

# Stakeholder Meeting: New Jersey's Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring Initiative (RMI)

## Opportunities for Stakeholder Input:

- Today's meeting February 27, 2023 - Overview of the Research and Monitoring Initiative
- Written comments due Wednesday March 29, 2023 5PM EDT filed under [Docket No. QO22120727](#)
  - [https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case\\_id=2111625](https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2111625)

# Webinar Instructions Page

- All attendees will be automatically muted.
- Please note that the “Chat” function in Zoom is not available for this meeting, other than to broadcast the pre-registered speakers “on deck” during the comment period.
- This meeting is being recorded. A copy of the recording and slides will be made available on the BPU website:  
<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/>

# Disclaimer

This presentation is provided for informational purposes only and should not be taken to represent the views of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, its Commissioners, or the State of New Jersey. Please be aware that any information presented is subject to change if there are changes to New Jersey statutes, rules, or policies.

**All viewers are responsible for ensuring that they rely only on current legal authority regarding the matters covered in the presentation.**



# **New Jersey's Offshore Wind Research & Monitoring Initiative (RMI) Overview**

- Initial funding through NJ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Offshore Wind Solicitation
- \$10K/MW for regional research & monitoring of wildlife and fisheries resulting in ~\$26 million of funding
- Research priorities developed & received stakeholder input
- Projects developed in collaboration with regional entities & subject matter experts
- Project funding awarded through contracts with state universities, NJ Sea Grant Consortium members, & through RFPs

# Solicitation 2 Guidance Document

“To facilitate a shared understanding of these effects **Applicants will be required to commit financial and technical support to research initiatives and the regional monitoring of wildlife and fisheries** related to the introduction of offshore wind projects with a \$10,000 per megawatt of project nameplate capacity fee. NJDEP and BPU will collaborate with the selected Applicant, research institutions, industry, regional monitoring organizations and members of the New Jersey Offshore Wind Environmental Resources Working Group to identify and prioritize research and monitoring needs.”

# RMI Steering Committee

**Kelly Mooij**

Director, Division of Clean Energy, BPU



**Kira Lawrence**

Senior Scientist, Division of Clean Energy, BPU



**Kati Angarone**

Assistant Commissioner for Watershed & Land Management, DEP



**Megan Brunatti**

Deputy Chief of Staff, DEP



**Jim Ferris**

Deputy Director, Division of Clean Energy, BPU



**Nick Procopio**

Director, Division of Science & Research, DEP



# RMI Team

\* RMI Steering Committee Member

Name	Affiliation
Kati Angarone*	Assistant Commissioner, Watershed & Land Management (DEP)
Megan Brunatti*	Deputy Chief of Staff (DEP)
Nick Procopio*	Director, Division of Science & Research (DEP)
Kelly Mooij*	Director, Division of Clean Energy (BPU)
Jim Ferris*	Deputy Director, Division of Clean Energy (BPU)
Kira Lawrence*	Senior Scientist, Division of Clean Energy (BPU)
Joe Cimino	Administrator, Marine Resources Administration (DEP)
John Heilferty	Bureau Chief, Endangered & Non-game Species (DEP)
Kevin Hassell	Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Climate Resilience Planning (DEP)
Joe Bilinski	Research Scientist, Division of Science & Research (DEP)
Colleen Brust	Research Scientist, Marine Fisheries Administration (DEP)
Reneé Reilly	Research Scientist, Division of Science & Research (DEP)
Caitlin McGarigal	Research Scientist, Division of Science & Research (DEP)
Bailey Wild	Program Specialist, Division of Clean Energy (BPU)

# RMI Vision Statement

*This Research and Monitoring Initiative **addresses the need for regional research and monitoring of marine and coastal resources during offshore wind development, construction, operation and decommissioning** as recommended in the New Jersey Offshore Wind Strategic Plan. Initial funding is provided by developers through [New Jersey's Offshore Wind Solicitation 2](#).*

*This Initiative is a **rigorous scientific approach** to uphold the State's mandate to protect and responsibly manage New Jersey's coastal and marine resources while supporting the State's Offshore Wind Economic Development Act, [Executive Order 8](#) and [Executive Order 92](#), and the [Energy Master Plan](#), which respond to climate change and protect our environment for future generations.*

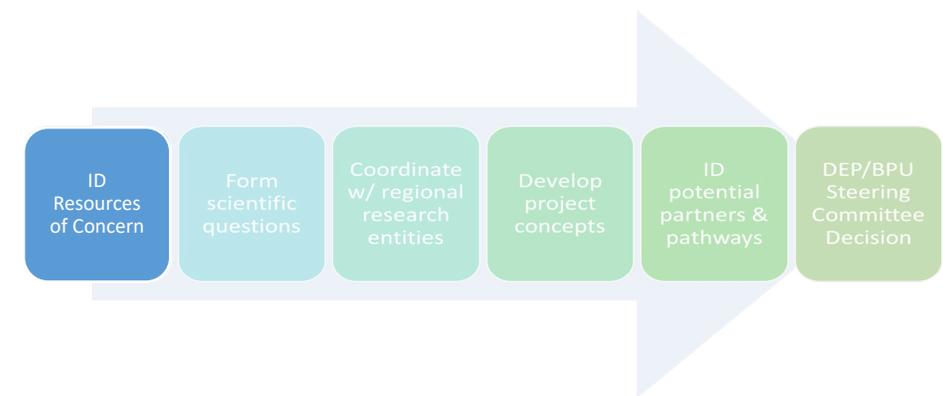


# RMI Project Development Process



# Identify Resources In & Around Project Areas

- NJ Ecological Baseline Studies
- High-value marine habitats (see CZM Special Areas, Cold Pool)
- Mid-Atlantic Data Portal
- Federally & state-managed fisheries
- Literature review



# Resources of Concern

For living resources: is it a threatened or endangered species?

Are individuals sensitive to a particular known/expected effect?

Will the habitat (physical, chemical, geological, or ecological) likely be significantly altered?

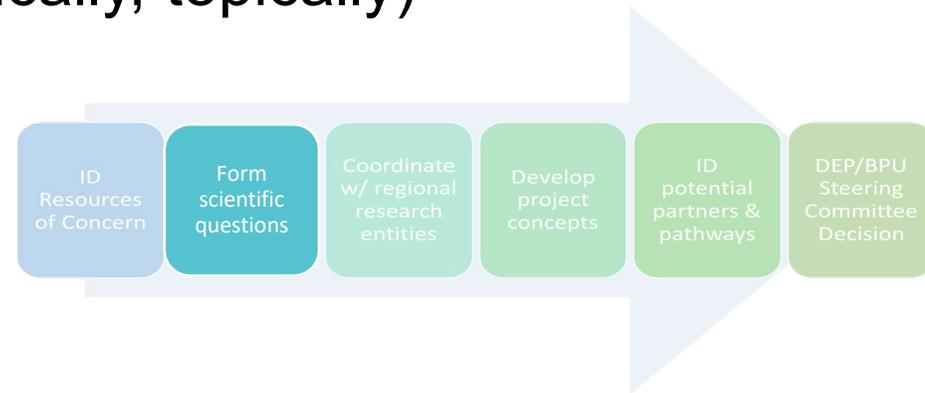
Is the habitat of such high value that any potential impact could be significant?



Resource  
of  
Concern

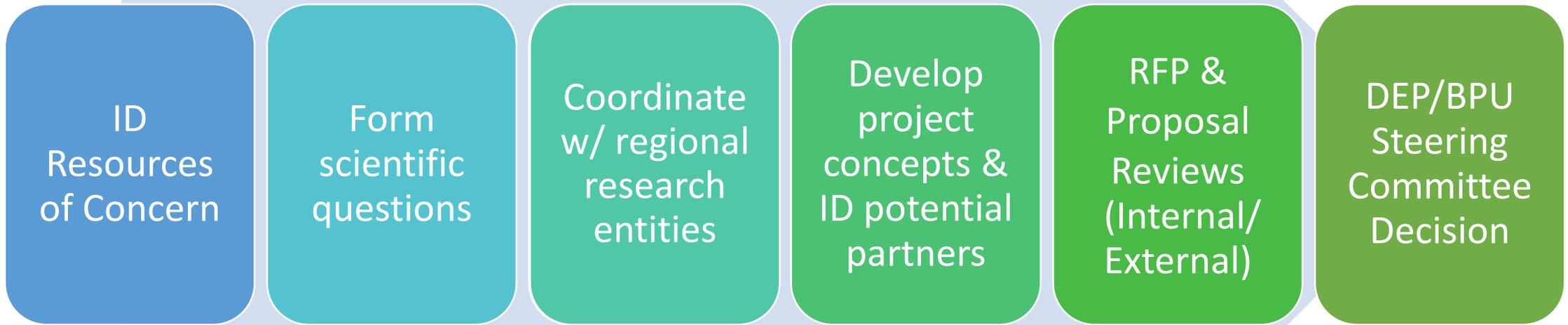
# Formation of Scientific Questions

- Impact-oriented approach
- Is there convincing evidence that any impact would be **negligible**?
  - Literature review
  - Stakeholder input
  - Input from local subject matter experts
  - **If yes:** compile relevant information & make publicly available
- Is the topic **being pursued by other entities**?
  - **If yes:** Coordinate with that entity (geographically, topically)





# Current RMI Process





# Regional Coordination



**MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY**

## NJ Environmental Resources Working Group



MID-ATLANTIC COMMITTEE ON THE OCEAN



The National Academies of

SCIENCES  
ENGINEERING  
MEDICINE



**RWSC**

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind

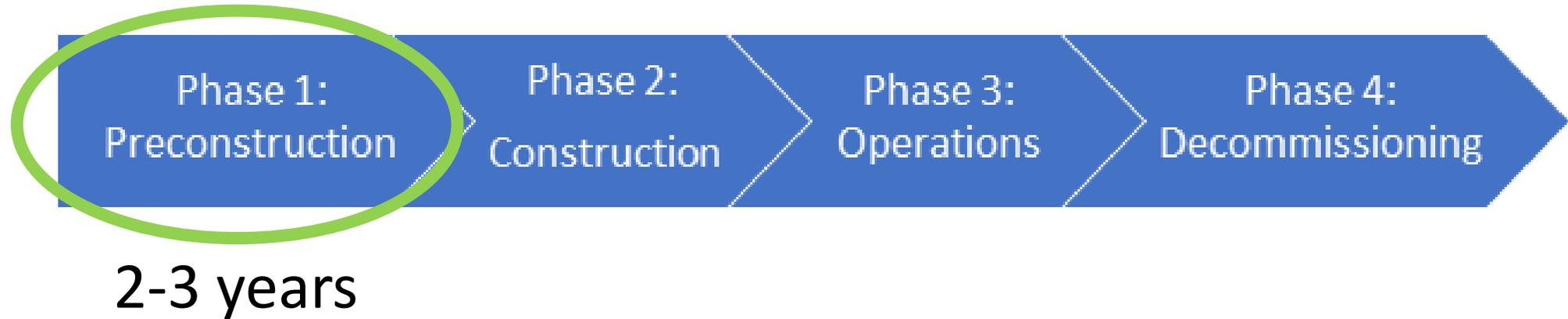


**NYSERDA**

# Research Priorities Survey Respondents & Commenters

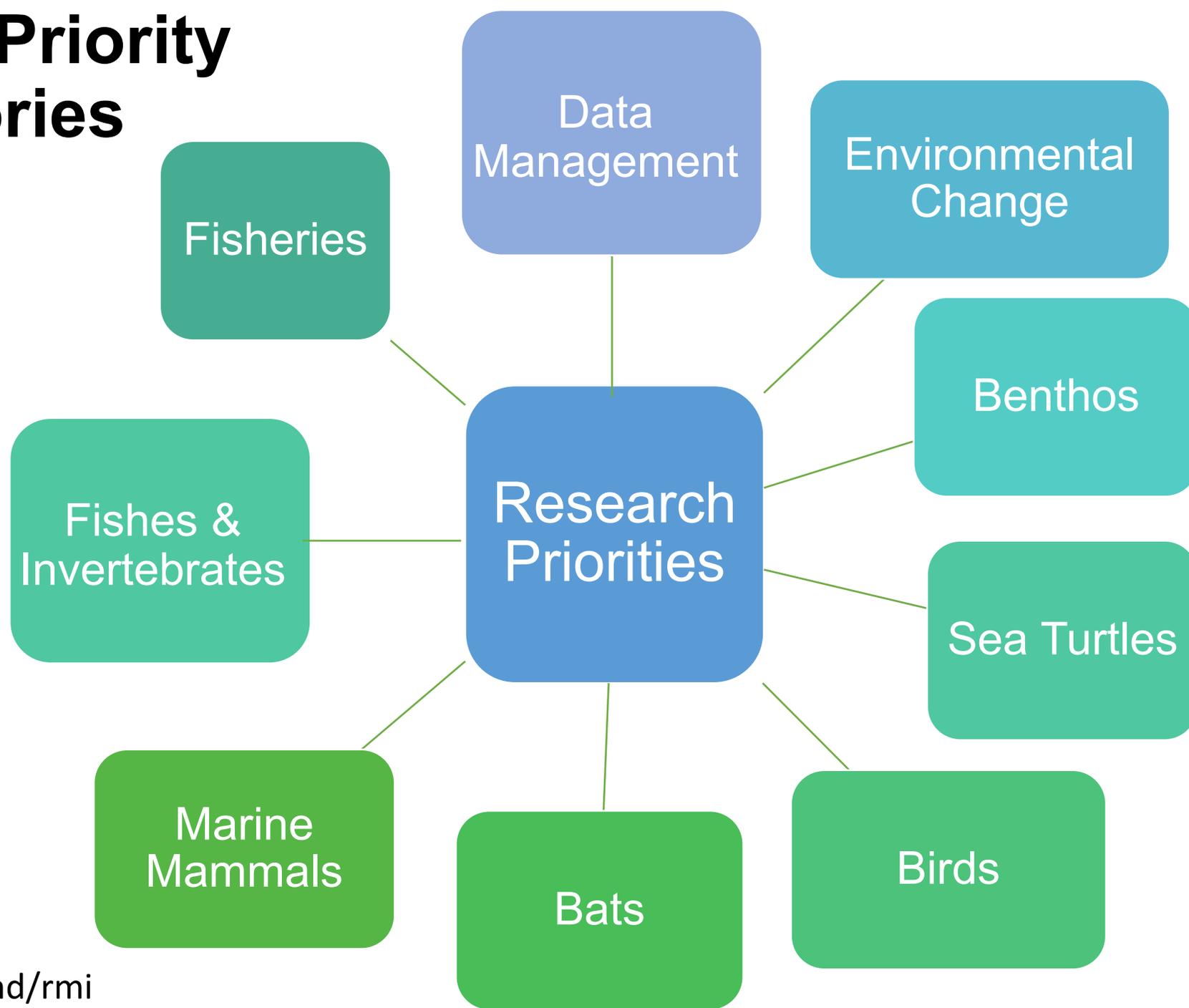
- American Littoral Society
- Anglers for Offshore Wind Power
- Atlantic Shores (Fisheries Liaison)
- Clean Ocean Action
- Commercial Fishers
- Interstate PAM Coordination Team
- National Wildlife Federation
- The Nature Conservancy of NJ
- NJ Audubon
- NJ Marine Fisheries Council
- National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources
- NOAA Fisheries/NEFSC
- NYSERDA
- ROSA
- RODA
- RWSC
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- Surfside Foods
- Wildlife Conservation Society

# RMI: Phased Research Agenda



- Focus is currently pre-construction characterizations
- Understanding the existing environment
- Examining variability (geographically, temporally)

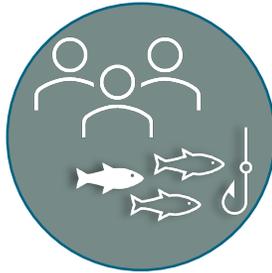
# Research Priority Categories



# Projects approved for funding



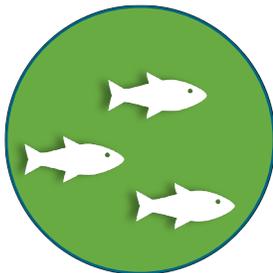
Regional Wildlife  
Science Collaborative  
Support



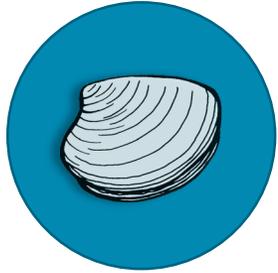
Responsible  
Offshore Science  
Alliance Support



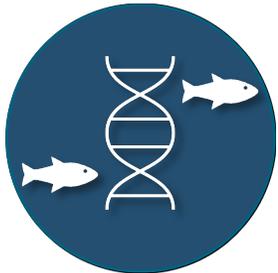
Using OSW structures  
as monitoring  
platforms



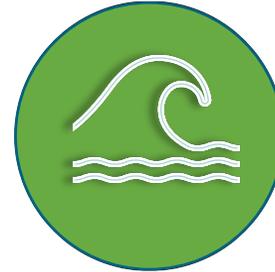
Acoustic telemetry for  
commercial &  
recreational fish



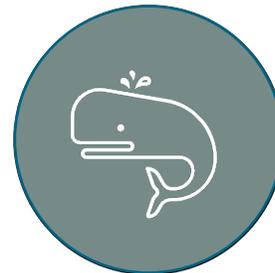
Novel Surfclam  
Survey Dredge &  
Carbonate Chemistry



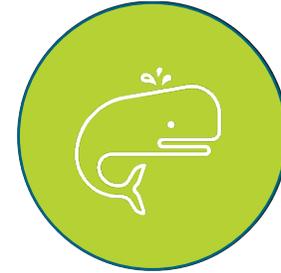
Environmental DNA as  
an assessment tool  
for fish



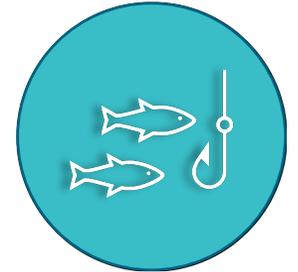
Gliders for ecological &  
oceanographic monitoring



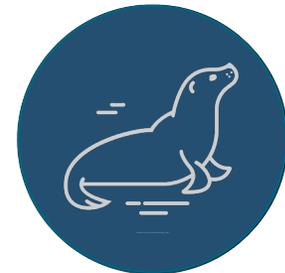
Near real-time  
passive acoustic  
monitoring for whales



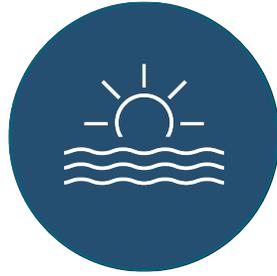
Archival Passive Acoustic  
Monitoring (PAM) for  
baleen whales



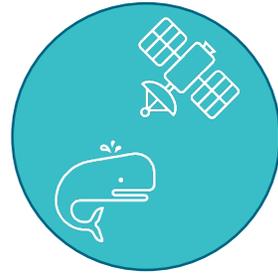
Socioeconomics of  
recreational fisheries



Harbor seal  
tracking & health  
assessment



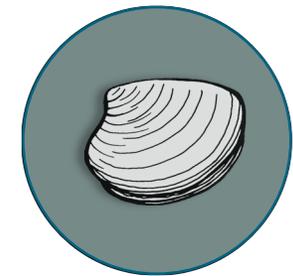
Impacts of turbine foundations on the Cold Pool



Whale satellite tagging



Benthic habitat mapping



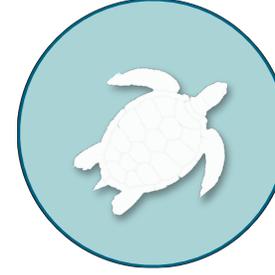
Surfclam fishery enhancement



Visualization tool for research & monitoring efforts



New Jersey Ocean Trawl Mitigation



Sea turtle tagging & biological health



Expansion of the Motus network for birds & bats

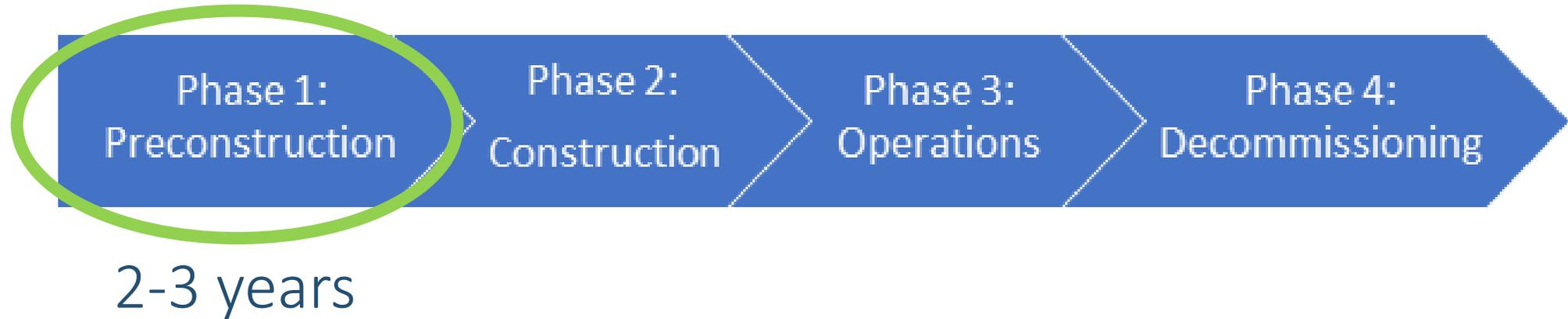
Projects in development (not yet approved)



# Current RMI Process



# RMI: Phased Research Agenda



- Focus is currently pre-construction characterizations
- Beyond pre-construction: adaptive approach needed
- The RMI Team anticipates future RMI project solicitations on both existing research priorities and on other future topics (e.g., exploration of approaches to mitigate adverse impacts).

# Request for Comment

## Short Term Research Priorities

### Categories:

- Data Management
  - Birds
  - Bats
  - Environmental Change
  - Benthos
  - Sea Turtles
  - Marine Mammals
  - Fishes & Invertebrates
  - Fisheries
- After reviewing the list of RMI research priorities, are there additions or modifications that you would recommend to this list? If so, what are they?
  - With respect to the short-term research priorities, how would you recommend that the State allocate RMI funding going forward?

# Request for Comment

## Future Research Priorities:

- What research priorities do you think should be included during phase 2 (construction phase, defined as commencing when the first New Jersey offshore wind farm infrastructure installation begins) of the RMI (i.e., what other research should be undertaken during the construction phase)?
- What research priorities do you think should be included during phase 3 (operation phase, defined as commencing when the first New Jersey offshore wind farm achieves commercial operation) of the RMI (i.e., what other research should be undertaken during the operations phase)?

# Oral Stakeholder Comments Guidelines

- Speaking time per person is limited based on the remaining scheduled meeting time — please be respectful of other speakers. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes on the questions just reviewed.
- Those that have pre-registered to comment will be recognized to speak initially. Time permitting, attendees who have not pre-registered will be provided an opportunity to comment. For those commenters that have not pre-registered, please raise your hand when the moderator calls for any additional comments and you will be recognized by our meeting facilitator and offered an opportunity to speak.
- Phone controls for participants:
  - The following commands can be entered via DTMF tones using your phone's dial pad while in a Zoom meeting:
    - \*6 - Toggle mute/unmute
    - \*9 - Raise hand

# Written Stakeholder Comment Guidelines

- The deadline for comments is **5:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.**
- Please submit comments directly to [Docket No. QO22120727](#) using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool.
- Comments are considered “public documents” for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.
- Comments (please include docket # from above) may also be submitted to:

Acting Secretary of the Board  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
Phone: 609-292-1599  
Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)