

NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH & MONITORING INITIATIVE

VISION STATEMENT

This Research and Monitoring Initiative addresses the need for regional research and monitoring of marine and coastal resources during offshore wind development, construction, operation and decommissioning as recommended in the New Jersey Offshore Wind Strategic Plan. Initial funding is provided by developers through New Jersey's Offshore Wind Solicitation 2. This Initiative is a rigorous scientific approach to uphold the State's mandate to protect and responsibly manage New Jersey's coastal and marine resources while supporting the State's Offshore Wind Economic Development Act, [Executive Order 8](#) and [Executive Order 92](#), and the [Energy Master Plan](#), which respond to climate change and protect our environment for future generations.

GOAL

Implement a robust Research and Monitoring Initiative (Initiative) to support the responsible implementation of offshore wind energy in the waters off New Jersey's coastline, which employs the best available science and is consistent with mandates to protect and responsibly manage New Jersey's marine and coastal resources.

PRINCIPLES

- **Be transparent** in decision-making, with Initiative implementation and funding conducted through continued and open communication with interested and affected parties.
- **Balance New Jersey's environmental goals** of furthering New Jersey's renewable energy targets while effectively managing and promoting New Jersey's natural resources consistent with NJ Department of Environmental Protection and fulfilling NJ Board of Public Utilities statutory mandates and priorities, including:
 - Reduce and respond to climate change.
 - Manage and promote thriving natural & historic resources.
 - Protect New Jersey's water.
 - Promote the development of clean, renewable sources of energy.
 - Ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for customers in New Jersey.
 - Lower energy costs, reduce demand for electricity, emit fewer pollutants into the air and create jobs.
- **Further the scientific understanding** of existing coastal and marine natural resources, including but not limited to the physical and chemical environment, wildlife, fisheries, and any changes, whether beneficial or detrimental, to those resources resulting from offshore wind development, construction, operations and decommissioning.

- **Produce credible, scientifically rigorous data, analysis, and reporting** that can be used for identifying, understanding, avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating impacts from offshore wind on marine resources, as well as evaluating efficacy of mitigation efforts.
- **Be adaptive** throughout the Initiative to reflect that different or expanded research and monitoring needs may arise to accommodate both unforeseen circumstances and new scientific information as future offshore wind projects are developed.

OBJECTIVES

- **Establish an adaptable framework** for future offshore wind research and monitoring efforts, including goals, objectives, protocols, criteria for prioritization of projects, roles and responsibilities, and timeframes.
- **Consult, partner with, and maintain effective communication** with existing regional offshore wind and wildlife/fisheries groups to identify research priorities and timeline for products.
- **Maintain communication and coordination** between conservation organizations and state and federal agencies.
- **Contribute to the greater regional research effort** by ensuring that existing and ongoing research is leveraged such that research tasks are not duplicative, data gaps are addressed, and the long-term monitoring needs are met.
- **Select projects that reflect New Jersey's highest research priorities.**
- **Conduct rigorous, hypothesis-based, and scientifically defensible monitoring and research** with results that are reproducible and statistically robust.
- **Identify and inform actions for adaptive management** to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts, including cumulative impacts, from offshore wind on coastal and marine resources, including habitat, biota, and recreational and commercial fisheries.
- **Identify future offshore wind research needs related to coastal and marine resources as they relate to the Initiative;** and
- **Make products readily available** to stakeholders and the public in a user-friendly accessible format.

CONCEPTUAL TIMELINE

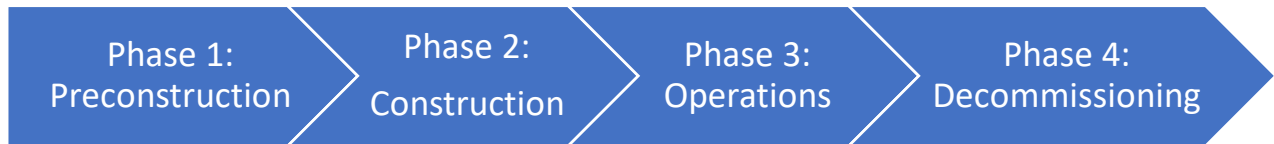


Figure 1. Conceptual timeline for Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring using New Jersey's awarded projects as a guide.