



# Fisheries Communications Plan

Lease Area OCS-P 0561 and Lease Area OCS-P 0562

Document # 005000083 | Revision 02

January 29, 2024

**RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC**

(Lessee Company No. 15061)

Lease Area OCS-P 0561

100 Federal St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Boston, MA 02110

[americas.rwe.com](http://americas.rwe.com)

RWE Document # 005000083

RWE Revision 02

**Vineyard Offshore, LLC**

(Lessee Company No. 15145)

Lease Area OCS-P 0562

517 3rd Street, Suite 1

Eureka, CA 95501

[vineyardoffshore.com](http://vineyardoffshore.com)

Vineyard Offshore Document # 005000083

Vineyard Offshore Revision 02

## Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 COMPANY AND LEASE AREA OVERVIEW .....	8
1.1.1 RWE .....	8
1.1.2 Vineyard Offshore.....	9
1.2 FISHERIES COMMUNICATIONS PLAN PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES .....	9
<b>2 FISHERIES TEAMS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 COMPANY FISHERIES LIAISON .....	11
2.2 INDEPENDENT FISHERIES LIAISON AND ADDITIONAL FISHERIES ROLES.....	11
<b>3 FISHERIES CHARACTERIZATION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 DATA SOURCES.....	12
3.2 CURRENT AND HISTORICAL FISHERIES OPERATIONS .....	13
3.2.1 Commercial Fisheries .....	13
3.2.2 Recreational Fisheries .....	16
3.3 SHORESIDE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FISHING-RELATED BUSINESSES.....	17
3.4 OTHER OCEAN USERS .....	17
3.5 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT .....	18
<b>4 FISHERIES ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1 OVERARCHING APPROACH .....	18
4.1.1 Commercial and Recreational Fishing Associations .....	19
4.1.2 Shoreside Infrastructure and Fishing Related Businesses .....	19
4.1.3 Other Ocean Users .....	20
4.1.4 Fisheries Science and Management.....	20
4.2 COORDINATION ACROSS LEASE AREAS AND CONSTITUENT GROUPS.....	20
4.3 COMMUNICATIONS TRACKING AND REPORTING .....	21
<b>5 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT REDUCTION .....</b>	<b>21</b>
5.1 SITE ASSESSMENT AND CHARACTERIZATION.....	23
5.1.1 Fisheries Characterization and Survey Planning .....	23
5.1.2 Risk Assessment and Pre-survey Communication .....	24
5.1.3 During Survey Communication.....	24
5.1.4 Gear Loss or Damage Resulting from Survey Activity .....	25
5.2 PROJECT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS PLANS .....	25
5.2.1 Dock Space, Obstacles, Entanglement and Transit.....	25
5.2.2 State and Federal Climate Adaptation Strategies.....	26
5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS .....	26
5.3.1 Lease Area Use Community Benefits Agreements.....	26
5.4 CONSTRUCTION .....	27
5.5 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.....	27
5.6 DECOMMISSIONING.....	27
<b>6 COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7 CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8 FUTURE PLAN REVISIONS AND COMMUNICATION BENCHMARKS.....</b>	<b>28</b>

<b>APPENDIX A – BEST PRACTICES AND ONGOING EFFORTS .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>APPENDIX B - FISHERIES TEAM BIOGRAPHIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>32</b>
RWE FISHERIES TEAM .....	32
VINEYARD OFFSHORE FISHERIES TEAM .....	33
<b>APPENDIX C – ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT DESIGNATIONS.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDIX D – CLAIM PROCESS FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO FISHING GEAR RESULTING FROM SURVEY ACTIVITY .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>APPENDIX E – REVIEW AND INPUT ON DRAFT JOINT FCP .....</b>	<b>43</b>

RWE Revision Summary - 005000083				
Revision	Date	Section	Pages	Description of Changes
01	9/29/23	All	All	First Issue
02	1/29/24	All	All	Second Issue, post BOEM review

Vineyard Offshore Summary - 005000083				
Revision	Date	Section	Pages	Description of Changes
01	9/29/23	All	All	First Issue
02	1/29/24	All	All	Second Issue, post BOEM review

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC and Vineyard Offshore, LLC (RWE and Vineyard Offshore, respectively; together referred to as the Companies) are leading the development of offshore wind projects located in two offshore wind lease areas off the Humboldt Coast. The Companies have developed a joint Fisheries Communications Plan (Joint FCP or Plan) in response to feedback from the fishing industry to streamline and simplify communication and coordination efforts across lease areas. This Joint FCP provides a framework for communicating and building collaborative relationships with fishing communities and is a living document that will be adapted over time. The term “fishing community” is used throughout the document to encompass a range of fishery constituents, including fishery participants (i.e., individuals and businesses that harvest commercial fishery resources or participate in recreational fisheries); shoreside seafood businesses including processors, buyers and dealers; marine supply and bait and tackle retailers; other fishery and marine-related constituents; and the communities that underpin and depend on commercial and recreational fisheries. This Plan reflects initial conversations between the Companies and local and regional fishing communities.

Through this Plan, the Companies will work to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure that fishing communities are informed of project activities in advance and aware of the opportunities to engage and provide input at each project phase.
- Cultivate a deep understanding of fisheries, fishery participants, and fishing communities to inform project design and activities.
- Facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration with fishing communities to identify, avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the extent practicable and promote mutually positive outcomes.

Section 3 provides an initial characterization of commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, shoreside infrastructure and fishing-related businesses, other ocean users, and fisheries managers that are likely to have an interest in being informed and engaged with the projects. Section 4 outlines the strategies that the Companies intend to use to engage and communicate with these fishing communities. The Companies will use these strategies to develop an interconnected communication network that is coordinated and tailored to the needs and preferences of the various constituent groups. The Companies will continue to engage with fishing communities in Northern California and along the West Coast to develop a detailed understanding of local and regional fisheries, curate a list of interested fishery constituents, and further identify and develop appropriate communication and engagement strategies.

The development of offshore wind projects involves several discrete phases and includes significant data collection, environmental analysis, and stakeholder consultation. Section 5 describes the activities anticipated for each project phase as well as an overview of the discussions that will be undertaken with the fishing community to reduce conflicts with facility design and marine vessel operations. This Plan was developed to be in place at the beginning of the initial site assessment and characterization phase; as such, it focuses on the communication and coordination that will occur during this phase. This includes a pre-survey risk assessment and communication strategy, as well as approaches for coordinating vessel activity during survey activities. While the Companies will work to avoid or minimize fishery impacts, a gear loss claim procedure is provided for loss or damage to fishing gear due to survey activities (see Section 5.1.4 and Appendix D).

The Companies are committed to developing respectful and collaborative relationships with fishing communities and proactively ensuring they have meaningful opportunities for input. The Companies welcome feedback to inform and improve this Joint FCP and suggestions on opportunities to initiate dialogue and engagement with fishing communities. This Plan will be updated as these offshore wind projects further develop, and communication strategies evolve. Contact information for the Companies is provided in Section 2.

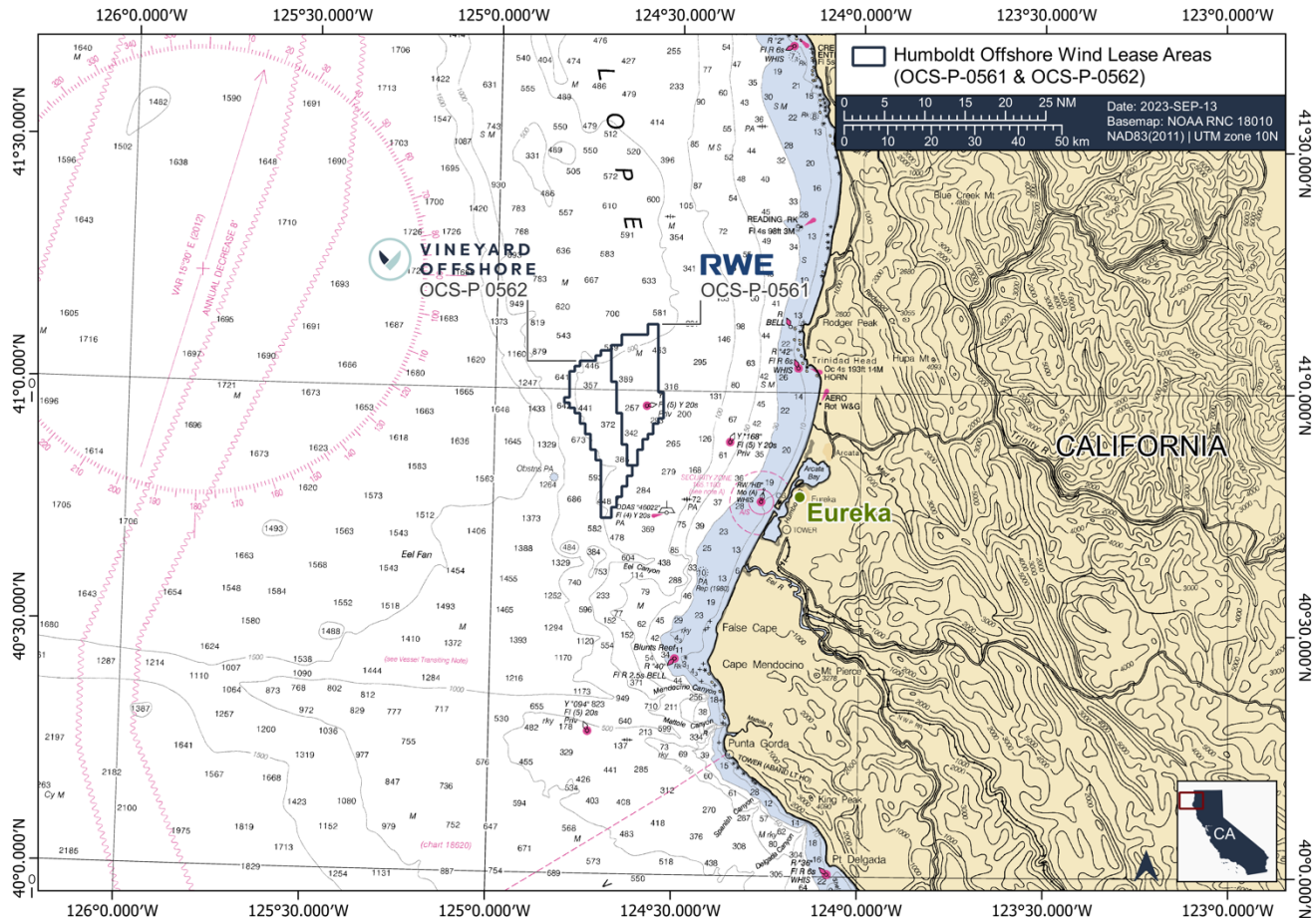
## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CBA	Community Benefits Agreement
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Companies	RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC and Vineyard Offshore, LLC
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
Data Basin	California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway Data Basin
DTS	dover sole, thornyhead and sablefish stock complex
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EPC	Eureka Port Complex
FCP	Fisheries Communications Plan
FDR	Facility Design Report
FLOWW	The United Kingdom's Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
GW	gigawatt
HAPC	Habitat Area of Particular Concern
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
Joint FCP, Plan	Joint Fisheries Communications Plan
km	kilometers
KMZ	Klamath Management Zone
Lease	Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf
Lease Area Use CBA	Lease Area Use Community Benefits Agreement
m	meters
NASCA	North American Submarine Cable Association
NATCP	Native American Tribes Communications Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service

Term	Definition
nmi	nautical miles
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWFSC	NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
OCS-P 0561	RWE Lease Area
OCS-P 0562	Vineyard Offshore Lease Area
OFL	Onboard Fisheries Liaison
OPC	California Ocean Protection Council
PacFIN	Pacific Fisheries Information Network
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
RAMP	Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program
RecFIN	Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Information Network
RWE	RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC (Lessee Company No. 15061)
SAP	Site Assessment Plan
SWFSC	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
U.S.	United States
USCG	United States Coast Guard
Vineyard Offshore	Vineyard Offshore, LLC (Lessee Company No. 15145)
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VTR	Vessel Trip Report
WCR	West Coast Region
WEA	Wind Energy Area

# 1 INTRODUCTION

RWE and Vineyard Offshore are leading the development of offshore wind projects located in Lease Area OCS-P 0561 and Lease Area OCS-P 0562, respectively, in the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA; see Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Lease Areas OCS-P 0561 and OCS-P 0562**

Section 6.2 of Addendum C in the Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (the “Lease”) for each lease area requires the Companies to develop a publicly available Fisheries Communication Plan (FCP).<sup>1</sup> In satisfaction of this requirement, the Companies have developed this Joint FCP, which provides a framework for communicating and building collaborative relationships with fishery participants, fishing communities, and a range of fishery constituents (e.g., state and federal agencies, industry organizations, and fishing-related businesses). The joint FCP approach was adopted after some fishery participants

<sup>1</sup> The executed Lease for Lease Area OCS-P 0561 is available at:

[https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/2023-05-16\\_BOEM\\_RWE\\_POCSR\\_Lease-0561.pdf](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/2023-05-16_BOEM_RWE_POCSR_Lease-0561.pdf). The executed Lease for Lease Area P 0562 is available at:

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/boemca-north-floatpocslease-0562>. Note that California North Floating LLC is a wholly owned affiliate of Vineyard Offshore.

stated their preference for the Companies to produce a single FCP and to work together to streamline coordination and communication efforts.

This Plan is the primary tool through which the Companies will develop and implement effective communication channels, establish productive two-way dialogues, and inform the identification and minimization of fishery impacts throughout the life cycle of each project. This Plan will also provide a foundation for curating local knowledge from the fishing community and developing a shared understanding of current, historical, and emerging fisheries resources, user groups, and use patterns. Additionally, the activities conducted through the implementation of this Plan will facilitate compliance with other aspects of the Companies' respective Leases and support the broader regulatory process for offshore wind development.

This Plan is a living document that will be adapted over time to incorporate feedback and experience and respond to new information and the needs of the fishing community. The Companies will guide the development, use, and evolution of the Plan to ensure it supports effective communication and collaboration. The Companies recognize the time and energy required for fishing communities to engage in complex and long-term projects and will work to support communities in building the knowledge and capacity to represent their interests and engage effectively.

The current version of this Plan, along with all subsequent revisions, will be available on the Companies' websites.

RWE: <https://americas.rwe.com/-/media/RWE/RWE-USA/documents/rwe-vineyard-offshore-joint-fcp.pdf>

Vineyard Offshore: <https://www.vineyardoffshore.com/california>

In addition to this Plan, the Companies are required to develop Agency Communications Plans and Native American Tribes Communications Plans (NATCPs). The state and federal agencies who have responsibility for fisheries science and management are identified in this Plan; communication and engagement with these agencies will be coordinated through the Companies' respective Agency Communications Plans. Communication and engagement with Tribes/Tribal Nations relating to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries will be coordinated through each Company's NATCP. The Companies recognize that fisheries and fishery resources have important cultural, community, and economic significance to Tribes/Tribal Nations in California and along the West Coast. The Companies' Fisheries Teams will work through their respective NATCPs to engage with Tribes/Tribal Nations to learn about their current and historical participation in commercial, recreational, and Tribal fisheries, and to identify appropriate methods for communicating and engaging with Tribes/Tribal Nations on fishery topics.

## 1.1 Company and Lease Area Overview

### 1.1.1 RWE

RWE (Lessee Company No. 15061) is part of one of the largest offshore wind companies globally. Its expertise over the last 20 years has resulted in 19 offshore wind farms in operation worldwide. The United States (U.S.) plays a key role in RWE's strategy to grow its renewables business. Across three federal seabed auctions, RWE has grown an offshore wind development pipeline of 6 GW (pro rata) including lease areas to develop fixed bottom offshore wind in the New York Bight and Gulf of Mexico, in addition to this lease area of the coast of northern California to develop the company's first commercial scale floating wind project. These seabed leases have positioned RWE as the second largest offshore wind developer in the U.S.

#### *Lease Area OCS-P 0561*

Lease Area OCS-P 0561 is located 17.8 to 28.6 nautical miles (nmi) (33 to 53 kilometers (km)) off the Humboldt Coast in Northern California and 18.4 nmi (34 km) from the Port of Humboldt Bay in Humboldt County. The lease area encompasses approximately 63,338 acres with depths ranging from approximately 550 to 1,100 meters (m) (300 – 600 fathoms).



### 1.1.2 Vineyard Offshore

Vineyard Offshore (Lessee Company No. 15145) is an offshore wind company founded by the same team behind Vineyard Wind 1, the nation's first commercial-scale offshore wind project. Vineyard Wind 1 is currently in construction and on track to achieve commercial operation in 2024. Beyond Vineyard Wind 1, Vineyard Offshore is leading the development of more than 6 GW of cost-effective clean energy on both the U.S. Pacific and Atlantic Coasts. This includes Lease Area OCS-P 0562 as well as Massachusetts WEA Lease Area OCS-A 0522 (known as Vineyard Northeast) and New York Bight Lease Area OCS-A 0544 (known as Vineyard Mid-Atlantic).

#### *Lease Area OCS-P 0562*

Lease Area OCS-P 0562 is located approximately 17 nmi (31.5 km) at its nearest point from the Humboldt Coast in Northern California and approximately 20 nmi (37 km) from the Port of Humboldt Bay in Humboldt County. The lease area encompasses approximately 69,031 acres with water depths ranging from approximately 550 to 1,245 m (300 – 680 fathoms).

## 1.2 Fisheries Communications Plan Principles and Objectives

The Companies are committed to developing respectful and collaborative relationships with fishery participants and fishing communities and proactively ensuring that those parties have meaningful opportunities for input. The following principles are central to the philosophy of the Companies and will continue to guide the development and implementation of the Plan:

- **Safety:** Promote the safety of all ocean users, including fishery participants, Tribes/Tribal Nations, coastal stakeholders, community members, and project crews throughout every project phase.
- **Equity:** Ensure engagement efforts are comprehensive across fishing communities, including underserved, environmental justice, and non-traditional constituents.
- **Adaptation:** Respond to the changing needs of fishery participants and fishing communities, incorporate new information and learning, and actively adapt to improve communication methods and strategies.
- **Collaboration:** Develop a sustainable shared future for fisheries and offshore wind through a collaborative and inclusive approach that informs the avoidance and minimization of impacts to the extent practicable and promotes ecosystem benefits and mutually successful outcomes.
- **Respect:** Build trust by respecting the local knowledge, expertise, and concerns of fishing communities and curating meaningful partnerships.
- **Transparency:** Engage in timely two-way communication that is receptive and responsive to feedback and the communication preferences of different fishery constituents.
- **Efficiency:** Ensure engagement and communication activities are coordinated and streamlined to minimize the consultation burden on fishing communities.

Putting these principles into practice, the Companies will work collaboratively with fishing communities to achieve the following Plan objectives:

- Ensure that fishing communities are informed of project activities in advance and aware of the opportunities to engage and provide input at each project phase.
- Cultivate a deep understanding of fisheries, fishery participants, and fishing communities to inform project design and activities.
- Facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration with fishing communities to identify, avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the extent practicable and promote mutually successful outcomes.

The development of this Plan has been informed by direct engagement with West Coast fishing communities, the Companies’ experience on the U.S. East Coast and internationally, and a body of guidance and best practices relevant to offshore wind development and the effective engagement of fishing communities in offshore infrastructure projects. Future iterations of this Joint FCP will also incorporate information, guidance, and best practices from ongoing efforts in California, the West Coast, and nationally relating to offshore wind development, productive engagement with fishing communities, assessing and minimizing impacts, and developing monitoring protocols. In particular, the Companies will actively engage with the California Coastal Commission (CCC) “Section 7c” Fisheries Working Group, which is tasked with developing a statewide strategy for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts to fishing and fisheries. The best practices and resources consulted during the development of this Plan, along with a summary of ongoing efforts, are provided in Appendix A.

## 2 FISHERIES TEAMS

The Fisheries Teams responsible for implementing this Plan have decades of collective experience in state and federal fisheries management, cooperative fisheries research, fisheries outreach, seafood supply chains, and commercial and recreational fisheries. Both Fisheries Teams share a deep respect for commercial and recreational fisheries and their important contributions to communities and economies along the West Coast. Key members of each Company’s Fisheries Teams, along with their contact information, are provided in Table 1 below. Biographies of these individuals are provided in Appendix B. In the coming months, the Companies will expand their Fisheries Teams to facilitate effective communication and coordination efforts with local and regional fishing communities.

**Table 1. Key Fisheries Team Members**

Company	Name/Contact Information	Title
<b>RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC</b> <a href="http://americas.rwe.com">americas.rwe.com</a> Lease Area # OCS-P 0561	<b>Rick Robins (Primary Contact)</b> 100 Federal St., 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110 Email: Rick.Robins@rwe.com Cell: 757-876-3778	<b>RWE Fisheries Liaison (Acting)</b> RWE Marine Affairs Manager
	<b>Deirdre Boelke</b> 100 Federal St., 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110 Email: Deirdre.Boelke@rwe.com Cell: 978-518-0638	RWE Fisheries Manager
	To be determined (TBD)	RWE Fisheries Liaison (Permanent)
	TBD	Additional Fisheries Roles
<b>Vineyard Offshore, LLC</b> <a href="http://vineyardoffshore.com">vineyardoffshore.com</a> Lease Area # OCS-P 0562	<b>Lucia Ordonez (Primary Contact)</b> 517 3rd Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501 Email: lordonez@vineyardoffshore.com Cell: 707-572-9011	<b>Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Liaison</b>
	<b>Erik Peckar</b> 517 3rd Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501 Email: epeckar@vineyardoffshore.com Cell: 703-244-9585	Vineyard Offshore Director of External Affairs, West Coast

	<b>Crista Bank</b> 700 Pleasant St., Suite 510 New Bedford, MA 02740 Email: cbank@vineyardoffshore.com Cell: 508-525-0421	Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Manager
	TBD	Additional Fisheries Roles

## 2.1 Company Fisheries Liaison

Each Company expects to employ a Fisheries Liaison who will serve as the primary representative and point of contact for fisheries-related matters on these projects. The Fisheries Liaisons will play a critical role in coordinating project activities with fishing communities and ensuring effective and efficient communications. Responsibilities of each Company's Fisheries Liaisons include but are not limited to:

- Establish flexible and effective two-way communication channels with fishery participants and fishing communities.
- Engage with fishery participants, advisors, and fishing industry representatives to curate local knowledge and input to inform the development and implementation of survey and site assessment plans.
- Convey fishery concerns to project teams and facilitate the proactive and collaborative identification of potential conflicts and solutions.
- Coordinate and communicate site activities with affected fishing communities and develop a process for reporting and remediating conflicts between mariners and survey vessels and equipment.

The Companies will seek opportunities to coordinate the communication and engagement efforts of their respective Fisheries Liaisons to streamline communication with the fishing community. Lucia Ordonez has been employed by Vineyard Offshore as their Fisheries Liaison and will be the Company's primary point of contact. Rick Robins, RWE's Marine Affairs Manager, will be acting as RWE's Fisheries Liaisons and the Company's primary point of contact. This Plan will be updated once RWE's permanent Fisheries Liaison is onboarded to provide associated contact information. Contact information for both Fisheries Liaisons will also be actively distributed to the fishing community.

## 2.2 Independent Fisheries Liaison and Additional Fisheries Roles

In addition to each Company's Fisheries Team, the Companies will enlist members of the fishing community to support effective communication and coordination between the projects and the local and regional fisheries. As per their respective Leases, the Companies are required to identify an Independent Fisheries Liaison who is responsible for coordinating and communicating site activities with fishery participants and fishing communities. The Companies are exploring opportunities to jointly engage an Independent Fisheries Liaison who will serve as a single point of contact for both lease areas. The Companies plan to work with the fishing community to better understand their expectations for this role and identify any additional fisheries roles needed to achieve the objectives of this Plan (e.g., fisheries representatives, fisheries technical advisors, onboard fisheries liaisons (OFLs), and scout vessels).

Fishing associations may be well positioned to provide communication and coordination functions and represent fishery interests. The Companies will work collaboratively with the fishing community to evolve and refine the best model for structuring engagement. As the necessary roles take shape, the Fisheries Teams will engage with the fishing community to identify individuals who are respected and trusted, ideally local to the North Coast region, and able to effectively perform the necessary functions. Responsibilities that may be undertaken by the

Independent Fisheries Liaison, industry associations, and/or additional fisheries roles, include but are not limited to:

- Provide technical expertise regarding the characteristics and operations of local and regional fisheries (e.g., vessel movement, gear configuration, seasonality) to inform impact avoidance and minimization.
- Provide recommendations and advice to the Companies regarding the identification and engagement of interested and/or affected fishery constituents.
- Represent the interests of local and regional fisheries, including identifying, understanding, and proactively communicating concerns to the Companies.
- Serve as a trusted focal point for communicating and coordinating with fishery participants and fishing communities, including disseminating project information and facilitating effective outreach and engagement.

This Plan will be updated to provide contact information for the Independent Fisheries Liaison(s) and individuals or associations providing additional fisheries roles, once identified and onboarded. Contact information for these points of contact will also be actively distributed to the fishing community.

### 3 FISHERIES CHARACTERIZATION

A number of commercial and recreational fisheries operate within, around, and shoreward of the lease areas. An initial review of available datasets and conversations with local and regional fishing communities provide a starting point for identifying specific commercial and recreational fisheries operating in and transiting the lease areas and potential offshore export cable corridors. The Companies also recognize that the Humboldt Coast supports a variety of recreational, academic, and commercial users.

Initial efforts to characterize fisheries and identify constituent groups have focused on five key areas: commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, shoreside infrastructure and fishing-related businesses, other ocean users, and fisheries management. The Companies will continue to engage with fishing communities in Northern California and along the West Coast to develop a detailed understanding of local and regional fisheries.

#### 3.1 Data Sources

The California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway Data Basin (Data Basin), hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, provides a variety of commercial, recreational, and habitat information that can be used to identify categories of fisheries constituents.<sup>2</sup> Key datasets consulted in developing this Plan include:

- Effort, landings, and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data for commercial fisheries, contributed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and other state and federal agencies;
- The North Coast Fisheries Mapping Project, a collaborative effort by the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association, the Crescent City Commercial Fishermen's Association, and the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association, with funding from the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC);
- The California Ocean Uses Atlas, compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Protected Areas Center and the Marine Conservation Biology Institute; and
- Habitat datasets, including benthic substrates, habitat designations, and protected areas, contributed by CDFW, NMFS, and other entities.

---

<sup>2</sup> California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway Data Basin: <https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/>

Additional data sources used to identify commercial and recreational fisheries include:

- Ex-vessel landings value data for the Eureka Port Complex (EPC) presented by BOEM in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Humboldt WEAs;
- CDFW commercial landings data;
- Landings data obtained through the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN); and
- Recreational catch estimates obtained through the Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN).

Information on fishery habitats was also derived from the NMFS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Mapper and habitat descriptions found in fishery management plans developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Information on EFH designations within the vicinity of the lease areas is summarized in Appendix C.

## 3.2 Current and Historical Fisheries Operations

In concert with reviewing the above datasets, the Companies have met with commercial and recreational fishery participants, fishing associations, and others to identify local and regional fisheries, the participation levels and trends in those fisheries, and key points of contact to inform engagement and communication strategies. These conversations have provided valuable insights into the operations and dynamics of local fisheries and a more complete understanding of the people and businesses that participate in and rely on these fisheries. Engagement activities will continue to inform constituent identification efforts and future iterations of this Joint FCP.

### 3.2.1 Commercial Fisheries

Commercial fisheries are an important economic driver for communities along the Humboldt Coast and are highly valued for their cultural and community significance. As noted in the Final EA for the Humboldt WEA, the EPC contributes significant economic activity to the region and the state of California. From 2009 – 2018, landings in the EPC averaged almost \$39 million in ex-vessel value. These landings account for approximately 18% of the statewide ex-vessel value for all marine commercial fisheries landings, second only to the Santa Barbara Channel Port Complex. Commercial fisheries off the Humboldt Coast primarily land their catch in Eureka, Trinidad, and Crescent City and use several smaller landing locations with less consistency.<sup>3</sup>

Commercial fisheries identified to date are summarized below and in Table 2.

#### *Commercial fisheries operating inside the lease areas*

According to commercial landings data, the North Coast Fisheries Mapping Project, and conversations with fishery participants, commercial fisheries operating inside the lease areas are primarily the Pacific Coast groundfish trawl and fixed gear fisheries. The rocky reef habitat located inside the lease areas, along with the surrounding flats, have been identified as productive fishing areas by participants in these fisheries. The North Coast Fisheries Mapping Project also includes Pacific whiting as a target stock in the region; however, current effort in the midwater trawl fishery is believed to occur north of the lease areas. The Fisheries Teams will continue to engage with the whiting industry to better understand the spatial and temporal distribution of the fleet.

The commercial albacore fishery predominantly occurs seaward of the lease areas; however, albacore tuna are also caught inside the lease areas when environmental conditions bring albacore closer to shore. This fishery may encounter other highly migratory species including bluefin, yellowfin and bigeye tuna, Pacific bonito, and louvar. A smaller, emerging commercial fishery for bluefin tuna catches bluefin inside, offshore, and inshore of the lease areas. The North Coast Fisheries Mapping Project also indicates a potential overlap between the lease areas and

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Humboldt-EA.pdf>

the swordfish fishery; however, current regulations prohibit the use of gillnets off the Humboldt Coast. Conversations with commercial fishermen indicate that participation levels and the distribution of the swordfish fishery may change in response to the forthcoming phase-out of large mesh gillnets statewide, the viability of deep-set buoy gear, and the potential for other gear types, including longlines, to be authorized for use in the fishery.

The commercial salmon fishery is a coastwide fishery with most effort taking place north or south of the Humboldt Coast. The lease areas are situated within the boundaries of the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ), a large salmon conservation area that begins just south of Cape Mendocino and extends to the California/Oregon border. The KMZ has been largely closed to commercial salmon fishing for the past three decades though there may occasionally be a short commercial fishery in September. In response to low abundance forecasts, commercial salmon fisheries in California will be closed for the 2023 season.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Commercial fisheries inshore of the lease areas*

The fisheries described above, along with several other fisheries, also occur inshore of the lease areas. Of particular importance is the Dungeness crab fishery, which is the highest-value fishery in the region and accounts for a significant portion of the ex-vessel value landed in the EPC. During the peak of the Dungeness crab season, substantial densities of gear can be in the water up and down the Humboldt Coast. Rockfish are targeted year-round inshore of the lease areas and in nearshore waters to the north and south of Eureka. Market squid are also increasingly common in the area. While the permit structure makes the fishery inaccessible for the local fleet, Monterey-based vessels may harvest squid off the Humboldt Coast in years when they are present in harvestable quantities. There are also commercial fisheries that operate within Humboldt Bay targeting California halibut and coastal pelagic species, including the anchovy fishery which provides live bait to the coastwide albacore fleet.

#### *Commercial fisheries dynamics*

Conversations with fishing communities have also highlighted the dynamic and coastwide nature of commercial fisheries and the importance of engaging with commercial fishermen beyond those who are based along the Humboldt Coast. For example, vessels that participate in the albacore fishery are distributed up and down the West Coast and may fish or transit through the lease areas. The Fisheries Teams have initiated conversations with albacore trade associations and will continue to engage with fishery managers and industry associations to identify fishery constituents who are based in other California ports, Oregon or Washington.

For the 2023 season, the closure of the commercial salmon fishery is likely to result in additional effort in the region's other commercial fisheries, particularly for those managed as open access fisheries (e.g., albacore, Pacific halibut). The Dungeness Crab fishery is another key factor in the region's commercial fisheries. The timing and duration of the Dungeness crab season are influenced by several factors, including domoic acid, meat quality, market price, and management measures taken to reduce the risk of whale entanglements through the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP).<sup>5</sup> Delays in opening the Dungeness crab fishery can have a significant impact on the value derived from this fishery and the level of participation in other fisheries. For example, most vessels participating in groundfish fisheries shift to Dungeness crab during the early part of crab season, thus distributing effort in the groundfish fishery relative to the timing and opportunity in the crab fishery.

The Companies also acknowledge the importance of considering not only current and historical fisheries, but how markets, regulations, processing capacity, infrastructure, and climate/ecosystem change may shape commercial fisheries. The Companies will seek to understand the complex dynamics of the region's fisheries and adapt the communication and engagement strategies in this Plan in response to changing fishery dynamics and new constituent groups.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.opc.ca.gov/risk-assessment-and-mitigation-program-ramp/>

**Table 2. Humboldt Coast Commercial Fisheries**

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Primary Target Species</b>	<b>Seasonality</b>
<b>Commercial Fisheries Operating or Potentially Operating Inside and Inshore of the Lease Areas</b>		
Groundfish trawl	Dover sole, thornyhead and sablefish (DTS), flatfish, petrale sole and rockfish	Year-round, highest effort typically March – December
Groundfish fixed gear (longline)	Sablefish, thornyhead and slope rockfish	Year-round, highest effort typically March – December
Groundfish fixed gear (pot)	Sablefish	Year-round, highest effort typically March – December
Albacore (troll and pole & line)	Albacore tuna	June – November, highest effort typically September – October
Bluefin (troll)	Bluefin tuna	September – early December
Salmon (troll)	Chinook salmon	May – September, highest effort May – July
<b>Commercial Fisheries Operating or Potentially Operating Inshore of the Lease Areas</b>		
Dungeness crab (pot)	Dungeness crab	December – July, highest effort typically December – March
Pacific halibut (longline, hook, and line)	Pacific halibut	Short, variable openers in the summer
Groundfish (hook and line)	Rockfish	Year-round, largely weather dependent
Hagfish (trap)	Hagfish	Year-round, intermittent effort in spring, summer, and fall
Market squid (seine and dip net)	Market squid	Year-round; variable seasonal abundance
Pink shrimp (trawl)	Pink shrimp	April – October
Coonstripe shrimp (trap)	Coonstripe shrimp	May – October
Spot prawn (trap/pot)	Spot prawn	August – April
Perch (hook and line, beach seine)	Surf perches	August – April
True smelts (lampara net and frame dip net)	Surf smelt and night smelt	August – January; year-round on beach slopes
Sea urchin (dive)	Red sea urchin	Year-round (Trinidad and Cape Mendocino)
<b>Commercial Fisheries Operating Within Humboldt Bay</b>		
Live bait (lampara net)	Northern anchovy and Pacific sardine	May – December
Herring (drift or set gillnet)	Pacific herring	January – March
California halibut (hook and line)	California halibut	Year-round (sporadic), most effort April – October
True smelts (lampara net)	Surf smelt	August – January



### 3.2.2 Recreational Fisheries

Recreational fisheries are important contributors to the Humboldt County economy, supporting tourism and providing valuable recreational opportunities to local communities. The Final EA for the Humboldt WEA notes that Humboldt County's ocean economy contributed 4.2% of the area's total economy in 2018, with ocean-based tourism and recreation, including recreational fisheries, accounting for \$170.5 million (76.6%) of the total ocean economy.<sup>6</sup>

Based on initial discussions, local anglers participate in eight main recreational fisheries, as summarized in Table 3. The albacore and bluefin tuna fisheries are the only recreational fisheries that operate in or transit through the lease areas. Recreational albacore fishing typically occurs 40 – 60 miles (64-97 km) from shore; however, warmer waters in the fall can bring albacore closer to shore which entices increased effort. Recreational fishing for bluefin tuna typically occurs in waters deeper than 100 fathoms (182 m), as far as 30 miles (48 km) offshore. All other recreational fisheries occur in nearshore waters less than 12 miles (19 km) from shore and in depths of less than 400 feet (122 m). Chinook and coho salmon are the region's most popular and iconic recreational fisheries; as with the commercial fishery, the recreational salmon fishery is closed for the 2023 season. Recreational fishermen also target species found inshore and in the surf zone such as surfperch. Within Humboldt Bay, California halibut is a popular recreational fishery and there is a short bait fishery for herring in the winter.

**Table 3. Humboldt Coast Recreational Fisheries**

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Primary Target Species</b>	<b>Seasonality</b>
<b>Recreational Fisheries Operating Inside Lease Areas</b>		
Albacore (hook and line troll)	Albacore tuna (and occasionally bluefin, marlin, and dorado)	Mid-July to October, with peak effort August and September
Bluefin (hook and line troll)	Bluefin tuna	September – early December
<b>Recreational Fisheries Operating Inshore of the Lease Areas</b>		
Salmon (hook and line troll)	Chinook and Coho salmon	Late May – early September
Pacific Halibut (hook and line)	Pacific Halibut	May – November 15 (usually ends September)
Groundfish (hook and line)	Rockfish, flatfish, and bottomfish (particularly Sebastes, cabezon, and lingcod)	May – December (sometimes closed mid-fall)
Crab (pot)	Dungeness Crab	November – July, highest effort typically November – December
<b>Recreational Fisheries Operating Within Humboldt Bay</b>		
California halibut (hook and line)	California halibut	Year-round (sporadic), most effort April - October
Herring (throw nets and sabiki rigs)	Pacific herring	November – March; typically December - January

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Humboldt-EA.pdf>



The recreational fishing community includes private anglers fishing from boats and kayaks, recreational charter fishing businesses, and shore-based recreational anglers fishing from piers, docks, beaches, and the north and south jetties. Approximately 15 – 20 charter businesses operate out of Eureka, with another five to six based in Trinidad.

The Fisheries Teams will continue to work with local recreational anglers, recreational fishing associations, and state and federal agencies to identify additional recreational fisheries in the area and curate a detailed understanding of the seasonality, operation, and dynamics of recreational fisheries and the anglers who participate in them. The Companies also recognize that there are social, economic, and ecosystem factors that influence the dynamics of Humboldt's recreational fisheries. The Companies will adapt the communication and engagement strategies in this Plan in response to changing fishery patterns and new constituent groups.

### 3.3 Shoreside Infrastructure and Fishing-Related Businesses

Commercial and recreational fisheries depend on a suite of local and regional businesses and municipalities to provide services, supplies, and necessary infrastructure. These support businesses are reciprocally dependent on commercial and recreational fisheries and together provide structural integrity for local fishing communities.

Critical shoreside infrastructure for commercial fisheries includes seafood processors, buyers and dealers, ice suppliers, cold storage facilities, fuel docks, marinas, and a range of marine and fishing related businesses (e.g., vessel repair, fabrication, boat yards, diesel mechanics, net manufacturers, equipment dealers). Infrastructure for recreational fisheries includes sporting goods stores, bait and tackle shops, fuel docks, vessel repair shops, marinas, and boat launches. The Companies will work with fishing participants and fishing communities to identify fishing-related businesses in the area and determine how best to build a communications network that includes fishing businesses, shoreside infrastructure, harbor districts (including the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District and the Crescent City Harbor District), other relevant municipalities, and state and federal fishery managers.

### 3.4 Other Ocean Users

The Humboldt Coast offers a wide range of non-consumptive recreational opportunities and supports a host of ocean and coastal users. While ocean and coastal users are not a primary focus of this Plan, the Companies are required, per their respective Leases, to engage with this constituent group during the development of their respective projects. Given the potential overlap with fishery considerations, the Companies anticipate that engagement with ocean and coastal users will be coordinated across internal Company teams, including their respective Fisheries Teams.

The California Ocean Use Atlas identifies and maps local ocean-based recreational activities, all of which are inshore of the lease areas. These uses include sailing, boating, surface water sports, paddling, and wildlife viewing in ocean and tidal waters all along the Humboldt Coast. Shore-based activities include beach use, tide pooling, and wildlife viewing. These ocean and coastal recreational opportunities support and are supported by small businesses and local organizations including the Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum, the Seascape Pier & Harbor in Trinidad, kayak and canoe rental companies, and the Humboldt Yacht Club. The Cal Poly Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center also provides sporting and recreational opportunities in Humboldt Bay through its crew and rowing teams, scuba and scientific diving programs, and sailing, boating, and kayaking classes. While these activities are far inshore of the lease areas, they could potentially be affected by project activities.

Additional non-recreational users in the region include oyster farming in Humboldt Bay and kelp harvesting off Trinidad. Humboldt Bay is home to at least two existing aquaculture operations as well as the proposed Nordic Aquafarms development. Subsea telecommunication cables represent another ocean and coastal user group. The Companies 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 lease areas. Other notable local maritime activity includes

the fuel barge, which resupplies the area with fuel; and cruise ships, which make seasonal calls to the port. The Companies will also coordinate with other offshore wind developers, local governments, and community members to identify additional relevant ocean and coastal users.

### 3.5 Fisheries Management

The fisheries operating and transiting through state and federal waters off the Humboldt Coast are managed by a suite of federal and state agencies and entities. These include CDFW, California Fish and Game Commission, PFMC, NMFS West Coast Region (WCR), and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). In addition to the above agencies and entities, the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFS), and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) contribute to the collection, analysis, and integration of fisheries, habitat, and ecosystem data. While management and data collection frameworks are unique for different fisheries, these efforts contribute to a fisheries management system that is coordinated across state, federal, and international jurisdictions.

While the lease areas are located squarely off the coast of Humboldt County, the Companies are committed to understanding the relationship between fishery participants and fishing communities in other counties and states. The Fisheries Teams will work with CDFW and PFMC, as well as fishery management agencies in Washington and Oregon to identify additional fishery constituents and interests.

## 4 FISHERIES ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

### 4.1 Overarching Approach

As summarized in Table 4, the Companies will employ a variety of engagement and communication methods to ensure that fishery constituents are proactively informed of project activities and to develop collaborative relationships that support safe, successful, and sustained shared use of the lease areas. These strategies are intended to function as an interconnected communication network with specific communication nodes that are coordinated and tailored to the specific needs and preferences of the various fishery constituents. The Companies will seek to streamline engagement across constituent groups and coordinate with other lessees and local, state, and federal agencies to reduce duplication and utilize existing communication channels.

**Table 4. Fisheries Engagement and Communication Strategies**

<b>Strategies for Sharing Project Information</b>	<p>Electronic Communication Strategies: Company websites, SMS text alerts, email, listservs, social media, mobile applications, webinars, videos, radio, podcasts, information hotline, television interviews.</p> <p>Other Communication Strategies: paper notices (distributed and/or posted at key businesses, local marinas, or recreational access points), United States Coast Guard (USCG) Local Notices to Mariners, association newsletters, press releases, print and online newspapers, presentations at virtual and in-person meetings and events, information distributed through PFMC and CDFW networks, hosted port hours, word of mouth through Fisheries Liaisons and fishery representatives, specific outreach materials (e.g., FAQ, nautical charts).</p>
<b>Strategies for Two-way Engagement and Collaboration</b>	<p>One-on-one conversations, small group meetings, community and town hall meetings, focus groups, and workshops.</p> <p>Participate in federal, state, and regional fisheries technical working groups (e.g., CCC “Section 7c” Fisheries Working Group).</p>

	<p>Attend PFMC and Marine Planning Committee meetings, as well as meetings of other management bodies and associated advisory boards, as appropriate.</p> <p>Attend industry association meetings, as appropriate.</p> <p>Participate in community and fishery-related events.</p> <p>Partner with fishermen, fishing organizations, and research entities to conduct collaborative fisheries research and monitoring.</p>
--	--

The Companies will work closely with fishery participants and fishing communities to further develop and refine communication strategies that align with their specific needs and tailor the level of detail and frequency of communications to the interests of different constituents relative to the different project phases. The Companies will also continue to develop and maintain a list of fishery constituents to support engagement activities and develop a detailed understanding of the region’s fisheries. Engaging with fishery participants is critical for filling information gaps and promoting a detailed, technical understanding of fishing operations so that impacts to fisheries can be minimized.

As mentioned in Section 1, this Plan intends to build a comprehensive and inclusive engagement strategy that facilitates participation by everyone who has an interest in the projects, including those who have not historically been involved in these types of processes. The Fisheries Teams will collaborate with state and federal agencies and other organizations to develop specific strategies for minimizing barriers to participation and increasing the capacity of fishing, environmental justice, and underserved communities to actively engage in the projects.

For all constituent groups, the Companies acknowledge the significant time and resources that many organizations and individuals have invested to engage in policy discussions and leasing activities relating to offshore wind and develop materials and testimony to articulate their questions and concerns. The Companies will continue to actively listen to the concerns of the fishing community and to use existing efforts and materials as a starting point for more detailed dialogue, information sharing, and collaboration.

#### 4.1.1 Commercial and Recreational Fishing Associations

Commercial and recreational fishing associations and representatives serve an important role representing fishery interests in local, state, and federal decision-making forums and keeping their members informed. The Companies have identified several local commercial fishing associations, including the Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association, Trinidad Bay Fishermen’s Marketing Association, and Crescent City Fishermen’s Marketing Association. Several fishery-specific, regional, and/or coastwide industry associations represent members with an interest in the projects (e.g., California Fishermen’s Resiliency Association, Fishermen’s Marketing Association, Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, American Albacore Fishing Association, and Western Fishboat Owners Association). Local sportfishing associations include the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers and the Humboldt Tuna Club. The Fisheries Teams will work with these and other local and regional organizations to identify additional associations and constituents who wish to be informed of or engaged with the projects.

The Companies anticipate that fishing associations will play a key role in effective communication and collaboration with commercial and recreational fisheries. The Fisheries Team will provide general project updates and information on survey activities to associations for distribution to their members and will identify appropriate opportunities to attend association meetings and be available to answer questions and discuss industry concerns.

#### 4.1.2 Shoreside Infrastructure and Fishing Related Businesses

The Companies will work with the fishing community to identify local businesses and municipalities that provide support and infrastructure to commercial and recreational fisheries and develop appropriate communication and

engagement strategies. These shoreside businesses can also be important communication nodes for commercial and recreational fishermen. The Companies will work with local fishing businesses, harbor districts, and other municipalities to identify the best opportunities for posting and sharing information with fishing communities and opportunities for these entities to transmit industry concerns and questions.

The Companies are also working to identify businesses outside Humboldt County that may have an interest in the projects (e.g., processors whose client vessels fish off the Humboldt Coast, or who process fish from Eureka-based vessels). Industry associations such as the West Coast Seafood Processors Association and the four Oregon Commercial Seafood Commodity Commissions provide additional points of contact for identifying and communicating with geographically dispersed businesses.

#### 4.1.3 Other Ocean Users

The Companies will work closely with community members, local municipalities, Tribes/Tribal Nations<sup>7</sup> and others to identify additional ocean and coastal user groups, develop a list of contacts (e.g., marine tourism, aquaculture, and telecommunication businesses), and identify the appropriate cadence for communications and project updates. The Companies anticipate that harbor districts, Trinidad Seascope Pier and Harbor, Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum, and Cal Poly Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center will be key communication and engagement nodes. The Companies will work with these entities, as well as local recreational clubs and associations (e.g., Humboldt Yacht Club, Humboldt Bay Rowing Association, Sea Kayaking Club) to coordinate public meetings and identify other opportunities for ocean users and coastal stakeholders to stay informed and provide input.

#### 4.1.4 Fisheries Science and Management

The Companies will work with state and federal fishery management agencies and entities to understand their needs and constraints and articulate a communication strategy for each respective agency/entity that provides timely and orderly information at appropriate intervals and establishes efficient mechanisms for dialogue and collaboration. State and federal management agencies are also identified as agency constituents in each Company's Agency Communications Plan. The respective Fisheries Teams will work closely across their internal project teams to ensure coordinated and efficient communications with CDFW, NMFS, PFMC, and other fisheries science and management entities.

Fishery management agencies and entities have extensive experience communicating and engaging with commercial and recreational fishing communities and have established processes for sharing information, conducting outreach, and soliciting input. The Companies will seek to integrate their input and knowledge into the development and evolution of this Plan's engagement and communication strategies, and the identification of additional fishery constituents.

### 4.2 Coordination across Lease Areas and Constituent Groups

The Companies are committed to streamlining engagement and communication activities wherever possible and have coordinated on multiple joint engagements with the fishing community since winning their respective bids in December 2022. Opportunities for continued coordination across lease areas and constituent groups include:

- Coordinate engagement efforts with other lessees to reduce duplication (e.g., curating local knowledge, identifying communication preferences, and hosting joint meetings and topic-focused workshops).

---

<sup>7</sup> Communication and engagement with Tribes and Tribal Nations relating to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries will be coordinated through each Company's NATCP.

- Establish coordinated and consolidated communication channels for distributing information on project activities (e.g., a consolidated dashboard or application for tracking activities across lease areas).
- Engage with other offshore wind developers and the fishing community to develop consistent and coordinated mechanisms for dispute resolution and seeking compensation for lost or damaged fishing gear.
- Participate in fisheries working groups (e.g., the CCC “Section 7c” Fisheries Working Group) and collaborate with other offshore wind developers through American Clean Power’s Fisheries Subcommittee.
- Coordinate engagement across internal project teams to minimize duplication for constituent groups with multiple interests (e.g., state and federal agencies with fisheries jurisdiction, Tribal fisheries).
- Participate in trade association working groups to facilitate coordination on fisheries issues between California lessees.

### 4.3 Communications Tracking and Reporting

To support thoughtful and coordinated engagement, the Companies will track their respective fishery communication and engagement activities. This will assist the Companies with integrating information and input into the project’s design and support the preparation of progress reports. As required by their respective Leases, the Companies will submit biannual progress reports to BOEM and make the reports publicly available on each Company’s website. While progress reports will summarize engagement and communication with the fishing community, input and information will not be attributed to specific individuals or organizations.

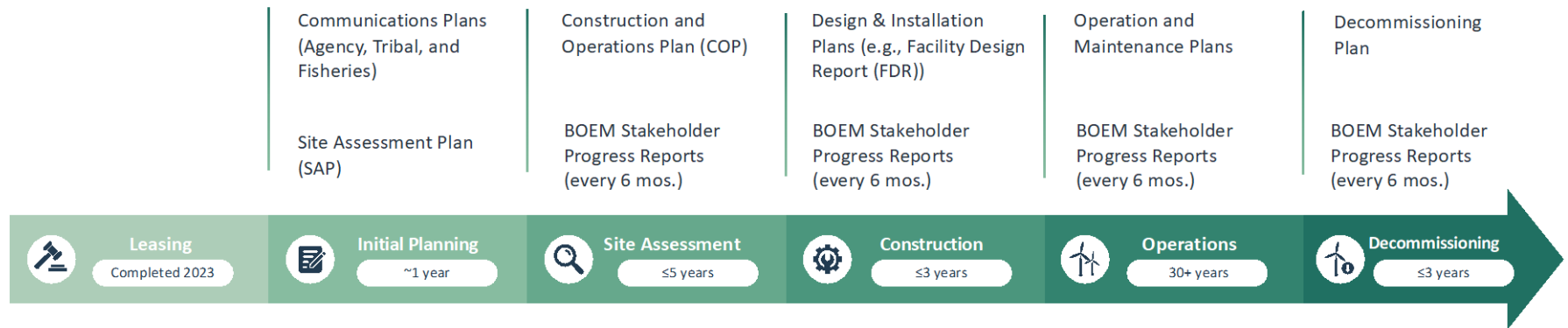
## 5 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT REDUCTION

Offshore wind project development is a multi-year effort that involves several discrete yet overlapping project phases and includes significant data collection, environmental analysis, and stakeholder consultation. This section contains a description of the activities to be conducted at each project phase, as well as an overview of the communication that will be undertaken with the fishing community to reduce conflicts with facility design and marine vessel operations, as required in the Lease (Addendum C, 6.2). Figure 2 provides a high-level summary of the different project phases and the corresponding opportunities for fisheries input and engagement.

This Plan has been developed prior to the site assessment phase and as such focuses on the communication and coordination that will occur during this phase (Section 5.1). Additional details on the communication strategies for future project phases summarized in Sections 5.2 through 5.6 will be updated, as necessary, in future iterations of this Plan. The Companies anticipate that discussions undertaken by the CCC “Section 7c” Fisheries Working Group will also inform coordination efforts during project planning and the strategies and timing for engaging with the fishing community.

# Offshore Wind Development Process

## Major Project Deliverables and Reporting



## Fisheries Engagement Opportunities

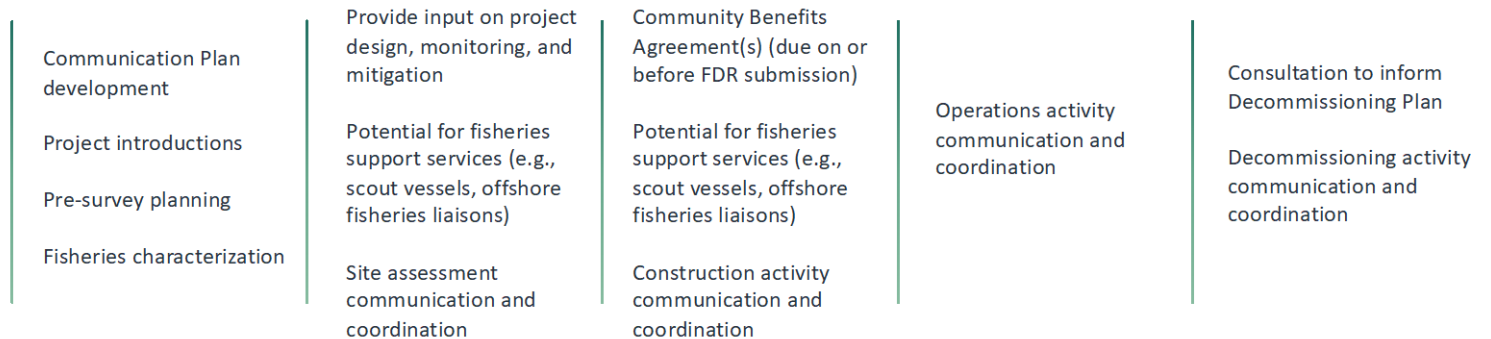


Figure 2. Offshore Wind Development Process

## 5.1 Site Assessment and Characterization

During the site assessment and characterization phase, the Companies will develop survey plans that describe the surveys that will be conducted to assess the physical, biological, and resource conditions of the lease areas and potential offshore export cable corridors. As required by their respective Leases, the Companies will submit survey plans to BOEM at least 90 days before survey activities are planned to commence. The Companies may also submit Site Assessment Plans (SAPs) to BOEM to support the installation of metocean buoys.

Site assessment activities will include 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.

The Companies may also conduct resource surveys to collect biological information on marine species such as marine mammals, birds, and fish. To collect the requisite data, multiple investigation campaigns may be performed over a period of several years in the lease areas and potential offshore export cable corridors. Survey activities would involve multiple vessels depending on the type of data being collected, sensor type used, location, and water depth. As site-specific data are collected and analyzed, the Companies will begin to define project design parameters, including possible offshore export cable corridors, landfall locations, and onshore facilities.

### 5.1.1 Fisheries Characterization and Survey Planning

Site assessment activities in the lease areas are likely to begin in 2024. Before the start of site assessment activities, the Companies will work proactively with commercial, recreational, and Tribal fishing communities to develop a detailed understanding of the seasonality and operations of fishing activity so that impacts from survey activities can be avoided or minimized to the extent practicable, particularly during peak fishing seasons. In conjunction with this effort, the Companies will work with CDFW, NMFS, academic institutions, and related groups to develop a list of resource surveys and research activities that occur in and around the lease areas. The Companies will work with these constituents to establish communication channels for sharing project information and coordinating site assessment activities to minimize potential impacts and disruptions.

The Companies also recognize the importance of coordinating vessel activity in and out of port and within Humboldt Bay. Fishermen have highlighted the importance of being able to enter and exit the channel, and that delays and congestion will restrict access to important fisheries and potentially lead to unsafe conditions. The Fisheries Teams will work with the fishing community to better understand the ingress and egress needs of local and transiting fishing vessels and will collaborate with fishermen, harbor districts, and the USCG to manage congestion and develop communication protocols for coordinating vessel activity before the start of site assessment activities. This coordination could build on existing agreements such as towboat lanes and informal transit corridors during Dungeness crab season.

Through the implementation of this Plan, the Fisheries Teams will seek to integrate fisheries information early and often and to proactively avoid or minimize conflicts with the fishing industry. Fishery considerations have already informed initial survey planning efforts by identifying survey technologies that minimize obstacles and entanglement hazards. The Companies will also seek input on the site assessment communication protocols outlined below and continue exploring opportunities to establish effective two-way communication channels to coordinate survey activities.



### 5.1.2 Risk Assessment and Pre-survey Communication

#### *Pre-survey Risk Assessment*

A pre-survey risk assessment will be conducted before the start of any survey campaign to identify the potential for spatial and temporal overlap between fishing activities (including known fixed-gear placements), research or resource surveys, and vessel activity in and out of port. These pre-survey risk assessments will be conducted in collaboration with the fishing community and will inform communication approaches as well as specific measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate identified risks.

#### *Pre-survey Communications*

The Companies aim to achieve broad awareness of the timing, location, and duration of survey activities, with more frequent and detailed communication with fishery participants and other ocean users operating in or transiting the areas where survey activities are occurring. The Fisheries Teams will approach each survey campaign as an opportunity to improve communication and solicit feedback from fishing communities to improve this framework. The following communication strategies are proposed:

- Develop local survey activity notices that include a description of the planned activity, pictures of the vessel(s) and equipment to be deployed, nautical charts showing the potential location of vessel activity, and contact information for survey vessel(s). Information on OFLs and scout vessels will also be included, if applicable.
- Publish local survey activity notices on each Company's website and social media channels and send notices via email and SMS text alert to those that have opted to receive such notifications.
- Distribute local survey notices across the Companies' fisheries communication networks, including local and regional fisheries participants, associations, state and federal agencies, and harbor districts as far in advance of survey activities as practicable.
- Coordinate with the USCG to issue Local Notices to Mariners.

Additional communication strategies under consideration include but are not limited to:

- Host pre-survey webinars to share information and answer questions.
- Post and/or distribute flyers, advertisements, or paper notices with QR codes at key locations (e.g., marinas, processors, fuel docks).
- Establish a hotline or mobile application and/or record podcasts that include up-to-date survey information.
- Host meet and greets with the Fisheries Teams, Independent Fisheries Liaisons, and/or vessel captains before the start of survey campaigns.

The Companies will also endeavor to coordinate survey activity communications with other West Coast offshore wind lessees and explore opportunities to streamline communication strategies and centralize information.

### 5.1.3 During Survey Communication

Each Company's Fisheries Liaison will serve as the primary point of contact for fishery participants, survey vessels, and survey teams to identify and resolve any issues that arise during survey activities. The Fisheries Liaisons will maintain regular communications with survey vessels, contractors, and the survey team to facilitate coordination with fisheries. This will include updated information regarding fisheries operating in or transiting through the survey area, updated locations of known fishing gear, and any feedback from the survey team.

Survey vessels will monitor VHF channel 16 and will communicate with fishing vessels in the area of survey activities on a bridge-to-bridge basis as needed. Depending on the specific survey activity and the potential for fishing gear interactions, scout vessels and/or OFLs may be utilized to support real-time coordination. To the greatest extent



practicable, the Companies will contract with local fishermen and others in the community to serve as scout vessels and OFLs.

Given the importance of timely and accurate two-way communication during survey preparation and operations, the Companies are exploring the ability to use innovative digital technologies to support real-time information sharing, promote safety, and avoid fisheries impacts while also reducing the burden of engagement on fishing communities.

#### 5.1.4 Gear Loss or Damage Resulting from Survey Activity

While the Companies and their respective contractors will work proactively to avoid and minimize fishery impacts, the Companies have established a gear loss claims procedure for fishermen who experience a gear loss or damage associated with one of the Companies' offshore survey activities. A description of this procedure along with associated forms are included in Appendix D. The Companies' internal procedures for processing gear loss claims will provide for the fair, efficient, and timely consideration of claims. The claim filing process and associated forms will be available on each Company's website prior to initiating survey activities and the Fisheries Liaisons will be available to assist fishermen with this process. Additionally, if a fishing gear interaction is observed by the captain or crew of a survey vessel contracted to the Companies, the OFL or Client Representative will immediately notify the Company's Fisheries Liaison and report the gear interaction using a Survey Fishing Gear Incident Form, which will support an expedited claims process. The Companies are committed to processing claims in a timely manner and will work with other lessees to develop procedures that minimize the burden on fishermen and increase transparency. As with this Plan, the claims procedure for damaged or lost gear can be updated over time in response to feedback and to improve the ease and efficiency of the process. The gear loss claims process will be reviewed and updated as appropriate in consultation with the fishing industry in advance of construction or operational phases of the project. The Companies will maintain a gear loss claims process throughout the lifetime of the projects. Finally, as per their respective Leases, the Companies will provide an annual summary of claims to BOEM.

## 5.2 Project Design and Development of Construction and Operations Plans

Site assessment activities, along with collaborative dialogue with fishing communities, federal and state agencies and entities, Tribes/Tribal Nations, and other constituents, will inform the design of each Company's respective project and development of the associated Construction and Operations Plan (COP). Each of the COPs will include a description of all planned facilities, as well as a description of proposed construction activities, commercial operations, and conceptual decommissioning plans. The COPs will also summarize the results of the biological, geotechnical, socioeconomic, and cultural resources studies from each Company's site assessment and characterization phase; provide an assessment of each project's potential impacts; and propose measures for avoiding, minimizing, reducing, eliminating, mitigating, and monitoring impacts. The COPs will be subject to regulatory review, as required by law, and will provide additional opportunities for public review and input (see Section 5.3).

### 5.2.1 Dock Space, Obstacles, Entanglement and Transit

The Companies' respective Leases include provisions to analyze the effects of each Company's project operations on the allocation and use of local dock space, to minimize the spatial footprint of project infrastructure, and to avoid the creation of obstacles and entanglement hazards, to the extent practicable. Initial conversations with local fishing communities have also highlighted concerns about transit and the potential impact of increased vessel activity in nearshore waters, within Humboldt Bay and through the channel. In particular, concerns have been expressed that construction activities may limit or delay ingress and egress from port, which could have potential impacts on safety, access to fishery resources, and the ability to land and distribute catch to markets.

The Fisheries Teams will work collaboratively with the fishing community, harbor districts, state agencies, and other constituents to understand their needs and concerns and convey this information to internal technical teams to inform the design and spatial footprint of the project, the use of local dock space, and strategies for coordinating vessel activity and project activities. As the projects progress and design options are articulated, the Fisheries Teams will engage in iterative conversations with the fishing community to identify strategies to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to fisheries and fishing communities.

### 5.2.2 State and Federal Climate Adaptation Strategies

As requested by the CCC in their Consistency Determination for the Final EA on the Humboldt WEA, the Companies' respective Leases include instruction for lessees to prioritize federal, Tribes/Tribal Nations, and state climate adaptation strategies for fisheries, to the extent practicable, in mitigation measures proposed in the COP. During the project design phase, the Companies will therefore seek to understand the needs and priorities of fishing communities and align project activities with federal, Tribes/Tribal Nations, and state climate adaptation strategies. The Fisheries Teams have experience working on climate, habitat, and ecosystem-based fisheries management topics and are committed to applying a climate adaptation lens to the design and operation of the projects.

## 5.3 Environmental Assessments and Technical Reports

Once each 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 the State of California will undertake a similar analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Involved federal and state agencies may choose to coordinate the NEPA and CEQA processes. During this phase, the Companies will also develop and submit application packages in support of the necessary state and federal agency authorizations and permit approvals.

### 5.3.1 Lease Area Use Community Benefits Agreements

During the auction process for the Humboldt WEAs, the Companies committed to developing a Lease Area Use Community Benefits Agreement (Lease Area Use CBA), for which they received a 5% bidding credit in the auction. This bidding credit reduces the amount the Companies pay to BOEM to secure their respective offshore wind leases; the Companies instead direct the corresponding funds (5% of the bid price) toward a Lease Area Use CBA.

As outlined in the Lease (Addendum C, 12) each Company will execute a Lease Area Use CBA with one or more communities, constituents, or Tribal entities whose use of the respective lease area, or resources harvested within, is expected to be impacted by the offshore wind development. Lease Area Use CBAs are intended to assist fishing and related industries by supporting resilience and the ability to adapt to potential gear changes or gear loss or damage. Lease Area Use CBAs may also compensate for loss of income or other similar impacts that may arise from offshore wind development in the lease area. The Lease Area Use CBAs will be developed consistent with BOEM requirements.

The Companies are required to execute Lease Area Use CBA(s) prior to submission of their first Facility Design Report (FDR). This step occurs after a project's COP is approved by BOEM and the required permits have been issued, but prior to construction and installation of the proposed facilities. The Companies anticipate the development of their respective Lease Area Use CBA(s) will be an iterative process that begins with identifying the needs of the affected fishing community and will be further informed by project siting and design measures, and the extent to which impacts to fisheries can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. The Companies anticipate that initial discussions will focus on identifying concerns and potential impacts to fisheries and fishing communities,

discussing options for impact avoidance, and outlining potential approaches for supporting resilience and compensating for unavoidable impacts.

## 5.4 Construction

During this phase, the Companies will construct the proposed offshore wind projects within their respective lease areas, pursuant to the requirements and conditions of the issued permits. The construction phase will be the most active project phase with increased vessel activity in the lease areas and along offshore export cable corridors.

As the projects move through the construction phase, the Companies 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 Teams will build on the communications protocols 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 each project is 33 years. During this phase, project crews will conduct maintenance activities within the lease areas and offshore export cable corridors. Monitoring activities and offshore surveys are expected to continue during this phase.

The Companies 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, each Company will submit a decommissioning application and plan to BOEM and other applicable agencies for review and approval. Once approved and operations have ceased, the Companies will decommission their project 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 Companies will incorporate lessons learned from the construction and operations phases when developing communication protocols for the decommissioning phase.

# 6 COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The Companies envision robust research, monitoring, and data-sharing programs for the lease areas that incorporate local knowledge and experience and address the needs of the fishing community, state and federal agencies, and other fishery constituents. This Plan will also facilitate collaboration with the fishing community on safety and training initiatives and identify opportunities to integrate fishery participants and fishing communities into various aspects of the projects. The Companies will provide additional details on these efforts as the projects progress.

### *Monitoring and Research*

A comprehensive monitoring program is an essential component of avoiding and addressing potential fisheries and ecosystem impacts and contributing to the collective science enterprise. The Companies are eager to collaborate with the fishing community, state and federal agencies, and research institutions to develop a forward-looking, adaptive monitoring program that integrates with existing data streams to meet the needs of fishing communities, fishery managers, and other ocean users. The Companies also recognize that state and federal agencies, academic

institutions, and other groups have invested significant time and resources to explore the potential impacts of offshore wind development and that additional science and research may be needed. The Companies are committed to participating in and contributing to monitoring and research efforts and will actively seek opportunities to coordinate across both lease areas and with other lessees.

### *Information and Data Sharing*

A substantial amount of data and information will be generated during site characterization and assessment activities, pre- and post-construction monitoring, and collaborative research efforts. The Companies are committed to knowledge sharing and will provide timely access to fisheries data and information to the extent practicable.

### *Safety and Training*

An important objective of this Plan is to promote the safety of fishermen, communities, ocean users, coastal stakeholders, and project crews. The Fisheries Teams will work collaboratively with fishery participants to develop initiatives, communication protocols, and training opportunities that promote the safe and sustainable coexistence of fishing and offshore wind. The Companies will also work closely with fishing communities to identify economic opportunities for the fishing industry to participate in project activities.

## 7 CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

The Companies subscribe to an avoid-minimize-mitigate philosophy for addressing potential conflicts with the fishing community, with an emphasis on building relationships and early and ongoing dialogue. The Fisheries Teams will work closely and collaboratively with fishery participants, fishing communities, and regulatory agencies to identify practicable solutions for avoiding impacts and appropriate measures to minimize or mitigate unavoidable impacts. Approaches for preventing and addressing conflicts may include developing a deep understanding of seasonal and geographic fisheries operations, working across internal teams to evaluate options for addressing fishery concerns, and participating in working groups and other local, state, regional, or national efforts to align fishing and offshore wind interests. The Companies have also developed a gear loss claim procedure for loss of or damage to fishing gear due to survey activities (see Section 5.1.4 and Appendix D).

Recognizing that it may not be possible to avoid or minimize conflicts in all instances, the Companies will work with the Independent Fisheries Liaison, fishing associations, fishery representatives, and harbor districts to articulate a process for reporting and remediating conflicts. The Companies intend to develop strategies that provide members of the fishing community with multiple options for sharing concerns, notifying the Fisheries Teams of potential conflicts, and resolving disagreements. As required in their respective Leases, the Companies will provide BOEM with an annual summary of complaints and claims that have been filed, and their resolution. The Companies are committed to working proactively to identify and work through any potential conflicts.

## 8 FUTURE PLAN REVISIONS AND COMMUNICATION BENCHMARKS

A draft version of this Plan was made available to commercial and recreational fishery participants, fishing communities, industry associations, and the agencies and entities involved in the fisheries science and management process. The Companies hosted a hybrid meeting in Eureka, CA to present and request input on the draft Plan and participated in a discussion with the PFMC Marine Planning Committee. In response to feedback received at these meetings as well as comments submitted by email, the Companies made updates to the draft Plan that are reflected in this initial version of the Joint FCP. Appendix E provides a summary of this review process and the feedback received.

As noted previously, this Plan is a living document that will evolve in response to feedback, the needs of the fishing community, and the different phases of project development. The Companies are committed to respectful and

transparent engagement with the fishing community and welcome feedback and ideas that support continuous improvement of the Plan. As this Plan is put into practice, the Fisheries Teams will seek feedback on the efficiency and efficacy of communication and engagement strategies.

The following communication benchmarks will be used to measure near-term implementation of this Plan:

- hire and onboard individual Company Fishing Liaisons;
- hire and onboard a joint Independent Fisheries Liaison;
- curate a list of fishery constituents who wish to receive email and text notices related to the projects; and
- maintain a log of feedback from the fishing community.

As described in Section 4.3, the Companies are required to submit biannual progress reports to BOEM and make the reports publicly available on each Company's website. These reports will summarize engagement and communication with the fishing community and provide a mechanism for highlighting input received from the fishing industry and improvements to the Plan. Through their respective roles, Company Fisheries Liaisons, Independent Fisheries Liaisons, and additional fishery representatives (e.g., industry associations) will also contribute to identifying and implementing improvements to this Plan.

The Companies will update this Plan on a periodic basis in response to experience and feedback and will review the plan in consultation with the fishing industry ahead of construction and operations phases of the projects.

The current version of this Plan, along with all subsequent revisions, will be available on the Companies' websites.

RWE: <https://americas.rwe.com/-/media/RWE/RWE-USA/documents/rwe-vineyard-offshore-joint-fcp.pdf>

Vineyard Offshore: <https://www.vineyardoffshore.com/california>

## APPENDIX A – BEST PRACTICES AND ONGOING EFFORTS

There are several efforts currently underway in California, the West Coast, and nationally related to offshore wind development and productive engagement with fishing communities. The Companies will participate, to the extent appropriate, in these and future collaborative efforts and update this Plan with relevant information, guidance, and best practices. Key near-term efforts include but are not limited to:

- CCC “Section 7c” Fisheries Working Group: The CCC’s Consistency Determination for BOEM’s leasing activity of the Humboldt WEA (CD-0001-22) includes the formation of a fisheries working group as a condition of concurrence. The working group will consist of commercial and recreational fishing organizations and representatives, lessees, and state and federal agency staff, and will develop a statewide strategy for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts to fisheries. This strategy will include protocols for communication, best practices relating to surveys and data collection, a methodology for analyzing impacts, a framework for compensatory mitigation, and a template for fishing agreements.<sup>8</sup>
- Socioeconomic Characterization of West Coast Fisheries in Relation to Offshore Wind Development: The NMFS WCR and Science Centers are conducting a study, funded by BOEM, to characterize the socioeconomics of West Coast fisheries and fishing communities and provide guidance on the approaches, tools, and methodologies for assessing direct and indirect fishery impacts from offshore wind development.<sup>9</sup>
- Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring Guidance: The OPC approved funding to develop a comprehensive guidance document for monitoring offshore wind development in California. This guidance will inform how potential environmental impacts are monitored, evaluated, and mitigated.<sup>10</sup>
- National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries: This Committee will provide ongoing assistance and advice to BOEM regarding the development of offshore wind energy and potential effects on fisheries.<sup>11</sup>

Guidance and best practice resources considered in the development of this Plan include but are not limited to:

- BOEM Decision Memorandum, California Final Sale Notice.<sup>12</sup>
- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic OCS. OCS Study BOEM 2014-654.<sup>13</sup>
- The United Kingdom’s Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. January 2014.<sup>14</sup>
- Guiding Principles for Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement (v1 10/21). New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/upcoming-projects/offshore-wind/Th8a-4-2022%20adopted%20findings.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/regions/pacific-ocs-region/environmental-analysis/PR-22-SOC.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.opc.ca.gov/2023/05/offshore-wind-environmental-monitoring-guidance-request-for-proposals/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/standing-committee-on-offshore-wind-energy-and-fisheries>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/PACW-1%20California%20FSN%20Decision%20Memo.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/renewable-energy-program/Fishing-BMP-Final-Report-July-2014.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.thecrownstate.co.uk/media/1776/floww-best-practice-guidance-disruption-settlements-and-community-funds.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Offshore-Wind/LSR-OSW-engageguide.pdf>

- Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM. 2020.<sup>16</sup>
- Information Guidelines for a Renewable Energy COP, Attachment A. Version 4.0. BOEM. 2020.<sup>17</sup>
- Central California Joint Fisheries/Cable Liaison Committee Final Agreement Between Cable Companies and Fishermen as Amended (v. 140519).<sup>18</sup>
- Oregon Fishermen’s Cable Committee Procedures (v. 2.6.17).<sup>19</sup>
- International Cable Protection Committee Government Best Practices for Protecting and Promoting Submarine Telecommunications Cables (v. 1.1).<sup>20</sup>
- Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap. Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap Advisory Committee. February 2023.<sup>21</sup>
- BOEM Request for Information: Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development. Nov. 22, 2021.<sup>22</sup>
- BOEM Draft Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf. June 22, 2022.<sup>23</sup>
- NMFS and BOEM Federal Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy – Northeast U.S. Region. December 2022.<sup>24</sup>
- 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.<sup>25</sup>
- Responsible Offshore Science Alliance Offshore Wind Project Monitoring Framework and Guidelines. March 2021.<sup>26</sup>
- Identifying Information Needs and Approaches to Assessing Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind Farm Development in the Northeast Region. BOEM. 2015.<sup>27</sup>
- Options for Cooperation Between Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy Industries: A Review of Relevant Tools and Best Practices. SeaPlan. 2014.<sup>28</sup>
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Best Management Practices Workshop. 2014.<sup>29</sup>
- New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan. NYSEDA. 2018.<sup>30</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/Social%20%26amp%3B%20Econ%20Fishing%20Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/COP%20Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.cencalcablefishery.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/22655546/140519\\_final\\_agreement\\_as\\_amended.pdf](http://www.cencalcablefishery.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/22655546/140519_final_agreement_as_amended.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.ofcc.com/Procedures2.6.17.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.iscpc.org/documents/?id=3733>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap February 2023.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/Maine%20Offshore%20Wind%20Roadmap%20February%202023.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/boem-2021-0083-0001>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/draft-fisheries-mitigation-guidance>

<sup>24</sup> <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/47925>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/Fishery-Survey-Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.rosascience.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ROSA-Offshore-Wind-Project-Montioring-Framework-and-Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/environmental-stewardship/Environmental-Studies/Renewable-Energy/OCS-Study-BOEM-2015-037.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <https://osf.io/preprints/marxiv/sfu9e/>

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.mafmc.org/s/MAFMC\\_Offshore-Wind-Workshop\\_Final-Report-4nan.pdf](https://www.mafmc.org/s/MAFMC_Offshore-Wind-Workshop_Final-Report-4nan.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Publications/Research/Biomass-Solar-Wind/Master-Plan/Offshore-Wind-Master-Plan.pdf>



## APPENDIX B - FISHERIES TEAM BIOGRAPHIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

### RWE Fisheries Team

RWE's Fisheries Team has extensive professional experience, a deep understanding of fisheries, and is respectful and approachable. RWE's Fisheries Team members have a background in fisheries science and management and decades of experience working with Regional Fishery Management Councils. The Council process is a public, transparent, and stakeholder-driven process that utilizes local knowledge to develop science-based management strategies that balance many objectives. The RWE Fisheries Team intends to apply many of these same principles to engage and collaborate with fishing communities to design, construct, and operate a successful project. Contact information for key members of the RWE Fisheries Team is provided below. Brief biographies for each individual follow.

RWE Fisheries Team Contact Information	
Name/Contact Information	Title
Rick Robins (Primary Contact) Marine Affairs Manager RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC 100 Federal St., 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110 <a href="mailto:Rick.Robins@rwe.com">Rick.Robins@rwe.com</a> Cell: 757-876-3778	RWE Fisheries Liaison (Acting) RWE Marine Affairs Manager
Deirdre Boelke Fisheries Manager RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC 100 Federal St. Boston, MA 02110 <a href="mailto:Deirdre.Boelke@rwe.com">Deirdre.Boelke@rwe.com</a> Cell: 978-518-0638	RWE Fisheries Manager
TBD	RWE Fisheries Liaison (Permanent)
TBD	Additional Fisheries Roles

#### **Rick Robins, Marine Affairs Manager and Acting Fisheries Liaison (Primary Contact)**

As Marine Affairs Manager, it is Rick's role to plan and coordinate the Project's marine operations and interactions with the maritime industries. Rick leads and coordinates marine affairs topics related to the development of RWE's U.S. offshore wind projects. Marine Affairs includes engagement with fisheries, commercial shipping, owner/operators of subsea infrastructure, ports and harbors operators, the U.S. Department of Defense, USCG, BOEM, and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

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, and served as a fisheries liaison for offshore wind energy development. Rick earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and History from Washington and Lee University.



## Deirdre Boelke, Fisheries Manager

As Fisheries Manager, Deirdre oversees engagement with fishery participants and fishing communities for RWE's offshore wind projects and works closely with other team members to coordinate engagement activities. Deirdre is responsible for the development of fisheries research and monitoring plans to support these projects and will work collaboratively with others to develop comprehensive fisheries mitigation programs. Deirdre is also responsible for ensuring input from fishing communities is considered into the design and development of RWE's offshore wind projects.

Deirdre has over 20 years of staff experience with the New England Fishery Management Council. She worked on most fishery management plans during her tenure with the Council, including plan coordinator for the Atlantic sea scallop and Atlantic herring fishery management plans. She was the staff lead for the Council's Atlantic sea scallop Research Set Aside program, which coordinated cooperative research to support the management of the fishery. She also staffed the coastwide climate change scenario planning initiative and other regional and national fishery management policy projects. Deirdre has a Master's in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Georgetown University.

## Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Team

Vineyard Offshore's Fisheries Team has over a decade of experience working with commercial and recreational fishermen, vessel owners, fishing advocacy organizations, shore support services, fisheries research institutions, and other fisheries stakeholders. The Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Team has demonstrated the ability to forge productive working relationships with fishermen and strongly believes that the offshore wind and fishing industries can successfully co-exist in the marine environment. Contact information for key members of the Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Team is provided below. Brief biographies for each individual follow.

Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Team Contact Information	
Name/Contact Information	Title
Lucia Ordonez (Primary Contact) Fisheries Liaison 517 3rd Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501 <a href="mailto:lorderne@vineyardoffshore.com">lorderne@vineyardoffshore.com</a> Cell: 707-572-9011	Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Liaison
Crista Bank Fisheries Manager Vineyard Offshore 700 Pleasant St., Suite 510 New Bedford, MA 02740 <a href="mailto:cbank@vineyardoffshore.com">cbank@vineyardoffshore.com</a> Cell: 508-525-0421	Vineyard Offshore Fisheries Manager
Erik Peckar Director of External Affairs, West Coast Vineyard Offshore 517 3rd Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501 <a href="mailto:epeckar@vineyardoffshore.com">epeckar@vineyardoffshore.com</a> Cell: 703-244-9585	Vineyard Offshore Director of External Affairs, West Coast

TBD	Additional Fisheries Roles
-----	----------------------------

### **Lucia Ordonez, Fisheries Liaison (Primary Contact)**

Lucia joined Vineyard Offshore as the Fisheries Liaison in 2024. Lucia graduated with a master’s degree in Natural Resources from Cal Poly Humboldt. Her master’s research was a North Coast Baseline Marine Protected Area (MPA) Socioeconomic Monitoring Project. For her work, she conducted in-person surveys at ports across the California North Coast region looking at perceived changes in income, involvement in the MPA process, perceptions of management, levels of trust in managers and researchers, and perceived effectiveness of MPA closures. In addition, Lucia was the lead field researcher on the National Science Foundation (NSF) Coastal Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (Coastal SEES) Collaborative Research Project: climate change impacts on the sustainability of key fisheries of the California Current System. This research focused on socioeconomic aspects of the market squid and spiny lobster fisheries fleets. The project aimed to study the potential resiliency both of the fishermen and the species of interest under predicted climate scenarios (exacerbated El Niño and La Niña events).

### **Crista Bank, Fisheries Manager**

Crista oversees Vineyard Offshore’s efforts to build and maintain long standing positive relationships with the fishing industry and surrounding communities. This includes directing outreach engagement, developing fisheries research and monitoring programs, and identifying potential workforce opportunities for fishing industry involvement. Her approach is based on respect and trust and finding solutions to problems with direction and guidance from fishing industry members. She has spent the last five years laying the groundwork and implementing these strategies as a Fisheries Liaison on the Vineyard Wind 1 project.

Crista is a fisheries biologist who spent 12 years working at the School for Marine Science and Technology, at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where she spent considerable time offshore on commercial fishing vessels working on collaborative research projects. Prior to that, Crista sailed on traditional sailing vessels crossing the Indian and South Atlantic Oceans and earned her 100-ton Captain’s license while sailing on the Schooner Ernestina, the only surviving 19th-century Gloucester-built fishing schooner. She started her career teaching marine science at outdoor experiential education programs in New England, Southern California, and the Florida Keys. Crista holds a bachelor’s degree in Marine Biology and a master’s degree in Fisheries Oceanography from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

### **Erik Peckar, Direct of External Affairs, West Coast**

Erik joined Vineyard Offshore as the West Coast Director of External Affairs in June 2023 and has more than a decade of offshore wind and solar project development experience. Prior to joining Vineyard Offshore, Erik served as the General Manager of Vineyard Power, a 501(c)12 non-profit based on Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts. Vineyard Power is the community partner for Vineyard Wind 1 and Avangrid Renewables’ offshore wind projects in Lease Area OCS-A 0534. At Vineyard Power, among many other things, Erik spearheaded efforts to enter into a CBA with Vineyard Wind 1, which was the first CBA for a U.S. offshore wind project. He also supported the permitting and development teams for the Vineyard Wind 1, Commonwealth Wind, and Park City Wind projects. He has extensive experience in Tribal Nation, stakeholder, and fishery engagement and led a legislative campaign that resulted in the passage of a community empowerment law in Massachusetts, which grants municipalities the authority to enter into long-term offshore wind power contracts.

Erik has a Bachelor of Science degree from the Pennsylvania State University. He also studied renewable energy development at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

## APPENDIX C – ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT DESIGNATIONS

The lease areas overlap with designated EFH for groundfish, salmon, coastal pelagic, and highly migratory species managed by PFMC. These EFH designations are widespread and extend to shore for groundfish, salmon and coastal pelagic species. Humboldt Bay and the mouth of the Eel River are also designated EFH for groundfish, coastal pelagic, and salmon species. EFH for coho and Chinook salmon extends onshore to include the Mad-Redwood, Lower Eel, and Matole watersheds.

The lease areas also contain rocky reef habitat designed as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) for groundfish species. Additional rocky reef HAPCs are located to the east of the lease areas, including areas off Trinidad, and to the south off Cape Mendocino. Estuarine and seagrass habitats inside the Bay and the mouth of the Eel River are also designated HAPC for groundfish. The Samoa Deepwater EFH Conservation Area overlaps with the southern portion of the lease areas. There are additional EFH Conservation Areas in the vicinity including the Mad River Rough Patch, Eel River Canyon, and Blunts Reef. The locations of HAPC and EFH Conservation Areas relative to the lease areas are shown in Figure 3.<sup>31</sup> More information on EFH and HAPC designations can be found on the NMFS website<sup>32</sup> and the agency's EFH Mapper for the Pacific region.<sup>33</sup>

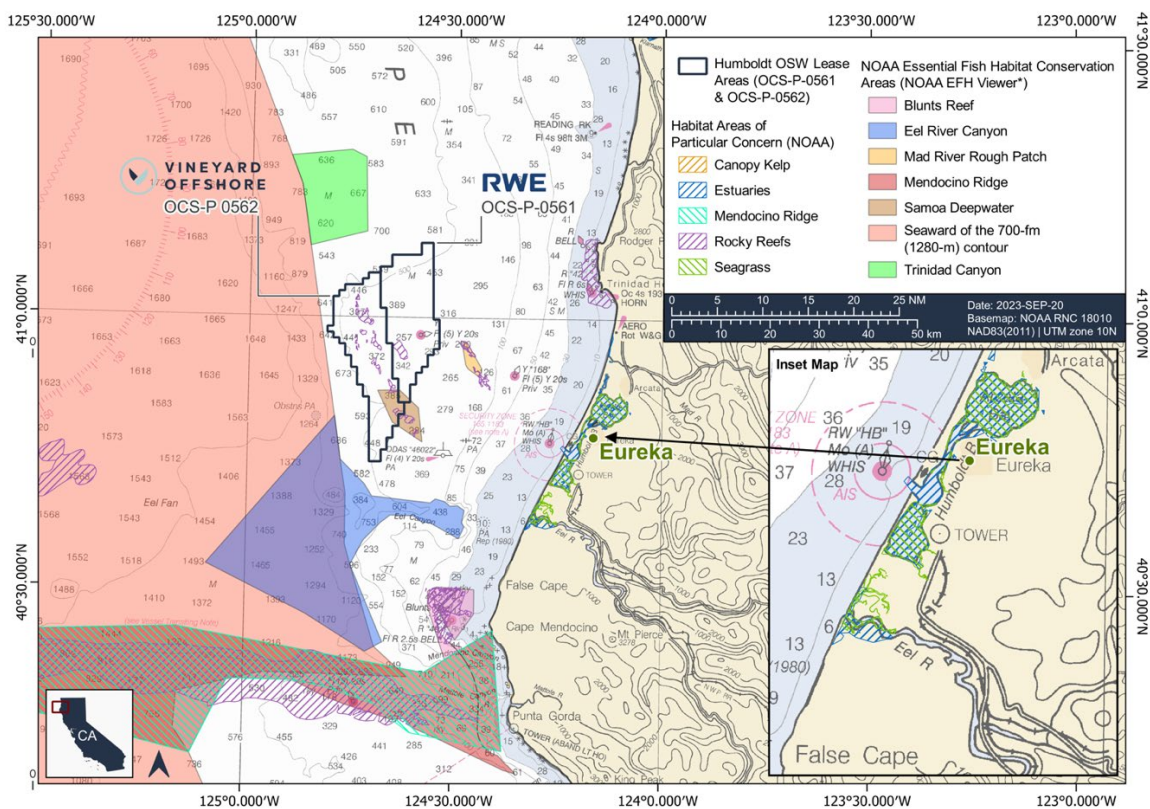


Figure 3. HAPC and EFH Conservation Areas

<sup>31</sup> This map is provided for general reference purposes only. The data sets used to create this map are subject to the same limitations and potential inconsistencies as described in the NMFS EFH Mapper.

([https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/?dlg=dialog\\_16&page=page\\_4](https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/?dlg=dialog_16&page=page_4)).

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/habitat-conservation/essential-fish-habitat-west-coast>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/>

## APPENDIX D – CLAIM PROCESS FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO FISHING GEAR RESULTING FROM SURVEY ACTIVITY

### Claim Filing Process

RWE and Vineyard Offshore have established the following process for persons seeking compensation for loss or damage to fishing gear as the result of one of the Company's offshore survey activities (e.g., survey activity within the respective lease areas or potential export cable corridors). Below is an overview of the claim process, along with the forms to be completed. These instructions and all associated forms will be available on each Company's website prior to the start of any offshore survey activity. If an Applicant has questions about this process or feels there are special circumstances relating to their claim, please contact the respective Company's Fisheries Liaison. The Fisheries Liaisons can also assist Applicants with identifying the appropriate Company with which to file a claim.

This claim filing process is designed specifically for fishing gear interactions that occur during the site assessment phase of this project. This process is intended to provide a fair, efficient, and timely process for addressing lost or damaged gear. The gear loss claims process will be reviewed and updated as appropriate in consultation with the fishing industry in advance of the construction and operations phases of the project.

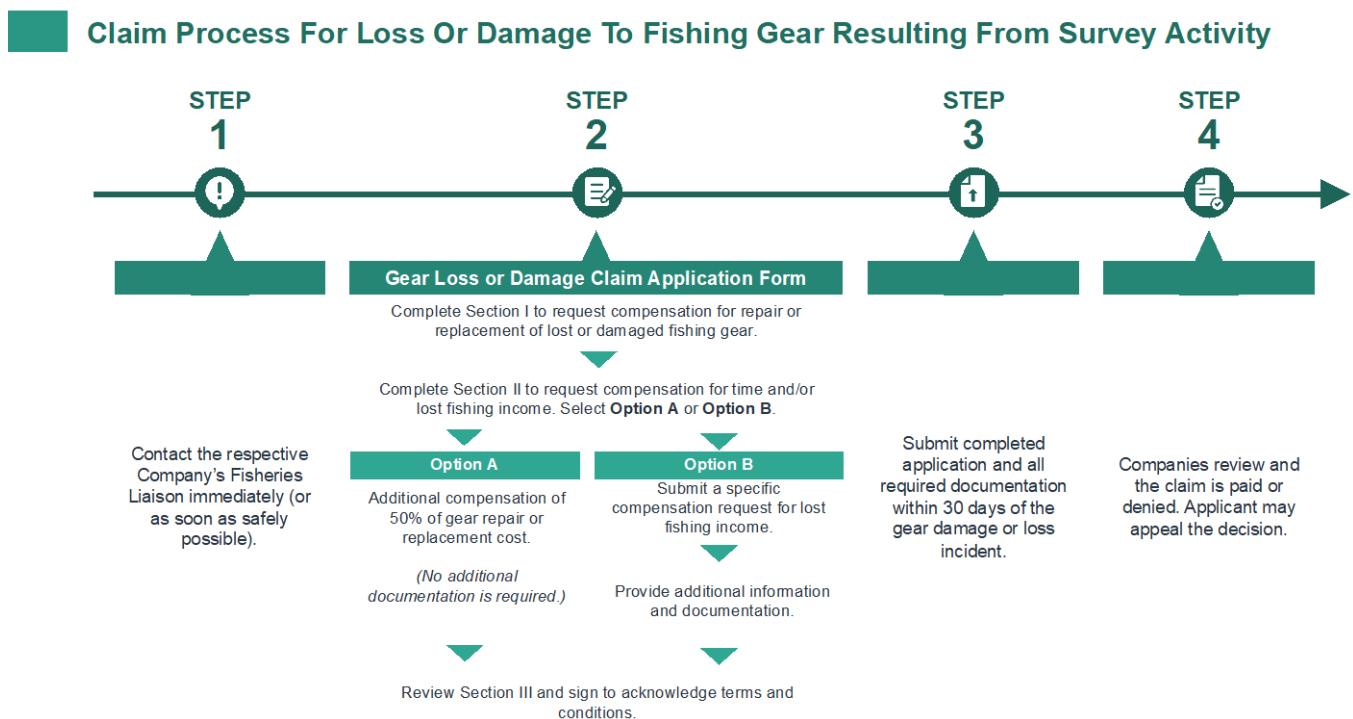


Figure 4. Claim Process for Loss or Damage to Fishing Gear

### STEP 1: Contact the respective Company's Fisheries Liaison

If a person experiences gear damage or loss as a result of one of the Company's offshore survey activities, they should contact the respective Company's Fisheries Liaison by phone or email immediately or as soon as safely possible to notify them of the gear damage or loss incident. Prompt notification of gear damage or loss is an important first step in an efficient claims process.

RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC	Vineyard Offshore, LLC
<b>Rick Robins, Fisheries Liaison (Acting)</b> Email: Rick.Robins@rwe.com Cell: 757-876-3778	<b>Lucia Ordonez, Fisheries Liaison</b> Email: lordonez@vineyardoffshore.com Cell: 707-572-9011

Additionally, if a fishing gear interaction is observed by the captain or crew of a survey vessel contracted to the Companies, the OFL or client representative will immediately notify the Company's 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.

### STEP 2: Complete 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 the respective Company'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 the respective Company 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 was not feasible.

### STEP 4: Review and acceptance or denial of claims

Once received, a claim application will be reviewed by the Company's Fisheries Liaison and a representative from the Company receiving the claim. The Companies may consult with additional experts to review gear loss claim applications. All Applicants will be notified of the result of the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of an

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

In general, an Applicant 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.

The Companies reserve the right to request additional information to support review of a claim.

**Gear loss claim example, Option A (expedited option)**

A captain has a gear loss incident as a direct result of one of the Company’s offshore 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 the Company’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
<hr/>	
Total amount for approved claim	\$3,000

## Gear Loss or Damage Claim Application Form

### I. Application for Gear Repair or Replacement

Offshore Wind Company: ☐RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC ☐Vineyard Offshore, LLC

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, specify format): \_\_\_\_\_

---

Spatial record of gear damage location (chart plotter, 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 records, 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 the respective Company's Fisheries Liaison to discuss alternative reference points.)* \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Application terms and conditions and Applicant signature

By submitting this Form, Applicant authorizes the respective Company to make whatever reasonable inquiries and investigations it deems necessary to verify this application and request for compensation.

Applicant understands that submitting this Application does not guarantee 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 the Company, its employees, shareholders, and affiliates, and their respective employees, and that neither the Company 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 the Company 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 the same terms and conditions specified in the paragraph above, without waiving Applicant's right to appeal the disputed part of the claim. By accepting such undisputed portion 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 arising out of incidents 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

The following documentation and forms are required for claims to be processed:

- Completed and signed application.
- Completed and signed 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 considered in support of application.

Our Fisheries Liaisons are here to help. Please return this form and attachments by delivering an electronic copy via email to the respective Company's Fisheries Liaison.

RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC	Vineyard Offshore, LLC
<b>Rick Robins, Fisheries Liaison (Acting)</b> Email: Rick.Robins@rwe.com Cell: 757-876-3778	<b>Lucia Ordonez, Fisheries Liaison</b> Email: lordonez@vineyardoffshore.com Cell: 707-572-9011

**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.**

## APPENDIX E – REVIEW AND INPUT ON DRAFT JOINT FCP

This initial version of the Joint FCP reflects many conversations with the fishing community during the development of the document as well as feedback and input received on the draft Plan. On October 2, 2023 the Companies distributed a draft version of this Plan via email to over 65 fishery contacts. These contacts included over a dozen fishing associations and several key constituents, whom the Companies asked to distribute the draft Plan to their respective constituents. To support review and feedback on the draft Plan the Companies hosted a hybrid meeting in Eureka, CA on October 10, 2023. The 39 fishery constituents who attended the meeting provided valuable feedback on the draft Joint FCP and raised several topics for future discussion. A recording of the presentation provided during the meeting is available online.<sup>34</sup> The Companies also participated in a meeting with PFMC’s Marine Planning Committee on November 1, 2023 to discuss the draft Plan. The draft Joint FCP was included in PFMC’s briefing book for their November 2023 meeting under agenda item C.3, Marine Planning.<sup>35</sup> Comments on the draft Plan were also received via email.

A number of questions and comments were received relating to Appendix D, which outlines a claims process for loss or damage to fishing gear. In response, the Companies made significant changes to Appendix D to clarify this process. Changes included incorporating a step-by-step description of the process and timeline, and example compensation scenario and an acknowledgement that fishery participants can discuss any special circumstance with the respective Company’s Fisheries Liaison. Additional feedback incorporated into the Joint FCP includes additional detail and clarification on commercial and recreational fisheries, fishery habitats, constituent groups and concerns relating to transit and safety. The Companies also received questions and input relating to the offshore wind development process, project design and configuration, industry-to-industry agreements, and concerns about potential impacts to fisheries and protected species interactions. These questions and comments did not result in changes to the Plan given the content and focus of the Joint FCP but have been recorded and acknowledged by the Companies to inform future dialogue with the fishing community on these topics.

---

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jrupe1JsNy8>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.pcouncil.org/briefing-book/november-2023-briefing-book/>