# Fisheries Communication Plan

Rev. 9

Vineyard Wind LLC

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<td>Authors:</td>
<td>Crista Bank and Erik Peckar</td>
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I. Introduction

Vineyard Wind’s Fisheries Communication Plan (FCP) is a living document first drafted in 2011 in order to develop strategies to improve communication with fishermen potentially affected by the development of offshore wind projects. The document continues to evolve with continuous feedback and guidance from fishermen, fishing organizations, and regulatory agencies. The increased participation from the fishing industry will help the offshore wind sector to reduce user conflict, improve project design, and build a better understanding between the two industries.

If you would like to receive updated versions of this FCP as they become available or have any suggestions on how to improve this plan, please send an email to fisheries@vineyardwind.com. Visit vineyardwind.com/fisheries to sign-up for updates, mariner notices, and information requests as well as to access charts, FAQ sheets, and more project information.

II. Vineyard Wind’s Lease Areas

a. Overview

Vineyard Wind holds two lease areas for wind energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS): Lease Area OCS-A 0501 and Lease Area OCS-A 0522. As shown in Figure 2.1, both lease areas are located in the Massachusetts Wind Energy Area (MA WEA). The MA WEA was designated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), with significant stakeholder input, including the BOEM MA Renewable Energy Taskforce (made up of local and state elected officials in Massachusetts and Rhode Island), the MA Fishery Working Group (FWG)\(^1\), and the MA Habitat Working Group (HWG)\(^2\) with the intention towards minimizing and avoiding impacts to the marine environment. For example, after considering stakeholder comments, BOEM modified the MA WEA to exclude an area of high fisheries value so as to reduce potential conflict with commercial and recreational fishing activities. Siting choices were considered to minimize and avoid potential impacts to environmental and fisheries resources from offshore wind development on the OCS.

b. Lease Area OCS-A 0501

Lease Area OCS-A 0501 is located approximately 12.4 nautical miles (NM) from the southeast corner of Martha’s Vineyard and a similar distance from the southwest side of Nantucket. The Lease Area comprises more than 260 square miles (sq. mi) and is approximately 8.7 nautical miles (NM) wide and 26 NM long. Water depths range from about 121 – 197 feet (ft), gradually increasing as distance from land increases. Lease Area OCS-A 0501 has high wind speeds, excellent seafloor conditions, moderate water depths, and

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\(^1\) The FWG is made up of fishermen, fisheries scientists, and other interested parties. Early meetings addressed usage of the potential wind areas by various gear types as well as fisheries science. The FWG, convened by the State of Massachusetts, continues to meet and engage in offshore wind issues.

\(^2\) The HWG is made up of NGOs, scientists, agencies and other interested parties. Early meetings addressed issues such as marine mammal and avian use of the potential wind areas. The HWG, convened by the State of Massachusetts, continues to meet and engage in offshore wind issues.
reasonable proximity to multiple grid connection locations in an area of high electrical load and a need for new generation capacity.

c. Lease Area OCS-A 0522
Lease Area OCS-A 0522 is located approximately 24 – 44 NM south of Nantucket. It comprises more than 330 sq. mi and is approximately 18 NM wide and 12 NM long. Water depths range from about 100 – 198 ft. As with Lease Area OCS-A 0501, Lease Area OCS-A 0522 has high wind speeds, excellent seafloor conditions, moderate water depths, and reasonable proximity to multiple grid connection locations in an area of high electrical load and a need for new generation capacity.

![Figure 2.1. Chart of Lease Areas and planned cable corridor route for Vineyard Wind 1.](image)

III. Vineyard Wind’s Offshore Wind Projects

a. Overview
Vineyard Wind is developing the nation’s first utility-scale offshore wind energy project—Vineyard Wind 1—off the coast of Massachusetts within the northern portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501. As further described below, Vineyard Wind is also planning projects in the southern portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501 and in Lease Area OCS-A 0522.
b. Vineyard Wind 1
Vineyard Wind’s first offshore wind project is Vineyard Wind 1, which is an 800 MW facility that will be located in the northern portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501. The project site is approximately 118 sq. mi in size with water depths ranging from 121 – 162 feet. In May 2018, Vineyard Wind 1 was awarded long-term contracts with Massachusetts electric distribution companies and is on track to be the first utility-scale offshore wind project in the US. Once operational, the project will generate clean, renewable, cost-competitive energy for over 400,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth, while reducing carbon emissions by over 1.6 million tons per year.

c. Park City Wind
Vineyard Wind’s second offshore wind project, named Park City Wind, is an 804 MW facility that will be located in the central portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501. In December 2019, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection awarded long-term contracts with Connecticut electric distribution companies. Once operational, Park City Wind will deliver approximately 3.7 million megawatt hours of electricity per year, enough to power approximately 400,000 Connecticut households, through a grid interconnection in West Barnstable, Massachusetts.

d. Future Vineyard Wind projects
Vineyard Wind is developing additional projects in the remaining portion of the Lease Area OCS-A 0501 and in Lease Area OCS-A 0522 and is seeking to secure long-term contracts for these projects through state-led energy procurements. For these projects, the proposed wind turbine layout will be set in an east to west, north to south 1x1 NM grid layout, based on fishermen input. As these and all other Vineyard Wind projects moves forward, the company will continue to work to strengthen its communication between potentially affected fishermen and fishery organizations during design, development, construction, operation, and final decommissioning project phases.

IV. Fisheries Communication Plan Objectives and Strategy
a. Objectives
The purpose of the FCP is to define outreach and engagement to potentially affected fishing interests during design, development, construction, operation, and final decommissioning of offshore wind projects, with seven main objectives:

1. Enhance the safety of all who work on the ocean in the wind farms, cable corridors, and landfall sites.
2. Seek stakeholder concerns and strive for open, transparent communication so as to avoid conflicts before they develop, and quickly and fairly resolve conflicts that do develop.
3. Quantify and avoid, minimize and when warranted mitigate adverse impacts on fisheries, and inform appropriate measures for mitigation.
4. Understand, as fully as possible, historic, current, and potential fisheries in the affected areas.
5. Identify gaps in information relating to fish and fisheries to inform research and monitoring strategies.
6. Demonstrate decisions, that may impact the fishing industry, are based on the best available and most credible information, recognizing that information gathering is an on-going iterative process.
7. Facilitate a professional co-existence of these two offshore industries, in which both industries can prosper on a long-term basis.
b. Strategy
The foundation for achieving these objectives will be built on Vineyard Wind’s existing relationships with the fishing communities, cultivated since 2010, and to continuously work towards trusted and mutually respectful lines of communications with the diverse fishing communities of the region. Regular, frequent, and open consultation is primary to ensuring all parties are well informed and can work towards the shared objective of maintaining thriving fisheries alongside offshore wind development in the region.

This FCP is based on best practice guidance and has improved with input from the fishing industry through feedback and consultation. Best practice guidance from other resources includes but is not limited to:

- Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison, January 2014
- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, BOEM 2014 – 654
- Commercial Fisheries Mitigation Strategy – Developing Wind Energy in the Outer Moray Firth, Moray offshore renewables ltd 2003
- Oregon’s Fishermen’s Cable Committee

V. Fisheries Outreach Team
a. Overview
Fisheries communication is conducted through several roles including Fisheries Representatives (FR) and Fisheries Liaisons (FL). Vineyard Wind has hired two FLs and a number of FRs who have been actively engaged with the fishing industry regarding the Vineyard Wind project since 2010. Details describing the different roles and responsibilities of the FL and FR are included in Appendix 1 and 2, respectively. Below is a graphic explaining the communication channel relationship between the FLs and the FRs. Contact details for the FLs and FRs can be found in the Section V.b. and Section V.c.
The Vineyard Wind Fisheries Liaisons (FL) are employed by Vineyard Wind and report directly to the Vineyard Wind Chief Development Officer. The FLs are responsible for overall implementation of the communications plan, in particular communicating project plans and activities that might impact the fishing industry pre, during, and post construction activities of the offshore wind farm and reporting interactions or concerns from the industry to the Chief Development Officer.

The Fishery Representatives (FR) do not work on behalf of Vineyard Wind, but rather represent their respective fishing communities to Vineyard Wind. The FRs collect and report information about fishing industry activities and concerns to the FL as well as collect and relay accurate/relevant project information to the fishing community from the FLs.

The Marine Operations Officer (MOO) is responsible for safe marine operations by Vineyard Wind, and ensuring that Vineyard Wind is a good neighbor generally while on the water. As such, there is frequent interaction, information exchange, and coordination between the MOO and the FLs.
The FR represents a particular fishery industry, organization, gear type, port, region, state, or sector(s), and is responsible for communicating concerns, issues, and other input to the project from development and pre-construction into Operation and Maintenance through to the decommissioning of the project. Typically, the FR is an active fisherman, or group representing active fishermen, within the region, fishery, state, or sector they represent. While FRs are compensated for their time and expenses by the project, their duty is to the fishing region, industry, organization, gear-type, or sector they represent. FRs are solicited through a fair and equitable process by the FLs who ensures these individuals or organizations adequately and fairly represent their respective industry, gear type, port, or region and have the support of the fisheries stakeholders they represent.

The FLs facilitates the work of the FRs by serving as a knowledgeable point of contact to which the FRs can efficiently and effectively communicate. The FLs also communicate across fishery communities and regions, inside and outside of the FR network, in order to educate and disseminate vital information regarding the project to fishermen and to receive input back to the project. The FLs work to validate fisheries information through cross-referencing among data sources.

The FLs seeks to:

- develop relationships and direct lines of communication with individuals that are representative of all potentially impacted fishing regions, industries, and interests;
- understand and convey current fishing industry concerns and feedback to the Vineyard Wind development team in order to identify and work towards solutions, as needed;
- identify and engage new FRs;
- confirm appropriate identification of potentially affected fisheries; and
- develop communication methods and tools.

The FLs also work with the FRs and scientists to develop measures to reduce potential impacts to fisheries before any impacts may occur and develop resources and potential methods to monitor fisheries species and potential changes in species abundance and distribution pre/during/post construction. The FL is responsible for implementing this plan and updating it at least annually or as needed.

The FLs and FRs will work together to review, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the outreach and two-way communication. Vineyard Wind will review these methods quarterly. The FLs and the FRs will also report progress to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and National Marine Fisheries Service.

b. Fisheries Liaison

Currently, Crista Bank and Caela Howard serve as Vineyard Wind FLs. Crista Bank serves as the lead fishery liaison. Caela Howard is a FL focused on the Connecticut and New York fishing community. The FL is employed by Vineyard Wind and works on behalf of the project. Crista and Caela’s contact information, which is provided below, is posted on Vineyard Wind’s website at www.vineyardwind.com/fisheries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FL Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crista Bank</td>
<td>508-525-0421</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cbank@vineyardwind.com">cbank@vineyardwind.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FL Name: Caela Howard  
Phone: 508-386-9832  
Email: choward@vineyardwind.com

The FLs are available by phone, email, text, and through our website for ongoing communication. There is a specific form on our website (https://www.vineyardwind.com/fisheries) for fishermen to fill out their contact information and concerns. The form is sent directly to the FLs’ email, and a follow-up phone call and/or email is made shortly after receipt of the contact information.

A full job description for the FL is included as Appendix 1.

c. Fisheries Representatives

The current list of FRs, along with contact information, is provided below and posted on Vineyard Wind’s website:

FR Name: New Bedford Seafood Consulting  
Contact: Jim Kendall  
Phone: 508-287-2010 - cell  
Email: nbsc@comcast.net

FR Name: New Bedford Port Authority  
Contact: Ed Washburn  
Phone: 508-961-3000

FR Name: Massachusetts Lobster Association  
Contact: Beth Casoni  
Phone: 781-545-6984  
Email: beth.casoni@lobstermen.com

FR Name: Martha’s Vineyard Fishermen’s Preservation Trust  
Contact: Shelley Edmundson  
Phone: 508-687-0344  
Email: mvfishermen@gmail.com

Full roles and responsibilities for the FR are included as Appendix 2. FR biographies can be found in Appendix 3.

Vineyard Wind continuously seeks additional FRs to provide regular input to the project development work. Specifically, at this time, Vineyard Wind is seeking FRs in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. If you are interested or have suggestions, please contact Vineyard Wind’s FLS Crista and Caela (see above).

d. RODA Joint Industry Task Force Member

Vineyard Wind is a member of RODA’s Joint Industry Task force. This group was created to improve communications between the commercial fishing industry and offshore wind energy developers. The goal is to provide a more structured process to explore improved approaches to project siting, design, and
operations between the two industries. RODA is a broad membership-based coalition of fishing industry associations and fishing companies.

**Name:** Responsible Offshore Development Alliance  
**Contact:** Annie Hawkins  
**Phone:** 617 359-2576  
**Email:** annie@rodafisheries.org

In addition to the formal FR roles and participation in RODA’s joint industry task force, several organizations and working groups provide direct access to fishermen and have been helpful in disseminating information and providing feedback. Vineyard Wind strives to provide project updates to these organization and working groups regularly. For example, Vineyard Wind has committed to meeting with the Connecticut Commission on Environmental standards on a quarterly basis to provide updates and discuss issues related to the Park City Wind project.

These groups include, but are not limited to:

- NYSERDA Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG)  
- Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group  
- Rhode Island Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB)  
- Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries  
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
- New England Fishery Management Council  
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
- Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island  
- Long Island Commercial Fishing Association  
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
- Connecticut Commission on Environmental Standards

Vineyard Wind is committed to working with fishermen and fishing organizations. If you would like to receive emails or text message updates and mariner notices please email the project at fisheries@vineyardwind.com.

**VI. Stakeholder Identification and Outreach**

**a. Overview**

Vineyard Wind has proactively engaged with potentially affected fisheries throughout the development of its lease areas. Vineyard Wind regularly communicates with stakeholders and has incorporated input from stakeholders into the project’s design, communication plans, and mitigation measures. Vineyard Wind will maintain frequent dialogue with stakeholders as the Project moves forward.

**b. Potentially Affected Fisheries**

Based on Vineyard Wind’s outreach and experience to-date, the fisheries most likely to potentially be affected in Lease Area OCS-A 0501 during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the projects are:
• Nantucket Sound: conch, squid, surf clam, fluke, sea bass, demersal recreational
• Muskeget Channel: Surf Clam, commercial sea bass, demersal recreational
• Lease Areas: Surf clam, squid, fluke, mackerel, whiting, butterfish, scup, monkfish, lobster, scallop, large pelagic recreational

Based on Vineyard Wind’s outreach and experience to-date, the fisheries most likely to potentially be affected in Lease Area OCS-A 0522 during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the projects are:

• Mackerel, whiting, butterfish, Jonah crab, lobster, scallop, surf clam, large pelagic recreational

These groups are prioritized during the implementation of this plan. Regular reviews are used to modify or confirm this prioritization, as needed.

c. Outreach Approach and Tactics

Vineyard Wind employs a variety of outreach and engagement approaches to communicate and maintain relationships with fisheries stakeholders. These include informal conversations with existing contacts, expanding the company’s network of FRs, attending fishing industry trade events and recreational fishing shows, presenting at commercial and recreational fishing group meetings, and working with the various associations and organizations that represent fishing interests. Vineyard Wind understands that some fishermen do not feel adequately represented by fishing organizations, or FRs, and therefore prefer to share information and concerns individually and through different channels of communication. Vineyard Wind is committed to recognizing that individual concerns are just as important as group concerns and will continue efforts to respect anonymity.

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<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>Principle Channels</th>
<th>Supporting Tactics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing sectors, fishing region, seasonal fisheries, specific fishery gear types, fishermen at sea, charter fishermen, fishing ports</td>
<td>• Fisheries Representatives (FRs) and Fisheries Liaisons (FLs) &lt;br&gt; • Other fishermen &lt;br&gt; • Port Agents &lt;br&gt; • Fish houses &lt;br&gt; • Sector Managers &lt;br&gt; • Media – newspapers, internet, e-mail subscriptions, flyers, and thumb-drives &lt;br&gt; • Fishing organizations, alliances, partnerships, commissions, coalitions, councils, state agencies, federal agencies, and advocacy groups &lt;br&gt; • Local elected officials &lt;br&gt; • Friends and family &lt;br&gt; • Employers</td>
<td>• Access to information via internet, e-mail lists (state and Vineyard Wind), and social media &lt;br&gt; • Industry specific publications or e-mails &lt;br&gt; • Trade magazines &lt;br&gt; • 24-hour phone service for up-to-date project info and emergencies. &lt;br&gt; • Project specific radio alerts to fishermen at sea &lt;br&gt; • FLs contact info on website &lt;br&gt; • Attending and speaking at fishermen working group meetings &lt;br&gt; • Fishermen open house information meetings &lt;br&gt; • FL/FR communication channels &lt;br&gt; • Clear daily two-way communication channels between fishery/fishermen and project during construction</td>
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Fishing Communication Plan
### Target Audience: Recreational fisherman, recreational boaters

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<th>Principle Channels</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Same as above</td>
<td>• Access to information via Vineyard Wind’s website, social media, and newsletters</td>
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<td>• Bait shops</td>
<td>• Advertisements through recreational fishing magazines and websites</td>
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<td>• FL contact info on website</td>
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<td>• Attending and speaking at recreational fishing group meetings</td>
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<td>• Fishermen open house information meetings.</td>
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### VII. Communication Protocols

#### a. Overview
Communication is a high priority for Vineyard Wind. It is important to ensure fishermen are aware of the activities in Vineyard Wind’s lease areas and along the cable route and feel comfortable to reach out with questions and concerns. It is also important to communicate to the Vineyard Wind survey vessels the expected fishing activities in and around the lease areas, what to be aware of, and how to handle any interactions with the fishing fleet. The protocols outlined below are procedures Vineyard Wind has implemented to date and will continue to adjust and adapt protocols as needed. Similar protocols will be standardized and implemented during project construction.

#### b. Communication and Notification to Fishing Industry Prior to and During Offshore Work
Our communication strategy, which includes recommendations from fishermen and adopts protocols the MA DMF uses for their biannual inshore trawl survey, are as follows:

1. Send Notices to Mariners to Coast Guard
2. Send notifications with all survey vessel identifying features to Vineyard Wind fisheries email list
3. Publicize through organization websites and newsletters (MA DMF, RI DEM, MLA, sector managers, NOAA port agents, Fishing Support Services navigators, etc.)
4. Publicize through skymate and other current Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) email alerts
5. Maintain a list of fishermen who wish to receive updates via email or text
6. One week before offshore work begins send out an email/text to fixed gear permit holders reminding them that offshore work is about to begin
7. Three days before offshore work begins send out an email/text to fixed gear permit holders that offshore work is on schedule
8. During offshore work send out a regular email updates detailing progress, both for completed areas and areas next on the list. (DMF, MLA, NBPA, MVFPT).
9. Implement a text notification system where fishermen can sign up to receive daily texts of offshore work progress (i.e. more frequently than general updates, and specific to an area or time of work)
10. Attend fisheries trade shows and outreach events to encourage fishermen to sign up for alerts regarding the project’s offshore work
11. Vineyard Wind will hire an OFL, preferably a fisherman, to be on project vessels to be on the lookout for fixed gear and fishing activity in the area and to help facilitate communication via VHF radio during project activities.

12. Vineyard Wind will hire, with help from FRs, local fisherman respected among the fleet to help spread the word exactly when the project vessels will be in their immediate area, relay any work zone areas to stay clear of, and communicate when vessels have left the area.

13. Maintain an email (fisheries@vineyardwind.com) that is monitored by a team, so as to ensure timely response even if the FLs are not immediately available. A fisheries team dedicated cell phone number will also be established.

In addition to the protocols listed above, in the time leading up to offshore construction we will hold regular meetings with fishing groups that will be affected during the construction phase to go over the timing of anticipated work, what to expect during construction, and how to best communicate. We will work with our FRs to help coordinate and reach the right fishermen to attend the meetings. Some of the small groups we’ve identified to date include squid vessels in Nantucket Sound, the conch fleet from the Cape and islands, state permitted clam vessels, and the squid fleet from Pt. Judith.

Additional groups or individuals who want to stay updated on vessel activity and construction plans please visit our website and sign up for email and/or text alerts at fisheries@vineyardwind.com.

c. Communication and Fisheries Protocols on Geological Survey Vessels Working for Vineyard Wind

To help communicate with the fishing industry, Vineyard Wind will have an Onboard Fisheries Liaison (OFL) to assist the Captain with communication and to document fishing gear in the area to help avoid interactions, as described above. The OFL’s role is, simply put, to continue the role of the FL offshore, so that there is effective communication on-site, in real time. The OFL reports to the FLs, and serves as the FL’s “eyes, ears, and voice” during offshore operations. The OFL records observed fisheries activities, ensures vessel operations are compliant with this FCP and other fisheries related policies, and in particular seeks to avoid negative fisheries interactions by looking out for fixed gear and establishing communications (usually by VHF radio) with fishing vessels when appropriate. If there is a negative fisheries interaction, the OFL works with the FLs and relevant FRs to quickly resolve the matter safely, fairly, and efficiently. Typically, the OFL is contracted for the duration of a vessel’s operations for Vineyard Wind, and is an individual familiar with marine operations and fishing practices in the region. Vineyard Wind is currently in the process of establishing a mechanism to hire fishermen, preferably fixed gear fishermen, as OFLS.

Before the survey trip begins, the FL and OFL attends the pre-trip meetings with captain, and crew to go over specific fisheries active in the area. If the FL has known coordinates of fixed gear in the area, the information is shared with the captain and OFL. Captain and crew are instructed to communicate respectfully with fishing industries and to work around fishing gear to the greatest extent practicable.

Captain, crew chief, VW client rep, and OFL sign off on communication protocols and gear interaction protocols outlined below:
Vineyard Wind Protocols for Survey Vessel Captains:

1) Captains establish an agreed upon safety zone to relay to fishing vessels in the area
2) Any communication with fishing vessels is reported to the OFL and will be conducted in a professional manner
3) Preferably the OFL will have their own VHF unit to monitor radio communications and communicate directly with fishermen, as may be necessary or agreed upon with the Captain, especially if language or accent may be a hinderance to communications with fishermen
4) Alert OFL to all gear interactions at the time it occurs, waking the OFL if necessary
5) Have one GPS unit in the wheelhouse set up for LORAN coordinates
6) Work around fishing gear to the greatest extent practicable
7) Plot fixed gear locations while onboard fisheries liaison is off watch and relay information when back on watch

Vineyard Wind Fixed Gear Interaction Protocols for Survey Vessels:

If an incident between a survey vessel and static fishing gear does occur, the following outlines the roles and procedures for such an event:

ON BOARD

1) Immediately alert OFL (wake if off watch)
2) Fishing gear interaction is logged in daily vessel report, recording time, location, photos, etc.
3) If feasible and safe, Vineyard Wind will attach a float or buoy to any gear that is brought on board, moved, or if a line was cut, should the gear be returned or remain in the water. The buoy is intended to help the fishermen locate the gear, and is also marked with Vineyard Wind contact information so that communications can be readily established with the affected fishermen
4) GPS location and time of relocation is recorded
5) Buoy permit number and color is logged
6) Pictures are taken of the gear
7) FL on land is notified of incident as soon as possible

ON LAND

1) FL will cross reference buoy color and permit number with current fishing databases to identify owner of gear
2) If FL is unsuccessful in finding owner of gear, FL will give notice to FRs and other fishing organizations. If still unsuccessful in locating the owner, FL will send notice to the relevant state Environmental Police of gear entanglement
3) Once fisherman/owner of gear is identified, information regarding buoy location and timeline of interaction will be relayed
4) Follow up with fisherman to confirm gear was found
5) If gear is not found Gear Loss form will be filled out and processed

The above procedures will be updated prior to construction and will reflect any feedback and lessons learned on Vineyard Wind projects or learned from other project experiences.
d. Communication during Operations / Safety Management System
An important objective of this plan is to use fisheries communications to enhance safety of all those who work on the ocean in the project area through construction, operations, and decommissioning. Vineyard Wind’s Safety Management System (SMS) will outline clear communication protocols and procedures for emergency events such as: collision of a vessel with a turbine structure, gear entanglement, damage to cabling by fishing activity, catastrophic failure of a turbine, or other event. Safety planning will be further elaborated in this plan and the SMS will be a publicly available document that is completed prior to the start of project construction. Tower lighting and marking will adhere to US Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management requirements.

VIII. Financial Compensation
a. Overview
Vineyard Wind is developing and implementing procedures for handling compensation to fishermen for potential gear loss and the loss or reduction of income to fishermen. The level of financial support requires detailed discussions between the impacted fishing community and Vineyard Wind. To start the discussions and gauge the possible economic loss to the fishing fleet Vineyard Wind hired an economist to look at different data sets of fisheries landing values and to produce an economic exposure report. These reports can be found on Vineyard Wind’s website: www.vineyardwind.com.

b. Gear Loss / Damage
Any potential gear loss or damage from a VW survey vessel should be reported immediately to the FLs. We’ve heard from many fishermen and FRs that gear loss/damage claims should be simple and direct and be the same across lease holders. Vineyard Wind has not created an official gear loss/damage form yet, but is currently working with the other developers to design one in the hopes that a standardized form and protocol will be established soon. In the interim, the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries has a standardized form that Vineyard Wind can also utilize to a large extent.

c. Lost Revenue
Vineyard Wind will also create a process for filing fishery compensation claims. A third-party fiduciary agent will handle claims, and a review board consisting of members from the fishing industry will assist with the claims process. Until this process is developed fishermen should make any such request through the FLs whose contact information can be found at www.vineyardwind.com/fisheries. If fishermen are displaced at any phase during the construction term, fishermen will be required to submit evidence of income and fishing location(s) to Vineyard Wind to be compensated.

IX. Fisheries Initiatives
a. Overview
Vineyard Wind takes the concerns of the fishing community seriously and understands that while the conversations between stakeholders are not always easy, it is necessary. We understand the time it takes to meet with us or attend working groups is potentially time away from fishing and we have offered compensation for participation in project specific meetings and will continue to do so, if appropriate and helpful to the process. We recognize that continued engagement with the fishing industry improves the overall project and although it seems slow at times, it improves the understanding between industries.
Some of the key initiatives Vineyard Wind has engaged in as a result of consultations with the fishing industry include, but are not limited to:

- Providing thumb drive electronic charts, showing Lease Area OCS-A 0501 and areas of offshore survey work to area fishermen.
- Including Loran navigation lines and closed areas on project charts to facilitate discussion of fishing activities in the area.
- Orienting the wind turbines in a regular grid pattern to allow for navigable uninterrupted travel in multiple directions (to avoid ‘zig-zagging’).
- Committing to east/west north/south 1 NM alignment
- Considering use of the largest commercially available wind turbines on the market in order to reduce overall project footprints and installation-related impacts
- Removing turbine locations along the 20-fathom contour
- Installing AIS on turbines and Electrical Service Platforms (ESPs) to improve navigation and safety.
- Creating protocols for project vessels to adhere to when encountering fishing activity
- Dedicating a page on Vineyard Wind’s website for fishermen (www.vineyardwind.com/fisheries) to find the latest information on surveys and construction, and sign up to receive email or text message alert updates
- Hosting port hours in MA, RI, CT and NY to provide fishermen on the docks access to FLs and project information

b. Fisheries Research

FISHERIES RESEARCH

Vineyard Wind understands how important science and research is to the fishing community. This is one of the primary reasons why Vineyard Wind created an extensive fisheries science program. Vineyard Wind currently provides more than $2 million in annual funding to fisheries research making it the largest offshore wind developer supported program in the US.

The Vineyard Wind fisheries science program prioritizes:

- Establishing relationships with academic institutions and research organizations that engage in collaborative fisheries research;
- Defining research objectives with input from fisheries stakeholders;
- Supporting a regional approach to fisheries research for offshore wind; and
- Making data easily accessible and publicly available.

For Massachusetts, Vineyard Wind has taken steps to address industry concerns by partnering with UMass Dartmouth’s School for Marine Sciences and Technology (SMAST), an academic institution trusted throughout the fishing community, and the New England Aquarium. For Connecticut, Vineyard Wind is currently developing partnerships with the University of Connecticut Department of Marine Sciences and Mystic Aquarium.

A video trawl survey of Vineyard Wind’s Lease Area OCS-A 0501 and an adjacent control area was completed in October 2018 by researchers from SMAST on the New Bedford-based Fishing Vessel Justice. The goal was to gather preliminary data and to determine the best methods for pre/during/post
construction studies in the first project area. This video trawl was an innovative survey method that SMAST scientists wanted to test for use in surveys in the wind energy areas. The result of the test was that further improvements would be needed for the method to be effective, given the soft sea-bottom in the area causing sediment dispersal and hindering video observations.

Vineyard Wind also contracted with SMAST to actively engage with the fishing industry to provide feedback for the pre/during/post construction studies of the project. Four workshops were held in different ports during November and December of 2018 (New Bedford, MA; Kingston, RI; Chatham, MA; and West Tisbury, MA) to share results from the video trawl survey, discuss other potential survey methods, and to work with the fishing industry to help identify research questions for species of concern, both site-specific and regionally. Just over 100 people attended the workshops including over 75 active fishermen. Based on the feedback from the fishing industry, and state and federal regulators, SMAST produced a report with their research recommendations in early 2019. The complete report is available at https://www.vineyardwind.com/document-room (listed under Fisheries/Fisheries Studies). Vineyard Wind has adopted the recommendations and surveys began in Spring of 2019, which include a trawl survey, plankton survey, drop camera survey of macroinvertebrates and benthic communities, and a ventless lobster trap survey. The survey areas for trawl and drop camera include all lease areas in order to support baseline data collection for future projects. Data collected and reports from these studies will be used in future permit applications and will be made public through our website and shared with agencies and other institutions.

Recreational fishermen raised concerns that highly migratory species were not addressed in the SMAST research recommendations. Vineyard Wind reached out to recreational fishing groups and individual fishermen to understand their concerns and brainstorm what could be done to better understand recreational fishing in the area and potential impacts. This led to partnering with the New England Aquarium to initiate a study to document highly migratory species presence across all MA/RI lease areas with help from the pelagic recreational fleet. The results of this effort will be included in future permit applications and made publicly available through our website and shared with agencies and academic institutions.

**Data Sharing**

The survey and monitoring work Vineyard Wind will conduct will generate a substantial body of environmental, fisheries, and other data, all of which will be available in the public domain in a manner consistent with other academic research. Much of the data is publicly available through the federal and state permitting process, as well as reports or academic publications that may come out of the survey or monitoring work. Vineyard Wind also plans to make all fisheries monitoring data generated by the Project publicly available on its website. For all other environmental and fisheries data, Vineyard Wind will explore cost-effective and appropriate ways to store and make data publicly available and easy to access. Through ROSA and a Regional Science Entity (RSE), Vineyard Wind will work with stakeholders and neighboring developers to find ways to streamline and standardize available data across all offshore efforts.

**Responsible Offshore Science Alliance**

The need for a regional science approach to offshore wind development is an important component to understand how this new industry may be affecting fisheries and the environment. The absence of a regional science framework has made it challenging for developers and concerned stakeholders to design appropriate studies that can provide consistency across all lease areas. The organization Responsible
Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) is an attempt to fill that void and bring developers, fishing industry, state, and federal agencies together to develop a regional science framework. Vineyard Wind was part of the working group to get the organization launched, and is currently on the ROSA board of this recently established group that is committed to regional fisheries science.

In engaging SMAST to design pre/during/post-construction studies, as described above, Vineyard Wind asked SMAST (at the suggestion of a comment from NMFS) to consider how these studies might contribute to both a regional and long-term approach to fisheries studies. The study protocol that was developed is considered to be “modular and nested,” allowing specific project studies to contribute to larger regional and longer-term study efforts.

c. Opportunities
At this stage, many in the fishing industry see offshore wind as a threat to their business. However, it is in the developer’s best interest for the fishing industry to thrive and grow. Vineyard Wind is in support of research development to help the fishing industry adjust to the changes offshore wind may bring, either by testing different gear to target species in the wind farm, or testing different technologies to fish more efficiently among turbines.

Vineyard Wind is not proposing to replace fishing jobs with wind development jobs, but there can be opportunities for fishing vessel owners, individual fishermen, and shore side businesses. Some examples include:

1) Fishing vessels as safety zone vessels and scout vessels during construction
2) Fishermen owned shore support businesses
   a. sign up by emailing b2b@vineyardwind.com to be listed on the supply chain network and to learn about supply chain events
   b. attend Meet the Buyer events that are intended to introduce local businesses to wind project contractors
3) Fishermen as OFLs on project vessels to help communicate with fishermen working in the vicinity.
4) Scholarship availability for fishermen and family members to get free training through the local community colleges and MMA for offshore wind technician certifications
Appendix 1 – Fisheries Liaison Roles and Responsibilities

The role & responsibilities of the Fisheries Liaison (FL) include but are not limited to:

- The FL represents the project to fishermen, on behalf of Vineyard Wind, and is the principal contact to the fishing community
- The FL is not someone currently actively engaged in commercial fishing
- The FL is responsible for the overall effective implementation of the fisheries communications plan
- During project pre-construction development, the FL will communicate directly with FRs via email, in person meetings, and conference calls and will provide monthly written reports to management on this outreach. Project management will provide feedback, when necessary, to ensure timely dissemination of information regarding all project activities.
- During project construction, the FL will have direct access to the project management team in order to ensure updated project information is available to the fishing community. It should be noted that changes may take place in real time during construction. Vineyard Wind will endeavor to disseminate that information as quickly and widely as possible either through our website or a 24-hour phone line.
- Refine and enhance this communications plan, given learning experiences and new information received.
- Ensure the project’s fisheries communication and communication strategy is effective across all relevant fishing communities, organizations, sectors, regions/ports, seasons, and gear types.
- Establish a clear line of communication with entities from affected fishing regions to ensure all states where the fishing industry could be impacted are well informed during all phases of development and through decommissioning.
- Maintain awareness of ongoing fishery management action development by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission.
- Help develop and refine communication materials in addition to communication plans to ensure effective messaging.
- Develop or recommend mitigation measures.
- Provide a record of relevant project information and communications, including presentations and individual conversations, but maintaining confidentiality as appropriate.
- Participate in BOEM, F-TWG, FAB and MA Fisheries Working Group Meetings
- Maintain a fishery stakeholder database and contacts list for all identified fisheries operating within the vicinity of the offshore development area and export cable corridor throughout all stages of the project.
- Investigate and follow-up on complaints and concerns received or heard about.
- The FL shall have a direct line of communication to the project company’s senior management, through which to make recommendations for improvement and address complaints, concerns, and other input received.
- Pro-actively make fisheries aware of upcoming efforts and activities related to the project so as to facilitate shared use of the lease area(s).
- Be available to meet with fishermen representatives in person, via email or social media, phone, or radio outside of regular business hours and on weekends.
- Participate in weekly calls with the project team on conversations, activities, suggestions, questions, and concerns from the fishing community about the project.
- Coordinate and work with FRs, who are active fishermen and serve to facilitate communications between the project and specific fisheries sectors.
• Identify potential FRs and establish working relations; contract OFLs as needed.
• Attend meetings with fisheries groups, regulators, non-government organizations, policy makers, contractors working on the project, and other offshore wind project developers to best ensure shared use of the lease area(s) and good, working relations among the offshore wind industry, fisheries, government, and other stakeholders.
• Supervise and manage contracts as necessary for the effective fisheries surveys and science work undertaken by or on behalf of Vineyard Wind, and participate and provide input into relevant fisheries science initiatives.
Appendix 2 – Fisheries Representatives Roles and Responsibilities

An individual or group’s time serving as the Fisheries Representative (FR) will be compensated by Vineyard Wind, but the FR is considered to be an independent, third party agent, serving the fisheries interests, not the project’s interests. Role & responsibilities of FRs include but are not limited to:

- Be available to meet with fellow fishermen in person or via email, social media, phone, or radio.
- Pro-actively make the project team aware of fisheries practices, upcoming efforts, and seasons to facilitate shared use of lease area(s).
- Meet directly with the project team at least every quarter to help evaluate communication and outreach efforts, and learn more about project plans.
- Provide a monthly email report to the project team on conversations, activities, suggestions, questions, and concerns from the fishing community about the project; communicate with project management in real time, if needed.
- On occasion, FRs may be asked to serve as guides and points of contact during a particular activity offshore. This may involve, for example, using their own vessel as a guide or scout vessel to the survey vessels, helping to monitor for fishing activities in the area of operation, and communicating with fishing vessels working in the same area.
- Communicate directly with FLs for the purpose of effectively disseminating project information to the FR’s constituency.
- Disseminate project information to the fishermen who are based in or visit ports in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York and may fish in the Vineyard Wind lease areas and cable route area(s).
- Be available and accessible to their represented fishery.
- Communicate to FLs any potential conflicts regarding surveys and project development.
- Assist FL to understand fishing activity in Vineyard Wind’s lease areas and submarine cable routes (e.g. gear types, specific fisheries).
- Work with FLs to develop and refine fisheries communication plan(s).
- Communication planning, identification of communication methods and frequency, outreach meeting facilitation and support, and other tasks, as needed, for engaging local fishermen during all project phases to ensure effective messaging.
- FR will meet directly with the FLs and project management every quarter and evaluate communication and outreach efforts and review quarterly outreach and mitigation measures employed by Vineyard Wind.
- Maintain awareness of ongoing fishery management action development by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission.
- Provide input to, or recommend, mitigation measures.
- Participate in working group meetings, such as the Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group, when appropriate for the fishery they represent.
Appendix 3 – Fisheries Representatives

New Bedford Seafood Consulting

Mr. Kendall is the Executive Director of New Bedford Seafood Consulting. He is a former scallop fisherman with over 50 years of experience in the fishing industry and with fisheries issues. Mr. Kendall was a member of a research team for the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation that focused on discard mortality rates of Southern New England flatfish. Mr. Kendall served as a New England Fishery Management Council member for numerous terms. He has also served on the Massachusetts Fisheries Recovery Commission, the New England Commercial Fishing Law Enforcement Working Group, and is a founding member of the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership. Mr. Kendall was featured in the book A Doryman’s Reflection: A Fisherman’s Life. Additionally, Mr. Kendall has been interviewed on WBSM radio and by the New Bedford Standard Times, the Gloucester Times, and the Boston Globe on fisheries issues.

New Bedford Port Authority

The New Bedford Port Authority (NBPA) is the governing body for New Bedford’s harbor and city-owned waterfront properties. It is chaired by the Mayor of New Bedford with six other members. The role of the NBPA is to support the Port of New Bedford by continually upgrading port resources; preserving its spot as the #1 U.S. fishing port; and expanding the New Bedford economy.

The NBPA oversees all the commercial and recreational vessel activity within New Bedford city limits, incorporating the city’s entire coastline and harbor.

Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association

The Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association is a member-driven organization that accepts and supports the interdependence of species conservation and the members’ collective economic interests. The Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association was established in 1963 by the fishermen, for the fishermen, and is presently one of the leading commercial fishing industry associations in New England. On behalf of the 1,800 members, the MLA works to maintain both the industry and the resource. The MLA strives to be proactive on issues affecting the lobster industry and is active in the management process at both the state and federal levels. The MLA communicates with its members through a monthly newspaper, weekly email, Facebook, Twitter and attendance at meetings. For the past 54 years, the MLA has become a trustworthy voice for the industry on important issues, and is looked to by both the fishing industry and the management community.

The Martha’s Vineyard Fishermen’s Preservation Trust

The Martha’s Vineyard Fishermen’s Preservation Trust is a Massachusetts 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 2011 to: (i) Preserve the historic fishing fleets, communities, and economies of Martha’s Vineyard; (ii) Protect the marine populations and fishing grounds off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard and New England; (iii) Educate the community about its local fisheries.

Fisheries Communication Plan