

# RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind

## 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



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## WHO ARE RWSC?

Cooperatively established, funded, and led by U.S. federal agencies, Atlantic coast states, eNGOs, and offshore wind companies

Hosted by the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, the two Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) on the Atlantic coast, who have been engaging these groups around ocean planning and management priorities for over a decade

## WHAT DOES RWSC DO?

Convenes hundreds of experts in wildlife, oceanography, seafloor habitats, offshore wind development, ocean data management, modeling, data visualization

Identifies research and data needs, coordinates and aligns funding, identifies and develops data standards and sharing policies

## WHY REGIONAL COLLABORATION?

- Ensure better understanding of the potential effects and mitigation strategies for the many species that interact with multiple offshore wind developments over time
- Stakeholders benefit from shared science, standardized data collection and monitoring protocols, and a collective understanding of the key scientific questions and uncertainties at regional and ecosystem-wide scales
- Inform the responsible development of the industry which may lead to greater certainty for offshore wind companies and lower energy procurement costs for states

**MORE INFO**

<https://rwsc.org>

**DIRECTOR**  
Emily Shumchenia, PhD  
[emily.shumchenia@gmail.com](mailto:emily.shumchenia@gmail.com)





SEA TURTLES • HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM • MARINE MAMMALS • BIRDS & BATS • PROTECTED FISH SPECIES • TECHNOLOGY

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

COMING IN 2023

<https://rWSC.org/science-plan>

The RWSC Science Plan will be a living document. It will compile information about ongoing and planned offshore wind and wildlife data collection and research, sourced from federal agencies, U.S. Atlantic states, environmental NGOs, offshore wind companies, and the research community. From this information and with these experts, RWSC is identifying opportunities for collaboration and research gaps and needs.

The purpose of this Science Plan is to assist the RWSC Steering Committee in implementing the RWSC Mission by:

- **Building on prior efforts and collaboration**
- **Understanding ongoing and planned data collection and active research**
- **Identifying data and research gaps and needs**
- **Standardizing new data collection and facilitating data sharing**
- **Aligning and leveraging funding from multiple sources**

### 2023 STEERING COMMITTEE

- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Equinor
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources/Maryland Energy Administration
- Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
- National Audubon Society
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
- Orsted North America
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

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