Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS)

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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GOAL

To maintain or enhance navigational safety by examining existing shipping routes and waterway uses and to reconcile right of navigation with other waterway uses (e.g., leasing of OCS blocks offshore renewable energy facilities.)
Atlantic Coast PARS

- Marine Spatial Planning
  - Characterize existing MTS/Shipping Routes
  - Balance multiple uses
  - Ensure safe access routes

- Wind Energy Initiatives
  - Cooperating Agency
  - Navigational Conflicts
  - Cumulative Impacts

Source: NOAA
ACPARS Process Overview

• Phase 1 - Data Gathering
• Phase 2 - Determine existing shipping routes and apply the R-Y-G Methodology
• Phase 3 - Modeling and Analysis
• Phase 4 - Implementation of Study Results
Phase 1- Data Gathering

Determine Shipping Routes-AIS data
- AIS - Primary source of vessel transit data
- GIS Products- Heat Maps, Density Plots, Trackline plots
- Capability and Capacity shortfalls

Public Comments
- Two Public Comment periods
- Received 128 submissions total
- 40% outside scope

Outreach
- Sector- port level meetings
- Industry Organizations
- Targeted outreach

Gather MTS Data
- Importance of the MTS
- MARAD Marine Highways Program
- Panama Canal Expansion
- Energy Development
Phase 2- Apply R-Y-G Methodology

Determine port & coastal shipping routes

Apply maritime risk guidance from UK MGN-371

Deliverable – R-Y-G determinations (pending more detailed analysis)
### UK Maritime Guidance Note

**MGN-371**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Risk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 0.25 NM</td>
<td>Inter-turbine spacing = only small craft recommended</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 NM</td>
<td>Mariner’s high traffic density domain</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 NM</td>
<td>Minimum distance to parallel boundary of TSS</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 NM</td>
<td>S band radar interference - ARPA affected</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 NM</td>
<td>Compliance with COLREGS becomes less challenging</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 2.0 NM</td>
<td>But not near a TSS</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 NM</td>
<td>Adjacent wind farm introduces cumulative effect. Distance from TSS entry/exit</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 NM</td>
<td>No other wind farms</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
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Wilmington East and West Density Plot of All Vessels- 2010

OCS 1/16 Block Overview

All Vessels 2010
Vessel Count

- 1 - 32
- 33 - 45
- 46 - 76
- 77 - 146
- 147 - 307
- 308 - 675

- Proposed Wind Areas
- Proposed Anchorage
- OCS Blocks
- Protrusion
- Federal Lands
- Fed/State Boundary
- Lighthouses

Source: USCG
Phase 3- Modeling & Analysis

• Develop a GIS based model to predict traffic density and traffic patterns given alternative siting scenarios
• Evaluate mitigation measures
• Determine the resultant navigational safety risk
• BOEM contracted with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
Commercial Fishing and Shipping Interactions

• Current efforts only documenting existing routes- No change in interactions
• Create or change routing measures- will need to consider interaction with commercial fishing
• Construction and operations of wind farms
  – May result in changes to shipping patterns
  – May result in changes to commercial fishing patterns, distribution, or density
## ACPARS Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1- Continue outreach and information gathering</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 2- Provide recommendations on proposed areas</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publish 2(^{nd}) Interim Report with public comment period</td>
<td>SEP 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 3- PNNL Report- results of modeling and analysis</td>
<td>NOV-DEC 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>USCG ACPARS Notice of Study Results</td>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Phase 4- implementation of study recommendations</td>
<td>Summer 2014</td>
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What to do?

• Provide best available information on commercial fishing in GIS formats
• Review ACPARS Interim Report and comment as appropriate
• Provide comments to the docket for all offshore renewable energy projects
ACPARS Website

http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/ACPARS/

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