04/01/2026

2026 Offshore Wind Science, Research, and Analysis (SRA) RFP

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

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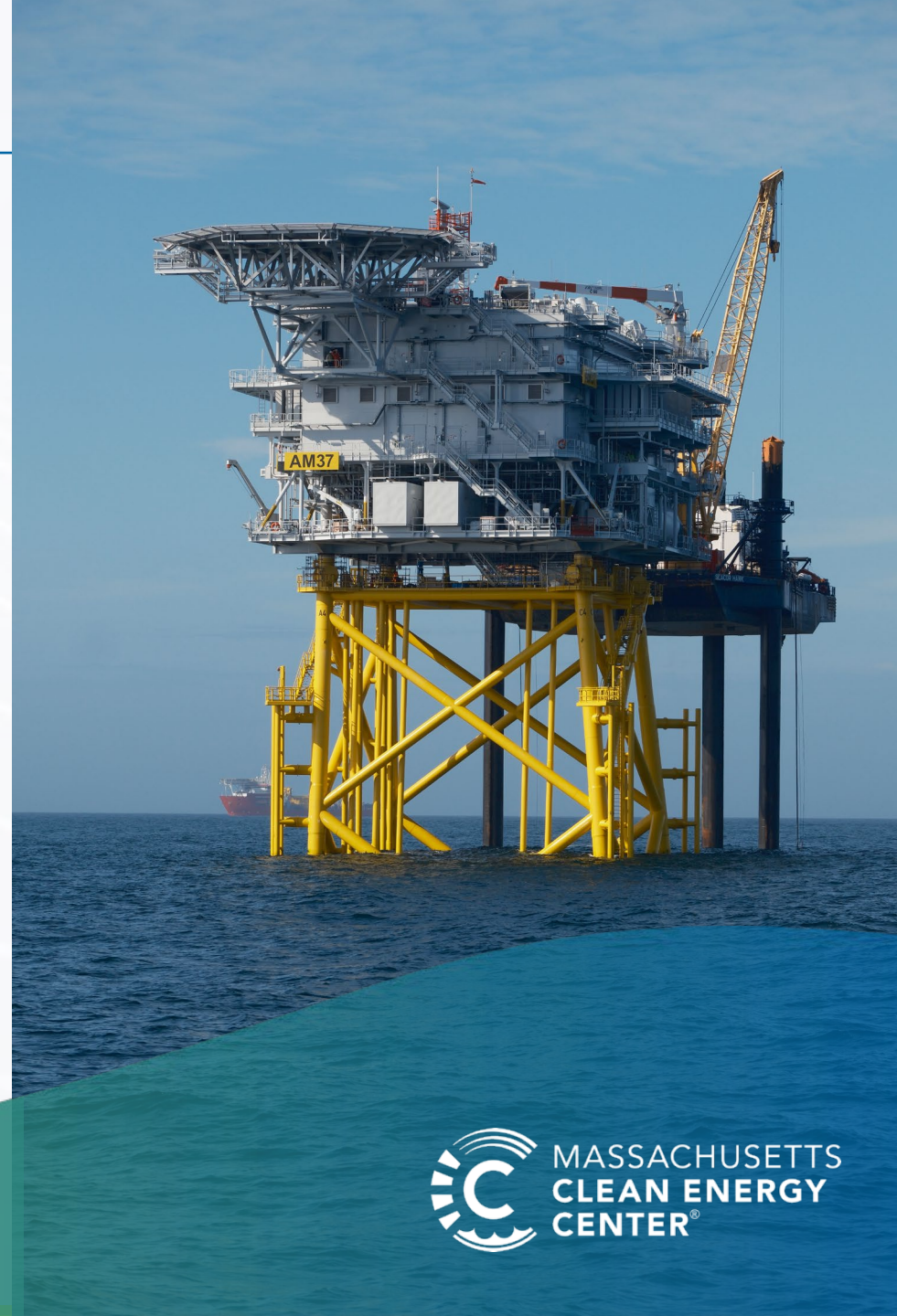


MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER®

Agenda

- MassCEC Overview
- SRA Program Overview
- 2026 SRA RFP Overview
- Time for Questions

MASSCEC'S WORK BY FOCUS AREA

EMERGING CLIMATETECH

We help new climate-focused businesses grow faster by backing a vibrant community of researchers, startups, and established industry players - creating an ecosystem where they connect and thrive.

ACCELERATING DECARBONIZATION

We tackle barriers to widespread use of clean energy and climate technology in buildings, transportation, and the grid.

LARGE SCALE DEPLOYMENT: OFFSHORE ENERGY

We're building a cutting-edge offshore energy industry, marshaling world-class ports while addressing supply chain and workforce development challenges.

CLEAN ENERGY & CLIMATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We're growing a diverse and talented clean energy workforce by supporting a dynamic network of community-based organizations, labor, training providers, schools and employers committed to a sustainable future for all.

Offshore Energy Programs

SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND ANALYSIS - Ensuring OSW development is responsible through science (wildlife, fishing community, etc.) and R&D (affordability and reliability)

PORTS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND HARBOR ACCESS - Supporting priority OSW port facilities and infrastructure

OFFSHORE WIND WORKS – Supporting workforce development practitioners to train folks for jobs in the OSW industry

OFFSHORE WIND BUSINESS READY (SUPPLY CHAIN) – Helping MA-based companies participate in the OSW supply chain

OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY & CLIMATETECH INNOVATION – Fostering climatetech to support OSW or other ocean renewables (wave, tidal, etc.)

Science, Research, & Analysis

DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND

- Fund projects that address key research gaps and reduce industry barriers
- Requests for Proposals (RFPs):
  - 2024 Solicitation (9 projects);
  - 2026 Solicitation
- National Offshore Wind R&D Consortium (NOWRDC) co-funded projects

Examples Include:

Ocean and Wind Technology:

- Metocean data collection (i.e. wave height and direction, wind speed and direction, ocean currents, etc.)
- Hurricane Risk; Blade sensors
- Floating OSW anchoring technologies

Fisheries:

- Studies about OSW interactions with fisheries
- Improving fisheries data

Wildlife:

- Understanding OSW's potential effect (**positive** or **negative**) on wildlife/habitat
  - Whales, sea turtles, etc. (New England Aquarium aerial surveys since 2011)
  - Birds and bats
  - Habitat creation/beneficial colonization of OSW infrastructure
  - Benthic surveys (sea floor)

Science, Research, & Analysis

COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS TO GENERATE, COORDINATE, AND DISSEMINATE THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

- Support MA-based network of academic institutions
- Membership & participation in research organizations
  - ROSA, RWSC, NOWRDC, MOCEAN
- Stakeholder engagement
  - MA Fisheries and Habitat working groups

For Example:

- **ARROW** – Academic Center for Reliability and Resilience of Offshore Wind
  - Education and research engine to expand professional workforce education
  - UMass Amherst, eight other institutions, broad External Advisory Board
  - **Funding:** MassCEC & Maryland Energy Administration

Recent Awards (2024 Science and Research Solicitation)

GRANTEE	PROJECT TITLE	TOPIC AREA
Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute (Gloucester, MA); Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (New Bedford, MA)	Evaluating the Effects of Offshore Wind Development on Fisheries Using Environmental DNA (eDNA): This project expands a systematic eDNA survey conducted in 2023-2024 to include surveys in 2025-2026 to inform understanding of the impact of wind farm construction and operation on the biodiversity and distribution of important species.	Fisheries
Gulf of Maine Research Institute (Portland, ME); United States Maritime Resource Center (Middletown, RI)	Understanding Fishing Interactions: Gulf of Maine Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind: The project extends the geographic scope of an initiative to (i) engage the Gulf of Maine fishing community to understand perceived challenges associated with fishing within a floating offshore wind array, and (ii) evaluate how specific floating offshore wind designs may interact with various fishing gear types and ways of fishing.	Fisheries
New Bedford Port Authority (New Bedford, MA); UMass Dartmouth (New Bedford, MA)	Modeling Fishing and Fishing Vessel Behavior and Assessing Access in and Around Wind Energy Areas: The project brings together commercial fishermen, scientists, and regulators to participate in real-world testing of fishing vessels and differing gear types within active wind areas to foster a better understanding of how fishing can be conducted within active wind areas and potentially inform the development of new fishing practices and gear modifications.	Fisheries
INSPIRE Environmental (Newport, RI); Marine Biological Laboratory (Chicago, IL); Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (Woods Hole, MA); Tufts University (Medford, MA)	Promoting Beneficial Colonization of Offshore Wind Infrastructure: By creating and deploying novel substrates containing tailored chemical micronutrients and biological seedings, the project aims to promote ecologically valuable and resilient benthic communities and deter non-native and invasive taxa.	Habitat/Ecology
National Audubon Society (South Hadley, MA; Washington, DC); Vermont Center for Ecostudies (White River Junction, VT)	Safe Passage: Mapping Songbird Migration Routes and Altitudes over the Atlantic to Determine Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind: The project seeks to increase understanding of migration routes of certain song birds (Blackpoll Warbler and Swainson's Thrush) in relation to OSW lease areas, and migration altitudes in relation to the rotor zone of wind turbines.	Wildlife
New England Aquarium (Boston, MA)	Comparative Analysis of Marine Mammal Density and Detection Rates from Aerial Surveys: Building on MassCEC's long-time support of protected species aerial surveys, this project will produce a retrospective comparison of density and detection probability for whale and sea turtle surveys calculated from: 1) varying survey altitudes, and 2) visual observations compared to digital photograph detections.	Wildlife
University of Connecticut (Groton, CT); STEAM the Streets; Hercules, CA); Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (Woods Hole, MA) (currently in contracting)	Investigating the Impacts of Offshore Wind Export Cable Installation, Operation, and Maintenance on Adult and Larval Sand Lance in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary: The goal of this project is to investigate the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) exposure on the development, physiology, and behaviors of sand lance. Interns from STEAM the Streets will accompany scientists on research outings and within laboratory settings, making short videos about the work, and interviewing the project's experts.	Wildlife
Predyct, Inc. (Woburn, MA); ORE Catapult (Glasgow, Scotland), Northeastern University (Boston, MA)	WINDSENSE – Wireless Intelligent Nano-Devices, a Sensor Network for Sustainable Energy: The project aims to leverage nanoengineered zero-power (NEZP) sensors to capture the lifecycle fatigue loading of offshore wind infrastructure and provide predictive insights for operations & maintenance in harsh offshore operating conditions. The Predyct team is working with MassCEC's own Wind Technology Testing Center to measure sensor performance.	Climatetech

Communicating OSW Science: *Ocean Science Field Notes*

INTRODUCING OCEAN SCIENCE FIELD NOTES: HOW RESEARCH IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OFFSHORE WIND

January 6, 2026

Zach Jylkka, Senior Program Manager

Gulf of Maine Research Institute staff use the United States Marine Resource Center's vessel simulator to test how floating offshore wind designs may interact with fishing gear, gathering real-world insights to inform responsible development.

We New Englanders are a stubborn lot (pronounced "stuh-bahn"). We hold tight to our traditions, refuse to call bubblers "water fountains," and stay loyal to our teams no matter how long the wait (86 years builds character, after all). Thankfully, Drake Maye isn't making us wait nearly as long to see the Patriots reemerge as title contenders.

A bit of stubbornness or perseverance can be an asset, and for the MassCEC Offshore Energy Team, it's part of our DNA. Offshore wind has weathered its share of challenges lately, from global inflation and supply chain disruption to federal permitting uncertainty. But like weather in New England, we know policy conditions shift, and we adjust for it and adapt as we go.

What doesn't shift is our commitment. MassCEC continues to invest in the industry, the workforce behind it, and the science and research that make responsible offshore wind development possible.

Nils Bolgen: A Career that Shaped the Field

Call it stubborn optimism, sisu (for my fellow Finns out there), or good ol' fashioned dedication. Few embody these values more profoundly than MassCEC's longtime Program Director, Nils Bolgen, who retired this past November after 41 years of service to the Commonwealth. Nils has been a driving force in Massachusetts' wind sector for decades, both by land and by sea (obligatory Paul Revere reference), and was instrumental in building the scientific and academic partnerships that underpin responsible development today.

OCEAN SCIENCE FIELD NOTES: ADVANCING COEXISTENCE OF FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND AND FISHERIES

March 9, 2026

Hannah MacDonald (formerly of GMRI, now Director of Policy & Innovation, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association)

Floating offshore wind platform concepts that include spar (left), semisubmersible (center), and tension leg platforms (right). Credit: Josh Bauer, NREL

As offshore wind development expands into deeper waters, a key question has emerged in the Gulf of Maine: how will fishing and floating offshore wind operate in the same space?

In early conversations with offshore wind developers and fishermen, one thing quickly became clear — both sides were making many assumptions. Some developers believed fishing activity wouldn't be significantly affected, while some fishermen imagined a worst-case scenario of losing access to traditional fishing grounds altogether. In reality, neither group has had the opportunity to test what coexistence might actually look like.

This project grew out of that gap in real-world knowledge: if we don't yet know how fishing and floating offshore wind might operate together, we need a way to explore that question safely and collaboratively.

A Virtual Test Run for Fishing and Offshore Wind

This project gives fishermen a chance to test what fishing around floating offshore wind might look like before it becomes real. Using a state-of-the-art maritime simulator, fishermen will step into a space that looks and feels like the wheelhouse of their own vessel. They'll be able to navigate through a virtual floating offshore wind array, adjust weather conditions, and deploy their fishing gear just as they would at sea.

From the wheelhouse, they'll see wind turbines, rolling seas, and other vessels. From a side profile view below the surface, they will see mooring lines, anchors, and cables that hold floating turbines in place and transmit power back to shore. While there have been real-world studies testing fixed

2026 Science, Research, and Analysis (SRA) RFP

RFP: Objectives, Challenges, & Priority Topic Areas

$2.5 MILLION TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

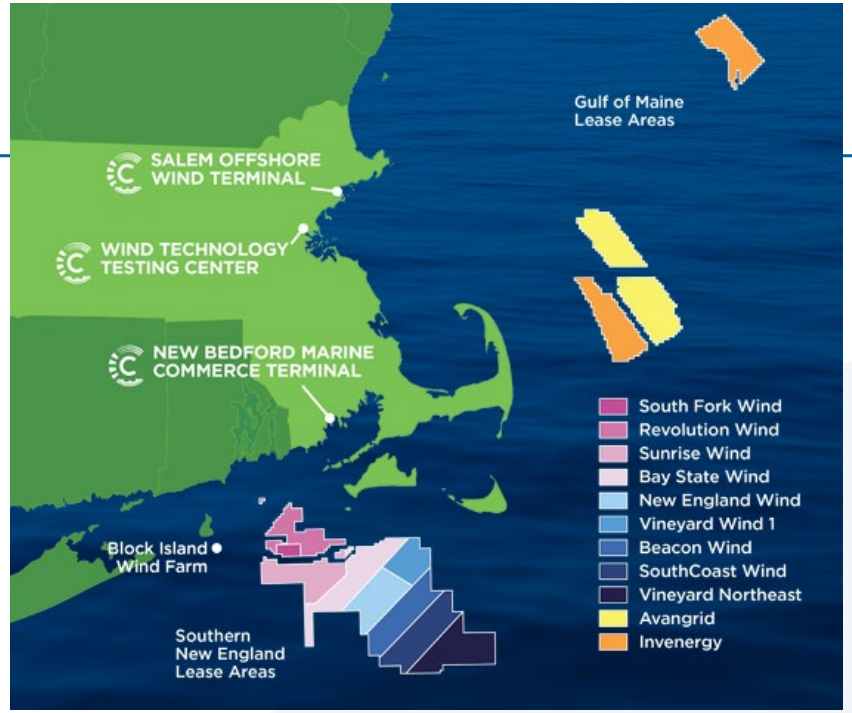
MassCEC will review and consider all eligible project proposals that address one or more of the Solicitation **Objectives** and **Challenges**.

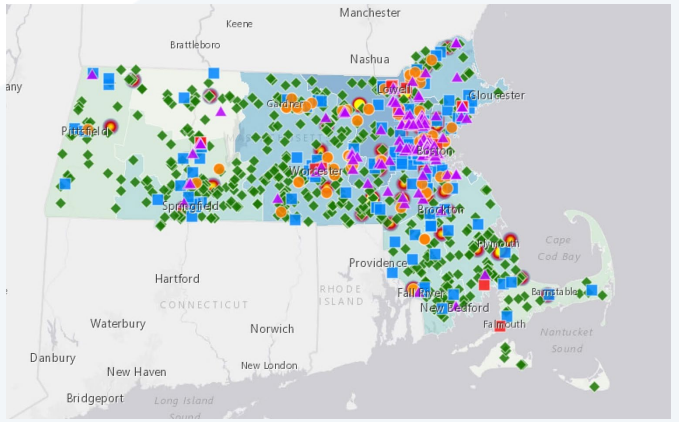
MassCEC also seeks applications to address a set of specific **Topic Areas**, and maintains discretion to prioritize applications that focus on one of these areas.

RFP Objectives

(1) Advance **science** and **applied research** activities that are highly relevant to the **responsible** project **design**, **deployment**, and long-term sustainable **operations** of offshore wind in the **Southern New England** lease areas and in the **Gulf of Maine**

(2) Grow **capacity** in **Massachusetts** and the region to **conduct** such **science** and **research**





MA Climatetech Map

RFP: Industry Challenges to Address

APPLICATIONS MAY FOCUS ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES FACING THE OFFSHORE WIND INDUSTRY:

- Global inflation and supply chain shortages have driven up the construction cost of offshore wind and procurement cost ($)/MWh. **Reducing the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for fixed and floating offshore wind** remains a priority.
- The Gulf of Maine lease areas are in deeper water and at greater distances from shore. This has implications on **project design, grid integration, and industry adaptation** to the use of **floating turbines.**
- Larger turbines will strain the capabilities of existing vessels, ports, and infrastructure. New foundation architectures, e.g., floating support structures, will require **new approaches to logistics and port facilities** adapted to handle these structures.
- The **transmission system** must expand offshore to reliably deliver large amounts of offshore wind generated energy to load and integrate associated energy storage.
- New and refined approaches are needed for **understanding and advancing sustainable coexistence** that avoids, minimizes, and lastly mitigates potential effects between **offshore wind and (i) fishing and other maritime activities, (ii) wildlife, and (iii) ocean ecosystems**.
- The **state policies** that are driving offshore wind and the broader energy transition require **feedback on implementation successes and challenges** in order to **adapt to changing conditions** and, critically, **sustain public support** for this policy-driven energy transition.

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Overview of Priority Topic Areas

Topic Area	Brief Descriptions	Preferred Maximum Award
1. Fisheries: Understanding Effects in Southern New England Lease Areas	Proposals to better understand spatial and economic changes to the commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing fleets.	$400,000
2. Wildlife and Habitat	Proposals including, but not limited to, modeling hydrodynamic effects in the Gulf of Maine, habitat enhancement through nature inclusive design, and analyzing existing wildlife protection measures.	$500,000
3. Regional Transmission Planning	Proposals that advance analysis, planning, and engagement relating to regional transmission for offshore wind projects in Massachusetts, New England, Atlantic Coast and Canadian Maritime provinces.	$400,000
4. Gulf of Maine Regional Monitoring	Proposals to create a regional data collection strategy for baseline and preconstruction monitoring for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.	$200,000
5. Communicating Existing Science & Research	Proposals to create valuable and productive communication tools with associated engagement campaigns to a broad audience relating to existing offshore wind related science.	$150,000

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Award Amounts

- Preferred maximum award amount is **$500,000**, and varies by topic area (see previous slide)
- MassCEC maintains sole discretion to **increase** or **decrease** funding or waive the preferred cost share contribution under special circumstances. *Applicants must clearly explain why they are requesting the exception in either case.*
- In considering funding requests, reviewers will evaluate:
  - **overall value proposition** of the proposed initiative in comparison to other proposals (e.g., efficient use of MassCEC funds, amount of cost share, and the extent to which other funds are leveraged).
  - **cost justification** provided for different methodologies (e.g., desktop studies, novel model development, direct stakeholder engagement, new data collection, etc.).

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of the RFP

Cost Share and Budget Considerations

Cost share: Applicant or third-party funds applied to the proposed scope of activities for the MassCEC award,

This is expressed as a *percentage of the overall budget* for funded activities. For example:

$45,000 grant request

$5,000 cost share

$50,000 overall budget

10% cost share (i.e., $5,000 divided by $50,000)

Leveraged activities: Those that are demonstrably advanced by a MassCEC commitment but are separate from the scope of the proposed MassCEC award (and other MassCEC program awards).

Table 3: Preferred Minimum Cost Share for Grants

Total Budget for Scope of Activities	**Preferred Cost Share Private Entity**	**Preferred Cost Share Public or Private Non-Profit**
Less than $*300,000*	10% cash	10% cash or in-kind
Greater than/equal to $*300,000*	25% cash	25% cash or in-kind

Other budget considerations:

- MassCEC strongly prefers that Applicants' ***indirect/overhead*** *rate does not exceed 15% of the total budget*. If the overhead rate exceeds 15%, Applicants should include a justification.
- MassCEC encourages Applicants to include budget to *support one or more* ***internship positions*** to be filled by undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a Massachusetts-based college, university, or research program.

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Grant vs. Service Agreements

Grant agreements:
For most successful applications, MassCEC and the awarded applicant(s) will execute a contract, substantially in the form of the template **grant agreement** (Attachment C), which will set forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties.

Service agreements:
In certain instances, if a successful Application involves work that is more appropriately **considered direct consultant services for MassCEC**, where MassCEC retains direct project management authority, and full ownership rights over all deliverables that the awardee prepares, MassCEC and the awarded applicant will execute a **service agreement contract** (Attachment D).

MassCEC retains sole discretion to determine the appropriate form of contract agreement.

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of the RFP

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants may be an individual company, organization, or institution, or may be a team of such entities.
- Applicants must have a registered business presence in the United States, and *preference will be given to applications in which the lead Applicant and/or partnering organizations are based in Massachusetts*.
- MassCEC encourages applications from federally-recognized and state-acknowledged Tribes who have a current and/or ancestral connection to the lands and surrounding waters of present-day Massachusetts.

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of the RFP

Selection Criteria

PROPOSALS WILL BE SCORED AND RANKED BASED ON:

Program Scope, Objectives, Approach, and Benefits

- Does the proposed project demonstrate clearly articulated scope, objectives, & approach? Does proposal have strong connection to RPF Objectives, Challenges, and/or Topic Areas? What is the extent of expected benefits & relevance to MA?

Commitment to Equity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice

- Does the application demonstrate a genuine and proactive commitment to equity, inclusion, and environmental justice, both internally in their organizations and in any external programming?

Organizational Structure, Work Plan, and Schedule

- Does the proposed project have a clear strategy to complete the project and do the proposed schedule, milestones, and deliverables seem appropriate and achievable?

Team Qualifications and Experience

- Does the Applicant team have experience delivering high quality work and measured results in related projects? Is the lead applicant and/or partnering institution(s) located in MA? Does team composition contribute to MA workforce capacity to complete offshore energy related science & research (e.g., new employment opportunities; internships for students from MA-based institutions)?

Budget and Funding

- Does the proposal include a sufficiently detailed budget, a cost-effective solution, identification of cost share sources? Preference for overhead rates ≤15%.

Value Demonstration

- What is the overall value proposition of the proposal when compared with other applicants' proposals?

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Application Materials

Applicants should complete the Application Form (Attachment B to the RFP)

Required attachments:

☐ A signed Authorized Applicant's Signature and Acceptance Form (found in Attachment A)

☐ Organizational chart with reporting structures

☐ Team members' resumes

☐ Budget spreadsheet (as Excel file)

Required attachments (as applicable):

☐ If there are any changes to the template contract agreement that would be necessary before the Applicant could sign the contract: Annotated version of Attachment C or D.

☐ If there are any partner organizations: Letters of support from those partners.

☐ For any project **generating new data**, include a draft data management sharing plan (DMSP) using the U.S. Atlantic Offshore Research template available through DMPTool (dmptool.org)(see Attachment E for guidance).

See Attachment B (Application Form)

Timeline

- Webinar will be recorded and available publicly
- Questions must be received by **April 14** via email to offshorewind@masscec.com
- Answers will be posted on the RFP page on MassCEC's website (last update will be on or before **April 21**)
- Dates are subject to change at MassCEC's discretion
- For planning purposes, Applicants should use **October 1, 2026** as an estimated start date.

Process Step	Target Date
Release of RFP	March 18, 2026
Open Question & Answer Period (submit via email to offshorewind@masscec.com)	March 25, 2026
Close Question & Answer Period	April 14, 2026
Questions with Answers Posted to MassCEC Website (answers posted on a rolling basis once Q&A period opens)	March 25-April 21, 2026
Public webinar	April 1, 2026
Proposals Due	April 28, 2026
Notification of Award	June 2026

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Q & A

Please submit questions in writing to:
offshorewind@masscec.com

The words: “Question – 2026 SRA RFP” must appear in the email subject

Thank you!

Zach Jylkka, Senior Program Manager
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Jess Brookner, Program Administrator
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Topic Areas

Topic Area 1:
Fisheries: Understanding Effects in Southern New England Lease Areas

a. Commercial Fishing Vessel Use Patterns: With offshore wind projects in Southern New England reaching operational phase, data are available that can depict actual vessel use patterns (e.g., transit routes to and from fishing grounds, transit volume, fishing activity) within and around wind energy areas across different phases of the wind projects (i.e., site characterization, seabed preparation/preconstruction, construction, and operation) that will likely be unique to distinct fisheries, gear types, and vessel sizes. Combining datasets that are readily available or acquirable (e.g., AIS, VMS, VTR, eLogbooks), MassCEC requests proposals to explore and better understand past, current, and future (e.g., next 1-3 years) fishery trends in Southern New England. Proposals should include plans for how the applicant will work with regulators and data managers at the state and federal level. Emphasis should be on spatial and economic data but may also include sociocultural factors. Proposals should build on and 7 coordinate with the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium funded project: "Measuring Impacts of Offshore Wind on Commercial Fishing Fleets in Southern New England" (see Current Projects).

b. Recreational and For-Hire Fishing Activity: As several offshore wind leases have reached partial or complete construction and operation, MassCEC seeks proposals to understand how recreational and for-hire fishing operations are adapting to the presence of new offshore structures, client interest, and other OSW-related shifts to their operations. Proposals should include plans to incorporate existing data, as well as an implementation plan for collecting and analyzing new quantitative and/or qualitative data to describe recent changes to the recreational and for-hire fishing sectors. Emphasis should be on spatial and economic data, but may also include sociocultural factors.

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Topic Area 2: Wildlife and Habitat

a. Modeling Gulf of Maine Ocean Processes. MassCEC seeks proposals to design and implement a modeled analysis of the potential interactions between individual and cumulative development of floating offshore wind projects and physical and biogeochemical ocean processes in the Gulf of Maine, in particular, lower trophic level ecosystem processes that could affect distribution and abundance of zooplankton prey for whale species (e.g., North Atlantic right whale (NARW)). Proposals may include multiple project phases that could be eligible for future funding, from MassCEC and/or other interested parties. Proposals should:

- Inform future environmental assessments that will analyze Gulf of Maine offshore wind development's potential effects on the physical and biological features of NARW critical habitat (Unit 1) (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/01/27/2016-01633/endangered-and-threatened-species-critical-habitat-for-endangered-north-atlantic-right-whale);
- Build on the recommendations of the 2024 BOEM and NOAA Fisheries North Atlantic Right Whale and Offshore Wind Strategy (see Objective 2.3)(https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/environment/BOEM_NMFS_NARW_OSW_0.pdf);
- Build on and coordinate with the following studies (as applicable): the 2024 National Academies hydrodynamic study of Nantucket Shoals (https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/27154) , Vineyard Wind Ocean W'aKEs Study https://database.rwsc.org/details?recordId=recSuc8K358tXixIt; and RWSC-funded study: "Coupled oceanic and atmospheric wake effects and their impact on nutrient supply and zooplankton community structure across turbine-, wind farm-, and regional-scales."
- Describe the data collection and monitoring techniques necessary to calibrate and improve model(s) generated by this proposal;
- Incorporate recommendations (as appropriate) from upcoming workshops hosted by the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) in relation to the Maine Research Consortium Project I.D. 25 (https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/meetings/2025%2008%2013%20AB%20Meeting%20Slides.pdf);

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Topic Area 2: Wildlife and Habitat *(continued)*

b. Habitat Enhancement Opportunities. Past MassCEC-funded projects have supported research into Nature Inclusive Design (NID) ideas and techniques and the associated concept of Marine Net Gain, with the broader goal of achieving improved ecosystem and blue economy outcomes. To inform future investment in and pursuit of these concepts, MassCEC is requesting proposals to develop an implementation framework for incorporating NID into offshore wind projects. Proposals should build on existing literature and the past MassCEC studies linked above, as well as include plans for additional stakeholder engagement, to: a) identify quantifiable NID goals for MA (or the region); and b) develop a suite of implementation options for Massachusetts (and other state and federal) regulators as applicable to consider.

c. Analysis of Wildlife Protection Measures. With several offshore wind construction seasons complete, MassCEC solicits proposals to review the outcomes of wildlife protection measures (e.g., time of year restrictions, vessel speed limits, protected species detection methods, bubble curtains, etc.). Proposals should seek to develop recommendations for how, if at all, existing protection measures could be modified to: a) improve conservation outcomes; and/or b) maintain existing conservation outcomes while reducing the number of permitting conditions, required agency oversight, and overall project costs. MassCEC is particularly interested in bioenergetic effects and measurable population level impacts. Proposals may consider single or multiples species and habitat types.

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of the RFP

Topic Area 3: Regional Transmission Planning

MassCEC seeks proposals for novel transmission planning and analysis that incorporate and build on existing grid and regional transmission studies (e.g., DOE Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Study 2024; NEMOEC 2023), as well as consider recent developments, such as the planned offshore wind Call for Bids in Nova Scotia, CA (anticipated in 2026) and the Wind West proposal. Proposals may focus on one or more regions (e.g., Gulf of Maine, Southern New England, Atlantic Coast) and should consider near- and long-term feasibility (e.g., economics, technological readiness), permitting requirements, environmental impacts, and socio-political realities.

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Topic Area 4: Gulf of Maine Regional Monitoring

Compared to other wind development regions along the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf of Maine is in the early stages of site assessment activities, with eventual construction likely a decade away. This context presents an opportunity for the development of a regional data collection strategy for baseline and preconstruction monitoring. Such a strategy could inform and guide future research investments and regulatory requirements, ensuring the availability of the data necessary to best measure and understand potential project and regional-level effects of floating offshore wind development.

MassCEC seeks proposals to develop a regional data collection strategy for the Gulf of Maine. Proposals should consider existing data assets, planned data collection campaigns, anticipated state and federal requirements, as well as potential connections to research and monitoring of offshore wind energy areas in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The strategy should include frameworks for collecting multiple data types capable of monitoring several ecosystem variables (e.g., hydrodynamics, benthic communities, zooplankton and/or forage fish populations). The strategy should also address:

- Possible data collection and monitoring funding sources;
- Metrics for measuring success of data collection framework implementation;
- Stakeholder engagement plans;
- Plans to account for and adapt to rapidly changing ocean conditions (e.g., climate change, new or evolving ocean industries, etc.).

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of the RFP

Topic Area 5:
Communicating Existing Science & Research

MassCEC seeks proposals for **communication products, strategies and campaigns** to be executed by the applicant with MassCEC collaboration and oversight. If successful, the applicant will work with MassCEC to identify a list of topics and corresponding content that are responsive to key offshore wind stakeholder questions and concerns, and for which readily available science and research has been completed but may not have been effectively communicated to the public to date.

- Applicants should demonstrate a track record of effectively communicating complex science to a variety of audiences and across a variety of platforms.
- Proposed budgets may include funding to engage directly with scientists to integrate their work into the communication campaign, as well as costs associated with maximizing the reach and impact of any communication materials developed through the campaign.
- Proposals should be readily scalable (e.g., project can adjust the number of communication topics depending on available funding).

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