

December 2020

**Proposed Workplan  
New York Maritime Technical Work Group (M-TWG)  
2021-2022**

The Maritime Technical Working Group (M-TWG), led by the New York State Department of State and supported by NYSERDA, is one of four Technical Working Groups established in 2018 to ensure that the State's offshore wind program development and initiatives are informed by and founded upon stakeholder input. The M-TWG is an unofficial and non-decisional advisory entity.

This workplan is routinely updated and is intended to serve as a living document to guide the M-TWG.

**Membership, Expectations and Process**

The M-TWG is made up of representatives from the maritime and navigation communities, offshore-wind developers, state and federal agencies in the nexus between maritime transportation and offshore wind in NY Bight and beyond and others determined by DOS to be critical to the conversation.

DOS and NYSERDA with help from a facilitation team, together, plan meetings and manage the TWG. The M-TWG is a collaborative effort. Participants are expected to be constructive, respectful, and solution-focused when engaging in M-TWG business and are invited to work between meetings on M-TWG generated questions or needs, bringing their resources and capacity to bear on these topics.

The M-TWG meets regularly in full group meetings, generally but not always held virtually. Depending on committee needs, the M-TWG may occasionally form smaller ad hoc groups to discuss particular topics that they will bring back to the full MTWG, or the MTWG may hold larger sessions with expanded participation.

**M-TWG Goals**

- Build and strengthen relationships among those who care about and work on commercial navigation matters
- Provide a forum for collaborative, respectful deliberation and information exchange on important maritime topics
- Ensure that participants are aware of and able to engage with related offshore wind development efforts in the region occurring in other forums
- Support the state's efforts to meet its offshore wind goals

**Key Tasks**

- *Share information on current events:* Discuss timely maritime transportation-related information and activities, for example:
  - USCG presenting on open opportunities to comment on PARS

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- SUNY Maritime letting members know about OSW, STCW training or local maritime conferences
- OSW developers inviting input on particular project components under development
- NYSERDA and DOS making opportunities to engage with other TWGs
- *Inform and, when possible, work to address research needs:* Identify questions, research and information that would be useful for shared learning and decision making, for example:
  - DOS documents shifting understanding of potential radar interference
  - Members identify the need for (and possibly some members work to develop) a database of known anchor strikes in the region including key characteristics of the cable and vessel
  - Members coordinating with organizations developing a hazard alerts application like the UK's [Kingfisher Bulletin](#)
  - Members help inform and support SUNY Maritime Transportation System modeling for NY Harbor and the Hudson River
- *Shape management options:* Discuss management questions and challenges, explore options and look for solutions, and generate recommendations on options for enhancing maritime navigation safety / offshore wind management practices, for example:
  - Working to develop or identify non-regulatory solutions to minimize anchor strikes and absorb liability burden to shipping industry
  - Identifying opportunities to leverage existing materials or efforts, like Port Authority reports or US Coast Guard activities
  - Providing input on transmission policies or guidance
  - Develop guidelines for how offshore wind developers could coordinate placement of export cables in the NY/NJ Harbor
  - With the Jobs and Supply Chain TWG, explore options around the expansion of ports and terminals and workforce training programs
  - With the Fisheries TWG, discuss cable installation and maintenance, potential radar interference, and navigational safety around and through wind farms
  - With the Environmental TWG, discuss vessel speed restrictions during offshore wind construction and operation

The information provided by participants will inform New York and its partners to potentially reduce or eliminate navigation impacts that could result from offshore wind energy development.