Offshore Wind Update
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
June 2021

NMFS Offshore Wind Role

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

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Recent Activities

- Essential Fish Habitat Consultation and Conservation Recommendations

  > June 7, 2021 – South Fork (RI/Cox Ledge)

- Scoping Comments on NOIs for project COPs

  > June 1, 2021 – Revolution Wind (MA)

  > April 29, 2021 – Ocean Wind (NJ)

- Interagency Project Kick-off Meetings

  > Empire Wind (NY), Park City (MA/RI), Atlantic Shores (NJ)

- Concurrence on Project Timelines

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Challenges

➢ Large number of projects being rolled out in a short period of time

➢ Expedited timelines

➢ Simultaneous/overlapping consultations and environmental reviews

➢ Limited early coordination prior to COP

➢ New or updated COP/EIS after commencement of consultations and reviews

➢ Limited resources to handle the workload

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Proactive Work

➢ Benthic fish habitat mapping recommendations

➢ Checklists to guide EFH assessments, ESA biological assessments, socio-economic analyses for NEPA documents

➢ Staff to staff work with BOEM to provide information and analyses to support NEPA, EFH, and ESA assessments

➢ Document templates for streamlining and consistency

➢ Data query tools

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Offshore Wind Data Query Tools

OSW Socioeconomic Impact Summary Reports

➤ Standardized reports of socio/econ impacts to fishing operations for each wind project area

OSW Socioeconomic Data Query Tool

➤ Commercial fishing trip data used to populate impact summary reports

Stock SMART Tool

➤ Species-based stock assessment results

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Offshore Wind Data Query Tools

EFH Mapper

➤ Spatial representations of fish species, their life stages, and important habitats

NROC and MARCO Data Portals

➤ Fish habitat and distribution data, fisheries data and maps based on VTR and VMS data

Questions?

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