



Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) Fall Meeting

September 11, 2026



NYSERDA

Agenda

- **Welcome (5 min)**
- **Regional Fund Administrator Framework Update (30 min)**
- **Regional Surfclam Monitoring Plan Specialist Committee Update (20 min)**
- **Habitat Suitability Model for Sea Scallops (20 min)**
- **Offshore Wind Mitigation Fund Update from MA DMF (15 min)**
- **Updates on ROSA Research Efforts (15 min)**
- **Discussion & Questions (10 min)**
- **Next Steps (5 min)**



Welcome

- **Brief welcome message**
- **Today's goal: share recent updates with the group**
- **Meeting logistics**
- **Materials will be posted on the F-TWG Website and shared via email**
- **Ground rules**



Ground Rules

- **Contribute – your perspectives are important**
- **Share time – lots to cover and many people around the table**
- **Integrate ideas and pose questions**
- **Stay focused on the agenda**
- **Avoid multitasking and other distractions**
- **We all have our unique challenges in a hybrid environment – it will take all of us being mindful to make this work**



F-TWG Support Team

- **Morgan Brunbauer, NYSERDA**
- **Brian Dresser, Tetra Tech**
- **Bennett Brooks, CBI**
- **Hadley Menk, Cadmus Group**



NYSERDA



TETRA TECH

CADMUS



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION



Fisheries Compensation Program
for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Draft Regional Compensation Framework

September 4, 2026



NOTICE

Participation in the RFA process by any individual, organization, business, or agency does not constitute agreement with, endorsement of, or approval of any statement, element, design choice, methodology, or conclusion contained in this Draft Framework. While the Draft Framework has been informed by extensive stakeholder engagement and feedback, it should not be interpreted as reflecting agreement among participants or stakeholder groups. Relatedly, because the Draft Framework was developed through a consensus-driven and collaborative process involving stakeholders with differing interests and perspectives, it should not be interpreted as a statement of the RFA's independent preferences or recommendations; rather, the Draft Framework reflects the RFA's best efforts to synthesize stakeholder input and develop a fair, balanced, practical, and functional approach under the circumstances presented.

The concepts, options, approaches, and design elements described in this Draft Framework are working proposals developed for discussion and evaluation.

This Draft Framework is not a regulation, policy statement, legal determination, permit condition, contractual obligation, funding commitment, or final program protocol. Nothing contained in this Draft Framework creates any substantive or procedural rights, expectations of compensation, entitlement to funding, or obligations on the part of any state, agency, developer, stakeholder, participant, or future program administrator. The contents of this Draft Framework may be revised, supplemented, refined, or replaced based upon continued stakeholder input, policy direction, legal review, project-specific circumstances, future data and analysis, regulatory developments, funding conditions, implementation considerations, or other factors.



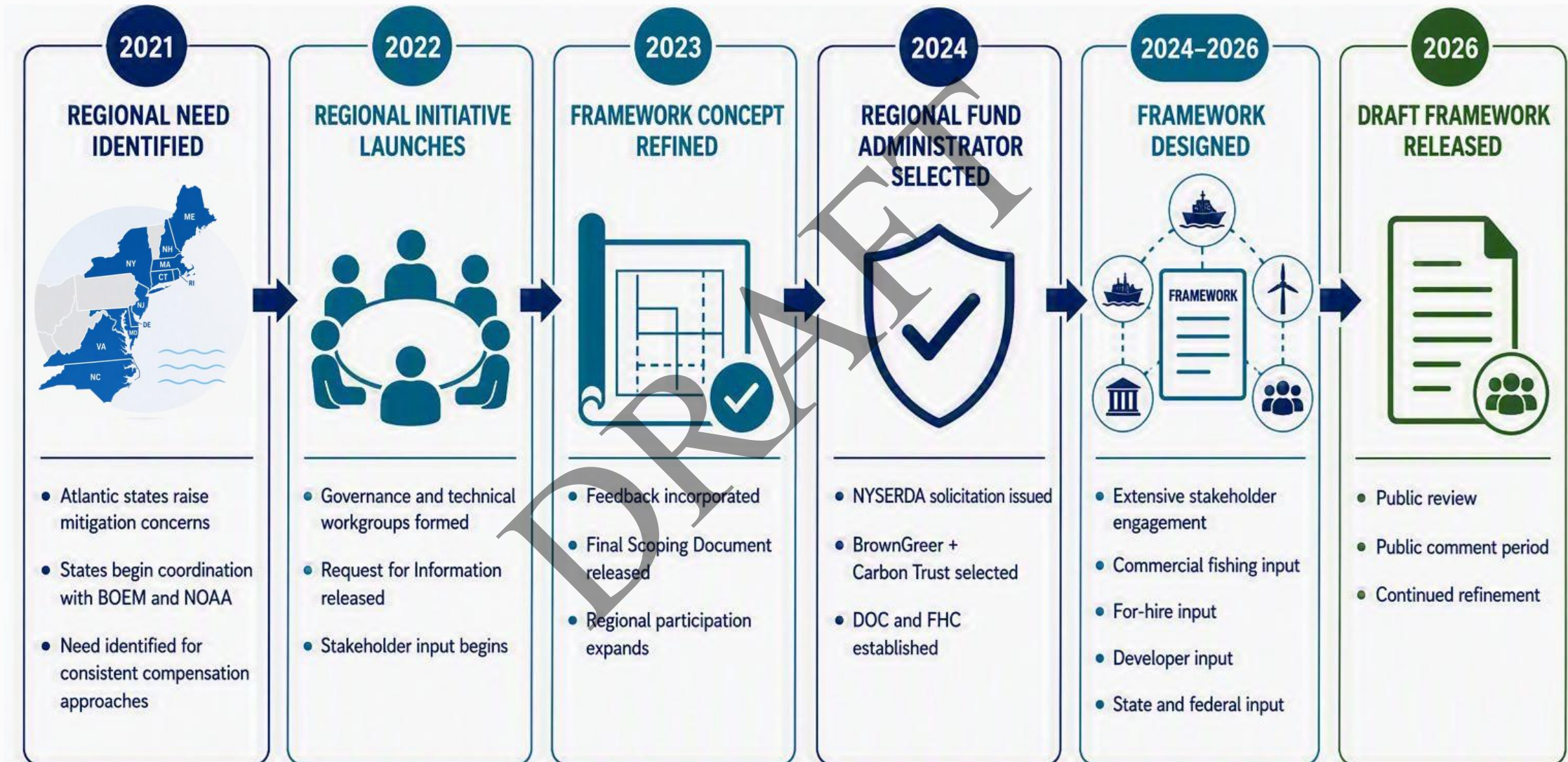
PURPOSE

This presentation is meant to provide a simple walkthrough of the concepts in the Draft Framework. It is meant to be used alongside the Draft Framework to help the reader better understand the detailed information included within and is not meant to be evaluated by itself or replace the work of the Draft Framework. Comments are to be based on the information provided in the Draft Framework, not the presentation.

Click [here](#) for a direct link to the Draft Framework available on the RFA website.

DRAFT

FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY



WHO SHAPED THE FRAMEWORK?



STATES

Atlantic Coast states collaborated throughout the process.



COMMERCIAL FISHING

Commercial fishermen and fishing organizations provided extensive input.



FOR-HIRE FISHING

For-hire/recreational fishing businesses and organizations participated.



FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal advisors and subject matter experts contributed technical expertise.



OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPERS

Developers and industry organizations informed the design.



SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS & PUBLIC

A broad range of experts and members of the public shared their perspectives.



COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED

The Framework reflects years of stakeholder engagement and is intended to provide a practical, fair, and administratively workable approach for distributing fisheries compensation funds when project-specific funding becomes available.



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Design Oversight Committee (“DOC”)

Commercial Fishing Industry

- Bonnie Brady, Vincent Balzano, Beth Casoni, Roy Diehl, Joe Gilbert, Peter Hughes, Lane Johnston, Jeff Kaelin, & Hank Soule

States

- Brad Schondelmeier, Todd Janeski, Erin Wilkinson, Julia Socrates, Carrie Kennedy, & Sebastian Velez

Offshore Wind Industry

- Jennifer Flood, Brian Krevor, Ross Pearsall, & Rick Robins

For-Hire Committee (“FHC”)

Recreational Fishing Industry

- Rick Bellavance, Mike Cerchio, Bob Rush, & Rom Whitaker

States

- Joe Cimino & Renee Zobel

Offshore Wind Industry

- Brian Krevor & Ron Larsen



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Robust, highly active, and in-depth engagement with stakeholders over nearly two years of active design development.



Summaries of the RFA's stakeholder engagement can be found on the RFA's public website: www.rfainfo.com/Home/ProgramEngagement



1 DOC & FHC MEETINGS



Between October 1, 2024, and August 31, 2026, the RFA held:

- 9 DOC meetings
- 7 FHC meetings

2 CAUCUS MEETINGS



The RFA facilitated recurring caucus meetings with stakeholder groups.

- 19 Commercial Fishing meetings
- 13 State meetings
- 25 Developer meetings
- 4 Recreational Fishing meetings

3 FEDERAL AGENCY ENGAGEMENT



The RFA engaged federal agency representatives and ex-officio members throughout Framework development.

- BOEM – 14 meetings
- NOAA – 4 meetings, then joined state caucus conversations

4 DOC SUBCOMMITTEES



Dedicated interdisciplinary subcommittees examined specific Framework design topics.

- 8 Shoreside Business meetings
- 4 Business Transferability meetings
- 5 Expedited Construction Disruption meetings

5 BROAD STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH



The RFA conducted broad outreach across the region through multiple engagement formats.

- Public webinar
- Individual meetings
- Small-group meetings
- Conference presentations
- Regional organization briefings
- Industry outreach sessions

- 140 public webinar attendees
- 50+ individual and small-group meetings

6 LOOKING AHEAD



Public engagement and feedback opportunities remain an important component of Framework refinement and implementation.

- Public webinars
- State fisheries meetings
- Federal fisheries meetings
- Regional fisheries council presentations
- Public comment review



FRAMEWORK DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Stakeholder-generated principles guided decision-making throughout the development of the Framework and provide the foundation for the Framework's architecture and future implementation.



1 BACKGROUND

1 MITIGATION HIERARCHY

The Framework's direct compensation approach reflects the fifth stage of the mitigation hierarchy and follows four preceding forms of impact management.



Avoiding

Avoid adverse effects altogether.



Minimizing

Limit degree or magnitude of impacts.



Rectifying

Repair, rehabilitate, or restore affected environments.



Reducing or Eliminating

Reduce impacts over time through preservation and maintenance.



Compensation

Compensating for impacts.

2 OPERATION CONTINUATION



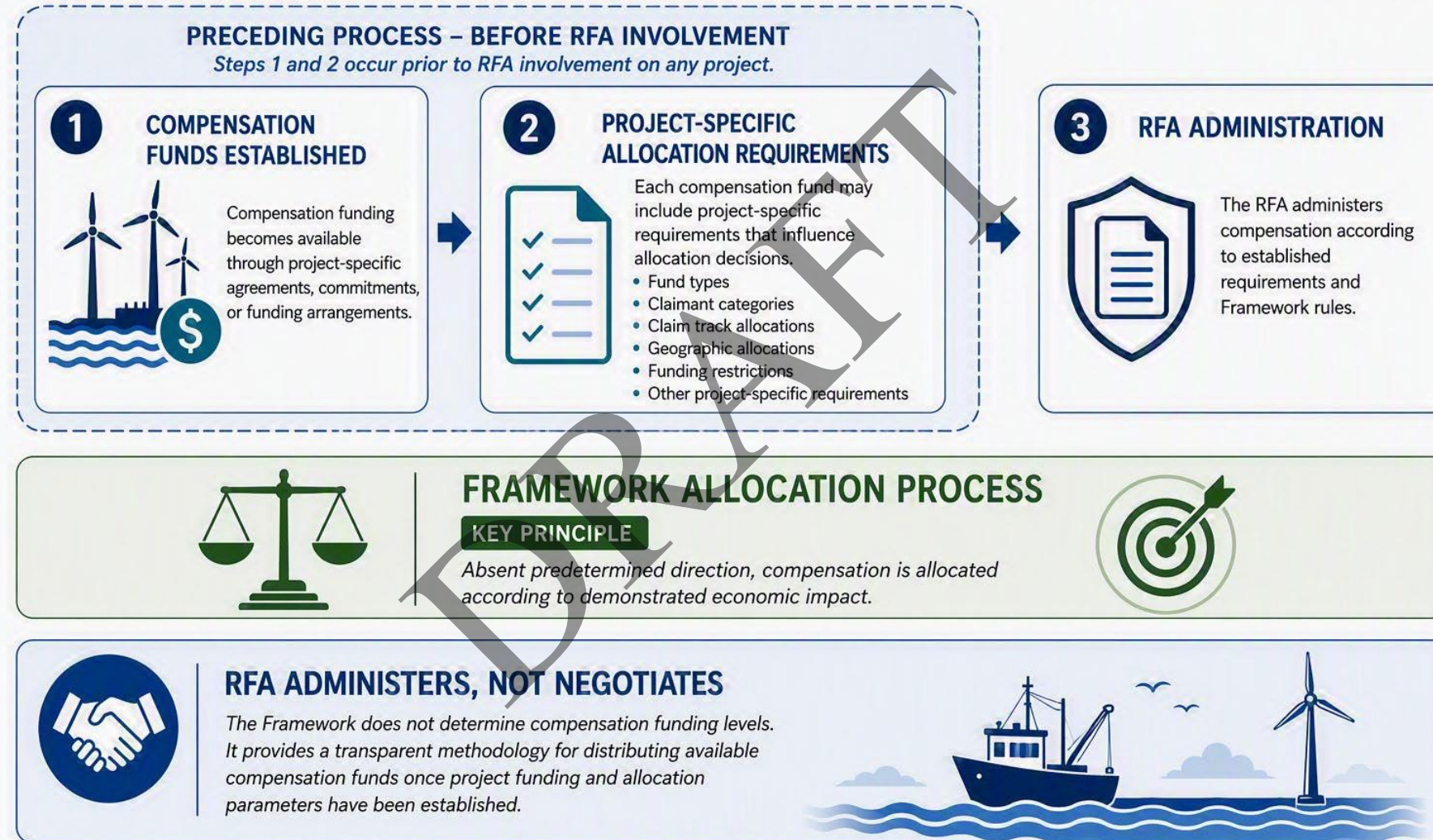
Acknowledge that the goal is for fisheries to continue operating while recognizing uncertainty regarding future impacts and possible displacement.

2 INDIVIDUAL PRINCIPLES

- 1  Consistent
- 2  Equitable
- 3  Fair
- 4  Transparent
- 5  Impact
- 6  Efficient
- 7  Intuitive
- 8  Authentic
- 9  Incentives
- 10  Comprehensive ("90/10 Rule")

Draft Framework Subordinate to Preceding Permitting & Consistency Processes

The Framework administers compensation funds but does **not** determine funding amounts or negotiate project agreements.



OVERALL FRAMEWORK ARCHITECTURE





PARTICIPATION “ELIGIBILITY” FOR ALL TRACKS

- Eligibility determines the opportunity to participate in a claim track.

ELIGIBILITY AND COMPENSATION



- Eligibility determines whether a fishing business may participate in a claim track.
- Eligibility does not establish that a compensable loss occurred.
- Eligibility does not guarantee loss-based compensation.

FRAMEWORK APPROACH TO ELIGIBILITY



- Multiple claim tracks with different purposes and goals.
- Common eligibility criteria across tracks.
- Promotes consistency and simplicity.
- Improves administrative efficiency.

STANDARD ELIGIBILITY RULE



- Fishing revenue in the Project Area for
- at least one day during
- at least 3 of the previous 10 years before
- Final Investment Decision (FID)
- Exception Process Available

PERMIT AND AUTHORIZATION CONTINUITY



- Historic fishing activity should generally occur under the same or similar permits and authorizations.
- Material differences may be addressed through an exception process.

DATA HIERARCHY

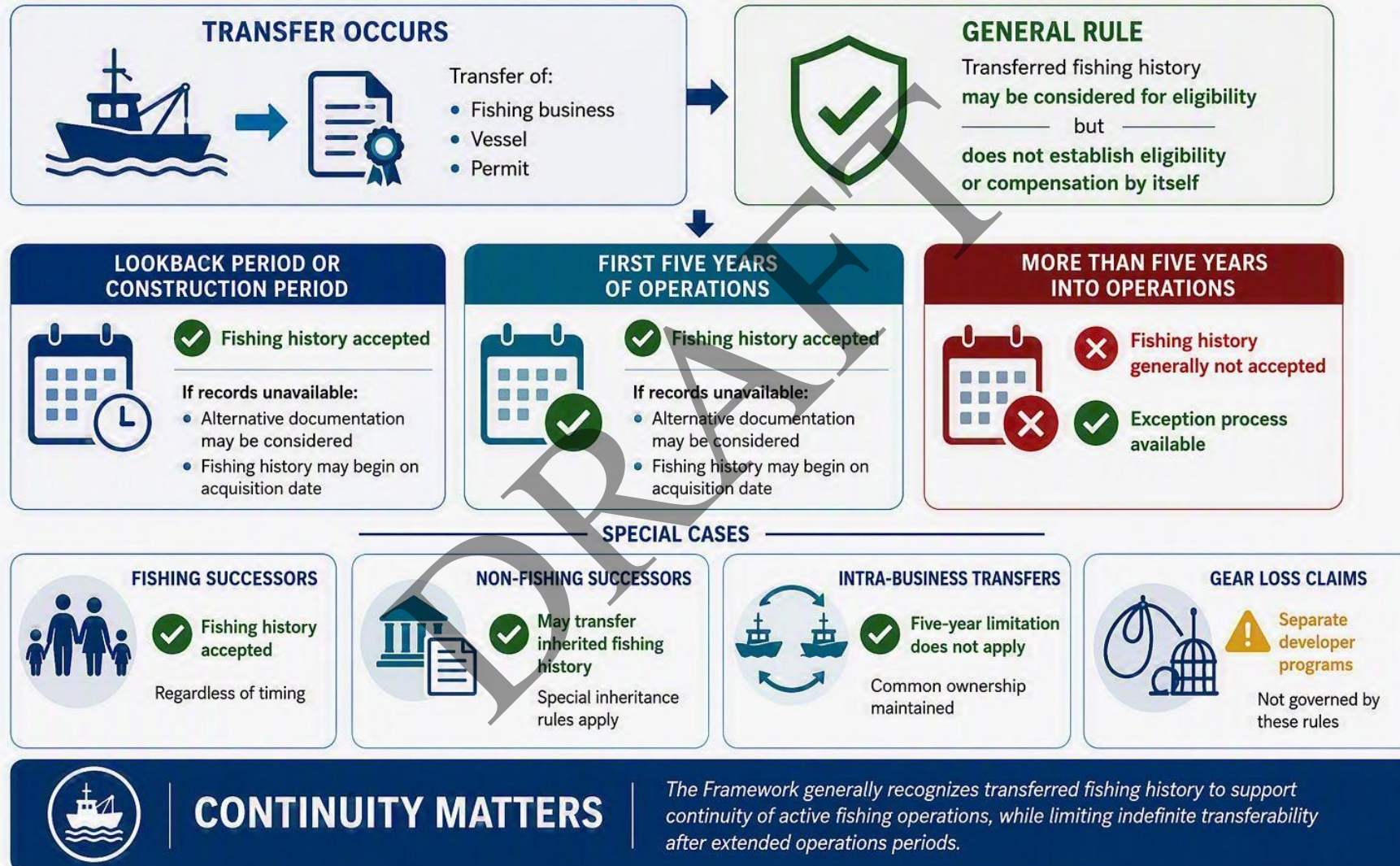
1	VMS
2	AIS
3	VTR
4	Other Data

Supporting Sources

- Logbooks
- Chart plotter tracks
- Handwritten notes
- Observer data
- Survey data
- Other reliable information

BUSINESS TRANSFERS

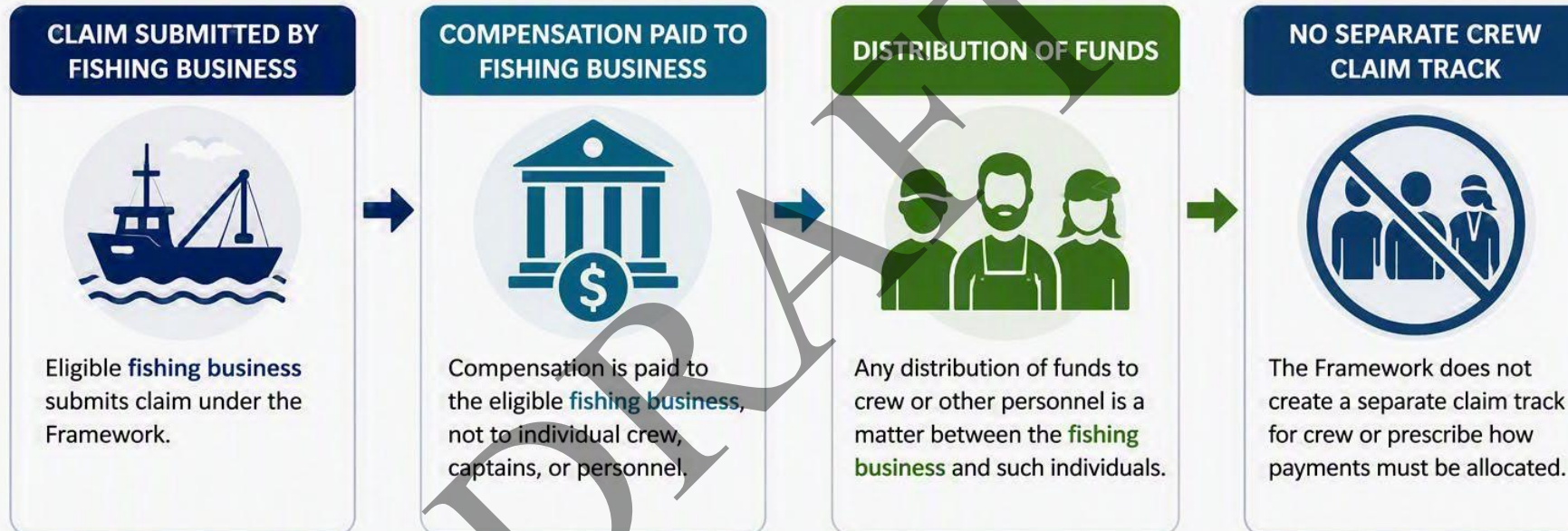
When can transferred fishing history be used for Program eligibility?





CREW

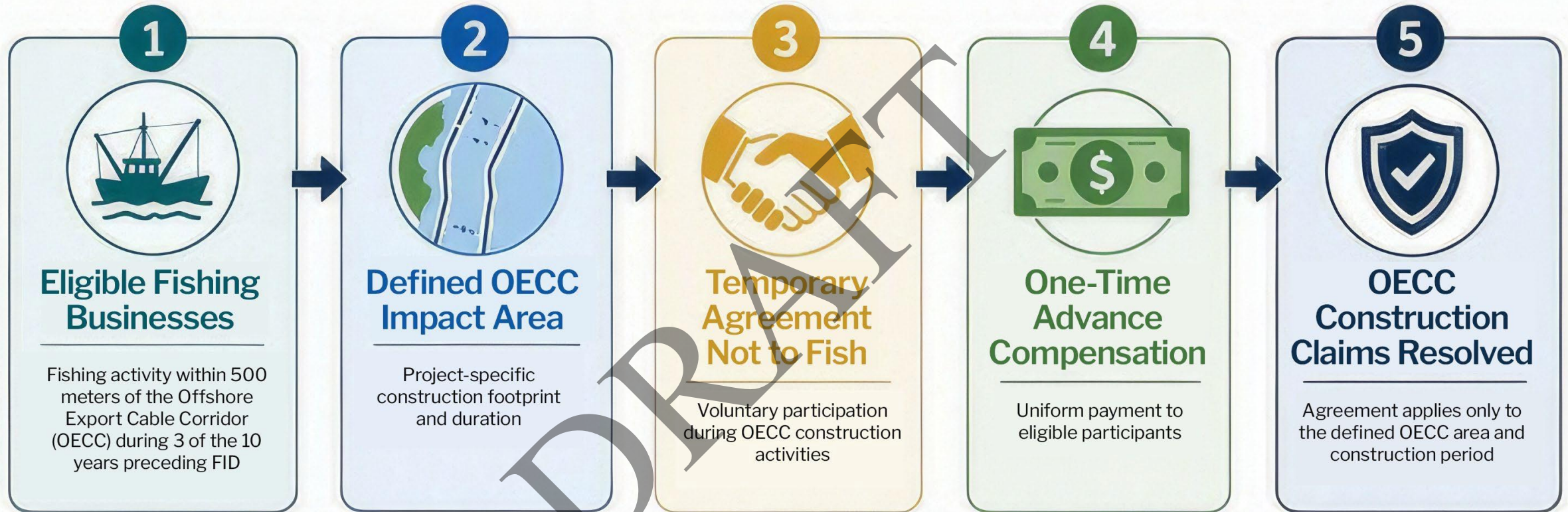
The Framework is designed around eligible fishing businesses—not individual crew members.



LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Obligations regarding distribution of compensation to crew or other personnel are governed by applicable employment agreements, share arrangements, or other legal obligations.

OFFSHORE EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR CLAIM TRACK



PROJECT-SPECIFIC
Defined area and duration

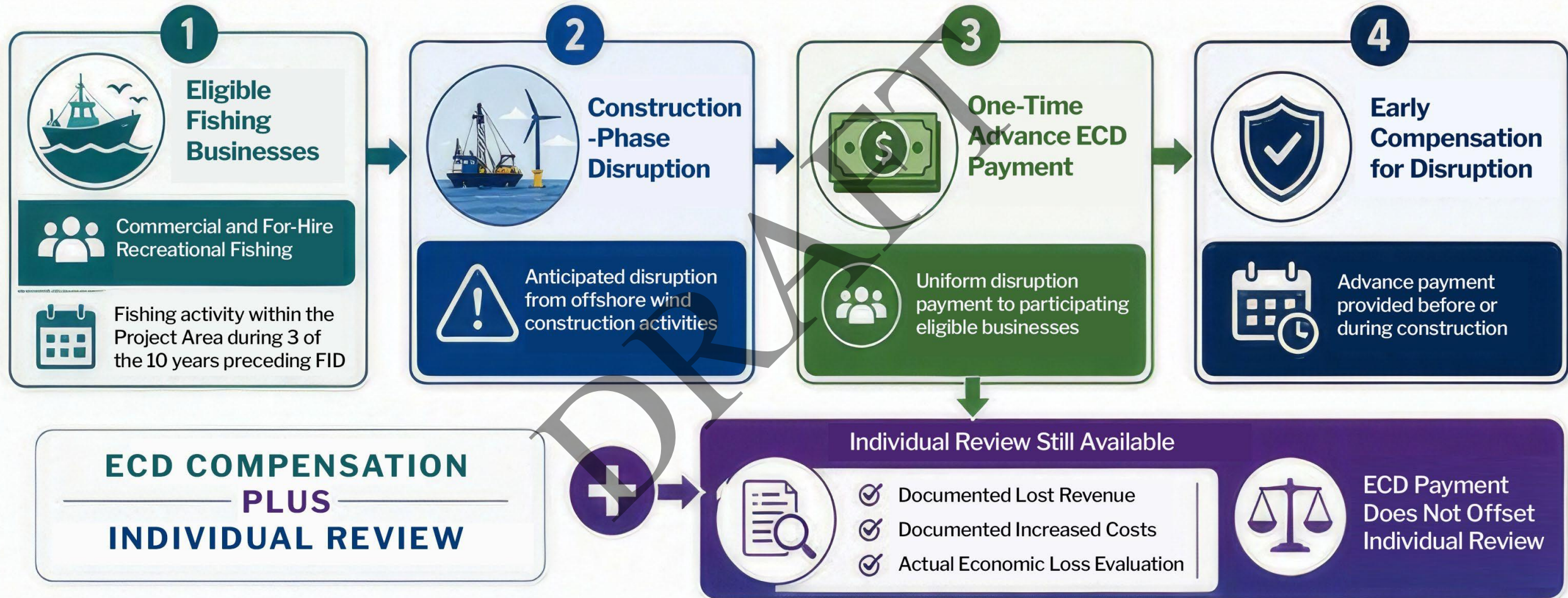


PREDICTABLE
Advanced compensation before impacts occur

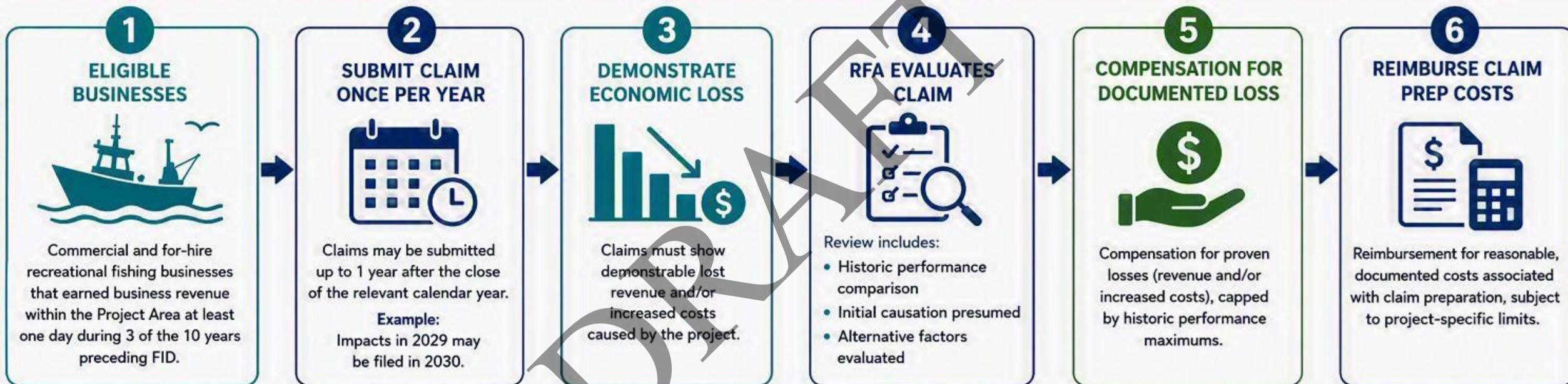


OPTIONAL
Participation is voluntary

EXPEDITED CONSTRUCTION DISRUPTION CLAIM TRACK



INDIVIDUAL REVIEW CLAIM TRACK



Commercial Fishing Historic Performance Methodology

HISTORIC PERFORMANCE METHODOLOGY



Key Concept:

The economic loss recovery portion of the Individual Review Track compares the fishing business's current performance against its historic performance under substantially the same permits, endorsements, and fishing authorizations.

CALCULATING HISTORIC PERFORMANCE (COMMERCIAL)

Key Message:

Historic performance is established using the 10 years before Final Investment Decision (FID).

Those years are weighted using three recency bands.



RESULT (COMMERCIAL)

Weighted Average



EXAMPLE

Converting Annual
Landings and Revenue to
Landings and Revenue Per
Fishing Day

200,000 lbs Landings
\$300,000 Revenue
50 Fishing Days



4,000 lbs Per Fishing Day
\$6,000 Revenue Per
Fishing Day

LOSS IDENTIFICATION AND MATERIALITY THRESHOLD

STEP 1



Compare:

Historic Weighted Average
vs.
Claim Year Performance
(per fishing day)

STEP 2



Initial Screening

Losses are registered only
when current performance
is materially worse than
historic performance.

STEP 3



Materiality Test

Materially Worse
(provisional Framework approach)
= Outside One Standard Deviation
from the historic weighted average.

STEP 4



Accounting Loss

If materially worse:
Signal an Accounting Loss
based on the difference in:

- Landings Per Fishing Day
- Revenue Per Fishing Day

relative to the standard
deviation threshold.

STEP 5



Loss Valuation

Uses:
Average Sale Price Per Pound
earned during the year
of claimed loss.



FOR-HIRE RECREATIONAL FISHING

Uses effectively the same methodology
as commercial fishing businesses.

Acknowledges Critical Business Differences

Captures bookings and revenue as indicators of
business activity and productivity in place of
species landings and fishing days.



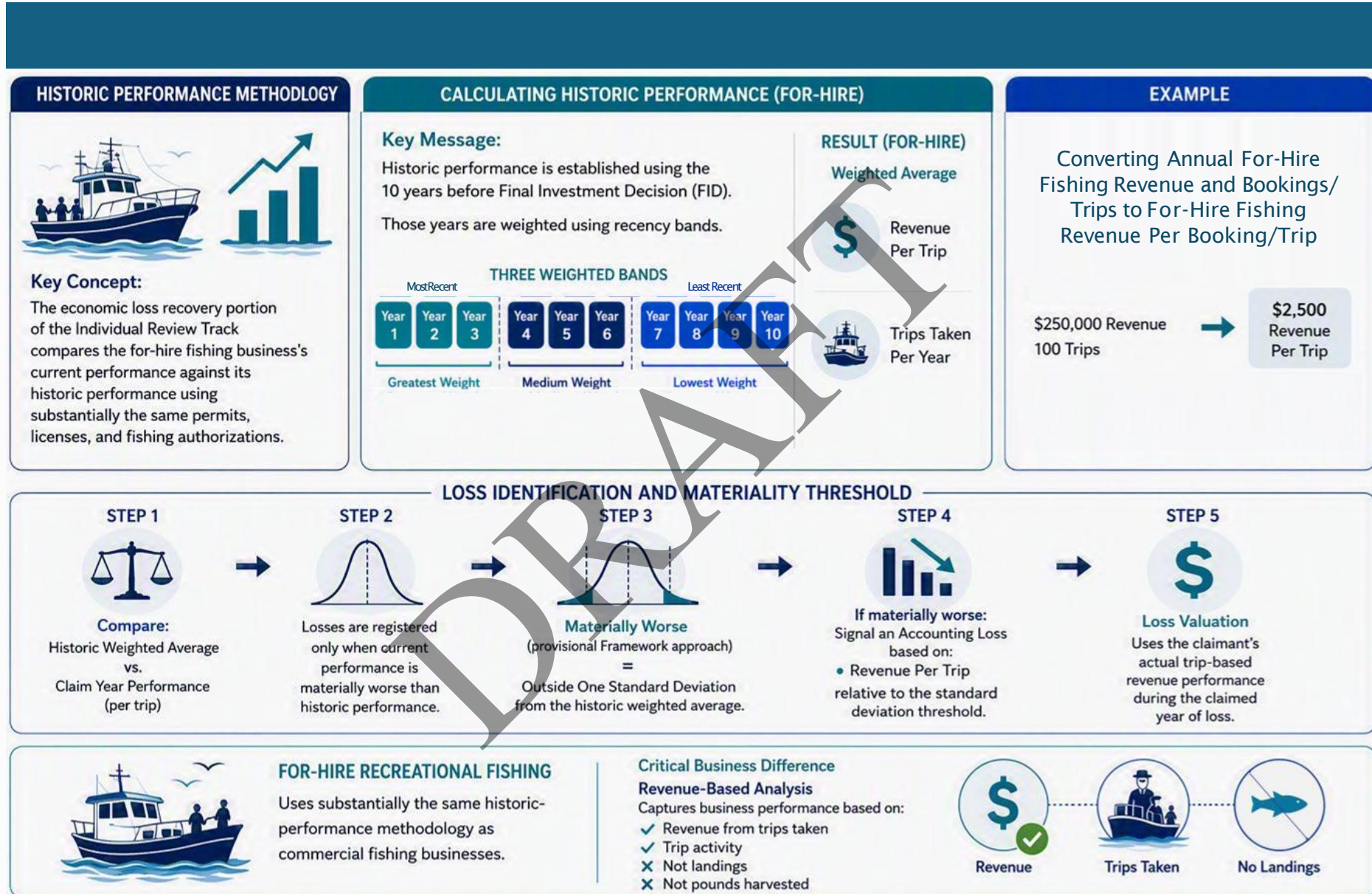
Revenue



Trips Taken

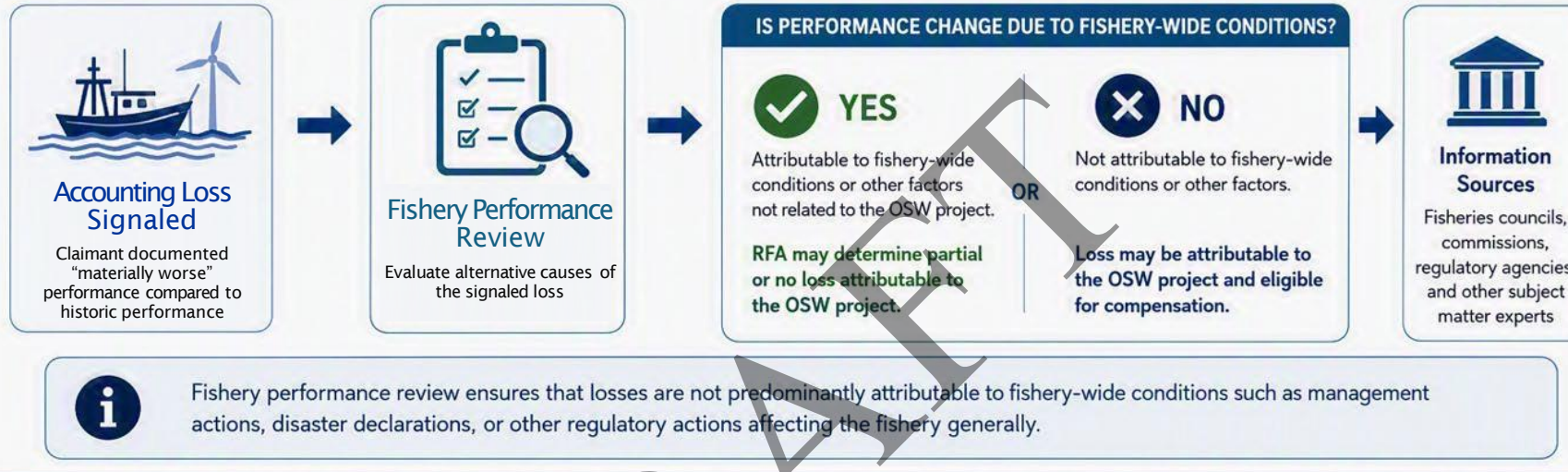


No Landings



CAUSATION PRESUMPTION AND FISHERY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Framework assumes initially that the applicable offshore wind project contributes to an accounting loss signaled.



PROJECT AREA COMPENSATION CAP

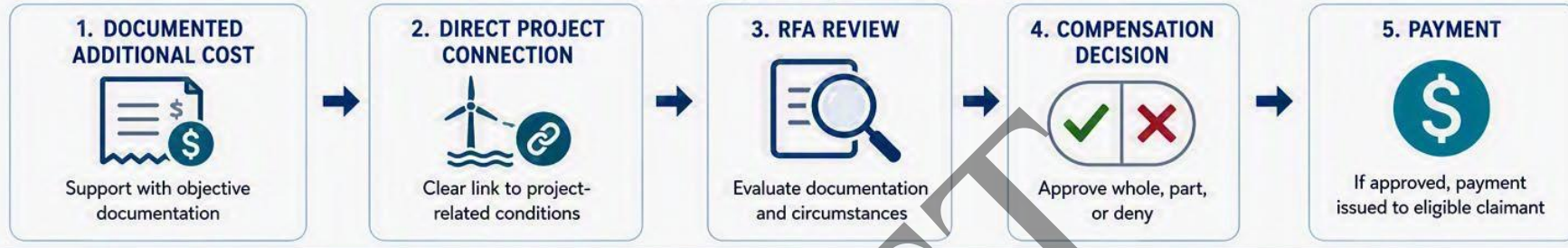
An eligible claimant with a demonstrated loss should not receive annual compensation exceeding the claimant's demonstrated historic performance within the Project Area.



✓ COMPENSATION CAP
The maximum annual loss recognized for compensation purposes is capped at the claimant's average Project Area performance during the three highest-performing years within the 10-year lookback period.

INCREASED COST CLAIMS

When can additional operating costs be compensated?



POTENTIALLY COMPENSABLE

Longer Transit Routes



Examples:

- Additional fuel consumption
- Additional transit time

Project-Specific Insurance Costs



Examples:

- Turbine-array rider
- Additional coverage requirement

Other Direct Project Costs



Project-related costs supported by documentation.

GENERALLY NOT COMPENSABLE

Speculative Costs



Unverified or estimated expenses.

Market Conditions



General business or industry changes.

New Business Pursuits



Business expansion or transition decisions.

CLAIM PREPARATION COST REIMBURSEMENT

Reasonable costs may be reimbursed to support participation in the Individual Review process.

POTENTIALLY REIMBURSABLE



Accounting



Legal



Consulting



Data Retrieval



Technical Analysis

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Independent third-party provider
- ✓ Reasonable and documented costs
- ✓ Necessary to prepare or support the claim

NOT REIMBURSABLE

- ✗ Contingent fees
- ✗ Success fees
- ✗ Lobbying or advocacy expenses
- ✗ Unrelated costs



DOCUMENTATION MATTERS

Both increased-cost claims and claims-preparation reimbursement require objective documentation, reasonable expenditures, and a clear connection to the claim or project-related condition.



EXCEPTIONS

The Framework recognizes that unusual circumstances may warrant exceptions where strict application of a rule would produce an unintended or inequitable result.



EXCEPTION REQUEST

REQUIRED

- Documentation
- Clear explanation
- Distinguishing circumstances

NOT SUFFICIENT

- Hardship alone



1 FRAMEWORK CONSISTENCY



Must remain consistent with Framework goals and design.

2 UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES



Situation must be demonstrably unusual, non-recurring, or outside the scope of conditions reasonably anticipated by the established rules.

3 RELIABLE EVIDENCE



Determinations based on credible, complete, and verifiable information.

4 PRECEDENT CONSIDERATIONS



Should not undermine consistent treatment of similar participants.

5 RFA DISCRETION



RFA has discretion to grant, deny, or condition exceptions.



90/10 RULE – DESIGN PRINCIPLE

The Framework is designed to accommodate the vast majority of ordinary claims using clear, consistent rules while preserving flexibility for unusual cases that warrant exceptions.





CLAIMS ADJUDICATION AND APPEALS PROCESS

A fair, transparent, and multi-step process to ensure accurate determinations.

1



INITIAL CLAIMS EVALUATION

The RFA will review complete claim packages and issue a determination with notice to the claimant:

- Approve eligibility and indicate amount
- Deny eligibility
- Identify deficiencies in the submission



WITHIN 180 DAYS

of receipt of a complete claim package

Discretionary 60-day extensions with notice to claimant.

2



OPPORTUNITY TO CURE

Claimants whose submissions were deficient will have one-time opportunity to submit additional materials and/or information to cure the deficiency.



60 DAYS

to submit additional materials/information.

3



RECONSIDERATION

Claimants who disagree with a denial (initial or post-cure) may request reconsideration and submit additional information/materials in support of their argument. The RFA will evaluate in the same manner as initial claims.



60 DAYS

after notice of denial to request reconsideration.

4



APPEAL

Within six months of notice of denial after reconsideration, a claimant may file a written notice of appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by an appeals neutral who will issue a final, non-appealable decision that is binding on the parties involved.



Claimant bears own costs of appeal. If successful, the Regional Program will reimburse reasonable costs.



WITHIN 6 MONTHS

of notice of denial after reconsideration.



FAIR. TRANSPARENT. ACCOUNTABLE.

This multi-step process ensures claimants have multiple opportunities to present information and receive a fair determination.



SHORESIDE BUSINESSES

TWO TYPES OF SHORESIDE BUSINESSES



Shoreside Downstream Support Businesses

✓ Eligible for compensation

Examples:

- Dealers
- Processors
- Packing houses



Shoreside Upstream Support Businesses

✗ Not compensated
under Framework

Examples:

- Bait
- Ice
- Fuel
- Gear
- Equipment



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, a business must:

- ✓ Be an active business one year before project FID
- ✓ Support commercial fishing businesses through direct, first-order transactions
- ✓ Demonstrate economic loss

LOSS TYPES

Reduced Volume



Loss of processing or dealer revenue due to reduced landings.

Increased Costs



Higher costs to obtain substitute product.

Other Compensable Losses



Other losses approved under Framework standards.



DOCUMENTATION

Examples:

- Licenses and permits
- Business records
- Revenue records
- Transaction records
- Financial statements



LOSS CALCULATION

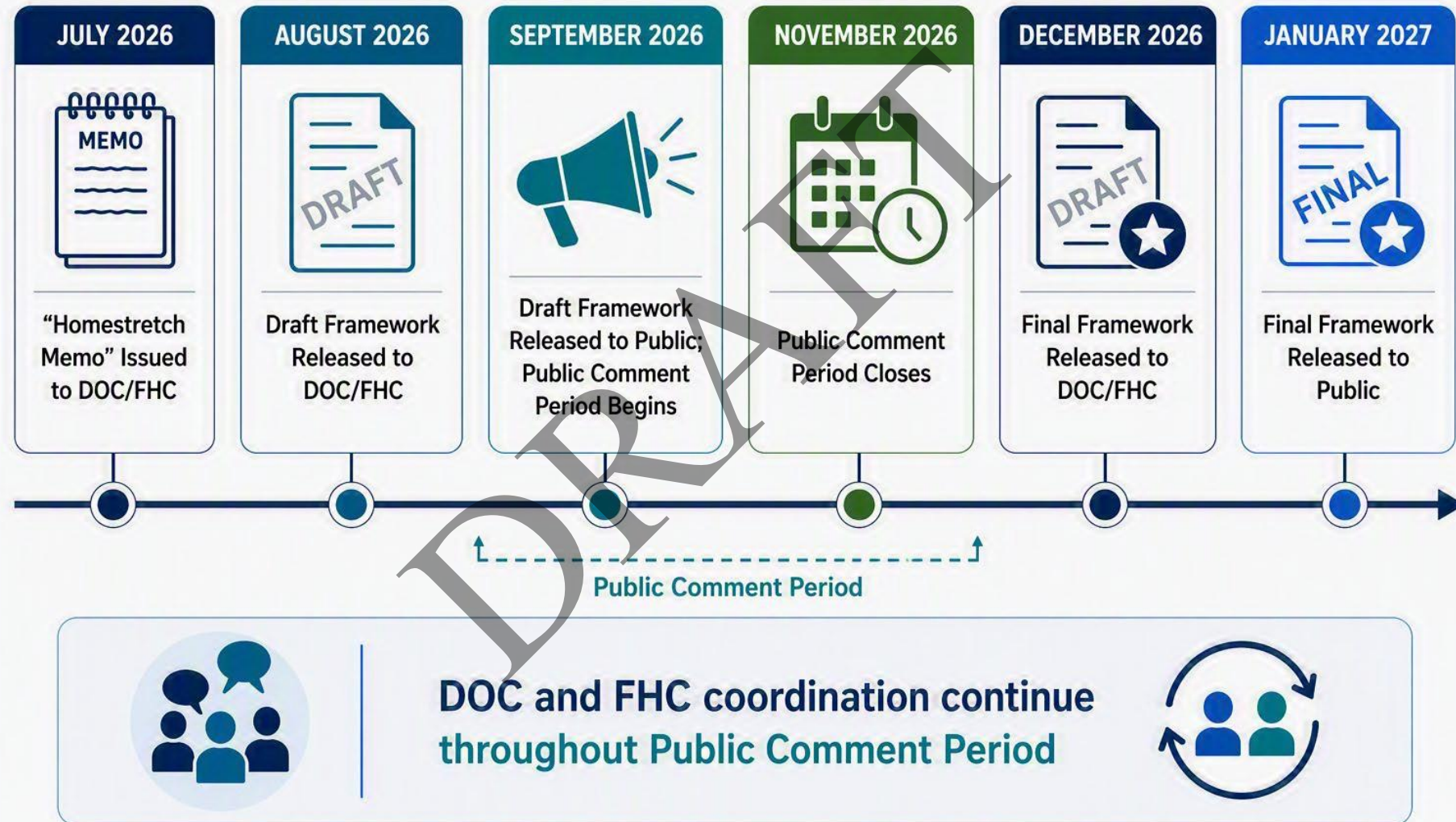
Uses the same general principles applied to commercial fishing vessel losses.



FIRST POINT OF EXCHANGE

The Framework focuses on economic losses occurring between vessel landing and the processor or dealer's first point of sale, where downstream businesses add value to harvested seafood products.

FRAMEWORK FINALIZATION TIMELINE



OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT PLANNED



PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

1 COMMENT PERIOD



The Framework is available for public comment during a defined review period.

**Early September
through
Early November**

2 HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS



RFA Website:

www.RFAInfo.com/Home/ContactUs

RFA Email:

Contact@RFAInfo.com

3 WHO IS ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT



The RFA welcomes feedback from all interested parties and affected stakeholders.



4 HOW COMMENTS WILL BE USED



Comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed by the RFA and may inform future Framework refinement.

i IMPORTANT NOTE

The RFA will not provide individual responses to comments submitted during the comment period.

5 TRANSPARENCY & PUBLICATION



To promote transparency, good-faith comments may be published and shared.



ANONYMITY OPTION

Submitters may request anonymity.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Submission of a comment does not create any right to receive an individual response, participate in future proceedings, or require modification, adoption, or rejection of any aspect of the Framework.



*Source: Ashley Delvento
via Wikimedia Commons*

Regional Surfclam Monitoring Plan

Surfclam Committee Update

September 11, 2026



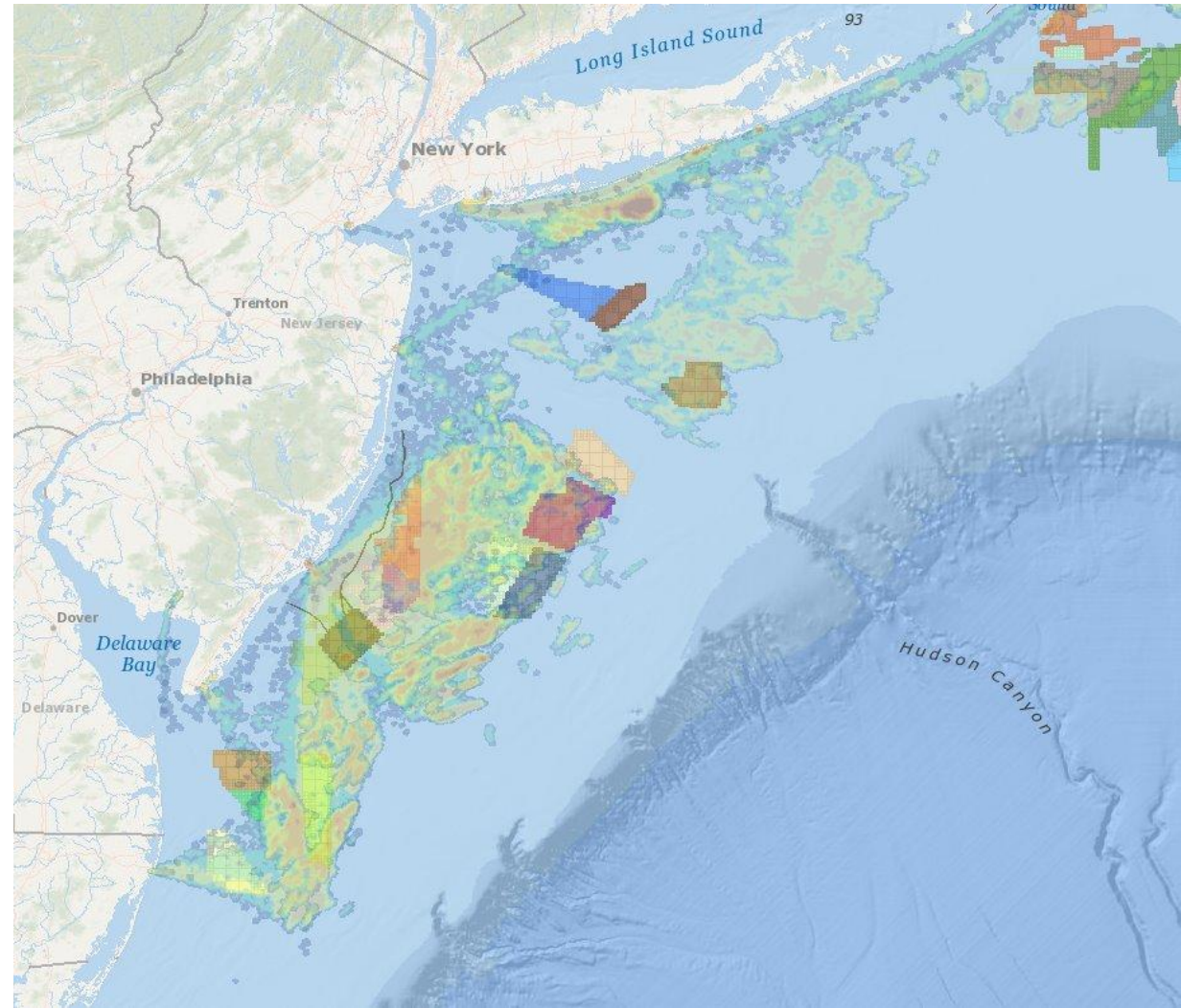
NYSERDA

Why Surfclams, Why Now

- Atlantic surfclams (*Spisula solidissima*) are among the Mid-Atlantic's highest value single-species fishery, facing compounding environmental and spatial shifts
- November/2024 Workshop
 - Primary Topic: Stock enhancement-based mitigation for OSW impacts on the surfclam fishery
 - Outcomes – Three Primary Strategies:
 - Regional Control: Coordinated regional approaches vs. project-by-project solutions
 - Funding Model: Sustainable funding mechanisms for long-term monitoring and mitigation
 - Cost-effective and Coordinated Monitoring: Standardized approaches to data collection and analysis

The Monitoring Problem

- The Mid-Atlantic Region has a strong monitoring history, but key data streams do not connect at a regional scale
 - No single program sees the whole picture
- Federal survey (broad scale baseline) – on hiatus until 2028?
- NJ/NY State surveys – halted or paused
- Project-level surveys – site specific; no post-construction data available yet



Surfclam OSW Research & Monitoring

Focus	Project	Lead	Status
Surfclam Enhancement	Surfclam Fisheries Enhancement: Exploration of Novel Planting Techniques and Seeding Locations	Rutgers	Canceled
	Planting and Survival of Juvenile Surfclams for Stock Enhancement	Rutgers	Ongoing
	Juvenile Surfclam Survival and Growth to Support Enhancement of Sustainable Fisheries	Rutgers	Ongoing
	Permitting and Regulatory Ecosystem for Shellfish Aquaculture and Enhancement Programs in Federal Waters	VIMS	Ongoing
	Calibration Experiments for a Novel Clam Survey Dredge and Monitoring Carbonate Chemistry of Surfclam Habitat	Rutgers	Complete
	Hatchery and nursery siting for surfclam stock enhancement	VIMS	Ongoing
	Eco-econ hatchery capacity study	VIMS	Complete
	Design of a seeding machine	U of Southern Mississippi	Ongoing
	Surfclam Multistressor Response	Rutgers	Complete
Access	The Atlantic surfclam fishery and offshore wind energy development: 2. Assessing economic impacts	VIMS	Complete
Economic Impacts	Surfclam Fishing and Windfarms in the Future Ocean: Interactive effects of wind farms and future ocean conditions on the surfclam fishery	Rutgers	Complete
	Understanding Economic Impacts to the Commercial Surfclam Fishing Industry from Offshore Wind Energy	Rutgers	Complete
Developer Project-Level Monitoring	CVOW Surfclam Fishery Independent Monitoring	VIMS	Ongoing
	Ocean Wind 1 Clam Survey - DISCONTINUED	Rutgers	Canceled
Stock Assessment	Evaluate Offshore Wind Farm Impacts to Mid Atlantic fishery Stock Assessment	Stony Brook	Complete
Larval Impacts	Offshore Wind Impact On Oceanographic Processes: North Carolina To New York	Tetra Tech	Complete

A Collaborative, Committee-Driven Effort

- July 2024 – ROSA side meeting at State of the Science
- Nov 2024 – Stakeholder workshop on stock enhancement as mitigation
- 2026 – F-TWG convenes Surfclam Specialist Committee
 - Surfclam Industry
 - Regulatory Agencies
 - Academia
 - Offshore Wind Industry
- Support Team – facilitation and logistics



Committee Member Responsibilities

Primary Deliverable: Regional Surfclam Monitoring Plan

- Developing standardized monitoring protocols and methodologies
- Establishing scientifically sound baseline approaches
- Creating a framework for regional data coordination
- Identifying best practices for surfclam monitoring
- Ensuring the Plan is practical and implementable
- Incorporating diverse stakeholder perspectives

Committee Members and the Plan are NOT responsible for:

- Implementing monitoring programs
- Securing or allocating funding
- Making regulatory or permitting decisions
- Conducting the actual monitoring
- Enforcing compliance with the Plan
- Resolving disputes between stakeholders

What the Plan is (and isn't)

What the Plan is – Coordination & Standards

- **Common Standards and Protocols**
 - Shared survey standards and sampling guidelines linking federal, state, and developer data
- **Multi-entity coordination**
 - An integrated bridge across federal and state agencies, academic research, and developers
- **Regional Connective Layer**
 - A scientific framework harmonizing lease-level data into regional stock and habitat understanding

What the Plan is Not – Boundaries & Autonomy

- **Not a federal replacement**
 - Does not replace NOAA NEFSC regional surveys or stock models.
- **Not a sampling mandate**
 - Does not enforce prescriptive rules dictating exactly how each individual developer must sample
- **Not a regulatory directive**
 - Serves as a technical guidance framework and scientific baseline, not a formal permitting rule

Interfacing With the Plan

Monitoring Type	Scale	Primary Purpose	Organizations/Sectors	Data Types/Examples	How A Regional Plan Would Supplement/Complement
Federal Surfclam Survey	Broad shelf scale, from Georges Bank to Cape Hatteras	Fishery-independent monitoring of Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog populations for stock assessment and management	NOAA Fisheries / NEFSC Federal contractors / survey partners	Abundance, spatial distribution, life history, long-term survey time series	Provides the long-term anchor series; the new regional plan adds denser spatial coverage and environmental context so changes can be interpreted at a finer regional scale.
Federal Ecosystem Monitoring	Northeast Shelf / Mid-Atlantic Bight ecosystem scale	Provide environmental and ecosystem context that helps interpret surfclam change	NOAA NEFSC EcoMon NOAA ecosystem programs Federal ocean observing partners	Hydrography, plankton, temperature, salinity, oxygen, ocean chemistry, ecosystem indicators	Adds surfclam-focused sampling and makes ecosystem context directly usable for surfclam biomass interpretation and impact determination.
State Monitoring	State-jurisdiction waters and adjacent coastal shelf areas	State-level environmental observation relevant to marine resource condition and ecosystem change	State natural resource agencies State coastal/ocean monitoring programs Regional interstate partners	State-collected water-column, environmental, and coastal observation data	Harmonizes state monitoring into a shared Mid-Atlantic Bight framework so surfclam-related patterns can be compared consistently across state lines.
Academic Monitoring	Targeted studies, cross-shelf transects, shelf-wide experiments, and offshore wind lease-area studies	Explain mechanisms driving surfclam distribution, growth, recruitment, and vulnerability; develop new observing tools; evaluate offshore wind-related effects on surfclam populations	Universities Rutgers Coastal Ocean Observation Lab (RUCOOL) VIMS and other academic partners Rutgers offshore wind surfclam surveys UConn / CFRA / NOAA-linked mechanistic research	Gliders, pH, carbonate chemistry, dissolved oxygen, circulation, habitat, modeling products, Rutgers offshore wind surfclam survey data from lease areas and adjacent control areas	Turns research-grade observations into repeatable regional indicators that can be tracked over time and compared with survey data. Rutgers offshore wind surfclam surveys can be nested within the regional framework.
Site-specific Monitoring	Local project footprint, export corridor, or bed-scale	Detect local effects of offshore development or other localized disturbance	Project proponents Consultants Permitting/monitoring contractors Local research partners	Before/after surveys, impact/control comparisons, dredge or trawl sampling, local abundance metrics	Nests site-specific studies inside a broader regional reference network so project findings can be compared against regional background variability rather than standing alone.
OSW Lease Survey Areas	Lease area and nearby reference zones	Measure surfclam abundance, habitat, and response within offshore wind lease areas	OSW lease holders BOEM-related study teams Academic partners Consultants CVOW survey conducted by VIMS and Rutgers Atlantic Shores / Rutgers lease-area monitoring	Lease-area dredge surveys, benthic monitoring, spatially explicit abundance and habitat observations	Bridges project-scale monitoring and regional inference. The regional plan can supply standardized methods, common reference stations, and broader background conditions so lease-area survey results can be interpreted in the context of regional biomass change.
Regional Monitoring	Mid-Atlantic Bight scale	Regional ecosystem and surfclam population monitoring across the shelf	Regional science consortia NOAA ecosystem programs MACAN Multi-agency and academic partners	Integrated survey, environmental, and modeling products; regional indicators	Formalizes a scientifically rigorous surfclam-focused regional framework with standardized methods, interoperable data, and statistically defensible design for biomass and impact detection.

Structure at a Glance

The document follows a structured operational logic:

- 1. Establish foundational context**
- 2. Assess existing monitoring gaps**
- 3. Ground survey methods in species biology and ecology**
- 4. Define actionable implementation across regional offshore wind lease areas**
 - Set clear monitoring objectives and the tiered, interoperable design principles that carry the plan
 - Establish standardize monitoring objectives, gear configurations, data standards, and multi-agency coordination workflows

Current Status

- Core sections drafted - context, existing monitoring programs, surfclam biology, design principles, and regional gap analysis
 - Targeting end of September for completed first draft
- Specialist Committee actively review drafts; revisions occur through structured, recurring working sessions
- Iterative refinement – built intentionally for committee input, consensus-building, and scientific refinement
 - Not yet finalized





**Thank you!
Questions?**



SUPPORTED BY

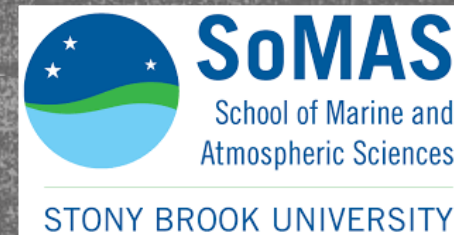
NYSERDA
New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority



ROSA
Responsible Offshore
Science Alliance

SCALLOP HABITAT SUITABILITY & OFFSHORE WIND OVERLAP IN THE MID-ATLANTIC BIGHT

AJ Mabaka | Stony Brook University | NYSERDA F-TWG, September 2026



WHY SEA SCALLOPS?

- Largest & most valuable wild scallop fishery in the world.
- In 2023, 27.4 million pounds were landed, valued at over \$360M.



Photo credit: Alex Todd, National Fisherman



BIOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- Benthic, long-lived species that integrate environmental conditions over time.
- Broad distribution across depth and substrate gradients in the Mid-Atlantic Bight.
- Habitat quality strongly influences growth, survival, and recruitment.
- **Overall, this is a data-rich fishery with a high economic value and detailed management history.**



Photo credit:
Robert La
Salle,
Harpwell
Heritage
Land Trust

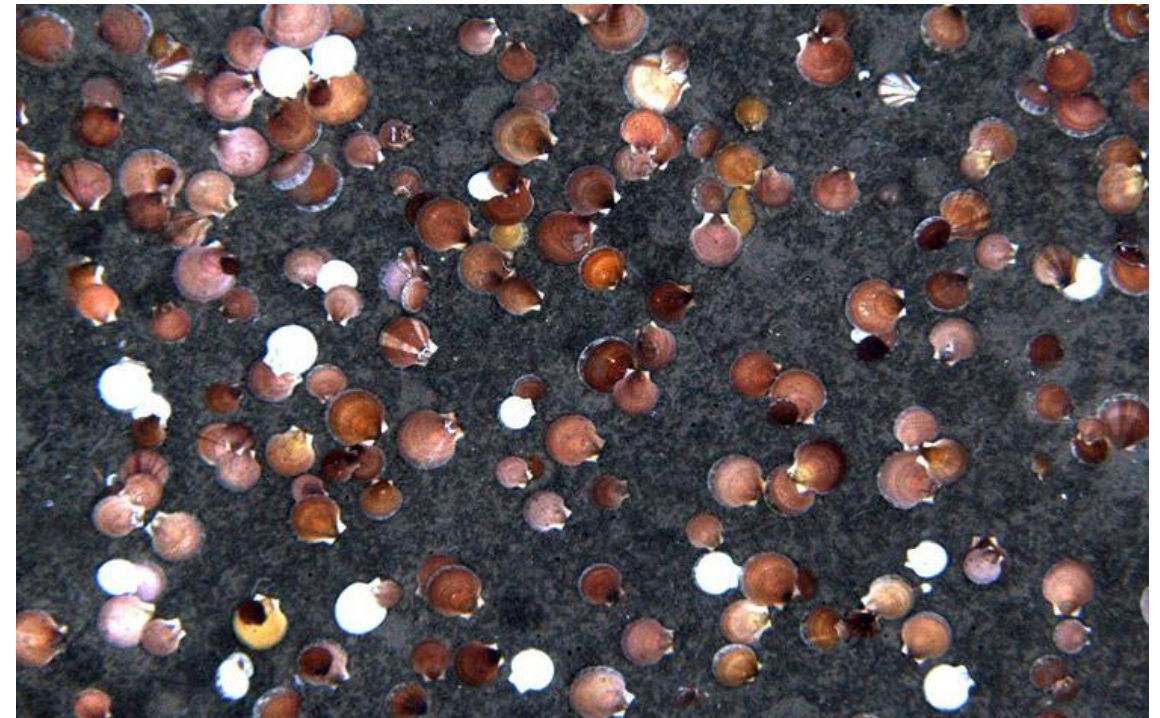
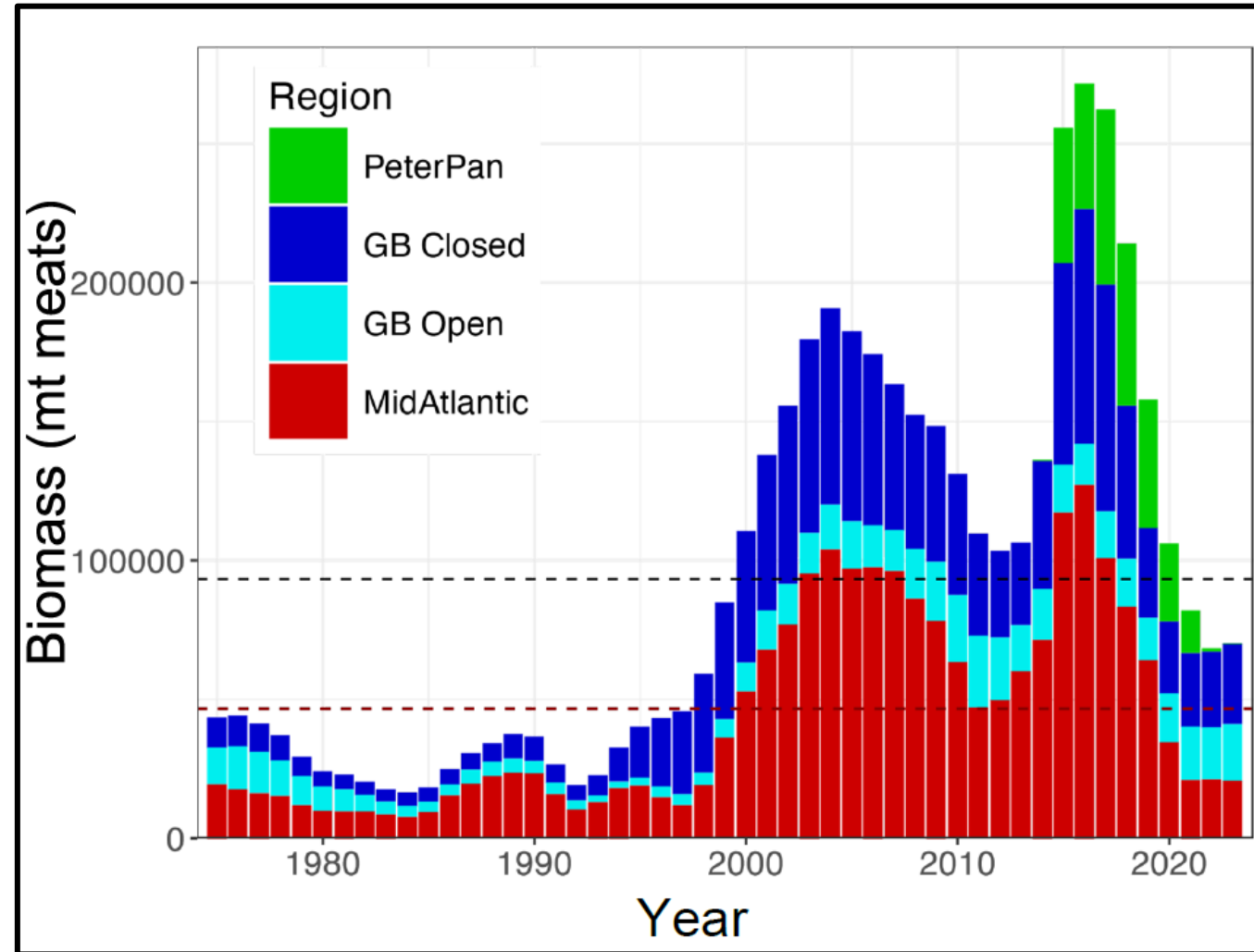


Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries species
directory



HISTORY OF THE FISHERY

- **Since 2018**, total biomass has declined, with the largest decreases in the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank.
- Regional contributions to total biomass are shifting.
- The causes of recent biomass declines remain uncertain, increasing interest in environmental and habitat drivers.



Retrieved from the Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track Assessment
2025, Working Group Summary Report

RESEARCH MOTIVATION & OBJECTIVES

Motivation:

- Offshore wind is expanding, but species-specific impacts remain uncertain.
- Sea scallops are a high-value, data-rich fishery with strong links to habitat (Hart & Chute, 2004).
- Scallop biology and population dynamics are priority research areas under climate change and offshore wind expansion (ROSA Gaps Analysis 2026).

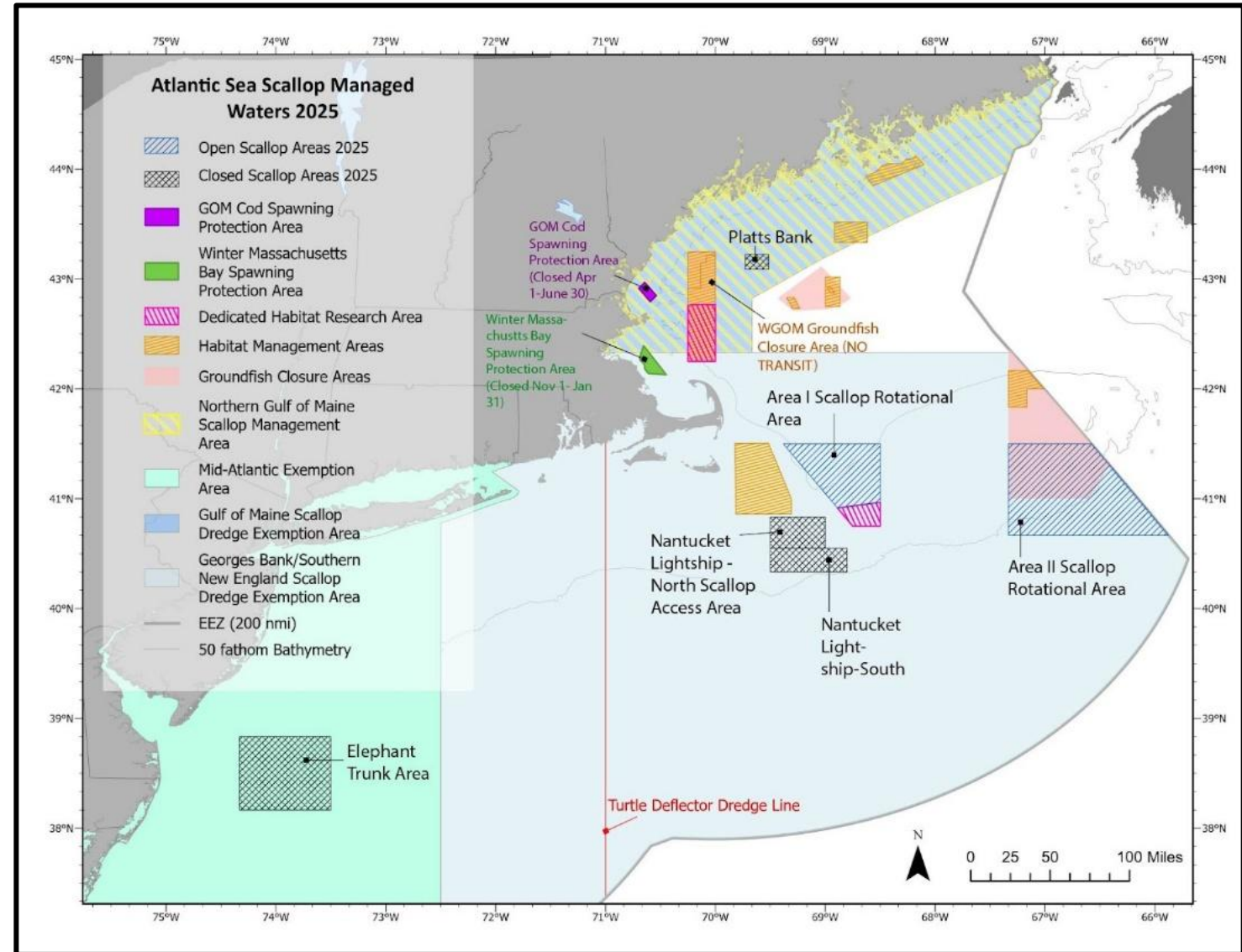
Project Objectives:

- Synthesize current and historic scallop habitat knowledge in the Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB) via literature review.
- Compile data from state and federal agencies, institutions, or independent researchers to develop habitat suitability indices (HSI).
- Evaluate where suitable habitat may overlap with proposed or existing offshore wind development.



WHY SPATIAL INFORMATION MATTERS

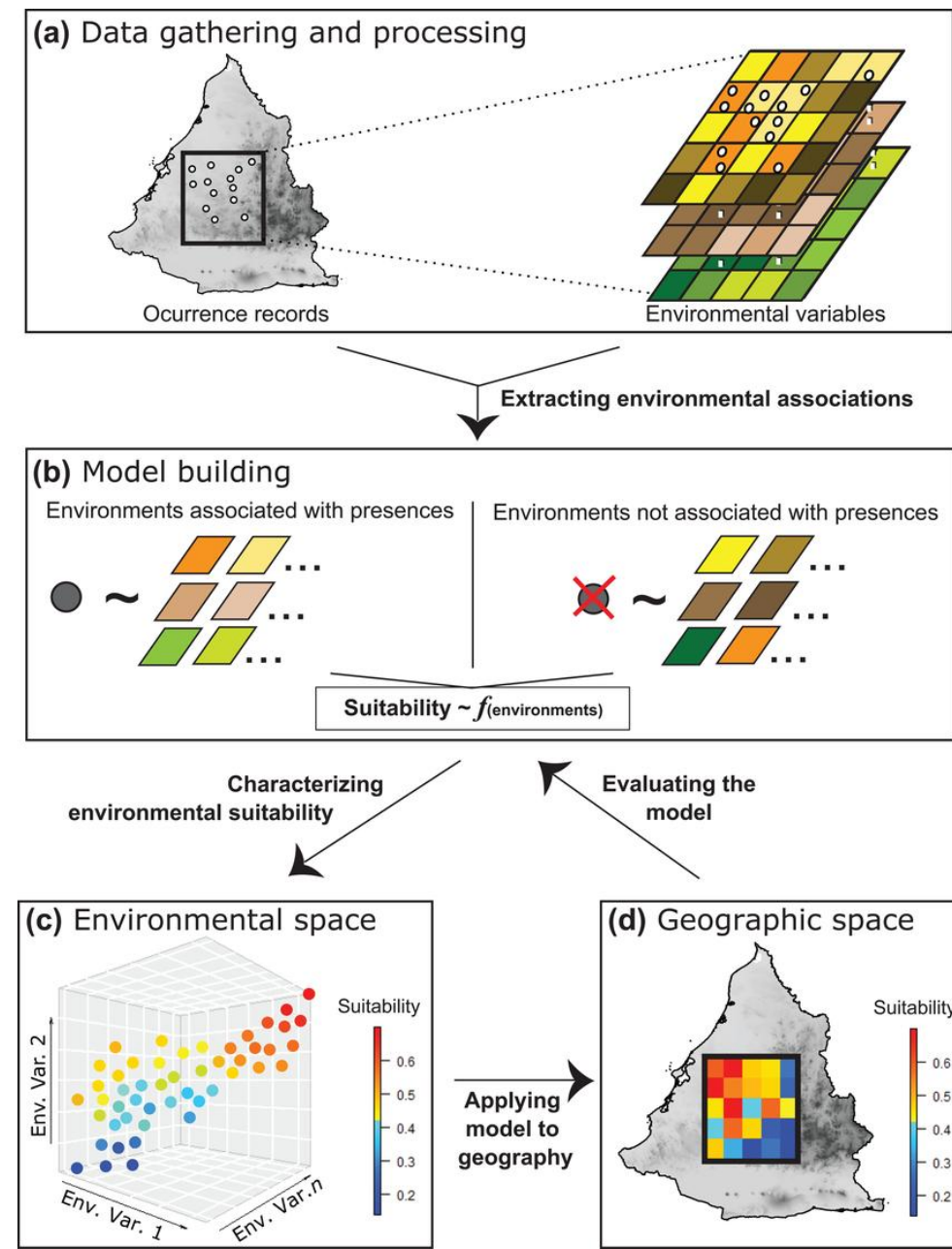
- Scallop distributions are non-stationary across depth, substrate, and thermal gradients.
- Climate-driven habitat reorganization can be masked by spatially aggregated assessments.
- **Habitat quality evaluation for scallop stock assessments has not been conducted since 2015 (SCART 2025).**
- HSI surfaces provide a common geographic framework for systematic OSW overlap assessment.



Retrieved from NOAA Fisheries species directory

HABITAT SUITABILITY INDICES

- Quantify environmental suitability for a species at a given location and time.
- Integrate multiple habitat drivers into a single, spatially continuous metric.
- Output: probability surface across the MAB (0 = unsuitable → 1 = optimal).
- Model-based, reproducible, and updatable as conditions change (Tanaka et al., 2020).



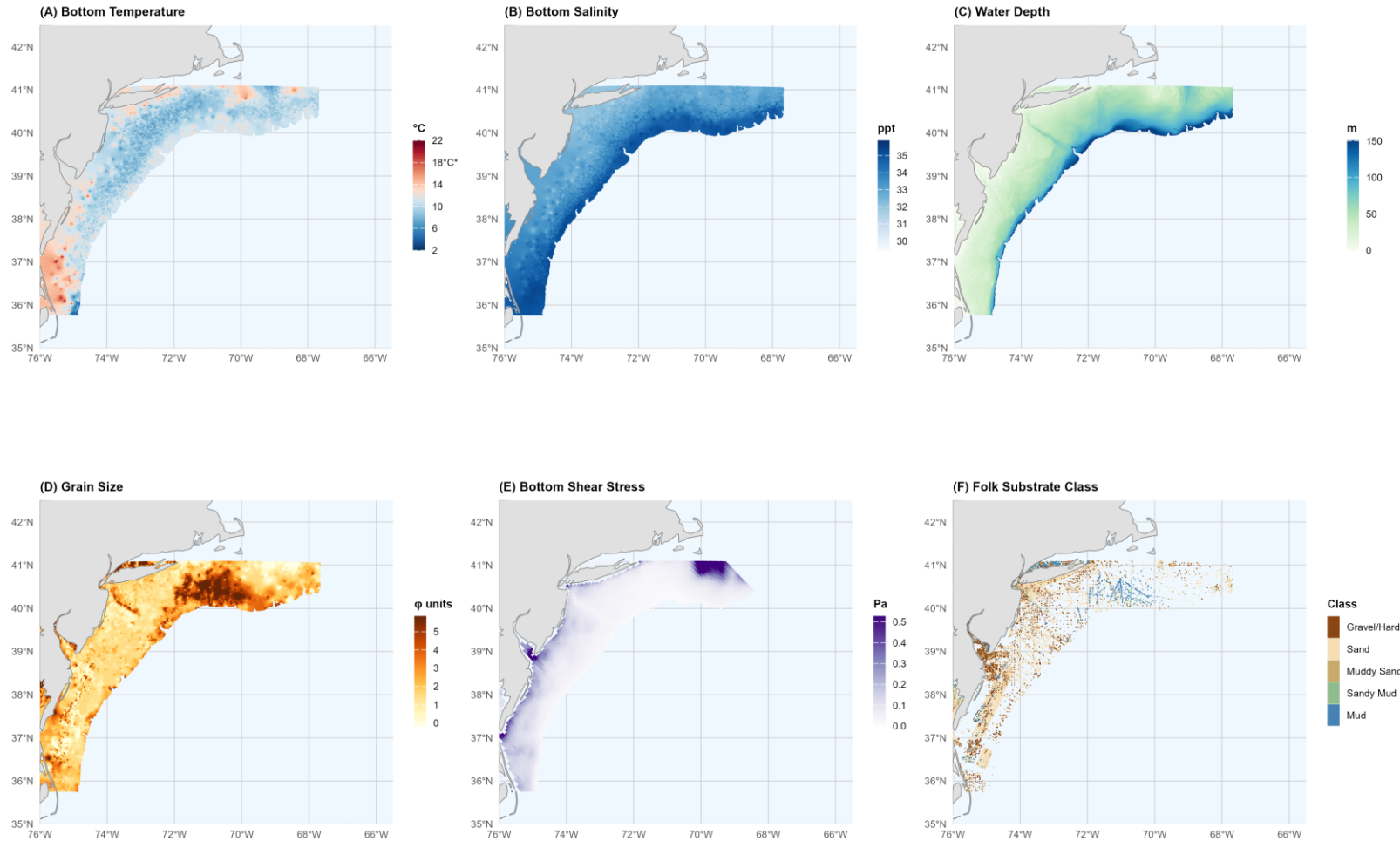
Soley-Guardia et al., 2024



HABITAT DRIVERS

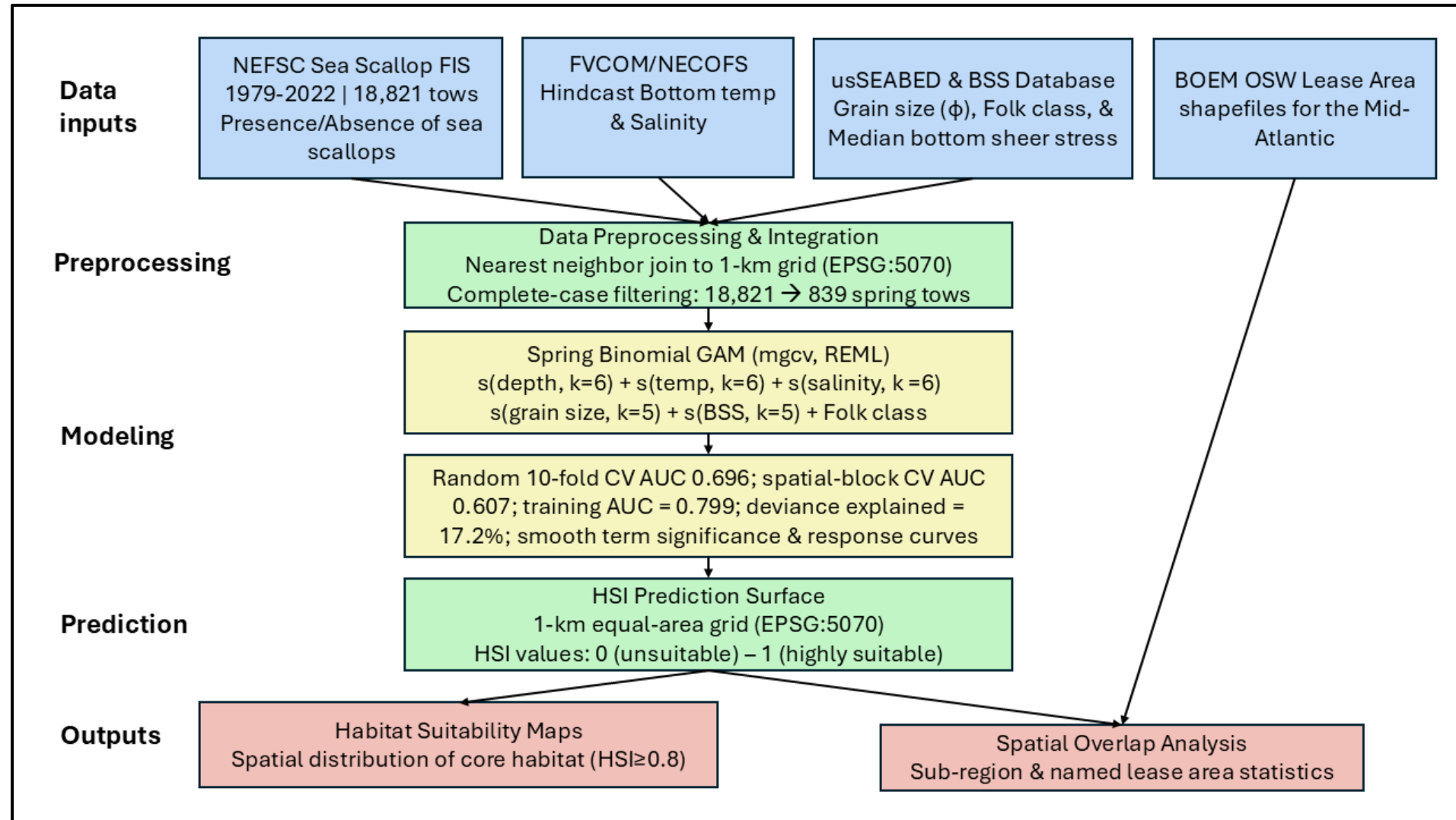
Figure 7. Environmental covariates used in habitat suitability modeling

FVCOM/NECOFS (A, B) • GEBCO bathymetry (C) • usSEABED ATL_EXT (D, F) • Dalyander et al. 2012 (E)
All layers interpolated to a 1-km equal-area grid (EPSG:5070); station means used for temperature and salinity



MODELING PIPELINE

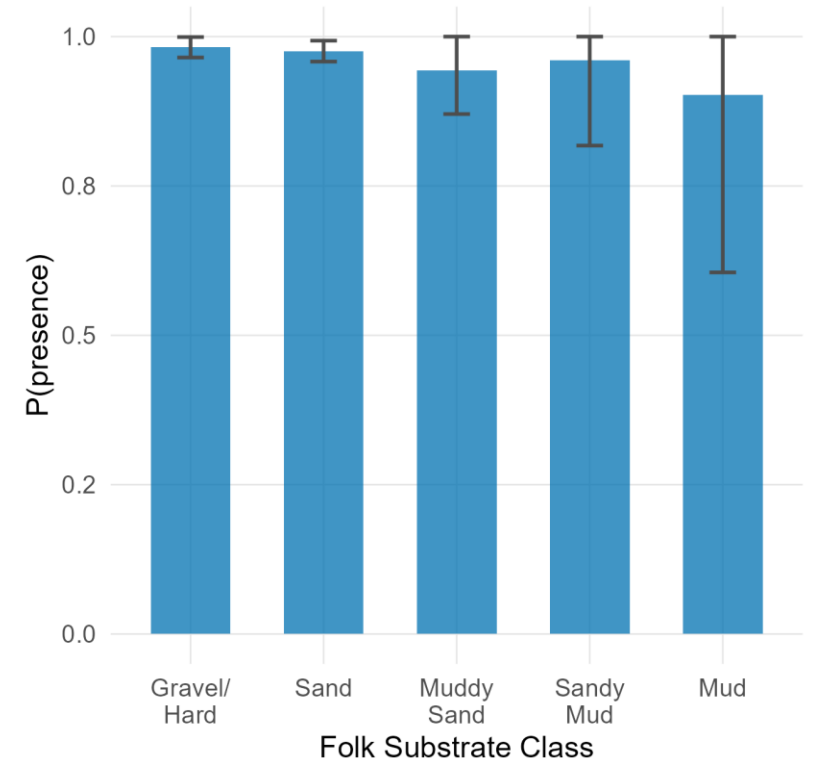
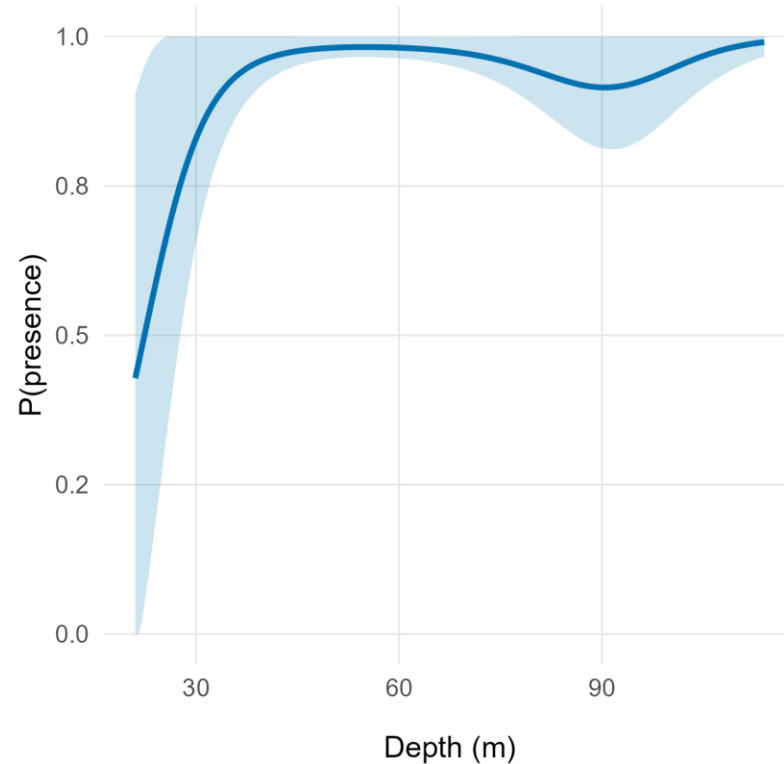
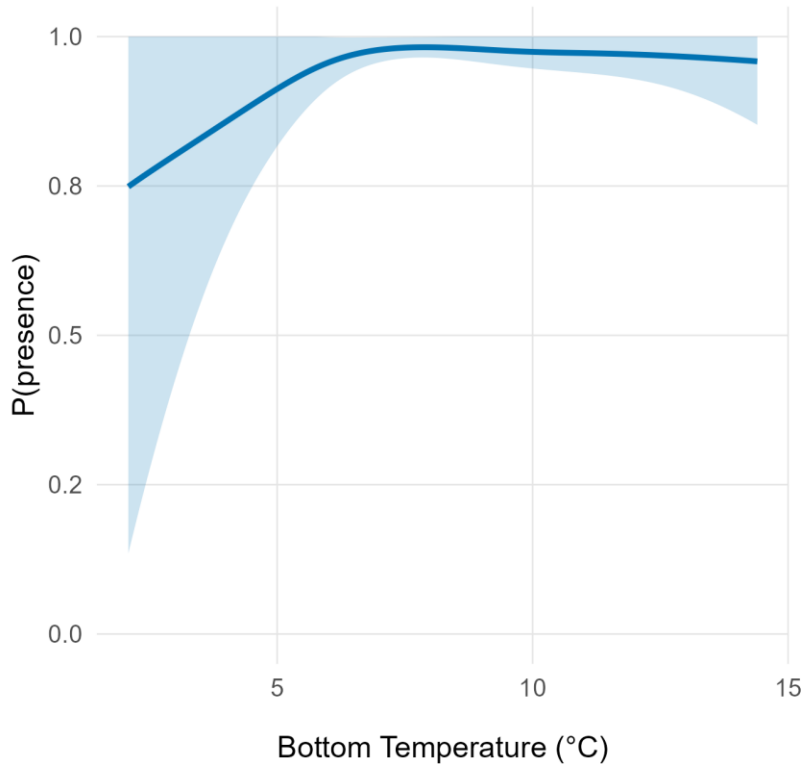
- Note: Complete-case filtering reduced the dataset from 18,821 survey tows to 839 spring observations due to limited spatial overlap among environmental layers.
- This may introduce spatial and temporal bias if filtered tows are not representative of the full survey footprint.



GAM RESPONSE CURVES

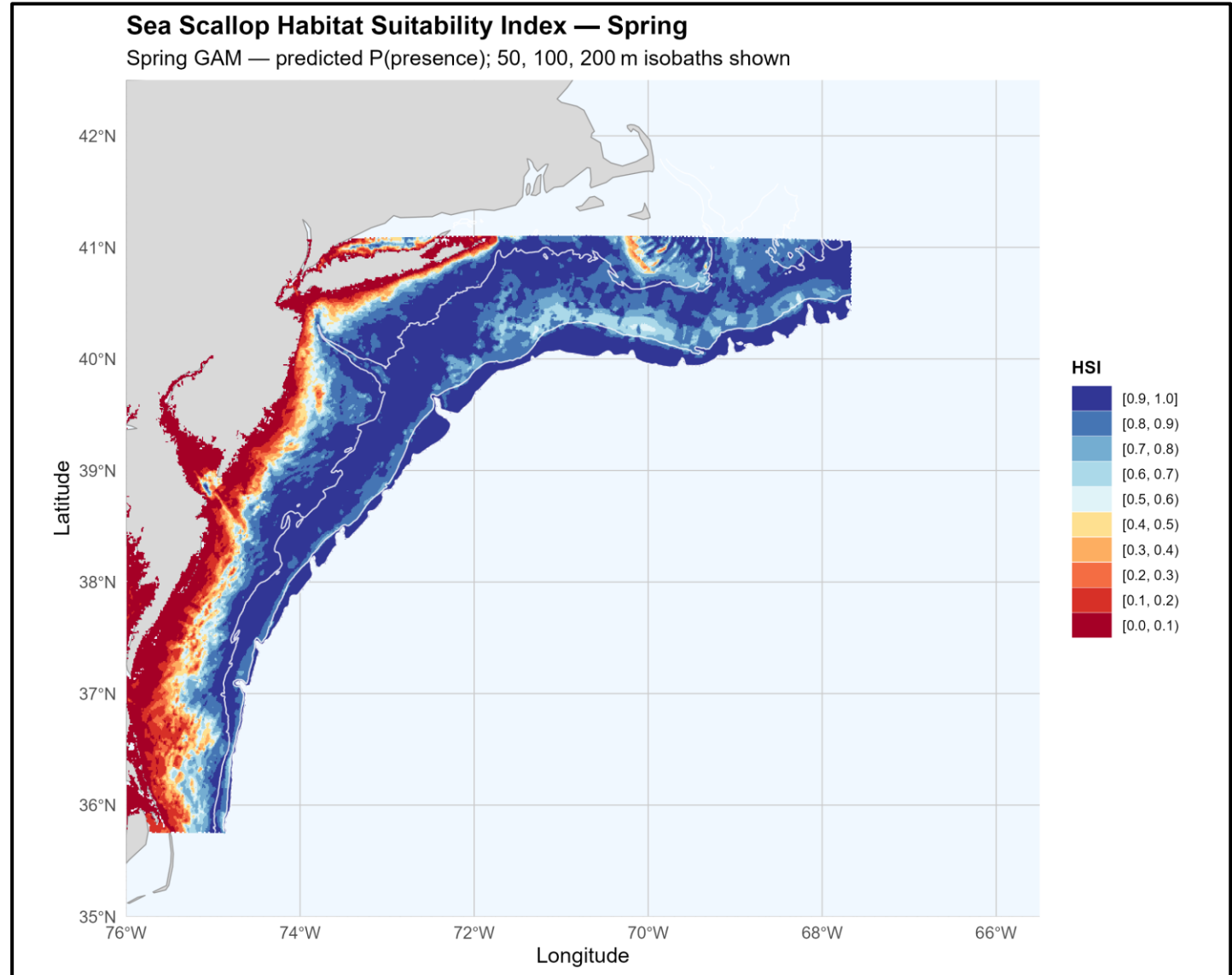
Sea Scallop GAM Marginal Response Curves — Spring Model

Predicted P(presence) with 95% CI; all other predictors held at spring-season medians/reference level



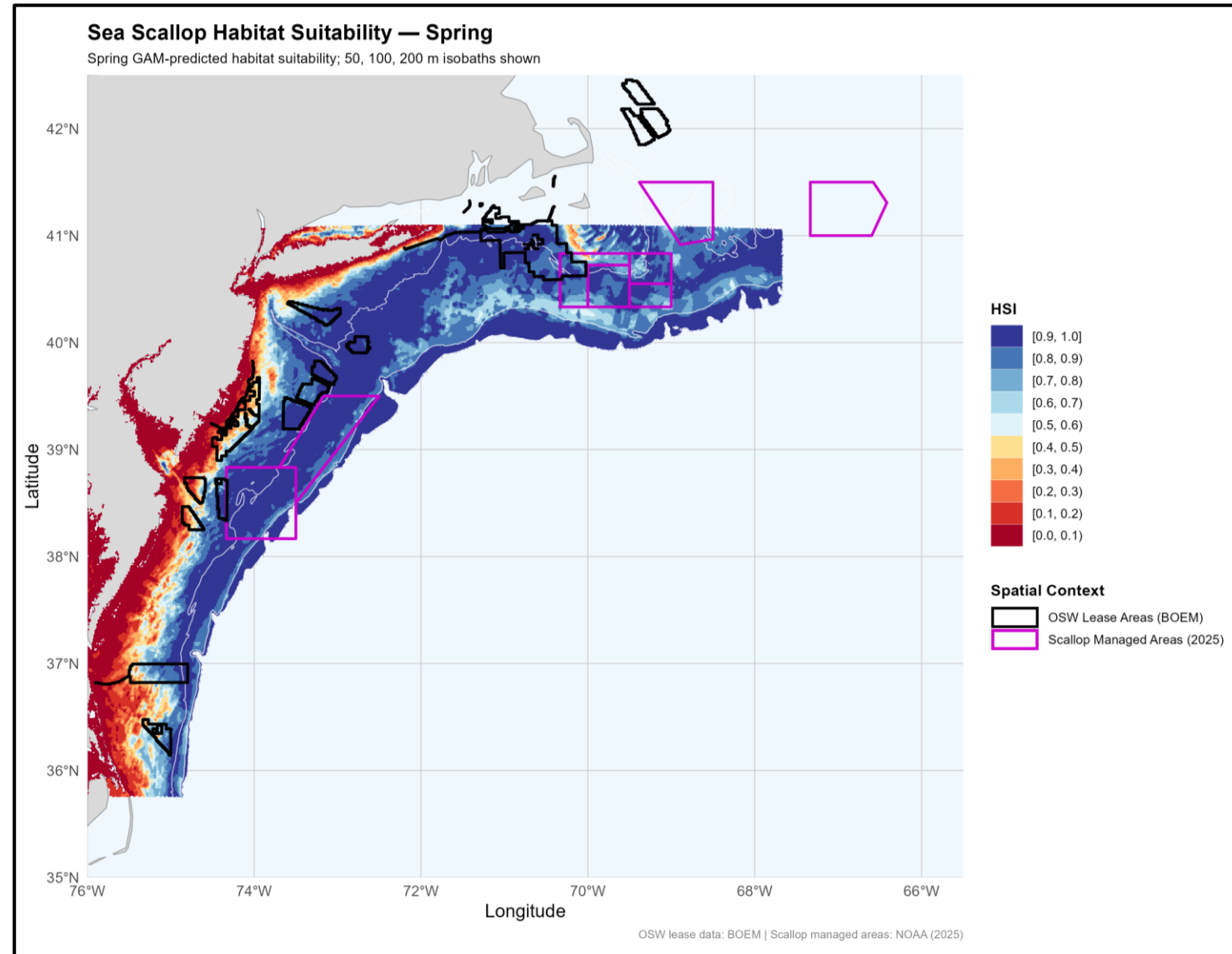
HABITAT SUITABILITY MAP

- High suitability concentrated along the mid-shelf, 50–100 m depth zone.
- Inshore and southern areas show consistently low suitability.
- **Note:** the HSI predicts environmental suitability for scallop occurrence and should not be interpreted as a direct measure of biomass, productivity, recruitment potential, or EFH value.



OFFSHORE WIND SPATIAL OVERLAP

- Overlap is concentrated between 39–41°N.
- Several lease areas intersect directly with predicted suitable habitat ($\text{HSI} \geq 0.8$).
- Managed scallop areas and OSW lease areas overlap in the northern MAB.



SPATIAL OVERLAP QUANTIFICATION

- MAB-wide: 63.7% of total OSW lease areas fall within *predicted* suitable habitat ($HSI \geq 0.8$).
- Northern MAB shows highest lease-habitat overlap: 85.8% of lease area within *predicted* suitable habitat.
- Several lease areas (Beacon Wind, SouthCoast Wind, Bay State Wind & Commonwealth Wind) show **90-100% spatial overlap**.
- Substantial variability across individual leases not captured by sub-regional statistics alone.

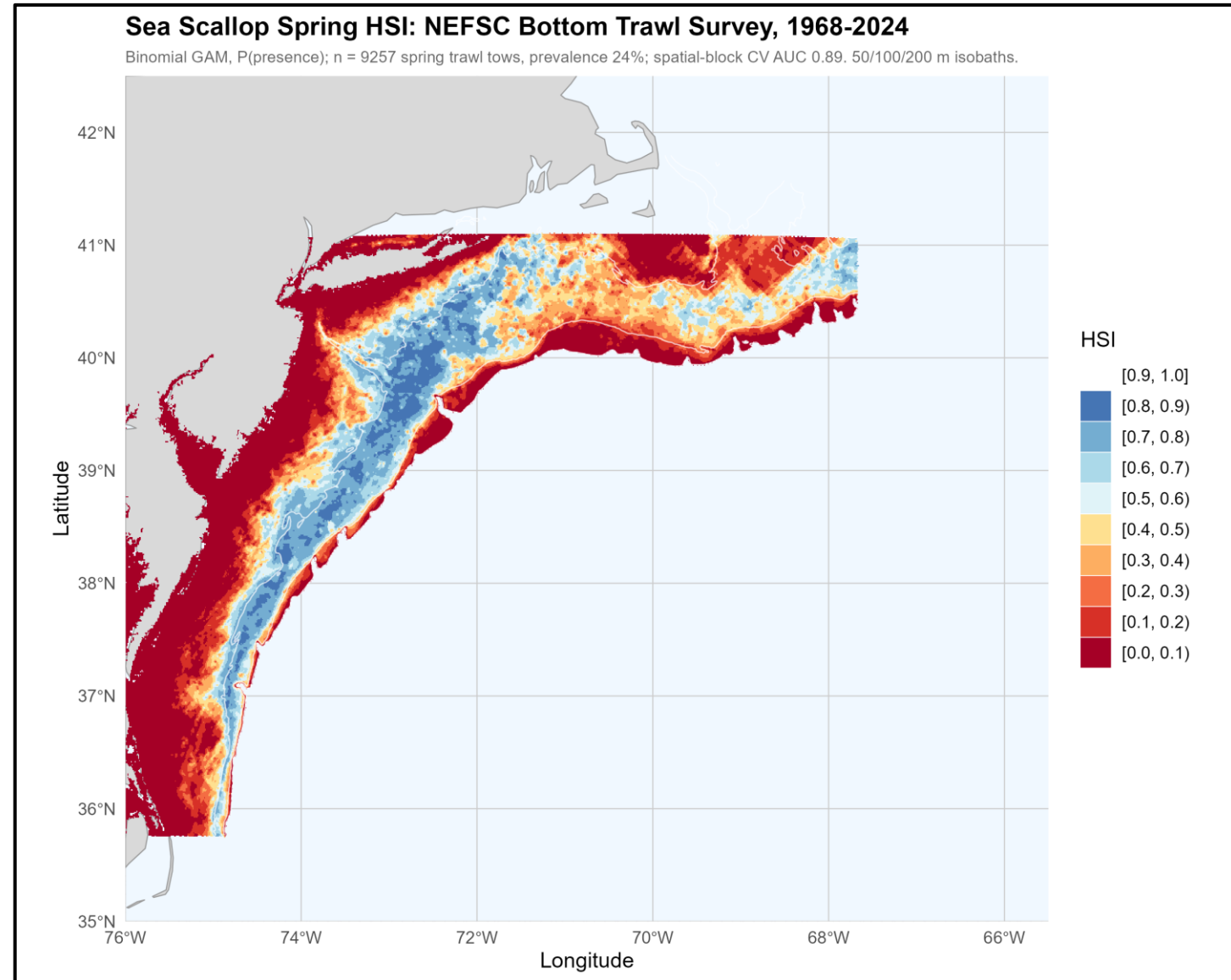
Sub-region	Suitable Habitat (km ²)	Lease Area (km ²)	Overlap (km ²)	Suitable Habitat Covered by Lease (%)	Lease Area in Suitable Habitat (%)
Southern MAB (35–37.5°N)	23,089	1,676	837	3.6	49.9
Central MAB (NYB; 37.5–40°N)	65,508	4,260	1,997	3.0	46.9
Northern MAB (40–42.5°N)	49,845	4,288	3,678	7.4	85.8
MAB Total	76,398	10,224	6,512	8.5	63.7

Note: Sub-region habitat areas come from independent latitude-band intersections with rectangular-crop geometry and are not additive to the MAB total; the MAB-total row is the definitive figure



VALIDATION & COMPANION MODELS

- An independent NEFSC bottom-trawl model (balanced ~24% prevalence, about 9,300 spring tows) reproduces the same 50-100 m mid-shelf pattern and validates far better: spatial-block CV AUC 0.89.
- The longer bottom-trawl record indicates the shelf-wide suitable area has fluctuated across decades; recent loss of suitable habitat is concentrated at the inshore and southern margins, not shelf-wide.
- A companion delta / hurdle abundance GAM concentrates predicted biomass in a narrow northern-MAB and Southern New England band near 40.5-41 N; about 8-9% overlaps OSW areas.
 - Low out-of-sample skill, so spatial pattern only.



UNCERTAINTY & LIMITATIONS

- Out-of-sample discrimination is modest (spatial-block CV AUC 0.607 vs 0.799 training); the surface is descriptive, not a validated forecast.
- Spring-only model; static climatology predictors miss interannual variability.
- Small spring sample size ($n = 839$); high survey prevalence (90.6% presence) limits model specificity.
- Dissolved oxygen excluded despite ecological relevance; spatially continuous DO data unavailable at MAB scale.
- Biotic interactions (predation, disease, competition) not incorporated.



CONCLUSIONS

- Scallop habitat is strongly structured by environmental gradients.
- Predicted suitable habitat is concentrated in areas targeted for offshore wind development.
- **Spatial overlap does not imply scallops will be absent from lease areas or that fishing activity will necessarily decline; it identifies areas of potentially competing interests.**
- HSI-based approaches can support ecosystem-based marine spatial planning, helping to identify areas of co-occurring interest across fishery, habitat, and energy development objectives.



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THANKS FOR LISTENING, QUESTIONS?



Flanders Bay,
Riverhead NY



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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NYSERDA
New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority



ROSA
Responsible Offshore
Science Alliance

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Offshore Wind Mitigation Fund Progress

NYSERDA F-TWG, September 11, 2026

Brad Schondelmeier, MA DMF
Offshore Wind and Fishery Specialist



Presentation Outline

- Massachusetts' Mitigation Fund Background
 - Fisheries Innovation Fund (Vineyard Wind)
 - Coastal Community Fund (Ørsted)
- Fisheries Innovation Fund - Solicitation1
Awarded Projects and Progress
- Additional MA Initiatives and Partnerships
- Questions and Links



Massachusetts Offshore Wind Mitigation Funds

Fisheries Innovation Fund (FIF)



Vineyard Wind and MA EEA
Agreement from May 2020



\$1,750,000

Coastal Community Fund (CCF)



Ørsted and MA EEA Agreements July '21
(SFW), May '23 (REV) and October '23 (SRW)

\$1,600,000 total

PURPOSE

Support programs and projects that **ensure safe and profitable fishing continues** as Vineyard Wind and future offshore wind projects are developed in Northern Atlantic waters...

Provide grants for **initiatives supporting coastal communities in Massachusetts...** (Including marketing, training, infrastructure, technology and supporting the productivity of the commercial fishing industry)...

STRUCTURE

FIF Advisory Panel (AP)/ CCF Advisory Council (AC): (at least) nine-member group appointed to 3-year terms by MA Dept. Fish & Game Commissioner, led by MA DMF Director, with representatives from:

- MA Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (2)
- Lobster trap fishery
- Commercial fishery advocacy organization
- Wholesale seafood dealer
- New Bedford Port Authority
- Mobile gear fishery
- For-hire hook and line fishery
- Offshore wind developer (FIF only)

Each Fund is eligible to receive influx from Fisheries Compensation after 5 years of Commercial Operations

Current Status of MA Mitigation Funds



Fisheries Innovation Fund (FIF)

\$1,750,000
(~\$550k remains)





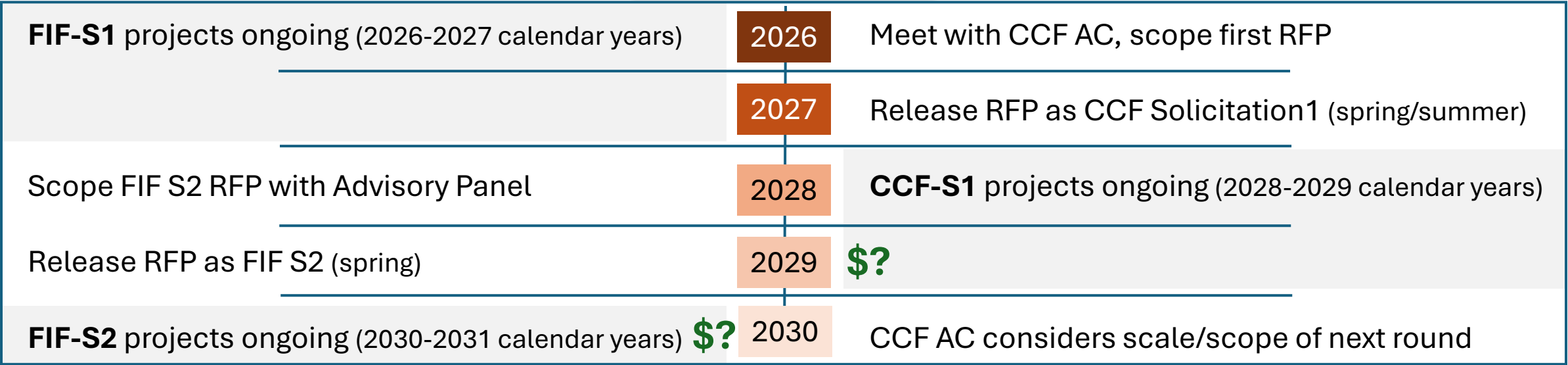
Coastal Community Fund (CCF)

\$1,600,000 total
(\$200k SFW / \$400k REV / \$1m SRW)

CURRENT STATUS

- **\$1.17m in funding awarded December 2025**
- Administering projects from Solicitation 1 (S1)
- Currently appointing Advisory Council
- Convening first meeting in October

FUTURE TIMELINE



Fund Administrators will consider transfers from Direct Comp to Mitigation Funds in 2029, 2031, 2032...



Fisheries Innovation Fund Solicitation 1 Awards



Solicitation 1: 20 proposals requesting \$3.37m, subject to initial and final review process

Priority	Awardee	Project Title	Funding
Fishing Innovation	FV Martha Elizabeth	Fishermen Led Gear Innovation in Southern New England	\$ 174,908
	Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation	Advancing Mechanical Jigging to Strengthen Squid Fishery Resilience Amid Offshore Wind Development	\$ 261,443
	UMass Dartmouth - SMAST	Novel fish potting with lights for black seabass and scup: Developing innovative fishing gear for safe and efficient operation in offshore wind farm areas	\$ 265,984
Community	Eating with the Ecosystem	Reelsilience: Strengthening Markets for Massachusetts Seafood through Video and Public Engagement	\$ 156,533
	New Bedford Port Authority	New Bedford Seafood Study, Marketing and Promotional Campaign	\$ 250,000
Safety	Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation	Evaluating the Hazard of Trawling Over Cable Protection Mattresses	\$ 60,768

MA Commercial Fishing Industry received \$236,000, NB/C&I applicants received \$742,000

Fisheries Innovation Fund - Project 1 Details

Fishing
Innovation

Fishermen Led Gear Innovation in Southern New England

Project Lead: FV Martha Elizabeth/Wes Brighton/Menemsha MA

Project Partners: Coonamessett Farm Foundation, Falmouth MA



- Develop, test and monitor lighted traps for finfish, scallops and possibly squid
- Goal is to produce viable gear solutions that can sustain and supplement fishing opportunities in or alongside offshore wind farms

Complete/in progress

- Designed/built 11 fish traps
- Experimental design approved
- Permits/LOAs acquired
- Lab experiment (scallop) ongoing



Upcoming achievements

- Conduct field work
 - State/federal waters
 - Data collection and analysis
- Complete by end of 2027



Fisheries Innovation Fund - Project 2 Details

Fishing
Innovation

Advancing Mechanical Jigging to Strengthen Squid Fishery Resilience Amid Offshore Wind Development

Project Lead: Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation/David Bethoney/Saunderstown, RI
Project Partners: FVs Princess Scarlett & Lightning Bay, The Town Dock, Atlantic Shellfish, Inc., Coonamessett Farm Foundation (Falmouth MA), Fishing Machine LLC – Japan



- Leverage existing knowledge to streamline deployment and operations of jig machines to maximize catches
- Develop SOP for deploying jig gear - inshore, within/near offshore wind farms and offshore
- Create outreach materials and share results with relevant communities and regulatory bodies

Complete/in progress

- Installed jig equipment, lights on contracted vessel
- Successful first sea trial on FV Lightning Bay
- Encouraging squid catch rates



Photo credits: CFRF

Upcoming achievements

- Next install/trials: October aboard FV Princess Scarlett
- Further trials aboard FV Lightning Bay
- Develop SOP manual
- Complete by end of 2026



Fisheries Innovation Fund - Project 3 Details

Novel fish potting with lights for black seabass and scup: Developing innovative fishing gear for safe and efficient operation in offshore wind farm areas

Fishing
Innovation

Project Lead: UMassD-SMAST/Pingguo He/New Bedford, MA

Project Partners: Reidars Manufacturing (New Bedford), local commercial fisherman



- Develop and evaluate fish pots with different LED light colors
- Commercial fisherman will deploy best-performing pot/light configuration in OSW array
- Measure catch performance and describe economic feasibility of broader industry adoption

Complete/in progress

- 3 types of fish pots acquired
- Pots deployed at SMAST for spring/summer observations with different treatments
- Pot modifications ongoing



Photo credit: SMAST

Upcoming achievements

- Incorporate video and sonar to document fish behavior
- Expand fishing trials to Buzzards Bay, then an offshore wind farm
- Complete late 2027



Fisheries Innovation Fund - Project 4 Details

Reelsilience: Strengthening Markets for Massachusetts Seafood through Video and Public Engagement

Project Lead: Eating with the Ecosystem/Kate Masury/South Coast, MA

Project Partners: Tackle2thePeople, collaborating chefs and commercial fishermen



- Promote MA-harvested seafood (Scup, sea bass, pollock, monkfish, Jonah crab, skate, whiting) through public engagement, produced video episodes (with fishermen and chefs) and social media
- Host four public events in MA, pairing episode screenings with tastings and panel discussions
- Reduce consumer intimidation, grow seafood demand and build public support for fishing industry

Complete/in progress

- Two episodes released
 - Longfin squid
 - Tuna/mahi (230k views!)
- One short-form episode
 - Menemsha Meet the Fleet



"An Honest Look at the American Squid Fishery" ([YouTube](#))

Upcoming achievements

- More episodes and social media content coming
- Four public engagement events for late 2026-2027
- Project complete end of 2027



Fisheries Innovation Fund - Project 5 Details

New Bedford Seafood Study, Marketing and Promotional Campaign

Project Lead: New Bedford Port Authority/John Regan/New Bedford, MA

Project Partners: New Bedford Ocean Cluster/Jen Downing, seafood marketing entity



- Marketing and promotional campaign for New Bedford fisheries and seafood products
- Strengthen market visibility, consumer awareness and New Bedford brand identity
- Support local fishermen, enhance New Bedford's competitiveness and generate measurable economic benefits throughout the region

Complete/in progress

- Appointed Steering Committee
- Scoped and finalized Request for Proposals for seafood marketing firm
- Released RFP August 14



Upcoming achievements

- Select marketing contractor
 - Brand recognition
 - Visibility and outreach
 - Seafood events
- Roll out marketing campaign



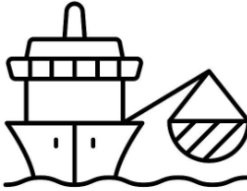
Fisheries Innovation Fund - Project 6 Details

Safety

Evaluating the Hazard of Trawling Over Cable Protection Mattresses

Project Lead: Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation/David Bethoney/Saunderstown, RI

Project Partners: Commercial fisherman, Superior Trawl



- Assess how different trawl gears and configurations, when towed at different speeds and directions, interact with cable protection mattresses
- Document and describe any gear damage, snagging incidents and movement of cable mattresses
- Collect feedback from fishermen on handling, safety and performance

Complete/in progress

- Contracted with commercial fisherman and net-maker
- Awarded additional funds (RIFFVT) to pre-survey mattresses
- Contracted RV and conducted pre-survey (side-scan sonar)



Upcoming achievements

- Sea trials planned through October
- Commercial dragger to tow various gear over mattresses
- Identify other areas of concern
- Complete by early 2027



Other Massachusetts Offshore Wind Initiatives and Partnerships

- MA [Fisheries Working Group](#) and [Habitat Working Group](#) on Offshore Wind
- MA [Commercial Fisheries Commission](#) – Offshore Wind Focus Group
- RI/MA Fisheries and Energy Partnership
- MA [Interagency Offshore Wind Council](#)
- [Regional Fund for Fisheries Compensation](#)



Questions?

Acknowledgements

- Fisheries Innovation Fund Advisory Panel members
- Fishing Industry partners
- MA DMF, DFG, CZM and MassCEC staff



QR Codes and Links of Interest

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries – Offshore Wind Webpage (under construction)



Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards Nearly \$1.2 Million to Support Fishing Industry

Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

**Evaluating the Hazard of Trawling Over
Cable Protection Mattresses Webpage**

Squid Jigging Research Program Webpage



**FIF Project4: “Commercial Draggers: An Honest Look at the American Squid Fishery”
(Tackle2thePeople YouTube)**



**FIF Project4: “Dropping BIG Baits 1000 Feet Deep...What's Biting?”
(Tackle2thePeople YouTube)**

ROSA

Responsible Offshore
Science Alliance

Updates on ROSA Research Efforts NYSERDA FTWG - September 11, 2026

Growing collaboration at the intersection of ocean development & fisheries

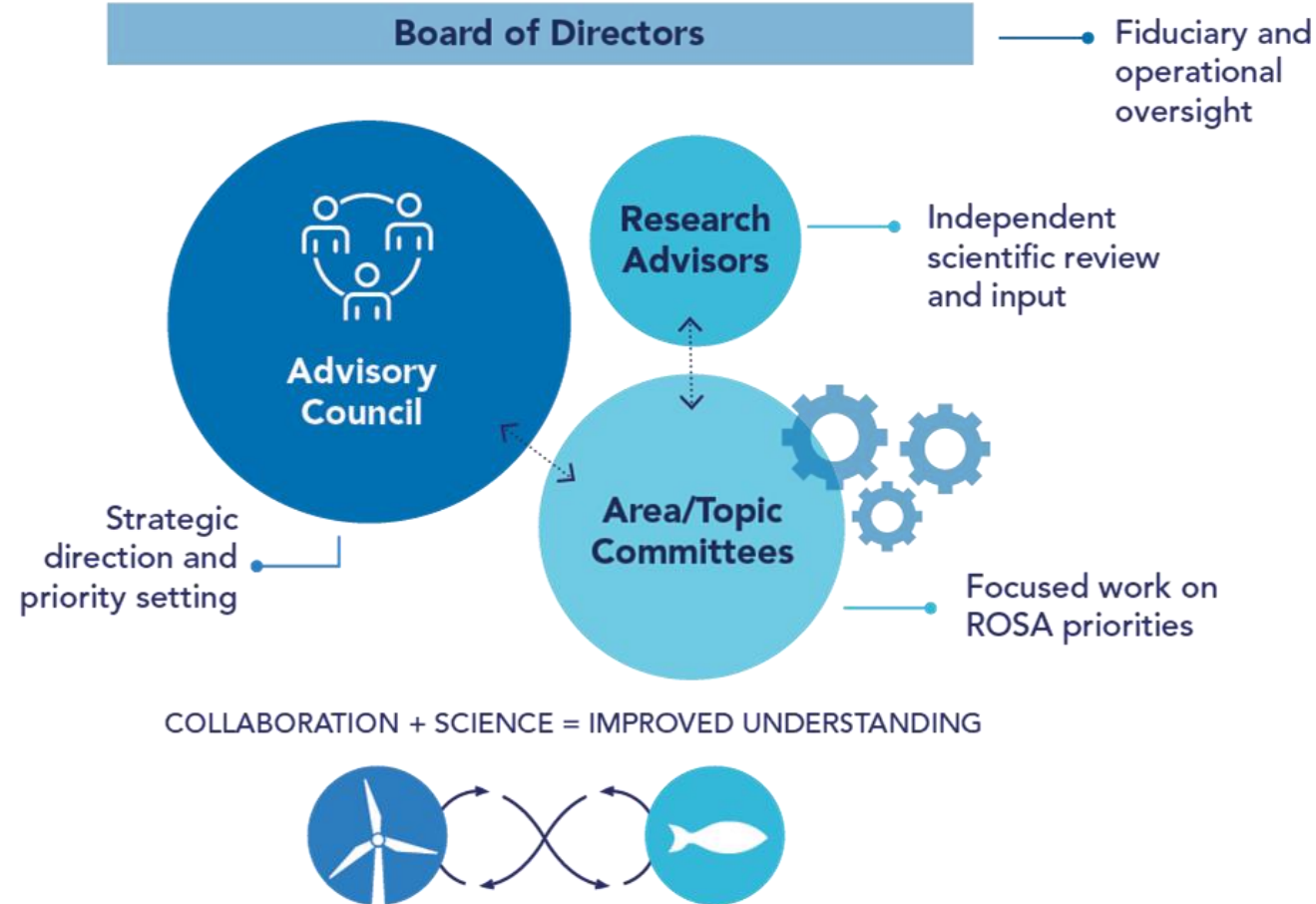


SCIENTIFIC
COLLABORATIVE
OBJECTIVE
TRANSPARENT

The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) is a nonprofit organization that provides for and advances regional scientific research, monitoring and understanding of **fisheries** and the interactions with **blue economy activities** in state and federal waters of the U.S. through collaboration and cooperation.

We serve as an objective resource for all sectors and facilitate the coordination of regional scientific research to collaboratively and efficiently deepen understanding.

ROSA Organizational Structure



The Regional Landscape



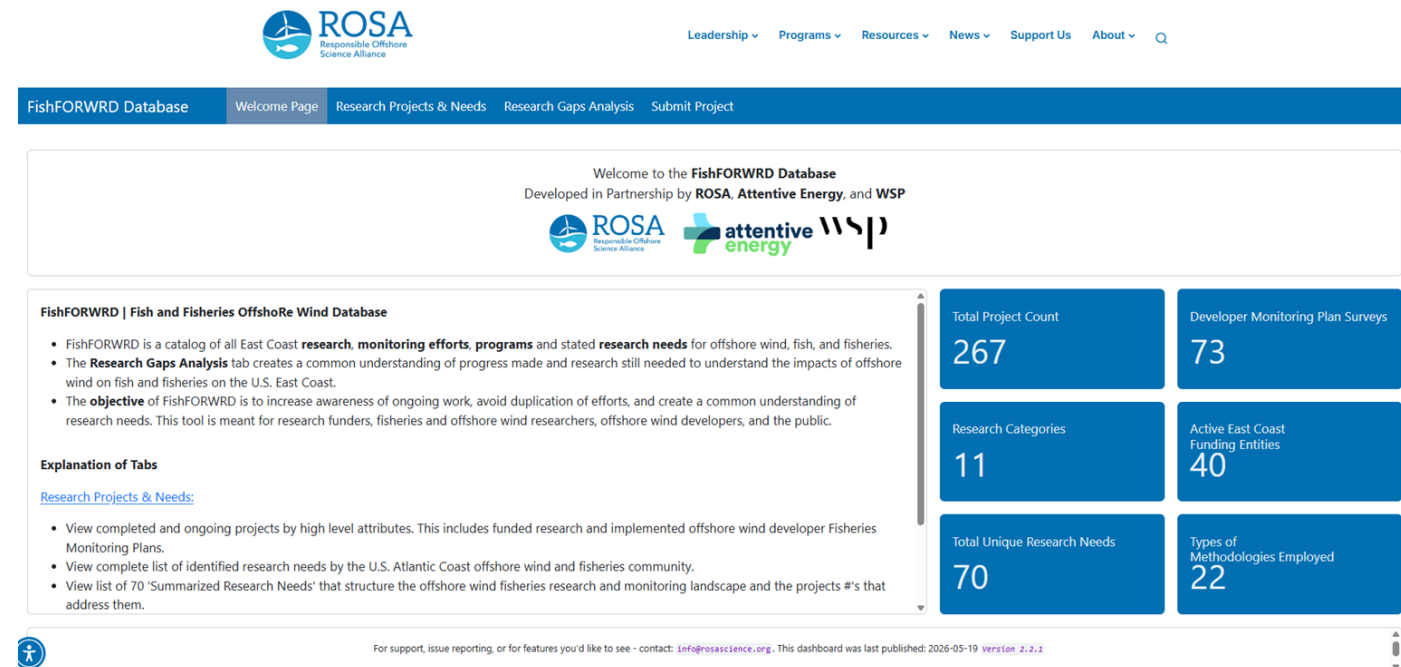
- OSW projects remain under construction in the Mid-Atlantic & Southern New England
- Project-level fisheries monitoring continues throughout
- Region-wide, more than 40 new research projects began multi-year field, modeling, and analysis work in late 2025/early 2026, across state, federal, regional, and NGO funders
- ROSA convenes funders (via ORFCOR) to coordinate this landscape & avoid duplicated effort across an increasingly complex set of simultaneous investments

FishFORWRD: Tracking the Region's Work



- Central database of offshore wind fisheries research, monitoring efforts, & stated research needs across the Atlantic Coast
- Interactive dashboard, filter by:
 - Location
 - Receptor
 - Methodology, etc.

- Serves as the shared evidence base to avoid duplication & broaden understanding

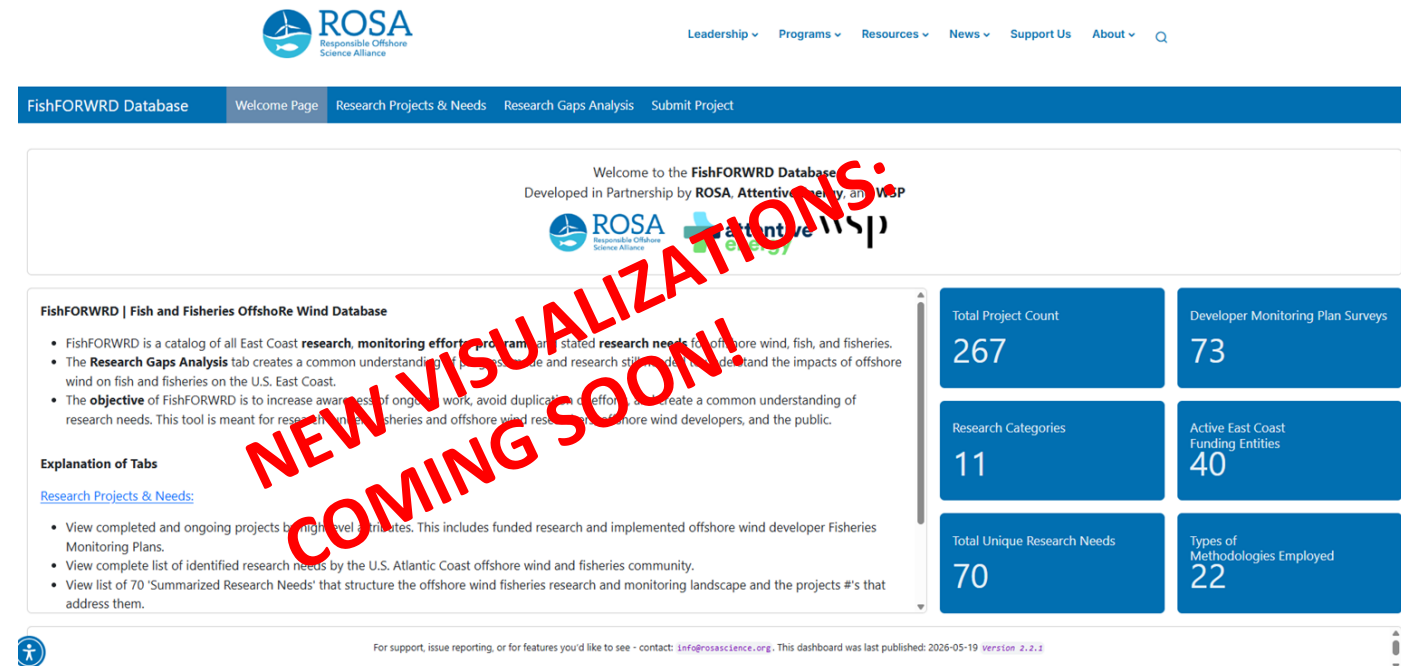


FishFORWRD: Tracking the Region's Work

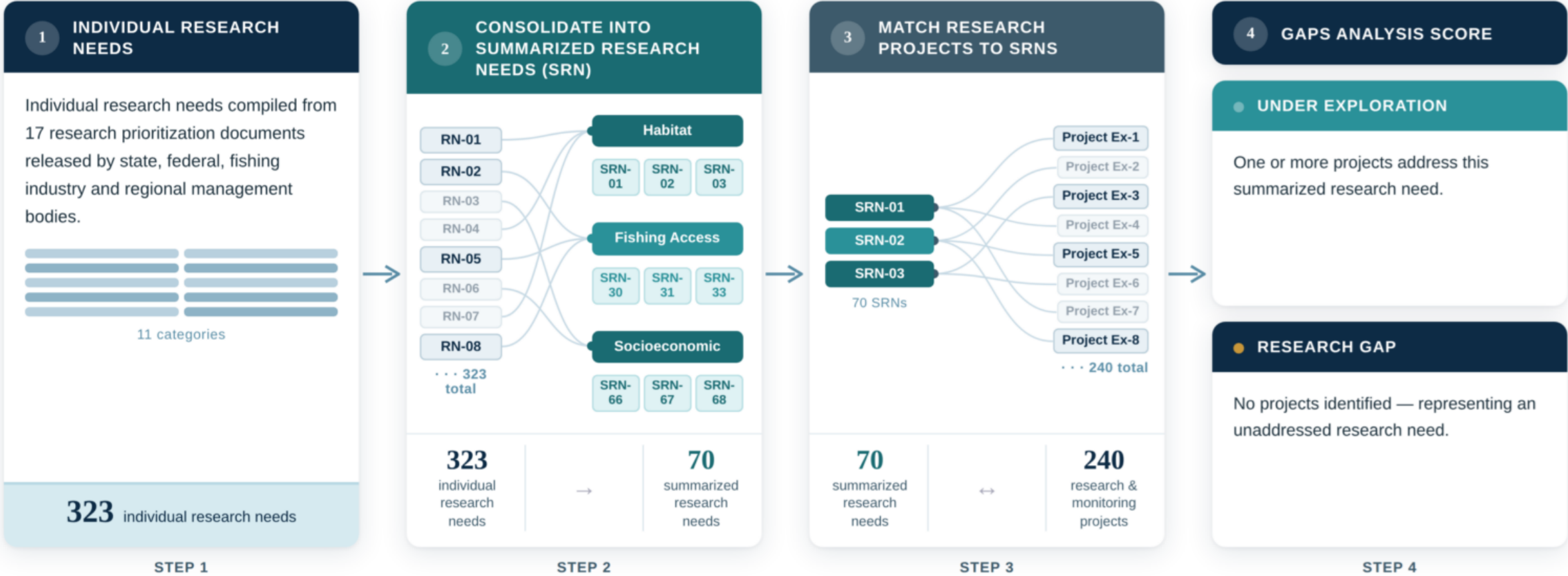


- Central database of offshore wind fisheries research, monitoring efforts, & stated research needs across the Atlantic Coast
- Interactive dashboard, filter by:
 - Location
 - Receptor
 - Methodology, etc.

- Serves as the shared evidence base to avoid duplication & broaden understanding



Research Gaps Analysis Process



Research Gaps Analysis

- **Final Report (March 2026)**



- **Webinar playback**



<https://vimeo.com/1181258487?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

- 240 projects mapped against
- 70 Summarized Research Needs (SRNs) across
- 11 Research Categories
 - 7 SRNs remain full research gaps

Ongoing updates to database and research gaps analysis

From coverage to synthesizing results: MassCEC award

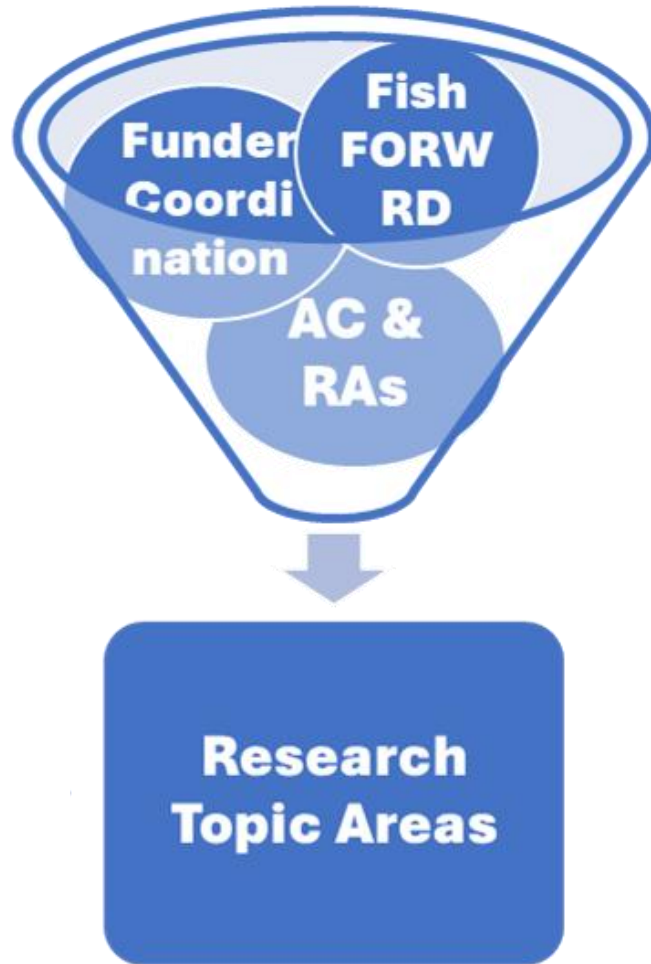


- “Building Lasting Pathways for Offshore Wind Fisheries Science in Massachusetts,” partnering with Fat Moon Creative
- Translate research synthesis into decision-relevant communication products
- Targets three audiences:
 1. fishing industry
 2. state/regional fisheries & energy managers
 3. research community
- Fall 2027 port tours
- Responds to the gap in *Fisheries Engagement & Capacity Building* being underexplored (only 3 of 240 projects address it, even as 65% of FishFORWRD projects are scheduled to be completed by end of 2026)



ROSA's Regional Research & Monitoring Program

ROSA's Regional Research & Monitoring Program



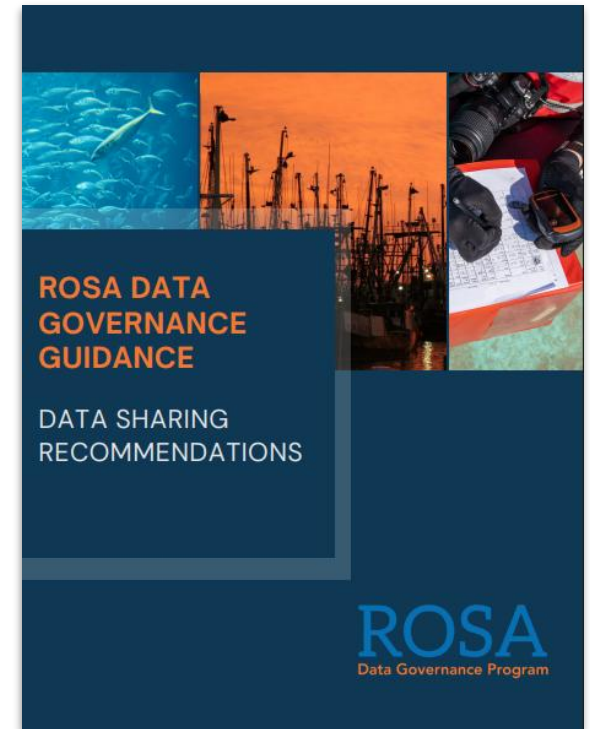
- \$3.4M Regional Research Program funded through Empire Wind 1 (NYSERDA OREC solicitation)
- 10 projects selected in 2025; hypothesis-driven research & monitoring chosen against priorities identified in the Research Gaps Analysis
- Funded topic areas:
 1. Enhancing **fisheries access** in & near wind farms
 2. Impacts on **larval** survival/transport/settlement/distribution
 3. Data integration frameworks for **regional monitoring & cumulative assessments**
- All resulting work products are being made publicly available in accordance with ROSA's Data Policy
- Read more at rosascience.org/awarded-projects



ROSA Data Governance Program

Data Governance Guidance (Aug 2026)

- Practical reference for **planning, publishing, & sharing** OSW fisheries data
- Built on **FAIR & CARE principles**; CC-BY licensed, citable in contracts
- Sets shared expectations:
 - data/metadata public **within 1 year** of last collection
 - **DMSP required** for funded projects
- Developed with the ROSA Data Governance Committee/WGs, RWSC, NROC, MARCO, & Intertidal Agency



Fishing Gear Data Sharing Recommendations

- Recommends fishing-gear survey data (trawls, gillnets, pots/traps, dredges) be published to OBIS, following standardized format & metadata
- Directly responsive to BOEM permitting requirements for pre/post-construction fish and invertebrate surveys

Practical safeguards for comparability:

Record absences

Document sampling effort

Distinguish survey series

Flag raw vs. standardized

Standardized survey data from OSW monitoring can extend the reach of existing federal & state fisheries surveys, but **only if usable across projects & comparable to long-running time series.**

REGIONAL COORDINATION OF FISHING GEAR SURVEY DATA

ROSA recommends that fisheries monitoring & research data collected through the use of traditional fishing gears (e.g., otter trawls, beam trawls, gillnet/trammel nets, pots/traps, & dredges) be:

ROSA
Data Governance Program

OFFSHORE WIND MONITORING DATA USE CASE
Federal permitting requires offshore wind developers to survey fish & invertebrate communities to establish baseline conditions/track change over time.
BOEM guidelines include:

- At least two years of pre-construction data
- Across all four seasons, with
- Post-construction monitoring in project-specific RODs & COP conditions.

State agencies may add further requirements through their own permits.
When standardized & well-documented, these surveys can extend the reach of long-running federal & state fisheries monitoring, but only if the data are formatted, documented, & shared in ways that make them usable across projects.

HELPFUL LINKS

- **OBIS Manual**
 - Data Publication & Sharing: manual.obis.org/data_publication.html
 - DwC Terms: manual.obis.org/darwin_core.html
- **WoRMS Taxon Match tool**
 - marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=match

Please contact info@rosience.org with any questions or for assistance implementing these recommendations.

Best & Preferred

1. Published to the **Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)**. Data should follow the OBIS requirements for data structure & format, & include descriptive metadata that meets or exceeds the minimum metadata requirements in the ROSA Data Governance Guidance. Go to the OBIS manual for steps on how to do this.
2. Shared within **one year** of the last date of collection.

At Minimum

Publish metadata records per OBIS Manual EML guidance in advance of complete datasets.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FISHING GEAR SURVEY DATA IN OBIS

- **Record absences, not just catches.** Species surveyed for but not caught at a tow/set should be recorded as explicit absence records.
- **Document sampling effort.** Swept area, tow duration, gear type, & mesh size should be captured so catch data can be standardized/compared across surveys.
- **Distinguish survey series.** Data from different vessels, gear, or stratification designs should be identifiable as distinct series so they aren't naively pooled.
- **Flag raw vs. standardized values.** Metadata should state whether reported catch is as observed or adjusted (e.g., scaled to distance towed).

ROSA Data Governance Program



Why Data Governance?

To support coordinated, high-quality data stewardship so that research outputs are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).

Good data governance



Data Governance Committee

- Data Governance Committee Materials

Working Groups

- Fishing Methods Data Working Group
- Image Data Working



Data Governance Resources

- NEW! ROSA Data Governance Guidance
- Data Management & Sharing Plans (DMSP) Template
- DMSP Instructions
- Fishing Gear Data Sharing



Data Governance Research

Regional Offshore Wind Fisheries Data Governance for the New York-New Jersey Bight.
Funded by New Jersey Research & Monitoring Initiative.

You're on the water.

You see things researchers don't.

ROSA's FINsights is an open channel for the fishing industry to share observations, concerns, and knowledge about offshore development and its interactions with fisheries.

Submit anytime.
Your contact
information will only
be used to follow up
if you'd like us to.

Whether you've **noticed changes** in where you're catching specific species, **encountered new behavior** near infrastructure, or **have ideas** about what research questions most need answering, we want to hear from you.

What happens with your input:

- ✓ Summarized for readouts quarterly.
- ✓ Identifies topics for research projects.
- ✓ Ensures your expertise is part of the conversation.

Share your insights
here



Emerging Regional Priorities

- Sunrise Wind Regional Monitoring Fund
- Continued build-out of regional frameworks
 - Acoustic telemetry (Bowers et al.)
 - Surfclam Specialist Subcommittee (NYSERDA F-TWG)
- Deepening funder coordination as project volume grows
- Ongoing tribal engagement & data sovereignty work under the Data Governance Program
 - NROC Tribal Caucus (Nov. 12)
- Marine Minerals
 - BOEM/BSEE merge to MMA
 - Recent RFI
- Aquaculture Opportunity Areas RFI

Thank you!

Reneé Reilly, Executive Director
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Join us at our next Advisory Council Meeting
September 24 @ 1-3 PM

Keep up to date! rosascience.org/newsletter-signup



Discussion & Questions



Next Steps

- **Schedule next meeting – Fall 2026**
 - **NYSERDA RFI 6184 - Marine and Coastal Resources Energy Research Plan**
 - **Additional Regional Research Updates**
- **Review Regional Surfclam Monitoring Plan**



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