

Introduction to the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

New England Fishery Management Council
September 27, 2018



Who is RODA?

- Broad membership-based coalition of fishing industry associations and fishing companies with an interest in improving the compatibility of new offshore development with their businesses.
- Board and members consist of individuals with direct interests in the commercial fishing industry
- Membership is open to all interested fishery participants

Goal: To coordinate science and policy approaches to managing development of the Outer Continental Shelf in a way that minimizes conflicts with existing traditional and historical fishing.



Offshore Wind Leasing Process

Initiation: unsolicited or solicited bid

- Developers, states, or BOEM delineate initial area

FORMAL COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Call for Information:

- Determines whether competitive interest exists

Federal Register
comment period

Area identification

- Occurs within boundaries of Call area

LEASE NOTICE → AUCTION → LEASE ISSUANCE

Environmental
Assessment

Site Assessment Plan approval

Construction and Operations Plan approval

Environmental Impact
Statement

Operational phase

Decommissioning



Fisheries Consultation?

- Required federal consultations:
 - Marine Mammal Protection Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act consultation regarding Essential Fish Habitat (once NOAA receives Draft EIS)
 - NEPA requires description of impacts and alternatives
- Consultation specific to fisheries not clearly defined in regulations
 - BOEM statutorily required to prevent interference with reasonable uses and provide “consideration” for fishery uses in leasing
 - Individual states may impose additional requirements through Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determinations or procurement process

Fishery-Related Engagement Efforts

- State:
 - MA: Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Wind Energy
 - RI: Fisheries Advisory Board
 - NY: Fisheries Technical Working Group
- Federal:
 - BOEM “listening sessions”
 - Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Forces
 - NMFS/NEFSC/Councils Offshore Wind Energy Team
- Regional:
 - Regional Planning Bodies → MARCO, NROC, data portals
- Local:
 - New Bedford Port Authority Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Developers:
 - 13 leases, ~12 developers, most with “fisheries liaison” and ~100s of individual meetings
- Academic institutions
- Fishery Management Councils and Commission
- One-off management workshops and meetings
- Various federal, state, local public comment periods
- Scientific workshops, outreach, grants, etc.
- AND MORE!

National Ocean Policy Executive Order

U.S. policy is to:

- Facilitate the economic growth of coastal communities and promote ocean industries... **advance ocean science and technology**, feed the American people... and enhance America's energy security;
- Modernize the acquisition, distribution, and use of the **best available ocean-related science** and knowledge, **in partnership with marine industries**; the ocean science and technology community; State, tribal, and local governments; and other ocean stakeholders, to inform decisions and enhance entrepreneurial opportunity;
- Ensure that Federal regulations and management decisions **do not prevent productive and sustainable use** of ocean... waters;
- Obtain information and **advice** concerning ocean-related matters from... **private-sector entities** and individuals.

RODA Core Functions

- Provide a unified voice regarding issues of mutual interest to the commercial fishing industry, related to the siting and operations of new and proposed offshore developments, in order to promote seafood sustainability;
- Act as a bridge between developers and fishermen to mandate, design, and implement a fair, equitable, and effective fisheries mitigation framework addressing potential direct and indirect fisheries impacts;
- Coordinate among existing local, project-specific, and state advisory groups to streamline advice, minimize duplication of effort, and increase awareness of the need for improved coordination on ocean planning and development; and
- Develop scientific frameworks that appropriately reflect large scale of offshore development and regional nature of federal fisheries, and achieve adequate funding for scientific research to inform leasing processes, support mitigation programs, and guide future planning.

