

Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap

One Year Progress Update

March 2024

Maine Advances the Bold Vision of the Offshore Wind Roadmap

Together with a broad and diverse group of partners, Maine has moved floating offshore wind forward in a responsible way that puts the state's people and natural resources at the forefront.

We invite you to explore the progress to date and the road ahead.

Establishing Offshore Wind Energy Procurements

Enacted LD 1895 which authorizes procurement of 3,000 MW of offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Maine installed by 2040

Identifying an Offshore Wind Port

Coordinated with Maine Department of Transportation to identify a site in Searsport for a world-class, purpose-built deep water offshore wind port to deliver investments, workforce opportunities, and innovation to Maine while supporting the generation of clean, affordable energy.

Protecting Maine's Interests and Priorities

Advanced Roadmap priorities throughout the federal offshore wind siting process by requesting increased engagement with coastal and fishing communities and opposing siting within lobster areas. Advocated for a leasing process that supports Maine's offshore wind procurement goal and prioritizes investment in the state's economy in a cost-effective way.

Collaborating with Local and Regional Partners

Coordinated with neighboring states and partners on transmission, procurement, supply chain, and port development. Engaged with research and development groups including the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC) and Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind (RWSC).

The Road Ahead: 2024 and Beyond

State of Maine:

- Begin the planning process for procurement of 3,000 MW of offshore wind energy in a cost-effective way that protects fisheries and the environment while meeting our clean energy needs
- Advance Maine's offshore wind port at Searsport to bring jobs, innovation, and clean energy to Maine's shores
- Continue collaboration with other states to enable joint energy and transmission procurement and workforce and supply chain development

Federal Government:

- Finalize decision on Maine's research array lease
- Finalize decision on Gulf of Maine lease areas for commercial development and hold a commercial lease auction

Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium

In 2023, the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium (Consortium) developed a comprehensive research strategy to reduce the costs and potential negative impacts of floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. This month, the Governor's Energy Office announced that two entities were selected to carry out research projects for the Consortium.

In 2024 the Consortium will oversee current research and solicit additional proposals, including for research exploring new technologies to reduce costs and mitigate environmental impacts of offshore wind through innovations in design, deployment, and monitoring. Findings from this research may inform best practices and permitting guidance for the industry. The Maine Department of Marine Resources will be collecting baseline data on ocean floor habitats in key areas of the Gulf of Maine with opportunities for commercial fishing vessel support.



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
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Delivering on Roadmap Objectives in 2023



A. Pursue Offshore Wind Supply Chain, Infrastructure, and Workforce Investments to Support Economic Growth and Resiliency

Supported legislation to procure 3,000 MW of offshore wind energy by 2040 to deliver cost-effective, clean energy to Maine, create family-sustaining jobs and economic opportunities, and protect important fishing areas and the environment. Advanced Searsport for port development; supported workforce training programs; partnered with other states in the region on transmission, interconnection, and port capacity; facilitated national supply chain connections and business development opportunities, leveraged lessons learned through a federal-state supply chain partnership to build the industry and workforce together in a sustainable manner; worked regionally on transmission planning, including long-term energy planning for onshore and offshore transmission needs; and worked with regional partners to advance federal funding opportunities related to offshore wind and transmission.



B. Harness Abundant Renewable Energy to Reduce Long-Term Costs, Reliance on Fossil Fuels, and Fight Climate Change

Advocated for Roadmap priorities throughout the federal siting process; explored port-associated infrastructure; and coordinated with other state and federal agencies on supply chain development, workforce training, transmission and interconnection, port capacity, and other priorities.



C. Advance Maine-Based Innovation to Compete in Emerging National and Global Offshore Wind Industry

Advanced the floating Research Array; supported clean energy training programs to build the workforce needed for offshore wind including a project with the International Association of Ironworkers Local 7 to develop a flexible training program and certification center; and participated on the board of the NOWRDC.



D. Support Maine's Vital and Thriving Seafood Industries and Coastal Communities

Supported legislation to prohibit the development of offshore wind in critical lobstering areas in state waters; prioritized areas for development outside of lobstering grounds in federal waters; invested in research through the Consortium to study and mitigate potential social and ecological impacts of floating offshore wind; and worked with 10 other Atlantic Coast states to establish a regional fishery mitigation fund to compensate for economic loss from offshore wind development.



E. Protect the Environment, Wildlife & Fisheries Ecosystem in the Gulf of Maine

Funded a benthic mapping project to identify areas of greatest potential conflict between offshore wind and fisheries, the environment, and wildlife; used the Roadmap as guidance to share input with the federal government for fisheries mitigation and North Atlantic Right Whale strategies; and participated in the RWSC to ensure the wildlife data being collected is relevant and accessible.

For more information, please visit
maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind



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