

New York State Maritime Technical Working Group (M-TWG)
Meeting Summary
January 23, 2025

Next Steps

- **M-TWG members:** Submit feedback on the draft scope for the Study on Autonomous Vessel Usage for Offshore Wind in New York to [Katie Axt](#) by **Friday, January 31st**.
- **New York State Department of State (NYS DOS)/Cadmus:** Update meeting materials with full presentation slides and meeting summary via nymtwg.com/meeting-summaries.

Meeting Purpose

To share State and member updates, provide input on 2025 M-TWG workstreams, and discuss maritime coordination and outreach.

Summary

Member Updates:

M-TWG members provided relevant updates:

- Bluepoint Wind submitted a Construction and Operations Plan to BOEM in October 2024 for Bluepoint Wind Project 1, which is expected to be made public by the end of 2025. They are currently analyzing the results of the 2024 geotechnical campaign, which will further the advanced engineering work needed for a robust project capable of withstanding the harsh elements in the New York Bight.
- Equinor shared that the NorthStar navigator vessel is currently out conducting unexploded ordnance relocation work in the Empire 1 lease area. Rock scour activities are expected to begin in March, followed by the foundation installation campaign in May.
- Community Offshore Wind is reviewing the data collected from the geophysical and geotechnical work that was completed in 2024. They are revising and updating the Construction and Operations Plan accordingly.

M-TWG Updates:

Laura McLean from NYSDOS provided an overview of the M-TWG and proposed workstreams for 2025. In 2025, the M-TWG plans to hold quarterly, topic-specific meetings and hopes to host one of these in person. Laura McLean asked if members would prefer to continue having flexible meeting dates or to have a set meeting date each quarter, and member feedback was mixed.

Katie Axt from WSP shared an overview of a new technical study that the M-TWG will undertake based on needs identified in the Shared Research Agenda focused on Autonomous Vessel Usage for Offshore Wind in New York. Autonomous and semi-autonomous vessels are an

emerging technology and there is a need to understand these technologies and how they can be applied to the NY region. Efforts will begin with a literature review and the final product will be a resource and reference guide. The study will begin in February and extend through the end of the year. For additional information on this study, see the [draft scope](#). M-TWG members are welcome to provide recommendations of key stakeholders to interview and additional feedback on the study scope via the [post-meeting poll](#) or to [Katie Axt](#). Feedback on the study scope must be submitted by January 31, 2025.

The following questions were posed regarding the study:

- In relation to the Jones Act, will the study compare where the vessels are built and where the operators are located?
 - Katie Axt replied that the study will be looking at federal and state policy. The scope will include understanding the constraints when involving these technologies.
- Will the study take into consideration whether these companies have made commitments to U.S. mariners? There is concern that companies will not build without commitment.
 - Katie Axt responded that this topic can be built into the study scope for further analysis.
- Will the study address both surface vessels and subsurface vessels?
 - Katie Axt responded that both technologies will be addressed.
 - The member who posed this question noted that they can provide a recommendation for a key stakeholder who can speak to ways to ensure navigational safety.

Noelle Mathies from WSP provided a walkthrough of the [M-TWG website](#) updates that now include information and resources about OSW projects under development in the region, state and regulatory review processes, and ready-made maps to understand the latest leasing and other offshore data. If there are any additional recommendations for items to include on the website, please reach out to [Laura McLean](#) at NYSDOS.

Laura McLean added that the spatial datasets generated by the M-TWG are available on the [NY Gateway](#). Users can search by key words. If there are recommendations to see other datasets on these portals, please reach out to [Laura McLean](#) at NYSDOS.

State Updates:

Sherryl Huber from NYSERDA provided updates on ongoing initiatives at NYSERDA. This included two supply chain Request for Proposals (RFPs) for OSW manufacturing in NYS and large components, [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQL) for ports, NY5 for purchase of Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (ORECs), Request for Information ([RFI](#)) for NY6; deadline

extended to February 19th. Master Plan 2.0 studies will be published on NYSERDA's website once finalized.

M-TWG members asked the following questions:

- Have there have been any further statements on when NY6 is expected to be released?
 - Sherryll Huber stated that everything that is public is available on the website. NY6 must align with the results of the New York City Public Policy Transmission Need (PPTN), which impacts the timeline for release.
- Has the determination for awardees been granted under the \$300 million grant for ports?
 - Sherryll Huber responded that the \$300 million solicitation has not been released. The RFQL includes several selection criteria for interested individuals to pre-qualify themselves to participate when the solicitation is released.

Laura McLean from NYS DOS shared that the NYS Department of Public Service issued draft regulations for the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection or Deployment (RAPID) Act and will be hosting upcoming public hearings; more information available [here](#). The State is also updating the [State Energy Plan](#). The scoping period has been completed, and the draft Energy Plan is expected to be released in mid- to late 2025.

Joel Bernosky shared that NYS DOS is executing the contract for the NYS Maritime and Ports Asset Inventory and Needs Assessment (Ports study). The Ports study will create a state-wide asset inventory of ports and terminals and identify resilience and decarbonization strategies. NYS DOS also kicked off an internal state interagency workgroup to share information and coordinate port funding opportunities to end users.

- A member commented that they previously compiled a list of all the terminals that can be shared with NYS DOS. Joel thanked them and indicated they would be invited to join the study's advisory committee.

M-TWG Consensus Discussion:

Rachel Freed from CBI presented the topic of consensus and CBI's approach to the 75% consensus rule. This rule tries to obtain complete agreement amongst the group but is willing to accept outcomes where only 75% of people agree. Several M-TWG members voiced their support for this approach on consensus.

Maritime Outreach and Project Coordination

Vice Chair Stephen Lyman and Captains Eric Johansson and John DeCruz provided an overview of the Harbor Safety, Navigation, and Operations Committee of the Port of NY/NJ (Harbor Ops). Harbor Ops is not a regulatory agency, but a voluntary group of port stakeholders that advise on and coordinate activities in the Harbor. Harbor Ops also discusses ongoing and proposed projects that may impact navigational safety and relays this information to harbor users. Harbor Ops focuses on leveraging their commercial and recreational expertise to act as a cohesive

voice for the best interest of the port. Presenting to Harbor Ops is an opportunity to share new projects, propose solutions, or advocate for initiatives relevant to the port's operations. Interested parties can contact [Harbor Ops](#) to schedule a presentation.

The following questions were posed to Harbor Safety, Navigation, and Operations Committee of the Port of NY/NJ and opened for discussion among all M-TWG members:

What should a project sponsor complete in advance of presenting to Harbor Ops?

- Captain Eric Johansson stated that presenting on a navigational chart is key so Harbor Ops can clearly see any impacts to navigation. He also emphasized the importance of projects meeting with Harbor Ops early in the process.
- Stephen Lyman added Harbor Ops wants to know how a project will affect marine navigation in the harbor.
- John DeCruz emphasized that Harbor Ops makes professional recommendations focused on safety.

Are there common questions that come up frequently for OSW projects that would be helpful for this group to be aware of?

- Captain Eric Johansson responded that questions around setbacks and transmission routing and burial are typically the most common for OSW projects. Harbor Ops encourages OSW projects to rely on science-based resources, such as the anchor strike study produced by the M-TWG.

2023 Cabling Workshop/Maritime Outreach & Coordination

Rachel Freed from CBI conducted a consensus activity based on the [Maritime Outreach and Coordination suggestions](#) from the 2023 Cabling Workshop. The Cabling Workshop was used to deepen collective understanding of cable installation in navigable waters. The purpose of this consensus activity is to explore whether M-TWG members feel the suggestions are still valid and relevant, and whether there is interest in putting the suggestions forward as suggestions or recommendations from the group. Members had the following responses to questions posed during the consensus activity:

Are the Outreach & Coordination suggestions from 2023 generally still relevant?

- Several members responded that the Outreach & Coordination suggestions are still relevant. However, these suggestions need continual improvements and review to stay relevant.

Are updates to these suggestions needed?

- A member responded that clarification is needed on when to engage different audiences (e.g., regulators, stakeholders, public) at which points in the development process. Currently, there is a mix.
- A member stated that the document would benefit from further revisions.

- A member responded that edits need to be made to provide clarification and improvements.

Do you think these suggestions could be made into M-TWG recommendations and posted online?

- Several members responded that a detailed review would be needed, likely with revisions and consensus decision-making prior to being shared as official M-TWG recommendations.
- A member responded that these suggestions should be made to developer proposals supported by objective evidence.

Meeting Participants

Alicia	Artessa	New York Offshore Wind Alliance (NYOWA)
Katie	Axt	WSP
Joel	Bernosky	NYSDOS
Timothy	Brown	Bluepoint Wind
Morgan	Brunbauer	NYSERDA
Colleen	Burst	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Ian	Corcoran	Hudson River Pilots HRSNOC
Mark	Cutter	United States Coast Guard, District 1
Jessica	Dealy	NYSERDA
John	DeCruz	Maritime Association of the Port of NY & NJ
Rachel	Freed	CBI
Nick	Guariglia	New York Offshore Wind Alliance (NYOWA)
Naomi	Handell	USACE NAD
Sherryll	Huber	NYSERDA
Eric	Johansson	Maritime Association of the Port of NY & NJ
Sean	Kline	Chamber of Shipping America
Kate	Korotky	United States Coast Guard, District 1
Julia	Laskaris	Cadmus
Julia	Lewis	Equinor
Stephen	Lyman	Maritime Association of the Port of NY & NJ
Martin	Malloy	Avangrid
Erin	Maloney	Cadmus
John	Mansolillo	Orsted
Noelle	Mathies	WSP
Laura	McLean	NYSDOS
Thomas	Morkan	US DOT MARAD
Rick	Robins	Community Offshore Wind
Gus	Seyler	Community Offshore Wind
Lauren	Sidor	NYSDEC
Bill	Smith	Invenergy
Jeannot	Smith	Vineyard Wind
Jeff	Spillane	SUNY Maritime College
Matthew	Starace	VTS New York
Max	Taffet	New York City Economic Development Corporation
Michelle	Villafane	United States Coast Guard, Sector NY
Chris	Wescott	NY Shipping Association