COMMUNITY OFFSHORE WIND

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Revision Summary				
Rev	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Approved By
1.0	08/22/2022	Deirdre Boelke, Michelle Duval	Rick Robins	Daniel Sieger
2.0	03/30/2023	Deirdre Boelke, Michelle Duval	Rick Robins	Daniel Sieger
3.0	09/04/2025	Michelle Duval	Rick Robins	Daniel Sieger

Description of Revisions				
Rev	Date	Section	Pages	Description
1.0	08/22/2022	All	All	Original document
2.0	03/30/2023	Section 1.1	1	Updated offshore distances to lease
		Section 1.2	3-6	Updated Fisheries Team contact information and bios
		Section 1.3	6-7	Updated best practices used in development of plan
3.0	09/04/2025	All	All	All text updated to reflect engagement, stakeholder feedback, and updated team roles. Includes revised Gear Loss or Damage Claim Form.

Abbreviations

ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
CRADA	Cooperative Research and Development Agreement
EA	Environmental Assessment
CFF	Coonamessett Farm Foundation
FL	Fisheries Liaison
FR	Fisheries Representative
FTR	Fisheries Technical Representative
F-TWG	Fisheries Technical Working Group (NYSERDA)
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
HMS	Highly Migratory Species
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
MARCO	Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
NEAMAP	NorthEast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program
NEFMC	New England Fishery Management Council
NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NROC	Northeast Regional Ocean Council
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSERDA	New York State Environmental Research and Development Authority
OCLSA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
RODA	Responsible Offshore Development Alliance
ROSA	Responsible Offshore Science Alliance
RWSC	Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind
SCEMFIS	Science Center for Marine Fisheries
SMAST	School for Marine Science & Technology (UMass Dartmouth)
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
VIMS	Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
WEA	Wind Energy Area

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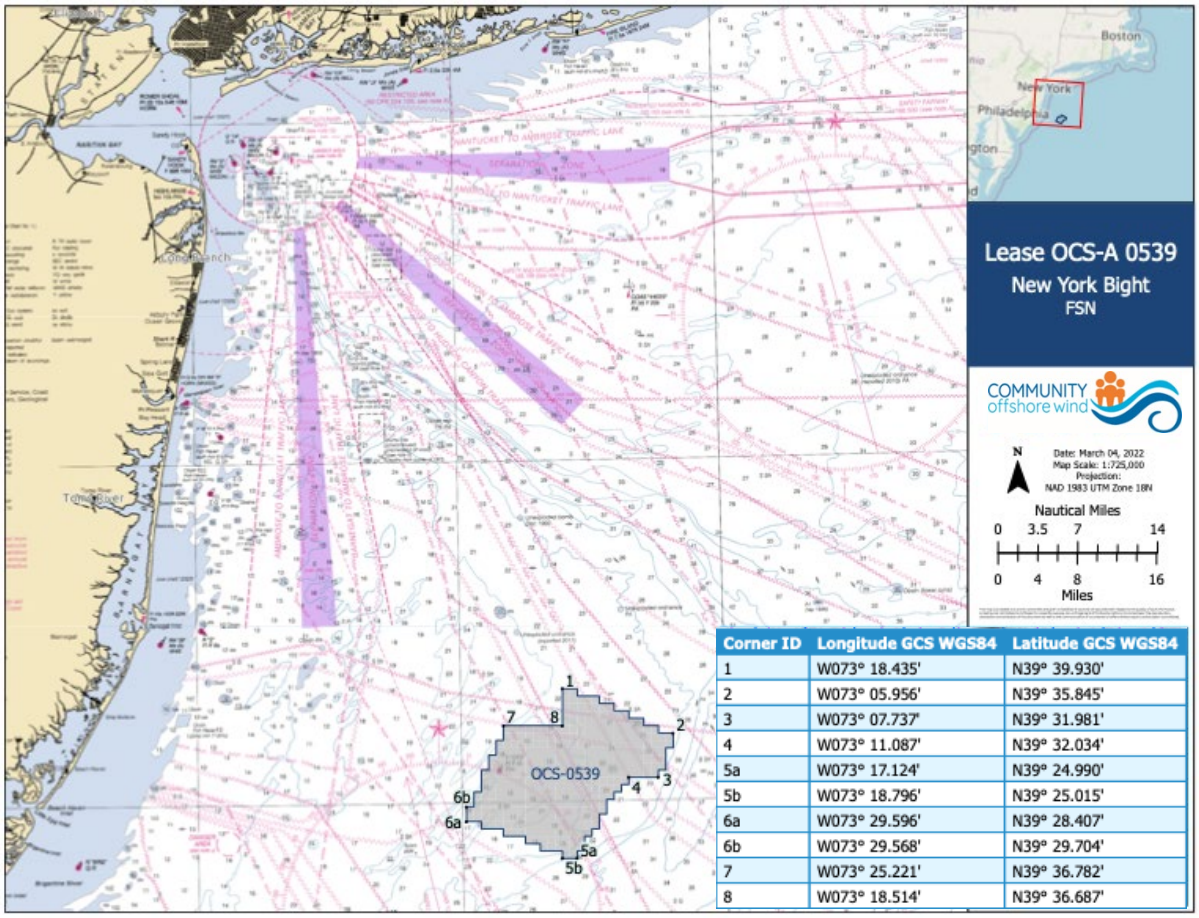
1 Introduction

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture of RWE Renewables and National Grid Ventures, proposes to develop the Community Offshore Wind Project (the Project), under Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (Lease Area OCS-A 0539; Lease Area). Lease Area OCS-A 0539 encompasses 125,964 acres and is located approximately 56 nautical miles (NM) or 104 kilometers (km) south of New York and 32NM (59 km) east of New Jersey (see Figure 1). Water depths range from 30 to 52 meters (16 to 28 fathoms).



Corner ID	Longitude GCS WGS84	Latitude GCS WGS84
1	W073° 18.435'	N39° 39.930'
2	W073° 05.956'	N39° 35.845'
3	W073° 07.737'	N39° 31.981'
4	W073° 11.087'	N39° 32.034'
5a	W073° 17.124'	N39° 24.990'
5b	W073° 18.796'	N39° 25.015'
6a	W073° 29.596'	N39° 28.407'
6b	W073° 29.568'	N39° 29.704'
7	W073° 25.221'	N39° 36.782'
8	W073° 18.514'	N39° 36.687'

Figure 1. Location of OCS-A 0539 in relation to major navigational routes into the harbor of New York, New York. Coordinates of primary boundaries of Lease Area included in table.

As part of the Project development, Community Offshore Wind is committed to a holistic, adaptive, and integrative approach to fisheries communication and outreach, in partnership with fisheries participants, fishing communities, and a range of fishery constituents (e.g., industry organizations, fisheries management agencies, Tribes/Tribal Nations, fishing related businesses). The Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP, Plan) is foundational to sustainable and successful Project outcomes and is the primary tool through which the Project team will establish effective communication channels, build collaborative relationships with the

fishing community[1], and inform identification, avoidance, and minimization of impacts throughout the lifecycle of the Project. The Fisheries Team will guide the development, use, and evolution of the Plan to reflect feedback and curate knowledge from the fishing community and promote a shared understanding of current and historic fisheries resources and uses.

This Plan is intended to be a living document that is responsive to the perspectives and needs of the fishing community and fisheries stakeholders. Community Offshore Wind recognizes that effective engagement is built one relationship at a time, and that a successful process often involves difficult conversations. We value open and honest communication and believe that early, often, and meaningful outreach is critical to building productive relationships with the fishing community. As the Plan evolves, updated versions will be posted to the Community Offshore Wind website (Fisheries).

In addition to this Plan, Community Offshore Wind is required to develop an Agency Communications Plan and a Native American Tribal Communications Plan (NATCP). In recognition of overlapping fishery interests and management responsibilities, these three plans have been developed in close coordination, with the intent of streamlining communication and engagement efforts across constituent groups. Communication and engagement with state and federal fisheries science and management agencies identified in this Plan will be coordinated through the Project's Agency Communications Plan. Similarly, communication and engagement with Tribes/Tribal Nations will be coordinated through the Project's NATCP. Community Offshore Wind recognizes that fisheries and fishery resources have important cultural, community and economic significance to Tribes/Tribal Nations in the region. The Fisheries Team will work with the Project team to identify Tribes/Tribal Nations with an interest in the region's fishery resources, gain a deeper understanding of the role of fisheries in the heritage of Tribes/Tribal Nations, and learn about the current and historical participation in commercial, recreational and Tribal fisheries.

1.1 Fisheries Communication Principles and Objectives

Community Offshore Wind is committed to developing the Project in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and this Plan is intended to support and strengthen that commitment. The following principles guide the development, implementation, and future modifications of the Plan, and reflect the core values and philosophy of Community Offshore Wind.:

- **Safety:** Promote the safety of all ocean users, including fishermen, fishing communities, Tribes/Tribal nations, and Project crews throughout all Project phases.
- **Respect:** Build trust by respecting local fisheries knowledge and expertise, and understanding the concerns of fishing communities.
- **Transparency:** Promote transparency through timely two-way communication that is responsive to the communication preferences of fisheries participants and communities.
- **Efficiency:** Ensure communication and outreach activities are coordinated and streamlined to achieve efficient communications at the appropriate cadence for all fisheries stakeholder groups.
- **Adaptation:** Respond to the changing needs and circumstances of fisheries participants and fishing communities, integrate new information and feedback, and adapt and improve communication methods and strategies.

[1] The term "fishing community" is used throughout the Plan to encompass a broad range of fisheries constituents. This includes fisheries participants (e.g., individuals who fish commercially, charter and guide businesses, recreational anglers); shoreside seafood businesses (e.g., processors, buyers and dealers); marine suppliers and retailers (e.g., recreational boaters, harbor districts); and the communities that support and depend on commercial and recreational fisheries.

- **Collaboration**: Build a sustainable shared future for fisheries and offshore wind through collaboration and coordination that promotes ecosystem benefits and mutually successful outcomes.

The goal of Community Offshore Wind is to proactively ensure that all fishing community stakeholders are informed of the Project, and aware of the many opportunities for communication and input throughout the project lifecycle. Furthermore, our goal is to ensure that the Project team develops a comprehensive understanding of the individual fisheries in the Project Area (defined as the Lease Area and potential export cable routes inshore of the Lease Area), and their social and economic significance to onshore communities within the region. The Fisheries Team is committed to sharing this knowledge across Community Offshore Wind's workstreams to best serve the needs of fishing and communities. Together, we are striving to achieve net positive biodiversity outcomes above and below the water line. The objectives of the Plan in support of these goals are:

- Develop a detailed technical understanding of the current and historical fisheries operating and transiting within and around the Project Area, and curate the knowledge and expertise of local fishermen and other experts to achieve this.
- Foster a proactive approach to promoting safety and deconflicting the operations of survey and construction crews and fisheries participants within the Project Area that is based on the local knowledge of fishing communities and representatives.
- Collaborate with fisheries participants and stakeholders to apply their collective knowledge and understanding of fisheries resources and habitats to avoid and minimize impacts to the extent practicable throughout the Project life cycle.
- Recognize and balance the Project's need for detailed local knowledge with the burden of engagement for fishing communities through the use of thoughtful and efficient communication methods, and a commitment to coordinate outreach activities with other developers.
- Engage fishermen and stakeholders in identifying opportunities for cooperative monitoring and research that will contribute to the mutual understanding and successful shared use of the Project area.

1.2 Fisheries Team

Community Offshore Wind has assembled a team with decades of direct experience in state, interstate, and federal fisheries management, cooperative fisheries research, commercial fisheries development, seafood processing, and commercial and recreational fisheries. The team benefits from strong advisory support from its fisheries technical advisors/fisheries representatives who have extensive experience in their respective fisheries in the project area and broader region. Contact information is provided in Table 1, below. Brief biographies and a summary of responsibilities for each role follow.

Table 1. Community Offshore Wind Fisheries Team Contact Information

Name/Title	Contact Information
Rick Robins (Primary Contact) Director of Marine Affairs Fisheries Liaison (Acting)	Rick.Robins@rwe.com Cell: 757-876-3778
Brady Lybarger Commercial Mobile Fishing Gear Representative (FTA/FR)	jettyhunter@mac.com Cell: 609-602-1417
Chris Rainone Commercial Fixed Fishing Gear Representative (FTA/FR)	annicemarie@gmail.com Cell: 609-442-8633

Rick Robins, Director of Marine Affairs (Primary Contact) and Fisheries Liaison (Acting)

Rick has a 30+ year background in commercial fisheries development, seafood processing and export market development, and additional experience in state and federal fisheries management. He served as an Associate Member of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, chaired the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and served as a fisheries liaison for offshore wind energy development. Rick earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Bachelor of Arts in economics and history from Washington and Lee University. As Director of Marine Affairs, Rick plans and coordinates the Project's marine operations and interactions with the maritime industries. Responsibilities include:

- Lead and coordinate marine affairs to support the development of the company's wind energy development projects.
- Lead engagement with all relevant maritime stakeholders, including, but not limited to: commercial and recreational fisheries, commercial shipping, offshore energy industries including oil and gas, owner/operators of subsea infrastructure, ports and harbors operators, the US Department of Defense, the US Coast Guard (USCG), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- Lead development of offshore wind projects' marine affairs strategies and maritime stakeholder engagement plans.
- Lead and coordinate the development of fisheries research and monitoring plans, and the development of fisheries mitigation and compensation programs.
- Establish effective communication channels that support two-way dialogue with fisheries participants and fishing communities, ensure timely dissemination of Project information, and facilitate a process for reporting and remediating conflicts between mariners and the Project's offshore activities.
- Engage with fisheries participants and the Project's Fisheries Representatives and Fisheries Technical Advisors to curate local knowledge and input, effectively convey fishery concerns to the Project team, and facilitate proactive and collaborative identification of potential conflicts and solutions.

Fisheries participants and community members may also serve as Fisheries Technical Advisors and Fisheries Representatives. The purpose of these roles is to work closely with the Project's Fisheries Liaison to promote effective coordination and communication between the Project and local and regional fisheries.

Fisheries Technical Advisor (FTA): The role of Fisheries Technical Advisors is to provide technical expertise regarding the operations and characteristics of fisheries working in and/or transiting through the Lease Area so that potential fisheries impacts can be avoided, minimized, and thoughtfully considered throughout the Project lifecycle. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Provide detailed information regarding fishing activity in and around the Lease Area (e.g., vessel movements, gear configuration, peak fishing seasons, distribution of fisheries over time)
- Provide feedback and recommendations regarding fisheries constituent identification and interaction, impact avoidance and mitigation, and opportunities to improve compatibility with local and regional fisheries.

Fisheries Representative (FR): Fisheries Representatives serve the interests of the fisheries for which they have knowledge and expertise and are trusted focal points for fishing industry contact and communication regarding the Project. FRs typically also serve as FTAs to provide technical expertise to the Project team. Responsibilities of FRs include, but are not limited to:

- Represent the interests of local and regional fisheries, and identify, understand, and proactively communicate industry concerns with the Fisheries Team to facilitate shared use and fisheries impact avoidance.
- Work with the Fisheries Liaison to improve and adapt the Plan in response to fisheries participant and community feedback.
- Disseminate Project information to industry to promote awareness and facilitate effective outreach and engagement.
- Provide recommendations and advice regarding the identification and engagement of all interested and/or affected fishery constituents.

Brady Lybarger is a commercial Fisheries Technical Advisor and Fisheries Representative from the sea scallop fishery. He is based in Cape May, New Jersey and has participated in the commercial scallop fishery since 1999. He has been a scallop advisory panel member for the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) for about twelve years, and has participated in several Scallop Research Set Aside projects. Brady is also an avid recreational fisherman and participates in the commercial hook and line fishery, currently targeting tuna, swordfish and tilefish. He also owns a direct-to-consumer seafood business in Cape May, NJ that offers fresh seafood such as scallops, shrimp, and tuna directly to consumers since 2020.

Chris Rainone is a is a commercial Fisheries Technical Advisor and Fisheries Representative from the monkfish industry. Chris has fished for the past twenty years out of Barnegat Light, New Jersey. Before commercial fishing Chris worked his way through Stockton University as a commercial crabber and upon graduation he pursued a career on the ocean. Today he is the owner operator of a gillnet vessel that primarily targets monkfish, dogfish and other species. Throughout his vocation Chris has been actively involved in fisheries management to help sustain, protect, and increase the United States seafood supply. For the past ten years Chris has served on the NEFMC/MAFMC monkfish advisory panel and has been working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Research Program in the collection of important fisheries data.

The goal of Community Offshore Wind is to ensure the objectives of the Plan are achieved through effective implementation of outreach and engagement strategies that are targeted to the specific needs and preferences of various fisheries stakeholders and communities. This includes drawing on past experience working with regional Fishery Management Councils responsible for developing federal fishery management advice. The Council process is a stakeholder driven, fully public and transparent process that uses local knowledge to develop science-based plans that balance several objectives. Many of these same principles will be used to design a successful Project in close collaboration with stakeholders. The team has direct experience working with fishery stakeholders throughout the region, including strong relationships with fishing communities along the East Coast that are built on trust and communication. The Plan will be updated to include contact information as additional individuals are onboarded.

1.3 Authorities, Regulations, and Lease Conditions

Several statutory authorities and regulations intersect the Plan, directly or indirectly. This includes requirements under subsection 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) that BOEM ensure any activities provide for protection of the environment and prevent interference with reasonable uses of the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including fishing. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*) also requires that BOEM evaluate the social and economic impacts of any potential project, and BOEM's own regulations require that it coordinate with other federal agencies to avoid conflicts among users and maximize the economic and ecological benefits of potential projects (30 CFR 585.102(a)(5)).

This Plan is intended to develop the necessary information for the Project to meet these requirements and additional regulatory provisions within 30 CFR Part 585 Subpart F (e.g., communications with stakeholders, agencies, and other potentially affected parties; social and economic conditions of commercial and recreational fisheries; and measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, and monitor environmental impacts).

Community Offshore Wind is also subject to a number of Lease-specific terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in Appendix C of the Lease agreement. The design and implementation of this Plan is intended to meet the conditions included in Section 3 (Reporting), specifically 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.4, and 3.1.3.

2 Project Background

2.1 Community Offshore Wind Lease Area

On March 21, 2021, BOEM announced its intent to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) for activities associated with site assessment (e.g., installation of meteorological buoys) and characterization (e.g., biological, geophysical, archaeological, etc. surveys) of the New York Bight Wind Energy Areas (WEAs), including cable corridors and project easements. A draft EA was released for public comment on August 10, 2021, and a final EA was issued on December 16, 2021, that concluded site assessment and characterization activities would have no significant impact on the environment in any of the wind energy areas.

On June 14, 2021, BOEM published a Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) for eight potential lease areas. The Final Sale Notice (FSN) was published on January 12, 2022, proposing the auction of six final lease areas. The Community Offshore Wind Lease Area was substantially modified by BOEM between the PSN and FSN to deconflict and address high value commercial fisheries, recreational fishing hot spots, and benthic habitats in the region. Specifically, BOEM removed from consideration a portion of adjacent lease OCS-A 0540 and

all of OCS-A 0543 (adjacent to OCS-A 0540), as these areas had the highest landings and revenue from the surfclam fishery and significant overlap with habitats identified through New Jersey's Prime Fishing Areas dataset. As a result, BOEM expanded Lease OCS-A 0539 westward and removed OCS-A 0540 due to its reduced viability as a stand-alone lease[2].

BOEM also adjusted the eastern border of Lease OCS-A 0539 to establish a 2.5 NM buffer between the Lease and the nearby scallop fishery access area in response to fishing industry requests, identification of important fish habitats, and the occurrence of active scallop fishing activity adjacent to the access area[3]. Additionally, 11,637 acres of the Lease Area are subject to a no surface occupancy Lease stipulation (i.e., a permanent prohibition on placement of objects on the ocean surface) along the northern, southern, and eastern borders of the lease. The no-occupancy areas on the northern and southern borders contribute to the 2.44 nautical mile transit corridors between adjacent lease areas in response to fishing community and Department of Defense requests, and in consideration of vessel traffic patterns. BOEM's proactive establishment of corridors at the northern and southern boundaries of Lease OCS-A 0539 provides additional accommodation of commercial and recreational fisheries transits through the Hudson South lease areas.

2.2 RWE and National Grid

Community Offshore Wind is a joint venture of RWE and National Grid and is dedicated to providing clean energy, good local jobs, and building a network of trust in the communities it serves. RWE is a global leader in the development of offshore wind facilities, with 20 successful projects in the past two decades, while National Grid brings expertise in renewable energy delivery systems in the northeast and internationally. Both organizations have ambitious objectives for achieving net zero emissions in the coming decades through innovations such as testing recyclable turbine blades and piloting green hydrogen, while generating sustainable economic opportunities for local communities.

RWE and National Grid share a common goal of advancing an clean energy future through the core principles of promoting health, safety, and care for the environment and community throughout the lifecycle of the Project. This includes a commitment to continuous improvement and evolution by truly listening to stakeholders, integrating that feedback directly into the development and design of the Project, and becoming a standard-bearer for accountability and transparency.

3 Fisheries Characterization

Both commercial and recreational fisheries operate within the Project Area, and as noted in Section 2.1, BOEM implemented modifications to reduce interactions with high value commercial fisheries and fish habitats. While data limitations may preclude precise spatial identification of specific fisheries working within, around, shoreward of, or transiting through the Project Area, one of the objectives of this Plan is to curate the detailed knowledge necessary to fill in data gaps in collaboration with fisheries participants and fishing communities.

3.1 Stakeholder Identification

Information used to identify categories of fisheries stakeholders includes available commercial, recreational, and habitat data sets from the MARCO Data Portal, Northeast Ocean Data Portal, aggregated

[2] New York Bight Final Sale Notice Decision Memorandum, p. 10

[3] New York Bight Final Sale Notice Decision Memorandum, p. 9-10

commercial Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as well as proactive outreach to individual commercial and recreational fishery participants. Throughout Project development, additional fisheries stakeholders will be identified in coordination with FRs and FTAs. The Fisheries Team will continue to engage fishing community members as well as state and federal fisheries managers to fill data gaps and ensure existing data are appropriately interpreted so that fisheries impacts can be avoided to the extent practicable.

In addition to commercial and recreational fisheries participants and fishing communities, Community Offshore Wind understands the significance and value of other coastal and marine recreational activities and commercial maritime uses within the region. The Project's outreach activities will include these constituencies, and the Plan will be updated to reflect their communication needs and preferences that are not included in other Project stakeholder engagement plans. While some engagement efforts may overlap due to the intersection of multiple interests, these will be coordinated among the Project team.

Community Offshore Wind recognizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to stakeholder identification and engagement and ensuring that all stakeholders can fully participate in public processes. The Plan seeks to improve Project awareness and identification of all potentially interested and affected communities so that outreach activities can be tailored to address engagement needs and challenges across all constituencies. The intent is to build a comprehensive engagement network and promote participation by stakeholders who may not typically be involved in these processes.

3.2 Current and Historical Fisheries Operations

3.2.1 Commercial Fisheries

According to federal VTR data, which includes spatial reporting requirements, commercial fisheries operating in the Lease Area are primarily Atlantic sea scallop and surfclam, but also include summer flounder, monkfish, and inconsistent harvest of black sea bass and skates. These fisheries employ a variety of gear types. Dredges are used almost exclusively in the sea scallop fishery, while surfclams are harvested solely with hydraulic dredges. Summer flounder and black sea bass are pursued with bottom trawls, although pot gear is also occasionally used for black sea bass. Monkfish harvest in the area is primarily subject to targeted use of anchored gillnets on a seasonal basis. Examination of VTR data from the MARCO Data Portal indicate that dredges are the predominate gear type used in the Lease Area, but also show limited bottom trawl, pot, and gillnet gear. Important commercial ports with harvest from within the Lease Area include Atlantic City, Barnegat Light, Point Pleasant, and Cape May, New Jersey. Other ports with commercial harvest include Long Beach, and Montauk, New York; New Bedford, Massachusetts; and ports in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

Limited publicly available information exists regarding commercial fisheries that may be transiting the Lease Area. While spatial reporting is a requirement of the VTR program, these data are coarse and not intended for fine-scale representation of where fisheries operate. Vessels participating in specific commercial fisheries are subject to Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements, including those in the sea scallop, surfclam, and monkfish fisheries. Examination of VMS data in the MARCO Data Portal indicates most surfclam harvest has occurred in the western two-thirds of the Lease Area, while most sea scallop harvest has occurred in the eastern third. VMS data also suggest possible transit and/or historical trips from mid-water trawl fisheries such as those for Atlantic mackerel and squid, as well as Northeast Multispecies (groundfish). It is important to note that VMS regulations generally require vessels to maintain VMS units in operational mode at all times, even when participating in a non-VMS fishery. Automatic Identification System (AIS) data may provide additional information regarding commercial vessel transit and use of the Lease Area, but the detailed local knowledge of fishermen is critical to identifying and properly

characterizing these data. Project leadership proactively met with stakeholders in Shinnecock and Greenport, New York, as well as Barnegat Light, Belford, and Cape May, New Jersey, and other regional ports shortly after lease acquisition to establish this dialogue.

Commercial fisheries operating inshore of the Lease Area include those for lobster and black sea bass, as well as spiny dogfish, monkfish, and skates. Conversations with fishermen have provided valuable information regarding the characteristics of these fisheries. Several occur seasonally, primarily in the fall and winter according to species availability, and overlap occurs among vessels participating in the different fisheries (e.g., spiny dogfish and monkfish). The lobster trap fishery is most active summer through fall, and often into early winter. Seasonal gear closures occur for both gillnets (state and federal waters) and lobster traps (federal waters), and fishermen may shift effort in response to these closures.

Effective April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024, NMFS implemented regulations for the Atlantic Sea Scallop fishery that included the New York Bight Scallop Rotational Closed Area. The closed area encompassed the eastern half of the Lease Area (as well as the entirety of OCS-A 0538 and the southern half of OCS-A 0537) and was established to protect several scallop year classes and support future fishing activities. On April 1, 2024, the closed area reopened to scallop harvest with specific vessel catch limits. Once 2025 fishing year regulations are implemented, the closed area will be open to all scallop activity with no harvest limits (i.e., as "open bottom"). In the future, it is possible that this rotational area may be re-established and closed to harvest based on the results of sea scallop resource surveys.

3.2.2 Recreational Fisheries

Information on recreational fisheries operating in and transiting through the Lease Area is also limited. Similar to commercial fisheries, for-hire vessels operating in federally managed fisheries are subject to VTR requirements and information from the MARCO data portal indicates occasional for-hire fishing (charter and party boats) activity within the Lease Area, though higher amounts of activity inshore of and beyond the Lease Area were observed. Seasonally important recreational fisheries for both private anglers and for-hire fleets have included summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, and bluefish, as well as pelagic species such as dolphinfish (mahi mahi) and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) such as bluefin and yellowfin tunas. Blueline and golden tilefishes (deepwater bottom species) have also increased in popularity over the years, although they are targeted over bottom contours seaward of the Lease Area. It is likely that deepwater trips for both species, which may also be combined with trips for HMS species, will transit the Lease Area on the way to offshore fishing grounds.

In 2023, there were over 4,400 HMS Angling Permits homeported in New Jersey (second only to Florida) and just under 2,500 homeported in New York, indicating high interest in these fisheries[4]. Similarly, just over 500 HMS Charter/Headboat Permit were homeported in New Jersey (second to Florida), and about 360 homeported in New York[5]. It is likely that important ports for the for-hire and private boat fleets that may be transiting and/or operating within the area include Barnegat Light, Point Pleasant, Cape May, Little Egg Inlet, Ocean City, New Jersey, and additional ports in New York.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) maintains an Artificial Reef Program, although most reefs are within 2NM to 8NM of shore; only one reef is located 23NM from shore and is well to the southwest of the Lease Area. As noted in Section 2.1, the New Jersey Prime Fishing Areas dataset was used to deconflict the Lease Area with recreational fishing hot spots and activities. While none of the Prime Fishing Areas overlap the Lease Area, three sites are adjacent to it: 1) Fingers is an irregular lump

[4] 2023 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report (SAFE) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species, p. 62

[5] 2023 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report (SAFE) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species, p. 60

adjacent to the southwestern (inshore) boundary of the Lease that is surrounded by sandy, shelly bottom; 2) Triple Wrecks South is a sandy slough so named for the wrecks on it, and abuts the northeastern corner of the Lease, extending to the north-northeast and south-southwest of the Lease Area; 3) The CORVALLIS, an isolated wreck adjacent to the northern boundary of the Lease Area and the southern boundary of lease OCS-A 0538. Curated local knowledge will be critical to identifying additional information gaps for recreational fisheries, locations of any known structures or other important oceanographic features within the Lease and surrounding area, and appropriately interpreting existing data so that impacts can be thoughtfully considered and avoided. The Fisheries Team has compiled available data on known hangs and determined that no named shipwrecks are located within the Lease Area.

3.2.3 Other Ocean Uses

The regional ocean planning bodies in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic (the Northeast Regional Ocean Council [NROC] and MARCO, respectively), in collaboration with the states and recreational user groups, conducted a Northeast Coastal and Marine Recreational Use Characterization Study.[6] Data from the recreational ocean use workshops conducted by the mid-Atlantic states are available via the NROC and MARCO Data Portals, and provide a footprint of the range and general density of shore-based, coastal, and ocean uses from Virginia through Maine. These include whale and dolphin-watching, shore-based wildlife viewing, diving, recreational boating, sailing, surfing, SCUBA diving, paddleboarding, kayaking, and more. Information currently in the data portals does not display overlap of any of these activities within the Lease Area, but indicates several activities occur to the east and south along the continental shelf break, and to the north along the Hudson Canyon and vicinity. Several of these activities have occurred in higher densities inshore of the Lease Area and could be impacted by future cable routes. Many coastal and ocean recreational users and operators also belong to organizations and/or clubs promoting resource conservation and enjoyment of these recreational pursuits. The Project's outreach activities will include these recreational ocean user groups, and the Plan will be updated to reflect their communication needs and preferences that are not included in other Project stakeholder engagement plans.

Additional non-recreational maritime uses in the region include subsea telecommunication cables, as well as commercial port authorities. The Fisheries Team will liaise with the North American Submarine Cable Association (NASCA) and the owners and managers of existing and planned subsea cables in the vicinity of the Project area. The team will also engage with port authorities and harbor pilot associations to better understand their operations. Outreach to these important commercial maritime groups will be coordinated with the efforts of other Project team members to ensure we are providing opportunities for two-way communication and feedback throughout the Project development process.

3.3 Fisheries Habitats

The Lease Area overlaps Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) for various life stages of most species managed by the MAFMC, with the exception of golden and blueline tilefish. It is also designated EFH for different life stages of several groundfish species managed by the NEFMC, as well as monkfish, skates, and sea scallops. EFH designations for multiple HMS species occur in the area, primarily sharks but also bluefin and skipjack Tunas. According to information in the MARCO Data Portal, benthic habitats within the Lease Area include mostly moderate to high flat gravel and sand, with some sandy depressions.

[6] Recreation-Study_Final-Report.pdf

3.4 Fisheries Science and Management

The fisheries occurring within, around, and potentially transiting the Lease Area are managed by a suite of federal and state agencies and partners, including the NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), MAFMC (summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, surfclam), NEFMC (sea scallop, monkfish [jointly with MAFMC]), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC [lobster]), NMFS HMS Division (tunas, billfishes, sharks), NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), and NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Each entity is responsible for the stewardship of fisheries resources through the conduct and/or oversight of biological and habitat surveys, fishery-dependent data collection and analyses, and policy implementation. These efforts contribute to a fisheries management framework that is coordinated to varying degrees across state and federal jurisdictions. Each organization has constituent outreach, communication, and public engagement processes that are important to the success of both individual and collective management initiatives.

This Plan recognizes the knowledge and expertise of agencies and partners and seeks to integrate their input and experience in stakeholder mapping to promote sustainable shared use of the Project Area. While the Project Area is most closely located to New Jersey and New York, the Fisheries Team is also committed to understanding the relationship of other state's fleets to the area. Given the regional nature and economic importance of the fisheries operating in and/or transiting through the Project Area, the team will engage state agencies from North Carolina through Maine. Proactive outreach to state and federal partners occurred prior to and shortly after lease acquisition to establish this dialogue and develop relationships with industry stakeholders. This Plan has identified communication with fishery managers as a potential opportunity for collaboration among developers. The team will also ensure that engagement with marine fisheries agencies is coordinated with the Project's Agency Communications Plan to reduce duplication of effort.

4 Fisheries Engagement and Communication Strategies

The engagement and communication strategies described below are built on the Project's core communication principles to meet the Plan objectives described in Section 1.1. These approaches are intended to be specific and adaptable to the needs of each fisheries stakeholder group and promote effective, two-way engagement that contributes to the safe, successful, and sustainable shared use of the Project Area. A combination of methods will be used to engage fisheries and maritime stakeholders. These may include one-on-one conversations, small group meetings, discussions with Fisheries Representatives, Project websites, United States Coast Guard (USCG) Local Notices to Mariners, and email, to identify key concerns and provide avenues for the fishing community to contribute their observations and feedback. Such engagement and two-way dialogue is critical for filling information gaps and promoting a detailed, technical understand of fishing activities so that potential impacts to fisheries can be minimized.

Each component outlined in the following sections should function as an interconnected node in a broader communications network to advance shared understanding between the Project and fisheries stakeholders that is based on the curated local knowledge of the fishing community. As the network and strategies evolve throughout the Project lifetime, the Plan will be updated accordingly. Community Offshore Wind also recognizes the high stakeholder engagement burden given the number of leases in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. The Project supports building initiatives with other developers to streamline this burden. The Fisheries Team is aware of the time constraints many fishery stakeholders have and efficiency is a core principle of this plan.

4.1 Commercial Fisheries Communications

The Fisheries Team will work closely with the FRs and industry to develop the most appropriate methods (e.g., paper, text, email, public listserves, social media, websites) to facilitate two-way dialogue and feedback with commercial fishing communities, being mindful of the cadence and mode of information delivery. Approaches will be tailored to each fishery and/or communication node, although some overlap is expected. The Fisheries Team will also develop and maintain a list of contacts for various commercial fishing constituencies (e.g., fish houses/dealers/processors, commercial associations, key fishery participants, etc.).

4.1.1 Fisheries Operating in and Transiting Project Area

The Fisheries Team will continue to work with the FRs, FTAs, local industry, state and federal marine fisheries agencies, and regional fishery management councils to identify fisheries participants with current and historical knowledge who may be available for direct communication. Engagement with fishing community members who can interpret and fill information gaps is critical to a shared understanding and impact avoidance. For example, our team proactively engaged industry with Project engineers to promote technical understanding of dredge gear configuration and operation. Such exchanges can also inform development of appropriate communication strategies for different fisheries and phases of the Project. In recognition of stakeholder burden, the Fisheries Team will work with the FRs to coordinate in-person engagements with individuals and groups.

Anticipated communication methods during survey activities include but are not limited to: USCG Local Notices to Mariners; local notices to fishermen via appropriate state agency or regional fishery management council communication lists; text and/or email messages to individuals operating in the same fishery/gear type; social media, mobile applications, and postings on the Project website; and distribution/posting of paper notices of survey operations at appropriate locations. Project survey notices will include information regarding the type of survey activity, pictures of survey vessels, maps of survey areas, anticipated timeframe, and contact information for the Fisheries Liaison.

4.1.2 Commercial Fisheries Associations/Representatives

Commercial fisheries associations and representatives serve a valuable role for commercial stakeholders as trusted sources of information regarding management issues under consideration and upcoming regulatory changes at both the state and federal level. Most, if not all, send out regular communications to their memberships, hold leadership (i.e., board of directors) meetings, and may host or participate in community engagement events. The Fisheries Team will work with the FRs to identify and maintain a list of appropriate organizations for outreach regarding the Project, including distribution of general Project information and fishery notices regarding survey activities. As appropriate and requested, the Fisheries Team may attend association meetings to listen to and provide feedback regarding industry concerns and be available as a resource. Engagement efforts will be coordinated as practicable with other leaseholders to reduce the burden on organizations to respond to multiple requests. The Fisheries Team may also attend or host a booth at trade shows where commercial fishing organizations may be represented to provide Project information for distribution to their members.

4.1.3 Shoreside Infrastructure/Communities

Shoreside infrastructure such as docks, fish houses, dealer/processor facilities, and vessel repair shops can be important communication nodes for commercial fisheries participants entering or leaving port. The Fisheries Team will work with the FRs to identify shoreside infrastructure hubs for posting or distribution of fishery notices regarding survey operations, as well as other Project information, via electronic or

traditional media as desired and appropriate. The team will also engage directly with shoreside infrastructure owners to establish a dialogue and serve as a resource for industry concerns and questions.

4.2 Recreational Fisheries Communications

Recreational fishermen receive information using similar modalities as commercial fishermen (i.e., social media, websites, other electronic platforms, paper) as well as similar types of information sources (e.g., USCG Notices to Mariners, organizations and clubs, marinas, boat ramps). The Fisheries Team will work with local recreational community contacts and FRs as applicable to identify and tailor the mode and frequency of communications as appropriate for each recreational stakeholder constituency to promote avoidance of recreational fisheries impacts throughout the life cycle of the Project.

4.2.1 Fisheries Operating in and Transiting Project Area

Spatial data on recreational fisheries operating out of New Jersey and New York are limited and the Fisheries Team will work directly with recreational captains and angling organizations to develop a detailed understanding of recreational effort, including for HMS species, within and around the Lease Area. This will include efforts to understand fisheries transits through the project area to better target communication approaches. Outreach to state and federal agencies and regional fishery management councils will continue to be used to identify anglers with experience in and near the Lease Area. Whenever possible, engagement with local fishermen to curate their knowledge and determine communication preferences will be coordinated with other leaseholders to minimize engagement burden. During survey operations, engagement strategies may include adjustments to survey activities to avoid areas and times of high intensity recreational fishing and ensuring that survey crews are familiar with VHF channels used by anglers on the water.

4.2.2 For-Hire Fisheries

For-hire fisheries (charter boats and headboats) are socially, culturally, and economically important to surrounding shoreside communities, and the Fisheries Team will develop outreach protocols suited to this unique sector. The for-hire trips most likely to be transiting and/or operating in the lease area are HMS trips. The team will coordinate with the FRs as appropriate, as well as state and federal agencies, to identify marinas that serve as hubs for the charter and headboat fleets and will engage marina operators as important constituents in communication efforts. Similar outreach and communication methods used for private anglers will likely be employed for the for-hire fleet. These could include email, texts, and social media as well as written/posted materials regarding survey activities and Project updates, but the mode and frequency will be tailored according to feedback from for-hire captains and/or marina operators.

4.2.3 Recreational Tournaments

Recreational fishing tournaments occur seasonally, generally spring through fall, and tournaments focused on HMS species are most likely to incur transit through the Lease Area. The Fisheries Team will work with for-hire captains, recreational fishing organizations, and agencies to develop a list of area tournaments to facilitate communications. For tournament fleets that may transit the project area, tournament organizers will be provided in advance with communication materials describing any offshore survey operations or related activities to promote awareness and safety. The project will also offer to send a representative to tournament captain's meetings as appropriate to notify the captains of any offshore operations.

4.2.4 Recreational Fisheries Organizations/Representatives

Several recreational fishing organizations exist in the region and serve important roles as communication and information dissemination nodes for private anglers and for-hire fleets. Some serve both constituencies

while others focus specifically on one stakeholder group, but most communicate regularly with their memberships via electronic communications, social media, fishing trade shows, and/or printed newsletters. Many organizations participate in the fisheries management process, and some host fishing tournaments or sponsor community events. The Fisheries Team will develop a list of recreational fishing organizations to engage in dialogue regarding survey activities, member concerns and feedback, and determine the appropriate modes and frequency of communication in coordination with organization leadership.

4.2.5 Shoreside Infrastructure/Communities

Marinas, boat ramps, and tackle shops are components of shoreside infrastructure that are also important communication conduits for the recreational fishing community. The Fisheries Team will work with recreational fishing organizations, state agency staff, and FRs as appropriate to identify high use infrastructure for posting of survey information. Tackle shops or sporting goods stores may also serve as community hubs, and some occasionally sponsor or host lectures or information sessions for clients/constituents. The Fisheries Team will explore the possibility of adding these as engagement nodes and coordinating with other leaseholders in outreach activities tailored for these groups.

4.3 State and Federal Management Entities and Agencies

State and federal fisheries agencies and regional management entities participate in the stewardship of fisheries occurring in and transiting through the Project Area, and conduct or coordinate several fishery-independent surveys within the Project Area. These resource surveys provide critically important information for regional fisheries assessment and management, and data to inform the Project and Plan goal of fisheries impact avoidance. The Liaisons will work with state and federal agency staff to develop a list of resource surveys, and with survey coordinators to avoid scheduling conflicts between resource and project survey operations. The intent of these activities is to ensure the concerns as well as expertise of agencies and management entities are incorporated throughout the project lifecycle.

This Plan acknowledges that a similar communication burden exists for agencies as for stakeholders and is committed to working with other developers to coordinate and streamline these efforts whenever possible. An appropriate frequency and method of communication with state and federal agencies, fisheries management entities, and other partners will be developed to promote future collaborative opportunities (see Section 6).

4.3.1 Federal Agencies

The Plan will coordinate engagement with GARFO, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), and the NMFS HMS Division to ensure that Project survey activities are appropriately communicated and scheduled to avoid impacts to important agency biological surveys, such as: the NEFSC Spring and Fall Bottom Trawl Surveys; Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) Survey; Ecosystem Monitoring Surveys; North Atlantic Right Whale Aerial Surveys; Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Aerial Surveys; Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Seabird Ship-based Surveys; Seal Aerial Abundance Surveys; Coastal Shark Bottom Longline Surveys; and the Cooperative Atlantic States Shark Pupping and Longline/Gillnet Survey. The Fisheries Team will also work with federal agencies and the managers of industry collaborative resource surveys (e.g., School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) at University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) scallop surveys, NOAA/surfclam industry resource surveys) to align Project survey schedules with these activities. The Plan recognizes the impacts that construction and operations of offshore wind facilities will have on these critical surveys. An objective of this engagement is to explore opportunities to develop future project

monitoring activities that are compatible with existing surveys and can contribute to the management of fisheries resources, consistent with the NOAA Fisheries and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Strategy.

4.3.2 State Agencies

Although the Lease Area is closest to New York and New Jersey, the Fisheries Team will coordinate engagement with state marine fisheries agencies from North Carolina through Maine due to the regional nature of the fisheries operating in and transiting through the Lease. Project leadership proactively contacted NJDEP and NYSDEC, as well as the NYSERDA, and other state agencies, to begin building these important relationships. The Fisheries Team also conducted targeted outreach with fisheries division staff from several state agencies to explore and discuss proposed communication strategies. Further engagement with the NYSERDA Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG), of which RWE is a member, and the NJDEP Offshore Wind (OSW) Working Group is anticipated. The Fisheries Team will solicit feedback from state fisheries agency staff to determine the appropriate communication methods, outlets, and tempo for agency engagement. The team will also explore leveraging agency communication portals with staff to expand fishing community engagement and awareness of the Project. Coordination of Project survey operations with state biological resource surveys, such as the NJDEP Ocean Stock Assessment Program, NJDEP Ventless Trap survey and others, will focus on avoiding interruptions of these important data collection efforts.

4.3.3 Regional Fishery Management Entities

The regional fishery management councils and the ASMFC are important stewards of marine fisheries resources, working in partnership with each other and NMFS to develop and implement regulations that promote sustainable future fishing opportunities. The MAFMC and NEFMC have extensive communication and stakeholder engagement networks, and the Fisheries Team will work with both councils to provide project updates as appropriate (e.g., an introductory presentation to the MAFMC at its August 2022 meeting) and to determine acceptable methods and frequency of communications. This may include working with staff to provide survey notices and fact sheets for the Joint NEFMC/MAFMC Offshore Wind webpage and/or for distribution via email and social media postings. Similarly, the ASMFC is responsible for fishery management plans in state waters along the entire east coast and has an extensive fisheries stakeholder communication and outreach program. The team will also explore coordination of information “open houses” with other developers to provide opportunities for fishing community feedback in conjunction with Council and/or Commission meetings.

4.4 Other Partners

Multiple organizations are active participants in the conversations surrounding development of offshore wind in the U.S., including the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), ROSA, the RWSC, the Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCEMFIS), academic institutions, and several environmental nongovernmental organizations. Community Offshore Wind recognizes the contributions and continuing efforts of RODA, ROSA, RWSC, SCEMFIS, scientists, and others to improve the dialogue between fishing communities and the offshore wind industry, develop recommendations regarding impact fees and mitigation, host workshops and other collaborations, and conduct research and monitoring to promote a shared understanding of the state of the science and future scientific needs. The Project’s Fisheries Team is committed to participating in and contributing to these efforts and future initiatives, subject to resources and availability, and providing efficient and productive settings for early engagement and dialogue.

4.5 Communications Tracking and Reporting

The Plan includes a stakeholder management system to record engagement efforts across all Project communications plans and track stakeholder concerns and feedback. This will inform the preparation of semi-annual Progress Reports for submission to BOEM, as required by the lease conditions. The reports will improve transparency regarding the contribution of fisheries communication and engagement to overall Project planning. While reports will summarize how feedback from the fishing community has been addressed or integrated into Project development, input and information will not be attributed to specific individuals or organizations.

5 Project Development

The development and operation of offshore wind projects involves several discrete yet overlapping project phases that occur over the course of several decades. The design and development process for these projects includes ongoing opportunities for stakeholder consultation, as well as significant data collection, environmental analysis and regulatory review. This section describes the activities to be conducted at each project phase, as well as an overview of the outreach and collaboration that will be undertaken to reduce conflicts with the fishing community. Figure 2 provides a high-level summary of the different project phases and an approximate timeline.

This Plan was developed in advance of the site assessment and characterization phase of the Community Offshore Wind Project and will be adjusted in response to fishing community feedback. As the Project matures into the construction and operation phases, the Plan will evolve to reflect the communication and engagement needs specific to future Project stages described in Sections 4.2 through 4.6.

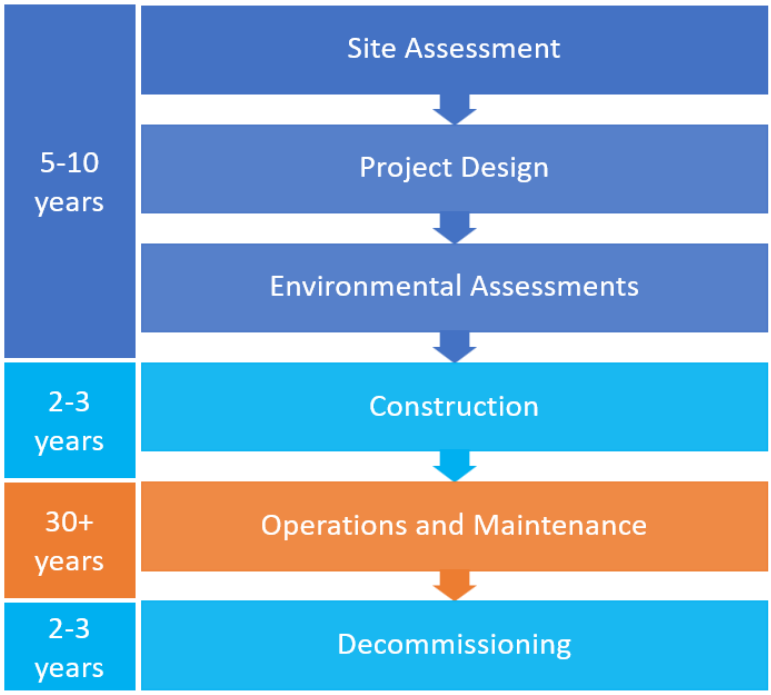


Figure 2. Offshore Wind Development Process

5.1 Site Assessment and Characterization

Offshore survey activities will occur in the Lease Area and potential export cable corridors as part of site assessment and characterization activities. One of the primary objectives of any survey campaign will be proactive coordination with commercial and recreational fleets to develop comprehensive awareness of the seasonality and pattern of fisheries activities so that impacts are avoided and deconflicted, particularly during peak fishing seasons. The goal of the Plan is to consider each survey campaign as an opportunity to improve two-way communications and feedback mechanisms between the Project and the fishing community as part of an adaptive communications framework.

Site characterization and assessment will involve high-resolution geophysical, geotechnical, and benthic activities, such as depth sounding with multi-beam echo sounders to determine bathymetry, seafloor imaging with sidescan sonar, sub-bottom profilers to determine stratigraphy below the seabed, magnetometers to map ferrous returns, collection of sediment cores, and collection of benthic sediment samples to aid in habitat characterization. These activities may involve multiple survey vessels operating simultaneously, depending on the type of data collected, sensors used, and location and water depth.

5.1.1 Pre-survey Risk Assessment

As a component of the Project's proactive approach to fisheries impact avoidance, a pre-survey risk assessment will be conducted in advance of each survey campaign to identify spatial and temporal overlap with commercial and recreational fishing activities. The assessment will be conducted in coordination with FRs and fishery participants to appropriately characterize peak and seasonal activity and will include measures designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate identified risks. Such measures will be collaboratively developed and may include: adjustments in survey operations; a protocol for calibration of sonar gear; and the use of scout vessels. Onboard fisheries liaisons (OFLs) may also be employed to facilitate at-sea coordination with the fishing fleet, depending on the survey methods used and the potential for interaction with fishing activities and/or gear. The Fisheries Team will work with the survey team during each pre-survey risk assessment to provide forecasts of expected commercial and recreational fisheries activities, state and federal resource surveys, recreational fishing tournaments (e.g., HMS), and known fixed-gear placements to facilitate coordination with fisheries.

5.1.2 Survey Team Communications

The Fisheries Liaison will serve as the primary contact for fisheries participants and the survey team to identify and resolve any issues that occur during survey operations. The Fisheries Liaison will maintain regular communications with survey vessels and the survey teams to provide updated information regarding fisheries operating in or transiting through the survey area, and will develop notices of survey operations for distribution to commercial and recreational fishery participants and stakeholders via communication methods and outlets identified for each sector (see sections 5.2 and 5.3), as well as USCG Local Notices to Mariners. All notices will be distributed to the fishing industry as early as practicable and no later than two weeks in advance of any scheduled survey or site assessment activity. The Fisheries Liaison will also work with the FRs to ground-truth and update information conveyed to survey teams. Survey vessels will monitor VHF channel 16 at all times during survey operations for communication with fishing vessels in the area on a bridge-to-bridge basis.

Given the importance of timely and accurate two-way feedback during survey preparation and operations, the Fisheries Team is exploring innovative digital technologies to communicate survey activity, receive fishery participant input, and facilitate avoidance of fisheries impacts. If successful, these could reduce the burden of engagement on fishing communities, while also promoting safe co-occurrence of fishing and survey operations.

5.1.3 Gear Loss and Interactions

While every effort will be made to avoid and deconflict fisheries impacts prior to each survey campaign, the Project has established a gear loss claim procedure for loss or damage to fishing gear due to survey activities. This procedure supports compensation for repair or replacement of damaged gear, as well as compensation for lost fishing income associated with the gear loss or damage. A step-by-step description of the procedure and associated forms are found in Appendix 4 and posted on the Project website.

The gear loss claim procedure is intended to provide for the fair, efficient and timely consideration of claims. A parallel procedure has also been established for contracted survey vessels to report any gear interactions, which provides an additional avenue for documentation and supports an expedited claims process. the Fisheries Liaison will be the point of contact for fisheries participants to assist them with this process, which may be updated in response to feedback as the Project progresses through construction and operation phases. Community Offshore Wind acknowledges the concerns expressed by fishermen regarding potential differences in gear loss/damage claim processes across different projects. The Fisheries Team is committed to working with other leaseholders to develop procedures that minimize stakeholder burden and increase transparency and consistency. As per the lease stipulations, an annual summary of claims will be provided to BOEM.

5.2 Project Design and Development of Construction and Operations Plan

Site assessment activities, along with collaborative dialogue with fishing communities, federal and state agencies and entities, Tribes/Tribal Nations, and other constituents, will inform Project design and development of the Construction and Operations Plan (COP). The COP will include a description of all planned facilities, as well as a description of proposed construction activities, commercial operations, and conceptual decommissioning plans. The COP will also summarize the results of biological, geotechnical, socioeconomic, and cultural resources studies from the site assessment and characterization phase; provide an assessment of the Project's potential impacts; and propose measures for avoiding, minimizing, reducing, eliminating, mitigating, and monitoring impacts. As Project development progresses, the Fisheries Team will engage in iterative conversations with the fishing community to identify strategies to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to fisheries and fishing communities. The COP will be subject to regulatory review, as required by law, that will provide additional opportunities for public review and input.

5.3 Environmental Assessment

Once the Project's COP is submitted to BOEM, BOEM will conduct its environmental and technical reviews of the project, including analysis and public comment through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. At the conclusion of the approximately two-year NEPA process, BOEM will decide whether to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the COP. It is anticipated that states with a potential interest in the Project will conduct similar reviews. Involved federal and state agencies may choose to coordinate the NEPA and state environmental review processes. During this phase, the Project will also develop and submit application packages in support of the necessary state and federal agency authorizations and permit approvals.

5.4 Construction

During this phase, the Project will be constructed, pursuant to the requirements and conditions of the issued permits. The construction phase will be the most active project phase with increased vessel activity throughout the Project Area.

As the Project moves through the construction phase, the Fisheries Team will continue to engage with fishery participants and fishing communities to conduct construction activities in a way that minimizes impacts. Proactive and effective communications will be critical during this phase to coordinate vessel traffic and ensure that fishery constituents are provided with timely information throughout this process. The Fisheries Team will build on the communications network established during the site assessment and characterization phase to develop effective communication and coordination strategies for the construction phase.

5.5 Operations and Maintenance

The operations term for the Project is 33 years. During this phase, Project crews will conduct maintenance activities within the Project Area. Monitoring activities and offshore surveys are expected to continue during this phase.

The Fisheries Team will continue to ensure that fishing communities are engaged and informed of project activities throughout the operations and maintenance phase and will continue to refine communication strategies and coordinate activities to avoid and minimize impacts.

5.6 Decommissioning

In preparation for the end of the Project's life, Community Offshore Wind will submit a decommissioning application and plan to BOEM and other applicable agencies for review and approval. Once approved and operations have ceased, the Project will be decommissioned in accordance with the plan. BOEM requires that offshore wind developers provide financial assurance, both upon issuance of the lease and at specific project benchmarks, to cover decommissioning costs. The Fisheries Team will incorporate lessons learned from the construction and operations phases when developing communication protocols for the decommissioning phase.

6 Collaborative Opportunities

A major focus of the Plan is to engage fishing communities in the development of collaborative opportunities for monitoring and research, as well as safety and training enhancements, that are informed by their local knowledge. The objective is a robust research, monitoring, enhancement, and data sharing program that addresses relevant needs identified by fishing community stakeholders, state and federal agencies, and other partners. Coordination with other developers will be explored whenever feasible to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of these efforts.

6.1 Monitoring

Pre-, during, and post-construction monitoring is an important component of avoiding and addressing fisheries impacts, providing for the continuity of existing data streams, and piloting the application of new technologies and resource survey designs. Community Offshore Wind envisions a collaborative monitoring program that is adaptive to fisheries management, fishing community, and Project needs, and provides opportunities for coordination across leaseholders. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential collaborative monitoring initiatives:

- Community Offshore Wind entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the NEFSC focused on sharing knowledge and expertise to inform development of regionally relevant monitoring approaches that will support elements of the NOAA Fisheries/BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Strategy.

- Provide opportunities for commercial and for-hire vessels to participate in pre- and post-construction resource, mapping, and benthic surveys.
- Piloting integration/transition from NOAA vessels to industry vessels in fishery independent survey areas impacted by turbine construction.
- Development and testing of consistent monitoring methods and survey designs in coordination with other leaseholders to facilitate integration with long-term resource surveys.
- Participate in the ROSA Advisory Council and in the organization's efforts to advance collaborative and consistent regional approaches to monitoring.
- Support and participate in the development of the American Clean Power Recreational Fisheries Engagement initiative and explore opportunities for recreational participation in innovative monitoring approaches.
- Support for socio-economic monitoring of fishing communities to document Project impacts and benefits.

6.2 Research

State and federal agencies, regional fishery management bodies, and other partners have contributed significant resources to identifying research needs regarding impacts of offshore wind development on fisheries resources and management. Community Offshore Wind supports active participation and coordination with other leaseholders in addressing and supporting these needs, recognizing the strain that rapid expansion of offshore wind has placed on the region's research community. The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential opportunities that the Fisheries Team may explore in consideration of future research needs:

- Engagement with academic institutions and research collaboratives (e.g., VIMS, Rutgers, SMAST, CFF, State University of New York (SUNY), Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCEMFIS), etc.). regarding research needs for fisheries occurring in the Lease Area.
- Explore potential sponsorship/support opportunities for workshops and research activities focused on scallop and/or surf clam resources.
- Coordinate with regional fishery management councils, NMFS, ROSA, RWSC, SCEMFIS and academic partners to identify and develop collaborative research projects for affected species that are suitable for commercial and headboat platforms.
- Provide support for exploratory research to improve compatibility and/or efficiency of dredge gear within offshore wind arrays.
- Support research to address potential impacts of wind energy areas on federal surveys and resource assessments (e.g., collaborate on relevant resource assessment modeling efforts, potential calibration of various survey techniques, etc.)
- Support habitat research relevant to species occurring within lease area.
- Explore potential research opportunities for private anglers through the American Clean Power Association's Recreational Fisheries Engagement initiative.

6.3 Information and Data Sharing

A tremendous amount of data and information will be generated during site characterization and assessment, construction and post-construction monitoring, and collaborative opportunities described above. The Project supports providing timely access to fisheries data and information to the extent practicable to improve management of ocean resources. Future activities to support this objective may include:

- Continued development of the CRADA with the NEFSC to include a data sharing agreement.
- Explore utility of project data to ecosystem and other resource assessments.
- Collaborate with researchers and/or educators to distill research and monitoring results into formats suitable for general public audiences (e.g., ArcGIS Story Maps) and students.
- Provide public access to research and monitoring data within the bounds of federal confidentiality requirements necessary to protect individual fishing entities.
- Develop a data sharing/confidentiality policy that clearly outlines the Project's expectations of contracted entities (e.g., academic researchers) with respect to pre-, during, and post-construction data collection funded by the Project.

6.4 Safety and Training

Safety of fishermen, communities, and Project crews is a core principle of the Plan that is aligned with the overall philosophy of avoidance of fisheries impacts whenever possible. The Project is committed to promoting the safe and sustainable coexistence of fishing activities and offshore wind. Future initiatives to support this objective may include:

- Engage local fishermen to serve as scout vessels during survey operations and as guard vessels during project construction.
- Incorporate the ability for fishermen to provide real-time updates regarding changes in fishing operations via innovative digital approaches (see Section 4. 2).
- Provide marine simulator training for commercial and recreational vessels to experience navigation through different potential project design configurations under a variety of weather conditions.
- Support the American Clean Power Association's Recreational Fishing Industry Engagement initiative as a venue to identify and address the unique safety concerns of for-hire and private anglers.
- Provide support for vessel radar upgrades and/or testing of new equipment for commercial and for-hire fishing vessels.
- Collaborate with NOAA, the USCG, and chart plotting companies to develop an efficient process for providing updated chart information at appropriate timeframes, based on site assessment activities and continuing throughout project construction and operation.

7 Conflict Prevention and Resolution

The philosophy of Community Offshore Wind is that integration of curated, local fisheries knowledge into the Project design will prevent conflicts by avoiding fisheries impacts to the greatest extent practicable. The intent of the FCP is to work with FRs and fishing communities to develop this knowledge, collaboratively

identify potential impacts from the Project, and where those impacts cannot be avoided, engage in a bottom-up process to develop approaches to minimize, rehabilitate, and mitigate those impacts. Approaches to prevent conflicts that might arise include but are not limited to the following:

- Engage fishing communities early in discussions of options for export and inter-array cable layouts, as well as installation/burial techniques, that minimize impacts to fishing activities and habitats.
- Coordinate with fishing communities and adjacent developers to identify options that could avoid or reduce impacts on fishing activities.
- Engage fishing communities to develop seasonal and geographic awareness of fisheries operations so they can be considered in the scheduling of site assessment and construction activities.

Our Fisheries Team will focus on constructive, proactive engagement with the fishing industry to avoid and minimize project conflicts with marine fisheries. Recognizing that it may not be possible to avoid or minimize all conflicts, a stepwise approach will be implemented to address complaints, disagreements, or disputes. This process will begin with the Fisheries Team working directly with individuals to address differences within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., 30 days), followed by an intermediate step allowing for external consultations as needed, and a final step of engaging of a professional facilitator to assist in the identification of potential solutions or resolutions. The intent is to provide members of the fishing community a clear process to address disagreements, as well as opportunities to notify the Project of previously unknown conflicts and concerns via multiple tools (e.g., website, mobile app, contact with FRs and Liaisons), and suggestions for resolution. We are committed to successful, long-term coexistence with the fisheries, and will be proactive in our efforts to identify and work through any potential conflicts.

8 Coordination Across Leases

Coordination with other developers is a theme that is integrated throughout the Plan, and the Project is committed to advancing these efforts. Project leadership currently participates in the American Clean Power Fisheries Subcommittee, as well as the NYSERDA F-TWG and E-TWG to collaborate on issues of common interest among leaseholders, including:

- Collaborating with other leaseholders to develop consistent monitoring practices that are informed by state and federal resource needs, and fisheries stakeholder concerns.
- Development of consistent protocols for compensation of gear loss and damage as well as potential lost fishing income.
- Coordinated stakeholder engagement efforts (e.g., joint topic workshops, port hours, curating local knowledge, identifying communication preferences and opportunities to streamline communications and reduce the burden on fisheries participants, etc.).
- Agency communication and engagement.

9 Indicators and Metrics

This plan will include specific metrics and indicators to measure the success and efficacy of the Plan. The team will collaborate with stakeholders to seek early feedback on candidate qualitative and quantitative metrics. Once defined these performance metrics will be described in future versions of the Plan and updates included in progress reports. This is an important step in identifying clear ways to evaluate and continuously improve the Plan. Some candidate metrics include:

- Target meeting frequencies for state and federal agencies and their offshore wind working groups, as well as fisheries management entities, to convey updates on project status and solicit feedback.
- Number of interviews with participants and representatives of various fisheries sectors.
- Number of open houses and/or port meetings hosted (in-person and virtual) to develop collaborative research and monitoring opportunities.
- Achievement of team development goals (e.g., number of FRs representing different fisheries and sectors).
- Number of fishery and/or sector-specific fact sheets developed.

Appendix 1 – Best Practices

This Plan is intended to be adaptive to changing conditions and fishing community and stakeholder needs and is expected to improve as feedback is incorporated and the Project matures. Community Offshore Wind is committed to open, honest, and frequent engagement to ensure inclusion of fishing community input regarding project design, construction, and operation. We will continue to work with fishing representatives to establish appropriate and accessible feedback mechanisms so that communities can see and understand our dedication to transparency and collaboration.

Development of the Plan was informed by guidance and recommended best practices that include, but are not limited to, the following resources:

- BOEM Decision Memorandum, NY Bight Final Sale Notice.[7]
- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. OCS Study BOEM 2014-654.[8]
- FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. January 2014.[9]
- Guiding Principles for Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement (v1 10/21). NYSERDA.[10]
- Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM. 2020.[11]
- Information Guidelines for a Renewable Energy Construction and Operations Plan (COP), Attachment A. Version 4.0, 2020.[12]
- Central California Joint Fisheries/Cable Liaison Committee Final Agreement Between Cable Companies and Fishermen as Amended (v. 140519).[13]
- Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee Procedures (v. 2.6.17)[14]
- International Cable Protection Committee Government Best Practices for Protecting and Promoting Submarine Telecommunications Cables (v. 1.1).[15]
- Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap: Draft Initial Recommendations. March 1, 2022.[16]
- BOEM Request for Information: Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development. Nov. 22, 2021.[17]
- BOEM Draft Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf. June 22, 2022.[18]

[7] ATLW-8-NY-Bight-Final-Lease-Sale-Decision-Memorandum.pdf
[8] Fishing-BMP-Final-Report-July-2014.pdf
[9] ei-km-in-pc-fishing-012014-floww-best-practice-guidance-for-offshore-renewables-developments-recommendations-for-fisheries-liaison.pdf
[10] https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Offshore-Wind/LSR-OSW-engageguide.pdf
[11] Social & Econ Fishing Guidelines.pdf
[12] UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
[13] http://www.cencalcablefishery.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/22655546/140519_final_agreement_as_amended.pdf
[14] http://www.ofcc.com/Procedures2.6.17.pdf
[15] https://www.iscpc.org/documents/?id=3733
[16] Environment and Wildlife - Maine Offshore Wind Initiative
[17] https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/boem-2021-0083-0001
[18] https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/draft-fisheries-mitigation-guidance

- BOEM Final Guidelines for Providing Information for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and For-Hire Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf. January 16, 2025.[19]
- BOEM Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585. March 27, 2023.[20]
- BOEM Draft Guidelines and Instructions for Progress Report Required by BOEM New York Bight Leases (OCS-A 0537-0544) and Carolina Long Bay Leases (OCS-A 0545-0546). April 2023.[21]
- NOAA Fisheries and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy – Northeast U.S. Region. December 2022.[22]
- ROSA Offshore Wind Project Monitoring Framework and Guidelines. March 2021.[23]
- Identifying Information Needs and Approaches to Assessing Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind Farm Development in the Northeast Region. BOEM. 2015.[24]
- Options for Cooperation Between Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy Industries: A Review of Relevant Tools and Best Practices. SeaPlan. 2014.[25]
- MAFMC Best Management Practices Workshop. 2014.[26]
- New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan. NYSERDA. 2018.[27]

[19] Guidelines for Providing Information for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and For-Hire Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585

[20] Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf

[21] Draft Guidelines and Instructions for Progress Report Required by BOEM New York Bight Leases (OCS-A 0537-0544) and Carolina Long Bay Leases (OCS-A 0545-0546)

[22] NOAA Fisheries and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy - Northeast U.S. Region

[23] Microsoft Word - 56960180d21fc58b94111ded8d16457c

[24] OCS-Study-BOEM-2015-037.pdf

[25] MarXiv Papers | Options for Cooperation between Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy Industries

[26] Offshore Wind Best Management Practices Workshop

[27] Offshore Wind Best Management Practices Workshop

Appendix 2 – Contact Information

Name/Contact Information	Title
Rick Robins RWE Renewables Americas, LLC 100 Federal St. Boston, MA 02110 Rick.Robins@rwe.com Cell: 757-876-3778	Director of Marine Affairs Fisheries Liaison (Acting)
Amanda Mayhew RWE Renewables Americas, LLC 100 Federal St. Boston, MA 02110 Amanda.Mayhew@rwe.com Cell: 804-536-8002	Senior Permitting Manager

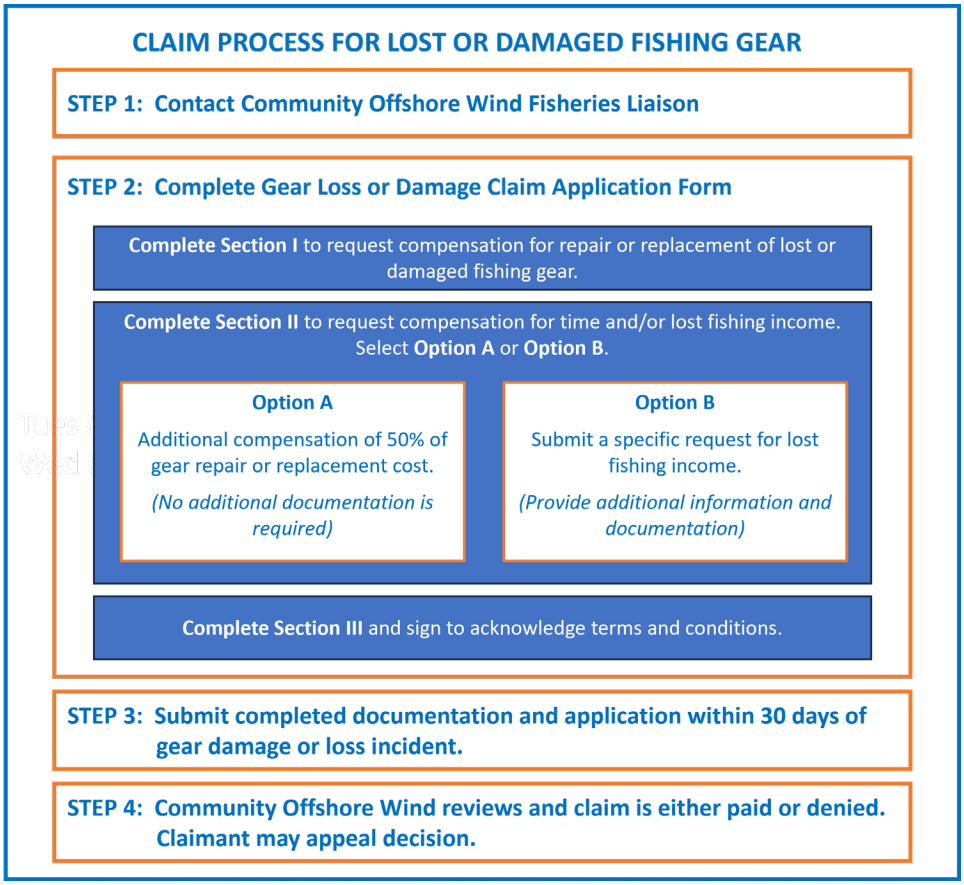
Appendix 3 – Gear Loss or Damage Claims Process and Form

Claims Process for Loss or Damage to Fishing Gear

Community Offshore Wind, LLC and our contractors are committed to avoiding interactions with commercial fishing gear. Effective communication and close coordination are key to avoiding negative fisheries interactions and our team is committed to proactive communication through fisheries notices, notices to mariners, and direct outreach to local fishermen to notify the fleet of the Project's offshore operations.

Claim Filing Process

Community Offshore Wind, LLC has established the following process for fishermen seeking compensation for gear damage or loss as a result of the Project's activities. Below is an overview of the claim process, along with the forms to be completed. If an applicant has questions about this process or feels there are special circumstances relating to their claim, please contact the Fisheries Liaison.



STEP 1: Contact Community Offshore Wind's Fisheries Liaison

If a person experiences gear damage or loss due to Community Offshore Wind's survey activities or operations, they should contact the Project's Fisheries Liaison, as soon as safely possible following the gear damage or loss event. If the Fisheries Liaison is unavailable, please contact the Director of Marine Affairs. Prompt notification of gear damage or loss is an important first step in an efficient claims process.

Additionally, if a fishing gear interaction is observed by the captain or crew of a survey vessel contracted to the Project, the Onboard Fisheries Liaison (OFL) or client representative will immediately notify the Fisheries Liaison and report the gear interaction using a Survey Fishing Gear Incident Form. This notification and documentation process for survey vessels is intended to support an expedited claims process in the event of a gear interaction.

Rick Robins Director of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Liaison (Acting) Email: Rick.Robins@rwe.com Cell : 757-876-3778	Fisheries Liaison (TBD)

STEP 2: Complete the claim application form

- Complete Section I of the Gear Loss or Damage Claim Application Form to request compensation for repair or replacement of lost or damaged fishing gear and provide supporting documentation.
- Complete Section II of the application form to select the option for additional compensation for time/lost income directly associated with the gear loss event.
    - Option A is an additional settlement of 50% of the cost of the gear repair or replacement to compensate for time and/or lost income associated with the gear event for approved claims. Option A is an expedited process and does not require additional documentation.
    - Option B allows individuals to submit a specific claim for actual, documented lost fishing net income directly associated with the gear loss or damage event. Option B is a more detailed process and requires additional information and time to review and process the claim.
- Complete Section III, which involves reviewing the terms and conditions associated with filing a claim and signing the application form.

STEP 3: Submit completed application within 30 days of the gear damage or loss incident

- Submit a complete, signed application form along with all supporting documents to Community Offshore Wind's Fisheries Liaison. The completed application and all attachments must be submitted within 30 days of the gear damage or loss incident. Submission via email is preferred; however, submission in-person or by mail can also be accommodated. Refer to the application checklist to ensure the application is complete.
- If it is not feasible for an Applicant to submit their claim within 30 days of the gear damage or loss incident, please contact Community Offshore Wind's Fisheries Liaison. Exemptions to the deadline

will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To be granted an extension, an Applicant must demonstrate why filing the claim within 30 days of the incident is or was not feasible.

STEP 4: Review and acceptance or denial of claims

Once received, a claim application will be reviewed by the Fisheries Liaison and members of Community Offshore Wind's Fisheries Team. The Project may consult with additional experts to review gear loss claim applications. Applicants will be notified of the result of the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of a complete application. Applications involving unique circumstances or complex documentation may require additional time to review.

- If the claim is approved, payment will be provided to the Applicant via check or electronic deposit via Automated Clearing House (ACH) as soon as possible following the written decision to approve the claim.
- If the claim is denied, a written explanation of the decision will be provided to the Applicant.
- If the claim is approved in part and denied in part, a written explanation of the decision will be provided to the Applicant regarding the portion of the claim denied. (A partial approval could occur if the Company finds valid and approves the gear loss portion of the claim included in Section I, but finds unsubstantiated and denies the lost fishery net income portion the claim included in Section II, Option B.)
- If an application is incomplete, Community Offshore Wind may request submission of the missing information or documentation before making a decision and taking one of the actions listed above.

Applicants who disagree with the decision may file a written notice of appeal with Community Offshore Wind, LLC. The Project may engage or consult with a third party or external reviewers to review the application on appeal. Community Offshore Wind will review and consider the appeal, including the input from third party review, if any, and provide the Applicant a written decision. Community Offshore Wind may also engage independent experts from the fishing industry to participate in the review. The Project is committee to the timely resolution of appeals and will notify the applicant as soon as the result of the appeal is available. The decision on appeal will be final and not subject to any further right of appeal to the Project.

In general, Applicants may not file multiple claims for gear loss in the same area within the same phase of development (e.g., survey activity, construction, operation, decommissioning). Prevention methods should be followed by all parties. Any repeat claims will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the expectation of reasonable prevention methods being followed.

Community Offshore Wind, LLC reserves the right to request additional information to support review of claim.

Gear loss claim example, Option A (expedited option)

A captain has a gear loss incident as a direct result of Community Offshore Wind's activities. The captain files a $2,000 claim for replacement of the lost gear (Section I). The captain includes a $2,000 quote from the local marine supply store for new gear, along with documentation of the time and location of the gear loss. In Section II of the claim form, the captain selects Option A for additional compensation for time and/or lost revenue associated with the gear event. Option A automatically allows compensation equal to 50% of the gear repair or replacement cost for approved claims, or $1,000 in this example. The captain signs Section III and submits the form and supporting documentation. After Community Offshore Wind's review, the claim is verified and approved, and the captain is compensated $3,000 for the gear loss event.

Cost of replacing lost gear	$2,000
Additional 50% compensation (Option A for time/lost income)	$1,000
Total amount for approved claim	$3,000

Gear Loss or Damage Claim Application Form

I. Application for Gear Repair or Replacement

Date of application: _____

Name of applicant: _____

Entity type: (LLC, corporation, individual proprietor) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Vessel name: _____

Home port: _____

Vessel documentation number: _____

Federal fishing permit number: _____

State fisheries landing permit: _____

Gear type: _____

Description of incident causing gear damage or loss, and extent of the gear damage or loss, believed attributable to offshore operations associated with the project:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Date of gear loss incident (specify actual/observed or estimated):_____
_____

Time of day and weather conditions during time of loss (if known): _____
_____

Location of gear damage or loss (lat/lon or TDs—specify): _____
_____

Spatial record of gear damage location (chartplotter, logbook, other—specify, and please provide image or copy): _____
_____

Gear description and markings: _____
_____
_____

Description of offshore wind vessels and any other vessels in area of gear damage/loss (specify source—observation, AIS, etc.): _____
_____
_____

When was gear last set or hauled: _____

Was any gear retrieved, how much, and condition: _____
_____

How much gear (pots, traps, high flyers, etc.) was damaged or lost in this specific incident?
_____
_____
_____

Claim amount requested for damaged or lost gear, including the cost of gear tag replacement, if applicable (This section of the claim form is limited to the direct cost of gear repair or replacement):
_____
_____

See Application Checklist for required documentation.

II. Additional claim for lost fishery income

In addition to the claim for the cost of replacing or repairing lost or damaged gear (Section I, above), this claims process allows Applicants to submit a claim for lost fishery income associated with the gear loss/damage event. There are two options for the lost fishery income portion of the claim. Please check the box of the desired option and follow the respective instructions. Select only one option.

☐ Option A – Additional compensatory settlement of 50% of the cost of the gear repair or replacement to compensate for time and/or lost income associated with the gear loss or damage event. This option is a

streamlined, abbreviated claims process and does not require additional documentation. If Option A is selected, please proceed to Section III.

☐ Option B – A specific compensatory settlement request for lost fishery net income associated with the gear loss or damage event. Option B is a detailed process for substantiating the respective claim and requires the additional information and documentation outlined below.

Additional documentation required for Option B only

If an Applicant selects Option B to claim lost fishing net income the following documentation is required. *If an Applicant selects Option A this section does not need to be completed, and no additional documentation is required to support this section of the claim.*

Date of gear damage/loss: _____

Date of gear repair/replacement (or planned repair/replacement): _____

Amount of claim for lost fishing net income directly associated with this gear loss or damage event:

_____

_____

Description of lost fishing net income directly associated with this gear loss or damage event:

_____

_____

_____

Description and documentation of fish landing history, sales record, and operating expenses for either: a) the 30-day period prior to gear damage/loss and for the period associated with the claimed loss, or b) a comparable 30-day period in the prior year, if applicable, and vessel trip report (VTR) records or state landing records if fishery is not subject to VTR requirements. *(If an Applicant feels these methods do not accurately represent lost net fishing income, please contact RWE's Fisheries Liaison to discuss alternative reference points.)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. Application terms and conditions and Applicant signature

By submitting this Form, Applicant authorizes Community Offshore Wind, LLC to make whatever reasonable inquiries and investigations it deems necessary to verify my application and request for compensation.

Applicant understands that submitting this Application does not guaranty payment or payment in full. Applicant further acknowledges and agrees that if this claim is accepted and paid in its entirety, that acceptance of such payment constitutes full, final, and complete payment for this particular claim and a full, final, and complete resolution and release of all claims related to the underlying incident that Applicant has or may have against Community Offshore Wind, LLC, its employees, shareholders, and affiliates, and their respective employees, and that neither the Project nor any of its affiliates, employees, or shareholders shall have any further outstanding or ongoing obligation with respect to this specific claim and Applicant shall not, directly or indirectly assert any claim or commence, join in, prosecute, participate in, or fund any

part of, any suit or other proceeding of any kind against Community Offshore Wind, LLC or its affiliates, employees, or shareholders based upon the incident giving rise to this specific claim.

If a claim is denied in part, Applicant may accept payment for the undisputed part, subject to the same terms and conditions specified in the paragraph above, without waiving Applicant's right to appeal the disputed part of the claim. Applicant accepts that this claim process (including any appeal of the disputed portion of the claim) constitutes the full, final and complete resolution of all claims related to the underlying incident. Applicant recognizes that submission of this Application does not affect Applicant's rights concerning matters other than those specifically identified in this specific Application.

I attest that I am signing and filing this Application in my individual capacity as the applicant or that I am legally authorized to sign on behalf of the Applicant, and, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge no other Application has been filed claiming the same loss or damage and the information in this Application is true and correct.

Signature _____ Date _____

Application Checklist

- Completed and signed application.
- Completed and signed IRS Form W-9 (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf).
- A detailed invoice for original gear, if available, and either: a) a paid invoice for gear that has already been repaired or replaced; or b) a detailed quote for gear repair or replacement from the supplier. Approved claims will be based on gear replacement or repair costs, if provided.
- Image or copy of documentation (chart plotter, logbook, etc.) of location of gear damage incident.
- Any available photos of undamaged and damaged gear.
- Documentation of gear tag replacement application/receipt, if applicable.
- Documentation to support claims of lost fishing income under Section II, Option B only, if applicable.
- Any additional information Applicant wishes to have in support of application.

Please note that the payment cannot be processed without a signature and completed Form W-9. If applications are deemed incomplete, they will be returned to the Applicant within 15 business days to complete the application.