



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 24, 2023
To: Council
From: Julia Beaty, staff
Subject: Offshore Wind Energy Development

On June 7, 2023, the Council will receive updates on the following offshore wind energy topics:

- **The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).** BOEM staff will provide an update on several topics, which may include, but is not limited to:
 - [Final environmental impact statement for Ocean Wind 1](#), off New Jersey, released May 26, 2023. A record of decision announcing BOEM’s decision to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the project is expected on July 7, 2023.
 - [Draft environmental impact statement for Atlantic Shores South](#), off New Jersey, released May 15, 2023. Comments are due July 3, 2023.
 - Next steps for finalization of [guidance for fisheries mitigation](#).
 - Next steps for the [Central Atlantic](#), including final Wind Energy Areas this summer and initiating environmental assessment for lease issuance.
 - Next steps on development of a programmatic environmental impact statement for [6 New York Bight leases](#).
 - Establishment of the [National Academies Standing Committee on Offshore Wind and Fisheries](#)
 - Environmental studies updates.
- **State Working Group on Compensation.** Council member Joe Cimino will provide an update on development of a request for proposals for a regional fisheries compensation fund administrator. More information on this effort is available [here](#).
- **NOAA Fisheries.** Katie Westfall, Senior Advisor on Offshore Wind, will provide updates from NOAA Fisheries. More information on Ms. Westfall and her new role can be found [here](#).
- **Wind project developers.** The Council will receive presentations from the following wind project developers.
 - **South Fork Wind.** The 12 turbine South Fork Wind project, located approximately 19 miles southeast of Block Island and 35 miles east of Montauk

Point, is currently in construction. For the most recent updates on construction activities, see the Northeast mariners briefings posted [here](#).

- **Vineyard Wind 1.** The 62 turbine Vineyard Wind 1 project, located 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, is currently in construction. The most recent updates on construction activities are available [here](#).
- **Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW).** CVOW consists of a two-turbine pilot project which is currently operational and an up to 205 turbine commercial scale project which is currently in the planning stages. The lease area for the commercial scale project is 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach. More information on CVOW is available [here](#).
- **New York Bight Developers Fisheries Group.** [American Clean Power](#) is a trade group for the renewable energy industry. A working group of the American Clean Power Fishery Subcommittee was formed with a subset of members that are developing projects in the New York Bight to focus on coordination of fisheries issues specific to that region. This group has been meeting regularly since January 2023. A representative of this group will briefly update the Council on activities to date and gather initial input from the Council and public.

The following additional updates are provided for informational purposes, but are not expected to be addressed in presentations during the Council's June meeting:

- **Submitted comment letters.** Since the April 2023 Council meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Council and the New England Council submitted the following joint comment letters:
 - [MAFMC/NEFMC to BOEM: Renewable Energy Modernization Rule](#) (4/26/2023)
 - [MAFMC and NEFMC Letter to BOEM: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for SouthCoast Wind Project offshore Massachusetts](#) (4/14/23)
- **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).** NYSERDA is undertaking an effort called [Master Plan 2.0: Deepwater](#). This initiative has a number of goals, including identifying offshore areas deeper than 60 meters to recommend to BOEM for consideration for future wind lease areas. NYSERDA will host virtual office hours in June, July, and August to gather feedback from the fishing industry. Dates/times and registration information are available [here](#).
- **Ongoing survey activities (geotechnical, geophysical, fisheries, etc.).** Several offshore wind projects are undertaking geophysical, geotechnical, fisheries, and other types of survey work throughout the region. These surveys use a variety of gear types, including some equipment that is installed in a given location for extended periods of time (e.g., buoys, acoustic receivers). The best way to stay informed of these survey activities is to sign up for email updates from individual wind developers (see the project specific links available [here](#)).
- **Fisheries liaison outreach.** Fisheries liaisons for most offshore wind projects periodically host port hours, dock visits, and other outreach events. The best way to stay informed of these events is to sign up for email updates from individual wind developers (see the project specific links available [here](#)).

- **Stay informed.** To stay up to date on individual wind projects, including development of fishery communications plans, details on offshore survey operations, outreach events, and other updates, see the project-specific links available at <https://www.mafmc.org/offshore-wind-notices>.