

KEY TOPICS IN OFFSHORE WIND FOR FISHERIES PROFESSIONALS

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Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

- Membership-based national coalition of fishery-dependent companies and associations committed to improving the compatibility of new offshore development with their businesses (170+ members)
- Heavy focus on offshore wind due to extent of impact to commercial fishing, but intent to improve fishermen's involvement in ocean planning at large
- Two main goals: improved science and engagement/communications for industry
- Frequent engagements with fishery management councils, state working groups, USCG, DOE, academics, ports, insurance experts, etc. – formal and informal



Memorandum of Understanding with NOAA/NMFS & BOEM

Signed March 2019

- Identifies **areas of mutual interest** between agencies and RODA
- Promotes **engagement of commercial fishing industry** in offshore wind development process
- Commits to **incorporate fishing expertise** in planning and development
- Support development of **regional research and monitoring** efforts

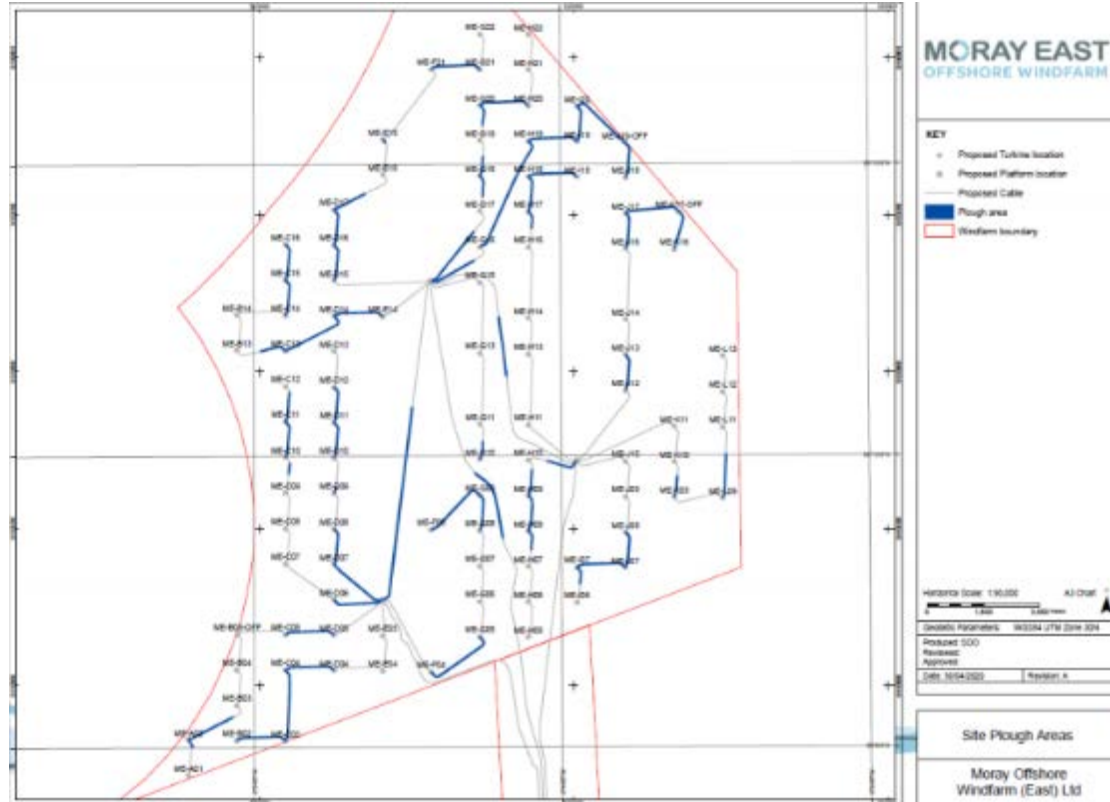


Big Things Are Coming

- Turbines 3x taller than Statue of Liberty
- 1400 sq. miles in New England lease complex alone; 2000 turbines proposed in Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic
- Multi-use installations under exploration in Europe and Asia (e.g. vertical trophic mariculture)



Conflicts are Complex



Not just a matter of direct displacement

Concerns about impacts to fisheries resources, safety, protected resources, product quality (time to market), effort redistribution effects, shoreside businesses and communities, surveys, FMPs, sensitive habitats, larval dispersal, mixed-stock fisheries, and more

Precedent Setting Projects

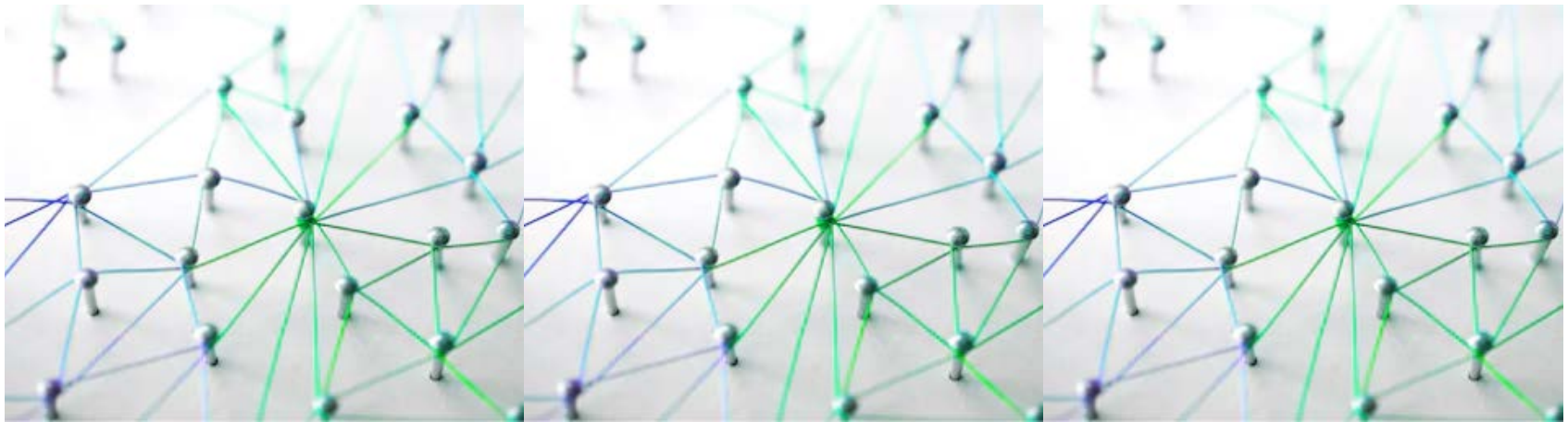
- Many elements of project design, planning imported from Europe
- Largely same active developers and technology
- Regulatory agencies setting guidelines as issues evolve but can be very difficult to modify
 - Limited applicability of Coastal Zone Management Act to state powers
 - Insurance, best practices, crew training all following European standards
 - Very few hard requirements for minimizing fisheries impacts
- Vineyard Wind Project primary direct conflicts are for squid, lobster fisheries; high transit area for scallop, clam, and others
 - Many fishery sectors not fully engaged in dialogue regarding layouts or project design
- No requirements for coordinated transmission to date

New Process to Navigate

- NEPA process is quite different than what is familiar to fisheries managers/participants
- Key decisions are decentralized among BOEM, states, municipal entities, or left to developers' discretion
- States do not have standardized notice and comment periods or participatory frameworks, though decisions made at state level can affect fishermen in other states
- Vast number of working groups, “engagement” opportunities, webinars, etc. but **unclear to fishermen what happens to their input and how to maximize time spent**
- Data needs are different than for traditional fisheries management

Connectivity

- Projects are not isolated from other energy industries such as oil and gas; close involvement of foreign governments and large corporations
- Large number of affected interests and players from government, ports, shipping industry, eNGOs, labor unions, coastal property owners, etc.
- Interactions with many historically contentious efforts such as MPAs, Regional Ocean Plans, electronic monitoring can create barriers to full industry involvement, but this is improving



Limited Research Available

- Very few peer reviewed studies coming from Europe
- In continental Europe, fishing prohibited within wind energy arrays
 - ➔ Typically also applies to research vessels
- Some research from UK and North Sea; working to increase transcontinental information sharing

Synthesis of the Science

- Symposium with NMFS/BOEM/ROSA/CBI in October 2020 and associated white paper
- RODA convening with NMFS grant funding
- Will include MAFMC experts

Sharing Space



- The addition of offshore wind to U.S. waters increases demands on the ocean environment and conflicts due to:
 - Overlap in wind energy areas with fishing grounds
 - Increased number of vessels at sea that service the wind energy areas
 - Increased traffic in ports
 - Changes to transit routes and increased competition for fishing grounds outside of wind energy areas
 - Extensive cabling networks
- Rapid development is concurrent with more industrial ocean uses: offshore aquaculture, sand and gravel extraction, other energy projects, etc.

Current RODA Projects: Federal & State

Ocean Data Portal Updates

- Partnership with Regional Ocean Partnerships (NROC/MARCO) to engage commercial fishermen to update maps for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portals.

Fisheries Knowledge Trust

- Industry-owned platform where fishermen can aggregate, secure and share the knowledge they collect about our oceans into a standardized, accessible repository (funded by NYSERDA).

Current RODA Projects: Industry-Based

Joint Industry Task Force

- Forum for commercial fishermen and OSW developers to identify areas of cooperation and solutions to areas of conflict.
- Educational seminars, joint recommendations such as navigational aids for fishermen.

Project-Specific Work

- Layouts; review fisheries monitoring plans.

“Collaborative Development of Strategies and Tools to Address Commercial Fishing Access in U.S. Offshore Wind Farms”

- With National Renewable Energy Laboratory – focused on operational, not environmental, elements of at-sea interactions (funded by NYSERDA).

QUESTIONS?

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