full applications will be evaluated and scored by a Technical Review Panel made up of subject matter experts, using the following selection criteria. Concept papers and full applications will be kept confidential among ROSA scientific staff and reviewers. Scores from the Technical Review Panel will be evaluated and considered in the final selection process.

Technical Review Criteria

Concept Papers

1. Responsiveness to RFP and Viability of Project [100%]
 - o The applicant clearly describes the proposed research, how the work is regionally relevant, and how the research will advance the current state of knowledge.
 - o The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives as stated in the topic area.
 - o The proposal describes how results, if successful, would be significantly beneficial to the offshore wind and fisheries community, broadly applicable to the field, and repeatable. Specifically, the proposed research would further the collective understanding of cumulative/regional impacts and/or support meaningful solutions to the challenges surrounding responsible ocean co-use.
 - o The applicant has the qualifications, experience, capabilities and/or other resources necessary to complete the proposed project.
 - o The costs associated with the project appear reasonable and appropriate.

Full Applications

1. Applicability and Scientific Merit of Proposal [50%]
 - o The proposal provides a clear definition of the research need being addressed, objectives of the work, hypotheses to be tested, and expected outcome(s) of the work.
 - o The proposal describes how successful results would significantly benefit the offshore wind and/or fisheries communities, be broadly applicable to the field, and lead to actionable findings to inform decision making.
 - o The research design is clear, comprehensive, and innovative. The proposed methodology can adequately test hypotheses and answer research questions. Where appropriate, there is a clear pathway to statistically robust results and

justification (e.g., sample sizes, number of treatment units, magnitude of effect).

The proposal provides specific measurable targets of success where applicable.

- o The proposal describes its relevance to the specific topic area and, if successfully accomplished, would meet the objectives as stated in the topic area description.

2. Research Implementation Plan, Budget and Team Experience [25%]

- o The Research Implementation Plan includes a comprehensible task and deliverable schedule, organizational structure for management and clear roles of team members. The Plan is efficient with regards to resources and time, and includes all requirements with timely tasks and meaningful milestones and deliverables that seem appropriate and achievable.
- o The proposed budget is realistic and commensurate with the project methods, needs and time frame, demonstrating efficient use of funds. The proposed budget is consistent with industry standards and reflects fair market value for all line items.
- o The principal investigator and proposed team are appropriate for the proposed work and have the necessary expertise, knowledge, history of prior peer-reviewed publication, and access to resources needed to successfully achieve the goals of the proposal. This includes commitments from all essential team members as demonstrated by Letters of Commitment and an understanding of permit requirements (if applicable).
- o The proposed team is diverse, inclusive, and expands research capacity in the region.

3. Regional Alignment & Support [15%]

- o The proposed research considers its compatibility with ongoing research and monitoring efforts and the planned offshore wind development timelines in the region, and leverages existing resources available including partnerships, data, and/or other ongoing activities.
- o The proposal has the buy-in and input from offshore wind and fishing industry partners and stakeholders to ensure success as shown through project partnerships and/or Letters of Support.

4. Data Governance [10%]

- o All sections of the Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMSP) are reasonably detailed and complete, including a role for a Data Manager.

Program Policy Factors

Program policy factors may be considered by ROSA during final selection of projects. These factors could help determine whether projects advance the state of the science and support and reflect the overall mission of ROSA in promoting scientific, collaborative, objective, and transparent research and monitoring solutions. These factors could include, but are not limited to consideration of:

- Meaningful collaboration with fishermen and/or fishing industry (e.g. involvement in creation of research design, use of local fishing vessels)
- Diversity of projects in long- and short-term benefits
- Distribution and diversity of projects in ROSA's research portfolio and the collective regional science portfolio

V. General Terms & Conditions Applicable to All Awards

Negotiations

ROSA will engage in contract negotiations with selected project teams before an award is made. A final contract will include a Scope of Services, Research Implementation Plan, expected deliverables, Reporting and Payment Schedule, and acceptance of all ROSA policies below. ROSA reserves the right to negotiate changes to the proposed project approach, deliverables, and deliverable formats with the selected applicant. A selected project's award will be contingent upon the project team obtaining proper permits and acceptance of the stated terms of an agreement with ROSA.

Intellectual Property

All data and other intellectual property created, generated, delivered, or otherwise prepared for or resulting from awarded work and by the Awardee, including but not limited to all papers, reports, surveys, plans, charts, records, analyses, or publications produced, shall be jointly owned by ROSA and Awardee. Each party shall have a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, non-exclusive worldwide right and license to freely use, make, have made, reproduce, disseminate, display, perform, and create derivative works, in all media and all forms, such data. A complete Intellectual Property Policy will be provided to project teams invited to submit a full application.

Acknowledgment

Any presentations, posters, publications, white papers, reports, interviews, or other public communications related to the awarded research project must acknowledge the Responsible

Offshore Science Alliance and display the contract # and the ROSA logo, which will be provided by the ROSA Research Program Manager.

Indirect Policy

ROSA does not allow for indirect expenses (i.e., overhead costs) greater than 15% of direct costs and expenses to be charged to contracts for research services provided in support of the ROSA Regional Research Program. The intention of these regional research dollars is for the majority of expenses to be directly attributable to awarded research project outcomes and outputs as direct costs and expenses. Direct costs and expenses are analogous to “Modified Total Direct Costs” (MTDC), which includes all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subcontract under the prime contract). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subcontract in excess of \$50,000.

Permits & Approvals

If field research will occur in state or federal waters, Awardees must secure the appropriate documentation, as determined by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, and applicable state management agencies. Such documentation may include a Letter of Acknowledgment, Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP), Exempted Educational Activity Authorization, or Temporary Possession Letter of Authorization. Awardees are responsible for securing all necessary permits, approvals, and/or documentation and ensuring that all work is done in accordance with all applicable laws.

Equipment Management

Any associated equipment and sensors purchased through this project will be the shared property of the ROSA and the Awardee unless otherwise agreed by ROSA in each instance. Shared ownership means beyond the work period of a contract, the Awardee will retain possession of the property, but ROSA shall have priority use of the property upon request.

Project Requirements

Data Sharing & Management Plan: Awardees must submit a Data Sharing & Management Plan (DSMP) to the ROSA Project Manager within two months of the effective date of the contract. The DSMP will follow a template and be provided by ROSA. ROSA will review, provide any necessary comments to a draft, and provide final approval of the DSMP. The DSMP must be approved before any data collection for the project may begin. The Awardees and ROSA shall review the DSMP every six months and update the document, if needed.

Regional Coordination and Outreach: Upon contract agreement, the Awardees shall submit project information to FishFORWRD, review its accuracy, and provide updates every 6 months, if necessary (e.g., availability of a project website), and submit a final update prior to submitting the

Final Report. If requested, Awardees shall submit coordinates of any sensors, sampling stations, or other research activities to ROSA Research Project Manager for inclusion in the RWSC Research Planning Map. Awardees shall provide annual project progress updates upon request to the ROSA Advisory Council. The Awardees shall update the submitted Project Fact Sheet from the application as needed and submit a Final Project Fact sheet at project completion to ROSA to be shared.

Project Performance Reporting: The Awardees will be required to attend quarterly virtual meetings with ROSA staff to discuss project progress. Aligned with the agreed upon project reporting schedule, Awardees shall submit formal Quarterly Project Progress Reports to ROSA prior to each virtual meeting that include updates on project progress, data collection, milestones and deliverables achieved. The Awardees will be required to submit a Final Report no later than 90 days after project completion.

Payment Schedule & Financial Reporting: Awardees will create a Financial Reporting and Payment Schedule for the entire scope of the project that aligns with deliverables of the project. A proposed payment schedule is requested in the Budget Template as part of the application process. Project payments shall be Deliverables-based and made upon receipt and approval of the Quarterly Project Progress Report(s), Draft Final Report, Final Report, or other agreed upon deliverables. Payment amount will be distributed equally between the paid Deliverables unless otherwise agreed upon. A payment based on the Final Report deliverable will be reserved until all project requirements are met (e.g., data provided to ROSA).

VI. Attachments

The following full application templates are available for download on ROSA's website here:

<https://www.rosascience.org/regional-rfp/>

- Research Implementation Plan Template
- Data Management & Sharing Plan Template
- Budget Justification & Proposed Payment Schedule Template