Fisheries and Habitat Advisory Boards
Coastal Resources Management Council
July 26, 2018
WHY WE’RE HERE

• Many overarching concerns about offshore wind and they can’t be separated easily from other challenges facing the fishing industry
• We want to see commercial fishing continue and to continue to profit, all gear types
• We want to work together and we’re here to learn from you how we can work together
• We’re the first offshore wind project of this scale in the US and we want to set a good precedent
• Things won’t be perfect, we want to avoid mistakes that have been made in the past, but we need your help
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Deepwater

Bay State / Orsted / Eversource

Have not yet been leased

VINEYARD WIND
• **Generation Capacity:** 800 MW
  - Enough energy for over 400,000 homes and businesses
  - Carbon emissions avoidance equivalent to 325,000 cars off the road

• **Turbine area:** 14 miles from Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket
  - ~35 miles from Cape Cod at closest point
  - Up to 100 turbines

• **Ports utilized:**
  - New Bedford: Construction, staging and deployment base
  - Vineyard Haven: Operations and Management

• **Operations & Maintenance:** Routine from Martha’s Vineyard
  - Long-term from New Bedford or other nearby port

• **Electrical interconnection:** Barnstable Switch Substation
  - Cable landfall in Barnstable or Yarmouth
  - Enhances grid strength at weak area: Cape Cod
  - 2 offshore cables = 6 onshore cables
Stakeholder Task Force starting in 2009
- Joint RI/MA meetings
- Multiple stakeholder meetings
- Habitat and fisheries working groups

Environmental surveys since 2012

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

PROJECT AREA SELECTED THROUGH MULTIYEAR STAKEHOLDER PROCESS
DATA AND INFORMATION

WHAT WE’VE HEARD FROM FISHERMEN

• VMS doesn’t cover all fleets
• AIS isn’t required of all vessels (<65’)
• VTR data not site specific
• Fed. Lobster permit no VTR requirements
• Whiting fishery DOF
• Regulations effect where fishing occurs

QUESTIONS WE HAVE

• What data are we missing?
• How do we identify areas of high fishing activity that are missing from these data sets?
• Additional habitat edges?
• Other fisheries that can DOF on VMS?
• What on board systems do you use?
• How many vessels participate in EVTR/Study fleet?
PROPOSED PROJECT

• 1 nm corridor NW to SE
• 1 nm corridor NE to SW
• Minimum turbine distance: 0.756
• Maximum turbine distance: 1 nm
• Orderly grid pattern
• Oriented NW to SE
PROTECTION OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE IS ALSO A HIGH PRIORITY

WHAT WE’VE HEARD FROM NARW SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS

• January through April pile driving restriction is sufficiently protective of NARW in our project area

PROTECTIONS WE PROPOSE

• Complementary visual and acoustic monitoring program
• No concurrent pile driving
• No more than 2 foundations per day
• Daylight hours only for start of pile driving
• Working in consultation with scientific community to establish sufficiently protective exclusion and monitoring zones, and monitoring technologies
• Soft start on pile driving
• Noise attenuation technologies during piling driving
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

• Onshore (earliest): Late 2019
• Offshore construction (earliest):
  • Scour protection: Spring 2020
  • Offshore export cable: Early 2021
  • Electric service platform: Summer 2020
  • Foundation installation: Summer 2020 (No piling driving Jan – Apr)
  • WTG installation: Early 2021

• Operational (earliest): Early 2022
MOVING FORWARD

• Extended time for CRMC review to find workable solutions for all competing interests
• Identify and collect better data
• Facilitate better communication throughout entire process
• Work together to design mitigation programs for potential losses
• Schedule next fisheries meeting tonight
LOSS OF INCOME / INCREASED EXPENSES

WHAT WE’VE HEARD FROM FISHERMEN

• Gear Loss during surveys/construction/operation
• Fishing areas closed off during construction
• Extra steam time to avoid turbines
• Possible long term loss of fishing grounds
• Issues with signing Full Disclosure Statement
• Possible issues with insurance

QUESTIONS WE HAVE

• What is best way to structure compensation programs?
• Is there a mutually trusted third party to administer such programs?
• How will compensation be calculated?
• Are permit banks desirable?
FISHERMEN’S PROPOSED TRANSIT LANES AND LAYOUT

NORTH SOUTH CORRIDORS
- To reach fishing grounds in Dump and the canyons
- To transition from targeting squid to targeting whiting

QUESTIONS WE HAVE
- Can the north south transit lane be shifted?
- Can the New Bedford lane be shifted to allow for a wider (2 nm) lane?
TRANSIT LANE WIDTH

WHAT WE’VE HEARD FROM FISHERMEN

Acceptable Widths
- 4 nm
- 3 nm
- 2nm Ok, but 3nm would be better
- 2nm would be great
- Nothing less than 1 nm

Overall Concerns
- Longer time for Captain to be at the wheel, doesn’t trust crew at wheel
- Radar interference
- Funneling effect
- Attracting recreational boats or other fishing vessels, not on AIS
- Transiting with fog or any type of bad weather
- Insurance companies won’t allow fishermen in the wind farms.

QUESTIONS WE HAVE

- How do we decide on appropriate width?
- What other factors change appropriate corridor width?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO ALLEVIATE CONCERNS?

- AIS on all turbines?
- Nav equipment upgrades?
- AIS on all vessels and just turn on in wind farm?
- Training program for crew members?
- Supplemental insurance program?
FISHERIES AND HABITAT ADVISORY BOARDS – JULY 26, 2018

CRMC ASKED VINEYARD WIND TO ADDRESS:

• Potential fishery-related impacts, such as, but not limited to:
  • project location,
  • construction schedules,
  • alternative locations,
  • project minimization and
  • identification of high fishing activity or habitat edges

• Potential marine resource and habitat-related issues such as, but not limited to:
  • impacts to marine resource and habitats during construction and operation,
  • project location,
  • construction schedules,
  • alternative locations,
  • project minimization,
  • measures to mitigate the potential impacts of proposed projects on habitats and marine resources, and
  • identification of important marine resource and habitat areas.

• Discuss the WTG and export cable layout plans along with any proposed mitigation measures
NO HIGH FISHING AREAS IDENTIFIED USING BEST AVAILABLE DATA

NO HIGH FISHING AREAS IDENTIFIED USING BEST AVAILABLE DATA

RI DEM (2017) 2011 – 2016 Multispecies
NO HIGH FISHING AREAS IDENTIFIED USING BEST AVAILABLE DATA
SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TRANSITING ACROSS LEASE AREA BY FISHERMEN