

Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap

Summary of Draft Initial Recommendations from Working Groups

March 1, 2022

Energy Markets and Strategies Working Group

- *Recommendation 1:* Establish and initiate a floating offshore wind requirement and procurement process.
- *Recommendation 2:* Pursue policy and programmatic designs to achieve cost-effective offshore wind deployment.
- *Recommendation 3:* Continue to pursue regional collaboration in support of offshore wind industry development.

Supply Chain, Workforce, Ports and Marine Transportation Working Group

Supply Chain

- *Recommendation 1:* Formally establish and initiate a clear and consistent state policy for OSW, along with a sustained, sequenced effort to support it.
- *Recommendation 2:* Establish strong support and advocacy for all OSW opportunities, including supply chain companies, ports, workforce and research.
- *Recommendation 3:* Pursue national and international opportunities to prepare and promote Maine's supply chain and address current and future supply chain gaps.
- *Recommendation 4:* Provide support and pursue regional opportunities to ready Maine's OSW supply chain and address current and future supply chain gaps.
- *Recommendation 5:* Explore opportunities to support Maine businesses suited to build and/or retrofit smaller OSW vessels (e.g., Crew Transfer Vessels, tugs, Service Operations Vessels), as well as operate and service all types of OSW vessels.

Workforce Development

- *Recommendation 1:* Strengthen OSW Career Exploration Opportunities for K-12 and CTE Students
- *Recommendation 2:* Increase OSW Opportunities in Maine's Postsecondary Education Institutions
- *Recommendation 3:* Enhance & Expand OSW Training & Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities
- *Recommendation 4:* Encourage High-Quality Jobs

- *Recommendation 5:* Promote Equity in Workforce Development
- *Recommendation 6:* Coordinate & Collaborate Regionally to Attract Skilled Workers

Ports

- *Recommendation 1:* Move forward with port development plans with urgency.
- *Recommendation 2:* Discuss with neighboring states in the region with OSW goals.
- *Recommendation 3:* Discuss with OSW developers the infrastructure needs of all East Coast OSW projects to best inform the state as it moves forward with planning and design of OSW infrastructure.
- *Recommendation 4:* OSW port activity is significant and impacts to ocean users should be considered/studied in ports that could potentially exist to support OSW, starting in Searsport.
- *Recommendation 5:* Continue the ongoing work of evaluating multiple ports in Maine that could support OSW projects in the GOM and/or the Northeast.
- *Recommendation 6:* Pursue federal funding to develop OSW port infrastructure.
- *Recommendation 7:* Expose Maine’s ports-related supply chain to various stages of offshore wind projects – first with fixed, and then transitioning that experience and relationship building into floating.

Fisheries Working Group

- *Recommendation 1:* Work with BOEM and other federal agencies to strongly encourage or require OSW developers to develop and implement clear communications plans and notification procedures.
- *Recommendation 2:* Work with BOEM and other federal agencies to strongly encourage or require offshore wind developers follow procedures that encourage full engagement with the fishing industry from ME, NH and MA during survey operations.
- *Recommendation 3:* Advocate for geophysical and geotechnical data gathered by OSW developers to be made available in accessible and usable formats to the public on a regular and timely basis.
- *Recommendation 4:* Work with BOEM and other New England states to pursue establishment of a series of monitoring requirements for offshore wind leaseholders - prior to construction, throughout construction and post-construction - including baseline biological, physical oceanography, and benthic habitat monitoring.
- *Recommendation 5:* Provide and actively seek out other funds to sustain necessary research and monitoring during the OSW development and implementation process.
- *Recommendation 6:* Engage with fishermen, scientists, and other stakeholders with expertise in fisheries, wildlife, and the environment to compile and map the areas of known concentration of priority species and habitat and fishing activity in order to appropriately cite wind energy

lease areas in the Gulf of Maine.

- *Recommendation 7:* Request that the U.S. Coast Guard conduct a port access study to determine necessary formal and informal transit to fishing grounds and how such potential wind energy areas may adversely affect transit; work with BOEM to address as appropriate in wind energy area or lease issuance.
- *Recommendation 8:* Request a port impact assessment by the appropriate state or federal agency(ies) to determine if the vessels fishing in proposed OSW areas would be concentrated in certain ports and any implications for the port's local economy and shoreside businesses.
- *Recommendation 9:* Advocate for BOEM and the Gulf of Maine Interagency Task Force to prohibit the construction of offshore wind turbines within (XX) nautical miles or less from the Maine coast [to be defined] to avoid and minimize OSW development and fisheries conflict.
- *Recommendation 10:* Encourage and assist BOEM in providing active and direct engagement with Maine's fishing industry in the development of wind energy areas through workshops, meetings, dockside conversations, and other engagement, in a robust and meaningful way.
- *Recommendation 11:* Assess existing State statutory and regulatory authorities related to the permitting for OSW turbines and transmission cables through an equity lens related to fisheries impacts and take action to implement corrective actions identified in the assessment as appropriate.

Environment and Wildlife Working Group

- *Recommendation 1:* Map existing data to identify where areas of greatest conflict between OSW energy development and wildlife may currently exist in the Gulf of Maine federal waters and identify data gaps that need to be filled to inform offshore wind leasing.
- *Recommendation 2:* Initiate and lead an effort to conduct benthic habitat surveys in areas of the Gulf of Maine with no or poor bathymetry data or benthic habitat information.
- *Recommendation 3:* Initiate and seek federal funding for a coordinated below and above water ecological baseline monitoring study in identified areas of the Gulf of Maine.
- *Recommendation 4:* Conduct tracking studies on ESA-listed birds in the Gulf of Maine, as well as marine and non-marine birds, marine mammals, and fish species especially vulnerable to impacts from OSW energy development.
- *Recommendation 5:* Investigate the potential benefits of and process by which the State of Maine may use its federal consistency review authority under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act to address issues of concern regarding OSW energy development in federal waters, including potential changes to state laws and rules.