



Advisory Council Meeting

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 | Meeting Summary

Developed by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting-In-Brief

On September 26, 2024, the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) Advisory Council met, convening (a list of attendees can be found in Appendix A), two facilitators, and 4 ROSA staff. At this meeting, ROSA shared updates on the research gaps analysis, regional monitoring plans, the data governance program, and notified participants of related upcoming research and events.

Meeting materials including the agenda and presentations can be found on ROSA's website:

www.rosascience.org/our-work/advisory-council-priorities-and-meetings/.

Welcome

ROSA Executive Director Reneé Reilly welcomed participants and thanked attendees from the west coast for attending an early morning meeting. Facilitator Patrick Field (Consensus Building Institute) oriented participants to the agenda and initiated an introductory poll for participants to share their relation to ROSA, the industry they represent, and the region in which they primarily work.

ROSA Updates

Two new Advisory Council members are under review, and they will be announced in December 2024. Reneé Reilly oriented attendees to updates made to the ROSA website including a new homepage that spotlights research, news, and events.

Acoustic Telemetry Committee and Co-Design Project Update

Mike Pol, ROSA, summarized the September Acoustic Telemetry Committee meeting held to further best practices for acoustic telemetry management. The committee continued discussing monitoring guidance and reviewed a deployment map presented by RWSC. The next Acoustic Telemetry Committee meeting will be held in November. Pol went on to provide a project update for the Engineering Co-Existence project, a collaboration with the Nation Renewable Energy Laboratory and University of Maine Darling Marine Center. To promote coexistence, the project is to engage East Coast recreation and commercial fisherman in an interactive design process to share spatial needs with floating offshore wind engineers. Beginning in August 2024 the group conducted interviews with subject matter experts and. Interview summaries are currently under development. This work will culminate in a final report with recommendations to promote platform design suitable for fishing needs.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and ROSA responses are italicized below.

- Do you have receivers or networks of receivers that provide acoustic tag localization?
 - *There are maps on the website organized based on network.*

- What about directional receivers allowing tag triangulation?
 - *We asked broad questions and some questions about the cable route placements but I cannot answer this because we did not get this specific.*
- Did you interview any scallop fisherman or anyone with moveable gear?
 - *No specific interviews were conducted. However, the written proposal showed that it would impact fixed gear lobstering.*

Partner Updates

Southern New England OFW Monitoring Discussion

Chris Rillahan, UMASS Dartmouth School for Marine Science & Technology (SMAST), presented research focused on regionalized monitoring efforts. The project considered the impact of integrated models and standardized protocols across developers. Rillahan highlighted that an integrated monitoring program can increase the precision of monitoring data across most species and enables better statistical inference for regional and gradient analyses. SMAST convened a meeting with southern New England offshore wind developers to discuss the feasibility of applying this approach in southern New England. Future discussions may begin to address implementation hurdles identified in discussions such as modifying existing monitoring plans, funding, and procedural standardization.

Discussion

Verbal and written questions and comments are below. First order bullets capture attendee questions and comments, and responses are italicized below.

- Has anything been done to decide what the desired level of sensitivity of the results is?
 - *This is the next step. We are going to look more broadly at independent data and start applying these in a bigger context, and then conduct simulations to ask exactly those questions.*
- What are the existing data sharing and data access arrangements you have with developers?
 - *We house data for different developers, but each developer owns that data. As an academic institution, we can utilize some of the data across developers for academic research.*
- Given population survey and stock assessments are key uncertainties we need resolved, are stock assessment data gaps and data priorities tied into this work?
 - *There is ongoing discussion about how the Science Center is going to deal with restricted sampling in these areas. There are ongoing questions about whether this data will be integrated or if there is desire to integrate this data. If we establish long-term data collection in the region, it could function as a dedicated survey that feeds into assessment pipelines. Our role is to provide data and tools - decisions about how to use this information ultimately rest with the Science Center.*
- Can you share what steps that would be involved in changing the federal project specific monitoring requirements to allow a shift to this approach?
 - *BOEM: The process varies based on the proposed change. Small adjustments, like relocating a receiver, are usually straightforward and likely already covered under the existing BOEM monitoring plan. However, major changes, especially those involving extractive surveys, will require more extensive discussions and review.*
- Have you explored a fisheries working group to look at what is happening real time in a broader spatial area?

- *I think having the fishing industry involved in conversations to explore as we expand discussions is a great idea. When we started working with developers we partnered with commercial fishermen. we do get into a more regional approach, having a more regional group would be advantageous.*

Surfclam Stock Enhancement Workshop

Reneé Reilly reported key takeaways from the Surf Clam Stock Enhancement workshop held in July. This workshop gathered relevant stakeholders from industry, regulatory, and science sectors and engaged them in discussions about priority science needs in terms of understanding feasibility. Looking ahead, Reilly noted that a key next step would be to focus on policy questions and implications related to operationalizing any potential stock enhancement initiatives. A meeting summary that captures the high-level outcomes of these discussions is available on the ROSA website and linked below:

<https://www.rosascience.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Surfclam-Enhancement-Workshop-Summary-3.pdf>

BOEM Environmental Studies Program Fisheries Track

Brian Hooker, BOEM, reported on projects including soon to be finalized black sea bass and squid research at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and evaluations of fish and colonizing invertebrates colonization and habitat use of materials deployed at an artificial reef site. Solicitation for study ideas for the 2025 fiscal year will begin in the upcoming months.

Regional Fund Administrator

Erin Wilkinson, Maine Department of Marine Resources, gave an update on the Regional Fund Administrator which was established to provide regional, equitable and transparent compensation for economic loss and impact to fisheries. There was a request for proposals put out this year to find an entity to serve as the administrator for the fund. Following the administrator's announcement, the administrator will work with an interim governance structure to develop a claims process. The interim structure consists of two advisory groups—a commercial Design Oversight Committee and a separate recreational advisory group. This process will also be informed by a broader engagement plan that includes direct engagement with the fishing community. Wilkinson noted that this fund will not address concerns that remain about how much money goes into the fund and whether or not that will be sufficient. The regional fund will address individual compensation rather than larger community benefit agreements.

NYSERDA SoS Fisheries Track

Kate McClellan-Press, NYSERDA Environmental Research Program, shared a summary of the State of the Science held in July. This workshop was hosted by NYSERDA on behalf of the New York State, offshore wind, environmental and fisheries technical working groups. McClellan-Press highlighted that this was the largest meeting to date and consisted of 27 unique sessions, 14 symposia and 13 oral presentations. Goals for the 2024 workshop were to incorporate fisheries research, have tribal nation participation, encourage collaboration with innovative technology companies, and increase the accessibility to research. Recordings of the sessions and updates about State of the Science are available on the web page linked here: <https://www.nyetwg.com/2024-workshop>

AFS Symposium Update

Kayland Huckaby, NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC), provided a summary of the AFS Symposium. LMRCSC trains and graduates students from underrepresented

communities in marine science for careers in research, management, and public policy that support the sustainable harvest and conservation of our nation's marine resources. A cohort of students decided to address research gaps in Offshore Wind research proposals received feedback on their research proposal during the AFS session.

ICES ASC WGOWDF Update

Lisa Methratta, NOAA, summarized the ICES Annual Science Conference held September 8, 2024 through September 12, 2024 in Gateshead, UK. The theme of this year's meeting was ecosystem outcomes of coexistence with offshore renewable energy. Some of the topics included changes in benthic habitat, food web dynamics at offshore wind farms, alternative fishing gears, and co-location with aquaculture. The next ICES Annual Science Conference will be held September 15-18, 2025 at Klaipeda University in Lithuania.

Research Gaps Analysis

Tricia Perez, ROSA, oriented attendees to the FishFORWRD web tool and updated participants on the Regional RFP Development process including an overview of feedback on the gaps analysis. Perez shared the methodology used to consolidate research needs, match needs to projects and how ROSA decided if the research could be deemed regional. Perez went on to share feedback elicited through a ranking survey. Survey respondents could rank research categories at a high level or provide very specific feedback on the categories. Of the 29 respondents, there was representation from offshore wind developers, academic researchers, state agencies, federal agencies, commercial fisherman and Fisheries councils/commissions. Perez shared preliminary high level responses from each of the aforementioned groups. Those interested in participating in a peer review process for ROSA's FishFORWRD Gaps Analysis, who did not participate in the survey, can reach out to tricia@rosascience.org. ROSA will be giving biannual updates on FishFORWRD and following peer review ROSA will update the webtool with the gaps analysis results. René Reilly, ROSA, added that ROSA had officially formalized the agreement with the Empire Wind project to administer the regional RFP.

ROSA Data Governance

René Reilly, ROSA oriented participants to an effort with BOEM to coordinate regional monitoring data. BOEM and ROSA aim to develop guidance for fisheries and offshore wind developers to support future regional or cumulative impact assessments, as well as ensure interoperability and complementarity with other data efforts. Currently, they are considering how to best manage data and research, standardize data, keep it secure, and operationalize solutions. ROSA extended an invitation for people who have experience with data management to apply to the Data Governance Committee. Attached here is the interest form: <https://forms.office.com/r/BzM3L3igQr>.

Mike Pol introduced partners for the initiative Kate Wing and Rachel Blake of the Intertidal Agency. The Intertidal Agency is a nonprofit aiming to make ocean data open and accessible. Intertidal Agency was engaged to help develop the program, focusing on drafting terms of reference, defining data governance language, and reviewing existing guidelines and repositories.

Closing remarks & Meeting Updates

Several upcoming events were highlighted, including the BOEM Central Atlantic meeting and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meeting. The meeting concluded with appreciation for participants' engagement, especially West Coast participants.

Appendix A | ROSA Council Member and Alternates Attendance

Audrey	Bard	Equinor
Michelle	Bachman	Alternate
Chris	Batsavage	NC DEQ
Deirdre	Boelke	RWE
Colleen	Brust	NJDEP
Jennifer	Couture	NEFMC
Michelle	Duval	MAFMC
Willy	Goldsmith	American Saltwater Guides Association
Brian	Hooker	BOEM
Todd	Janeski	VCU-VMRC
Kirk	Larson	Lindsay L inc
Daniel	Salerno	NEFS 5 & 11
Melissa	Smith	NEFMC
Sebastian	Velez	Attentive Energy
Mike	Waine	American Sportfishing Association
Renee	Zobel	Alternate

Appendix B | Participants

Julia	Beaty
Deirdre	Boelke
Shannon	Bohman
Patrick	Campfield
Joe	Cimino
Erica	Escajeda
Keith	Hankowsky
Helen	Henderson
Susan	Herz
Peter	Himchak
Caela	Howard

Kayland	Huckaby
Lane	Johnston
Atma	Khalsa
Jeff	Kneebone
Ron	Larsen
anastasia	lennon
Andy	Lipsky
Sean	Lucey
Elizabeth	Marchetti
Fred	Mattera
Laura	McLean
Christopher	Parkins
Kate	Press
Chris	Rillahan
Mark	Rousseau
Lela	Schlenker
Tim	Sippel
David	Stormer
Alexander	Sutin
Erin	Wilkinson
Kate	Wing
Rich	Wong

Appendix C | ROSA and Consensus Building Institute Staff

Reneé Reilly	ROSA
Mike Pol	ROSA
Tricia Perez	ROSA
Helen Henderson	ROSA

Patrick Field	CBI
Meira Downie	CBI