

# Introduction to the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
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Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

# Who is RODA?

- Broad membership-based coalition of fishing industry associations and fishing companies with an interest in improving the compatibility of new offshore development with their businesses.
- Board and members consist of individuals with direct interests in the commercial fishing industry
- Membership is open to all interested fishery participants

Goal: To coordinate science and policy approaches to managing development of the Outer Continental Shelf in a way that minimizes conflicts with existing traditional and historical fishing.



# National Ocean Policy Executive Order

U.S. policy is to:

- Facilitate the economic growth of coastal communities and promote ocean industries... advance ocean science and technology, feed the American people... and enhance America's energy security;
- Modernize the acquisition, distribution, and use of the best available ocean-related science and knowledge, in partnership with marine industries; the ocean science and technology community; State, tribal, and local governments; and other ocean stakeholders, to inform decisions and enhance entrepreneurial opportunity;
- Ensure that Federal regulations and management decisions do not prevent productive and sustainable use of ocean... waters;
- Obtain information and advice concerning ocean-related matters from... private-sector entities and individuals.

# RODA Core Functions

- Provide a unified voice regarding issues of mutual interest to the commercial fishing industry, related to the siting and operations of new and proposed offshore developments, in order to promote seafood sustainability;
- Act as a bridge between developers and fishermen to mandate, design, and implement a fair, equitable, and effective fisheries mitigation framework addressing potential direct and indirect fisheries impacts;
- Coordinate among existing local, project-specific, and state advisory groups to streamline advice and minimize duplication of effort, and increase awareness of the need for improved interagency coordination on matters related to ocean planning and development;
- Work to achieve adequate funding for scientific research to inform leasing processes, support mitigation programs, and guide future offshore development planning; and
- Serve as clearinghouse of scientific information and project updates for a better-informed industry and to inform Fishery Management Councils on industry needs and concerns.

# Scientific Research and Monitoring

- Work closely with federal, state, and other partners to design and implement a regionally-based collaborative research and monitoring program for transparent, trusted, and accurate scientific information to address the impacts of offshore development on fisheries;
- Identify monitoring, research, and funding needs prioritized by industry and develop channels for collaborative research on all phases of offshore development;
- Articulate a strategy, through development of formal public-private partnerships, for private and public research and monitoring investments to be gathered, coordinated, and streamlined to address joint priorities;
- Support broad monitoring and research needs relevant to offshore energy and other OCS leasing that intersect with existing scientific efforts in regional-scale ecosystem monitoring, stock assessment, and fisheries management; and
- Determine prioritization of data gaps regarding, among other items, baseline conditions, fisheries-specific impacts, cumulative impacts, site-specific concerns, and ecosystem-scale impact monitoring and assessment.