Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) Meeting Summary from November 2, 2018

Background

This meeting summary describes key discussion points and action items from the first meeting of the Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG), which held its first meeting on Friday, November 2, 2018 in New York City. Goals for the first meeting included:

- Introduce working group members to each other;
- Initiate the F-TWG process, set its context within the process, and affirm its purpose and structure;
- Gather initial input on best management practices (BMPs);
- Gather feedback on near and longer-term research needs;
- Review current communications between the state, fishermen, and developers

There were 22 F-TWG members in attendance in the room and six who participated remotely via webex/conference call. Six staff from NYSERDA, Ecology & Environment (E&E), the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), and The Cadmus Group, were also present to provide technical, facilitation, and logistics support.

This summary is organized to align with the structure of the meeting agenda (Appendix A). Opinions are generally not attributed to specific F-TWG members. This summary identifies areas of agreement as well as the different perspectives offered during meeting discussions. Key action items from the meeting are listed at the end of this summary.

Introductions

The meeting opened with introductions from group members. Greg Lampman, NYSERDA Program Manager for Environmental Research, and Morgan Brunbauer, Marine Biologist for DEC. They shared that the F-TWG is intended to create a forum for dialogue between the fishing community and developers on offshore wind development in New York State and the region. **This first meeting is focused on providing background and baselining information to help the group move forward. NYSERDA and DEC both offered their support to the F-TWG and invited the members to help shape the forum.**

Participants next gave introductions, sharing their name and organization and one expectation they had for the group. Most responses focused on the group's process, emphasizing the **need for constructive, efficient dialogue and shared objectives to work towards and ideally accomplish. Members also expressed a desire to see opinions respected and that input from the group would help inform the state's decision-making**.

Overview of the State Process for OSW Development

Greg Lampman provided an overview of the state's offshore wind development process and objectives. He shared that State has committed to a goal of building 2400 MW of offshore wind by 2030 and started this process by developing an Offshore Wind Master Plan. The OSW Master Plan is one summary document, supported by additional work and detailed studies, that provides a comprehensive state roadmap for advancing development of offshore wind in a cost-effective and responsible manner.

In terms of siting for offshore wind development, in October 2017 New York State requested that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) identify and lease at least four new Wind Energy Areas (WEAs), each capable of supporting at least 800 MW of offshore wind energy. These areas were recommended based on studying potential sites and identifying the most viable wind energy areas that also reduce conflicts with ocean users, resources, infrastructure, and wildlife. BOEM released its call areas in April 2018 and is now refining those areas based on public feedback received, which included state comments. Final wind energy areas are anticipated to be released by BOEM in early 2019. After BOEM release the areas then state will see where there is alignment and make decisions on next steps.

Finally, Greg shared the state's procurement, or offtake, process for OSW development. **He described procurement as one of the main pathways for the state to be involved in OSW development, by purchasing power from wind developers.** New York State's Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an Order directing NYSERDA, in consultation with NYPA and LIPA, to procure approximately 800 MW of offshore wind between 2018 and 2019 over one or two solicitations. The PSC authorized NYSERDA to include certain provisions in its request for proposals (RFP) including (a) Commitments to project labor agreements and prevailing wages as contract requirements for any awarded project, and (b) Provisions to ensure that awarded offshore wind projects consider the interests of ocean users such as commercial and recreational fishing, environmental stakeholders, and coastal communities.

NYSERDA collected stakeholder feedback and issued a draft RFP in September 2018 that included requirements that selected developers engage fishermen in these ways:

1) Proposals must include a Fisheries Mitigation Plan including: communications and collaboration; monitoring and research pre-, during- and post-construction; support of other research; site design considerations; construction and operations; decommissioning; and fisheries compensation plan (optional).
2) Participate in the F-TWG and engage with relevant stakeholder groups within the TWG regarding the proposed project.
3) Consult with NYS Agencies in the development of federal permits.
4) Make "Environmental Data" publicly available shortly after collection to ensure timely and transparency in environmental resource data.

The final RFP was released on November 8, 2018.

Following this presentation, the meeting moved to discussion, which centered on these themes:

- **Fishermen input in the WEA designation process**: Several stakeholders asked how fishermen were involved in the siting process, expressing concern that they may have not been involved enough. The Fish and Fisheries Study that fed into the Offshore Wind Master Plan was noted by Greg Lampman, which includes a chapter on stakeholder input developed via survey and outreach on to fishermen on the docks conducted by the state's then- Fisheries Liaison. Fishermen also have the opportunity to engage moving forward via the F-TWG.
- **WEA location concerns:** Many fishermen stakeholders were concerned about the state's recommended wind energy areas and those that BOEM will ultimately designate. For example, scallops were noted as being at risk in some of the areas. Greg Lampman shared that this process was challenging since fishermen are active in many places and it is challenging to balance all ocean users; needs and priorities. NYSERDA also said they have requested greater

granularity on fishing activity in each of the areas under consideration. One stakeholder noted that **more granular data and information is important to gather** as fishermen can't fish everywhere in the NY Bight – it depends on which areas are open and closed. Usually areas of common use are where fixed gear fishermen are.

- **Data concerns:** Fishermen stakeholders were concerned that fisheries data used by BOEM for the WEA designation process was portal data that only provided a snapshot of activity during certain time periods and years. Karen Chytalo from DEC shared some additional monitoring programs that DEC conducted in the NY Bight – spatial maps of by-catch, mid-water trawls, etc. She also noted that it was challenging to understand how climate change and ocean acidification was affecting different fisheries populations.
- **Regional nature:** With the WEAs, stakeholders also noted that fishermen from Maine to North Carolina also use the NY Bight for fishing, as well as fishermen of many gear types. Stakeholder noted they hoped that all states in the region were actively engaging with BOEM in its task forces to ensure coordination across different state's projects in the NY Bight.
- **Mitigation plans:** Several stakeholders noted that this term needs more definition. For example, what is mitigation vs. avoidance or minimization. This was also noted that the mitigation plan conversation important one to have regionally.
- **State vs. BOEM roles:** Stakeholders also asked for clarification on the roles of BOEM and the state in the wind energy development process. Greg Lampman clarified that the state's role in BOEM's process is the same as others, to submit comments via the public process, and that the state's best leverage to work with developers is in the procurement process.

Brian Hooker, BOEM, shared next steps for the WEA designation process. BOEM will release the draft wind energy areas in the NY Bight in mid-November and request feedback by the end of the month from stakeholders via public comment and the upcoming state taskforce meeting. The Bureau will conduct environmental assessments (EA) and move towards designating areas within. BOEM will ultimately will look to lease about 20% of the identified call areas. Lease sales are anticipated to be at the end of 2019, following the EA process. Brian shared that BOEM is open to receiving F-TWG member feedback and to sharing information on the EA process.

Pat Field summarized **key points from this discussion:**

- Identify what the action items are for the F-TWG related to the BOEM WEAs coming out of this day and what to do in coming months
- Pay attention to regional issues and acknowledge the dynamic nature of the NY Bight for the region
- What mitigation plans mean is important and needs more work
- Include fishermen early in the process, learning from mistakes made in other countries that have moved ahead with OSW
- There is good data out there, but also data missing – pay attention to all the data from a variety of sources
- There are stakeholder concerns about past engagement of fishermen in OSW processes

Overview of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

Morgan Brunbauer presented on the state's TWGs that came out of the NYS Offshore Wind Master Plan. The plan called for four working groups: Environmental, Commercial and Recreational Fisheries, Maritime, and Jobs and Supply Chain. The Jobs and Supply Chain group is led by NYSERDA and relates to

infrastructure, ports, supply chain, and workforce development as part of offshore wind. The Maritime group is led by the NY Department of State (DOS) and is focused on navigation and safety, and the Environmental group is focused on habitat, marine mammals, and other marine wildlife.

The F-TWG is a joint venture guided by NYSERDA and DEC that seeks to provide advice and guidance to New York State on responsible offshore wind development. **It aims to improve communication and coordination between fishermen, developers, and government representatives, providing a forum for discussion and problem-solving.** Areas of work anticipate include developing BMPs, identifying research needs, defining the structure around mitigation plans, work on other important topic areas such as transit lane development or compensation plans, and site-specific work. The state is also hiring a fisheries liaison to gather more input, looking for avenues to coordinate with recreational fishing, and centralizing information on an F-TWG website administered by E&E.

Discussion following this presentation centered on the following themes:

- **Fishing communities:** Several stakeholders emphasized the importance of fishing communities as part of the discussion around offshore wind and raised concern about business losses and knowledge losses. NYSERDA and DEC shared they are open to recommendations on how best to involve these stakeholders, which could include adding a few members to the F-TWG and engaging via the fisheries liaison. Forming a project advisory committee was another suggestion from NYSERDA, where a panel can advise on and review competitive solicitations related to site design.
- **TWG overlap and collaboration:** Stakeholders noted that there would be overlap with other TWGs, such as the M-TWG related to navigation and the E-TWG related to wildlife and habitat. DEC responded that there could be working groups meeting together, subcommittees, one-off forums, or other ways to combine the groups.
- **Early developer involvement and siting level discussions:** A stakeholder shared that this group could help find better and more effective ways to get developers involved early and get fishermen input into a development area early on. Another stakeholder noted that these conversations are critical as siting plans cannot preclude the ability to fish if co-existence is the goal. Greg Lampman shared that one requirement NYS has established is for developers will be to meet with the F-TWG, or a subset of fisheries stakeholders, to discuss their mitigation plan proposal.
- **Transit lane recommendations:** The group determined that a good near-term goal and accomplishment for the group would be design recommended transit lanes for fishing and other traffic to share with BOEM to inform their WEA designation in the NY Bight. Stakeholder noted that a coordinated regional approach to transit lane development would be important.
- **Siting input:** Fishermen stakeholders want to have input on siting considerations for OSW, including turbine layout, and stated a need for a collaborative process to get fishing input as areas are developed, with concern about if this group has the authority and time to offer meaningful input. Greg Lampman shared that there is the opportunity to engage over the next year as BOEM narrows down the initial call area and then further refines those areas into individual lease areas. The F-TWG can serve as a forum for targeted, site-specific conversations.
- **Website updates:** Stakeholder suggested that a timeline for offshore wind development processes would be very helpful – one place where they can see the state and federal processes together and the steps that will happen leading to leasing and development. Additionally,

stakeholders were interested in a comprehensive regional calendar with meeting and deadlines for state and federal agencies around all lease areas and OSW development processes in the region. The F-TWG website would ideally also include updates on what is happening at individual sites alongside a comprehensive map of the region, with updates on survey boats and other activity communicated in advance.

F-TWG Process Start-ups: Intake Interview Themes

Following a break for lunch, Pat Field and Julie Curti (Cadmus Group), shared results from 1:1 phone interviews conducted with fishermen and developer stakeholders ahead of the first F-TWG meeting. Fishermen were supportive of dialogue that is substantial, influential, and efficient. They expressed concern about the timing of OSW development and the ability of developers on the F-TWG to be open about information-sharing given the competitive nature of their business. They also expressed a need for time to caucus and check-back with their constituencies to get feedback. They also would like concrete information to be in writing. Finally, fishermen were cautious but also hopeful that the F-TWG could serve as an influential forum.

Developers interviewed are all supportive of the F-TWG and would like to engage fishermen through this venue. Each interviewee also emphasized the importance of regional connections to the discussions and not replicating efforts and conversations taking palace in other forums. The developers also recognized concerns of fishermen that offshore OSW activities could impact fishing grounds and developers want to find ways to build trust, work together, and co-exist. A full summary of the results from all of the interviews was also circulated to all F-TWG members in advance and provided in print during the meeting.

Discussion following this presentation centered on the need to respect the experience of fishermen. Several stakeholders underscored the importance of developers respecting the experiences of fishermen as real and valid data, reflecting their real-life experiences. They also underscored the need for transparency and trust for the group and the strong concern of fishermen that OSW could put them out of business. Pat Field summarized this discussion by underscoring the need for respect and understanding everyone's interests.

F-TWG Framework

Next, Pat Field provided a short overview of the F-TWG's Framework, which included details on the group's mission, objectives, and members. The F-TWG's objectives include:

- Enhance communication and coordination
- Disseminate information
- Provide advice and input
- Support scientific research

Members include fishing industry representatives across ports, gear type, and species, state agency representatives from New York and surrounding state, and offshore wind energy developers with leases in federal waters in New England and the Mid-Atlantic, and their fisheries liaisons.

Discussion following this presentation included:

- **Feedback on the mission**: A stakeholder requested adding "advising the region's efforts" to the mission statement. The group agreed to add this to the mission statement. The group also

discussed how the mission statement had been updated following the member intake interviews to reflect the importance of a regional approach for the group.

- **Recreational fishermen engagement**: The group discussed how to involve recreational fishermen in the state's OSW development process. Commercial fisheries stakeholder stated that recreational fishermen were important to engage, but that their needs and interests would be better represented through other methods of engagement since commercial and recreational interests differ meaningfully. As a next step, the facilitation team will interview a number of recreational fishermen to understand their interests in the process and help determine the best venues for engagement, such as the website, fisheries liaison, or other forums. There was also discussion that commercial fixed gear and long-line fishermen representatives should be added to the group.
- **Additional developer engagement**: The group discussed how/when to include additional OSW developers in the group. Members generally seemed supportive of the current distinction which is to include developers with active lease areas on the F-TWG and that including future developers who get active leases will be important. Several fishermen stakeholders also noted the importance of not outnumbering fishermen with developer stakeholders and maintaining balance in the group. Several developers noted the need to engage developers with fishermen early-on to ensure positive feedback loops, suggesting the option to include more developers as observers in future meetings. Finally, this discussion underscored the point that the F-TWG is an advisory, not a decision-making, body.

Research Needs Presentation and Discussion

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, the F-TWG's lead technical consultant from E&E, presented on the role of research as part of the F-TWG. Specifically, New York State, supports environmental research to better understand how offshore wind could affect the marine ecosystem. This research is aimed at informing interventions to help avoid minimize, mitigate, and measure these effects, informing permitting and adaptive management and advance responsible development and improving collaboration and support research that takes a broad, regional view. This research also does not replace the need for project-specific research. **NYSERDA and DEC are currently seeking input from F-TWG stakeholders on short-term research needs as NYSERDA is developing a solicitation for environmental research on offshore wind**. In particular, research could focus on fish and fish habitat, socioeconomic impacts, and/or fisheries mitigation.

Group discussion focused on these key themes:

- **Modeling:** A stakeholder raised the idea of modeling what 2400 MW of offshore wind energy would look like for the ecosystem and how that could vary based on turbine location, density, etc.
- **Baseline:** Fisheries stakeholders expressed the importance of establishing a strong historical baseline – a decade to 20 years – to understand change over time. They noted that this was especially important for species with active movement in the region (e.g. mackerel or squid). Fishermen felt it was very important to have this baseline established to show the need for mitigation and compensation if turbines have an adverse impact.
- **Behavioral response and technical research:** A developer stakeholder noted the challenge in trying to disaggregate the impacts of offshore wind vs. other changes in the ocean and suggested focusing research on behavioral responses. For example, how do activities like pile

driving or cabling impact species. The challenge of attributing causality to offshore wind was noted.

- **Technical research aimed at co-existence** was discussed by the group, focusing on addressing fishermen's concerns about site access. Research in this space, for example, could address gear modifications, radar concerns and navigation equipment, and other technical fixes. This area was stressed heavily by the fishing representatives.
- **Fishermen's data:** Several fishermen stakeholders noted that fishermen have excellent data from their log books that show historic returns. The challenge of sharing that data, was also noted, given a past history of fishermen's data being used in ways that have harmed their livelihood. A suggestion was made to have a trusted third-party entity collect this data to overcome trust challenges (e.g. Cornell Cooperative Extension in this role) and/or a confidential data portal. One fisheries liaison offered to share a logbook study from New Bedford on what this approach could look like. A fishermen stakeholder also noted that fishermen should be compensated for sharing their data and that the data should not be used to shut them out of their livelihood. After all, their data is a proprietary and valuable resource.
- **Trawl surveys:** Concern was also raised that trawl survey methods may not work with offshore wind farms. It was also noted that NOAA's trawl survey data is only for the spring and fall, so it missing important migratory species. One suggestion was for more research on how to monitor fisheries resource around wind farms if traditional methods, like trawl survey, can't be used.
- **Regional data approach in the NY Bight**: The need for a regional approach to research that goes beyond New York state was underscored, particularly for non-site-specific research. This research can also focus on co-existence, not just biological questions.

Stakeholders next focused on **what actionable research priorities could be in the next three months and focused on these issues:**

- **RODA and NMFS will host a National Fisheries Workshop in the early winter, possibly February, that the F-TWG can support.** It will be a summit to bring fisheries information to developers and give the fisheries industry the chance to learn more about offshore technologies. Aim is for a dialogue for potential around cooperative research and relationship building. The group was very interested in the workshop and expressed that early notice on timing would be important.
- Explore the potential for a **regional baseline four-season trawl survey in all WEAs and how to ensure survey vessel operability with wind farms.**
- Gather **baseline information from fishermen** and cooperative research. Explore if there is a **third party who can hold the data**.
- NMFS will be reaching out to all states to establish a **regional research framework** and program. The agency will take the lead in initial outreach but noted that the work needs to be co-created and NMFS is not currently funded to fully take this on.
- **Technical research that can be accomplished in the near-term:**
    - Ways to allow people to fish in the lease areas. **Understand site design and feed that into future lease considerations** (e.g. does this take more space?). Pursue studies on array design for mobile gear interaction. Question of maximizing wind in a smaller area

vs. a broader area. Array design and fishing viability. How close are the turbines before you can fish – then does that set up the mitigation plans basics?
    - Understand the potential for turbine impact on older radars and mitigation through purchases of new equipment
    - Impacts of turbines on boat track systems; fishermen are monitored under the federal management plans and can be fined if signals are disrupted or blocked.
    - Transit lanes and traveling back home – can you go in between the turbines or do you need to go around?
    - Understand interventions that will minimize risk and understand this based on gear types and risk – what will allow the most access for fishermen?
    - There as a suggestion for a sub-group to form to start to look at these questions of site access and array design to identify research needs.
    - Transit corridors were also suggested an important sub-group to form.

Communications

Lyndie Hice-Dunton presented on the **F-TWG's aim to enhance communication and coordination** and how the group will accomplish this via the F-TWG meetings, a fisheries liaison being hired by NYSERDA, and the new F-TWG website. She introduced the website, which is intended to be a resource for the F-TWG members and for the public interested in offshore wind and fisheries. The website provides a compilation of existing resources on the topic and includes a place for public feedback.

Suggested content to add to the website includes:

- **Calendar** with meetings deadlines around regional offshore wind activity coded by color.
- **Developer's page** where they can provide updates on surveys and other activities. E&E can take this from what is public on developer's sites or have developers send updates to E&E. Developers were very open and interested in sharing updates.
- **Comprehensive map of offshore wind activity,** ideally for the whole region, and interactive (e.g. click to see updates by area). ArcGIS story maps were suggested as one option
- **UK Crown Estates website** was suggested as a dashboard resource example the F-TWG could use.
- **Other state's resources** will ideally be included on the F-TWG website as well.

E&E next asked for feedback and strategies to improve communication with developers and fishermen. The group agreed that consolidated emails to the group, weekly or less frequent, were best, with communication channeled via E&E, rather than directly across all group members. Meeting summaries will be shared with the group for their review in advance of posting on the website and comments will be non-attributable.

NYSERDA and DEC also provided an update that the state is working to hire a fisheries liaison who can attend other state and regional fisheries meetings. After the liaison is on board, they will share their resume and meet with F-TWG members. NYS and DEC have also been in regular communication with neighboring states on offshore wind development and fisheries issues. Other useful means for reaching fishermen suggested included communication via elected representatives, developer's fisheries liaison, a smartphone app, radio, TV (channel 16), Facebook, and word of mouth.

Fisheries Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Anne-Elizabeth Kaitano from E&E next presented on fisheries best management practices. The NYS Offshore Wind Master Plan calls for "BMPS for commercial fishing and fisheries that can help build a cooperative framework and provide mutual points of reference intended to optimize the coexistence of activities and minimize project impacts at all phases, from design through survey, installation, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning." The recent Public Service Commission's Order Establishing Offshore Wind Standard and Framework for Phase 1 Procurement also called for the F-TWG to develop BMPs that prevent or reduce potential impacts and optimize co-existence. E&E is gathering BMPS into an Excel-based tool and categorizing/organizing them based on different criteria (e.g. phase of development, potential effect, etc.). **NYS hopes to use this menu of BMPs to help facilitate discussions about developers' fisheries mitigation plans for specific projects. A subset of BMPs could potentially also be included in Phase II of NYSERDA's offshore wind procurement.**

Discussion around this topic included:

- **Concern about prioritization and timing**: Some stakeholders were concerned about the timing of moving to prioritization of BMPs in the near-term (e.g. next few months). They expressed that everyone still needs to define what it means by mitigation and avoidance. NYSERDA responded by sharing that the initial database is a compilation and organization of existing BMPs and is not meant to be ranked or judged. Some developers also noted that this process will be helpful for them as they need to deliver fisheries mitigation plans in February as part of their bids and want to be responsive to fishermen stakeholders.
- **Regional**: Based on other experience in the region, a stakeholder suggested that BMPs were best approaches regionally. They noted that BOEM's BP development took a year of workshops up and down the coast.

Pat Field summarized the conversation, noting that stakeholders are open to collecting and organizing BMPs, but have some concern about the timeline and how they will be used (e.g. steps that include prioritization). More clarity on the purpose of this work would be helpful in future meetings.

Conclusion: Action Items

The following is a summary of key action items coming out of the first meeting and next steps:

- **BOEM's WEA Designation Process:** The group discussed the F-TWG's role in BOEM's WEA designation process for the NY Bight and focused on transit lanes as an area where the group can work together to provide recommendations to BOEM.
    - ***Action:*** *Pursue a working group or sub-group to develop recommended transit lanes to share with BOEM, NYS, and the region. This is a near-term priority for late 2018 and early 2019 and can be conducted in conjunction with the M-TWG.*

- **Research:** The group identified several action items on research around offshore wind development and fisheries.
    - **State of the Science Workshop:** One of the topics discussed by the F-TWG was if the group should work with NYSERDA on a State of the Science Workshop. NMFS and RODA shared there is a similar national-level effort being explored for Q1 of next year.

        - ***Action:*** *The F-TWG will support RODA and NMFS effort, to the extent requested, to host a National State of the Science Workshop likely in February.*
    - **Regional Research Coordination:** There was also discussion on the need for regional coordination around research.
        - ***Action:*** *NMFS will lead on outreach to establish a regional research framework and connect with members of the F-TWG on this effort. Additionally, there are also ongoing discussions about a Regional Monitoring Strategy and centralized funding entity to support research relating to Protected Species. Some of the discussions have been to potentially expand that charge to include a range of regional research needs.*
    - **Federal Trawl Fishing Survey:** F-TWG members raised concerns about how **f**ederal trawl fishing surveys are conducted to include winter and summer data needed and what may need to change to conduct such surveys around OSW sites in the future
        - ***Action:*** *NYS will refer this concern from the F-TWG to NMFS.*
    - **Fishermen's Data:** F-TWG members also recommended tapping into fishermen's knowledge/data to fill gaps in understanding for building baseline data.
        - ***Action:*** *NYS will consider the potential inclusion of this in its forthcoming research solicitation. This data could be used to help answer specific research questions which will need to be defined.*
    - **Technical Research and Site Design**: The group discussed technical research options that the F-TWG can advance or advise on (e.g. array design, access, and gear types). This included site design considerations that can feed into future lease agreements and mutual education to build understanding based on array design, fishing viability, gear types, and access. Turbine impact on radar systems and boat tracking systems was one suggested topic area to pursue.
        - ***Action:*** *NYS has initiated conversations on how to approach this topic and they are in the easily stages of formulating a draft approach that will be provided to the F-TWG for feedback. More information should be available Q1 of 2019.*

- **Membership:** The members discussed the need to determine how to engage recreational fishermen in offshore wind development distinct from the F-TWG and how to decide if additional commercial fishermen or additional developers should be added to the F-TWG.
    - ***Action:*** *The facilitation team will interview recreational fishermen in December and January to understand their interests for involvement. NYS will determine ways to involve them based on the results.*
    - ***Action:*** *NYS will also explore adding a few additional commercial representatives to the group, including fixed gear and long-line, with the group's consent. Other developers will be included if they become lease holders.*

- **F-TWG Framework:** The members agreed to add "advising the region's efforts" to the mission statement.
    - ***Action:*** *The facilitation team will revise mission statement to reflect regional approach.*

- **Communications:** The following actions will be taken in response to feedback received on the F-TWG website and how best to communicate with and support fishermen and developers via the platform.
    - ***Action:*** *E&E will add a timeline and calendar to the F-TWG website and explore options to add a map of development areas, regional if possible.*
    - ***Action:*** *Developers will share updates with E&E to add to the website, including site-specific updates where possible.*
    - ***Action:*** *NYSERDA to hire a fisheries liaison and continue to look for other avenues for communication with fishermen.*

- **BMPS:** The group began a discussion on BMPS and provided input on the state's approach to organizing them into an Excel tool.
    - ***Action:*** *Advance with caution with the compilation and aggregation. Revisit the concept of prioritization at a future meeting. "Criteria" should be changed to "categories."*

The timing of the next F-TWG meeting will be dependent on the outcomes of these action items, many of which will be pursued in the interim. The next meeting is anticipated for Q1 of 2019.