

Fisheries Working Group

Offshore Wind Roadmap: Charting a Course for Maine

DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND APPROACH

Overall Scope

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) believes that offshore wind will play a key role in meeting Maine's renewable energy targets and addressing climate change. Maine's position near New England's population centers with high energy demands, an enterprising citizenry with maritime experience, an innovative research environment with more than a decade of experience with floating offshore wind, and a high quality wind resource make our state an ideal place to responsibly develop an offshore wind industry. Maine needs to identify how to support an offshore wind economy in a way that embraces the opportunity, while ensuring the sustainability of our Maine coastal heritage, existing ocean users, and environment. With this, the state is developing the *Offshore Wind Roadmap: Charting a Course for Maine*, funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

This working group will provide input into components of the Roadmap that address the potential impacts of offshore wind on fisheries, aquaculture, and marine resources with a focus on strategies to improve existing data and avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse impacts.

Goals of the Working Group

- Produce actionable, prioritized strategies to sustain Maine's heritage fishing industry, minimize potential conflict, enable co-existence with offshore wind development, and inform Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap and overall initiative; and
- Make recommendations on how to implement those strategies, including potential policy changes, research, funding options, and partnerships, in the immediate, near term (through 2025), and longer term (from 2026 – 2040).
- Throughout the duration of the working group, learn from prior experience and adjust process, communications, and content in response to feedback in order to maximize productivity for all parties involved.

Deliverables to Advisory Committee

- Recommended criteria and standards Maine should incorporate in comments for siting future offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine to preserve and sustain the fishing industry.
- Legislative, regulatory and policy recommendations and tools Maine should consider using to minimize or mitigate the risk of impacts of offshore wind on Maine's fisheries and marine ecosystem.
- A list of prioritized fisheries-related monitoring and research that Maine should pursue, along with its regional partners, when appropriate, to inform the federal leasing and permitting process in the Gulf of Maine. Specifically, this work should include



identifying how to improve Maine’s spatial characterization of fishing activity/use, as well as address how fisheries-dependent data can be appropriately collected, protected and utilized by government and industry to inform federal leasing and permitting processes.

- Recommendations to the Research Consortium that will oversee the work for the Research Array to consider site specific research relevant to regional questions.
- Identification of recommended practices Maine should promote in the way developers work with the fishing industry and fishing communities in all aspects of any project and throughout the project life cycle.
- Guidance on socioeconomic data to be included in the Roadmap’s economic analysis in order to adequately and accurately consider impacts to existing uses, users and communities.
- Advice and guidance on approaches to engagement with Maine’s fishing industry during the Roadmap and beyond as federal and regional processes evolve and may require input from the State and Maine’s fishing industry.

Work Plan

This section outlines the activities of the working group:

- Key Policy Issue and Mutual Learning: Initial working group meetings will focus on key policy issues and identifying priority topics for mutual learning selected by working group members such as offshore wind and cabling technology, federal and state roles in permitting, fisheries impacts, etc. These can be through short webinars.
- Review and Catalog: At the request and guidance of the working group, staff and/or contractor will collect, review and catalog existing reports, studies and plans to assist the working group with its work. We will draw on existing data, strategies and lessons learned from other places similar to Maine and collate them in a shared space for easy access.
- Assess: The working group will evaluate and consider the information, technical and scientific expertise and input from stakeholders, experts, and agencies.
- Improve: Identify and prioritize recommendations in the immediate, near term (through 2025) and long term (2026-2040). These could include:
 - Data, Information, Research, and R&D/Innovation Needs
 - Communication, Outreach and Education Needs
 - Policies, Laws, Regulations
 - Funding Opportunities – state and other
 - Leadership, Programs, and Partnership Opportunities
- Engage: The working group will advise GEO on ways to engage with fishing industry members, coastal community members and fisheries experts to elicit their ideas, hear their feedback on initial ideas coming out of the Roadmap and share final recommendations. Meetings will be noticed on the GEO website and are open to the public. A list of suggested outreach opportunities will be developed by the working group. It is anticipated that most outreach outside the working group will take place at



already scheduled meetings of organizations and groups.

- Partner: While recognizing that each state may want to create space for state-specific issues, the resources of the Gulf of Maine are shared and will benefit from joint learning, regional collaboration and participation beyond state borders. The working group will work with participating state agencies to engage with NH, MA and federal agencies on issues related to shared resources, as needed.

For the purposes of this working group:

The term “fisheries” is intended to be interpreted broadly, and includes harvesting, wholesale distribution and processing of marine resource products, as well as industry representatives and associations. It includes both recreational and commercial fisheries.

Expected Meeting Schedule

(TBD based on initial Working Group discussion and identified needs; meetings may be in-person and/or virtual. The schedule below shows Advisory Committee meetings as well as Working Group meetings)

***Advisory Committee meetings are starred**

***July 14, 2021 – Initial Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting #1**

- Foundational meeting and orientation to Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap

Mid-late July/August 2021 – Working Group Meeting #1

- Overview of Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap
- Outline role and deliverables of Working Group
- Refine and prioritize Working Group deliverables and work plan
- Establish list of topics, speakers, key questions for mutual learning
- Review and provide feedback on information the Working Group needs to do its work

August 2021 – Brief 1-hour monthly update meeting

- Opportunities for mutual learning (webinars)
- Smaller group discussions about floating OSW and Maine’s efforts (as requested)

September 2021 – Working Group Meeting #2 & Working Group Meeting #3

- Begin addressing priority deliverables and approach to developing recommendations (speakers, information, key questions, etc.)
- Refine and guide specific targeted outreach and engagement to key constituencies.

***October 6, 2021 – Advisory Committee Meeting #2**

- Review and feedback on Working Group progress to date – guidance to co-chairs

October 2021 - Working Group Meeting #4

- Explore ideas for immediate and near-term strategies
- Updates and discussion on research and/or technical assistance



November 2021 – Working Group Meeting #5 and Working Group #6

- Prepare draft strategies
- Initial feedback from targeted outreach efforts

December 2021 – Working Group meeting #7

- Initial recommendations on immediate actions state should take on OSW (legislation, policy items, or other immediate needs)

*December 14, 2021 – Advisory Committee Meeting #3

- Presentations by Working Groups of draft strategies with outline of overall direction and the types of recommendations being considered
- Review proactive public and stakeholder engagement plan

January and February 2022 – Brief 1-hour monthly update meetings

- Updates on public and stakeholder engagement efforts

March 2022 – Working Group Meeting #8

- Review feedback from targeted and broad public outreach
- Develop final draft recommendations

*March 30, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #4

- Review public and stakeholder engagement

April and May 2022 – Working Group Meeting #9 and #10

- Continue development of final draft recommendations

*June 7, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #5

- Final Working Group recommendations for Roadmap presented to Advisory Committee

*September 21, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #6

- Refining draft Roadmap based on public and stakeholder feedback

*November 16, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #7

- Final refinements of Roadmap document

How the Advisory Committee and Working Groups Will Work Together

The Advisory Committee is a high-level strategic body that will provide guidance on the Roadmap development, including orientation to the four Working Groups.

The Working Groups will use the substantive expertise of its members, together with technical consultant support, to develop the core content of the Roadmap.



Advisory Committee	Working Groups
Initial Months	
Review and refine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Roadmap development process • Initial outline of Roadmap content and Working Group deliverables to create that content • Overview of planned consultant and technical support • Overall public and stakeholder engagement strategy • Equity framework for the Working Groups to use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm specific deliverables and work plan • Request additional background information needed • Provide input as needed on consultant work • Begin workplan steps to develop draft strategies • Refine and guide specific targeted stakeholder engagement and outreach
Middle Months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive updates from Working Groups • Provide guidance and problem-solve as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairs brief the Advisory Committee and bring questions • Prepare draft strategies • Integrate stakeholder feedback
Final Months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist GEO to review and consolidate Working Group strategies into a draft Roadmap document • Review public input and assist GEO to finalize Roadmap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a revised package of final draft strategies to the Advisory Committee

Role of the Co-Chairs – Advisory Committee and Working Groups

Advisory Committee co-chairs

- Provide a leadership voice for the Roadmap effort
- Promote clear objectives and principles
- Work with staff and facilitators to prepare meetings and key documents
- Oversee follow up with AC members if they miss meetings
- Work with members and other stakeholders to address challenges that might arise

Working Group Co-Chairs

- Provide a leadership voice for the Working Group, promoting clear objectives and principles
- Work with staff and facilitators to prepare meetings and key documents, as well as approve all meeting summaries
- Oversee follow up with WG members if they miss meetings
- Brief the Advisory Committee (of which they are members) periodically on Working Group progress and challenges. Attend Advisory Committee meetings.
- Work with WG members and other stakeholders to address challenges that might arise



Governance and Decision-Making by the Advisory Committee and Working Groups

The Advisory Committee and Working Groups are advisory bodies set up to assist GEO in the development of a robust Offshore Wind Roadmap for Maine. As such, they are not decision-making entities for the Roadmap itself.

The committee and groups will strive to reach consensus in their recommendations to GEO. Consensus is defined by broad agreement among members: all or nearly all members can live with the proposed recommendation. Consensus is also defined by the process as well as the outcome of group deliberation. Thus, the groups will seek to articulate and explore members' interests and concerns, creatively develop ideas and options, seek to meet the needs and concerns of members to the greatest extent possible, and problem-solve in the face of disagreement. Consensus on the final slate of recommendations does not suggest all members will be equally satisfied with the outcomes nor prefer each and every recommendation. Rather, a consensus indicates that the slate of recommendations in total advances the public interest and well-being of the citizens of Maine to the greatest extent it can.

If the groups cannot reach consensus on specific issues, despite their best efforts, they will note the different viewpoints on these issues in their package of recommendations to GEO.

