

## **Collision Risk Modelling Working Group**

Avian collisions are currently seen as a key consenting risk for offshore wind farms, putting in jeopardy efforts to mitigate climate change through reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Collision risk is typically assessed prior to the construction of a wind farm using a Collision Risk Model (CRM). However, there is substantial uncertainty surrounding the inputs to these models and the accuracy of their predictions. As the offshore wind industry continues to expand globally, new CRMs are being developed and applied. A lack of model validation and bench-marking contributes to considerable uncertainty surrounding the projected risks to vulnerable bird populations, and leads to concerns that decisions are not being made on the basis of the best available evidence.

Recognizing these difficulties, we organized a workshop at the 2023 Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts (CWW) with a view to gaining a more global understanding of the challenges faced in assessing collision risk from wind energy development. At this workshop, it was recognized that there would be value in establishing a standing expert working group to discuss these challenges and work towards potential solutions. We propose to hold the first meeting of this CRM Expert Working Group at the 2024 State of the Science. Drawing from contacts from the CWW workshop, this working group will include representatives from academia, consultants, developers, and regulators. As part of this meeting, the working group will agree on key next steps, which will include formalizing the group's goals, identifying potential funding sources, and beginning to develop terms of reference and immediate action items identified during the CWW workshop, such as a decision tree to help practitioners determine when and where different types of CRMs might be usefully implemented. We expect roughly 10-20 working group members to attend, with more interested in attending virtually if that option is available. Interested parties who are not part of the working group may also want to attend this meeting; the feasibility of this will depend in part on the size of the room that is available.

### **Agenda**

#### *Presentations*

- Introduction & background to the need for an Expert Working Group
- Summary of Discussions from CWW Workshop

#### *Facilitated discussion*

- Terms of reference
- Focus for working group - e.g. offshore only, offshore & onshore
- Outputs - white papers and guidance docs
- Papers/conference presentations
- Meeting regularity
- Emerging vs Established markets
- Membership
- How to ensure diversity & representation

- Identify potential members
- How to engage with emerging markets for wind energy
- Identification of potential funding sources to support working group
- Ideas for initial workstream (informed by discussions at CWW workshop)
- Develop decision tree to navigate different models
- How to consider cumulative impacts