



Offshore Wind Update Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office



Pete Burns
Habitat and
Ecosystem Services
Division,
GARFO

New England Fishery
Management Council
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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



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Questions?



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