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Nine Atlantic Coast States Release Request for Information to Inform Establishment of a Regional Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Fund Administrator

Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia (the States) have been advancing an initiative to establish a regional fund administrator for fisheries compensatory mitigation which would provide financial compensation for economic loss from offshore wind development off the Atlantic Coast. Recognizing the importance of sustaining a vibrant fishing community that can coexist and thrive alongside offshore wind energy development, the States have released a Request for Information (RFI) aimed at receiving input from impacted members of the fishing industry, offshore wind developers, corporate and financial management entities, as well as interested members of the public, to inform efforts to establish a regional fisheries compensatory mitigation fund administrator.

This effort supports the implementation of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) [Draft Fisheries Mitigation Framework](#) in a fair, equitable, and transparent manner for impacted Atlantic Coast fishing industry members and offshore wind developers. The States' RFI seeks feedback on concepts and proposals on how to best establish a single regional administrator for the Atlantic Coast to collect, hold, determine eligibility, and dispense funds for economic losses to affected fishing industry members. The States are focused on ensuring that a regional administrator also engages appropriately with both the fishing and offshore wind industries. To that end, the States developed the RFI and accompanying Scoping Document with input from representatives of the fishing and offshore wind industries, including support from the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) and other fishing industry leaders, to help engage with and understand concerns from the broader industry.

Responses to the RFI are **due by 5pm Eastern Standard Time on January 31, 2023**. Visit the following website for additional information and to download the Scoping Document and RFI: <https://offshorewindpower.org/fisheries-mitigation-project>

Kris Ohleth, Director of the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind, can provide contact information for each of the States' representatives for this issue. kris@offshorewindpower.org

Background

Since June 2021, the States have worked closely together, including issuing [a letter to the Biden Administration](#) expressing that the expansion of the offshore wind industry creates an unprecedented opportunity for the United States. The letter emphasized the shared federal-state responsibility to address critical areas of port infrastructure, permitting, research and development, fisheries support, and natural resource restoration and mitigation. Carrying forward this partnership, in November 2021, the States sent [a letter to BOEM](#) to encourage the development of a standardized fisheries compensatory mitigation framework. In June 2022, BOEM issued the draft framework for mitigating impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries.

The Special Initiative on Offshore Wind (SIOW) and the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) have been convening and facilitating the States' discussions on a regional approach to fisheries compensatory mitigation. SIOW and CBI will continue to support this critically important effort as consultation with the fishing and offshore wind development industries continues.

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