



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division Greater Atlantic Region Updates



Source: J. Watson

Mid-Atlantic Fishery  
Management Council  
April 2024

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/habitat-conservation/habitat-conservation-and-stewardship-greater-atlantic>

# Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD) Updates

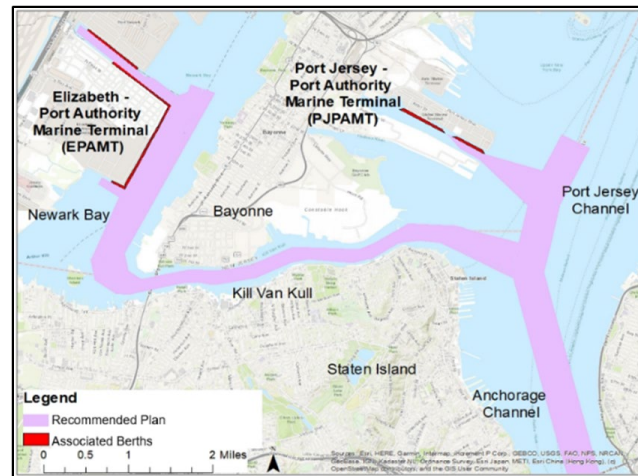
- Habitat
- Offshore Wind



Source: J. Murray



Block Island Wind Farm  
Source: Dennis Schroeder / NREL



Source: US. Army Corps of Engineers

# Habitat: Coastal Development and Infrastructure Updates



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# New York District Program Updates

- Navigation
  - Harbor Deepening Channel Improvements
  - Interim Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP)
  - Sea Bright Offshore Borrow Area (SBOBA) Management Plan
- Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM)
  - Beach Renourishment
  - Borrow Area Study
  - 13 Tidal Flood/Coastal Risk Management
- Ecosystem Restoration
  - 7 projects
    - wetlands
    - marsh islands
    - oyster reefs
    - dam removal



Port Monmouth Tide Gate and Pump Station. Source: J. Murray



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Philadelphia District Program Updates

- Maintenance Dredging
  - Deep Draft projects
    - Delaware River Philadelphia to Sea
      - Buoy 10 Management Plan
    - Delaware River Philadelphia to Trenton
    - Upper Chesapeake Bay
  - Shallow Draft Projects
    - Salem River
    - Cape May Ferry Channel, Harbor
    - NJ Intracoastal Waterway
- Beneficial Use Projects
  - Federal Standard - Beneficial Use
  - Shallow Draft Dredging Projects
    - Nearshore, marsh island, wetland
  - Seven Mile Island Innovation Lab (SMIIL)



The McFarland  
Source: US. Army Corps of Engineers



Source: US. Army Corps of Engineers

# Norfolk District Program Updates

- Norfolk CSRM
  - Phase 1A
    - Floodwall at 65-100% design
    - Downtown and Harbor Park
  - Future: Lafayette River and Little Creek
    - Tide gates
    - Water quality sampling & modelling
- Anchorage F Re-Evaluation Report
  - deepen -51 ft. /widen 3,620 ft. dia.
- Beneficial Use Study - CAP Section 204
  - Create 10 acre shorebird nesting island
  - ERDC Hydro and WQ modelling



Source: City of Norfolk

### ANCHORAGE F LIMITED RE-EVALUATION REPORT

Current Maintained Dimension	-50 ft. deep x 3,000 ft. wide
Current Authorized Dimension	-51ft. deep x 3,620 ft. wide

#### BACKGROUND

- Anchorage F is currently designed and maintained as a 3,000-foot diameter circle for free-swinging bow anchoring.
- The anchorage lies within the designated F Anchorage Area, due west of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) and northwest of the Norfolk Harbor Entrance Channel.
- The anchorage approaches run from the Federal Channel to the tangent of the 3,000-foot circle.
- The designated Anchorage F area is adjacent (north & east) to the U.S. Navy G Anchorage Area.

Source: US. Army Corps of Engineers



# Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) Reevaluation

- Remaining capacity approximately 6.5-7.5 million cubic yards
- Alternatives considered:
  1. Modify HARS designation, as necessary, to allow placement of dredged material meeting current HARS standards to some depth beyond 1 meter.
  2. Identify additional areas in New York Bight for designation as a remediation site.
  3. Extend HARS boundaries to allow for remediation (1 meter) of areas east of current boundaries (data dependent).
  4. Modify HARS designation to allow for management of maintenance muds AND **designate a fishery enhancement beneficial use site for sand and native sediment.**

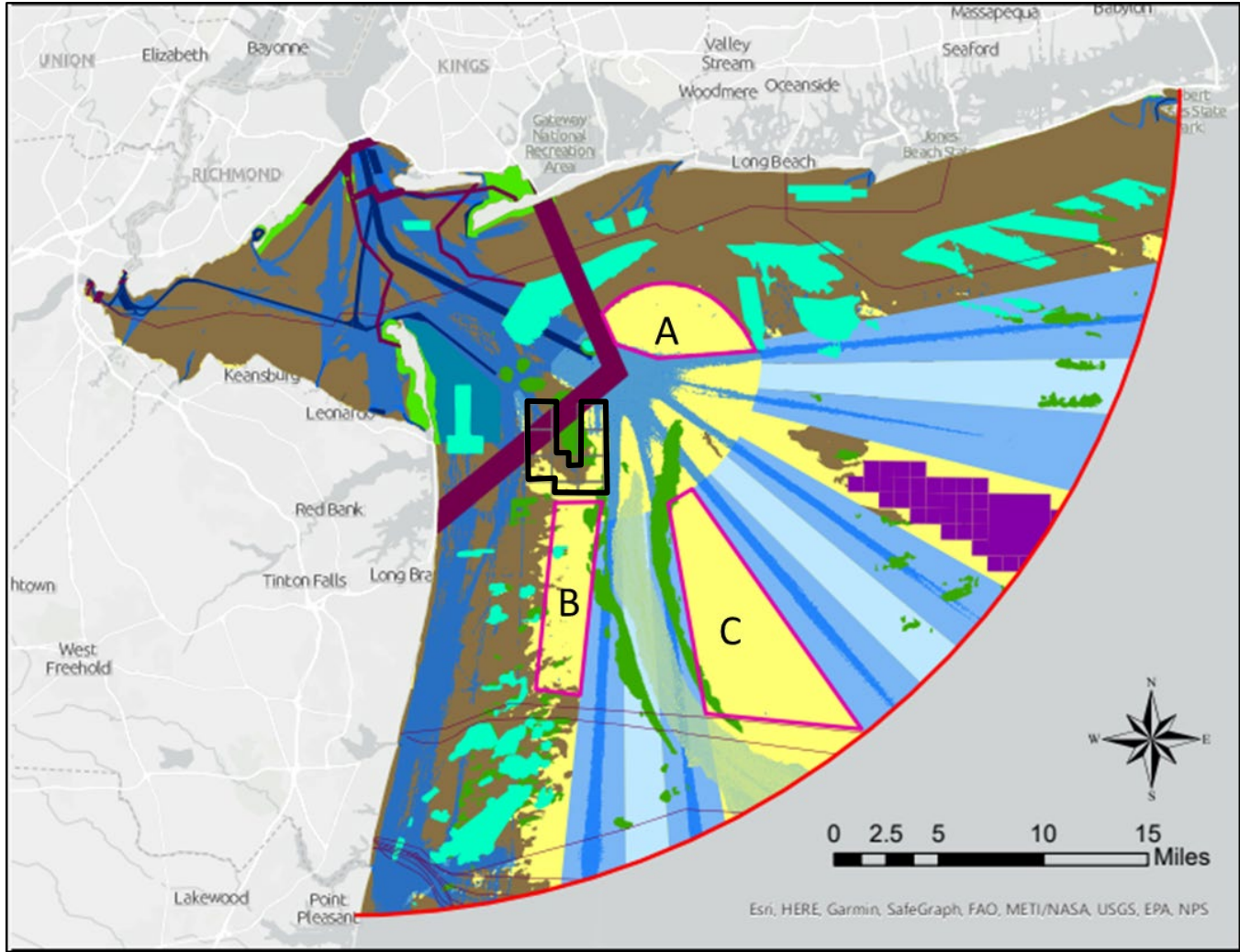


Source: USEPA



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# HARS Reevaluation Fishery Enhancement Beneficial Use Site



**Legend**

- Largest Available Areas Identified for Further Consideration
- Available Areas
- Economic Feasible Radius (40 miles)
- HARS PRAs

**Constraints**

- Depth < 75' (Regional Bathymetry, NOAA/TNC)
- Submarine Cables (NYSDOS)
- Wind Lease Areas (BOEM)

**Habitat Features**

- Sand Resource Areas (BOEM)
- Marine Protected Areas (NOAA)
- Canyon (> approx. 130', Regional Bathymetry, NOAA/TNC)
- Sand Shoals (NOAA/BOEM)

**Navigation/Vessel Traffic**

- Federal Navigation Channels (USACE)
- Anchorage Areas (NOAA ENC)
- AIS Vessel Transit Counts 2022 >75 (US Coast Guard/NOAA/BOEM)
- Shipping Channels (NOAA ENC)
- Shipping Channels Separation (NOAA ENC)

**Other**

- HARS boundary
- Existing Shoals
- Zone of Siting Feasibility Radius (40 miles)

Source: USEPA





# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Updates

- Approximately **\$891 million** over 5 years of BIL funding:
  - **\$491 million** for habitat restoration
  - **\$400 million** for fish passage, with up to 15 percent reserved for tribes
- Additional **\$484M** of IRA funding
- At least three rounds of funding competitions - Fish Passage; Tribal Fish Passage; Transformational Habitat Restoration; Tribes & Underserved Communities



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Round 1 BIL Funds Awarded

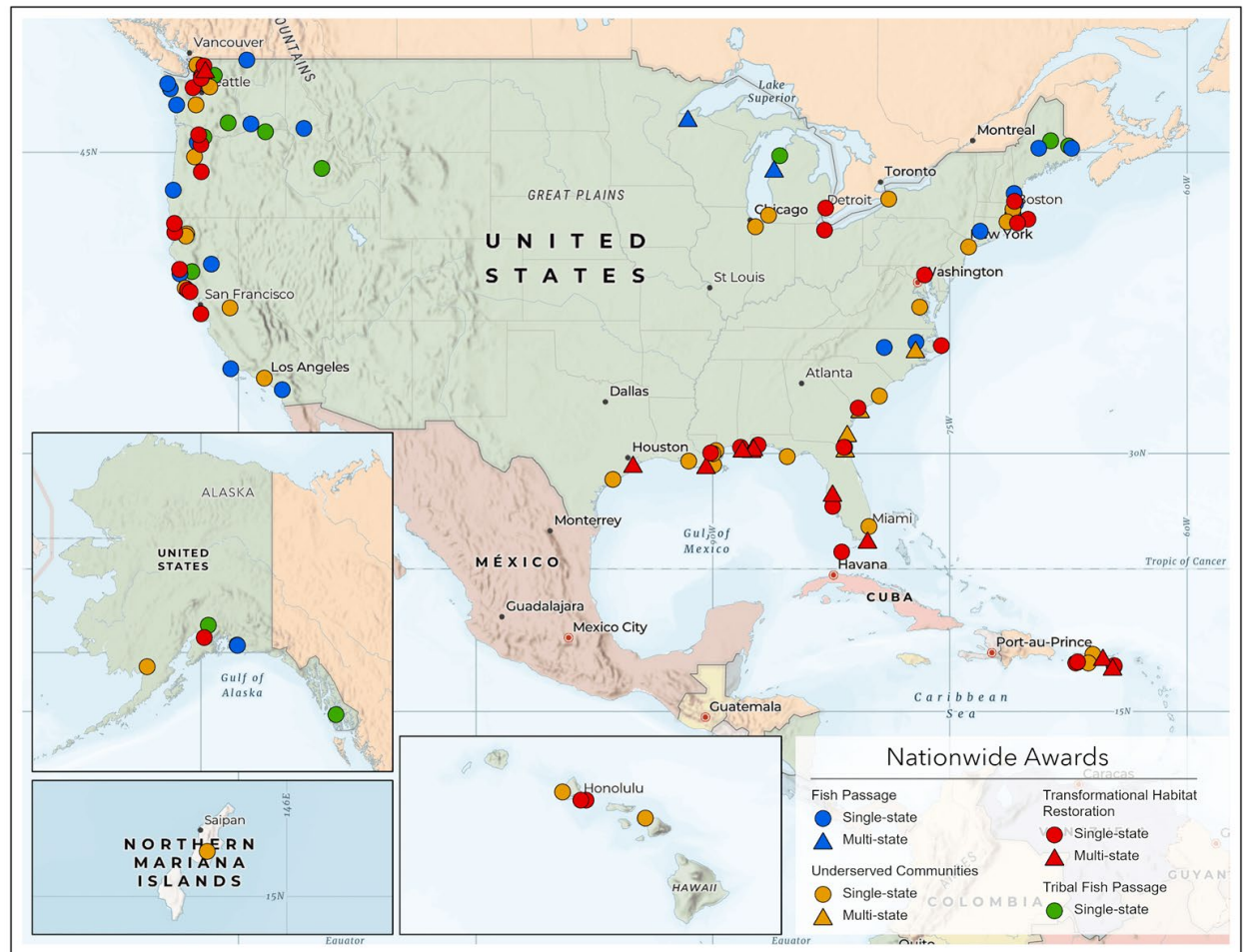
- More than \$16 million for 13 projects selected through the Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal funding opportunity
- More than \$87 million for 23 projects selected through the Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal funding opportunity
- More than \$265 million for 38 projects selected through the Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience funding opportunity
- Nearly \$25 million for 35 projects selected through the Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities funding opportunity



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Round 1 BIL Funds Awarded

- 109 Awards
- \$480M
- 4 in Mid-Atlantic

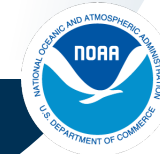


- See project list on our website: [fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-BIL-IRA](https://fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-BIL-IRA)

# Round 2 NOS BIL Funding

## NOAA/Office for Coastal Management Funding Opportunities for Habitat Restoration and Conservation

- **National Coastal Resilience Fund in partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$492M total)**
  - Preproposals due on April 10th and expect invitations to full proposal by the end of May
- **Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants (\$207M)**
  - Reviews have been completed and expect to make awards by this fall.
- **National Estuarine Research Reserve System Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants (\$77M total)**
  - Reviews have been completed and expect to make awards by this fall.



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Inflation Reduction Act: Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

- Approximately \$575 million for projects that build resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather and other impacts of climate change.
- **NOAA technical assistance:** Data, tools, training, and access to NOAA expertise throughout implementation process
- **Priorities:**
  - Risk reduction
  - Regional coordination and collaboration
  - Equity and inclusion
  - Enduring capacity

<https://coast.noaa.gov/funding/ira/resilience-challenge/>



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Offshore Wind Update



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Essential Fish Habitat Consultations

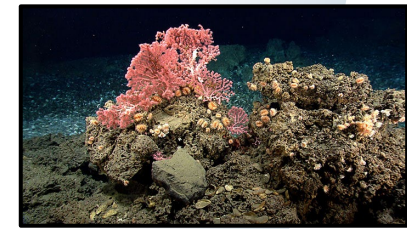
## Completed EFH Consultations

- CVOW
- Revolution Wind
- Empire Wind
- Sunrise Wind
- New England Wind
- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind South



## Consultation Initiated and Under Review

- US/Maryland Offshore Wind

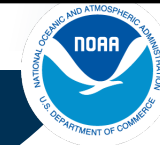


## Expected to initiate this summer/fall

- South Coast Wind



Timelines are available on the permitting dashboard  
<https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects>

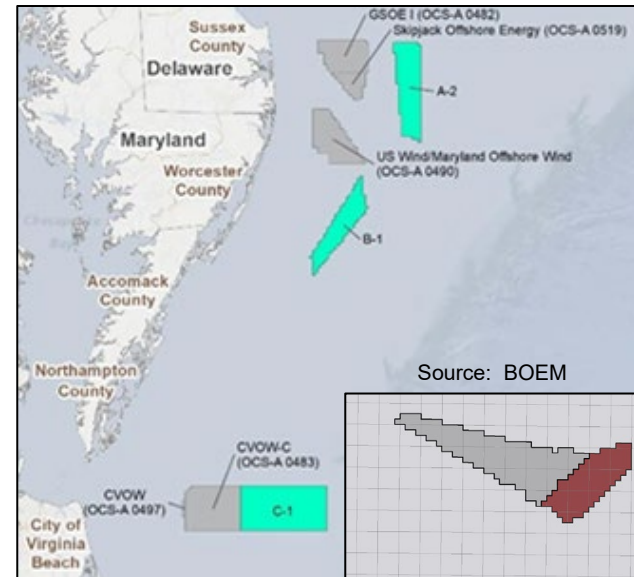


**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Additional OSW Updates

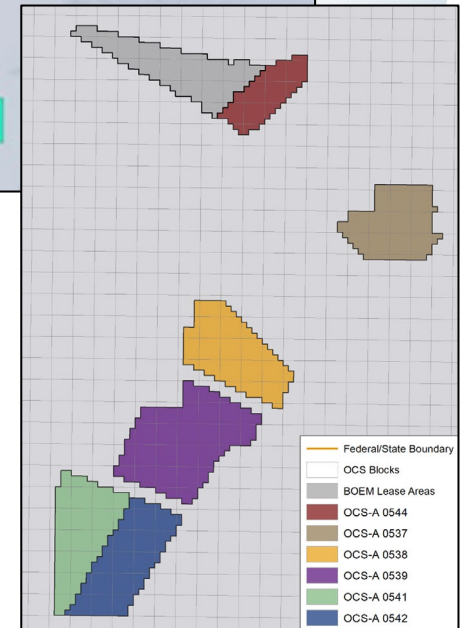
## Central Atlantic Bight

- Commented on the draft EFH assessment, including met towers/buoys and site assessment activities
- Recommended terms and conditions for lease sale



## New York Bight

- Commented on programmatic EIS's avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures and analysis
- Started early consultations with lessees





# Additional OSW Updates

## Atlantic Shores North

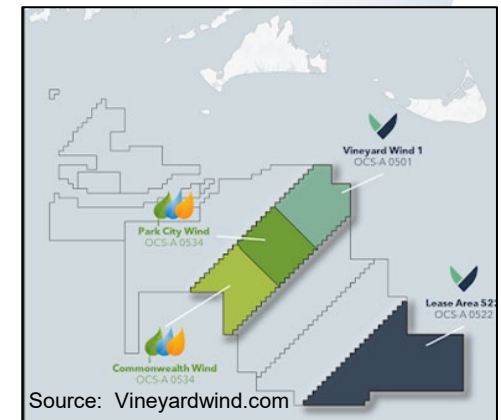
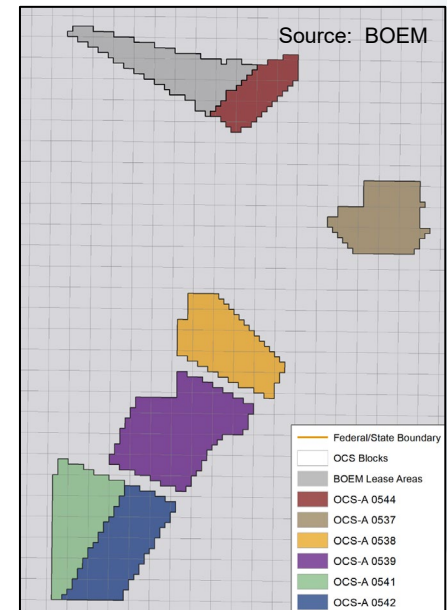
- Notice of Intent published on March 18
- Preparing scoping comments by May 2
- Discussing fishery monitoring plan

## Vineyard Wind Northeast

- Notice of Intent published on March 25
- Preparing scoping comments by May 9

## Attentive Energy and Community Offshore Wind

- Preliminary staff consultations with lessees on benthic monitoring and fishery issues



# Additional OSW Updates

## US Wind Maryland

- Reviewing BOEM's revised EFH assessment
- Will develop EFH conservation recommendations by May

## Kitty Hawk North

- New schedule pushes EFH consultation to 2025
- Working with Avangrid on fisheries monitoring plan

## Kitty Hawk South

- No updates: Previously met to discuss export cable

## Carolina Long Bay

- Working with Duke Energy and TotalEnergies on environmental surveys and fisheries monitoring plan

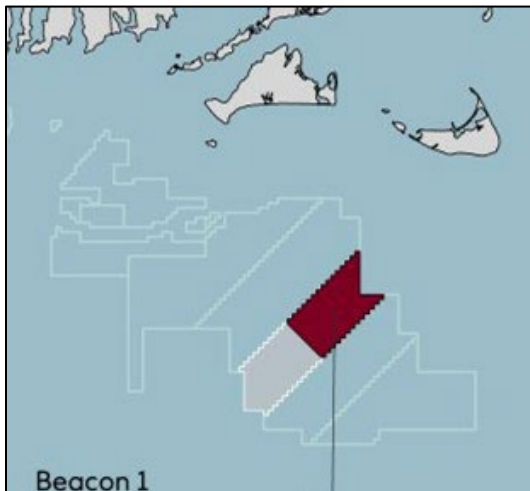


**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

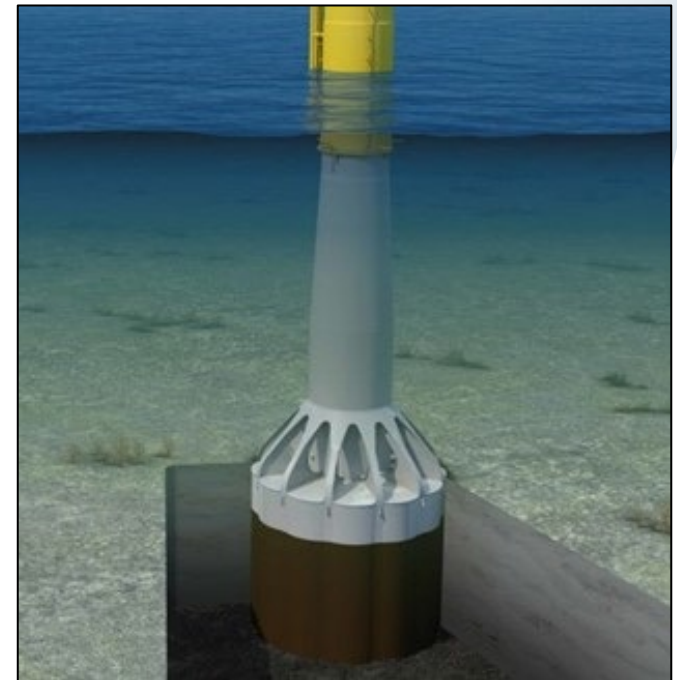
# Additional OSW Updates

## Beacon Wind Suction Bucket Testing

- Proposal to test suction bucket foundations in lease area
- Completed EFH assessment on February 27
- Assess technical feasibility and potential environmental effects of suction buckets
- Consider the impacts to Atlantic cod HAPC designated by NEFMC



Source: [www.equinor.com](http://www.equinor.com)



Source: [www.vanoord.com](http://www.vanoord.com)

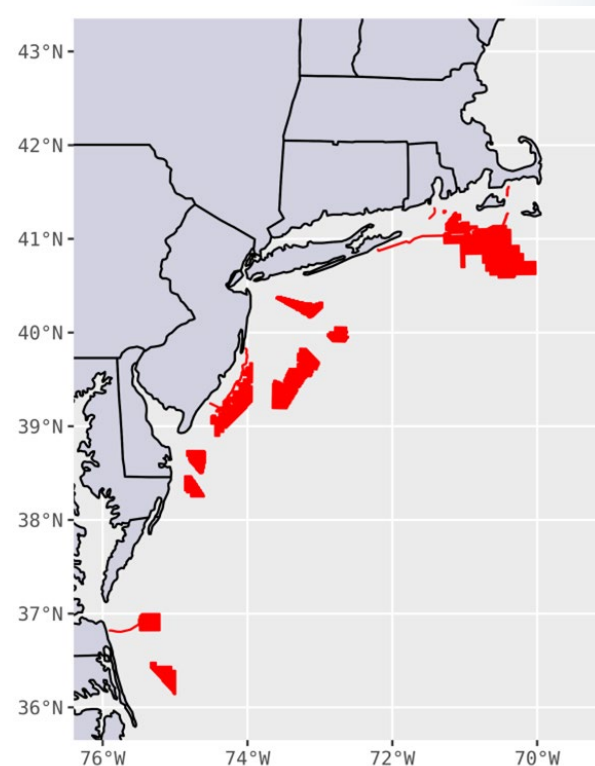
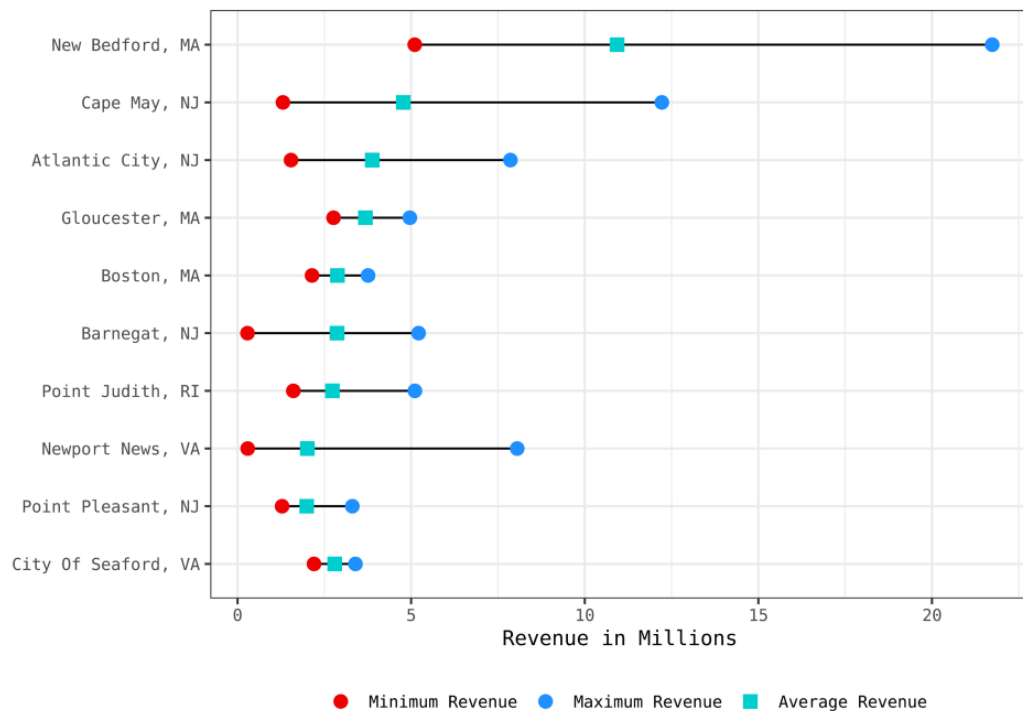


**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Socioeconomic Impact Reports

## Updated reports to be posted online soon

- Includes 2022 data and port-specific impact analysis
- Separate report includes cumulative impacts for all existing lease areas combined

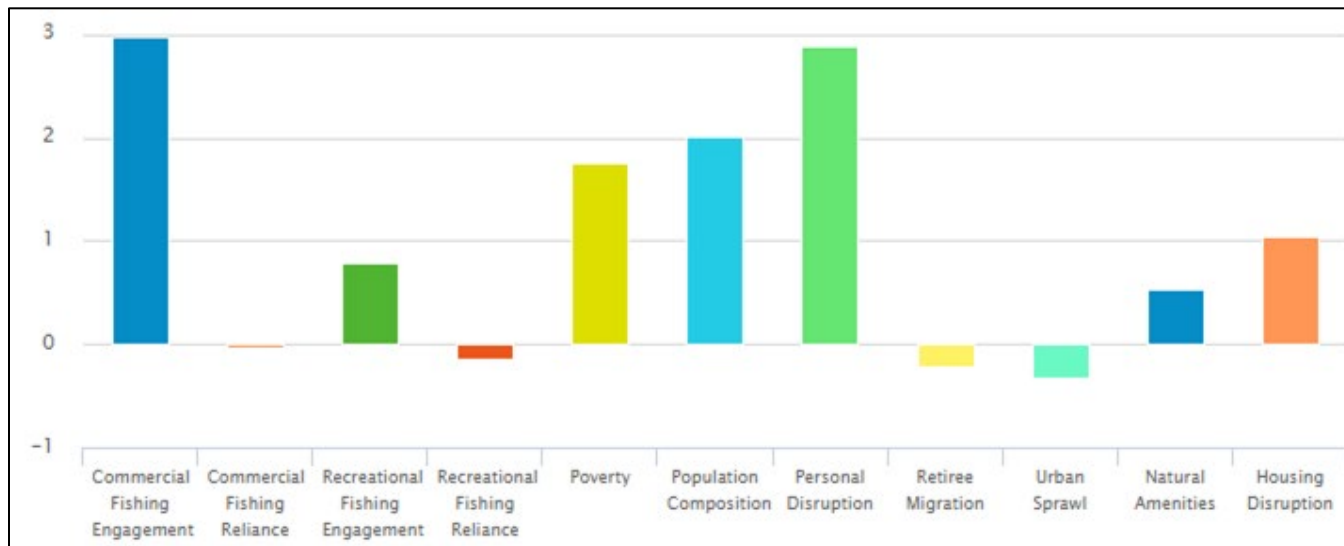


**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Port-Specific Impact Analysis

**Includes the following for the most impacted ports:**

- 2008-2022 revenues and landings
- Species-specific revenue and landings
- Min, max, and average landings and revenue plots
- Port dependence (% total landings/revenue)
- Links to [NMFS Community Snapshots](#) and social indicators



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Thank you



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# OSW EFH Consultations



- Federal Agencies must consult with NMFS on any action or proposed action that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Consult with BOEM and the USACE
- BOEM, as lead agency, prepares the EFH assessment
- NMFS provides comments and identifies missing information on draft EFH assessments
- Once NMFS deems the assessment complete, EFH conservation recommendations are provided within 90 days
- BOEM or the USACE are not obligated to adopt our recommendations



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**