

Previously Identified Offshore Wind Development Concerns

Exclusion Zones/Access

- Who will be excluded from the wind farm itself and around transmission cables?
 - Can vessels transit through or would they have to go around?
 - What types of gear or fishing sector would be excluded, or will every fishing activity be allowed within wind farm borders?
 - How close can vessels approach turbines?
 - Will the entire area be a closed exclusion zone or will it be just a small exclusion circle around individual turbines?
 - Tie-ups and trespassing issues – who enforces the rules? Would it be the state or a federal agency, or a combination of both?
 - Should anchoring be allowed so fishermen can access the reefs, or is that too risky?
 - The entire area would have to be closed during initial construction, and monitoring can be done to ensure no impact on fisheries.
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Regulations

- How will offshore wind rules overlay and interfere with all the other fisheries management measures that exist?
 - There is a general feeling that fishermen don't have the opportunity to comment on issues for fisheries impacts in the current NEPA structure because the current EA being discussed may only be covering the site assessment activities to be undertaken, for example.
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Communication

- Often there is a communication breakdown especially with vessels that are home-ported elsewhere.
 - Can the Harbor Masters and Dock Masters play a role in information dissemination?
 - How can fisherman be notified that an area is closed for inspection or maintenance?
 - USCG Notice to Mariners can be used but are not sufficient. Can a new communication process be created with the Coast Guard?
 - What happens if there is an emergency at sea due to wind turbine equipment?
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Siting Process

- Some fishermen may not feel like they are included in the process and wonder if it is too late to have any real input.
 - Some feel that this process should have happened during creation of the WEAs and not now after they are already developed.
 - How can they be sure that NGOs who would like to close large areas of the ocean to fishing don't jump on board and have significant input?
 - Turbines can be spaced so nets can be pulled around them and so transit can be done through it, but the spatial orientation sometimes depends on sediment.
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Safety

- What is the actual distance from sea level to blade tip?
 - What happens if parts of the turbine or other equipment break off and hurt somebody or another emergency happens at sea?
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EMF

- What are the effects of EMF on fish and people?
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Radar Interference

- Will there be any radar interference from turbines?
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Maintenance

- How often, who does it, and what does it involve?
 - Will underground cables be inspected or replaced?
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Health

- What are the short- and long-term health effects of fishing near wind turbines and cables producing EMFs to people with pacemakers or other medical conditions?
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Fish

- Will wind turbines, cables, EMF, and/or noise affect fish migration?
 - Will fish decide to avoid the entire area and go around?
 - Will fish actually be attracted to the scour and other areas?
 - Can wind turbines be installed in areas already closed off to fisheries?
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Liability

- Fishermen have vessel insurance and gear insurance concerns. Who pays when there is a loss of gear or that got caught on cables or turbines?
 - Are there innovative ways that developers can make wind structures and farms more fishing friendly so that gear doesn't get snagged? This would involve exchange of ideas and information between fishermen and wind industry.
 - How to ensure cables stay buried with natural changing topography and storms.
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Enforcement

- If exclusion zones will exist, who will monitor the area and enforce penalties?
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