Fisheries Communication Plan

Rev. May 2025

New England Wind 1 and 2

Document Title	Fisheries Communications Plan
Company	New England Wind
Date	May 2025
Document Type	Plan
Revision	13
Previous Versions	Rev. 1 – September 2016 Rev. 2 – October 2017 Rev. 3 – November 2017 Rev. 4 – December 2017 Rev. 5 – March 2018 Rev. 6 – June 2018 Rev. 7 – January 2019 Rev. 8 – August 2019 Rev. 9 – March 2020 Rev. 10 – December 2021 Rev. 11 – June 2023 Rev. 12 – December 2023 Rev. 13 – May 2025

New England Wind 1 & 2 Fisheries Communication Plan

I. Introduction

New England Wind 1 and 2 are the proposals to develop offshore renewable wind energy facilities in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Lease Areas OCS-A 0534 and OCS-A 0561 along with associated offshore and onshore cabling, onshore substations, and onshore operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities. New England Wind 1 and 2 are permitted to have a maximum of 130 structures, i.e., the combined number of wind turbine generator (WTG) and electrical service platform (ESP) positions across both projects, with no more than five ESPs permitted across both projects. The New England Wind 1 project will be located in Lease Area OCS-A 0534 and New England Wind 2 will occupy the Lease Area OCS-A 0561. Four or five offshore export cables (two for New England Wind 1 and two or three for New England Wind 2) will transmit electricity generated by the WTGs to onshore transmission systems in the Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts, unless technical, logistical, grid interconnection, or other unforeseen issues arise.

Avangrid Power, LLC, (the Company) will be responsible for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of New England Wind 1 and 2. The Company is committed to successful communication and coordination with the commercial and recreational fishing communities, and this Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) will inform and direct the Company's fisheries engagement and communications.

The New England Wind FCP covers both the New England Wind 1 and 2 projects. The FCP is a living document and aligns with the Vineyard Wind 1 FCP, which was first drafted in 2011 to improve communication with fishermen potentially affected by the development of that offshore wind project. This document continues to evolve with each iteration, benefitting from lessons learned and incorporating feedback and guidance from fishermen, fishing organizations, and regulatory agencies. The Company strongly believes that increased participation from the fishing industry in the development, construction, and operation of offshore wind projects will help the offshore wind sector to reduce user conflict, improve project design, and result in a better understanding between the two industries.

Visit https://www.newenglandwind1.com/fisheries to access charts, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and learn about science initiatives. To stay engaged with the latest information from New England Wind, sign up for email updates and text alerts including Offshore Wind Mariner Updates.

II. New England Wind Lease Areas

The Company holds Lease Areas OCS-A 0534 and OCS-A 0561 (also known as the New England Wind Lease Areas) for wind energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). These Lease Areas, which are shown in Figure 1, are located in the Massachusetts Wind Energy Area (MA WEA). The MA WEA was designated by BOEM with significant stakeholder input, including input from the BOEM Massachusetts Renewable Energy Task Force (made up of local and state elected officials in Massachusetts and Rhode Island), the

Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Wind Energy (FWG)[1], and the Massachusetts Habitat Working Group on Offshore Wind Energy (HWG)[2] to minimize and avoid impacts to the marine environment. For example, after considering stakeholder comments, BOEM modified the MA WEA to exclude an area of high fisheries value to reduce potential conflicts with commercial and recreational fishing activities. Siting choices such as these were considered to minimize and avoid potential impacts to fisheries and environmental resources from offshore wind development.

Lease Areas OCS-A 0534 and OCS-A 0561 are 159 square miles in size and are located southwest of Lease Area OCS-A 0501 (where Vineyard Wind 1 is located). In addition to the main lease areas for New England Wind, there are two separate small aliquots located along the northeastern boundary of Lease Area OCS-A 0501. Currently, the Company does not intend to develop the two positions in the separate aliquots. At its closest point (excluding the two separate aliquots), Lease Area OCS-A 0534 is just over 32 kilometers (20 miles) from the southwest corner of Martha's Vineyard and approximately 38 kilometers (24 miles) from Nantucket. Water depths in the Lease Areas (excluding the two separate aliquots) generally range from about 146-202 feet (24-34 fathoms), with depths gradually increasing as distance from land increases. Water depths in the separate aliquots range from 125-131 feet (20-22 fathoms).

As shown in Figure 1 (yellowish green shaded region), some New England Wind WTGs and ESPs will be located in the southwest portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501. This is because Lease Area OCS-A 0501 allocated 10 spare WTG positions for Vineyard Wind 1. These spare positions were not needed for Vineyard Wind 1, and they will be assigned to Lease Area OCS-A 0534 and developed as part of New England Wind 1.

[1] The FWG is a voluntary, informal working group comprised of commercial fishermen and representatives from different ports and sectors, recreational fishermen, scientists, and state and federal agencies. The FWG, which was convened by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, continues to meet and engage on offshore wind issues.

[2] The HWG is a voluntary, informal working group comprised of scientists and technical experts from environmental organizations, academia, and state and federal agencies. Early meetings addressed issues such as marine mammal and avian use of the potential offshore wind areas. The HWG, which was convened by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, continues to meet and engage on offshore wind issues.

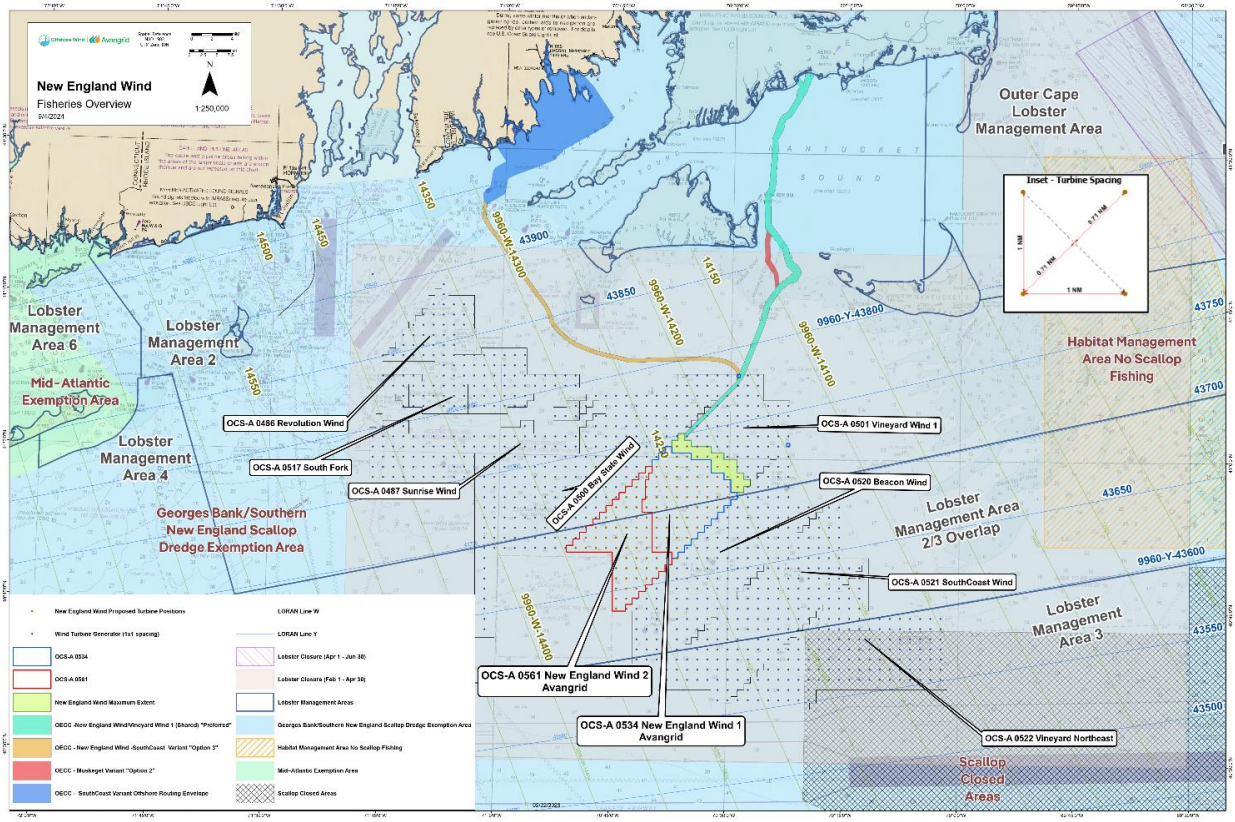


Figure 1. Lease Area and Offshore Export Cable Corridor for New England Wind.

III. The Company's Offshore Wind Projects

The Company is developing two offshore wind projects known as New England Wind 1 and New England Wind 2 (collectively, the "Projects"), both of which are located in the New England Wind Lease Area and are further described below. The Projects' export cables will be installed within the same Offshore Export Cable Corridor (OECC) and will connect to the electric grid in West Barnstable, Massachusetts, unless technical, logistical, grid interconnection, or other unforeseen issues arise. If needed for New England Wind 2, a variant cable corridor through Muskeget Channel and a variant cable corridor to the South Coast area of Massachusetts have been proposed (see Figure 1).[3]

a. New England Wind 1

The New England Wind 1 project, will be located directly southwest of Vineyard Wind 1 in Lease Area OCS-A 0534 and as described above, may also develop up to 10 positions in the southwestern portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501. The project site will be between 42-89 square miles in size with water depths ranging from 141-180 feet (24-30 fathoms). The New England

[3] While the Company intends to install all New England Wind offshore export cable corridors within the OECC that travels from Lease Area OCS-A 0534 northward through the eastern side of the Muskeget Channel toward landfall sites in the Town of Barnstable, the Company is reserving the fallback option to install one or more New England Wind 2 cables along the western side of Muskeget Channel, referred to as the OECC Western Muskeget Variant (see Section 4.1.3.2 of the New England Wind Construction and Operations Plan Volume I).

Wind Construction and Operations Plan (COP), which is inclusive of both New England Wind 1 and 2, was initially submitted to BOEM in July 2020 and approved in July 2024. Once operational, New England Wind 1 will deliver approximately 791 MW of clean, renewable energy to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, enough to power approximately 400,000 households. Two offshore export cables will transmit electricity from no more than two ESPs to a landfall site in the Town of Barnstable, delivering power to the ISO-NE electric grid. The offshore export cables will be installed within the same OECC as Vineyard Wind 1's offshore export cables.

b. New England Wind 2

The New England Wind 2 project, will deliver approximately 1,200 MW of power to the ISO-NE electric grid. New England Wind 2 will be located southwest of New England Wind 1 within Lease Area OCS-A 0561. The area developed for New England Wind 2 will be between 86-117 square miles in size with water depths ranging from 154-203 feet (26-34 fathoms). Two or three offshore export cables will transmit electricity from no more than three ESPs to a landfall site in the Town of Barnstable, unless technical, logistical, grid interconnection, or other unforeseen issues arise. While the Company intends to install all New England Wind 2 offshore export cables in the same OECC as the New England Wind 1 and Vineyard Wind 1 cables, the Company has also identified two variations of the OECC, shown in Figure 1, that could be used for New England Wind 2 if necessary.

IV. Fisheries Team

To support fisheries communication and engagement, the Company employs a Fisheries Liaison (FL) and Fisheries Representatives (FRs). The Company may also use Onboard Fisheries Liaisons (OFLs) to support offshore operations. A fisheries team organization matrix is provided as Figure 2, and contact details are provided in Table 1.

The FL is employed by the Company and reports directly to the Director of Environment. The FL is responsible for the overall implementation of this FCP and facilitating communication with the fishing industry. The FL facilitates the work of the FRs by serving as a knowledgeable point of contact to which the FRs can efficiently and effectively communicate. The FL also seeks to:

- Develop relationships and direct lines of communication with individuals that are representative of potentially impacted fishing regions, industries, and communities.
- Understand and convey current fishing industry concerns and feedback to the fisheries team to identify and work towards solutions.
- Maintain existing working relationships with FRs.
- Identify potentially affected fisheries and develop communication methods and tools to create effective two-way communication channels.
- Work with scientists, fisheries management agencies, and fisheries stakeholders to develop monitoring plans for fish species and habitats of concern.
- Advocate for work opportunities and safety enhancement tools for the fishing industry.

FRs do not work on behalf of the Company but represent a particular fishing community. FRs are responsible for communicating fisheries concerns, issues, and other input to the Company. FRs are active recreational or commercial fishermen or groups representing active fishermen whose region, fishery, state, or sector is relevant to the Projects. While FRs are compensated for their time and expenses by the Company, their duty is to the fishing community they

represent. FRs are solicited through a fair and equitable process by the Company to ensure these individuals or organizations adequately and appropriately represent their sector and have the support of the fisheries stakeholders they represent.

The Projects' fisheries communications include engagement with FRs who represent a variety of gear types and regions (homeports in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island). Additional information about the FRs is provided in Appendix 1 and on the Project website at https://www.newenglandwind1.com/fisheries.

The FL is further supported offshore by fishing liaison consultants referred to as Onboard Fisheries Liaisons (OFLs). OFLs are experienced fishermen or maritime users employed to assist vessel captains with communication and document fishing gear encountered offshore to help avoid fishing vessel and gear interactions. OFLs serve an important function and are tasked with extending the role of the Project's fisheries communications offshore so that there is effective communication on site and in real time. OFLs report to the FL and serve as their "eyes, ears, and voice" during offshore operations. The Projects contracted fishermen who served as OFLs onboard survey vessels during the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 survey seasons.

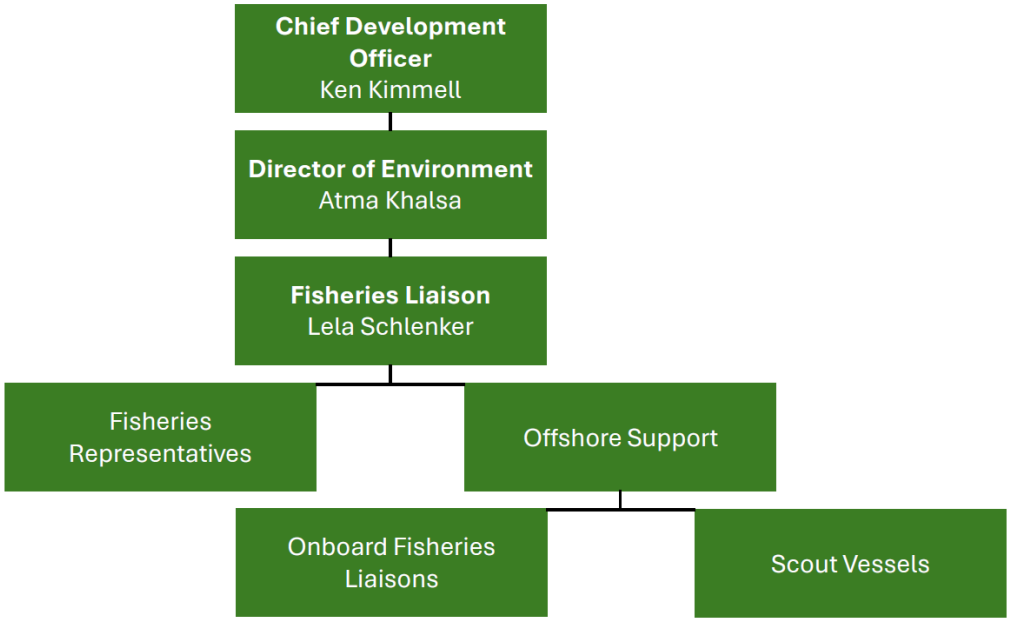
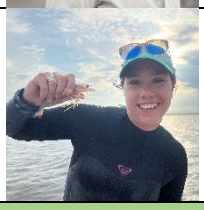


Figure 2. Fisheries Team Organization Matrix

a. Contact Information

Contact information for Avangrid's FL, Director of Environment, and the FRs is provided in Table 1 below and posted on the Project websites. The FL is available by phone, email, and text for any questions or comments related to fisheries and the projects' development.

Table 1. Fisheries Team Contact Information

Avangrid Fisheries Contact Information			
	Atma Khalsa, Director of Environment	508-215-6718	atma.khalsa@avangrid.com
	Lela Schlenker, Fisheries Liaison	617-564-2108	lela.schlenker@avangrid.com
Fisheries Representative Contact Information			
New Bedford Port Authority	John Regan		john.regan@newbedford-ma.gov
Massachusetts Lobster Association	Beth Casoni	781-545-6984	beth.casoni@lobstermen.com
Martha's Vineyard Fisherman's Preservation Trust	Shelley Edmundson	508-687-0344	mvfishermen@gmail.com
Coastal Asset Mangement, LLC	Michael Theiler	860-235-5117	mike@quintham.com
Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island	Fred Mattera	401-741-4178	fredmattera@cfcri.org
Montauk Fish Dock	Paul Farnham	631-835-9355	paulfarnham1@gmail.com
Tyler MacAlister	Tyler MacAlister	508-221-8991	fvcynthiac@comcast.net
Joe Huckemeyer	Joe Huckemeyer	508-790-0660	joseph1414@comcast.net

V. Fisheries Engagement

The fisheries team has met with hundreds of fisheries stakeholders in recent years, including fishermen from various gear types and sectors, fishing advocacy organizations, and local fisheries groups who are most likely to be affected by offshore wind development. The Company employs a variety of outreach and engagement approaches to communicate and maintain relationships with fisheries stakeholders. These approaches include informal conversations with existing contacts, attending fishing industry trade events and recreational fishing shows and tournaments, presenting at commercial and recreational fishing group meetings, and working with the various associations and organizations that represent fishing interests.

Various outreach methods and tools are used to disseminate relevant project information to commercial and recreational fishing stakeholders. These outreach methods and tools include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Organizing bi-weekly meetings with FRs to share project information and discuss concerns and current issues facing the fishing industry.
- Working with FRs to distribute flyers, charts, FAQs, and receive feedback from the

fishing community and discuss other relevant information through their networks and communication channels.

- Creating outreach materials for fishing communities to distribute at different events as well as local bait and tackle shops in the region.
- Holding port hours with FLs from other offshore wind developers at ports including but not limited to New Bedford, Massachusetts; Narragansett, Rhode Island; Stonington, Connecticut; and Montauk, New York to provide information to fishing vessel crews who fish in or transit through the MA WEA.
- Maintaining a website with information specifically for fishermen, including fisheries science information, charts, mariner updates of offshore vessel activity, and vessel Requests for Information (RFIs).
- Maintaining a database of fishing vessels interested in offshore wind, survey vessel, and guard vessel work as identified through our vessel RFI.
- Reaching out to local recreational fishing organizations and clubs.
- Presenting project information and updates on fisheries science at recreational organization meetings.
- Hosting tables at commercial marine expos and recreational fishing shows.
- Engaging with recreational fishing tournaments and derby organizers, including sponsoring events.
- Engaging with local recreational fishing experts and influencers with a high social media presence to increase project awareness.
- Relying on word of mouth (i.e., reaching out to a fisherman at the request of another fisherman).
- Maintaining a two-way communication channel with an expanding network of fishermen through our open-door policy.

The Projects' fisheries team is also in regular contact with the relevant federal and state agencies on fisheries-related matters. We are a member of or active participant in the following technical working groups, advisory boards, councils, and commissions:

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Connecticut Commission on Environmental Standards
- Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Wind Energy (FWG)
- Massachusetts Habitat Working Group on Offshore Wind Energy (HWG)
- New England Fishery Management Council
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- New York State Energy Research and Development's (NYSERDA's) Environmental

Technical Working Group

- NYSERDA's Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG)
- Project Advisory Committee for Automated Radio Telemetry at Offshore Wind Farms
- Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC)
- Rhode Island Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) meetings (when active)
- Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), Working Group on Offshore Wind Development and Fisheries

The Company has used its membership and participation in these groups to provide project updates, better understand fisheries and fishermen concerns, build relationships, and collaborate on research and education.

Fisheries science is important to fisheries stakeholders, and our fisheries team is in regular contact with research institutions conducting fisheries research, such as UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science & Technology (SMAST), the New England Aquarium, and the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) as well as fishermen supporting those research efforts. The FL works with the FRs and scientists to identify fish species and habitats that have the potential to be impacted by offshore wind development. Research approaches have been developed to monitor species of concern and document potential changes in species abundance and distribution pre- /during/post-construction. The FL is responsible for implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of this plan and updating it at least annually or as needed.

Finally, we understand 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. We recognize that individuals' concerns are just as important as group concerns and this FCP includes ongoing efforts to reach out to individual fishermen and respect requests for anonymity.

VI. Offshore Communication Protocols

a. Overview

Effective and efficient communication with fishermen is a high priority for the Company. It is important to ensure that fishermen are aware of our offshore activities and feel comfortable reaching out with questions and concerns. It is also important for vessel contractors to understand the fishing activities they may encounter and how to handle any interactions with the fishing fleet. The Company's communications protocols for offshore survey operations are outlined below and will be adjusted and adapted over time, as they continue to benefit from the Company's offshore experience and best practices. Similar protocols will be standardized and implemented for the Project's construction activities.

In the time leading up to offshore construction, the Projects will hold regular meetings with fishing groups that may be affected by offshore construction activities to review the construction timeline, what to expect during construction, and communication protocols. We will work with

our FRs to help coordinate and invite fishermen to attend the meetings. Some of the small groups identified to date include squid vessels in Nantucket Sound, the conch fleet from Cape Cod and the Islands, state-permitted clam vessels, and the squid fleet from Point Judith.

Individuals and groups that want to stay updated on vessel activity and the Projects' offshore construction plans should visit our website and sign up for email and/or text alerts on the website.

b. Communication and Notification to Fishing Industry Prior to and During Offshore Survey Work

Our communication strategy, which incorporates recommendations from fishermen and adopts protocols used by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) for their biannual inshore trawl survey, are as follows:

- Coordinate with the US Coast Guard (USCG) to issue Notices to Mariners.
- Send Offshore Wind Mariner Update Bulletins (OWMUs) with a survey vessel picture, survey vessel contact information, and a chart showing the location and approximate duration of vessel activity. If OFLs are used, the OFL contact information, a scout vessel picture, and scout vessel contact information will be disseminated to our fisheries email list and text alert system.
- Post OWMUs on our four main media channels: LinkedIn, Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram.
- Work with FRs to share information through their email lists and other media channels.
- Provide updates via the Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group
- Publicize activities through state agencies, fishing organization websites, fish houses, harbormasters, and newsletters (e.g., MA DMF, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, sector managers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association port agents, Fishing Support Services navigators, etc.).
- During offshore work send out regular email/text updates detailing progress to various parties (e.g., MA DMF, Massachusetts Lobsterman's Association, New Bedford Port Authority, Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Partnership Trust, etc.).
- Attend fisheries trade shows and outreach events to encourage fishermen to sign up for alerts that will inform them of the Projects' offshore activities.

c. Communication and Fisheries Protocols on Geological Survey Vessels

The Company may contract with local fishermen or experienced mariners to serve as OFLs onboard survey vessels to assist vessel captains with communication and document fishing gear in the area to help avoid interactions. The OFL records observed fisheries activities, ensures vessel operations are compliant with this FCP and other fisheries-related policies, and seeks to avoid negative fisheries interactions by looking out for fixed gear and establishing communications (usually by very high frequency (VHF) radio) with fishing vessels when appropriate. If a negative fisheries interaction occurs, the OFL works with the FL and relevant FRs to quickly resolve the matter. Typically, OFLs with local fishing experience and knowledge

are contracted for the duration of vessel operations.

Before the survey trip begins, the FL and OFL attend pre-trip meetings with the captain and crew to review the specifics of the fisheries active in the area. If the FL has known coordinates of fixed gear in the area, the information is shared with the vessel captain and OFL. The vessel captain and crew are instructed to communicate respectfully with fishermen and work around fishing gear to the greatest extent practicable.

The captain, crew chief, the Company's client representative, and OFL review and sign off on the communication and gear interaction protocols, which are outlined below, at the start of a survey campaign and whenever there is a new captain or party chief.

Communication Protocols for Survey Vessel Captains

- The OFL will have a VHF unit to monitor radio communications and will be able to communicate directly with fishermen if agreed upon with the vessel captain.
- If a fishing vessel is not responding to radio calls, the OFL will try to communicate with the fishing vessel. If the OFL is off watch, the crew will wake up the OFL if asleep to engage in communication if necessary.
- All communication between fishing vessels and the OFL, positive and negative, will be reported.
- The OFL will be alerted to all gear interactions at the time they occur, including waking up the OFL if necessary.
- The vessel captain will work around fishing gear to the greatest extent practicable.
- Fixed gear locations will be plotted while the OFL is off watch, and that information will be relayed to the OFL when back on watch.
- Agreed upon safety zones will be established and relayed to fishing vessels in the area.
- The OFL will have access to the wheelhouse to set up equipment if practicable.
- The OFL will be provided with a reliable internet connection.

Fixed Gear Interaction Protocols for Survey Vessels

The following outlines the Company's procedures in the event that an incident between a survey vessel and static fishing gear occurs. These procedures will be updated prior to the start of offshore construction activities for the Projects and will reflect any feedback and lessons learned during survey activities.

- For all incidents, the OFL will be immediately notified (wake up if off watch).
- For all incidents, the fishing gear interaction will be logged in both the daily vessel report spreadsheet and the Interaction Log. The time, location, photos, details of events, etc. will be recorded electronically.
- If the fishing gear is entangled around survey equipment and is brought onboard, the OFL will determine if the fishing gear is actively engaged in fishing or if it is abandoned

fishing gear (i.e., ghost gear).

- If the OFL determines that the fishing gear is actively engaged in fishing, and the line needs to be severed to release survey equipment, any severed gear will be kept on board.
- For active fishing gear where the line does not need to be severed, the gear will be returned to the water. Photos of the gear will be taken and the time and vessel position where the fishing gear is returned to the water will be recorded.
- If the OFL determines that the fishing gear is not actively engaged in fishing, the abandoned fishing gear will be kept on board the vessel and the position where it was retrieved will be recorded.
- All active severed fishing gear and ghost gear will be brought back to shore. If the owner can be identified, they will be notified, and the gear will be returned.
- For all incidents vessel location and the time of any incident will be recorded.
- For all incidents the buoy permit number and color will be logged as available.
- For all incidents pictures of the gear will be taken as long as it is safe to do so.
- For all incidents the FL will be notified of all gear interactions as soon as possible.

The scout vessels work in cooperation with OFLs to complete the communication cycle by working alongside and ahead of planned survey operations, reporting fishing activity back to the survey vessel, and helping to communicate with fishing vessels active in the area. This fishermen-based communication approach has resulted in successful coordination between the Projects' offshore survey efforts and local fishermen. For the 2022 geological survey season, the Company had scout vessels plot where fixed gear was located and helped survey vessels plan their survey operations to avoid fixed gear. We anticipate continuing this approach during the construction phase of the Projects.

d. Safety Management System/Emergency Communication Protocols

An important objective of this FCP is to use fisheries communications to enhance the safety of all those who work on the ocean in a project area during development, construction, operations, and decommissioning. Our Safety Management System will outline clear communication protocols and procedures for emergency events such as collision or allision of a vessel with a wind turbine structure, gear entanglement, damage to cables by fishing activity, catastrophic failure of a wind turbine, or another event.

VII. Fishing Gear Interaction Reporting

The Company has adopted a standard gear loss/damage claims form that was developed through coordination with the Project FRs, FL, and other developers. This form, which has also been adopted by Equinor, SouthCoast Wind, and Vineyard Wind 1, is provided on our website. The gear loss/damage claim form also contains a chart showing the location of all of the projects within the MA WEA and the contact information for each projects' FL.

VIII. Fisheries Science Program

The Company recognizes the importance of and prioritizes collaborative science opportunities. Regionally focused collaborative research is the best approach to further understanding of the offshore environment and potential effects of offshore wind development. Collaboration and data sharing with environmental and fisheries stakeholders are also essential to build trust, identify priority research gaps, and address such gaps in a cost-effective manner. The Company is firmly committed to timely data sharing, transparent communication, and supporting independent and collaborative scientific research.

a) Science Program Developing and Execution

The Company currently maintains a robust fisheries science program to monitor fisheries and living marine resources within the Lease Areas. As part of this program, the Company has worked with SMAST since 2017 to design fisheries monitoring plans to capture potential fisheries impacts from offshore wind construction. Early on, we recognized the value of incorporating fishing community input into the planning stages of our research and data collection efforts. To that end, the Company asked SMAST to host multiple interactive workshops with the fishing industry to identify priority areas for fisheries and ecological impact assessment.

Based on the input received from more than 75 commercial and recreational fishermen who attended these workshops, as well as input from University researchers and government resource agencies, SMAST recommended a number of fisheries monitoring and research methods, which the Projects' subsequently adopted to guide their fisheries monitoring plans and independent studies (e.g. 3-year study on the seasonal estimates of age of maturity and fecundity in the channeled whelk).

The Projects have also partnered with the New England Aquarium Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life to study highly migratory species presence across the MA WEA and Rhode Island/Massachusetts Wind Energy Area (RI/MA WEA), which was a direct request from recreational fishermen. The study involved a desktop compilation of conventional tagging data, large pelagic survey data, and input from the pelagic recreational fleet on fishing behavior in the WEAs through an online survey. The study determined that recreational effort for highly migratory species is widespread throughout southern New England, with the highest levels of recreational fishing activity occurring to the west of the MA WEA and RI/MA WEA.

The Fisheries team also identified an opportunity to promote a pilot program that would promote coexistence of fisheries and offshore wind development/ operations. Rhode Island based CFRF provided such opportunity by launching a pilot squid jigging project to support one of the most lucrative fisheries in the region and within, and around, the WEAs. This pilot study will serve to provide the data, methodologies, and efficiency rating for using such a safe and effective fishing method within and around the WEAs.

b) Data Sharing

The survey and monitoring work that the Company has conducted and plans to conduct will continue to generate a substantial body of environmental, fisheries, and other data that will be made 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 processes, as well

as reports or academic publications that result from survey or monitoring work and is readily accessible to environmental and fisheries stakeholders.

For all other environmental and fisheries data, including data collected during the construction and post-construction period, the Company will explore appropriate ways to store and make data publicly available and easy to access. Through ROSA and the RWSC the Company will also work with fishermen, regulators, stakeholders, and other offshore wind developers to find ways to streamline and standardize available data across all lease areas to further support independent research and collaborative science.

IX. Fishing Industry Initiatives

Aside from building relationships with the region's fishermen and fisheries stakeholders, one of the Company's key objectives is to support the fishing industry. This focus has resulted in the following recent efforts:

- COVID-19 testing and vaccinations: The Company participated in a consortium among the MA WEA and RI/MA WEA leaseholders to contribute funds to a Southcoast Health pilot program offering free COVID-19 testing directly at the Port of New Bedford.
- Seafood Distribution Program donations: The Company donated to the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island to support a program designed to provide benefits to households experiencing food insecurity and assist the fishing industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program purchases seafood directly from fishermen at or above market price and then donates the seafood to community organizations that provide it to families in need.
- Vessel Request for Information: The Company participated in an RFI in December 2020 to engage with vessel owners and fishing vessel crews who may be interested in offering services to the Projects. For additional information, please contact our FL (see Section IV).
- WATERFRONT Application: The Company worked with Ithaca Clean Energy for several years to help them develop a mobile application (app) that shows the Projects' offshore activities on an interactive map and provided a portal for fishing vessel crews and mariners to submit inquiries directly to the fisheries team.

Appendix 1 – Fisheries Representatives

Coastal Asset Management LLC

Coastal Asset Management LLC was founded by Connecticut-based fishermen to represent the interests and advocate on behalf of the Connecticut fishing community.

Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island

The Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island (CFCRI) is the home of the Ocean State's commercial fishing community. It was founded to preserve commercial fishing as a profession, culture, and way of life through promoting the sustainability of the resource. CFCRI believes in cultivating an environment of open communication and encouraging the sharing of knowledge about our ocean and its resources. In the pursuit of sustainable seas, CFCRI's approach is innovative, their lens is optimistic, and their goals are ambitious.

CFCRI's members believe in commercial fishing as a profession, a culture, and a way of life. CFCRI seeks to preserve the sanctity of the local fishing community, the solvency of small business, and the sustainability of the fishery resource. CFCRI serves as a headquarters to bring fishermen, scientists, managers, and elected officials together in a collaborative effort to improve local fisheries and understanding of the marine environment so that the proud heritage of our industry continues nobly through future generations.

Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) is a member-driven organization that accepts and supports the interdependence of species conservation and the members' collective economic interests. It 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. It 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. 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 MVFPT 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; and (iii) educate the community about its local fisheries.

The Montauk Fish Dock – Paul Farnham

The Montauk Fish Dock (Dock) is a commercial fish unloading, packing, and freight forwarding facility located in Montauk, New York. The Dock provides diesel fuel, ice, dockage, and fresh water. The Dock has been servicing the fishing fleet since 1988. Customer gear types are inshore and offshore draggers, inshore and offshore gillnetters, offshore bottom and surface longliners, inshore and offshore lobster, offshore sea scallop, and inshore and offshore rod and reel. The fleet consists of approximately 40 fishing vessels, 20 of which vessels fish all year.

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.

Tyler MacAllister – Representing the commercial and recreational hand gear fishery for Highly Migratory Species

Tyler MacAllister currently participates in working groups for both commercially and recreationally targeted highly migratory species addressing current topics. These species include tunas, marlin, swordfish, and several species of sharks.

Joe Huckemeyer—Owner and operator of Helen H Offshore Fishing

Joe Huckemeyer runs a charter fishing business out of Hyannis, MA.