

# New York State Offshore Wind

## Commercial Fisheries and Offshore Wind



Credit: Deepwater Wind

**Offshore wind is key to achieving New York State's nation-leading clean energy goals of 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% clean electricity by 2040**

## Coexisting in the ocean environment

The federal waters off the northeastern coast of the United States support an active and longstanding fishing industry. Participants in this industry come from New England and the Mid-Atlantic to catch more than two dozen species of fish using a variety of gear types. This area is also a prime location for offshore wind due to its relatively shallow offshore waters and proximity to heavily populated areas, such as New York City and Long Island.

New York State is working to enable both industries to coexist productively in these waters. Goals include empowering the fishing community to be active in the offshore wind development process, avoiding development in heavily fished areas, minimizing disturbance to the fisheries, and maintaining safe and efficient navigation for fishing vessels while allowing space for offshore wind farms.

## Working to protect regional fisheries

New York State is working to ensure offshore wind development respects the interests of the fishing industry.

### A seat at the table for the fishing community

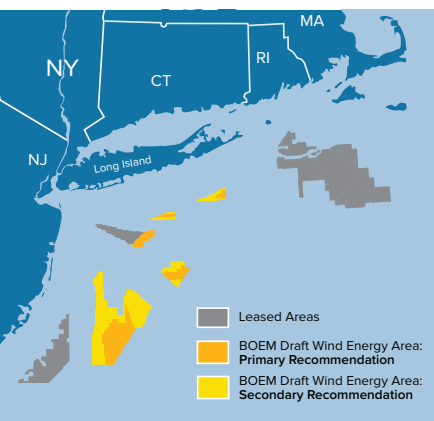
The State established the Commercial Fishing Technical Working Group (F-TWG) to guide responsible offshore wind development. Comprised of commercial fishing representatives, developers, regional state representatives, and federal officials, it ensures the fishing community has a voice in the process. Developers are required to work with the F-TWG throughout planning, development, and operations.

### Contractual requirements for developers

The State's contracting authority for offshore wind purchase agreements, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), requires developers to include a plan outlining how they will avoid or mitigate potential impacts on fisheries and the fishing industry in their proposals. This plan becomes part of the developer's contract, and they must work with the F-TWG to evolve the plan as needed.

### Federal lease areas

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has leasing authority for offshore wind development in federal waters. NYSERDA shares research and public feedback with BOEM to promote shared usage in these waters.



This map shows areas that are currently leased to offshore wind developers, as well as ones that BOEM has recommended for possible future offshore wind farms.

## Working with the fishing industry

NYSDERDA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) are leading the State's efforts to ensure the commercial fishing industry is engaged throughout offshore wind planning, development, and operations.

### Listening to the fishing community

Through public meetings, emails, visits at local fishing docks, and a state-appointed Fisheries Liaison, the State has been gathering input from the fishing community since the early stages of offshore wind planning and continues to do so through F-TWG activities.

### Involving fishing representatives in development

Through the F-TWG, fishing representatives work directly with developers and State and federal agencies to shape development plans and research priorities.

### Hosting transit lane workshops

The State and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) are hosting workshops that bring together fisheries stakeholders, developers, and government agencies to discuss commercial fishing transit routes through the New York Bight.

## Collecting the best available information

The State is reviewing and supporting research to assess offshore wind's impact on local fisheries.

### Reviewing existing research

Throughout the planning process, the State reviewed available technical research to inform how offshore wind development may impact the local ecosystem and fishing industry.

### Supporting additional research

Proposed studies include understanding what constrains fishing access to wind farms and potential mitigations to improve access, sponsoring the development of a "data trust" for the commercial fishing industry to empower the industry and improve spatial knowledge, supporting regional scientific research through the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA), and assessing the effects of turbine spacing, foundation types, and scour protection on deep-water ecosystems and fisheries.

## Learn more about offshore wind in New York State.

[nysderda.ny.gov/offshorewind](https://nysderda.ny.gov/offshorewind)



NYSDERDA's early engagements with the fishing community informed the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan, the State's roadmap for responsible and cost-effective offshore wind development.

**Learn more about F-TWG activities and its ongoing collaborations.**

[nyfisheriestwg.ene.com](https://nyfisheriestwg.ene.com)



Credit: MHI Vestas