



Semi-Annual Progress Report

BOEM Lease OCS-A 0553

February 2026

Submitted to:
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Submitted by:
Maine Department of Energy
Resources (formerly Maine
Governor's Energy Office)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW	1
2.0 PROJECT PROGRESS	2
2.1 SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND TRANSMISSION PLANNING ACTIVITIES.....	3
2.2 OTHER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.....	6
3.0 ENGAGEMENT.....	7
4.0 STATE OF THE SCIENCE.....	10
 APPENDIX A	
FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES MEETING LOG.....	A-1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Gulf of Maine Research Lease Area.....	2
Figure 2: Desktop evaluation of potential export cable routes. Green=most feasible, Red=least.....	4
Figure 3: Aerial digital survey transects in the Gulf of Maine and RFCI.....	5

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Progress on the Research Framework by Category	11
Table A-1: Log of Federal and State Agencies Meetings, July 2022 through February 2025	A-1

ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	Agency Communication Plan
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
DMR	Maine Department of Marine Resources
DOER	Maine Department of Energy Resources
FCP	Fisheries Communication Plan
FLiDAR	Floating (buoy-based) light imaging, detection, and ranging
FCP	Fisheries Communication Plan
Ft	feet
FLiDAR	Floating (buoy-based) light imaging, detection, and ranging
MeRA	Maine Research Array
Ft	feet
MOSWRC	Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium
MeRA	Maine Research Array
NATCP	Native American Tribes Communication Plan
MOSWRC	Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NATCP	Native American Tribes Communication Plan
NERACOOS	Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NERACOOS	Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PTOW	Pine Tree Offshore Wind
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
RAP	Research Activities Plan
PTOW	Pine Tree Offshore Wind
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
RAP	Research Activities Plan
UMaine	University of Maine
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.	United States
WTG	wind turbine generator

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report is prepared in accordance with Research Lease OCS-A 0553 (Lease Area), which requires a Progress Report to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) every six months through the Research Activities Plan (RAP) preparation and approval process. This Progress Report covers the reporting period September 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026. As required by Addendum C, Section 4.1 of the Lease, this Progress Report summarizes overall project progress and engagement activities undertaken with agencies, Native American Tribes, communities, ocean user groups, and the general public over the reporting period, and plans for continued engagement.

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The State of Maine (State) was awarded a Research Lease for the Lease Area in the Gulf of Maine by BOEM for the purpose of developing and operating the Maine Research Array project (MeRA or Project). The Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) is the lead state agency for the research project. In September 2025, the GEO became the Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The Lease Area is located approximately 35 miles from shore, in water depths of approximately 150-200 m (Figure 1). Pine Tree Offshore Wind (PTOW) is the Designated Operator for the MeRA.

The objective of the Project is to create a set of informed best practices and standards for commercial-scale floating offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine, nationally and internationally, to utilize in planning, permitting, constructing and operating commercial-scale projects in a fashion that optimizes co-existence with traditional marine users and the ecosystem. Research conducted at the Project will also support the advancement of Maine's floating offshore wind supply chain and workforce. More information about the State's Offshore Wind initiative can be found on DOER's website: <https://www.maine.gov/energy/>.

The Project is intended to be a small-scale array of wind turbines that is large enough to evaluate many of the issues associated with commercial-scale floating wind turbine arrays built and operated in the Gulf of Maine. The Project is anticipated to consist of 12 or fewer wind turbines, producing no more than 144 megawatts of electricity.

The total acreage of the initial Lease Area is approximately 14,945 acres, which allows room for considering layout alternatives and micro-siting of the floating turbines and anchor systems to avoid and buffer any sensitive resources that may be discovered during surveys. The Lease allows an area of no more than 9,700 acres to be proposed for development in the Project's Research Activities Plan (RAP). Following approval by BOEM of the RAP, the State will relinquish those portions of the Lease Area that are not included in the proposed development.

As proposed, the Project will use floating offshore wind platform technology designed by the University of Maine (UMaine). The Advanced Structures and Composites Center at UMaine has been a pioneer in the development of floating offshore wind platforms and holds over 70 floating turbine patents.

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

Ongoing information about the Project can be found on the research array website, <https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/researcharray>. Ongoing information about state-funded baseline surveys and research can be found at the DMR's Offshore Wind Research webpages, <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/science/ecology-environment/wind-research>, and the [Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium website](#).

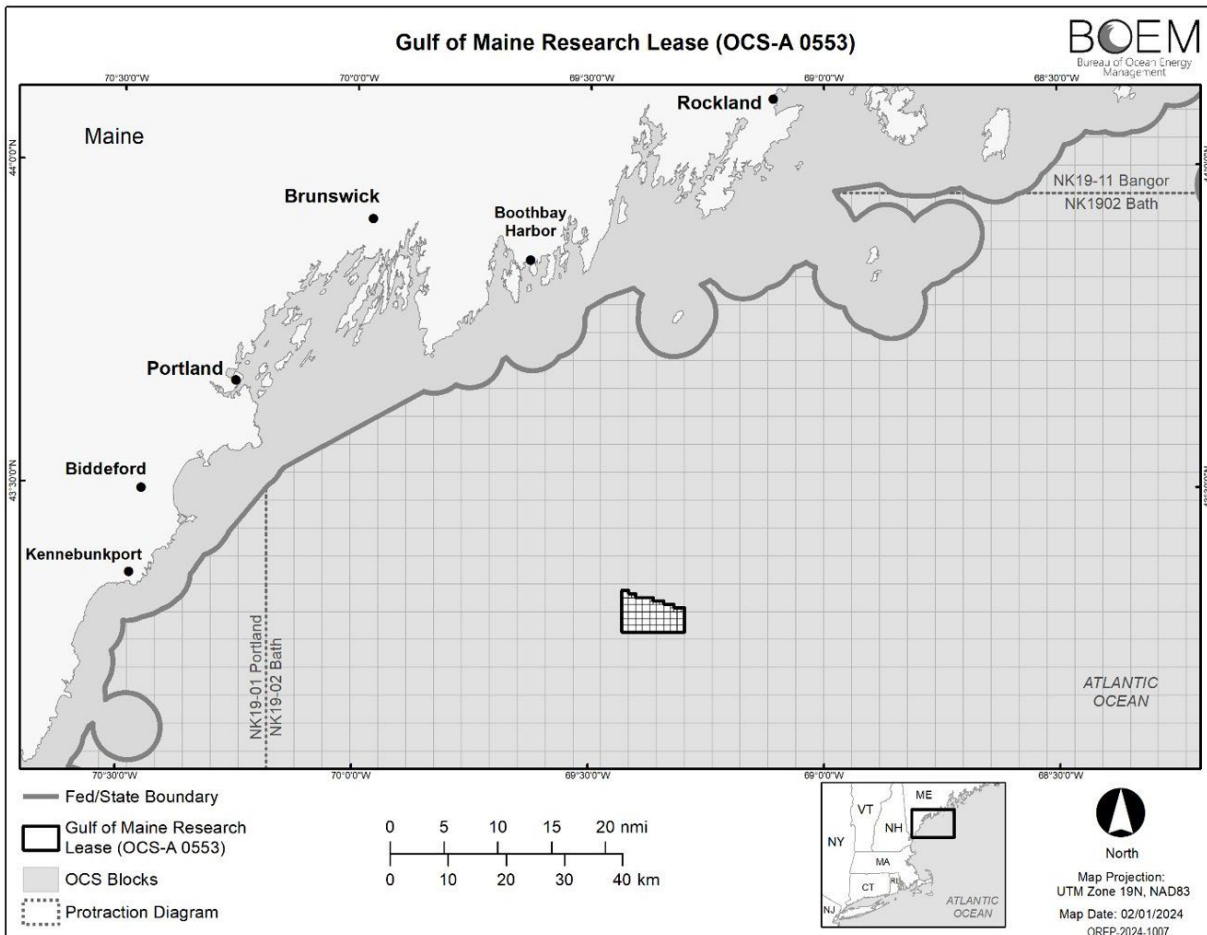


Figure 1: Gulf of Maine Research Lease Area

2.0 PROJECT PROGRESS

This section provides a summary of MeRA Project-related activities. During the current reporting period, the MeRA partners have accomplished the following activities:

- Monthly project update meetings with BOEM
- Two check in meetings with Passamaquoddy Tribe designee
- Public webinar on research projects funded through the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium (70 participants) - January 20, 2026 ([webinar information here](#))
- Semi-annual Avian Report (Submitted 12/19/25)
- Annual Trash and Marine Debris Report (Submitted 1/30/26)
- DMR surveys ongoing, following BOEM-commented survey plan

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

- Maine OSW Research Consortium projects (2 complete and 4 others ongoing; 3rd round of funding pending)
- State funds (non-Research Consortium funds) awarded to three projects that will test innovative offshore wind BlueTech and monitoring approaches

The MeRA partners anticipate submittal of the Research Activities Plan in 2029.

2.1 SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND TRANSMISSION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

MeRA partners have been working on plans for site assessment and characterization activities, such as wind resource and metocean monitoring, geophysical and geotechnical (G&G) surveys, benthic surveys, surveys of marine biota, and terrestrial surveys since 2021. The following is a summary of the work completed to date and anticipated next steps.

Wind Resource / Metocean Monitoring

During the reporting period, no additional wind resource or metocean monitoring was conducted at the research array due to market conditions.

In 2021, PTOW developed an initial, desktop energy production estimate (EPE) for the Project using UMaine's existing DeepC LiDAR buoy data, along with information from the turbine OEM. PTOW also commissioned a desktop metocean study for the site including wind conditions, wave conditions, current conditions and other metocean parameters such as water temperature, salinity, visibility, and air and sea density.

Early in 2022, PTOW began planning and preparations for deployment of a metocean and Floating Light Detection and Ranging (FLiDAR) buoy to gather site-specific wind, weather and oceanographic data. In planning the buoy, PTOW and its environmental consultants sought input from federal and state resource Agencies regarding methods and types of biological instrumentation to be deployed on the buoy, including technology for monitoring marine mammals, fish, birds and bats (Appendix A).

PTOW will apply for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to deploy a FLiDAR buoy at one of five locations within or adjacent to the Lease Area. Deployment of the buoy is expected to occur following the execution of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC). PTOW will coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard and other applicable Agencies to obtain other necessary permits, authorizations and approvals before deploying the buoy.

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

Geophysical and Benthic Surveys

During the reporting period, the Maine Department of Marine Resources conducted seafloor surveys of several areas around the research lease with state funds from the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium. DMR mapped a total of 777 square nautical miles with the Consortium's funding (337 square nautical miles in the 2024 season and 440 square nautical miles in the 2025 season). The project is scheduled to finish imminently as data analysis and processing are completed. Preliminary data are published on [DMR's open data portal](#), noting that this site includes all DMR mapping data and not just the Consortium-funded maps. DMR is in the process of adding the 2025 season data to other databases, including the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#).

Due to market conditions, PTOW did not conduct additional geophysical nor benthic surveys during this reporting period.

In 2022, PTOW commissioned a desktop geologic study covering the Lease Area and prospective cable route / landfall configurations. As expected, the areas evaluated include areas of soft soils, hard ground, bedrock, and both gradual and steep slopes. Multiple potential cable routes to two prospective interconnection locations were identified. These were evaluated and color-coded based on their relative feasibility (Figure 2).

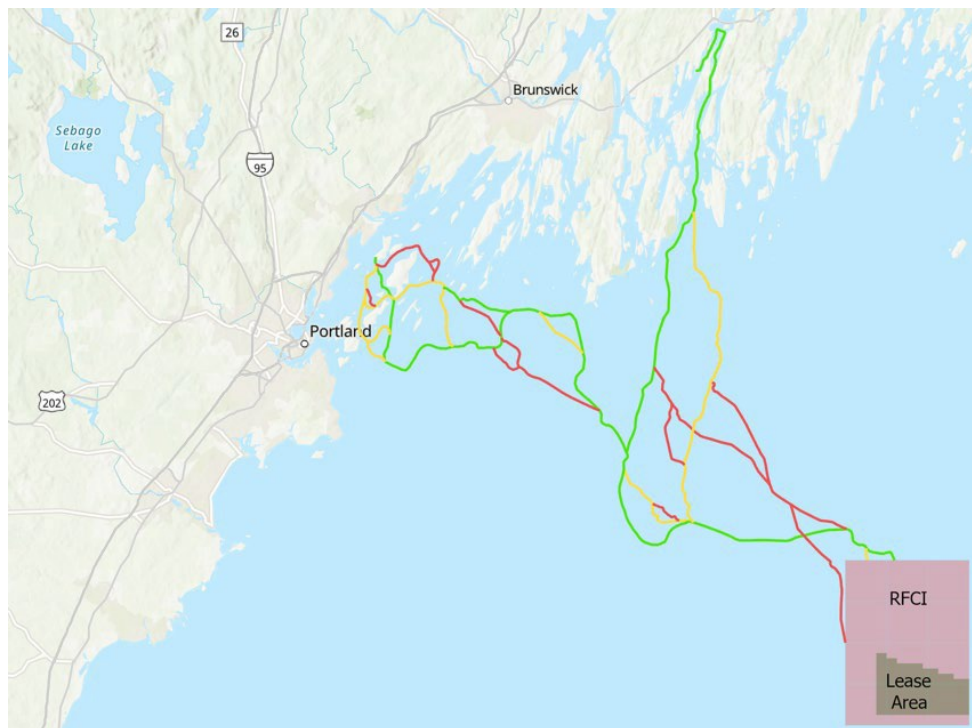


Figure 2: Desktop evaluation of potential export cable routes. Green=most feasible, Red=least.

Additional data will be gathered during site investigation surveys to select and optimize preferred anchor arrangements and cable route options that avoid and minimize the potential for adverse impacts to benthic habitats.

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

The next step in this process will be a Reconnaissance Geophysical and Benthic Survey for which planning is in progress. The survey will include the Lease Area and the area surrounding the most feasible and least impactful cable route options as indicated by the desktop analysis. Planning has included solicitation and selection of the geophysical and benthic survey teams, and consultations with BOEM and other federal and state resource agencies (Appendix A). PTOW has prepared draft survey plans that will be finalized for BOEM review once the survey schedule has been determined. High-resolution geophysical and geotechnical surveys will be conducted following selection of a preferred project layout, cable route and anchor locations.

Digital Aerial Surveys

Due to market conditions, PTOW did not conduct digital aerial surveys during this reporting period.

From May 2023 through February 2024 PTOW sponsored four quarterly digital aerial wildlife surveys of the Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI) area, plus a buffer (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Aerial digital survey transects in the Gulf of Maine and RFCI

These surveys were conducted in conjunction with BOEM-sponsored surveys of a much larger area of the Gulf of Maine. PTOW's transects were closer together than the Gulf-wide transects and designed to be in accordance with BOEM guidance.

The surveys were conducted by the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) and HiDef Aerial Surveying (HiDef), using HiDef's GEN 2.5 survey rig mounted in a fixed-wing aircraft, which is designed specifically for high quality seabird and marine mammal surveys. The rig contains four extremely high-resolution digital video cameras, and surveys are flown at ~400 m altitude at a ground speed of 220 kph

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

(~120 knots), providing imagery at 1.5 cm ground sample distance (GSD). These surveys collected data on the distribution and abundance of a range of taxonomic groups, including seabirds, marine mammals, and fish, as well as fishing activities. The images from the surveys are in the process of being analyzed and the observations tabulated by BRI. A final report is expected in the coming months.

DMR Research Surveys

DMR executed the approved research survey plan during September through February, and which included oceanographic monitoring; zooplankton and larval lobster survey; seafloor mapping and characterization; bottom trawl survey; active acoustic survey; highly migratory species monitoring; passive acoustic monitoring; ecosystem modeling; and socio-economic and local historical knowledge survey.

DMR sent notifications to fishing stakeholders, mariners, and Tribes pursuant to lease requirements. This included sending out notices of the summer bottom trawl survey on April 9 and June 9, 2025 and all other summer surveys on April 12, 2025. DMR also held an information meeting for Tribes on Zoom on April 30, 2025. On July 23, 2025, DMR began the research trawl surveys within and around the research lease as described in the approved survey plan. DMR sent out the first notice for the fall bottom trawl survey on July 29, 2025 and a reminder on August 26, 2025 and the first notice for all other fall surveys on August 5, 2025. DMR began the fall trawl survey on October 24, 2025 and concluded on November 24, 2025. DMR sent out the first notice for the winter trawl survey on October 9, 2025 with reminder sent on December 8, 2025 and January 15, 2026. DMR also sent out a notice for all other winter surveys on November 4, 2025. DMR began the winter trawl survey on January 19, 2026 and is expected to conclude by February 28, 2026. The surveys are following the Maine Offshore Wind Fisheries Working group recommendations to maximize baseline monitoring. Research survey work is anticipated through summer 2027 but will depend on Survey Plan submittal and acceptance each year. The anticipated date for the next survey plan to BOEM is March/April 2026.

2.2 OTHER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Preliminary Engineering

Due to market conditions, PTOW did not conduct additional preliminary engineering during this reporting period.

The PTOW team has performed a pre-Front-End Engineering Design (pre-FEED) study for MeRA, including preliminary WTG, floating foundation and mooring sizing, preliminary cable sizing and conceptual routes, and preliminary points of interconnect with conceptual layouts for onshore facilities. The initial engineering effort explored founding the WTG on the University of Maine's (UMaine) VoltturnUS semi-submersible concrete floating foundation secured to the seabed via mooring lines and embedded anchors. The patented VoltturnUS technology has undergone over a decade of research and development, including deploying a scaled prototype that underwent 18 months of operation and testing at a site off the coast of Castine, ME, making it a sound choice for the Project.

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

3.0 ENGAGEMENT

As noted above, the Maine Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) became the Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER) during this reporting period. The state Point of Contact for the project remains Stephanie Watson with the same contact information (stephanie.watson@maine.gov and tel 207-620-4379). Due to the uncertainties in the U.S. offshore wind industry, the MeRA project has focused engagement on the DMR-led surveys. MeRA partners continue to provide timely updates to the fishing industry, Tribes, agencies, and stakeholders during relevant public meetings, such as the Advisory Board meetings of the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium, and through notifications and newsletters. Engagement is deliberate and focused on stakeholder-identified baseline and research activities. The key method of engagement is through the Maine Offshore Wind Consortium, which has an Advisory Board comprised of representatives from the fishing industry, Tribes, state and local agencies, and industry. Federal agencies often attend these meetings as well. The last meeting of the Consortium was held on January 20, 2026 and attracted more than 70 participants. MeRA has been conducting strategic stakeholder and community outreach for the last few years as we laid the groundwork for, and sited, the project with extensive input from fishing communities, Tribes, and other stakeholders. On a broader level, we’ve been engaging with stakeholders on the coast and statewide since 2020 to establish foundational support for Maine’s responsible offshore wind industry. During the early phases of permitting and regulatory processes, our approach has been steady and targeted. We have focused on building relationships with eNGOs, industry groups, and maritime interests, and making information and resources available to the public and our partners.

Project information, including the history of stakeholder engagement and the lease application process is available at the DOER research array website:

<https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/researcharray>

The website also includes the semi-annual progress report and the latest communications plans.

Federal and State Agencies

During the current reporting period PTOW updated agency points of contact with permitting and environmental review authority. These lists will be updated as the Project progresses, and as further feedback is received from the Agencies.

MeRA partners maintain contact with agency contacts commensurate with market conditions and early stages of the project. DOER and PTOW have hosted and participated in project-related meetings with Agencies since at least July 2022 (Appendix A).

During this early stage of project development, the Project outreach goals have been to establish and update points of contact, open lines of communication, introduce the MeRA Project, and discuss future surveys and site characterization approaches. Although developer surveys are not anticipated in the next reporting period any draft surveys plans will be submitted for Agency and BOEM review before survey activities commence pursuant to lease requirements.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has begun conducting stakeholder-informed

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

baseline and monitoring surveys within and around the Project area. The State's surveys are focused on meeting the goals of the Maine Offshore Wind Research Framework and the recommendations by the Fisheries and Environment & Wildlife Working Groups for the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap. DMR held pre-survey meetings on the survey plan with BOEM, fisheries, and Tribes on multiple dates listed in Appendix A.

DOER and BOEM meet monthly to share updates on the research project and related activities.

The State submitted the Data Dissemination Plan, developed in consultation with BOEM, to BOEM on August 28, 2025. The Plan is a living document that aims to help ensure data from the research array project is publicly accessible and will be updated as additional details and research scope are defined.

MeRA anticipates the next reporting period will also include:

- Providing Agencies, including local government agencies, with opportunities to review and comment on proposed survey plans and other aspects of Project development, as appropriate;
- Identifying local government agencies and their contact information as applicable to the stage of the project;
- Informing and coordinating with stakeholders on future survey activities; and
- Considering opportunities for collaboration during future site characterization surveys.

Native American Tribes

During the reporting period, DOER engaged with the representative of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and attorney at their request to provide updates and answer questions about the project and agreed to a regular schedule of brief monthly meetings.

During the previous reporting period, on March 31, 2025, DMR sent an email invitation to all Gulf of Maine Tribes in the NATCP for a pre-survey meeting. Two representatives of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribe attended the Zoom meeting. On August 8, 2025, GEO sent an email to all Tribes listed in the NATCP informing them that Stephanie Watson, then GEO Offshore Wind Program Manager, is their Point of Contact on the Project and provided contact information.

While drafting the NATCP, PTOW reached out on November 19, 2024 to the eleven Tribes identified by BOEM that may have an interest in participating in the engagement process for the Project, and that may have ancestral ties to the Project area, which encompasses the PTOW wind lease site and possible cable corridors and interconnections to shore, as well as the broader Gulf of Maine area. Please see page 10 of the [NATCP](#) for the list of eleven tribes. Five of the eleven Tribes are located in Maine, and the remaining six are located in New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Of the eleven Tribes, three responded to the correspondence from PTOW. The Mi'kmaq Nation provided a new point of contact. The two Passamaquoddy Tribes – the Pleasant

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

Point Reservation and the Indian Township Reservation – responded through their attorneys expressing strong interest in engaging regarding the Project.

Given the Passamaquoddy Tribes' response, PTOW scheduled an introductory call on December 9, 2024, which was attended by Chiefs from both Reservations, the Passamaquoddys' attorneys and other Tribal representatives. During this call the Tribes' attorneys were designated as the points of contact.

On January 29, 2025, PTOW emailed all the Tribes again informing them that the initial draft NATCP had been provided to BOEM in December and was now posted and available for review and comment on the website. Communication with the attorneys continued after the call and an in-person meeting with the Passamaquoddy Tribes will be scheduled upon request.

Fisheries

DMR provided pre-survey notifications to fishermen and other interested parties in compliance with the lease. During this reporting period, DMR has provided quarterly notices with details of what surveys are expected to occur, including anticipated frequency and survey equipment that will be used. In addition, prior to beginning the bottom trawl survey, notice is provided that includes a tentative time line, vessel details, number of tows anticipated, and a point of contact for more information. All notices are posted on DMR's offshore wind research [website](#) and emailed to multiple stakeholder email lists.

During the reporting period, DMR has coordinated fisheries engagement related to their surveys.

Due to market conditions, the MeRA project has not hired full-time fisheries personnel.

PTOW submitted an initial draft MeRA [Fisheries Communication Plan](#) to BOEM on December 20, 2024. The initial draft of the FCP has been made available for public review on the [research array website](#). The FCP includes an initial list of fishing sectors and organizations that are potentially affected by the project. Because the Project is in the planning stage, a Fisheries Liaison, Fisheries Representative and Onboard Fisheries Liaisons have not yet been named. These roles will be filled as the Project makes further commercial progress.

4.0 STATE OF THE SCIENCE

The State of Maine and other researchers are in the beginning stages of utilizing the research array to conduct and disseminate critical research to inform the future production, transportation, or transmission of renewable energy from floating offshore wind turbines. The research activities will advance priorities from the Research Framework in the lease application, as identified by key experts and stakeholders in the Gulf of Maine (Table 1).

Table 1: Progress to Date on the Research Framework by Category (Stipulation 4.1.1). Note that many of the projects span multiple research categories but only appear once for simplicity.

Research Category	Planned Research (Anticipated Funding Mechanism)	Current Research (Funding Mechanism)	Completed Research (Funding Mechanism)	Data Dissemination
Fisheries				
			Exploring Approaches to Fisheries Coexistence with Floating Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Maine– Desktop study with three stages of fisheries engagement (Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium or “Consortium” funded, completed 2024)	Consortium Website GMRI Website Presentation at the 2024 Maine Fishermen’s Forum Presentation at Research Consortium webinar in April 2024 Presented on a panel and a poster at 2024 AFloat Conference in September 2024 Presented poster at 2024 ACP Offshore Wind Conference in October 2024 Presented interim findings to Advisory Board in November 2024 Final presentation to the Advisory Board in February 2025
	Marine species distribution modeling expert workshop			

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

	(Consortium funded, anticipated April 2026)			
Ecosystem and Environment				
		Seafloor mapping in key areas of the Gulf of Maine– Mapped 777 square nautical miles using multibeam echosounder sonar that filled key data gaps in the general area east of Cashes Ledge and south of Jeffreys Bank, in final stages of data processing (Consortium funded, anticipated January 2024-April 2026)		
		BlueTech research, technology, workforce and supply chain development– Collection of high resolution imagery of the seafloor around the mooring and anchoring system to address key stakeholder questions (non-Consortium state funding, anticipated May 2026-December 2026)		
		Offshore Bat Monitoring– Field data collection and data analysis (Consortium funded, anticipated September 2025-June 2028)		Project kickoff presentation during Research Consortium webinar in October 2025 Presented project update during Research Consortium webinar in January 2026
	Environmental modeling expert workshop (Consortium funded, anticipated April 2026)			
	Review of potential interactions between mooring and anchors in the benthic			

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

	environment in the Gulf of Maine (Consortium funded, anticipated spring 2026)			
	Understanding potential interactions between OSW infrastructure and marine life in the Gulf of Maine (Consortium funded, anticipated spring 2026)			
	Gulf of Maine bird tracking study (Consortium funded, anticipated spring 2026)			
Socioeconomic Impacts				
			Socioeconomic Data Inventory– Desktop research, data gap analysis, and stakeholder engagement (Consortium funded, completed 2024)	Consortium Website and Report Presentation at the 2024 Maine Fishermen’s Forum Presentation at Research Consortium webinar in April 2024 Presented on a panel at the 2024 Afloat Conference in September 2024 Final presentation to the Advisory Board in July 2024
		Assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine’s fishing industry– Assessment of direct economic impacts and sociocultural impacts with stakeholder engagement (Consortium funded, anticipated		Project kickoff presentation during Research Consortium webinar in October 2025 Presented project update during Research Consortium webinar in January 2026

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 27, 2026

		September 2025-October 2026)		
Workforce Development				
		BlueTech research, technology, workforce and supply chain development– Cost-effective monitoring approach to characterize turbulence and stratification around the platform with onsite training for undergraduate and graduate students (non-Consortium state funding, anticipated May 2026-December 2026)		
Navigation				
Technology Development				
	Secondary Entanglement Risk and Technology Assessment– Literature review, data gap analysis, desktop risk assessment, stakeholder engagement, and technology recommendations (Consortium funded, anticipated September 2025-September 2026)			Project kickoff presentation during Research Consortium webinar in October 2025 Presented project update during Research Consortium webinar in January 2026
		BlueTech research, technology, workforce and supply chain development– Improved, fully remote acoustic monitoring for birds and bats using specialized weather-proof microphones and a networked, passive acoustic monitoring system (non-Consortium state funding, anticipated May 2026-December 2026)		

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 28, 2025

Appendix A

FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES MEETING LOG

Table A-1: Log of Federal and State Agencies Meetings, July 2022 through February 2026

Date	Agencies in Attendance	Topic
July 29, 2022	Maine DMR	Team intros and pre-permitting data coordination
September 8, 2022	Maine DMR, Maine GEO	G+G survey and stakeholder outreach planning
October 21, 2022	Maine DMR, Maine IFW	Team intros and baseline survey planning
January 25, 2023	Maine DMR, Maine GEO	Project location and layout workshop
February 13, 2023	BOEM, Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Research Lease kick-off
February 15, 2023	Maine DMR	Baseline surveys coordination
February 24, 2023	USFWS, Maine Seabird Islands NWR	Gulf of Maine seabird tracking
March 9, 2023	BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, Maine DMR	RFCI siting
March 15, 2023	Maine DMR Trawl Team	Trawl survey coordination
March 20, 2023	NOAA – NFSC, GARFO	Team and project intros, baseline survey planning, opportunities for input and collaboration
March 21, 2023	USFWS Maine Field Office and Maine Coastal Islands NWR	Project intro, timeline, and planned avian and bat surveys
April 3, 2023	Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium (OSWRC), Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
April 7, 2023	Maine DMR	FLiDAR buoy acoustics planning
April 25, 2023	USFWS - Maine Field Office, Maine Coastal Islands NWR, and Migratory Birds, Maine IFW	Motus and other tagging options for baseline surveys
April 27, 2023	BOEM, Maine GEO	Initiate biweekly update calls
May 10-11, 2023	BOEM, NOAA	Gulf of Maine Task Force
May 15, 2023	U.S. Navy	Navy ship trials mitigation planning (NEAV)
June 8, 2023	BOEM, GEO	Biweekly update call
June 15, 2023	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
June 27, 2023	BOEM, NOAA, USCG, Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Spatial analysis re: shipping lanes and fairways
July 12, 2023	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Lease area configurations
July 17, 2023	Maine OSWC microsites subgroup	Array microsites planning
July 24, 2023	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Lease area configurations
August 3, 2023	BOEM, GEO	Biweekly update call
August 8, 2023	BOEM, Maine OSWC, Maine GEO, Maine DMR, UMaine, NERACOOS, NYSERDA	Baseline survey scoping
August 10, 2023	USFWS Maine Coastal Islands NWR, Maine OSWRC, Maine IFW, Maine DMR	Avian and bat baseline survey scoping
August 29, 2023	BOEM, GEO	Biweekly update call
September 6, 2023	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
September 8, 2023	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Biological survey scoping and federal Agency engagement
September 12, 2023	NOAA Fisheries	IHA Pre-application meeting for Recon G+G/Benthic surveys
September 14, 2023	BOEM, GEO	Biweekly update call
September 28, 2023	BOEM, GEO	Biweekly update call

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 28, 2025

Date	Agencies in Attendance	Topic
October 13, 2023	Maine GEO	Data dissemination plan
October 13, 2023	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Fisheries Communication Plan
November 1, 2023	Maine GEO	Data dissemination plan
November 13, 2023	BOEM, NOAA, Maine DMR	Survey info for BOEM EA
November 13, 2023	NOAA, Maine DMR	G+G surveys update
November 17, 2023	Maine DMR, Maine IFW, UMaine, NOAA	DMR data sharing and collaboration workshop
November 20, 2023	BOEM, BSEE	Digital aerial surveys update
November 28, 2023	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
December 1, 2023	Maine DMR, UMaine	Available data to inform G+G and benthic surveys
January 19, 2024	Army Corps of Engineers	FLiDAR permitting
February 1, 2024	Army Corps of Engineers	FLiDAR permitting
February 27, 2024	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
<i>Ongoing March 2024 – Present</i>	Maine DOER/GEO, Maine DMR	Weekly or Biweekly Project update calls
March 7, 2024	Maine OSWRC	Co-use conflict reduction
March 8, 2024	Maine OSWRC	Technology development
March 12, 2024	Maine OSWRC	Impact on ecosystems
March 13, 2024	Maine OSWRC	Socio-economic
April 3, 2024	Maine OSWRC	FOSW technology
April 4, 2024	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Project updates
April 5, 2024	Maine OSWRC	Wildlife & groundfish
April 12, 2024	Army Corps of Engineers	FLiDAR permitting
May 3, 2024	Army Corps of Engineers	FLiDAR permit conditions
May 6, 2024	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
May 10, 2024	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Data sharing plan
May 20, 2024	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Data sharing plan
May 23, 2024	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Data sharing plan
June 21, 2024	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
July 3, 2024	NREL, BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, NYSERDA	Advisory Board - NREL's Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind Farms and Fishing Compatibility
July 3, 2024	Maine GEO, Maine DMR	Data sharing plan
July 22, 2024	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
September 5, 2024	Maine DMR, Maine IFW, UMaine, NOAA	DMR data sharing and collaboration workshop
September 6, 2024	Army Corps of Engineers	FLiDAR permitting
October 4, 2024	NREL, BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, NYSERDA	Advisory Board – NREL's Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind and Fishing Compatibility
October 25, 2024	BOEM, Maine GEO	Maine Research Lease Kick-Off Call
November 22, 2024	Maine OSWRC, Advisory Board	Research priorities and funding
December 12, 2024	BOEM, Maine GEO	Maine Research Lease check-in
December 18, 2024	BOEM, Maine GEO	Draft communications plans update
January 17, 2025	Maine OSWRC, GEO, DMR	Research and surveys update
January 28, 2025	NREL, BOEM, NOAA, Maine GEO, NYSERDA	Project Advisory Board Meeting - Co-Design Solutions for U.S. Floating Offshore Wind and Fishing Compatibility
February 3, 2025	Maine OSWRC	Socio-economic impacts and community benefit discussion
February 3, 2025	BOEM, Maine GEO and DMR	ME Research Lease Survey Plan Discussion
March 17, 2025	BOEM, Maine GEO and DMR	ME Research Lease Survey Plan Discussion
March 27, 2025	Maine GEO, DMR, PTOW, BSEE	Safety During Survey Operations Discussion

MAINE RESEARCH ARRAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Research Lease OCS-A 0553

February 28, 2025

April 30, 2025	Maine GEO, DMR, Tribes as listed in NATCP	ME Research Lease Pre-Survey Planning Meeting
June 11, 2025	BOEM, Maine GEO and DMR	ME Research Lease Survey Plan Discussion – PSOs and trained lookouts
August 7, 2025	BOEM, Maine GEO	Check In and Data Dissemination Plan Discussion
December 12, 2025 and January 16, 2026	DOER, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Mr. Fred Moore, Sustainable Energy Liaison, and attorney	Brief update
January 20, 2026	DOER, DMR, Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife	Consortium research projects update (public webinar, slides and meeting summary available here)
<i>Ongoing - Present</i>	BOEM, DOER with DMR	Biweekly, Monthly or As Needed Project update calls
<i>Ongoing - Present</i>	DOER and DMR	Monthly Coordination Calls