



**NYSERDA**

**Department  
of State**

# Maritime Technical Working Group

**Spring Meeting**

May 12, 2026 | Zoom Webinar



# Purpose of today's meeting

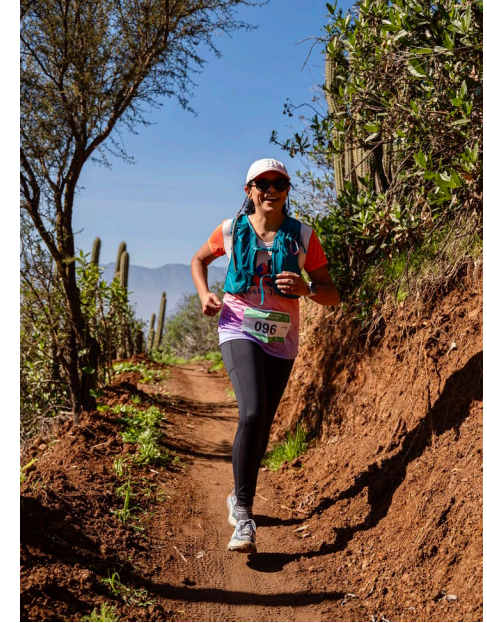
1. Share member updates
2. Autonomous Vessel Uses in Offshore Wind Study - Side study on Remote Operating Centers
3. Update on State initiatives and programs including NYSERDA Ports Solicitation & NYSDOS Ports Study
4. Feedback on the M-TWG's two-year meeting plan



# Melanie Gárate

Senior Associate, Consensus Building Institute

- In addition to facilitation / mediation:  
Background in marine science, climate change, and coastal zone management
- Related projects on Offshore Wind
  - Facilitate the NYSERDA EJ-TWG
  - Facilitate ROSA quarterly meetings
  - Facilitated the Massachusetts Habitat and Fisheries MA working groups on Offshore Wind
  - BOEM Offshore Wind Siting for the Gulf of Maine
- In between Santiago de Chile and the Boston area. Always on the coast or the mountains, sometimes both!



# Member Updates

- 1-2 new updates that you're excited about since we last met in November 2025.
- What are you looking forward to working on this year? (M-TWG focused or beyond)

# **Autonomous Vessel Uses in Offshore Wind Study - Side study on Remote Operating Centers**

# Autonomous Vessel Study – Remote Operating Center Technical Memo



Source: Fugro GAO-24-107059

## Project Opportunity:

- Autonomous Vessel Study Complete
- Opportunity to evaluate landside connections and development of Remote Operating Centers

## Project Overview:

Examine the role of Remote Operating Centers in supporting autonomous vessels for offshore wind infrastructure

Evaluate how Remote Operating Centers function as the central hub where most vessel oversight, manning, and operational decision-making occur

Provide a resource for M-TWG members to learn about potential applications and constraints of these technologies in New York region

# Key Research Areas

1. Components, Services, and Capabilities
2. Technology, Infrastructure, and Workforce Needs
3. Organization and Scalability
4. Safety and Security Standards
5. Geographic and Port Siting Considerations
6. Examples of economic development programs, incentives, or partnerships



*Figure: Fleet Operation Center, Tokyo Bay, Japan*

# State Initiatives and Program Updates

# NYSERDA SUBMITTED COMMENTS

## CASE NUMBER: 15-E-0302

*Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard*

**Submission is a summary of comments received related to NYSERDA's Request for Information (RFI) OSWRFI26-1**

Document Title	File Name
<a href="#">Cover Letter</a>	15-E-0302 _Offshore Wind Comments 2026.5.1 CvLt (1).pdf
<a href="#">NYSERDA Summary of RFI Responses for OSW Pre-Development Support</a>	NYSERDA_Comments_to_DPS_RFI26-1_Responses (003) (1).pdf

# OSW Technical Assistance Program

**Program Overview:** *The NYSERDA Offshore Wind Technical Assistance Program (OSW TAP) is a statewide initiative designed to strengthen New York's offshore wind supply chain by preparing local businesses to compete for near- and long-term offshore wind opportunities. Through technical assistance, market intelligence, and strategic industry connections, the program supports supplier readiness, developer engagement, and regional economic growth.*

## **Program Goals:**

- **Supplier Readiness:** Equip local suppliers across three cohorts with the knowledge, tools, and business strategies needed to compete successfully for offshore wind contracts.
- **Industry Awareness & Engagement:** Expand supplier understanding of offshore wind opportunities through training, targeted outreach, and access to real-time market intelligence.
- **Business Connections:** Facilitate strategic matchmaking and networking to connect suppliers with developers, prime contractors, and other industry partners across the offshore wind supply chain.



# RFP 6041 Overview

## Developing an OSW Supply Chain in New York

- Advancing the offshore wind industry in New York requires early investments in multi-use infrastructure to support the future of industry while also being resilient to market cycles.
- RFP 6041 seeks port development and improvement projects at existing ports that will increase the capability for New York to bolster the offshore wind industry while also having multi-use purposes.

## RFP 6041

- Up to \$300 million available
- Port upgrades range from large scale upgrades for manufacturing to small buildouts for O&M
- Multi-use purposes are a focus to ensure viability through market cycles
- \$100 million maximum award
- RFP can be multiple rounds (up to 5) if funds remain after round 1

[Link to Program Details](#)

# Upcoming Events

## 2026 Waterfront Conference – May 19<sup>th</sup> – Museum of Jewish Heritage

- <https://eventmobi.com/waterfrontconference26/>
- The 2026 Waterfront Conference will convene leaders from government, industry, science, and community sectors to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time: how to plan, design, and build resilient waterfronts in the face of accelerating climate impacts and shrinking political and financial support.

## New York OceanTech Summit - June 4<sup>th</sup> – Brooklyn Army Terminal

- <https://www.oceantechsummitnyc.com/>
- The NYC OceanTech Summit connects ocean innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers in the tristate area. Dive into the future of marine science, robotics, AI, climate tech, and the Blue Economy in one transformative day.

## 2026 State of Science – June 8 – 11<sup>th</sup> – Stonybrook University

- <https://www.nyetwg.com/2026-workshop>
- The theme of the 2026 conference is *Building on a strong foundation: deepening knowledge and finding collaborative solutions*.

## Offshore Innovation Exchange: Tech Café – June 10<sup>th</sup> – Stonybrook University

- [https://www.mtsociety.org/index.php?option=com\\_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=412&Itemid=136&year=2026&month=06&day=10&title=&uid=a14233e32c1b0ab026db7f061919553a](https://www.mtsociety.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=412&Itemid=136&year=2026&month=06&day=10&title=&uid=a14233e32c1b0ab026db7f061919553a)
- Join the MTS Offshore Renewable Energy Committee, in partnership with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC), during the [2026 NYSERDA State of the Science Workshop](#) for an evening Mini TechSurge and Tech Café focused on advancing innovation in offshore energy monitoring and environmental data. This convening brings together researchers, technology developers, regulators, and end users to exchange ideas, showcase emerging solutions, and build cross-sector partnerships that accelerate responsible offshore energy development.

# NYSDOS MARITIME AND PORTS ASSET INVENTORY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Create an **asset inventory** database that catalogues key infrastructure



Develop an **economic assessment** of ports and the maritime sector's effect on local and regional economies



Create a needs assessment with an emphasis on **resilient strategies** and supporting **implementation**



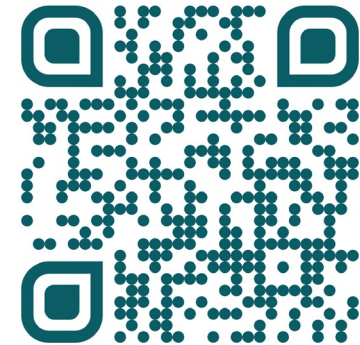
# WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

## Current ongoing activities:

- Targeted outreach through survey and follow up interviews
- Develop and update a maritime asset database with results from outreach
- If you haven't heard from us let us know!

## Maritime & Port Facilities Asset Inventory and Needs Assessment

Partner Survey



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/RKPVNR6](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RKPVNR6)

# **WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT?**

**New York does not currently have a comprehensive, statewide ports infrastructure study**

**Results from the study will be used to support and advocate for the maritime industry**

- **Statewide infrastructure readiness mapping**
- **Documented demand signals**
- **Strategic project prioritization**
- **Stronger positioning for grant funding**
- **Cross-agency coordination and technical support**

# CORE OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

- Identify priority infrastructure gaps
- Sequence investments strategically
- Recommend coordination actions
- Highlight funding pathways
- Provide a planning framework

## Deliverable:

A prioritized, actionable roadmap for maritime investment and support.



# EARLY RESULTS

- 23 Survey responses
- Follow up interviews scheduled
- GIS Map and Attribute Table

Attribute	Description
Port Name and Address	Port name, 123 Street, City, State, Zip
Contact Information	First Name Last Name, Email, phone
Entity Type	Landlord/private, container, industrial, etc
Assets and Infrastructure	Wharf length, cranes, Major equipment owned or leased by facility
Commodities Handled	Cargo type and approx volume
Vessel Activity	Type and number of calls
Energy Capacity and Usage	Current electrification, decarbonization, fuel storage, facility energy usage data
Climate Risks	Climate-related needs, existing resiliency measures
Planned Projects	Capital investment, clean energy strategies, facility expansion

# NEW YORK OCEAN ACTION PLAN

Promoting a healthy, resilient ocean through sound stewardship and sustainable human use



NEW YORK OCEAN ACTION PLAN  
2017-2027



# PLANNING FOR NEW YORK'S NEXT OCEAN ACTION PLAN

**SIDE MEETING IS FREE AND OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

**State of the Science Symposium  
attendance not required**



**Click the QR  
code to  
register!**

**2026 State of  
the Science**

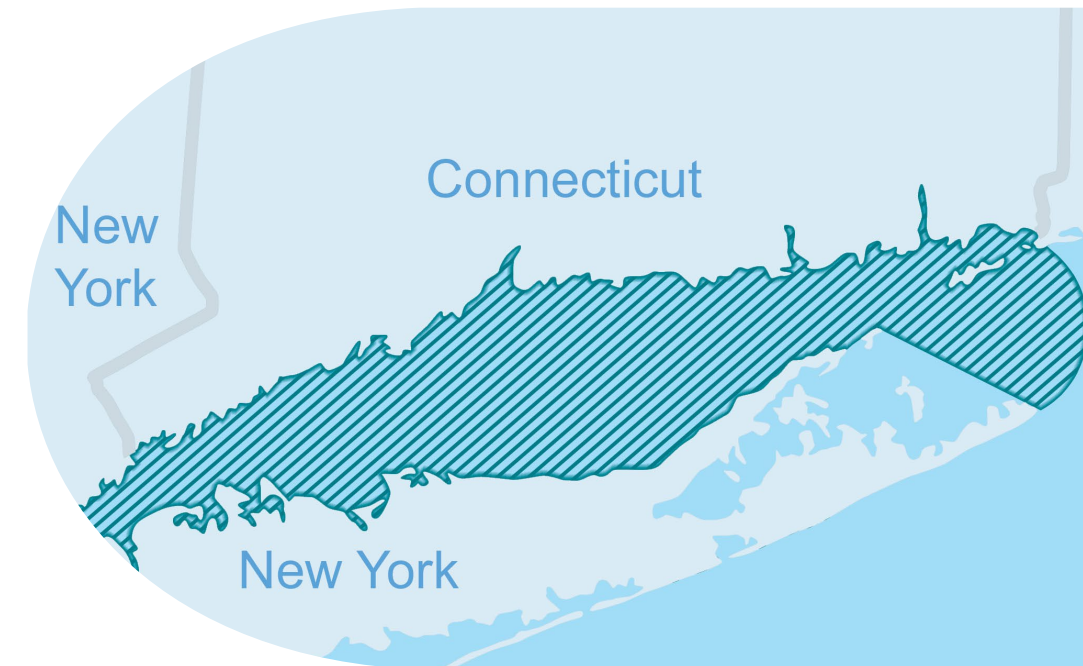
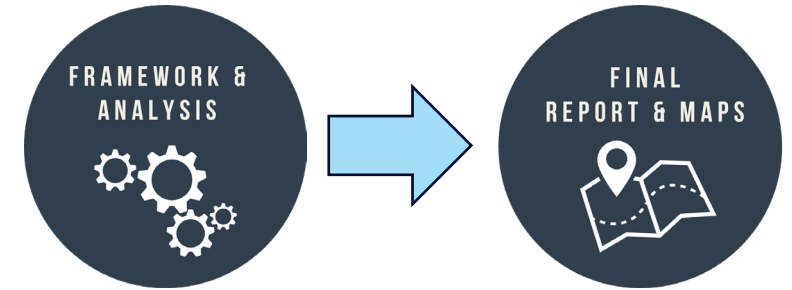
*Building on a Strong Foundation:  
Deepening Knowledge and Finding  
Collaborative Solutions*

# THE LONG ISLAND SOUND EUSA PROJECT

The Long Island Sound Ecological and Use Sensitivity Analysis (EUSA) Project will develop a weighting system and map products for the bi-state waters of Long Island Sound.

## The project will:

- Improve predictability for subsea and shoreside infrastructure development within Long Island Sound by identifying ecologically sensitive resources and areas with more coastal uses earlier in project planning.
- Promote a deeper understanding of Sound-wide priorities and uses by generating publicly available data and resources.



# **M-TWG's Two-Year Meeting Plan**

# Shared Research Agenda Topics

## 1. Acceptable Level of Risk Determination

- Installation of fixed infrastructure (e.g., wind turbines, offshore substations, electrical cables) and the addition of new vessel traffic into an existing and busy waterway will introduce a new risk of allision (fixed structures) and potentially increase the risk of collision (vessels) as well as anchor strikes.

## 2. Set-Back Distance

- Set-back distance refers to the minimum clear distance between a vessel traffic lane and the nearest physical structure that presents a potential for vessel allision (vessel strikes a stationary object).

## 3. Impacts to Navigation Radar and Radio Communication Systems [Incl. Automated Identification System (AIS)]

- Wind turbine generators can cause a screening or interference effect, obscuring some vessels from the radar of vessels passing by the other side of the wind farm, as well as potential interference to very high frequency (VHF) signals.

## 4. Submarine Cable Routing

- Cables from OSW energy areas are critical infrastructure needed to connect the OSW farm to the onshore power grid that necessitate shallower burial, heightening the risk of anchor strikes, damage to the cable, and at the worst, the safety of the vessel and crew.

## 5. Considerations for Cable Burial Depth

- To better protect submarine cables from damage and ships' gear from fouling (e.g., anchor strikes and fishing gear), submarine cables can be buried deeper.

## 6. Anchor Strike Liability

- Stakeholders are concerned that if cables are inadequately buried, vessel anchors may inadvertently damage a cable, and the vessel owners/operators may be liable for the cost of cable repair and/or outages.

## 7. Jones Act-Compliant Vessel Availability

- The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, more commonly referred to as the Jones Act, requires that the transportation of cargo and personnel from one U.S. port to another U.S. port must be completed by a vessel that is built, owned, and operated by U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

## 8. Construction and Operational Safety Zones

- BOEM guidance states that developers are expected to recommend construction safety zones, as was done during construction of the Block Island OSW project.

## 9. Seabed Infrastructure Security

- Seabed infrastructure, including submarine cables and the OSW turbine generators, is vulnerable to sabotage and physical and/or cyber-attacks from foreign adversaries ("Grey Zone Warfare") or non-state actors.

## 10. Future Ports: Regional Shipyard Capacity, Ports Investments, Workforce Development

- Offshore energy facilities require operations and maintenance activities to be performed through their construction and operational life. Vessels supporting this work will be transiting from the marine terminals, likely in the New York Harbor region, to the OSW areas.

# Working Waterfronts as a Core Focus

- Sustainable working waterfronts
  - Explore how shipyards and port facilities balance industrial activity with environmental stewardship and climate resilience
- Technology & innovation
  - Highlight advancements in vessel design, automation, and digital infrastructure that shape the future of maritime operations.
- Workforce development
  - Explore the current and future workforce needs of the maritime industry, including skills gaps and opportunities for career pathways.
  - Discuss partnerships with trade schools, unions, and workforce programs.
- Resilience and Infrastructure Investment
  - Explore the role of shipyards in regional infrastructure and how investments can enhance climate and economic resilience.

# 2-Year Meeting Plan

- Quarterly cadence
- One (1) in-person meeting annually
- Themes

**Working Waterfronts**



**Maritime Workforce**



**Offshore Wind Ready**



# Working Waterfronts

## Context:

- New federal directions & U.S. Maritime Dominance initiative
- Potential historic funding increases for port infrastructure & shipyards
- Diversification is critical for resilient industries
- Continued challenges due to land use constraints & redevelopment pressures

## Potential Deliverables:

- 1. Guest speaker on federal Maritime Action Plan or other federal policies**
- 2. Case studies on multi-use ports and vessels**
- 3. Discussions on funding opportunities, key findings from NYS Ports Study**

# Maritime Workforce

## Context:

- Federal funding & policy shifts, including Centers of Excellence & emphasis on shipbuilding & welding
- Regional stronghold for maritime training & education
- Recruitment & retention challenges
- Collaboration is already occurring

## Potential Deliverables:

- 1. Inventory of maritime training programs & apprenticeships (with EJ-TWG, JSC-TWG, Harbor Ops)**
- 2. Evaluate shipyard workforce development needs (research project)**

# Offshore Wind Ready

## Context:

- Commercial-scale projects are operating & under construction
- Opportunity to document metrics & benefits
- OSW crossover with other development & industries
- Updated NYS regulations (RAPID Act's Article VIII)

## Potential Deliverables/Activities:

- 1. Fact sheet(s) on industry benefits**
- 2. Discuss NYS efforts to advance offshore wind pre-development**
- 3. Learn more about NYS transmission (Article VIII) process & guidance**



# Group Discussion on 2-Year Meeting Plan

## Working Waterfronts



1. Guest speaker on federal Maritime Action Plan or other federal policies
2. Case studies on multi-use ports and vessels
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## Maritime Workforce



1. Inventory of maritime training programs & apprenticeships (with EJ-TWG, JSC-TWG, Harbor Ops)
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## Offshore Wind Ready



1. Fact sheet(s) on industry benefits
2. Discuss NYS efforts to advance offshore wind pre-development
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# Next Steps



**NYSERDA**

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**Thank you!**

