

Offshore Wind Energy Special Session
NEFMC meeting April 18, 2019 (9:00– 1:00)

#2a

Objectives and Agenda

1. Council members learn more about offshore wind development. Topics to include:
 - a. Total scope of planned offshore wind energy development in the region, with emphasis on projects off New England and New York.
 - b. The players involved and the roles of each in the process, with an emphasis on NOAA Fisheries consultations with BOEM.
 - c. Better understanding of research and monitoring issues including current efforts, implications for fishery independent surveys, and regional coordination initiatives.
 - d. Update on timing and status of specific projects including an opportunity for developers to share pertinent updates.

2. Council members engage in active thinking and discussion about offshore wind energy and how the Council can continue to be engaged in the issue moving forward. The goal is to prioritize ongoing activities for the Council, its subsidiary bodies including the Habitat Committee, or staff, related to the Council's 2019 priority to "develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, in consultation with other agencies, including BOEM". Some activities might need to be considered under future Council priorities.
 - a. In the past, Habitat Committee has discussed that fishing community needs to engage directly with developers and with BOEM, and that Council can amplify their comments and provide information and expertise to support the process. Does the Council want to endorse this approach or take a different approach?
 - b. Staff are working closely with NOAA fisheries staff to complement and amplify how NOAA is engaging with BOEM, through NEFMC and MAFMC joint letters and comments. Does the Council want to endorse this approach or take a different approach?
 - c. There are opportunities for Council members or staff to represent the Council's perspective and interests, and share expertise, through regional science initiatives. Does the Council want to consider or endorse any particular level or type of engagement? Should the efforts involve staff, Council members, or both?
 - d. How can the Council most effectively interact with wind developers?

3. Opportunity for developer representatives, Council members, and Council stakeholders to understand each other better.

I. Introduction

Summarize topics to be covered during session, and objectives for Council discussion (5 minutes)

Doug Grout, NEFMC,
Habitat Committee Chair

Overall scope and timing of wind energy development (20 minutes)

- Scale and time horizon of offshore wind energy development
- State power purchase goals and process
- Focus on New England and New York

Michelle Bachman, NEFMC
staff

Materials: Section I presentation

II. Roles and responsibilities

NOAA Fisheries and their role as a cooperating agency (20 minutes)

- Staff engagement across NOAA Fisheries via the wind team
- NOAA Fisheries consultation – when and how?
- EFH consultations
- Issuance of IHAs under MMPA

Susan Tuxbury, GARFO

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (10 minutes)

- BOEM's role in the leasing process
- Lessee responsibilities under the Coastal Zone Management Act

Brian Hooker, BOEM

United States Coast Guard (10 minutes)

- What is the USCG's role in the process?
- Transit studies and opportunities for public engagement

Michele DesAutels, USCG

Fishing industry coordination and engagement (5 minutes)

- Responsible Offshore Development Alliance: current initiatives

Annie Hawkins, RODA

NEFMC efforts to date (5 minutes)

- Comments and policies
- Ongoing partnerships

Michelle Bachman

Council discussion (20 minutes)

- Opportunity for Council questions on development process and the roles of different participants
- Does the Council's current engagement on offshore wind development match what was envisioned during priority setting? Are we focusing on the right types of tasks and issues?
- Currently, staff are working closely with NOAA fisheries staff to complement and amplify how NOAA is engaging with BOEM, through NEFMC and MAFMC joint letters and comments. Does the Council want to endorse this approach or take a different approach?

Doug Grout

Materials: Section II presentation; Participants in the offshore wind development process, Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA, BOEM, and RODA; Executive Order 13807; Secretarial Order 3355; NOAA comments on VW DEIS; NOAA additional information request for EFH and ESA consultations on VW project; MA/RI PARS FR notice; Atlantic Coast PARS FR notice

III. Research and monitoring

Overview of federal, state, and developer-funded offshore wind research (10 minutes)

Michelle Bachman

- Who is involved?
- What types of projects are being conducted?
- Where can the Council learn more?

Vineyard Wind Monitoring Program (5 minutes)

Crista Bank, Vineyard Wind

- How was the program developed?
- What does it include?

Implications of offshore wind development for NMFS fishery-independent surveys (15 minutes)

Wendy Gabriel, NEFSC

- Why is this an issue?
- What can be done to fill data gaps created?
- What is the status of discussions on this issue?

Introduction to Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (10 minutes)

Annie Hawkins

- Organization and purpose of ROSA

Council discussion (20 minutes)

Doug Grout

- What should the Council's role in regional science and research efforts be?

Materials: Section III presentation, Vineyard Wind Fishermen Scoping Workshops Report, NOAA research planning document survey section, ROSA charter

IV. Updates on specific projects and leases

Review project status (15 minutes)

Brian Hooker, BOEM

- Update on where specific projects are in the process
- NY Bight Wind Energy Areas
- Path Forward status

Developer updates (30 minutes)

Representatives from Vineyard Wind, Ørsted, Equinor, Shell/EDP Renewables

- Major items of interest to the Council
- Identify fisheries liaisons and representatives
- Identify academic and research partners

Council questions and discussion (20 minutes)

Doug Grout

- Questions for BOEM and developers
- How can the Council and fisheries stakeholders engage most effectively with wind developers?

Materials: Section IV presentation

V. Wrap up and next steps

Council discussion (20 minutes)

- Additional questions? Reactions?
- Recap: what we have heard thus far from the Council in terms of approaches for engagement and providing advice?
- Summarize next steps.

Doug Grout and Michelle Bachman