



9 November, 2019

Regional Collaborations to Understand and Minimize Waterbird Impacts from Offshore Wind Energy Development

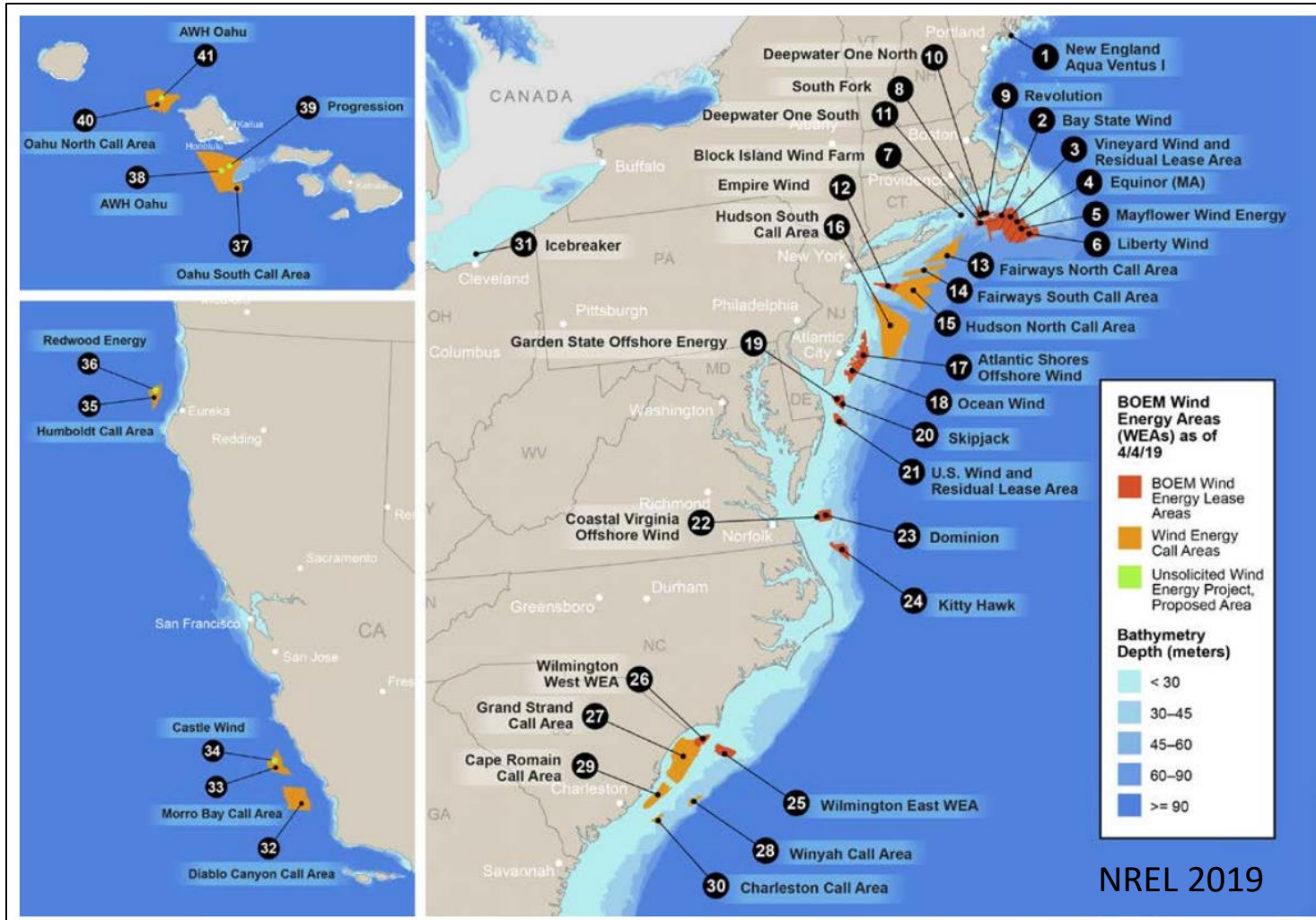
Kate Williams^{1*}, Kate McClellan Press², Julia Gulka¹, Gregory Lampman²

1. Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), 2. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

*kate.williams@briloon.org



U.S. Offshore Wind



- Block Island Wind Farm (2016)
- BOEM lease areas
 - MA to NC
 - Large projects min. 20-50 km offshore
- States largely driving development
 - Existing procurements in 6 states; several additional in process

Climate Leadership & Community Protect. Act (2019)

- Requires 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035

New York Offshore Wind Master Plan (2018)

- Call for Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

January
2018



NEW YORK STATE OFFSHORE WIND MASTER PLAN

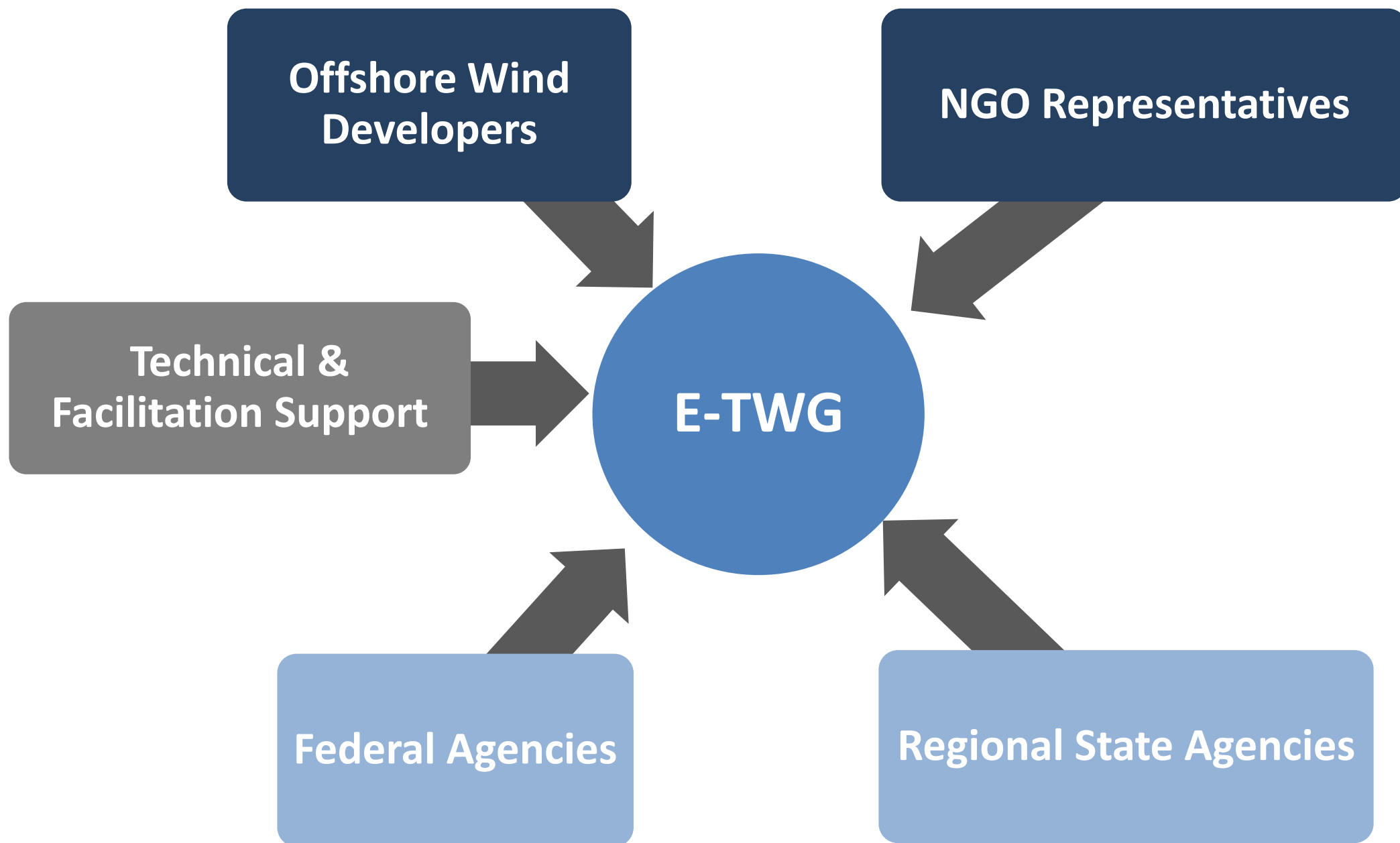
Charting a Course to 2,400 Megawatts
of Offshore Wind Energy

The Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG)



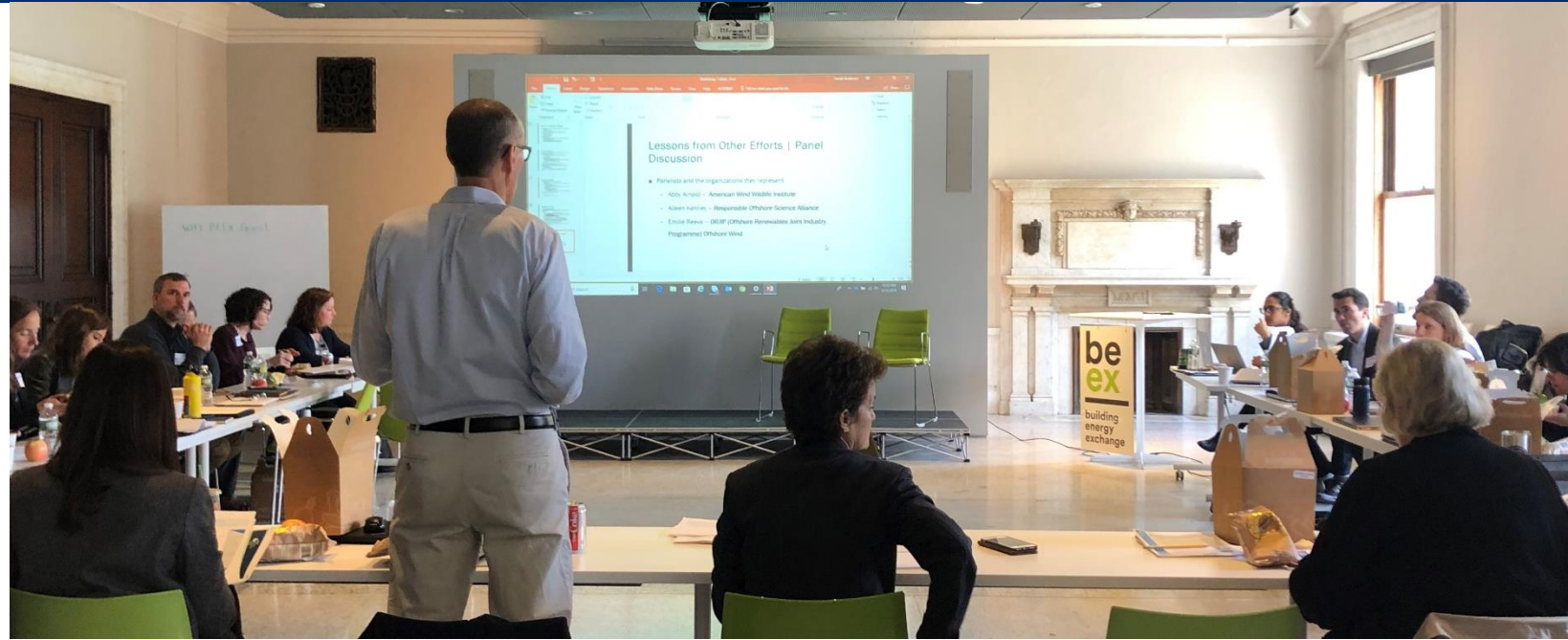
Overarching objectives:

- Better understand and manage potential effects of offshore wind development on wildlife and fisheries
- Develop collaborative processes to address priority issues
- Reduce permitting risk and uncertainty for developers



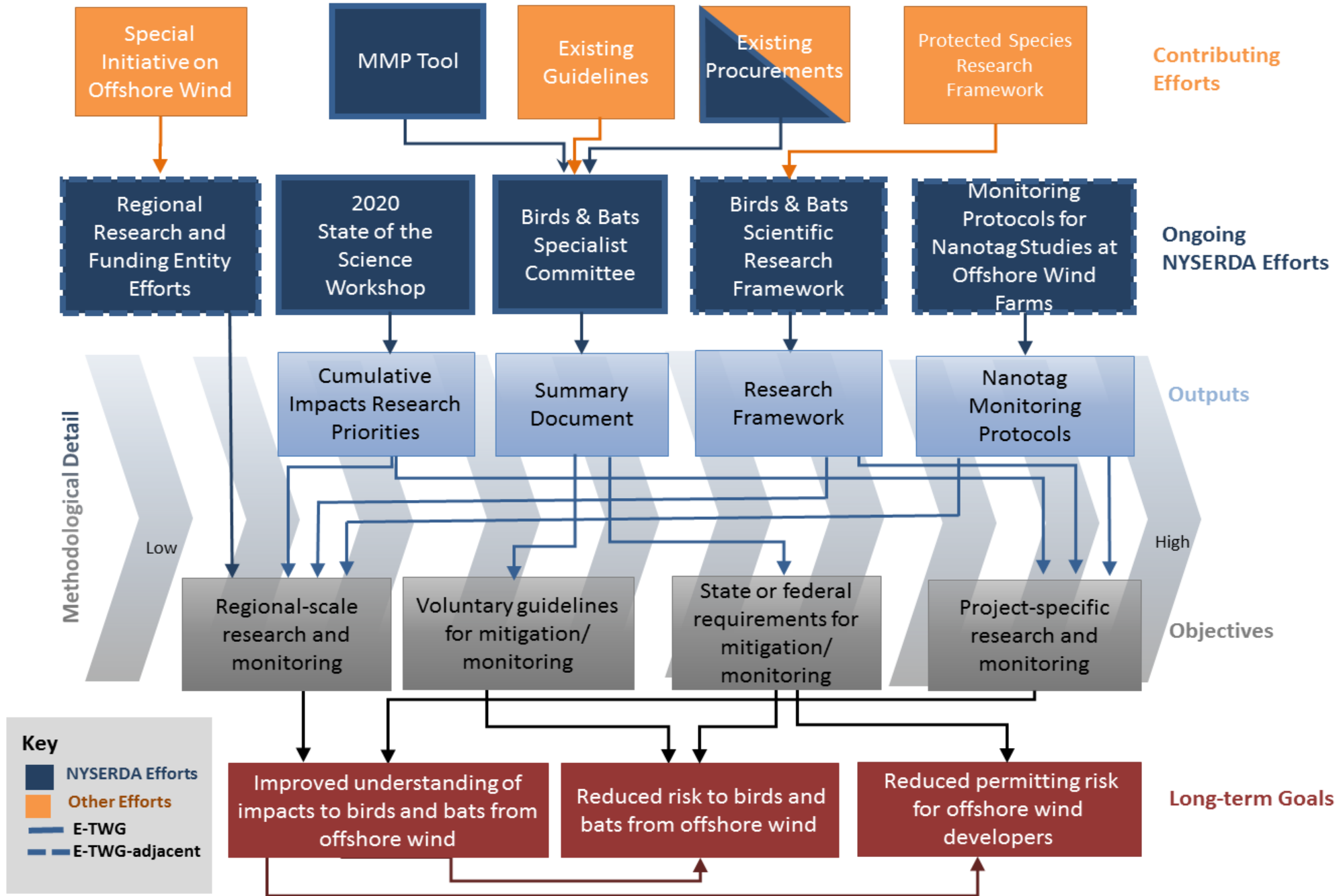
Why the E-TWG Works

- Appropriate geographic scale
- Collaborative dialogue
- Stakeholder selections & diversity
- Clear goals and structure
- Flexibility



Innes & Booher 2004; Pomeroy & Douvère 2008; Glickman 2000; Gopnik et al. 2012; Berghofer et al. 2008; Safford et al. 2009; Portman 2009; Reed 2008

- Documentation & transparency
- Financial and logistical support
- “Participation as a process”



Development of Best Management Practices

Specialist Committees: science-based expertise

- BMPs to minimize/mitigate impacts of offshore wind development
- Important to be: broadly applicable, flexible, consensus-driven

Objectives:

- BMP discussions (process as product)
- BMP inclusion in next NY procurement
- Inform site-specific mitigation plans
- Build and promote regional collaboration



Surf Scoter ©Daniel Poleschook; common dolphins ©Anthony Pierce; loggerhead ©Kate Sutherland; big brown bat ©Michael Durham

Bird and Bat Research Framework



NYSERDA

Goals:

- Inform research/monitoring & direct future research funding
- Ensure studies are focused on key priorities & designed appropriately to improve the state of knowledge

Objectives:

- ID key questions - impacts of construction/operations on birds & bats (MA to NC)
- Develop testable hypotheses & required methodologies (taxonomic focus, survey approaches, statistical power, etc.)
- ID data gaps & technological challenges



Newly funded studies (NYSERDA 2019)

- Development of guidance and decision support tools for studies using miniature digitally-coded VHF transmitters (nanotags) at offshore wind facilities
 - USFWS, URI, BRI, Bird Studies Canada
 - Lead PI: Pam Loring
- Research into ecological community dynamics to better understand the drivers of distribution and abundance patterns
 - BRI, NMFS, NOAA NCCOS
 - Lead PI: Evan Adams



Peter Paton, URI

State of the Science Workshops: Wildlife and Offshore Wind

[www.nyetwg.com/
2020-workshop](http://www.nyetwg.com/2020-workshop)

November 2018

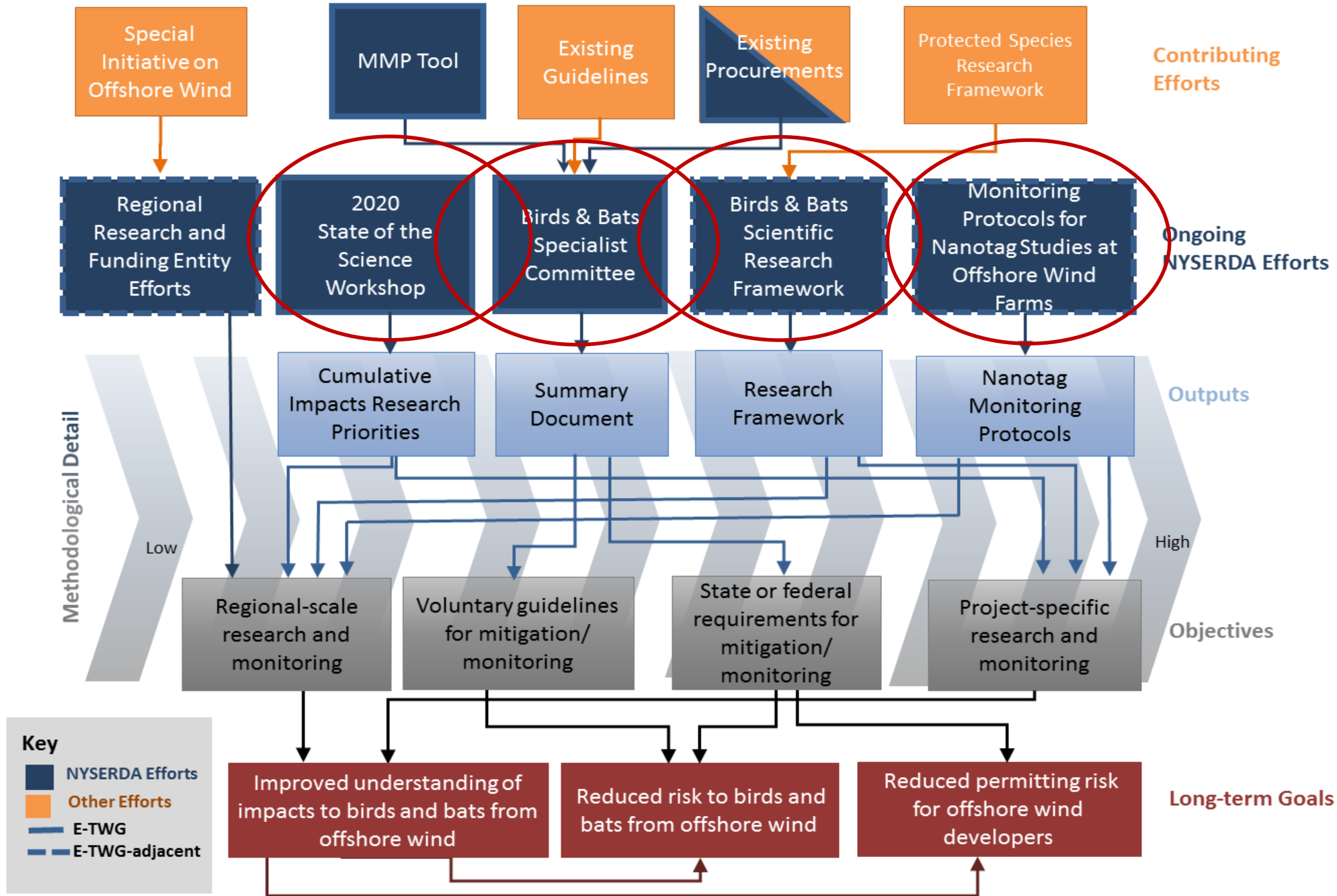
Focus: key advances in our understanding; data gaps; and opportunities for regional coordination



May 5-7, 2020

Focus: Cumulative impacts
End product: identification of priority research needs





Summary

- Stakeholder engagement will be essential as the industry progresses
- Offshore wind is a regional resource, and regional stakeholder engagement is key
- Stakeholder advisory groups such as the E-TWG can help to:
 - Maintain regional collaboration and communication
 - Inform state (and regional) decision making and improve outcomes



How to get involved

www.nyetwg.com

- E-TWG and State of the Science Workshop: mailing lists

State of the Science Workshop on cumulative impacts: May 5-7, 2020

- Bird & bat research framework: kate.williams@briloon.org

New York State
Environmental Technical Working Group

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Events and Announcements

The TWG adv resp

What The region is co non

In October 2019, NYSEDA finalized contracts to purchase power from the Empire Wind and Sunrise Wind offshore wind projects. The contracts include environmental mitigation plans as well as a commitment from both developers

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State of the Science Workshop

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Thank you to all E-TWG members, specialist committee members, and research colleagues



NYSERDA:

Gregory Lampman, Gregory.Lampman@nyserda.ny.gov

Kate McClellan Press, Kate.McClellanPress@nyserda.ny.gov

E-TWG website:

www.nyetwg.com

E-TWG Technical Support (BRI):

Kate Williams – Kate.Williams@briloon.org

Julia Gulka – Julia.Gulka@briloon.org



NYSERDA



Birds & Offshore Energy Symposium: Group Discussion

- Identify common themes in talks today
 - What have we learned? What information (on baseline distributions or on impacts) are relevant across industries?
 - Where are the key remaining data gaps?
- How do we address these gaps?
 - New research
 - Coordination among different efforts
 - Data compilation and data access