



# Regional Wildlife Science Entity for Atlantic Offshore

## Wind Development

A Stakeholder Driven Effort

Massachusetts Habitat Working Group

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REGIONAL  
WILDLIFE SCIENCE  
ENTITY FOR  
ATLANTIC  
OFFSHORE WIND  
A Stakeholder Driven Vision

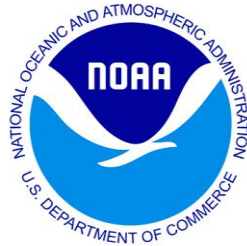
June 2020

# RWSE Vision Recap

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- **Mission:** To collaboratively and effectively conduct and coordinate relevant, credible, and efficient regional monitoring and research of wildlife and marine ecosystems that supports the advancement of environmentally responsible and cost-efficient offshore wind power development activities in U.S. Atlantic waters.

*(<https://www.nyetwg.com/regional-wildlife-science-entity>)*



Supported by:  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Defenders of Wildlife  
 Conservation Law  
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 Ocean Conservancy  
 Mass Audubon  
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# Current Status of the RWSE

**Request for Qualifications (RFQL)** for the RWSE fiscal agent officially launched [here](#) and will be open until March 11.

- **Seeking**
  - A fiscal agent to financially manage multi-sectoral, regional collaboration and science around offshore wind and wildlife for the East Coast of the United States
  - A Director to coordinate the activities of the RWSE, including supporting the Interim Steering Committee
- **Issued by** NYSERDA, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), in coordination with the members of the Interim Steering Committee
- **Selection expected** by April 2021
- **Funding:** \$30K per year for two years by CT, MA, MD and NY + financial support committed by OSW developers

# DOE FOA 2237

- **Topic Area 1: Environmental Research, Validation of Tools and Methods, and Multi-year Evaluation of Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Development on Wildlife in U.S. Atlantic Waters**
  - Up to \$7.5 million available
  - DOE anticipates making one award
  - Project length up to five years
  - Ongoing coordination with DOE, BOEM, NOAA NMFS and USFWS
- Schedule
  - Concept Papers March 1, 2021
  - DOE invitation to submit full application ~mid-April?
  - Full Applications May 5, 2021
  - DOE selection ~July 2021

# DOE FOA 2237

## Research Focus Areas

- Assess or mitigate impacts of construction noise on marine species
- Assess changes in habitat or marine species' use of habitat
- Assess collision risk for birds and/or bats

## Objectives

- Design methodologies and frameworks
- Carry out a research program
- Evaluate methodologies and technologies
- Use data collected to update/inform existing datasets and tools
- Publish and disseminate results

# MassCEC Response to DOE FOA 2237

- In coordination with non-federal members of the RWSE ISC
- Submitted in partnership with or on behalf of a to-be-identified RWSE fiscal agent
- **Objectives:**
  1. To lay groundwork for the Selected RWSE to be able to partner with any and all of multiple teams submitting applications to DOE (likely university consortiums and NREL and/or PNNL)
  2. To use the concept paper to fully apprise DOE of the anticipated RWSE roles, selection process, and approach for incorporating a Selected RWSE onto most if not all Full Applications to DOE.
  3. To be in position to develop and submit a full application to DOE if necessary, e.g. if RFQL process does not result in selection of an RWSE fiscal agent.

# RWSE Value Add to FOA Respondents

- Mechanism for multi-sectoral stakeholder support and participation
- Process has broad regional buy-in
- Can ensure that tasks incorporate the input of, and buy-in from federal/state agencies, OSW developers, NGOs, and other stakeholders
- Integrates the FOA-funded work into broader regional efforts
- Can Contribute meaningfully to match
  1. Existing funding for 2 years
  2. Volunteer/in-kind time from the Steering Committee, Sector Caucuses, Subcommittees

**End**