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# Status of Northeast Survey Mitigation Program

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# Agenda

1. Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy
2. Survey-Specific Mitigation Planning
3. Status of Survey Mitigation Implementation
4. Open Discussion



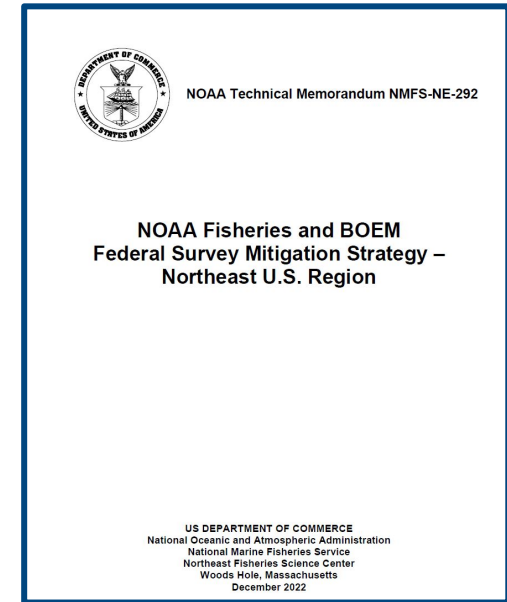
# NOAA Fisheries Offshore Wind Needs

1. Support for the **OWD planning & regulatory** process
2. **Scientific and technical support** to planning & regulatory process
3. **Mitigate impacts** of wind energy development on **Scientific Enterprise- Surveys, Assessment to Scientific advice**
4. **Research to understand impacts** of wind energy development on marine ecosystems and NOAA trust resources
5. **Mitigate impacts**-Fishing Communities, Environmental Mitigation/Compensation
6. **Legislation & Policy**-to address the mismatches of governance structures and these needs



# Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy

- “This Federal Survey Mitigation Strategy (Strategy) is intended to guide the development and implementation of a program to mitigate impacts of wind energy development on fisheries surveys over the expected full duration (30+ years) of wind energy development in the Northeast U.S.”
- Strategy contains **5 Goals, 16 Objectives, and 43 Actions**
- Strategy calls for development of *Survey-Specific Mitigation Plans & A Northeast Survey Mitigation Program*
- Plans to be refreshed annually to ensure offshore wind activities have minimal impact on the collection and analysis of survey data



<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/efforts-mitigate-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-development-noaa-fisheries-surveys>



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# Strategy's Five Major Goals

- 1) Mitigate impacts of offshore wind energy development on NOAA Fisheries surveys
- 2) Evaluate and, where feasible, integrate wind energy development monitoring studies with NOAA Fisheries surveys
- 3) **Collaboratively plan and implement NOAA Fisheries survey mitigation with partners, stakeholders, and other ocean-users based on the concepts of co-production, best scientific info available, and local and traditional ecological knowledge**
- 4) Adaptively implement the Strategy recognizing the long-term nature of the surveys and the dynamic nature of wind energy development, survey technology and approaches, marine ecosystems, and human uses of marine ecosystems
- 5) Coordinate between NOAA Fisheries and BOEM in the execution of the Strategy and share experiences and lessons learned with other regions and countries where offshore wind energy development is being planned and underway



# List of Survey-Specific Mitigation Plans -

## NEFSC Fisheries Surveys

1. Spring Multi-Species Bottom Trawl Survey
2. Fall Multi-Species Bottom Trawl Survey
3. Integrated Benthic/Atlantic Sea Scallop Survey
4. Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Survey
5. Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp Survey
6. Cooperative Atlantic States Shark Pupping and Nursery
7. Coastal Shark Bottom Longline Survey
8. Cooperative Shark Tagging Program
9. Ecosystem Monitoring Program
10. Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey
11. Cooperative Gulf of Maine Bottom Long-line Survey

## Proposed New or Expanded Fisheries/Habitat Surveys

12. Recreational Hook & Line Survey
13. SEFSC/NEFSC Fish Trap/Video Survey- SEAMAP
14. Pelagic Acoustic Survey- TBD
15. Passive Acoustic Monitoring Surveys
16. eDNA Survey

## Protected Species Surveys

17. North Atlantic right whale Aerial Survey
18. Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Vessel Survey
19. Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Aerial Surveys
  - Marine Mammal Abundance Survey
  - Sea Turtle Ecology Survey
  - North Atlantic right whale Ecology Survey

# Outline of Survey-Specific Mitigation Plan

- I. Purpose of the Survey
- II. Survey Details
- III. Effects of Four Impacts\*
- IV. Mitigation Planned\*\*
- V. Proposed Schedule for Implementation
- VI. Links to Other Surveys
- VII. Costs
- VIII. Adaptive Management Considerations/Opportunities
- IX. Statement of Peer-Review Plans
- X. Performance Metrics

## \*Four Impacts:

- 1) Preclusion
- 2) Impacts on the statistical design of surveys
- 3) Alteration of habitats and airspace
- 4) Reduced sampling productivity

## \*\*Mitigation Planned, as per Six Elements:

- 1) Evaluation of survey designs
- 2) Identification and development of new survey approaches
- 3) Calibration and integration of new survey approaches
- 4) Development of interim provisional survey indices
- 5) Wind energy monitoring to fill regional scientific survey data needs
- 6) Development and communication of new regional data streams

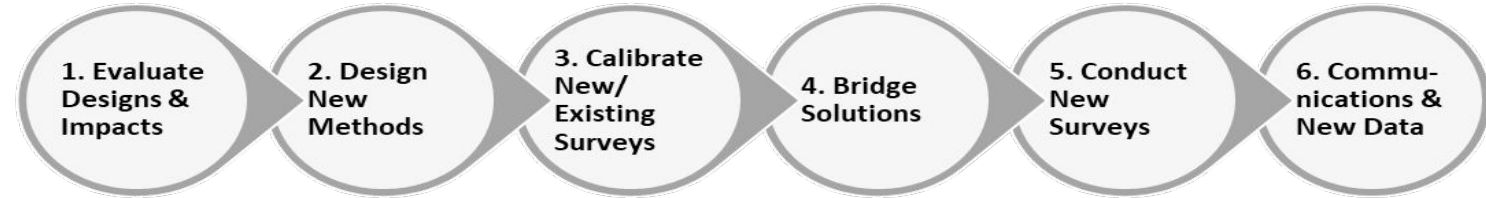
# Status of Survey Mitigation Planning Efforts

- Survey mitigation planning groups are currently developing draft survey-specific mitigation plans
- Plans will be summarized and compiled into a **Northeast Survey Mitigation Program**
- Survey-Specific Mitigation Planning Timeline:
  - Draft Survey-Specific Mitigation Plans - Summer 2023
  - NEFSC Program draft - Late Summer 2023
  - Review and Input- Fall 2023





# Implementing a Survey Mitigation Program in the Northeast U.S.- Status of Steps



Fall BTS	Started	Initial Steps	No	No	No	Initial Steps
Spring BTS	Started	Initial Steps	No	No	No	Initial Steps
EcoMon	No	No	No	No	No	No
Scallop	Started	Started	No	No	No	Started
Clam Surveys	No	Initial-NJ	No	No	No	No
Right whale-aerial	Initial Steps	No	No	No	No	No
AMAPPS	Started	Initial Steps	Initial Steps	No	No	No
Shark BLL	No	No	No	No	No	No
GOM BLL	No	No	No	No	No	No
GOM Shrimp	No	No	No	No	No	No
COASTSPAN	No	No	No	No	No	No
CPR-plankton	No	No	No	No	No	No
Seal Surveys	No	No	No	No	No	No

# Open Discussion



*How would NRCC like to contribute or provide input into draft program and relevant survey mitigation plans?*

# Thank You!



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