

**Regional Fund Administrator - Design Oversight Committee (DOC)
Commercial Fishing Industry DOC Representation**

APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 19, 2024 by 5:00 PM ET.

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

For the last two years, 11 Atlantic states (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina), offshore wind developers and commercial fishing advisors have advanced an effort to establish a regional fund for fisheries compensatory mitigation. A recent request for proposals, advanced by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) on behalf of all 11 states, seeks to select a qualified entity to serve as the Regional Fund Administrator (RFA) that would design and develop a compensation fund and associated claims process to serve states, the fishing community, and offshore wind developers along the East Coast of the U.S. For more information on the anticipated [scope of the RFA](#) and process to date, please reach out to anyone on the contact list (page 3).

The states and commercial fishing advisors are seeking to convene an advisory group referred to the “Design Oversight Committee” (DOC), which will oversee the work of the new RFA during the design and development phase. The DOC is meant to be a short-term governance structure for the design and development phase. The DOC will provide the Administrator significant advice, guidance, and support, but it is **not a final decision-making entity**.

Because fishing along the East Coast varies by state, species, gear type, port, vessel type and size, and business model, there is no one “fishing industry” but rather a complex and interwoven set of industries. Due to this complexity, the RFA is expected to advance, with the support of the DOC, a robust “bottom up” fisheries stakeholder process that is equitable across regions and fisheries that includes broad engagement across the industry, both formal and informal forums for input and direct advice and guidance from fishing industry member on the DOC. The RFA shall also use an iterative approach throughout all phases to ensure feedback from all participants from the fishing industry is incorporated into the development of the claims process.

DOC Composition:

- 3 state members and 3 alternates - regionally determined
- 3 developer members and 3 alternates
- 6 commercial fishing industry members and 6 alternates

Role of the DOC members: The primary role of a DOC member is to confer with the members of their caucus and deliver advice to the RFA that represents the feedback they received from their entire caucus (e.g., commercial fishing industry DOC members should give feedback to the RFA that represents the variety of opinions they hear from fishing industry members they consult with).

The DOC will advise the RFA on:

- Key RFA-led processes, including but not limited to, the work plan, the stakeholder engagement plan, the communication plan, and the proposal for long-term governance.
- Key elements of the draft final claims process including but not limited to program eligibility, evidence of impacts and burden of proof, compensable costs and losses, multipliers and processor compensation, data sources and

verification; and the overall design of the claims process and its administration to ensure a simple, verifiable, and efficient claims process.

- Policies, procedures, and operational manuals, including quality and fiduciary controls, for the claims process developed by the RFA.
- The final proposed claims process developed by the RFA prior to public comment.
- Understanding of and implementation of public comments received to the final claims process.

The DOC will also advise the contracting agents (NYSERDA) on:

- The performance of the RFA during the design and development process.
- Recommend whether the RFA should be empowered to implement and administer the finalized claims process.

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY DOC MEMBERS (6 members + 6 alternates)

The goal for the commercial fishing industry DOC membership is to have broad regional representation, ensuring there is reasonably equitable and comprehensive representation across subregions, federal waters fisheries, gear-type, scale of business, and type of business.

- Member seats will be allocated by major federal waters fisheries based on NMFS' Fishing Footprint Data of the New England regions.
- However, many fisheries and fishing enterprises have multiple permits and boats in multiple states/regions with variable port of origin & landing.
- Major impacted fisheries are concentrated to the north and not equitably divided by sub-region.
- Priority will be given to representatives from federally permitted fisheries that will experience impacts from offshore wind development.
- Members will be compensated for travel and time.

Proposed Fishing Industry DOC Representation:

To the extent possible, there will be approximately **four seats (2 members + 2 alternates) per sub region.**

Sub region 1: ME, NH, MA, RI

Sub region 2: CT, NY, NJ

Sub region 3: DE, MD, VA, NC

Across all the sub regions, the seats will be **allocated to cover the major federal fisheries** ("major" defined using revenue and landings from the NMFS Fishery Footprint Data):

1. Scallops
2. Groundfish
3. Squid/Mixed Trawl
4. Lobster
5. Clams
6. Small Scale Fisheries

Alternate seats will be allocated to **increase diversity** in representation based on:

- Geography
- Scale
- Shoreside
- Other fisheries

Role for Alternates:

Because of the diversity of the fishing industry DOC members are attempting to cover, **alternates will have a very important role.** Alternates receive all materials that members receive and may observe all DOC proceedings.

- Alternates should help fill the gaps of scale, location and fishery representation.
- Sub regional groups of four (2 members + 2 alternates) should confer often.
- If an issue arises that requires regional expertise, the two alternates from a sub-region could “tap-in” to replace members of another region who do not have the necessary expertise.

Individual criteria for membership:

Required:

- Have current direct financial stake in commercial fishing (if retired, previous direct stake).
- Able and willing to dedicate sufficient time to the RFA effort over 2 years, estimated at 5 to 10 hours per month, plus additional time to confer with participants in a fishery or sector.
- Proven ability to work in collaborative processes with others with differing views, such as on fishery management councils, wind energy stakeholder groups, town committees or other.
- Ability to conduct outreach and network with others in your fishery, gear type, and region.
- Duty to disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including direct or indirect work for an offshore wind developer.

Desired but not required:

- Knowledge of or experience with past claims processes of any kind (disaster relief, etc.).
- Applicants who can credibly claim broader experience across other fisheries and/or shore-side industries will be prioritized.

Selection Process

1. The state DOC representatives and commercial fishing advisors will review the applications using the above criteria. If there are gaps in representation, further outreach will be conducted.
2. The state DOC representatives and commercial fishing advisors will finalize the 12-person slate of commercial fishing DOC representatives.
3. The eleven state working group will issue final approval.

Informational Webinars:

There will be 3 webinars, regionally based per the states below, with participation from the state DOC representatives and fishing industry advisors (however, interested fishermen can join any of the 3 calls for more information convenient to their schedule).

- **June 10th (ME, NH, MA, RI) 4 – 4:00 PM ET - [Registration](#)**
- **June 12th (CT, NY, NJ) 4 – 4:00 PM ET - [Registration](#)**
- **June 13th (DE, MD, VA, NC) 5 – 5:00 PM ET - [Registration](#)**

Contact Information:

For questions, reach out to:

Justin Davis – justin.davis@ct.gov, CT DEEP Bureau Chief for Natural Resources

Patrick Field - pfield@cbi.org, CBI facilitator

Morgan Brunbauer - morgan.brunbauer@nyserda.ny.gov, NYSERDA contracting contact

Lane Johnston - lane@rodafisheries.org, RODA

Commercial Fishing Industry DOC Application

DUE JULY 19, 2024 by 5:00 PM ET

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please include in your application:

1. Completed application form (below and sent via mail) or Via Survey Monkey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPQT7JX>
2. Cover letter describing your background, experience, and interest (optional but NOT required).

The letter should include details on relevant experience working in a collaborative process, engagement and knowledge of fishery operations and data, experience with claims processes, and ability to engage with the fishing industry broadly.

Please email completed applications to doc@cbi.org

Applications may also be printed, filled out, and mailed to:

Patrick Field, DOC Application, CBI, 2067 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 570, Cambridge, MA 02140-1340

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title: _____ Employer: _____

Fishing Organization Affiliation(s) – note leadership roles, if applicable:

Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

General Criteria: Please check the boxes below appropriately.

Question	Yes	No
1. I have direct financial stake in the commercial fishing industry (examples: captain, crew, manager, boat owner, company owner, or industry representative from an association or other entity) or I am retired and was previously employed in the commercial fishing industry.		
2. I work or represent industry in one or more of the states from North Carolina to Maine.		
3. I am dedicated to advising the RFA effort over the next two years.		
4. I have participated in collaborative processes such as fisheries management council, commission, committees, and advisory panels, state or federal working groups, fishing association committees or other similar efforts.		
5. I will disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including direct or indirect work for an offshore wind developer.		

Specific Questions:

Please answer the following questions below or in a cover letter.

1. What fishery/fisheries do you or your members (if you work for an association) operate in? Please include the region, gear type, type of business, or other such information.
2. In what state(s) do you operate, homeport, land, and/or otherwise associate with?
3. Describe your experience working in collaborative processes with others with differing views, such as on fishery management councils, wind energy stakeholder groups, town committees or other groups?
4. Describe your ability to conduct outreach and network with others in your fishery, with your gear type, or geographic region.
5. Describe any experience with other claims processes (offshore wind, disaster relief, etc.)
6. Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including direct or indirect work for offshore wind developers? *Potential conflicts of interest will not disqualify applicants outright.*

7. Are you interested in a primary or alternate position? *Note that the alternates will have a very robust role on the DOC, see background document for details.*

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Submit completed applications to doc@cbi.org

If by mail, please mail to Patrick Field, CBI, 2067 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 570, Cambridge, MA 02140-1340 postmarked BEFORE July 19 if possible but no later than July 19.