



# Call for Nominations: Tribal Scientists for Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring Guidance

## Background

The [California Marine Sanctuary Foundation \(CMSF\)](#), in partnership with the [Ocean Protection Council \(OPC\)](#), is soliciting nominations for tribal scientists to contribute to the development of environmental monitoring guidance for offshore wind.

CMSF is an organization that manages conservation projects related to climate change, resilience, water quality, coastal restoration, and ecological impacts to marine ecosystems from human stressors. In October of 2023, [OPC selected CMSF](#) via a [competitive proposal process](#) to develop comprehensive offshore wind environmental monitoring guidance. As offshore wind development begins off the coast of California, this guidance will serve as a valuable resource for regulators, developers, and various stakeholders to ensure that potential environmental impacts of offshore wind development are properly monitored, evaluated, and mitigated.

As the grantee, CMSF will convene expert working groups that will provide technical and scientific expertise to inform the monitoring guidance. Additionally, CMSF will engage with government agencies, tribes, environmental non-governmental organizations, fishing communities, local communities, and industry for feedback.

## Opportunity

CMSF and OPC invite nominations for tribal scientists with expertise in one or more of the following subject areas: a) Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles, b) Fish Ecology, c) Seabirds and Bats, and d) Habitats and Ecosystems (including oceanographic and atmospheric conditions), as well as cross-cutting topics including e) Data Integration and Sharing, f) Climate Change.

California Native American tribes that are interested in contributing to the monitoring guidance but lack expertise in these specific areas can engage in several other ways. OPC will be holding formal tribal consultations throughout the grant period to gather input on draft documents.

CMSF will regularly present updates and opportunities for feedback at the California Energy Commission led offshore wind tribal working group; please reach out to Sierra Graves at [sierra.graves@energy.ca.gov](mailto:sierra.graves@energy.ca.gov) to be added to the working group. Additionally, tribes can email CMSF's Offshore Wind Coordinator Julia Dombroski at [julia@californiamsf.org](mailto:julia@californiamsf.org) to provide comments or suggest additional methods for tribal engagement.

## Eligibility

Tribal scientists who have expertise in one or more of the following areas: marine mammals and sea turtles, fish ecology, seabirds and bats, marine habitats and ecosystems, data integration and sharing, and/or climate change.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- Offer Expertise: Share your knowledge on environmental monitoring to guide our efforts.
- Engage in Meetings: Actively join discussions and provide valuable input during meetings.
- Follow-up on Tasks: Complete any assigned tasks or reviews that come up after meetings.
- Update working group members: Keep everyone informed about the latest developments and progress in your field.
- Contribute to drafting text, figures, and other materials, as appropriate.

## Time Commitment

This project is a two-year grant, which is anticipated to end in December of 2025. Working group members will be expected to contribute approximately 72 hours per year to the project. There will be a 3- to 4-hour virtual workshop each month. Members should also expect to spend 2 hours a month preparing for or following up on workshop activities. This schedule is an estimate and may be adjusted based on feedback from the group.

## Compensation

To ensure fair compensation for valuable expertise and time contributed, tribal scientists will receive compensation for their contributions. Compensation details such as payment rates will depend on the level of engagement and available funding.

## Nomination Process

Please use this [form](#) to submit nominations (self-nominations are welcome) for tribal scientists. The form will ask for contact information, area of expertise and relevant experience, confirmation of willingness to serve on a working group, and proof of tribal government support of nomination through a letter or email from tribal leadership. OPC staff will review nominations and select working group members based on professional qualifications and expertise in relevant subject matter. Ideally, nominations should be submitted by **May 31, 2024**, but OPC will review and accept nominations on an ongoing basis throughout the two-year project.

For any additional comments or questions, please reach out to OPC's Senior Biodiversity Program Manager & Tribal Liaison, Michael Esgro, at [michael.esgro@resources.ca.gov](mailto:michael.esgro@resources.ca.gov).