RWE

Incorporating fishers concerns in the development of offshore wind

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Ricky Alexander, Gus Seyler-Schmidt, and Rick Robins

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Offshore wind as part of the solution

- **Reduce** reliance on fossil fuels
- Many **factors** for siting, design, and execution
- **Establish** a social license to operate

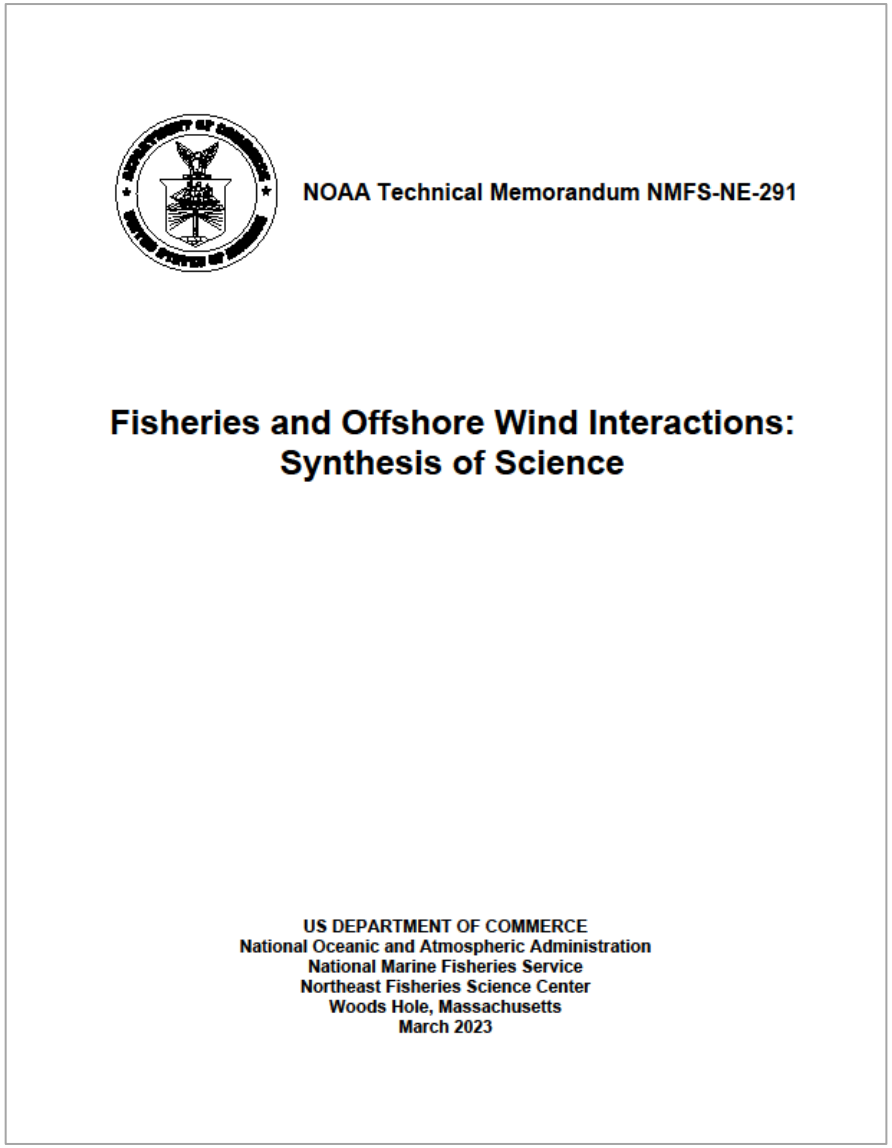

Photo: Deepwater Wind

Summary of key concerns

1. Access
2. Safety, including transit
3. Port congestion
4. Loss of working waterfronts
5. Uncertain impacts on marine ecosystem

Synthesis of the Science (2023)

- Ecosystem Effects (benthic, physical, oceanographic processes, ecosystem synthesis)
- Fisheries Socioeconomics (operations, economics, sociocultural)
- Fisheries Management and Data Collection


NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NE-291

Fisheries and Offshore Wind Interactions:
Synthesis of Science

US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole, Massachusetts
March 2023

Goal

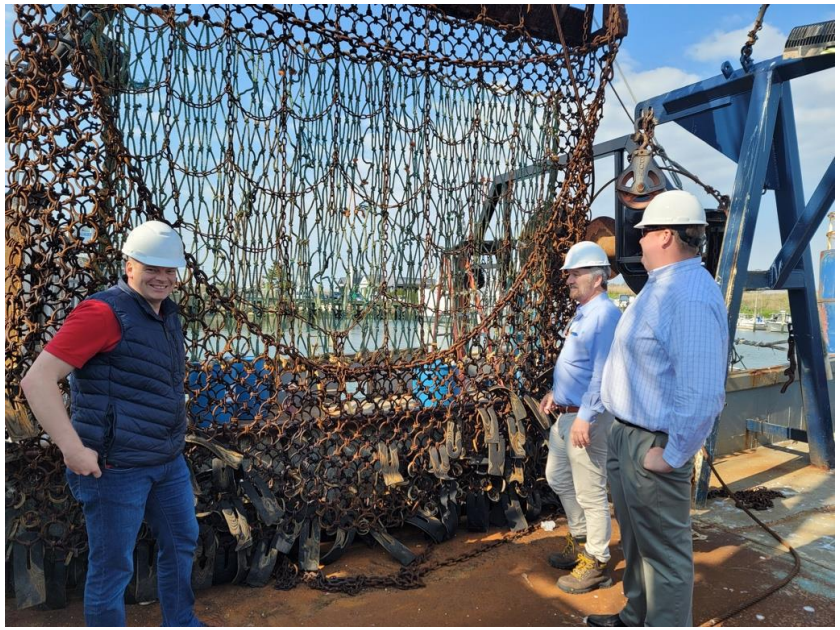
Foster a coexistence that supports successful outcomes for both **fisheries** and **renewable energy**

Best practices for coexistence

Build a strong fisheries / marine affairs team

Engage in robust and transparent communication and collaboration

Adopt a mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimize, and restore



RWE has established a leading offshore wind platform in the U.S.

6 GW* of seabed lease capacity lies on the East, West, and Gulf Coasts

#2 Global offshore wind provider

COMMUNITY offshore wind
A joint venture of RWE nationalgrid

Canopy Offshore Wind Farm

Lake Charles
OCS G-37334

*pro rata RWE

RWE Marine Affairs Team

Rick Robins, Director of Marine Affairs

30 years seafood processing, international marketing, and commercial fisheries development

8 years as Chair of the MAFMC

8 years as member of Virginia Marine Resources Commission

3 years as Fisheries Liaison

Cooperative fisheries research experience

MBA, B.A. in economics and history

Deirdre Boelke, Fisheries Manager

20 years staff with New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

10 years as Sea Scallop fishery plan coordinator

Lead staff for Science and Statistical Committee, Research Set Aside (RSA) Program Review and Scallop RSA Program

Masters in marine affairs; B.S. in biology

Sean Lucey, Fisheries Liaison – East Coast

18 years staff with NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

15 years Research Fisheries Biologist developing ecosystem approaches to management

10 years leading the Northeast Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program

Ph.D. in marine science & technology, M.S. in wildlife & fisheries conservation, B.S. in biology

RWE Marine Affairs Team

Michelle Duval, Fisheries Liaison

10 years in state government, representing NC Division of Marine Fisheries on ASMFC and SAFMC

2 years as Chair of the SAFMC

3 years on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), on the NEFMC Scallop Committee

10 years as a scientist with marine ENGO

Ph.D. in marine ecology, B.S. biology

Ricky Alexander, Fisheries Liaison - New Markets

2+ years offshore wind site investigation surveys (Integral and Inspire)

5+ years as fisheries biologist in cooperative research with Coonamessett Farm Foundation

Fisheries and marine mammal observer on east coast, west coast, and Gulf of Mexico

Masters in biology and B.S. in marine biology

Gus Seyler-Schmidt, Marine Affairs Liaison

24 years serving in the United States Coast Guard

4 years stakeholder management, risk analysis, and operational advisor to the Joint Staff and Secretary of Homeland Security

9 years facilitating national and interagency capacity and resilience development

M.A. in Public Admin and Leadership, M.A. in Defense and Strategic Studies

Our Role and Approach

- **Our Role:**

  Externally - Coordinate engagement and outreach with fisheries stakeholders and develop strategic partnerships to support responsible and sustainable development.

  Internally – Share fishery concerns and help identify potential fishery accommodations across workstreams early in the process to help avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts on fisheries and the environment.

- **Our goal:**

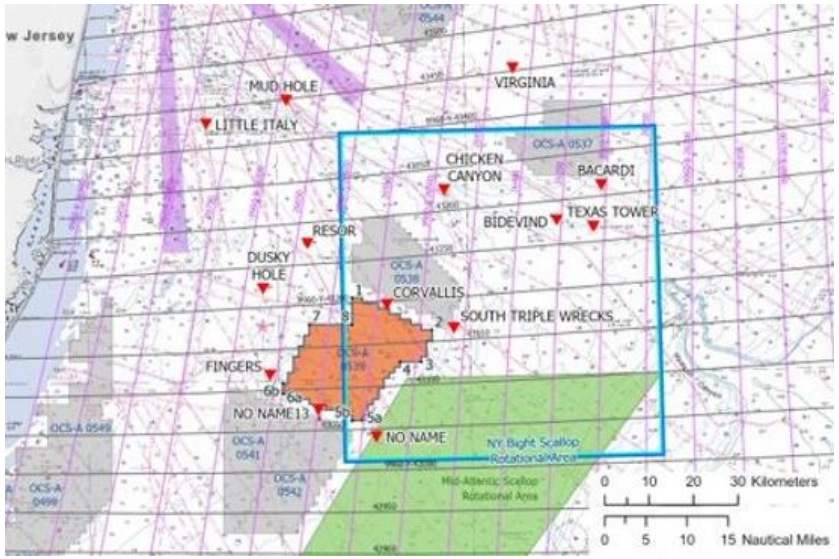
  Create net-positive results for fisheries and the marine environment

  Be a trusted developer of choice our stakeholders want to work with

Shinnecock, NY

Engagement is critical: Various strategies we use for two-way engagement and collaboration

- One-on-one conversations
- Small group meetings, community town hall meetings, focus groups, and workshops
- Participate in federal, state and regional fisheries technical working groups
- Attend relevant Council meetings, as well as meetings of other management bodies and associated advisory board, as appropriate
- Attend industry association meetings, as appropriate
- Participate in community and fishery related events
- Partner with fishermen, fishing organizations, and research entities to conduct collaborative fisheries research and monitoring



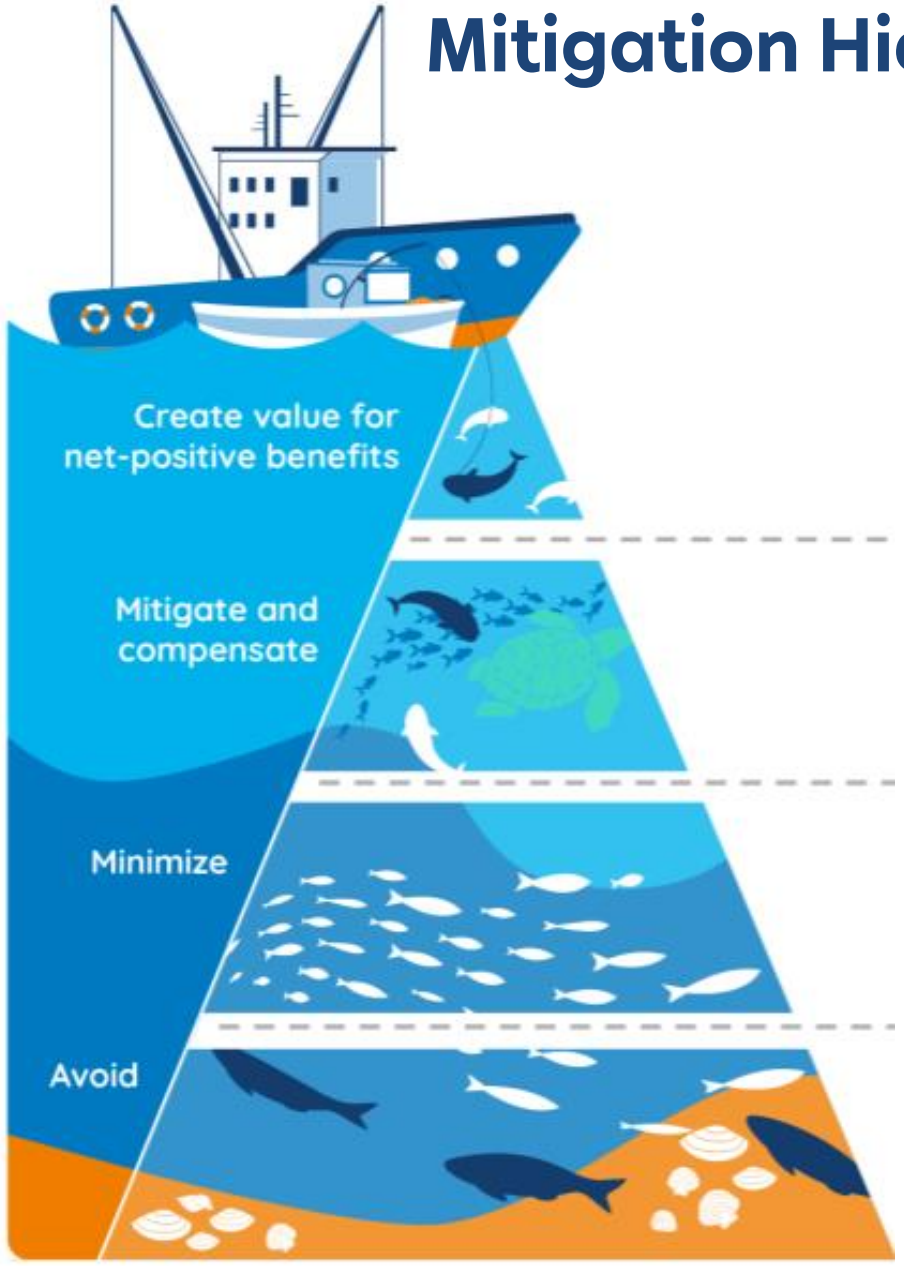
Phases of Offshore Wind

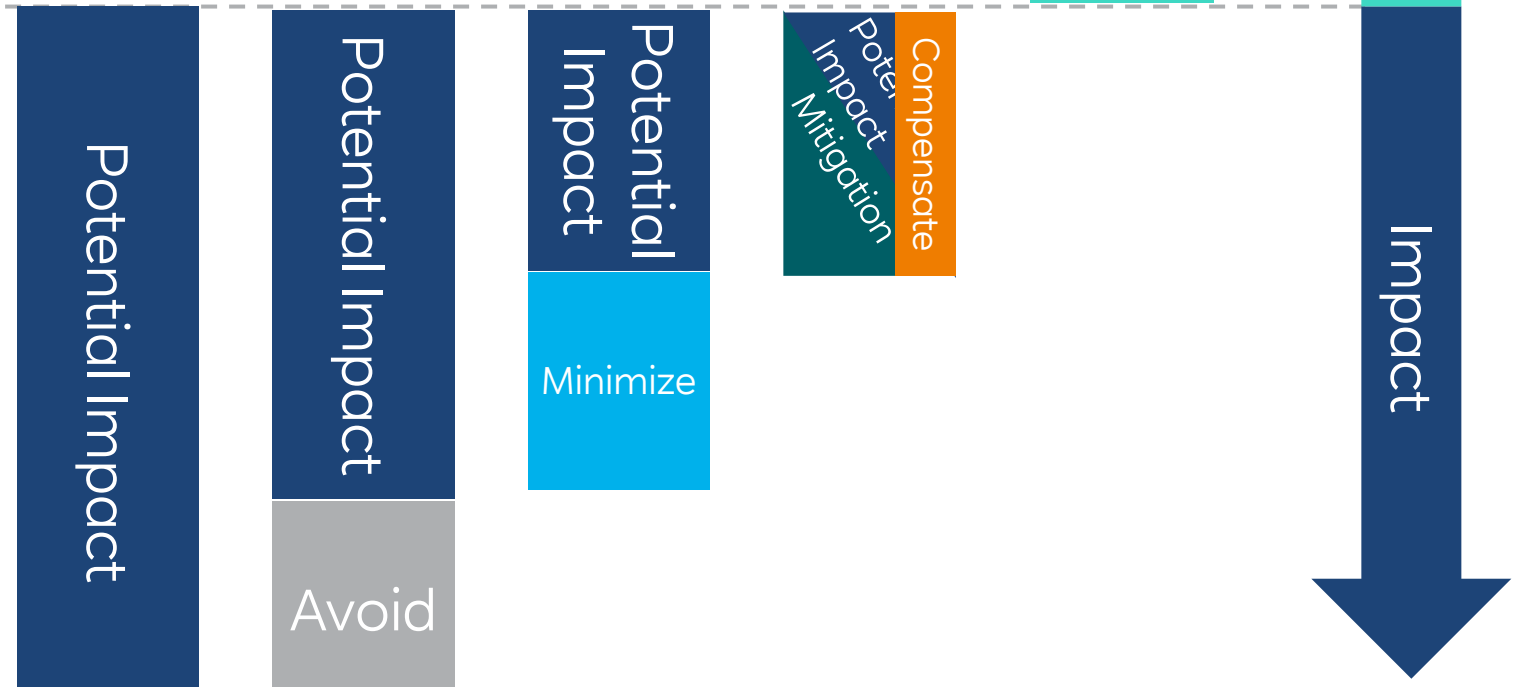
(Extracted from Joint RWE/Vineyard Humboldt Fisheries Communications Plan)

Major Project Deliverables and Reporting

Fisheries Engagement Opportunities

Mitigation Hierarchy





Opportunities for coexistence

- **Early and active communication before and during survey activities:**

  - Risk assessment – identify and avoid high seasonal areas of fixed gear to avoid entanglements

  - Develop tools to inform survey planning schedule;

  - Enhance and adjust export cable routing using fishermen knowledge;

  - Minimize fishery disruptions and interactions through active communication and coordination, daily survey vessel calls, Fishery Notices, one-on-one outreach

  - Utilize onboard fishery liaison and scout vessels to help avoid fishing gear

Seasonality/Intensity of Fisheries Operating in Potential Export Cable Corridors

Fishery	Closures	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lobster (pot/trap)	Apr 30 - May 31												
Monkfish (gillnet)	Apr 1 - 20 (all waters); Feb 15 - Mar 15 (Manasquan north)												
Spiny Dogfish (gillnet)	Dec 16 - Feb 11 (state waters)												
Skates (gillnet)	Dec 16 - Feb 11 (state waters)												
Skates (gillnet, nearshore > 3miles)	n/a												
Black Sea Bass (pot)	n/a												
Surf Clam (dredge)	n/a												

Discussion

Fishermen will be the drivers of designing what coexistence will look like – they are innovative, problem solvers

Developers need to genuinely listen and be open-minded

Trust is essential and takes time to develop long-term relationships

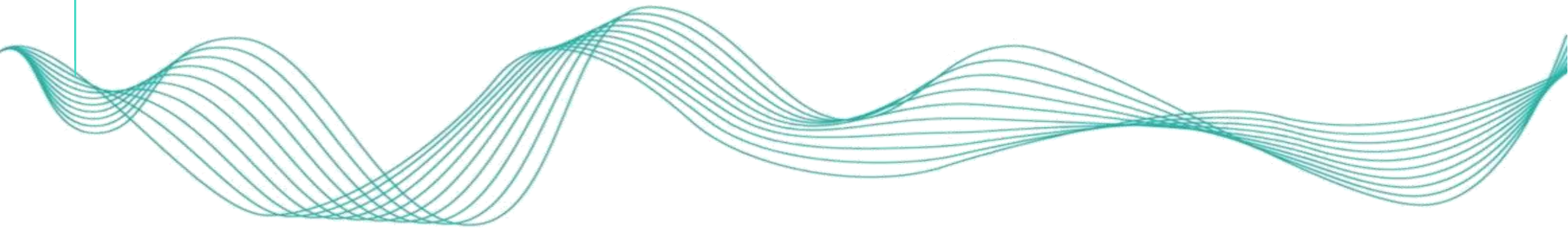
Critical to find common ground and win-win opportunities

Conclusions

Coexistence is possible but not easy or fast

Need renewable energy, food security, access to recreational fishing opportunities, and to maintain vibrant fishing communities

Consistent and genuine **communication** leads to trust



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Questions?

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