October 3, 2024

Wind Energy Commercial Lease on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Maine Final Biological Assessment

Errata Overview

The follow errata to the Biological Assessment (BA) for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for Wind Energy Commercial Lease on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Offshore Maine represent corrections related to technical errors and clarification.

1.   BA Section 3.1.2.7, Pages 3-14

The summary of the reconnaissance surveys, HRG surveys, geotechnical surveys, and benthic surveys provided in Section 3.1.2.7 of the BA refer to a 4-month survey period for each lease which is inconsistent with the descriptions provided in previous sections of the BA. Therefore, the corrected text in Section 3.1.2.7 with redline edits should read:

Reconnaissance and HRG surveys could be conducted from up to 2 vessels concurrently per lease: one for the 24-hour operations and one for the 12-hour operations. It is anticipated that the 24-hour survey operations would require monthly port calls depending on many factors, including weather downtime, vessel replenishment, and crew changes the survey period for each lease starting within one year after lease sales are finalized. The 12-hour operations will require daily vessel trips back to port during the survey period starting within one year after lease sales are finalized.

It is anticipated that geotechnical surveys for each of the 15 leases would require 33 round trips that would each last for approximately 30 days per trip, conducted using 24-hour operations (i.e., daytime and nighttime) within one year after lease sales have been finalized. The full extent of the timing of these surveys are highly dependent on many factors, including weather downtime, vessel replenishment, and crew changes.

Benthic survey vessels conducting 24-hour operations would undergo up to 10 round trips that would each last for approximately 30 days per trip during the survey period for each lease starting within one year after lease sales are finalized.