NMFS Offshore Wind Role

- Cooperating agency for NEPA
- Consulting agency under ESA and MSA
- Adopting agency for MMPA authorizations
- Coordination of environmental reviews and policy issues via the NMFS Wind Team
- Ongoing coordination with BOEM on consultation timelines and information needs for future projects
- Providing comments on project analyses related to NMFS trust resources
- Participating in early coordination meetings with developers
Recent Activities

• Essential Fish Habitat Consultation and Conservation Recommendations
  June 7, 2021 – South Fork (RI/Cox Ledge)

• Scoping Comments on NOIs for project COPs
  June 1, 2021 – Revolution Wind (MA)
  April 29, 2021 – Ocean Wind (NJ)

• Interagency Project Kick-off Meetings
  Empire Wind (NY), Park City (MA/RI), Atlantic Shores (NJ)

• Concurrence on Project Timelines
Challenges

- Large number of projects being rolled out in a short period of time
- Expedited timelines
- Simultaneous/overlapping consultations and environmental reviews
- Limited early coordination prior to COP
- New or updated COP/EIS after commencement of consultations and reviews
- Limited resources to handle the workload
Proactive Work

- Benthic fish habitat mapping recommendations
- Checklists to guide EFH assessments, ESA biological assessments, socio-economic analyses for NEPA documents
- Staff to staff work with BOEM to provide information and analyses to support NEPA, EFH, and ESA assessments
- Document templates for streamlining and consistency
- Data query tools
Offshore Wind Data Query Tools

OSW Socioeconomic Impact Summary Reports
- Standardized reports of socio/econ impacts to fishing operations for each wind project area

OSW Socioeconomic Data Query Tool
- Commercial fishing trip data used to populate impact summary reports

Stock SMART Tool
- Species-based stock assessment results
Offshore Wind Data Query Tools

EFH Mapper
- Spatial representations of fish species, their life stages, and important habitats

NROC and MARCO Data Portals
- Fish habitat and distribution data, fisheries data and maps based on VTR and VMS data
Questions?