



New England Wind Project

What sounds will be made?

Pile driving and potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) detonation are the primary sources of acoustic concern associated with the proposed project. Not all project-related sounds are expected to be harmful. Some sounds will only present during certain stages over the life of an offshore wind facility



Studies in European waters show that harbor porpoises may leave an area and feed less when pile driving begins but generally return within weeks after pile driving activities end.

What man-made and natural sounds are in the project area?

- Commercial and recreational boats
- Scientific surveys
- Fishing and navigational sonars
- Animal vocalizations
- Wave action, storms

What information informed the analysis?

- Technical information on sound sources
- Underwater sound models
- Animal movement models to assess realistic exposure
- The seasonal occurrence of protected species in the lease area
- Information on animal responses to sound
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration guidance on assessing the effects of sound on marine mammals



The population of North Atlantic right whales has shown to be declining, and they are a species of interest in the waters off New England. Photo taken under NMFS permit number 19674

What are the possible impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from pile driving?

Hearing Impacts

- Temporary hearing loss
- Permanent hearing loss

Behavioral Impacts

- Avoidance of the area
- Impacts to hearing ability (temporary or permanent)
- Changes to feeding success, resting, migratory behavior
- Disrupted Communication
- Stress

