

**New York Maritime Technical Work Group (M-TWG)**  
**Revised Framework**  
**April 2024**

The Maritime Technical Working Group (M-TWG), led by the New York State Department of State (DOS) and supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (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 Framework describes the membership, expectations, goals, and objectives 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, together with help from a facilitation team, plan meetings and manage the M-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 that are generally 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 M-TWG, or the M-TWG may hold larger sessions with expanded participation.

**M-TWG Goals**

- Build and strengthen relationships among those who care about, work on, and intersect with 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 Objectives

- *Share information on current events through the discussion of timely maritime transportation-related information and activities.* For example:
  - US Coast Guard (USCG) studies.
  - Maritime stakeholders communicating with members about trainings, conferences, and additional learning and collaboration opportunities.
  - Offshore wind developers providing updates on projects under development.
  - NYSERDA and DOS making opportunities to engage with other TWGs.
- *Inform and, when possible, work to address research needs through identifying questions, research, and information that would be useful for shared learning and decision making.* Examples from the Shared Research Agenda include:
  - Impacts to navigation radar and radio communication systems
  - Considerations around cable routing and burial depths
  - Emergency management, security planning, and liability
  - Construction and operational safety zones
  - Workforce development and training
- *Shape management options through the discussion of management questions and challenges, explore options and look for solutions, and generate recommendations on options for enhancing maritime navigation safety / offshore wind management practices, such as:*
  - 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 USCG activities.
  - Providing input on transmission policies or guidance.
  - Providing input on coordinating the placement of export cables in the New York / New Jersey 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 regional offshore wind energy development.