



ROSA
Responsible Offshore
Science Alliance



2024

YEAR IN REVIEW

RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE SCIENCE ALLIANCE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we close the chapter on 2024 and look ahead to 2025, I am struck by the remarkable progress the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) has made over the past year. Building on the strong foundation laid by our dedicated staff, board, and partners, we have continued to advance our mission of fostering collaboration and developing sound science to better understand the effects of offshore wind (OSW) energy development on fish and fisheries.



In addition, our Board of Directors has played a vital role in ensuring ROSA remains nimble and focused in an ever-evolving landscape. This year's achievements would not have been possible without their steadfast leadership and support. As the fisheries and offshore wind sectors continue to grow and intersect, the challenges being faced are complex, but the opportunities to innovate and collaborate are even greater. ROSA's ability to bridge these sectors and provide a platform for shared solutions is more important than ever.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to ROSA and to the future of our ocean. We are excited to enter 2025 with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep appreciation for the community that drives our work forward. Together, we can continue to ensure a sustainable, balanced path for fisheries and OSW development.

Among the year's highlights, we are proud to have:

- Developed the organization's first Strategic Plan, setting a clear vision for the next five years.
- Released the first Request for Proposals for a new Regional Research Program.
- Increased capacity through the addition of a new Research Program Manager and two summer interns.
- Launched an enhanced Fish and Fisheries Offshore Wind Research Database (FishFORWRD), including a new webtool designed to engage even more stakeholders in fisheries monitoring and research.
- Expanded the Board of Directors to broaden expertise and representation.
- Formally partnered with the state of Connecticut to add to our existing state members of New York, New Jersey, and Maryland.

This past year, ROSA made significant strides in addressing critical challenges at the intersection of fisheries and OSW development. From launching new programs and hosting innovative workshops to expanding partnerships, 2024 was defined by milestones that have strengthened ROSA's role as a trusted convener and advocate for regional coordination.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Genevieve Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

2024 MILESTONES



ROSA's 5th Anniversary

ROSA celebrated 5 years in 2024. To commemorate this milestone, staff, board members, and supporters gathered to reflect on past accomplishments and future goals. The anniversary event featured the public announcement of ROSA's new Regional Science Program, along with speakers highlighting key achievements and major projects, including the expansion of the staff and board, the enhancement of FishFORWRD, and the newly launched Data Governance Program.

Strategic Plan Development & Launch

In 2024, ROSA also completed the organization's first strategic planning process. The completion and approval of our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan created a roadmap designed to guide the organization through the next five years of advancing research, monitoring, and collaboration on the effects of offshore wind development on fisheries.

The development of the Strategic Plan was a highly collaborative effort, drawing on input from our diverse stakeholders, including members of the fishing industry, OSW developers, scientists, regulators, and other partners. Through a series of presentations, working sessions, consultations, and internal planning sessions, we identified key priorities and actionable goals to strengthen ROSA's impact and effectiveness.

The Strategic Plan focuses on **three core themes**:

1. **Administer Regional OSW Fisheries Research** – Supporting cutting-edge research and innovative methods to improve understanding of OSW impacts on fisheries.
2. **Facilitate Assessment of Regional and Cumulative Impacts** – Ensuring regional and cumulative assessments are possible, with beginning phases focused on data standardization and governance.
3. **Build Coordination through Engagement** – Establishing stronger partnerships and coordination across sectors to address the most pressing scientific challenges and expanding efforts to share knowledge, engage stakeholders, and promote transparency.

By aligning with these priorities, ROSA aims to serve as a trusted convener and a catalyst for solutions that balance ecological sustainability with economic vitality. The Strategic Plan will be a cornerstone of our activities, shaping how we approach regional research initiatives, foster data governance, and engage with our Advisory Council and Research Advisors. We are excited to see the vision outlined in this plan take root as we continue building a responsible and sustainable future for our ocean. We invite you to explore the full [Strategic Plan](#) on our website and join us in advancing its mission-driven goals.

"ROSA is the organization we needed 25 years ago. A center for organizing, informing, and making scientific information accessible."

- *Capt. Kevin Wark, Owner/Operator Dana Christine II, and ROSA Board Member*

REGIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM: A NEW ERA OF COLLABORATION

In 2024, the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) proudly launched its Regional Research Program, a landmark initiative aimed at addressing key scientific questions related to the interactions between offshore wind energy development and fisheries. This program represents a major step forward in ROSA's mission to foster collaboration and advance science that supports responsible decision-making and sustainable ocean use.

The program was developed to address the growing need for coordinated, regional-scale research that brings together the expertise of fishermen, offshore wind developers, scientists, and regulatory agencies. Through this effort, ROSA is uniquely positioned to align stakeholder priorities, leverage shared resources, and facilitate high-impact research that informs management and mitigation strategies.

A cornerstone of this initiative was the inclusive and rigorous research topic area ranking process used to guide topic selection. This process was designed to ensure that stakeholder perspectives, scientific priorities, and regulatory needs were meaningfully incorporated. By employing a transparent and structured approach—leveraging expert input, stakeholder surveys, and facilitated discussions—ROSA identified the most pressing research areas where collaboration could drive meaningful advancements.

This method not only reinforced stakeholder confidence in the program's direction but also ensured that research investments align with the greatest areas of need.

Key features of the Regional Research Program include:

- 1. Collaborative Frameworks:** Establishing partnerships among diverse stakeholders to identify and prioritize research needs.
- 2. Focused Research Areas:** Addressing critical topics such as supporting fisheries access, understanding the potential impacts of OSW development on larval fish, and fisheries monitoring data integration, evaluation, and analysis.
- 3. Knowledge Sharing:** Promoting transparency by ensuring information is accessible, and findings are communicated broadly to stakeholders and the public.

In its inaugural year, the program successfully launched its first Request for Proposals, resulting in a highly competitive pool of potential projects.

Looking ahead, ROSA's Regional Research Program will continue to grow, building on its strong foundation and expanding its reach to address emerging challenges and opportunities. By bringing together the best available science, robust partnerships, and a shared commitment to sustainability, this program is helping pave the way for a balanced and informed approach to offshore wind development and sustainable future fisheries. We are encouraged by the potential of the Regional Research Program and invite all stakeholders to collaborate with us in shaping its future. Together, we can advance science and solutions that benefit both our ocean ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

DATA GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

In July of 2024, ROSA announced its new Data Governance Program, designed to guide data management for fisheries and offshore wind science and research. Recognizing that data must be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) to effectively inform decision-making, ROSA's new program addresses the unique challenges posed by data collected across multiple partners, purposes, and jurisdictions. Informed by a comprehensive review of fisheries data practices in 2022 and engaging in extensive discussions with the RWSC, we have tailored this initiative specifically to streamline offshore wind-related fisheries data.

The program is structured to support future regional and cumulative impact assessments by establishing consistent policies, processes, standards, and workflows that benefit everyone in the data ecosystem—from the fishing community and offshore wind developers to researchers and government agencies. As we kick off this effort, we are actively building our Data Governance Committee and inviting all organizations that generate scientific data on the impacts of offshore wind on fisheries to join us. Interested partners can fill out our online form to get involved.

Additionally, as part of our commitment to regional coordination, we are encouraging researchers to share detailed Data Management and Sharing Plans (DMSPs) or relevant data information—covering aspects such as data specifics, storage, upload frequency, access constraints, and contact details—to ensure our collaborative efforts are both transparent and effective.

For further details or to express your interest in participating, please reach out to our Research Director, Mike Pol, at mike@rosascience.org. This initiative not only strengthens our data infrastructure but also reaffirms ROSA's dedication to advancing research and informed decision-making across our region

“ROSA's work is important and valuable because it ensures coordinated regional scientific research is not only occurring but done well. By facilitating collaboration among fishermen, scientists, and developers, ROSA helps build trust and cooperation, which is essential for the successful development of offshore wind projects both now and in the future.”

-Ross Pearsall, Sr.

*Fisheries Relationship Manager, Ørsted,
and ROSA Board Member*

FUNDER COORDINATION FORUM

ROSA identified a need to gather funding entities on the East Coast to coordinate current and planned research and monitoring funds for offshore wind fisheries research. The resulting Offshore Wind & Fisheries Funder Coordination Forum was held twice in 2024 and promoted coordination of research funding on the East Coast, tracked funded research, and informed the relaunch and update of FishFORWRD. Forum participants included state, federal, and non-profit organizations, among others - the major entities who release solicitations and fund OSW-related research. The adoption of recommended data policies and contract language are key outcomes of this group.

“The Funder Coordination Forum is a big step toward our goal of understanding current and future research projects to identify where gaps remain. As a result, we can identify and avoid duplication of efforts while also supporting the production of the best available science.”

- *Reneé Reilly, ROSA's Executive Director*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, ROSA continued to prioritize meaningful community outreach and engagement, fostering collaboration among fishers, scientists, regulators, and offshore wind stakeholders. Through its quarterly Advisory Council meetings, workshops, and public webinars, ROSA provided a platform for transparent dialogue, ensuring that diverse voices were heard in discussions on offshore wind development and fisheries interactions.

This year, ROSA expanded its engagement efforts attending > 40 in-person meetings and scientific conferences to help facilitate direct knowledge-sharing between fishing and OSW industry experts and researchers. We also strengthened our digital outreach, with the launch of a web tool for FishFORWRD, publishing regular newsletters, and interactive social media. Below are a few highlights of the robust outreach and engagement work that ROSA completed in 2024.

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Annual Science Conference (ASC)

ROSA staff maintained our engagement with an international audience, sharing about our [project](#) aimed at fostering compatibility between fisheries and floating OSW farms at the 2024 ICES ASC.

American Fisheries Society (AFS)

For the 4th consecutive year, we continued co-organizing a collaborative session at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting around Offshore Wind & Fisheries Research. This year further broadened participation through partnership with students from the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine

Research Director, Dr. Mike Pol, was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries. The committee plays a critical role in providing ongoing guidance to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as it manages development of offshore wind energy and its potential effects on fisheries. Mike joins national leaders from tribal nations, commercial and recreational fisheries, academia, consulting, and nonprofit science organizations in this effort. This appointment honors Dr. Pol's significant contributions, and provides ROSA a platform to promote regional approaches to offshore wind fisheries science.

Pacific Coast: Sharing Lessons Learned

ROSA's Research Director, Dr. Mike Pol, was invited to participate in the Fish Scientific Expert Working Group of the Environmental Monitoring Guidance facilitated by the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and funded by the Ocean Protection Council. Dr. Pol is sharing information from the Atlantic Coast and providing his expertise in collaborative fisheries research to better inform scientifically sound monitoring measures for OSW development in California.

NYSERDA State of the Science on Offshore Wind Energy, Wildlife, and Fisheries

This biennial meeting has grown to become a highlight for the OSW research community. The addition of a fisheries track to the workshop's schedule allowed for even greater participation of the ROSA team. ROSA was on the Planning Committee for the event and organized a cross-sector panel discussion, the capstone session of its *Offshore Wind Fisheries Monitoring Plan Development, Implementation, and Evolution Discussion Series*. The event also allowed for both of ROSA's 2024 interns to meet with staff and the OSW research community.

"Interning with ROSA was an incredibly enriching experience. It provided me with a comprehensive understanding of offshore wind development from a neutral perspective. I also had the chance to network extensively with professionals in the sector, present my own work, and strengthen my presence in the field."

- Nusrat Noor, ROSA 2024 Summer Intern

2025: The Year Ahead

Regional Research Program Growth

ROSA is seeking new regional research funding opportunities. After a strong inaugural Request for Proposals, the organization has demonstrated its commitment to supporting high-priority research.

State Partners Expansion

To continue building its operational capacity, ROSA is actively pursuing new state members. Several states along the Atlantic Coast are poised to support the mission of advancing regional offshore fisheries research and data governance.

Data Governance Program

The newly-formed Data Governance Committee will be kicking off its first meeting in 2025, and forming Working Groups to tackle data governance for various fisheries monitoring modes.

Fishing Community Voices in Offshore Wind Energy

This new program will be undergoing formal development in 2025. It will build on the success of prior listening sessions to address fishing sector concerns and facilitate two-way communication between offshore wind and fishing sector representatives to support informed decision-making and collective learning. ROSA will continue to promote cross-sector collaboration and problem-solving by directly engaging the community most impacted by this important renewable energy source and supporting industry involvement in OSW fisheries science and policy decisions.

On The Horizon

ROSA Science Scholars

Building upon the previous years' internship program, ROSA plans to expand its capacity-building initiatives in the graduate science space by creating a Science Scholars Program. This would provide support for both summer interns and an annual graduate fellow to pursue research that directly addresses research gaps identified by ROSA's Gaps Analysis. In addition to mentoring and supporting students, the Science Scholars program will support travel for students to attend key scientific conferences during their tenure.

Tribal engagement Strategy Implementation

In 2024, ROSA took important steps to strengthen its engagement with Tribal Nations, recognizing the critical role of traditional ecological knowledge in offshore wind and fisheries research. In coordination with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, ROSA has been developing a thoughtful and inclusive approach to ensure that Tribal Nations interested in OSW research coordination have meaningful opportunities to participate.

While still in its early stages, this initiative is designed to create tangible value for Tribal representatives, ensuring that their perspectives and expertise are respected and integrated into offshore wind fisheries research. ROSA remains committed to listening, learning, and incorporating feedback from Tribal partners, fostering a collaborative framework that acknowledges historical connections to marine resources and prioritizes culturally-informed science. Through this effort, ROSA aims to build lasting relationships and ensure that Tribal voices are central to the future of offshore wind and fisheries research.

ROSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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