



Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Regional Collaboration 2023 Work Plan

LEAD(S):

Kevin Hassell (NJ) | Michael Snyder (NY) | Marianne Ferguson (NOAA) | Wright Frank (BOEM)

MEMBER(S):

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Carpenter	Andrea	DOD
Bristow	Avalon	MARCO
Hooker	Brian	BOEM
McCall	Catherine	MDNR
Finch	Darlene	NOAA
Frank*	Wright	BOEM
Beaty	Julia	MAFMC
Hassell*	Kevin	NJ DEP
Cole	Kim	DNREC
Bullin	Leann	BOEM
Ferguson*	Marianne	NOAA
Snyder*	Mike	NY DOS
Lewandowski	Naomi	DOE
Fu	Jian	DOE
Pauley	Melissa	DOE
Napoli	Nick	NROC/MARCO
Kubico	Stephanie	EPA Region III
Janeski	Todd	VA
MacDonald	Tony	Monmouth UCI

Lipsky	Andrew	NOAA
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* Co-lead

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

There is extensive state and federal activity related to planning and siting offshore wind (OSW) in the Mid-Atlantic. It is recognized that the Biden Administration has made OSW a priority as part of their climate agenda, through Executive Order 14008, Sec 207. An offshore wind energy-focused group will provide a forum for interested MACO members to share and receive information about meetings and decision points related to offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic, identify potential collaborative activities as needed, and engage with interested stakeholders from time to time.

Much of the work conducted by the OWRC will build on Section 2.4.2 in the 2016 Ocean Action Plan (“...facilitate greater collaboration around ocean energy issues in the Mid-Atlantic”) by creating a forum for regular inter-agency discussion around offshore wind development in the region. Additionally, the Collaboration’s work relates to Action 4 of the Ocean Energy chapter in the 2016 Ocean Action Plan: “...use the Data Portal to enhance access to data, environmental reports, and proposed offshore wind development activities.”

Through inter-agency coordination and stakeholder engagement, Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Regional Collaborative (OWRC) seeks to identify regional data needs related to offshore wind and how to obtain those data, and compile information about best practices and identify issues that would benefit from closer collaboration that are not already being addressed by other offshore wind working groups in the region. In addition, the OWRC is committed to working with MACO to support its commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA) and seeks to incorporate DEIJA objectives into its work.

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

Description: Facilitate inter-agency information exchange through regular convenings, including approximately quarterly virtual meetings and an annual in-person meeting. Topics for discussion include but are not limited to:

- Identification of topical areas/needs for regular discussion, and timely topics requiring more in-depth discussion;

- Identification of research and data needs, including those that can be communicated to the OMDT, including but not limited to:
 - Planned Ports
- Updates from entities involved in offshore wind;
- Identification of opportunities for collaboration and to work across organizational lines;
- Timing of federal and/or state public input opportunities (both for input from MACO entities and public), these will be incorporated into the MARCO event calendar;
- Identification of potential webinar topics and other stakeholder engagement opportunities as needed; and
- As agreed, work together to provide substantive input on specific offshore wind data topics as needed.
- Track trends on technology development and how these may be applied in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Non-work group members may be invited to participate in these meetings for topic-focused discussions, or additional calls may be scheduled as needed (for example, fisheries and related issues).

Stakeholder Involvement Scope and rationale

Members of the OWRC will build on input received from the previous Ocean Forum and other webinars and stakeholder engagement as described above, and will coordinate with the Steering Committee and Forum Planning Team in planning the Annual Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum. The work group will also pursue additional opportunities for webinars and other stakeholder engagement. (See Activity 2.) The work group will seek to engage diverse groups in its outreach efforts as outlined in the MACO DEJA statement.

ACTIVITY 2

Description

Develop and host at least one webinar(s) or other outreach activities as identified by the members of the OWRC. Topics selected will consider other outreach efforts, and may include:

- Offshore wind energy transmission planning and status - “Offshore Wind Transmission Webinar Series 2.0.” This webinar would be a follow-up from transmission webinar series held in partnership with NROC in 2021, and would build on the outcomes of the 2022 Mid-Atlantic OWRC Transmission Subcommittee.
- Research and information on turbine designs and layouts to optimize generation (e.g., reduce wake effects).

- Learn about new or innovative offshore wind technologies/approaches, such as: multi-use wind farms, floating wind turbines, and energy storage solutions.
- Other stakeholder updates as needed

These webinars will either be open to the public and/or targeted to relevant and diverse interested groups. The OWRC will seek to provide opportunities for stakeholder input and during each webinar.

ACTIVITY 3

Description

OWRC will examine what equitable distribution of offshore wind benefits looks like. This will be done through stakeholder surveys and other engagement activities (for example, virtual or in-person workshops). The results of this effort will provide insight for OWRC members on data needs, outreach activities, and other planning efforts needed to increase equitable distribution of benefits.

ACTIVITY 4

Description

OWRC will continue to work with MARCO to develop a shared calendar of events (e.g. BOEM Information Exchanges, state activities, major activities of the other offshore wind groups). The calendar will be posted on the MARCO website. Members of the OWRC will also share internal events deadlines as necessary. This activity will involve regular coordination between the members of the Mid-Atlantic Offshore Wind Collaboration and other entities as appropriate to identify relevant events.

ACTIVITY 5

Description

Facilitate information exchange and coordination as needed with other regional offshore wind groups. Specifically, the OWRC will work to build consensus across OWRC members on priority environmental & fisheries research & monitoring needs that can be implemented through research and mitigation funds, potentially by building or linking to reference hubs of studies planned, underway, and/or completed.

The OWRC will conduct outreach activities across existing groups to understand existing data collection gaps, including:

- [RWSC](#), which is compiling a database of ongoing and pending research related to offshore wind and wildlife that will inform the RWSC integrated science plan to inform future research activities.
- [ROSA](#), which is looking at research related to Offshore Wind and Fisheries
- [BOEM's Renewable Energy Studies Program](#)



MID-ATLANTIC
COMMITTEE
ON THE OCEAN



- [DOE/NREL Atlantic Offshore Transmission Study](#)
- NYSERDA E-TWG, M-TWG, and F-TWG
- State Fisheries Compensation Group
- Northeast Sea Grant Consortium
- Sea Grant Offshore Wind Outreach / Engagement Projects
- Other groups/key topics