

## **GOVERNOR'S OCEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & SCOPE OF WORK**

The following proposed Ocean Energy Task Force (OETF) Subcommittee Straw Proposal is provided to stimulate discussion of subcommittee membership and scope of work. Our goal is to activate subcommittees as OETF's primary means of addressing the details of our work.

### **I. Subcommittee Process and Rules**

- Meeting process:
  - OETF members serving on one or more subcommittees will be the voting members (should voting be necessary);
  - Interested parties will be invited and are welcome to attend subcommittee meetings, provide expertise and information, and comment;
  - Subcommittee chairs will work with OETF co-chairs to structure interested parties' participation in the work of subcommittees using sign up sheets and polling completed by interested parties.
  
- Staff support: Each subcommittee will be assigned a state agency staff person to assist chair with:
  - Scheduling meetings;
  - Preparing and disseminating meeting agendas to subcommittee members and interested parties;
  - Collecting background information for meetings;
  - Preparing meeting minutes.
  - Developing policy positions for consideration by the full TF
  
- OETF co-chair liaison: One of the OETF co-chairs will serve as primary contact with each subcommittee chair:
  - Beth Nagusky: Regulatory & Permitting Process; Grid Access, Transmission, and Utility Incentives; Oil & Gas.
  - Don Perkins: Environmental & Human Impacts; Economic Development Opportunities and New Technologies; Tidal Energy.

## II. Subcommittees

### Subcommittee #1: Environmental & Human Impacts

**Members:** Sean Mahoney, Chair  
Rep. Herb Adams  
Leslie Harroun  
George Lapointe  
Pat White  
Kathleen Leyden

**Staff:** Linda Mercer, DMR  
Matt Nixon, SPO

#### Scope of Work:

- Identify competing human uses and ecosystem functions of the Gulf of Maine that should be considered in assessing human and environmental impacts of energy development:
  - Avian
  - Marine Mammals
  - Coastal Fisheries
  - Offshore Fisheries
  - Recreational Uses
  - Habitat/Ocean bottom impact
  - Viewshed
  - Transportation
- Identify key organizations and individuals who represent human and ecosystem interests and use them as resources.
- Inventory and assess how other coastal states (DE, MA, NJ, RI,) have engaged stakeholders.
- Develop a plan to engage stakeholders in identifying competing human uses and ecosystem functions and addressing siting challenges in an effective, transparent manner.
- Inventory available sources of data on human/ecosystem functions that can be assembled to show spatial extent of such functions;
- Identify critical data gaps as well as any impediments to and the cost of acquiring such data; recommend how best to proceed with funding and acquiring such data.
- Develop preliminary opportunities/constraints map based on available information
- Suggest public outreach process to assess public interest, engage public in a constructive manner, and build public awareness of ocean energy opportunities and challenges.
- Examine existing state and federal permitting process in light of potential human/ecosystem conflicts with ocean energy development and recommend any changes considered needed. (coordinate with Subcommittee #2 on this task)

## **Subcommittee #2: Regulatory and Permitting Process**

**Members:** Kathleen Leyden, Chair  
Habib Dagher  
Rep. Stacey Fitts  
Angus King  
George Lapointe  
Sean Mahoney  
Pat McGowan  
Karin Tilberg

**Staff:** Todd Burrowes, SPO

### **Scope of Work:**

- Identify and recommend any changes determined necessary to expedite environmental permitting of ocean energy resources, including “one stop shopping,” without unreasonable impact on the human/ecosystem resource.
- Identify challenges posed by federal permitting process, and by the state’s involvement in the federal permitting process, and recommend ways Maine can work to address these challenges.
- Identify any local permitting requirements and potential conflicts with the state permitting process, and recommend how to resolve any such conflicts.
- Identify state governance mechanism to best promote advancement, economic development and permitting of ocean energy resources

## **Subcommittee #3: Grid Access, Transmission, and Utility Incentives**

**Members:** David Flanagan, Chair  
George Baker  
George Hart  
Sen. Barry Hobbins  
John Kerry  
Sharon Reishus

**Staff:** Jennifer Puser, OEIS  
Denis Bergeron, PUC

### **Scope of Work:**

#### Utility Regulatory Environment:

- Identify any existing market structure, utility regulation, or other impediments to development of ocean renewable energy resources.
- Recommend changes to market and utility policy to promote the development of ocean renewable energy resources in Maine.

### Transmission Capacity:

- Identify the current available capacity for transmitting energy from or through Maine to the New England market and the amount available for incremental North to South transmission through Maine.
- How much additional transmission capacity would be needed to and through Maine to support reasonable projections of tidal and offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

### Interconnection:

- Identify potential points for physical interconnection of offshore wind and tidal projects.
- Identify any ISO-NE requirements that would hinder interconnection of ocean energy projects and recommend how to resolve them.

### Offshore Wind System Characteristics:

- How do tidal and offshore wind energy generation compare to peak load requirements in New England.
- What challenges does the grid face with the integration of several hundred or several thousand megawatts of ocean renewable energy in Maine and New England, and how are those challenges being addressed.
- How is wind integration and system stability affected by the end uses of wind power (i.e., for transportation/home heating as opposed to historic electric grid uses)?
- Would adoption of “smart grid” technology or the installation of residential TOU meters on a wide scale basis help spur development of a market for and penetration of use of electricity in home heating and transportation sectors? Are there any plans in Maine to promote these practices, and if so when and at what cost?

### Economics:

- Quantify the cost of adding transmission capacity in Maine to support development of reasonably foreseeable amounts of ocean renewable energy resources and identify how the costs of adding such capacity would be allocated.
- Identify the costs of leasing submerged lands for construction of underwater transmission facilities and recommend any changes to submerged land leasing policies or practices.

### Quantifying and Capturing the Tangible State Benefits of Ocean Energy Development:

- Identify the tangible benefits of renewable ocean energy development for local communities impacted directly and the State of Maine generally.
- What regulations/incentives should be put in place in Maine to retain economic benefits for local communities, other impacted stakeholders, and state?

## **Subcommittee #4: Economic Development Opportunities and Promotion of New Technologies**

**Members:** Tim Agnew, Chair  
Habib Dagher  
Parker Hadlock  
Leslie Harroun  
George Hart  
Sen. Kevin Raye  
Cathy Renault

**Staff:** Jennifer DeChant, DECD

### **Scope of Work:**

- Identify essential ingredients for growth of an ocean energy industry in Maine.
- Inventory Maine businesses, research organizations, and academic institutions with potential to contribute to the evolution of an ocean energy cluster of national/international significance.
- Identify ocean energy technology development opportunities where Maine has the resources and relationships to compete on a global basis.
- Review how other states/countries (MA, RI, NJ, DE, Denmark, Germany, Spain) have approached the ocean energy economic development opportunity and identify lessons for Maine.
- Assess and describe Maine's potential to serve as a support center for ocean energy development, operation, and maintenance, drawing on harbor infrastructure in Portland, Searsport, Rockland, and Eastport and infrastructure companies such as Cianbro, Reed and Reed, and Bath Iron Works.
- Recommend policy and investment strategies required to maximize potential economic benefit from ocean energy development based in Maine.
- Review status of end use technologies to use electric energy from ocean renewable energy resources for home heating and transportation, and recommend actions Maine can take to further development of these end uses.
- Promote development of educational and workforce opportunities in the ocean energy field.

## **Subcommittee #5: Tidal Energy**

**Members:** Parker Hadlock, Chair  
Rep. Herb Adams  
Rep. Stacey Fitts  
John Kerry  
Sen. Kevin Raye

**Staff:** Jennifer Puser, OEIS

**Scope of Work:**

- Identify and assess information available on the scope of Maine’s tidal energy resource in an effort to provide a reasonable estimate of the potential generation capacity of tidal energy in Maine. Identify tidal energy developers and developments active globally, nationally, and locally and report on lessons learned from existing developments.
- Identify human use and ecosystem function considerations that must be addressed to successfully develop tidal energy while minimizing negative impacts; recommend process for tidal energy developers to engage stakeholders in considering impacts of new tidal energy projects.
- Identify key regulatory and permitting challenges for development of tidal energy; recommend changes that would facilitate tidal energy development without unreasonable impact on human use/ecosystem functions.

**Subcommittee #6: Oil & Gas**

**Members:** Bob Marvinney, Chair  
Rep. Stacey Fitts  
Sen. Barry Hobbins  
Sean Mahoney

**Scope of Work**

- Collect and summarize available information on extent of oil and gas resources within Maine state waters, in federal waters within Maine’s administrative reach, and on Georges Bank.
- Describe latest technologies available for oil and gas exploration and extraction and any adverse risks associated with oil and gas development.
- Identify potential economic benefits of exploring and developing the available oil and gas resources.
- Assess and describe the compatibility of oil and gas development with existing uses of the Gulf of Maine (fishing, transportation, recreation) and new uses such as offshore ocean wind energy generation.
- Assess and describe compatibility of oil and gas development with Maine’s energy, economic, and environmental goals.
- Summarize and evaluate current and potential federal initiatives for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- Identify ways state agencies can insure effective state participation in federal decision making regarding energy development of fossil fuel resources in state and federal waters.
- Recommend state policy in response to proposals on drilling or moratoriums on drilling.

## **Subcommittee #7: Interim Steps/Coordination**

**Members:** Angus King, Chair

Chairs of Subcommittees #1 through #6 – Sean Mahoney, Kathleen Leyden,  
David Flanagan, Tim Agnew, Parker Hadlock, and Bob Marvinney

Legislative Members – Rep. Herb Adams, Rep. Stacey Fitts, Senator Barry  
Hobbins, and Senator Kevin Raye

OETF co-chairs – Don Perkins, Beth Nagusky

Karin Tilberg

### **Scope of Work**

- Identify actions that the State can take in the immediate term (this legislative session) to promote the development of ocean energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Propose any legislation identified by early to mid-March