



Responsible Offshore Science Alliance

May 8, 2019

New England Fishery Management Council
Attn: Dr. John Quinn, Chairman
219 Smith Neck Road
Dartmouth, MA 02748

Dear Dr. Quinn,

Thank you for the recent opportunity to introduce the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) to the New England Fishery Management Council. ROSA is a newly incorporated 501(c)(3) with the vision to improve understanding of ocean ecosystems that allows for informed compatibility of renewable energy and sustainable fisheries. ROSA will take a regional approach to advancing research and monitoring of fisheries and offshore wind interactions. As a result, the organization will collaborate with state and federal agencies, energy developers, and fishery management councils to achieve a holistic approach to improving the understanding of and policies affecting ocean ecosystems.

The ROSA working group, currently supported by the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), several wind-energy leaseholders, NMFS and BOEM representatives, is making strides to put into practice the mission of ROSA. Current steps are being taken to set up the governance and structure of the organization to ensure that once operational, ROSA will be able to hit the ground running with addressing some of the science questions around offshore wind and fisheries.

We expect ROSA to have a close working relationship the New England Fishery Management Council in the near future and would like to request Council personnel involvement during this early stage. The scientific and management expertise of the Council staff will be fundamental in informing the needs of regional fisheries monitoring and research. In addition, ROSA would appreciate any additional scientific resources and available financial support that the Council is able to give ROSA as the organization grows.

We are happy to answer any additional questions you or the Council have about the organization and ROSA's mission. Attached is the draft ROSA framework with more specifics about the objectives and initial governance structure. Please contact me at annie@rodafisheries.org for more information and suggestions about the best ways for ROSA to work with the Council.

ROSA and its member organizations thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Annie Hawkins, Executive Director

Lane Johnston, Policy Fellow
Responsible Offshore Development Alliance



Responsible Offshore Science Alliance

This document outlines the initial framework for the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA); it is likely to be further refined based upon input from the Executive Council and other participants.

Vision: An improved understanding of ocean ecosystems that allows for informed compatibility of renewable energy and sustainable fisheries.

Mission and Goals:

- To provide for and advance regional research and monitoring of fisheries and offshore wind interactions in federal waters through collaboration and cooperation in order to:
 - Increase salient and credible data on fisheries and wind development; and,
 - Increase the understanding of the effects of wind energy development on fisheries and the ocean ecosystems on which they depend.

Organizational Objectives:

ROSA will seek to address broader aspects of the ocean environment that offshore fisheries and wind energy activities occupy including pre-facility baseline activity, ecosystem-based fishery management, socio-economic effects, cumulative impacts, and other relevant issues. ROSA will not supplant site-specific BOEM or other regulatory agency work required of offshore wind developers in the federal permitting process or on-going fisheries management activities. ROSA's specific objectives will include:

- Identify essential regional research and monitoring needs regarding fisheries and offshore wind development and operations
- Increase efficiencies, reduce redundancies, aggregate resources, and improve access to information for the numerous actors involved in fisheries and wind development
- Facilitate access to data, analysis, ensure consistent use of existing data and research protocols, and increase compatibility of data collected from numerous sources
- Undertake and support specific research and monitoring activities to inform public dialogues and business practices
- Provide a nexus for existing research monitoring programs on fisheries, protected resources, habitats, and ecosystem components as they relate to offshore wind energy development and fisheries
- Advance technologies that advance co-existence of fishing, fisheries, and offshore wind development

- Inform practices that advance co-existence of fisheries and offshore wind development, and consider the larger aspects of the ocean environment that offshore fisheries and wind energy facilities occupy, including ecosystem-based fishery management, socio-economic effects, cumulative impacts, and other relevant issues
- Inform regulatory decision-making and adaptive management by making the latest research available to decision-making bodies and affected stakeholders
- Advance regional understanding through collaboration, partnerships, and cooperative research to the greatest extent possible, and joint learning

Geographic Scope:

While ROSA’s initial geographic focus will be on offshore wind development and fisheries from the Gulf of Maine to North Carolina, it is structured to accommodate additional regions as wind energy development advances. The Executive Council may determine relevant modifications to accommodate other regions should the need arise.

Form:

ROSA is organized as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 – a mission-driven research organization intended to serve the public interest in a cooperative and collaborative manner across sectors engaged in these issues. It is expected that monies will be raised from a variety of sources (see funding section below) for both general operations and the funding of specific research and monitoring projects.

Governance:

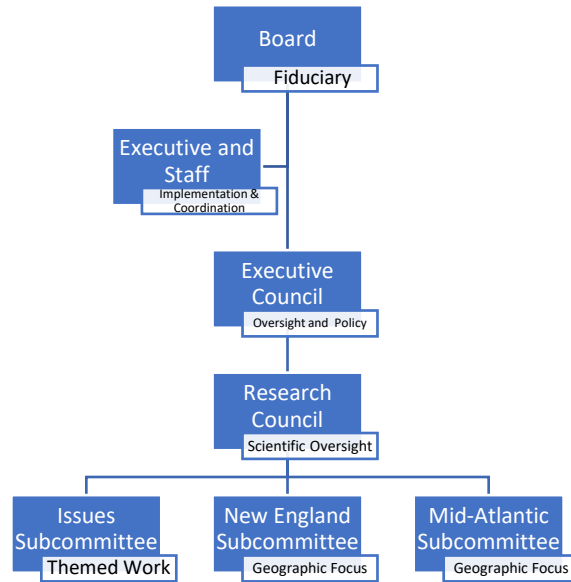
ROSA will have a governance structure as follows:¹

1. *Board:* As a non-profit, ROSA will have a small and balanced Board whose primary purpose is fiduciary oversight, including reviewing annual budgets, income streams, oversight of any required audits, and selection and review of the Executive Director.
2. *Executive Council.* An Executive Council of approximately eleven (11) members will provide leadership and strategic guidance for the alliance. This will include formalizing administration and organization of the work, creating protocols and procedures, conflict of interest policies, raising money, appointing Research Council members, approving overall annual work plans, regional research/monitoring needs, and other activities as necessary. It may be comprised of: 1) one BOEM lease-holding developer from the New England lease areas and one from the Mid-Atlantic lease areas; 2) four fishing industry

¹ Nothing in the governance or operation of ROSA should be construed to commit any participating federal agency to obligate agency funds, property, or services; enter into any contract or binding obligation; spend funds on any particular project or purpose; or limit or affect in any way the authority or legal responsibilities of the federal parties.

members, with at least one each from New England and the Mid-Atlantic representing a breadth of fisheries and/or gear types; 3) one representative each from NMFS and BOEM; 4) a state representative from one of the New England states and one from the Mid-Atlantic states; and, 5) a staff member from one of the Fishery Management Councils. Certain seats may be rotating biannually to allow maximum possible participation. Members would be expected to have collaborative, technical and cooperative research experience. The role of ports on the Executive Council or elsewhere in the framework should be determined as soon as feasible.

3. *Research Council.* A Research Council of up to twenty (20) members will identify regional research needs; develop specific science, monitoring, and peer-review protocols and other procedures for credible science and technical work, form, engage with, and integrate work across work groups; review and assist subcommittees with Request for Proposal (RFP) development; develop strategic approaches for longer-term needs and objectives, select Area Subcommittee chairs or co-chairs; and host public meetings, forums, workshops, and other activities as needed. Disputes may be taken to the Executive Council for resolution, if necessary. The Research Council would likely be comprised of: 1) wind energy industry scientists or technology experts; 2) fishing industry members and advisors; 3) state marine fisheries scientists; 4) academics or consulting scientists; 5) federal scientists; 6) other federal agencies such as the Coast Guard, DoD and DOE; and, 6) and experts from regional fishery management councils. It will be important to ensure that the Research Council includes numerous fishermen and/or their representatives.
4. *Subcommittees.* The detailed, core work of ROSA will be done by area- or topic-specific subcommittees, depending on the needs identified by the RSC. The subcommittees will be comprised of persons selected by the Research Council from among eligible applicants. Participants may include any stakeholder with an interest or expertise in the relevant topical area. To begin, two area subcommittees will be formed for New England and for the Mid-Atlantic. It is expected fishermen, federal scientists, state division of marine fisheries, academics, and consulting scientists will be active in these subcommittees. The subcommittees will explore research needs, issues, and gaps, identify potential priority needs for research for RSC consideration, develop draft RFPs for specific projects or research, and review and consider new data, studies, and results as they develop. The Research Council will create or dissolve subcommittees as needs evolve. Chairs may be selected by the RSC or upon the participants in the subcommittee.



Staffing:

ROSA will begin with an Executive Director and staff out as the organization grows and matures. The Executive Director will be hired and reviewed by the Board. The Board review will occur in close consultation with the Executive Council. For formal reasons, the Executive Director as noted above reports to the Board but in practice, the Executive Director will be accountable and serve at the direction of the Executive Council regarding the execution of process, procedures, and research.

Funding:

ROSA’s initial expected budget would need to cover a part or full-time Executive Director and other necessary staff such as a Chief Scientist and grants administrator, as well as basic costs such as phone, office (if needed), administration, travel, and so forth. The intent is to secure stable core funding for multiple years for operations and staffing as well as variable funding for specific research and monitoring projects and activities that may vary in scope and scale from year to year. ROSA will be funded by the following income streams.

- Annual contributor funding, expected primarily from wind energy lease holders
- Federal funding and assistance from federal partners
- State funding and assistance from state partners
- Other contributors who have an interest in advancing ROSA’s mission, from individuals to companies to philanthropic organizations, particularly those companies in the wind energy sector generally (suppliers, consultants, etc.)
- A modest overhead (10 to 15%) on specific research projects managed by ROSA will support organizational administration as needed

Initial Next Steps and Milestones:

- February: Incorporate; form and hold a Board meeting; solicit for Executive Director
- March/April: Secure initial funding; form Executive Council and plan initial meeting; hire Executive Director if qualified applicants received
- April: Hold an Executive Council meeting; form Research Council; continue to develop funding
- May: Hold a Research Council meeting, form initial subcommittees
- June/July: Hold Area Subcommittee meetings
- August/September: Create the first regional research plan and priorities