

Introduction to the Regional Fund Administrator (RFA) project

Maine Fishermen's Forum

February 28, 2025

Session agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation Laura Singer, SAMBAS Consulting LLC 10 minutes

2. Setting the Context: How We Got Here and What an RFA Is

Orran Brown Jr., BrownGreer

10 minutes presentation, 10 minutes Q&A

3. Initial Approach to Engagement

Caroline Coccoli, Carbon Trust

10 minutes presentation, 10 minutes Q&A

4. Open discussion

All (presenters and session attendees)

20 minutes

5. Closing remarks

Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

5 minutes

RFA Origin



JUNE 2021

States letter to BOEM to move on compensatory mitigation



JULY 2022

States meet to explore RFA Concept



SUMMER 2023

States, Fish Advisors, OSW Advisors hone governance & procurement



FEBRUARY 2024

Launch RFP

BOEM drafts compensatory mitigation guidance

NOV '21 - AUGUST '22

Issue Scoping Document & RFI for targeted feedback

DEC '22 - FEB '23

Secure funding for design & development

FALL 2023

RFA Contracted and Program Kickoff

NOVEMBER 2024



Compensation Funds and the Role of Administrators

What is a Compensation Fund?

Design Development Implementation Notice to Participants

CLAIMS REVIEW

- · Claim Submission Period
- Initial Administrative Review
- Deficiency Response Opportunities
- Final Review and Determination

RECONSIDERATION AND/OR APPEAL

- ·Claim Package Finalization
- · Selection and Identification of Neutral
- · Coordination of Appellate Review
- Post-Reconsideration and/or Appeal Determinations

AMOUNT FINALIZATION AND PAYMENTS

- ·Lien Resolution
- · Payment Coordination
- FundManagementandReconciliation

What Does an Administrator Do?

- Inform the Public About the Compensation Fund.
- Determine Who is Eligible to Participate.
- Determine What Injuries are Compensable.
- Develop What Proof of Loss or Injury is Required.
- Establish How Claims will be Valued.
- Determine the Structure and Components of the Claims Program.
- Design and Build Web-Based Platforms to Allow Participants to Interact with the Program.
- Issue Payments and Manage Program Fund.

The Regional Fund Administrator ("RFA") Team

BrownGreer

Independent third-party administrator emphasizing accessibility and transparency

Design and develop an equitable and transparent framework for Compensation Fund and associated claims process

Uses significant stakeholder input for feedback on design elements



Orran Brown, Jr. (Project Lead)



Phil Strunk



Sydney Gustafson



Justin Wind



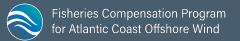
Our Approach to the RFA Project

We
acknowledge the
complexity

We believe we have a responsibility to ensure our approach is flexible

Our approach balances independence and accessibility

We are focused on driving progress in a **pragmatic** and **empathetic** manner to build consensus



Overview of Program Components

Intended Program
Purpose

Payment & Re-Engagement



Demonstrable Losses/Costs; Claim Valuation

Eligibility, Deficiencies, & Dispute Resolution Claims Process.
Support, &
Technology

The Regional Fund Administrator ("RFA") Team

Carbon Trust

Engagement lead for "1-2-1" conversations, sector group meeting facilitation

Works with local engagement leads, DOC and FHC members to ensure "bottom-up" approach

Supports the convening of sector group meetings during transition to the RFA



Olivia Burke (Project Manager)



Jan Matthiesen



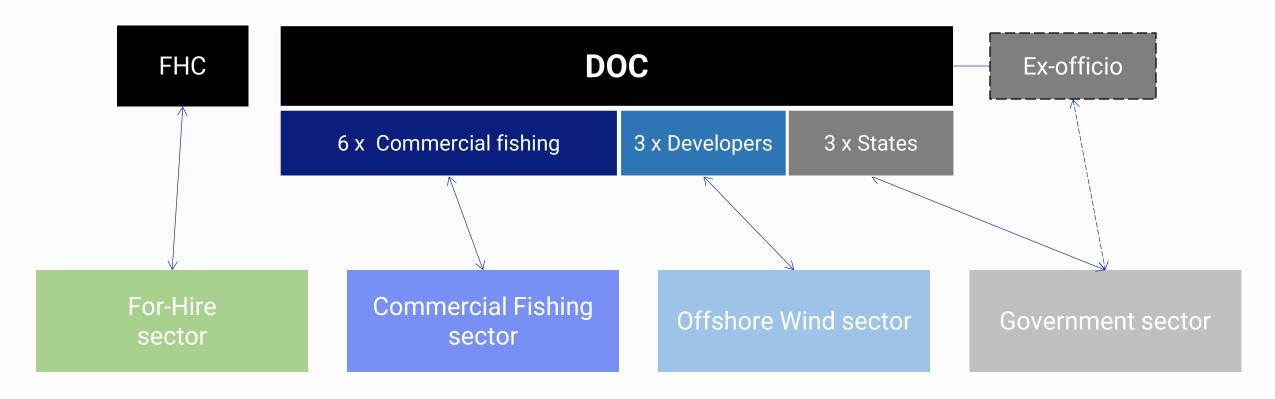
Caroline Coccoli



Laura Singer (Local engagement lead – New England)



Relevant Stakeholders for the RFA Project



- We will help to facilitate regular meetings between DOC members and their sector
- Fisheries sector includes stakeholders from diverse fisheries, regions and ports



Governing Committees

Design Oversight Committee ("DOC")

Commercial Fishing Industry

- Hank Soule, Vince Balzano, Joe Gilbert, Roy Diehl, Sam Martin, and Spencer Headley
- Alternate Members: Beth Casoni, Jerry Leeman, Bonnie Brady, Jeff Kaelin, and Lane Johnston

States

- Dan McKiernan, Joe Cimino, and Todd Janeski
- Alternate Members: Erin Wilkinson, Julia Socrates, and Carrie Kennedy

Offshore Wind Industry

- Brian Krevor, Emily Rochon, and Rick Robins
- Alternate Members: Ruth Perry, Doug Copeland, and Ross Pearsall

For-Hire Committee ("FHC")

Recreational Fishing Industry

- Rick Bellavance, Bob Rush, and Rom Whitaker
- Alternate Member: Mike Cerchio.

States

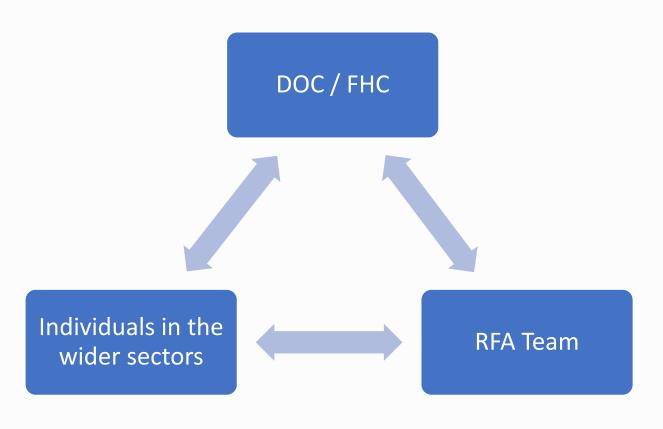
- Renee Zobel
- Alternate Member: Joe Cimino

Offshore Wind Industry

- Brian Krevor
- Alternate Member: Ron Larsen



Consulting and Reporting



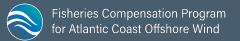
The RFA team will:

- Consider feedback from individuals / DOC and FHC on the preferred mechanism for engagement
- Facilitate regular DOC and FHC meetings
- Organise 1-2-1 and group meetings with individuals in each sector
- Actively grow the network of individuals feeding into the RFA project
- Ensure feedback is captured and reflected in the fund design and claims process
- Adjust our approach to maximise accessibility across the region



Engagement Timeline

Timeline for the RFA Project - design and development of the regional compensation fund	
November 2024	Project set-up and initiation
December – January 2024	Launching the DOC / FHC, kick-off meetings, development of terms of reference
February – April 2025	Introducing the RFA Project to the wider sectors
May - July 2025	Consultation on eligibility
August 2025 - January 2026	Consultation on other fund components – schedule to be updated by July 2025
February – June 2026	Finalizing fund design and reporting on results



Getting Involved / Sharing Your Feedback

Regional Fund Administrator

Contact@RFAInfo.com



Discussion

- 1. What are your deepest concerns about how the compensation process may unfold and how might we avoid those happening?
- 2. What would a successful compensation fund and associated claims process look like? What is your priority for the fund?
- 3. Realizing that this is a difficult and unpopular subject, what is the best way to engage with the fishing community in an open, transparent way but also honor the sensitive nature of the conversation?