Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind Project

Fisheries Communications Plan

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Rev	**Page**	**Section**	**Description**
01	All	All	New Project Document

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1 INTRODUCTION

Avangrid Renewables, the developer of the Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind Project (the Project), is committed to the successful shared use of the ocean space with traditional uses including recreational and commercial marine fisheries. Avangrid Renewables will maintain a fisheries communications team, including a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO), for the Project that will use this fisheries communications plan to guide dialogue and engagement with the region's marine fisheries. The fisheries communications plan is central to the Project's fisheries engagement strategy and will be foundational to the company's efforts to develop and implement best practices and build effective relationships with the fishing community.

This fisheries communications plan has been developed in accordance with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) guidelines[1] for the initial site characterization phase of the Project, including offshore geophysical surveys of the wind energy area (WEA) and an associated, prospective export cable corridor. Avangrid Renewables will update this fisheries communications plan as needed based off feedback from the FLO, fishing community, and project maturation.

This fisheries communications plan is designed to be adaptive, benefiting from feedback and input from the Project's fisheries constituents with respect to their recommendations on the most effective methods to communicate with the fisheries communities that will interact with the Project. The fisheries communications plan will include specific, targeted engagements with fishermen in each of the fisheries that interact with the Project in order to build a comprehensive understanding of the area's fisheries and fisheries uses. These engagements will contribute to the assessment of fisheries in the area to avoid and minimize negative impacts, develop solutions based on shared information and understanding, and minimize conflicts to the greatest extent practicable.

1.1 Fisheries Communications Principles

The fisheries communications plan will promote early, open, and ongoing communications between the Project and the fishing community. The fisheries communications plan is organized around the following principles:

- Fisheries communications will provide fisheries constituents with timely and accurate information regarding the Project activities in a transparent manner.
- The Project acknowledges and respects the expertise, knowledge, and interests of the local fishing community and the Project's fisheries communications will proactively seek their input, concerns, and insight throughout the lifecycle of the Project.
- The fisheries communications plan will promote project awareness and public safety by guiding the development of an effective fisheries communications network that provides the fishing fleet with timely and accurate information regarding the Project's offshore operations.
- The fisheries communications plan will coordinate efficient and comprehensive communication and engagement--including outreach, feedback, and input--with the Project's fisheries constituents.
- Communications pulses will promote comprehensive coverage in advance of major project initiatives and will invite constituents to opt in for more detailed or frequent information updates at their discretion, in order to avoid communications fatigue.
- Communications will be tailored to local and regional fisheries constituencies to ensure effective communication and promote mutual understanding.
- Through the Project's communications, the project development team and FLO will work to build trust with the Project's fisheries constituents and communities and will authentically and proactively seek their input throughout the development, design, implementation, and operation of the Project.

[1] https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/renewable-energy-program/Social-and-Economic-Conditions---Fishery-Communication-Guidelines_2015.pdf

1.2 Fisheries Communications Objectives

The fisheries communications plan will inform the Project's outreach to fishermen who transit and fish in the WEA and export cable corridor areas. Fisheries outreach will proactively promote awareness of offshore Project activities and will invite feedback to promote a mutual and transparent understanding of fisheries uses, resources, concerns, and issues associated with the WEA. The FLO will work to develop a comprehensive communications network to maintain proactive communications with marine fisheries participants who transit and fish in the WEA and corridor throughout the life cycle of the project.

Avangrid Renewables is committed to developing a detailed understanding of the marine fisheries resources in the WEA and the commercial and recreational fisheries that have historically operated in, and transited through, the WEA and export cable corridor. The Project team recognizes that there are data limitations regarding historical commercial and recreational fishing and transiting in the area, and is committed to working with the fishing community to understand and assess the area from a fisheries perspective. The Project's fisheries engagement strategy is designed to be robust to these data limitations. Local fishermen, with direct fishing experience in the area, will be identified and engaged to provide characterizations of important details regarding the seasonal and historical distributions of fish species and fisheries operations and practices in the WEA and corridor. Local and regional fisheries will also be engaged to characterize fisheries transits through the WEA and corridor. Understanding these fisheries resources and uses is an essential step to avoid and minimize impacts on marine fisheries and promote the successful, shared use of the space. Information collected throughout the implementation of the fisheries communications plan will play an important role in informing Avangrid Renewables' understanding and consideration of potential fisheries interactions, and related social and economic dimensions, with the development of the WEA.

Promoting the safety of offshore survey crews, construction crews and fishermen transiting, working, and fishing in the area of the Project is a top priority of the fisheries communication plan throughout the site assessment, site characterization, construction, operational, and decommissioning phases of the Project.

Fisheries communications will also include engagements with the regional fishing community, BOEM, regional fisheries management councils and commissions, state fisheries managers, regional fisheries science centers, and fisheries scientists. These engagements will play an important role in informing Avangrid Renewables' development of a fisheries survey plan to identify and characterize the fisheries resources in the WEA and establish a pre-construction baseline of fisheries abundance and distribution.

Fisheries Communications Team	Company	Contact	Email	Phone
FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICER	FATHOMEDGE LIMITED	RICK ROBINS	rick@fathomedgelimited.com	757.876.3778
FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVE		DEWEY HEMILRIGHT	fvtarbaby@embarqmail.com	252.473.0135

2. ABBREVIATIONS

1.3 Abbreviations

AGR	Avangrid Renewables
AIS	Automatic Identification System
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
EA	Environmental Assessment
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (formerly “Northeast” or NERO)
HMS	Highly Migratory Species
KTH	Kitty Hawk
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
NC DMF	North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
RFMC	Regional Fishery Management Councils
SAFMC	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
SEFSC	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
TD	Time Differential
VHF	Very High Frequency
VIMS	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
VMRC	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
VMS	Vessel Monitoring Systems
VTR	Vessel Trip Report
WEA	Wind Energy Area

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area

The Kitty Hawk Wind Offshore Lease Area (OCS-A 0508) was leased by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to Avangrid Renewables effective November 1, 2017. The area is located 24 nautical miles east of Corolla, North Carolina, and 36 nautical miles southeast of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), BOEM conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) in September 2015 to assess the impacts of issuing leases, site assessment activities (i.e., SAP approval and installation of meteorological buoy(s) within the Wind Energy Area [WEA] and associated export cable corridor), and site characterization activities (i.e., geophysical and geotechnical surveys) of the offshore renewable energy leasing process. The EA found that the site assessment and site characterization activities would have no significant impact on the environment. The site characterization and site assessment phases of the Kitty Hawk Offshore Wind Project (the Project) that are the subject of this fisheries communication plan are covered by the EA. The project will require the development of a Construction and Operating Plan (COP) which will be subject to regulatory review, with additional opportunities for public input, as required by regulation, prior to construction.

3.2 Fisheries Transiting the WEA

The WEA is transited by diverse local and regional commercial and recreational fishing fleets. The WEA is frequently transited on a seasonal basis by offshore recreational (private and for-hire) fishing fleets based primarily in Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, and Rudee Inlet, Virginia, fishing seaward of the WEA for offshore game fish including Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Swordfish, Yellowfin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Dolphinfish (Mahi), and Wahoo. These same fleets also engage in bottom fishing for Blueline Tilefish, Golden Tilefish, Black Sea Bass, and other species seaward of the WEA. The WEA is within the boundaries of at least 8 Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournaments from June through August, with some fielding up to 100 vessels per day, that may transit the WEA. Commercial trawl fleets home ported in North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island transit the WEA when traveling to and from the offshore squid grounds on and inside the 100-fathom contour. Commercial scallopers based in Beaufort, North Carolina and Carteret, North Carolina, transit the WEA on the way to and from Sea Scallop access areas to the northeast. The WEA is also transited by the commercial HMS longliners and commercial tuna green-stickers, Dolphin/Wahoo longline fleets, and snapper/grouper commercial fleets. Commercial gillnetters, based primarily in Wanchese, North Carolina, and shark long liners transit the area. North Carolina based trawl boats with Northeast Multispecies permits and state Summer Flounder endorsement licenses transit the area. Atlantic Red Crab boats, operating from Massachusetts and Virginia, may transit the WEA occasionally on the way to their grounds in 350 fathoms. The WEA is also transited and surveyed periodically by fisheries survey vessels conducting trawl surveys and fisheries research. The export cable corridor is also subject to trawl and longline fisheries surveys.

Fisheries transit data for the WEA are limited. U.S. fisheries data systems are designed for specific regulatory purposes and are not typically purposed for fine-scale spatial planning. Some of the commercial fisheries transiting the WEA are subject to Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) requirements. These fisheries include Squid, HMS (Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Swordfish, Shark), Sea Scallop, Monkfish, Atlantic Herring, Atlantic Mackerel, and Northeast Multispecies (i.e. groundfish). Commercial fisheries fishing in or transiting the WEA not subject to VMS monitoring include snapper/grouper, (some) green-stick boats, gill-netters, trawlers targeting Atlantic Croaker or Scup, Black Sea Bass pot or hook-and-line boats, conch potters, and most Virginia and North Carolina based Summer Flounder boats. Automatic Identification System (AIS) data also provide some indication of transit activity within the WEA, but coverage is incomplete, as many of the recreational boats transiting the WEA operate AIS in passive (i.e., receive-only) mode.

This communications plan recognizes these data limitations for historical fisheries in and near the WEA and associated corridor. Local and regional fishermen who have historically fished in these areas can provide important local knowledge, including detailed information about specific spatial and seasonal information about fish stocks and fisheries operations in the area. As the project moves from the site characterization phase into the site assessment and design phase, the communications plan will include specific and systematic efforts to identify and engage fishermen who have fished in or transited the WEA to provide additional information regarding historical

fishing and transiting in the area, and to provide additional context where there are gaps and limitations in existing fisheries data.

3.3 Fisheries Operating in the WEA

Commercial fisheries data within the WEA are limited. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) requirements include spatial reporting, and indicate some historical effort within the area with gill nets, trawl, and pot. Bluefish and Atlantic Croaker migrate through the area and are subject to targeted gill net drop-net fisheries. Pot fisheries in the area target Black Sea Bass on a seasonal basis, and some conch (Channeled Whelk) potting may occur in the area during late winter and early spring. Historical VTR data indicate some trawl activity within the WEA that may have included Atlantic Croaker, Black Sea Bass, Scup, Summer Flounder, Atlantic Mackerel, and Bluefish. Commercial hook-and-line commercial fisheries for Black Sea Bass may also operate within the WEA on a seasonal basis.

A review of the VTR data available in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Council (MARCO) Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal[2] indicate commercial fishing trips inside the WEA using trawl, gillnet, dredge, and pot gear. This fisheries communications plan will include provisions to understand the available fisheries dependent data for the area, and the FLO will engage the local fishing industry and regional fisheries managers to interpret existing fisheries data and identify gaps in data.

Recreational fisheries in the WEA may target Bluefish, False Albacore, Black Sea Bass, Mako Shark, Bluefin Tunas, and other species, on a seasonal basis. Yellowfin Tunas, Wahoo, Sailfish, and Dolphinfish (Mahi) may also be caught occasionally in the area, although the area is on the inshore periphery of their preferred habitat. The core effort in these recreational fisheries for highly migratory species, and in the commercial pelagic longline fisheries for tunas, Swordfish, and Dolphinfish, is focused seaward of the WEA. Amberjack are also targeted at the nearby offshore Navy towers located south and southwest of the WEA.[3]

3.4 Fisheries Transits in Export Cable Corridor

The prospective export cable corridor planned for bathymetric surveying makes landfall at Sandbridge, Virginia and follows a dogleg route southeasterly to the 4A buoy, passing just south of the Horseshoe seamount before meeting the northwest corner of the WEA. The export cable corridor area is transited by the recreational HMS fleet and is transited by North Carolina based commercial boats, as they return to their home ports from Summer Flounder, Sea Scallop, and other trips in the Mid-Atlantic region. Most of the recreational charter and private boats participating in the HMS fisheries are concentrated at a handful of marinas in Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, and in Virginia Beach. Private boats participating in the fishery may also depart from several boat ramps and other marinas throughout the area, particularly those vessels participating in near shore fisheries for Cobia, Striped Bass, and Spanish Mackerel. The export cable corridor is also transited by recreational boats traveling along the coast.

3.5 Fisheries Operating in Export Cable Corridor

The export cable corridor is fished more frequently than the WEA. Recreational fisheries for Spanish Mackerel, King Mackerel, Bluefish, Sharks, and Cobia operate in the area on a seasonal basis, principally from May through September. A wintertime fishery for Striped Bass has also been significant historically within the Virginia state water (<3 nm from shore) component of the corridor. Commercial fisheries in the area include conch potting (November through February, subject to water temperature), conch dredging (April through June), gillnetting for Spiny Dogfish (mid-November through April), Bluefish, and other finfish species. Smooth Dogfish were also historically subject to fishing in the area seasonally in April and May. An experimental White Shrimp fishery in the Virginia state territorial water also transits and operates in the inshore portion of the corridor, south of Dam Neck Road, typically from October through December.

[2] Portal.midatlanticocean.org
[3] U.S. Navy towers A, B, C, and G, known locally as the 38 Tower, 70 Tower, 65 Tower, and 102 Tower, respectively, reflecting compass bearings from Oregon Inlet sea buoy.

3.6 Ongoing Fisheries and Ecological Monitoring

The project has been conducting monthly aerial surveys of the area to monitor birds, marine mammals, sea turtles, and fish since January 2019. These surveys will contribute to the environmental baseline information for the WEA.

3.7 Fisheries Management and Data

The fisheries operating in and transiting the WEA and export corridor are subject to a mosaic of fisheries regulations and resulting data sets. The regulatory programs and data collection for the fisheries in the area often involve interjurisdictional management between regional fisheries management councils (RFMCs), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional offices or HMS Division, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and coastal states.

Most of the commercial fisheries operating in the WEA and corridor are not subject to direct VMS monitoring requirements. Some vessels participating in these fisheries, however, may hold an active permit for another federal fishery (e.g. Atlantic Mackerel) and be subject to VMS monitoring, which would create a spatial data record. Trawl boats, and most gillnet boats targeting Atlantic Croaker in the WEA typically hold one or more Northeast regional permits (e.g. Summer Flounder, Bluefish or Spiny Dogfish) and would be subject to Northeast (GARFO) VTR or Southeast (SERO) logbook federal reporting requirements. Black Sea Bass, Summer Flounder, Bluefish, and Scup are all subject to GARFO VTR federal reporting requirements and have been targeted historically in the WEA commercially.

Some of the commercial fishing vessels transiting the WEA are subject to VMS monitoring for their respective federally managed fisheries, and may be subject to VMS during transit. These include vessels with permits active in the Sea Scallop, Squid/Butterfish, Atlantic Herring, Atlantic Mackerel, Northeast Multispecies, Monkfish, and Pelagic Longline (HMS) fisheries.

The FLO will develop a roadmap of available commercial and recreational fisheries dependent and fisheries independent commercial and recreational fishery datasets for the Project. In consultation with the Fisheries Representative, the FLO will engage the local and regional fishing fleets to interpret and characterize the fishing and transit data to provide additional context for the fisheries in the area and contribute to a mutual understanding of the available data.

4 MARINE GEOPHYSICAL & BENTHIC SURVEY BACKGROUND

4.1 Offshore Survey Activities Planned in the WEA and Export Cable Corridor

High-resolution geophysical (HRG) and benthic surveys are currently underway in the WEA and along the export cable corridor. HRG surveys are being conducted by two vessels: a smaller, shallow draft vessel to conduct surveys in the shallow reaches of the export cable corridor, and a larger, dynamically positioned vessel to survey the remainder of the export cable corridor and WEA. Site characterization survey activities will include the following survey elements:

- Depth sounding (multibeam echo sounder) to determine site bathymetry and bottom contours;
- Magnetic intensity measurements for detecting potential ferrous objects like ship wrecks and unexploded ordnance;
- Seafloor imaging (side scan sonar), to identify natural and man-made acoustic targets resting on the seabed as well as any anomalous features;
- Shallow and mid penetrating sub bottom profiler to map the near geological stratigraphy below the seabed;
- Sediment samples and digital imagery to support interpretation of geophysical data and characterize sediment conditions and benthic habitats;
- Reconnaissance geotechnical investigation; and
- Benthic grab sampling.

4.2 Survey Team Communications

Survey vessels will monitor VHF 16 and 13 for bridge-to-bridge communications with fishing vessels operating in, or transiting through, the WEA and export cable corridor. The FLO will have daily calls with the survey vessels to provide the survey team with fisheries updates and receive feedback from the survey team as they execute the survey work. The FLO will be the primary point of contact for the fishing industry and for the survey team regarding any fisheries issues or conflicts, and will work to resolve any fisheries issues that arise during the survey work. The FLO will work to promote awareness of the local recreational and commercial fisheries and ongoing fisheries surveys with the survey team. The FLO will develop and distribute Fisheries Notices to the recreational and commercial fishing fleets to inform them of the status of survey activities.

The FLO will provide the survey team with the following deliverables:

- A description of the commercial and recreational fisheries in, and transiting through, the WEA and associated export cable corridor;
- A schedule of the recreational HMS tournaments overlapping the survey area, including communications channels for the tournament fleets;
- A gear entanglement protocol and reporting form for the Client Representative on the survey vessels;
- A schedule of fisheries surveys overlapping the survey area;
- Forward looking projections of fisheries activities and fisheries surveys expected in the WEA and export cable corridor throughout the survey operations to facilitate coordination with concentrated fishing events, operations, or fisheries surveys; and
- Daily calls with the survey vessel and team to discuss fisheries interactions and fisheries updates.

5 FISHERIES COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The fisheries participants fishing in and transiting the Project area include a relatively discrete set of commercial fisheries and fleets, and a large population of recreational (private and for-hire) HMS fishing vessels. The area is also subject to fisheries surveys by various research agencies and institutions. In consultation with the local and regional fishing industry, the Fisheries Representative, and fisheries managers, the FLO will identify fisheries participants and constituencies that are likely to interact with, or have an interest in, the project area. This fisheries communication plan will include targeted strategies and communication techniques designed to achieve effective outreach to each of these diverse fisheries sectors, and to collect fisheries information essential to the successful planning, design, and operation of the project in the offshore environment.

5.1 Commercial Fisheries in the WEA

Available VMS and VTR fisheries data indicate limited historical commercial fishing activity inside the WEA, relative to adjacent areas. These include gill net, trawl, dredge, and pot effort. These commercial fisheries are seasonal in nature, and are not expected to be active during the first phase (i.e. June – December) of offshore surveys. The FLO will work with the Fisheries Representative, the local fishing industry, the state marine fisheries divisions and agencies, the regional fisheries management councils, and NMFS to identify fishermen who currently fish in the area, or who historically fished in the area, in order to establish direct communication with those fishermen during the survey phase of the project. The FLO will also stay in daily communication with the survey crew, and regular communication with the commercial fishing industry and Fisheries Representative, to maintain an active awareness of any commercial fishing activity in the area that may occur during the survey period. When offshore survey operations and commercial fishing activity are active synchronously, the FLO will work directly with the local fishing fleet and the survey team to coordinate operations and avoid conflicts.

The FLO will work with the fishing industry to identify commercial fishermen who have fished in the area and will interview them directly to seek their input regarding the fisheries characteristics and historical fishing operations in the project area.

5.2 Commercial Fisheries Transiting the WEA

The WEA is transited by a diverse and relatively discrete set of commercial fisheries. VMS data indicate transits of the WEA by Sea Scallop vessels homeported in North Carolina, and occasional transits by vessels with federal Squid, Mackerel, Herring, or Northeast Multispecies permits that are engaged in trawl fisheries east of the WEA. The fisheries communications plan will identify fisheries transiting the WEA and the FLO will employ a combination of direct communications with fleet owners (local and distant port) and vessel operators, local and regional commercial fisheries associations, and permitting authorities (e.g. NMFS HMS, Virginia Marine Resources Commission [VMRC], NC Division of Marine Fisheries) to promote awareness of the survey activities in the WEA and export cable corridor during the survey phase of the project.

5.3 Recreational HMS Fisheries Transiting the WEA

The highest levels of fisheries transit in the area are by the recreational HMS fleet. The HMS fishery includes a large population of permit holders. There are 20,338 Atlantic HMS Angling permits. HMS vessels home ported in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina most frequently transit the WEA. The number of HMS permits home ported in those states is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Atlantic HMS Angling Permits, home ported by state[4]

North Carolina	1,345
Virginia	833
South Carolina	483

The large number of vessels participating in the HMS fisheries poses a unique challenge in terms of communications. This plan will develop a network of integrated communications nodes, combined with dock and agency level communication interfaces to achieve a targeted, comprehensive outreach plan.

5.4 HMS Tournaments

HMS tournaments may generate peak transit events through the WEA and associated corridor. At least 8 HMS tournaments, summarized in Table 3, overlap with the WEA. HMS tournament operators for tournaments overlapping the WEA will also be key constituents and nodes in the communication and outreach network throughout the project. Communications with tournaments during the survey period will include distribution of hard copies of notices to include in tournament materials, digital communications, and direct communications with the tournament operators.

Table 3. Major Recreational HMS Fishing Tournaments Overlapping with WEA.

VIRGINIA BEACH TUNA TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
VIRGINIA BEACH INVITATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
NC BOATBUILDERS TOURNAMENT	PIRATES COVE, NC
ALICE KELLY TOURNAMENT	PIRATES COVE, NC
PIRATES COVE BIG GAME TOURNAMENT	PIRATES COVE, NC
WINE, WOMEN, AND FISHING TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
F.WAYNE MCLESKEY, JR. MEMORIAL MARLIN TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

The FLO will provide the survey team with a schedule of the HMS tournaments overlapping the survey areas, including a projection of peak transit times and communications channels.

5.5 Charter Boat Transit Through the WEA

Charter boats comprise a significant portion of the effort in the HMS fisheries transiting the WEA. These boats are concentrated at a discrete number of marinas in North Carolina and Virginia. Some of these same marinas also host private HMS boats, which are also moored at other public and private docks throughout the area. Marina operators in North Carolina and Virginia, and charter booking desks, will be key constituents and communication nodes for port-specific communications with the HMS fleet throughout the project. Communications will include a mix of printed materials distributed in-person, digital communications by email and text, and posted notices regarding survey activities.

5.6 Other Recreational Infrastructure and Industry

Municipal boat ramps with significant concentrations of trailer boats that fish offshore and who may transit and fish within the corridor and the WEA will also be contact points for fisheries notices during the survey period. The plan will also engage the local recreational tackle industry serving the HMS fleet during the development of the project to promote project awareness and feedback. The FLO will also engage marinas and their social media networks at key ports in North Carolina and Virginia with concentrations of recreational (private and for-hire) fishing boats that may fish in or transit the corridor and WEA to promote awareness of the offshore operations in advance of and during the survey phase of the project.

[4] Source: Draft Amendment 11 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, July 2018, NMFS.

5.7 Recreational Fishery Leaders and Influencers

Recreational fishery leaders, who are active and visible within the inshore and offshore fisheries in the area, will also be identified as key constituents and communication points in the plan's outreach network.

5.8 Regional Offshore Fisheries Survey Coordination

Several important fisheries independent surveys are conducted in the WEA and export cable corridor area. Some of these surveys sample fixed stations and some utilize random stratified survey designs. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Bottom Trawl Survey, the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) survey, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Longline Shark Survey may sample stations in or near the export cable corridor area. The NEFSC Bottom Trawl Survey may also select sample stations within the WEA. The FLO will develop and maintain a list of offshore fisheries surveys and related surveys that may overlap with the survey area. The FLO will work with the survey principal investigators or managers to develop projections of fisheries survey activity that may overlap spatially and temporally with survey activities, and to inform the fisheries survey managers of the bathymetric survey operations in and near the WEA and export cable corridor areas. This information will be transmitted to the survey team and the FLO will work proactively with the respective survey managers to coordinate and de-conflict survey work as needed.

5.9 Fishery Management Council and State and Federal Agency Outreach

Participants in the recreational and commercial HMS fisheries are required to have permits issued by the HMS division of NMFS. The HMS Division maintains a LISTSERV of interested parties and permit holders that have opted in for email updates. The FLO will send essential outreach documents to the HMS division of NMFS for distribution to its LISTSERV to reach a substantial portion of the population of HMS permit holders and interested parties.

The WEA and export cable corridor are also subject to transit by recreational and commercial vessels that are not subject to HMS permit requirements. In order to achieve a high level of communication coverage across these fleets, this fisheries communication plan will also engage the communication networks of the regional fisheries councils and commissions (i.e. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, New England Fisheries Management Council, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and VMRC, in order to promote awareness and public safety during the survey phase of the project. The FLO will engage all of the region's fisheries management entities and work with them on a proactive and collaborative basis to determine and develop the most effective means to communicate with the fisheries participants utilizing the WEA.

The FLO will consult with NMFS, BOEM, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and VMRC during the development of the fisheries communications plan to identify fisheries constituents who fish and transit the project area, and to discuss fisheries engagement strategies. The FLO will present the fisheries communications plan to these agencies and will maintain an active dialogue with them regarding the fisheries engagement strategy.

5.10 Fisheries Communications Team

The fisheries communications team will be comprised of a FLO and one or more Fisheries Representatives. The liaison and representative(s) will have unique responsibilities that work together with the local fishing community to achieve effective fisheries communications, feedback, and input to contribute to the mutual success of the project.

5.10.1 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

The Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) is the project's principal contact to the local and regional commercial and recreational fisheries. The FLO is responsible for developing and implementing the fisheries communications plan. In close coordination with the project team, the FLO will directly engage the local and regional fishing communities to inform the fisheries constituencies about the project and to get their input in order to promote the successful shared use of the project area. The FLO will also interact with the state, regional, and federal fisheries managers

to keep them informed of the project, to coordinate offshore activities with fisheries surveys as needed, and to support the project's fisheries data requests.

The FLO for the project is FathomEdge Limited, principal Rick Robins, who can be contacted at rick@fathomedgelimited.com, and by phone at 757.876.3778. Rick previously served as chair of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Associate Member of the VMRC, advisor to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and has had a commercial career in fisheries development and seafood processing and exporting. He is active in the marlin fishery and is home ported in Rudee Inlet, Virginia.

5.10.2 Fisheries Representatives (FRs)

Fisheries Representatives (FRs) represent the local fishing community and play an important role informing the Project and the FLO about fishermen and fisheries activity in the Project area in order to avoid, minimize, or mitigate fisheries conflicts. FRs are typically active within one or more sectors of the local or regional fisheries, and possess detailed local fisheries knowledge and expertise. The FRs also provide feedback to the FLO throughout the development and implementation of this fisheries communications plan to ensure effective communications with the local and regional fishing community.

Dewey Hemilright is a commercial fisheries representative for the project. Home ported in Wanchese, North Carolina, Dewey is in his third term on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and has a lifetime of experience in state and regional commercial fisheries, including the HMS fisheries. He serves as the Mid-Atlantic's representative to the NMFS HMS Advisory Panel. He is passionate about fisheries education and outreach, and shares his commercial fishing experience through educational programs in North Carolina and throughout the region. Dewey is available at fvtarbaby@embarqmail.com, and by phone at 252.473.0135.

One or more Fisheries Representatives may be added to represent other fishing interests in the Project area (e.g. recreational, commercial, charter/for-hire, etc.).

5.11 Survey Period Communications Products

Initial communications during the survey period of the project will promote project awareness, with a sharp focus on public safety. Notices to Mariners and Fisheries Notices will be distributed widely throughout the regional recreational and commercial fisheries to achieve a high level of project awareness.

The FLO will also work closely with the Fisheries Representative and the local fishing industry to identify fishermen with experience fishing in the WEA so that their experience, perspectives, and concerns can be understood and documented.

5.11.1 Notices to Mariners

In coordination with the survey team and the FLO, the project will prepare Notices to Mariners to inform the maritime public of any survey activities in the WEA and export cable corridor during the survey phase of the project. Notices to Mariners for the activities within the project area will be issued by the Fifth District of the U.S. Coast Guard. Mariners can sign up for weekly Notices to Mariners issued by the district here.[5]

5.11.2 Fisheries Notices

Fisheries notices will be developed by the FLO and widely circulated in the region's recreational and commercial fisheries during the survey period. Fisheries notices will provide the fishing fleet with notices describing the timing, location, and nature of the offshore survey work in documents tailored specifically to the fisheries. These documents will include clear communications about the survey activities, including chart highlights with Loran TD overlays, and references to local bathymetric features in terms familiar to the fishing industry. The notices will also include detailed descriptions of the survey vessels and their communications channels.

[5] https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSCG_64

Commercial fishing gear conflicts are not anticipated in the WEA or export cable corridor during the first phase of the survey period, from June through October of 2019, which is outside of the typical seasonal effort for commercial fisheries in the area. Fisheries Notices will include a precautionary, standard request to move any gear out of the survey area during the survey period in order to minimize the risk to fishing gear or survey equipment and crews. The FLO will maintain regular communications with the survey crew regarding any gear interactions, and the FLO and Fisheries Representative will maintain an ongoing awareness of any fisheries activities in the area. The survey crew may unintentionally encounter active or derelict fishing gear during the survey. The crew will document any gear interactions and report them to the FLO for review and action.

Follow-on survey work, anticipated from November, 2019 through January, 2020, will be conducted using on-board sonar equipment, and the FLO will coordinate the survey work with the local fleet to minimize any impacts to local fixed gear fishing operations underway during that period.

5.11.3 Safety Distance Zones During Survey Period

Safety distance zones will be established in the Notices to Mariners and in the Fisheries Notice. The survey vessels will display appropriate markings or masthead lighting configurations, consistent with their survey operations, as required by U.S. Coast Guard regulations. The Fisheries Notices will detail a safety zone around the survey vessels during survey operations.

5.12 Communications Planning for Subsequent Phases

The fisheries communications plan will receive substantial updates prior to the following project intervals and initiatives:

- Site Assessment Phase. The site assessment phase will include the deployment one or more environmental monitoring buoys within the WEA. The fisheries communications team will work with the local and regional fisheries community to promote awareness of the site assessment activities in the project area.

- Design and COP Phase. The fisheries communications team will be engaged with the fishing community to collect necessary fisheries information, invite input, and understand fisheries concerns at the front end of the design process and throughout the development of the project. The fisheries communications plan will be updated adaptively, as needed in advance of the design and COP development stages in the project to maintain effective fisheries communications throughout these phases of the project.

6 Appendix

This document benefits from best management practices, recommendations, and examples highlighted in the following documents:

Collaborative Fisheries Planning for Virginia's Offshore Wind Energy Area. OCS Study BOEM 2016-040, prepared by Virginia Coastal Zone Program.

Offshore Wind Best Management Practices Workshop, Feb 5-6, 2014, Final Report, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Available online at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/53304256e4b0fcd40d97f3f6/1395671638262/MAFMC_Offshore+Wind+Workshop_Final+Report.pdf

Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585, U.S. Department of The Interior, BOEM, Office of Renewable Energy Program, October 20, 2015.

The Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW). 2014. FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. Available online: http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/5693/floww-best-practice-guidance-foroffshore-renewables-developments-recommendations-for-fisheries-liaison.pdf

Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585, U.S. Department of The Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, June 2019.

Ecology and Environment, Inc. 2014, Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf.

A_Justin Kirkpatrick, et al., Socio-Economic Impact of Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Development on Fisheries in the U.S. Atlantic, OCS Study BOEM 2017-12.

Fishermen transiting or fishing in the WEA and interested parties can follow project updates at: www.avangridrenewables.com/kittyhawk

To sign up for fisheries updates, please email rick@fathomedgelimited.com

The fisheries communications team welcomes input, feedback, questions, and concerns regarding this fisheries communications plan via email at rick@fathomedgelimited.com or by phone at 757.876.3778.

The fisheries communications team thanks the many fishermen, captains, fisheries leaders, marina operators, charter desks, tournament operators, packers, dealers, tackle shops; council, commission, state, and federal agency personnel, members and advisors; and others who care about fisheries who have aided in the distribution of our Fisheries Notice to promote project awareness and public safety during survey activities.