



## **Request for Proposals for Regional Offshore Wind Fisheries Mitigation Fund Administrator**

Eleven coastal states (states of Maine through North Carolina, including Connecticut) have been advancing an initiative to establish a regional fund for fisheries compensatory mitigation which would provide financial compensation for impacts from offshore wind development in the Atlantic Coast region. As the latest step in this collective effort, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a regional fund administrator (RFA). The RFP seeks a qualified entity to serve as the RFA, and in that capacity design and develop an offshore wind energy-related comprehensive fisheries compensatory mitigation fund and associated claims process to serve states, the fishing community, and offshore wind developers working on projects in the waters along the East Coast of the United States.

The RFP, entitled “RFP 5554 Regional Fund Administrator for an Offshore Wind Fisheries Mitigation Fund”, can be viewed on the NYSERDA Current Solicitations and Funding Opportunities webpage: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Current-Funding-Opportunities>

Responses to the RFP are due by March 26, 2024. For additional information about the RFP, please contact Morgan Brunbauer, NYSERDA Marine Fisheries Manager for Offshore Wind, at (518) 862-1090, Ext. 3368 or [fisheriesandoffshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:fisheriesandoffshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov).

### **Background**

Since 2021, a group of Atlantic coastal states, including Connecticut, have collaborated to establish a regional approach to offshore wind fisheries mitigation. This effort began with [a letter to the Biden Administration](#) emphasizing the shared federal-state responsibility to address several critical issues related to responsible offshore wind development, including port infrastructure, permitting, research and development, fisheries support, and natural resource restoration and mitigation. Carrying forward this partnership, in November 2021, the States sent [a letter to BOEM](#) to encourage the development of a standardized fisheries compensatory mitigation framework. In June 2022, BOEM issued [a draft framework](#) for mitigating impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries. In 2023, the States agreed to begin working towards establishing a regional fund and administrator for offshore wind fisheries mitigation, and released a public [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to solicit public input on how to approach the process of establishing such a fund. Upon selection of an entity to serve as the regional fund administrator (RFA) via the NYSERDA RFP, the RFA will work with an oversight committee consisting of representatives from states, interstate fisheries management bodies, the fishing industry, and the offshore wind industry to design and implement a process for administering and disbursing fisheries mitigation funds.

The Special Initiative on Offshore Wind (SLOW) and the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) have been convening and facilitating the States’ discussions on a regional approach to fisheries compensatory mitigation. SLOW and CBI will continue to support this critically important effort as consultation with the fishing and offshore wind development industries continues.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, or require some other accommodation, including equipment to facilitate virtual participation, please contact us at 860-418-5910 or by email at [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov). Any person needing an accommodation for hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.