



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 20, 2023
To: Council
From: Julia Beaty, staff
Subject: Updates on Offshore Wind Energy Development

On October 4, 2023, the Council will receive updates on the following offshore wind energy topics:

- **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** staff will provide an update on several topics, which may include, but is not limited to:
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement for the [Empire Wind](#) project off New York and next steps for pending Record of Decision.
 - Next steps for the [Central Atlantic Wind Energy Areas](#) off Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.
 - Next steps for finalization of [guidance for fisheries mitigation](#).
 - Upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the [Atlantic Shores North](#) project off New Jersey.
 - Upcoming Final Environmental Impact Statement for the [commercial scale Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind](#) (CVOW) project.
 - Next steps on development of a programmatic environmental impact statement for [6 New York Bight leases](#).
 - Updates on BOEM Environmental Studies offshore wind research projects.
- **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)** staff will provide an update on the New York State [Offshore Wind Master Plan 2.0: Deepwater](#). This initiative aims to:
 - Synthesize available information about wildlife distributions, oceanographic conditions, and how the region is used by others to develop recommendations and considerations for BOEM regarding which areas are highly sensitive to development and which areas require further analysis.
 - Assess available and emerging technologies and develop estimates of costs, benefits, and risks of deep water offshore wind.

- Provide a baseline understanding of the offshore space necessary to better position the state to take advantage of opportunities afforded by deep water offshore wind.
- Assess how New York could best expand its position as the hub for offshore wind energy by leveraging the emerging supply chain and expertise.
- This effort is led by NYSERDA in collaboration with the state agencies who will scope and execute the Master Plan, with input and engagement as appropriate with the offshore wind industry, federal and regional state partners, elected officials, maritime users, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and the public.
- **NOAA Fisheries** will also provide updates on offshore wind energy development as part of a separate agenda item later in the day. See the Tab 9 briefing materials for more information.

The following additional updates are provided for informational purposes, but are not expected to be addressed in presentations during the Council’s October meeting:

- **Submitted comment letters.** Since the August 2023 Council meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Council and the New England Council submitted the following joint comment letters:
 - [MAFMC and NEFMC Letter to BOEM: NOI for the Central Atlantic Wind Energy Areas off Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia](#) (8/30/23)
- **SSC discussion of offshore wind.** The SSC discussed several research projects related to offshore wind during their meeting on September 12, 2023. More information is available [here](#).
- **Ongoing construction.** Construction and pre-construction activities are underway for the three currently approved projects in federal waters.
 - **Vineyard Wind 1.** The 62 turbine Vineyard Wind 1 project, located 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, is currently in construction. The most recent updates on construction activities are available [here](#).
 - **South Fork Wind.** The 12 turbine South Fork Wind project, located approximately 19 miles southeast of Block Island and 35 miles east of Montauk Point, is currently in construction. For the most recent updates on construction activities, see the Northeast mariners briefings posted [here](#).
 - **Ocean Wind 1.** Pre-construction survey activities are underway for the up to 98 turbine Ocean Wind 1 project, located approximately 15 miles off the southern New Jersey coast. The most recent updates on marine activities are available in the Mid-Atlantic mariners briefings available [here](#).
- **Ongoing survey activities (geotechnical, geophysical, fisheries, etc.).** Several offshore wind projects are undertaking geophysical, geotechnical, fisheries, and other types of survey work throughout the region. These surveys use a variety of gear types, including some equipment that is installed in a given location for extended periods of time (e.g., buoys, acoustic receivers). The best way to stay informed of these survey activities is to sign up for email updates from individual wind developers (see the project specific links available [here](#)).

- **Fisheries liaison outreach.** Fisheries liaisons for most offshore wind projects periodically host port hours, dock visits, and other outreach events. The best way to stay informed of these events is to sign up for email updates from individual wind developers (see the project specific links available [here](#)).
- **Stay informed.** To stay up to date on individual wind projects, including development of fishery communications plans, details on offshore survey operations, outreach events, and other updates, see the project-specific links available at <https://www.mafmc.org/offshore-wind-notices>.