

Potential Impacts on Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Construction Phase

- ◆ Displacement of fishing vessels during installation of foundations and during cable laying
- ◆ Increased vessel traffic in ports and within offshore work areas

Operations Phase

The long-term presence of offshore wind structures in the Lease Area could result in:

- ◆ Long-term space use conflicts for fishing and transiting within the Lease Area
- ◆ Increased risk of allision or collision for fishing vessels in the Lease Area
- ◆ Habitat modification in the Lease Area and along submarine export cable corridors
- ◆ Potential for gear entanglement and loss due to interactions with exposed cables
- ◆ Artificial reef effect may increase density of structure-oriented fish



Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) to Abate Potential Impacts on Commercial Fishing

- ◆ Bury Project cables to a target depth of 5 to 6.6 feet
- ◆ Limit the amount of cable protection and design cable protection that minimizes effects on fishing gear to the maximum extent practicable
- ◆ Inform fishermen of the areas where cable protection is installed
- ◆ Mark all offshore structures with marine navigation lighting in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard and BOEM guidance
- ◆ Develop a Gear Loss Avoidance Program to identify gear located within the Project area and to work with fishermen to avoid, remove, or relocate fishing gear in the Project area
- ◆ Equip each turbine and offshore substation with access ladders to allow distressed mariners access to an open refuge area above the splash zone
- ◆ Equip each wind turbine, offshore substation, and meteorological tower position with Automatic Identification System to indicate positions to mariners
- ◆ Communicate with offshore fishermen while they are at sea, including establish a 24-hour phone line to address real-time operational conflicts or safety issues
- ◆ Develop a website that contains real-time vessel tracking chart and vessel schedules
- ◆ Employ a Marine Coordinator to monitor daily vessel movements, implement communication protocols with external vessels both in port and offshore to avoid conflicts, and monitor safety zones
- ◆ Conduct fisheries and benthic monitoring studies before, during, and after construction to evaluate potential impacts of the Project on fish stocks and habitat

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/fishing-and-offshore-renewable-energy>

