

# RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind



Technology and Innovation:  
Can offshore wind development have  
a net positive impact on biodiversity?

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## Cooperatively established (July 2021), led, and funded

by federal agencies, states, offshore wind companies, eNGOs

BOEM, NOAA, DOE, USFWS, EPA, Marine Mammal Commission; Atlantic coast states from ME to SC; Atlantic coast offshore wind lease holders and developers; 12 eNGOs (national and local)

**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



Formed by the governors of New England and Mid-Atlantic states, respectively

The Regional Ocean Partnerships in the RWSC geographic area of focus

Major functions together and separately:

- Coordinating
- Convening and engaging
- Identifying regional priorities and data gaps
- Fundraising
- Managing initiatives, projects, and contracts
- Facilitating data and information exchange





# Science Plan & Research Support



## *Integrated Science Plan for Wildlife, Habitat, and Offshore Wind Energy in the U.S. Atlantic*

- Requested by the four Sectors
- Build on existing research priorities
- Understand ongoing and pending data collection and active research
- Identify data gaps and needs
- Standardize new data collection, facilitate data sharing, enhance data management
- Align funding

## *Aligning funds to select and manage research projects*

- Building capacity in 2023 and planning to continue growth
- Funds from offshore wind developers, states, federal agencies, others
- RFPs guided by the Science Plan (which reflects all four Sectors' priorities)
- Projects will be selected the RWSC Steering Committee