

Summary of RFA's discussions with individuals in the wider sectors

March 2026 - June 2026

Number of meetings: During this period, the RFA held one DOC meeting. The RFA also presented at the Maine Fishermen's Forum in Rockland, ME on March 6 and to the Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group on May 15. The RFA gave a brief update at the New England Fishery Management Council meeting on June 24. The RFA continued engagement through DOC sub-groups on shoreside businesses, permit/vessel transfers, and an expedited construction-claim pathway. Sector-specific caucus meetings, and discussions with BOEM and NOAA, also continued. Cumulatively, this resulted in 24 small-group meetings, in addition to wider public engagement activities.

Meeting Objectives: This period focused on moving from issue-specific input towards a more consolidated approach to the compensation framework. Engagement sought to refine how compensation amounts could be determined, documentation requirements and program mechanics; clarify where caucus perspectives aligned or differed; and prepare materials for broader public consultation.

Summary of emerging themes:

Summaries of DOC and FHC meetings are available separately on the RFA website. This memo reflects themes emerging from DOC, FHC, caucus, sub-group and State engagement from March–June 2026. It is not exhaustive and is intended to complement previous stakeholder engagement memos. A "Home Stretch Memo," which sets out the initial outline of the consolidated, written outline of preliminarily selected regional fishing compensation framework design elements for the regional fund, has been developed and continues to be informed by the stakeholder conversations. This will be released to the DOC and FHC by the end of July 2026, as a precursor to the final protocol that will be released for public consultation. To accommodate the increased level of activity and engagement across all caucuses, the RFA team agreed to extend the project timeline to ensure sufficient time for meaningful participation and input.

General

- **Improving cross-caucus understanding:** Stakeholders continued to emphasize the value of transparency and shared information across the State, Fisheries and Developer caucuses. Discussion focused on how caucuses could better understand one another's perspectives, particularly where recommendations or practical implementation concerns differ.
- **Defining loss, disruption and evidence:** Participants continued discussions regarding the need for compensation claims to be linked to demonstrated loss. There was a continued emphasis on ensuring a common understanding on the definition and differences between "disruption" and "displacement", including how these concepts may apply across the construction, operations and decommissioning phases of offshore wind development. Stakeholders explored how disruption and displacement may contribute to economic impacts and considered potential approaches for assessing compensable losses within the fund framework.
- **Distinguishing Compensation Tracks and Development Phases:** Discussions during this period highlighted that stakeholders continued to support a fund that had multiple pathways to compensation and explored the potential role of expedited approaches for certain types of

impacts, alongside more individualized assessment processes for complex claims. Additional discussion focused on whether different claim pathways may apply, how compensation would be assessed, and whether fund mechanisms should vary across construction, operations, decommissioning, and export cable corridor activities.

- **Methodology, Evidence and Safeguards:** Stakeholders continued discussions on potential approaches for calculating compensation across different fishery types, including consideration of claim triggers, compensation methodologies, and mechanisms to ensure consistency and fairness in claim assessments. Discussions also considered evidentiary requirements, including how to demonstrate active participation in a fishery, the use of historical reference periods and standardized assumptions, and the importance of maintaining a transparent and clearly documented rationale for key fund design decisions.

Next steps

- Continue refining the draft framework using DOC/FHC, caucus, and sub-group feedback.
- Use upcoming caucus and DOC discussions to focus on remaining areas where views differ or further detail is needed.
- Prepare public comment materials that clearly explain proposed claims pathways, eligibility requirements, documentation expectations, and the public comment process that will be used for this process.
- Continue public-facing engagement through website updates, email communications, webinars and targeted outreach including updates at regional fishery management meetings.