

DOC Meeting Summary

December 19, 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., ET

Location: Virtual meeting

RFA Team: Olivia Burke, Jan Matthiesen, Laura Singer, Orran Brown, Jr., Sydney Gustafson, Justin Wind, Joli Millner, Charlotte Goeb

DOC and Ex-Officio: Carrie Kennedy, Todd Janeski, Hank Soule, Elizabeth Kordowski, Beth Casoni, Brad Schondelmeier, Emily Rochon, Jeff Kaelin, Joe Gilbert, Julia Socrates, Lane Johnston, Rick Robins, Ross Pearsall, Sam Asci, Vincent Balzano, Doug Christel, Emma Chaiken, Ursula Howson, Erin Wilkinson, Roy Diehl, Brian Krevor

Observers: Morgan Brunbauer, Catherine McCall, Lisa Engler

Agenda:

1. **Process to Resolve Framework Questions and Advance Program Rules**
2. **Timeline for the Second Year of the RFA Project**
3. **Subgroup Updates** (Shoreside, Business Transfers, Expedited Construction Disruption)
4. **Preview of Primary Design Questions (Set 1)** (Design Principles Overall Process Design and Definitions)
5. **Administrative Items**
6. **Upcoming Schedule**

Discussion:

Introduction

- Reminder to fishing representatives to submit timesheets by January 15, 2026
- Overview of meeting agenda

Question Resolution Process

The RFA presented the process for 2026 to ensure completion of the framework design by the end of the year. Four sets of questions will be addressed through cycles of recommendations, cross-caucus meetings, feedback, and draft rule circulation, with stakeholder comments due July 1 – August 15, 2026, and final delivery to NYSERDA by September 30, 2026.

Feedback on Set 1 questions was due by December 31, 2025. The RFA noted that feedback received to date would be discussed in this meeting to ensure broad understanding of comments from the different caucuses. The RFA clarified that subgroups are working effectively to discuss specific topics and that the expectation is to continue using and establishing new subgroups flexibly, as required.

The process emphasizes cross-caucus collaboration, subgroup utilization for arising challenging questions, and adherence to established timelines to ensure comprehensive stakeholder input and finalization of the RFA program rules. The RFA encouraged DOC representatives to engage with their caucuses between DOC meetings and submit feedback ahead of deadlines, to ensure constructive and timely discussions.

Subgroup Updates

Subgroups on shoreside support businesses, business transfers, and expedited construction disruption are working on written protocols compatible with the overall RFA program. Specific focuses include:

- Shoreside: Working to a definition of an eligible shoreside support business, ironing out difficulties in proof of loss, parsing out what questions are dependent on the DOC's decision (e.g., lookback period, etc.)
- Transferability: Working on questions about when a transfer occurs, how fishing history might transfer, etc.
- Expedited Construction: Contemplating a “no harm” path for construction disruption claims, and how a claimant would qualify for such track

The next DOC meeting (January 9, 2026) will spend more time looking at the subgroup protocols for shoreside and transfers to establish a shared understanding between caucuses.

Preview of Primary Design Questions (Set 1)

The RFA team is consolidating revised draft design principles for early 2026 publication on the RFA website, incorporating caucus feedback.

A separate OECC claims process will be developed that sits alongside the regional framework. The RFA will also develop a multi-phase, two-track claims process including an expedited construction disruption path and an individualized construction and operations path. In response to discussions around incorporating both a “No Harm” and “Show Harm” optionality for claimants, the RFA will develop “show harm” individual track and “no harm” expedited construction disruption track.

Questions Moving Toward Consensus:

- Claimant categories that can submit claims and receive direct compensation: Commercial fishing businesses, for-hire recreational fishing businesses, shoreside support businesses
- *Must a claimant have fished a specific geographic area previously to be eligible to participate?* Assumed answer is yes.
- *Should claimants have to demonstrate an economic loss/harm?* Assumed answer is yes.
- *Should claimants have to prove that any economic loss/harm was caused by the OSW project?* Assumed answer is yes.

- *Should the regional framework incorporate both “No Harm” and “Show Harm” optionality for claimants? If so, should those options be available in the construction phase, operations phase, decommissioning phase, or some combination? Assumed answer is yes.*

Questions Held For Additional Discussion on 1/9/26:

- Claimant categories that can submit claims and receive direct compensation: Varied feedback on crew/employees claims
- What is the claim accrual period?
- What specific geographic area (or “affected area”) is required? (Project Area vs. Lease Area, OECC construction-phase claims, Buffer zones, etc.)

Set 2 Questions to Preview on 1/9/26:

- What milestone triggers the lookback period for claimant eligibility?
- How far back in time from the lookback date should fishing activity be considered?
- In how many of those lookback years must a claimant have fished in the affected area(s) before the lookback trigger date?
- What level of historic fishing effort in any particular year qualifies that year for the fisherman?
- Must a claimant’s past fishing activity be the same or similar to the allegedly impacted fishing activity?
- How does a business/vessel/permit transfer affect the seller’s and purchaser’s potential eligibility to participate in the program? Do transfers warrant differing treatment if they occur during lookback, construction, and/or operations?

Definitions Held for Additional Discussion on 1/9/26:

1. Construction.

Draft Definitions:

- *Construction: All installation-related activities, as outlined in a project’s BOEM-approved Construction and Operations Plan.*
- *Construction Period: The period when physical installation and commissioning activities occur offshore in a project area, beginning with the first seabed disturbing activity in a project area, following approval of a project’s COP, and continuing until 95% of project capacity is installed and delivering power to the grid. Construction period activities include, but may not be limited to, pre-lay grapnel runs, scour protection installation, cable laying, pile driving, and wind turbine and offshore substation installation. Construction period activities do not*

include geophysical, geotechnical, biological, or cultural surveys or environmental monitoring before the commencement of physical construction.

What triggers the end of construction? The group discussed a possible definition of completion as 95% of the entire wattage installed in turbines and delivering power to the grid. The developer caucus agreed to work on language to clarify the definition of when construction ends.

What are pre-construction activities, and how should they be handled? It was noted that potential impacts before construction are assessed before leasing by BOEM (i.e., site assessment is earlier in the process), and therefore not included in the RFA framework. Some fishing representatives raised concerns that there could be impacts from geophysical and geotechnical surveys and they want to make sure that these are accounted for. The fishing caucus agreed that site assessment before COP approval should not be included, but needs to be considered after approval. It was agreed to spend more time at the next meeting (January 9) going into more detail before deciding if a subgroup is required.

2. Decommissioning.

How should recommissioning be handled, if at all?

Administrative reminders

Fishing representatives were reminded to submit timesheets by January 15, 2026. The RFA team will follow up with slides and outstanding questions. Upcoming meetings include DOC sessions on January 9 and 21, and a public webinar on February 2, 2026.

Upcoming Schedule

- DOC meeting on January 9, 9:30-12:00 p.m.
- DOC cross-caucus meeting on January 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Public webinar on February 2, 4-5:30 p.m., ET
- RFA to follow-up with slides and outstanding questions

Meeting closed.