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# GARFO Offshore Wind Update

Northeast Region Coordinating Council

May 10, 2022

Portsmouth, NH

# Project Workload Updates

- BOEM Published 9 NOIs in 2021, more expected in 2022
- Resulting in several overlapping and consecutive NEPA Reviews, EFH and ESA consultations
- Continued heavy workload with minimal staff and limited resources
- Next DEIS public comment period: Ocean Wind NOA of the DEIS - June 24, 2022

# Ongoing Coordination with BOEM and Other Agencies

- Input on NEPA alternatives to minimize impacts to NOAA trust resources
- Early and regular engagement, technical assistance coordination with developers, BOEM, USACE, other federal and state resources agencies
- Participation on Technical Working Group for BOEM's Fishery Compensation Mitigation Strategy,

# Streamlining Activities

- Information Needs Checklists (EFH, ESA, Socio-economic)
- Templates for EFH assessments and Biological Assessments
- Working on programmatics for consultations
- Benthic habitat monitoring recommendations and mapping guidance
- Socioeconomic data/impact engagement

# Gulf of Maine Task Force

- Task Force Meeting May 19, 2022
- Focus on commercial planning process for wind leases and the State of Maine Research Lease Application
- NEFSC presenting for NMFS on resources, surveys and conflicts in the Gulf of Maine
- Anticipate solitication for feedback in coming months after the Task Force meeting
- NMFS has been participating in fisheries and wildlife working groups since 2021

# Central Atlantic Call Areas

- BOEM published a call for information for on April 29, 2022
- Minimal changes to the Call Area between the Task Force meeting and Call for Information; coral protection areas are still up for consideration
- NMFS is coordinating with SERO and our Science Center to prepare comments.

# New York Bight

- Auction held on February 2022. Winning bids on 6 leases from 6 companies, totaling \$4.37 Billion
- BOEM is considering development of a Programmatic EIS (PEIS)
- Scoping for PDEIS could begin as early as summer 2022

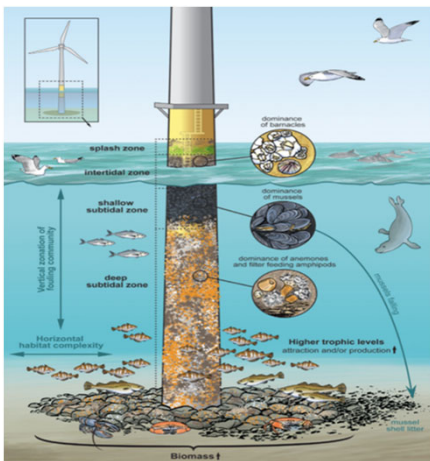


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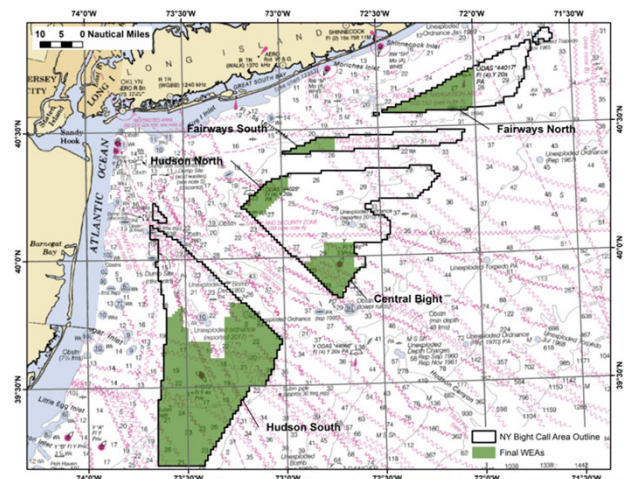
Northeast Fisheries Science  
Center

# Offshore Wind Energy & NEFSC Updates

Michael Simpkins, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Andy Lipsky, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center



Degraer et al., 2020



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# NOAA Northeast Fisheries Offshore Wind Science Center Updates

## **FY22 Omnibus includes some support for NEFSC to address scientific support for the offshore wind regulatory process**

- Technical and review support to GARFO and northeast offshore wind regulatory team to help support significant regulatory workload
- Evaluation, analysis, and making available key data to inform regulatory and planning processes, e.g., fishing community impacts, passive acoustic monitoring
- Planning support to advance ecosystem-based management tools in development process

## **Science to understand interactions on NOAA trust resources**

- **No dedicated** NMFS offshore wind research funding in FY22 Omnibus
- NEFSC pending support for 1 socio-economic offshore wind/fisheries research project in partnership with Sea Grant/Northeast Sea Grant Consortium/Dept of Energy
- Pending interagency agreement with DOE & NMFS, to enable NMFS staff support of DOE funded fisheries/wildlife offshore wind research
- Grant to RODA to organize fisheries and floating wind science/technology workshop(s)



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# NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center Updates

## Status of addressing Impacts of Offshore Wind on NEFSC Surveys and Scientific Advice

### Draft Federal Survey Mitigation Strategic Implementation Plan

- 3/22/22 Release Draft Plan for Public Comment
- 3/29 & 4/11 Informational webinars
- Public Comment closed May 6
- NMFS/BOEM addressing input
- Expected Final Plan June/July 2022

### Status of NEFSC Survey Mitigation Activities

- FY22 Omnibus included **no additional resources** to address NEFSC surveys impacted by offshore wind
- NY Bight Leases include **no stipulations to mitigate impacts on federal surveys**
- **Continue to advance initial survey mitigation efforts** through limited grants and agreements (BOEM)
  - Convened 2nd workshop 2/17-18,2022 for the Survey Simulation Experimentation and Evaluation Project (SSEEP) focused on NEFSC multi-species bottom trawl survey
  - R&D uncrewed habcam platform under development
  - Support NEFMC Scallop Survey Strategy WG-offshore wind term of reference



# Northeast Surveys: Status of Survey Mitigation Steps

NOAA Fisheries Survey Time Series	1.Evaluate designs & impacts	2. Design New methods	3. Calibrate New/Existing Surveys	4.Bridge Solutions	5. Conduct New Surveys	6. Comms. & Data
Fall BTS	Started	Initial	No	No	No	Initial
Spring BTS	Started	Initial	No	No	No	No
EcoMon	No	No	No	No	No	No
Scallop	Started	Initial	No	No	No	No
Shellfish- (clams)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Right Whale-Air	Initial	Pending Grant	Pending Grant	No	No	No
Marine Mammal/sea Turtle Ship/Air	No	No	No	No	No	No
Atlantic Shark Bottom Long-Line	No	No	No	No	No	No
GOM Bottom Long Line	No	No	No	No	No	No
GOM Shrimp Survey	No	No	No	No	No	No
Atlantic Shark COASTPAN	No	No	No	No	No	No

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Passive Acoustic Monitoring	Complete	Complete	No	No	No	Initial
Hook-and-Line Survey	No	No	No	No	No	No
Trap Survey	No	No	No	No	No	No
eDNA	No	initial efforts	No	No	No	No

# Questions?



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