



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 25, 2024
To: Council
From: Julia Beaty, staff
Subject: Updates on Offshore Wind Energy Development

On February 7, 2024, 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:
 - The [proposed sale notice](#) for two new Central Atlantic lease areas, one off Delaware/Maryland and one off Virginia.
 - The [draft environmental assessment](#) for leasing, site assessment, and site characterization activities in the Central Atlantic.
 - Next steps for consideration of additional lease areas in the Central Atlantic.
 - The [draft programmatic environmental impact statement](#) for the New York Bight leases.
 - Next steps for finalization of BOEM’s [guidance for fisheries mitigation](#).
 - Recent approvals for the commercial scale [Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind](#) project and [Empire Wind](#).
 - The NOAA and BOEM [North Atlantic Right Whale and Offshore Wind Strategy](#).
- **State working group on a regional fisheries compensation fund administrator**
 - Kris Ohleth, executive director of the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind will provide an update on an initiative led by eleven east coast states to establish a regional fund administrator for fisheries compensatory mitigation. More information is available [here](#).
- The Council will also receive presentations on the following offshore wind energy projects:
 - [South Fork Wind](#) (currently in construction off Massachusetts/Rhode Island). This presentation will focus on the fisheries compensatory mitigation fund.

- [Vineyard Wind 1](#) (currently in construction off Massachusetts), with a focus on the fisheries compensatory mitigation fund. A short summary of the Vineyard Wind 1 fisheries compensatory mitigation program is available behind this tab.
- [Kitty Hawk Wind](#) (off North Carolina, currently in the planning stages). A fact sheet on Kitty Hawk Wind is included behind this tab.
- [Community Offshore Wind](#) (off New Jersey, currently in the planning stages).

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

- **Comment letters in progress.** Mid-Atlantic and the New England Council staff are working on joint comment letters for the [Central Atlantic proposed sale notice](#) (comment period ends February 10, 2024) and the [New York Bight draft programmatic environmental impact statement](#) (comment period ends February 26, 2024).
- The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities selected two offshore wind projects, [Leading Light Wind](#) and [Attentive Energy Two](#), to provide a total of 3,742 MW of offshore wind capacity through the state’s third offshore wind energy solicitation. More information is available [here](#).
- Ørsted has withdrawn from the Maryland Public Service Commission Orders approving the [Skipjack Wind](#) 1 and 2 projects, stating that “the payment amounts for [offshore renewable energy credits] set forth in the Orders are no longer commercially viable because of today’s challenging market conditions, including inflation, high interest rates and supply chain constraints.” Ørsted will seek to negotiate new offtake agreements for Skipjack 1 and 2 through future solicitations. More information is available [here](#).”
- Ørsted and Eversource submitted a new bid to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for the [Sunrise Wind](#) project. If selected through New York’s current offshore wind solicitation, this would replace the existing contract for Sunrise Wind. If not selected, this would cancel the previous agreement with NYSERDA. More information is available [here](#).
- The [Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind](#) released the [Integrated Science Plan for Offshore Wind, Wildlife, and Habitat in U.S. Atlantic Waters](#). This plan includes recommendations for data management, collection, and analysis across wildlife species groups and topics (including marine mammals, birds, bats, sea turtles, protected fish, oceanography, seafloor habitat, and technology).
- **Construction activities.** The following projects have been approved by BOEM. Construction and pre-construction activities are underway or may take place in the near future.
 - **Vineyard Wind 1.** The 62 turbine Vineyard Wind 1 project, located 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, is currently under construction. The most recent notices to mariners regarding 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 under construction. For the most recent notices to mariners regarding construction activities, see the Northeast mariners briefings posted [here](#).

- **Revolution wind.** The up to 65 turbine Revolution Wind Projected, located about 15 nautical miles southeast of Point Judith, Rhode Island, is currently in construction. For the most recent notices to mariners regarding construction activities, see the Northeast mariners briefings posted [here](#).
- **Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW).** The up to 176 turbine CVOW project, located about 24 nautical miles off Virginia Beach, has been approved but offshore construction activities have not yet begun. The most recent notices to mariners are available [here](#).
- **Empire Wind.** The up to 147 turbine Empire Wind project, located about 12 nautical miles south of Long Island, has been approved but offshore construction activities have not yet begun. The most recent notices to mariners are available [here](#).
- Although Ørsted [announced](#) they would cease development of the approved Ocean Wind 1 and 2 projects off New Jersey, the company is continuing work on construction an operations and maintenance facility in Atlantic City, NJ. This includes the installation of pontoons, or floating docks, which will extend into Clam Creek. More information is available in the Mid-Atlantic mariners briefings posted [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 left in place 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>.



VINEYARD WIND

Vineyard Wind 1 Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Program

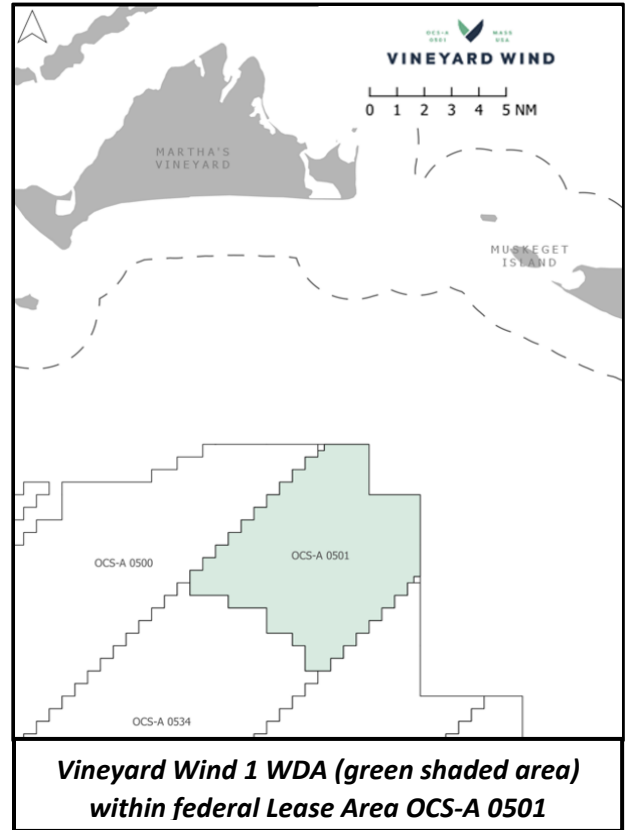
Vineyard Wind 1 LLC is constructing an 800 MW offshore wind project located in federal Lease Area OCS-A-0501 approximately 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The lease area (also referred to as the Wind Development Area or WDA) is approximately 63,000 acres where 62 wind energy turbines and one electrical platform will be installed in a grid pattern spaced one nautical mile apart in a north/south/east/west direction.

Vineyard Wind has created a fisheries compensatory mitigation program with a primary objective to provide fair, equitable compensation to commercial fishermen for economic losses attributable to Vineyard Wind 1's construction, operations, and decommissioning activities.

Three escrow funds have been established to compensate affected fishermen in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Other States (Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York). Compensation may also be available to fishing businesses (i.e., shoreside businesses) in Massachusetts.

For commercial fishermen, the first phase of the program will be the eligibility phase, which will require commercial fishing vessel owners to qualify for compensation payments based on defined eligibility criteria. Once qualified, a commercial vessel owner may elect to participate in either an expedited claims process or a regular claims process, both of which are based on a commercial fishing vessel owner's historic revenue dependence on the WDA but require different levels of documentary proof. Fishermen will not need to demonstrate economic impacts from Vineyard Wind 1 in order to qualify for the program or receive compensation payments.

The Vineyard Wind 1 Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Program is scheduled to be launched in January 2024. Information about the third-party administrator, the program, and how to apply will be available on the program's website: www.vw1fisheriescomp.com. Once the program launches, commercial fishermen will be able to apply to the program to establish eligibility. The program's eligibility criteria for commercial fishing vessel owners is provided on the following page.





VINEYARD WIND

Eligibility Criteria for Fishermen

- Commercial fishing vessel owners/operators homeported in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, or New York
- Valid 2023 commercial fishing permit from NOAA Fisheries
- Current government-issued vessel registration showing ownership, or a vessel lease agreement
- Documented fishing activities within the WDA in at least three of the last seven years of the baseline period (2016-2022). Fishing activities can be established by submitting information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Vessel Trip Reports
 - Vessel Monitoring System information
 - AIS information
 - Fishery observer or At-Sea Monitor information
 - NOAA Cooperative Research Study Fleet information
 - Chart plotter data/images
 - Logbooks
 - Other trip level reporting information that establishes fishing activity in the WDA
- Documented annual revenue from fishing activities in the corresponding three years. Annual revenues can be established by submitting information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 and/or other tax documents that include reported income
 - Sales receipts
 - Dealer slips
 - Dealer compilation reports
 - Other income information that establishes income from fishing activities



Tour Kitty Hawk Wind



Kitty Hawk Wind



Project Overview

Avangrid, a national offshore wind leader, is developing the Kitty Hawk Wind project off the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina. The project will provide enough clean, renewable energy to power more than 1 million homes while creating jobs and bringing economic investment to the region.

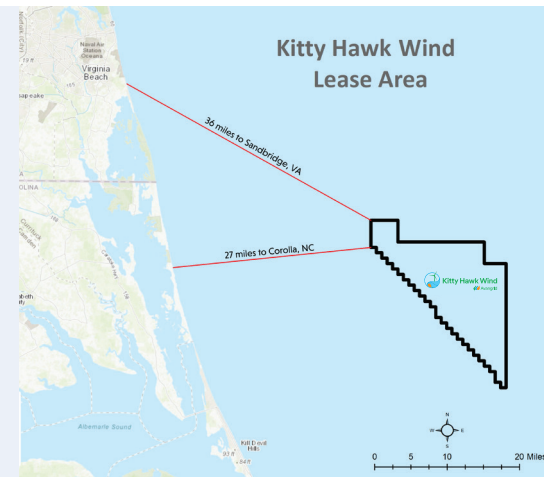
At a Glance:

- ~3,500 megawatts of clean energy
- ~1 million homes powered
- \$2 billion economic impact
- Creating an average of 800 jobs annually
- Commercial operation in late 2020s



Location

- The Kitty Hawk Wind project is located in federal waters 36 miles from its proposed landfall location in Virginia Beach, VA and 27 miles off the coast of North Carolina's Outer Banks.
- The lease area was delineated by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) after a 4-year stakeholder process.
- Through a competitive auction conducted by BOEM in 2017, Avangrid secured an offshore lease area to develop the Kitty Hawk Wind project.



Renewable Energy

Why Now?

Kitty Hawk Wind will play an important role in meeting the ambitious clean energy targets set by Virginia, North Carolina, and the federal government. Offshore wind delivers a triple-win for our climate, our communities, and our workforce.

The project is projected to support up to **3,500 megawatts** of clean electricity generation, enough to power approximately **1 million homes**.

\$2 Billion

of economic impact to be generated by Kitty Hawk Wind in the next decade.

800 Jobs

created in Virginia and North Carolina annually on average during construction.

\$100 Million

in additional income and sales tax revenues generated in the next decade.

Local Economic Benefits

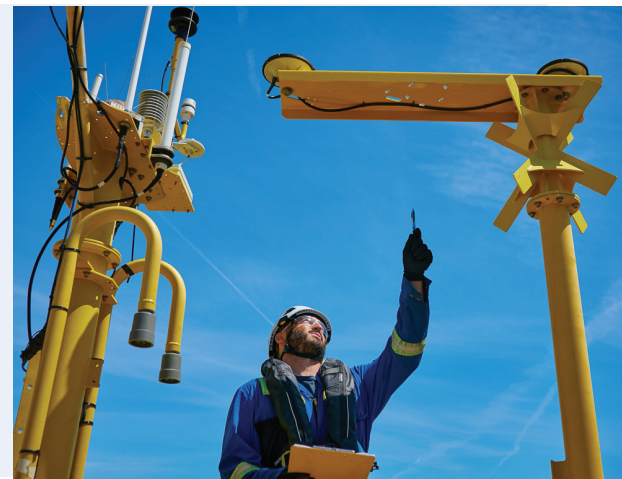
- During construction anticipated spending in Virginia and North Carolina will be \$1.5 billion.
- Once construction begins, the project will create an annual average of 800 jobs in Virginia and North Carolina, with net household earnings increase of \$390 million.
- Once fully operational, the project is expected to support approximately 900 jobs in the region on an ongoing basis.

Stakeholder Outreach

- In 2020, Avangrid opened an office in Virginia Beach to support the development of the Kitty Hawk Wind project and ignite this new industry off the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina.
- Avangrid continues to engage regularly with officials from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) on this project to ensure DOD's vital national security mission is not compromised.
- Commercial and recreational fishing will be allowed throughout the project area. The project's excellent siting and use of local knowledge to inform the project design will ensure the project's successful coexistence with commercial and recreational fishing activities.
- Since 2017, Avangrid has been consulting with community leaders and organizations and studying the lease area to minimize impacts to natural resources and ocean users.

Responsible Development

- Kitty Hawk Wind is committed to responsibly sharing the ocean environment.
- Extensive assessments, studies, and surveys are conducted prior to any construction to ensure the project is developed responsibly and in compliance with BOEM through the National Environmental Policy Act process.
- Assessments include: Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Assessments; Navigation Safety Risk Assessment; Commercial and Recreational Fishing Assessment; Environmental Justice; Offshore Bats and Birds Assessments; Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation and more.



Connection to the Grid

- Subsea cables, already commonly in use worldwide to transmit power, will connect Kitty Hawk Wind to the electric grid.
- Currently the landfall for the north portion of Kitty Hawk Wind is anticipated at Sandbridge, VA, following a designated corridor to the new onshore substation within Corporate Landing Business Park.
- During construction, Kitty Hawk Wind will use best management practices and implement mitigation measures that will be least disruptive to the community and environment.