

## Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) Meeting Summary

Friday, June 12, 2020 from 10am to 12pm  
Virtual Meeting

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### Background

**This meeting summary describes key discussion points and action items from the Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) virtual meeting, which was held on Friday, June 12 through a virtual meeting platform.**

Goals for the meeting included:

- Update F-TWG on various ongoing and upcoming activities.
- Solicit input from F-TWG on key issues and ideas including:
  - The New York Bight Transit Final Report
  - The Cable Burial Document
- Review topics for the July virtual meeting.

There were 45 F-TWG members and other stakeholders in attendance through the Zoom meeting/conference line. Four staff from Tetra Tech, the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), and The Cadmus Group, were also present to provide technical, facilitation, and logistics support.

This summary is organized to align with the structure of the meeting agenda (Appendix A). Opinions are generally not attributed to specific F-TWG members. F-TWG members are referred to interchangeably in the summary as stakeholders and F-TWG members. This summary identifies areas of agreement as well as the different perspectives offered during meeting presentations and discussions.

### Action Items

The following key next steps resulted from the meeting:

- Brian Dresser will share the Draft Approach and TOC for the *“Submarine Cable Burial Depth Assessment”* with the F-TWG in the next couple of weeks.
- Topics to include in the Submarine Cable Burial document, should be sent to Morgan Brunbauer, [Morgan.Brunbauer@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:Morgan.Brunbauer@nyserda.ny.gov), or Brian Dresser, [brian.dresser@tetrattech.com](mailto:brian.dresser@tetrattech.com).
- F-TWG members should review the draft July meeting agenda and send additional agenda topic ideas to Morgan.
- F-TWG members interested in being contacted by RCG about the jobs for mariners project should contact Morgan who will pass their information on to RCG.
- F-TWG members should send suggestions for making the virtual meetings more engaging or using a different meeting platform to Morgan.

## Opening Remarks

The meeting opened with a review of meeting ground rules, F-TWG goals, and the F-TWG's mission. That was followed by introductions from the support team including explaining some new roles. Morgan Brunbauer is now the Offshore Wind Marine Fisheries Manager at New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Brian Dresser, of Tetra Tech, will serve as the technical lead for the F-TWG moving forward.

Greg Lampman and Morgan Brunbauer of NYSERDA welcomed the group and underscored that the F-TWG is a forum for discussion between the commercial fishing community and offshore wind developers. New York State (NYS) is open to ideas on how to make collaboration as useful and efficient as possible.

## Program Status Updates

Program updates were shared for the New York 2020 Offshore Wind Solicitation, the Empire and Sunrise Projects, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) Status of Activities.

### New York 2020 OSW Solicitation update

Greg Lampman at NYSERDA gave an update about the New York State Offshore Wind Procurement.

- NYSERDA **executed the procurement in 2019** and in January 2020 put together a petition to the Public Services Commission (PSC) explaining how it went and recommending steps forward.
- **In April they were authorized** to proceed with additional procurements up to 9 GW. Changes this round will be related to pricing and how competitors put together pricing bids.
- NYSERDA has been **authorized to include best management practices (BMPs)** in the procurement at their discretion and have been working on BMPS as they apply to a procurement. They have included relevant considerations in the current draft of the procurement both for fisheries and wildlife.
- Authorization was received in April; however, **the offshore wind procurement is being integrated with a procurement for ports** which has been affected by COVID-19 since developers cannot go to ports and engage about projects. As a result, both have been on pause.
- Once people are able to engage with ports more readily, NY should be ready to proceed. **The solicitation could be in the next few weeks or months.** The solicitation will look similar to the last round with additional BMPs for issues the fishing industry has seen as identified by NYSERDA.

### Status of Empire and Sunrise Projects

**Empire Wind Project:** Equinor provided an update that surveys would begin later in the month (June 2020). Due to COVID-19 they will not have an offshore wind representative onboard. A notice to mariners has been sent and they will communicate with fishermen in the area. In addition, a vessel representative will send reports of fishing activity. They are also working with the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) on alternative layouts and will be returning to port availability hours next month. The Empire Wind Construction and Operations Plan (COP) has also been submitted to BOEM and is going through a technical and completeness review now. Once the COP is ready to be released there will be a public comment period. Equinor will provide additional details once the COP is ready for public

release. They hope to be able to provide additional information about the timeline by the end of summer.

**Sunrise Wind Project:** Ørsted provided an update. They have a number of surveys planned for the summer and have three boats out now conducting geophysical surveys. Those will be followed up with benthic surveys and additional targeted areas in the wind farm area later this year. They also send a notice to mariners out twice a week. They recently posted a confidential online survey to the Ørsted website which is applicable to projects in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The Southfork Wind Fisheries Plan RFP was released in May and they are currently reviewing proposals. The Sunrise Wind Project wants to follow a similar model and collaborate with the fishing industry and subject matter experts. Ørsted is actively drafting permitting and COPs which will be submitted to BOEM in the fall. The survey can be accessed here: <https://us.orsted.com/mariners>

#### Status of Activities - BOEM

BOEM updated the FTWG on the status of the New York Bight Area Identification to share that there was no new information regarding the status, but they would update the working group as soon as there was something to share. Brian Hooker, Biology Team Lead at BOEM provided an update on the [Vineyard Wind 1 Offshore Wind Energy Project Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statements \(SEIS\)](#).

On June 12<sup>th</sup> a [Notice of Availability of a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Vineyard Wind LLC's Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore Massachusetts and Public Meetings](#) was published in the Federal Register. He reminded stakeholders that this is a **supplement to the Vineyard Wind EIS (SEIS)** and that the geographic analysis area for commercial and for-hire recreational fisheries for the SEIS was from Cape Hatteras, N.C. to the Gulf of Maine. Note that within that geographic analysis area there are only leases areas between Cape Hatteras, N.C. and Cape Cod M.A.

BOEM shared a list of **impact producing factors that were analyzed** including anchoring, new cable emplacement and maintenance activities, noise, port utilization, presence of structures, increased vessel traffic, climate change, and regulated fishing efforts. Brian then explained the revenue exposure analysis was conducted in the draft EIS and carried forward into the SEIS. They looked across many different fisheries and areas for each Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) to identify **how that individual FMP revenue is exposed**. The analysis provides a starting point for understanding potential economic impacts between now and when all the projects should be built in 2030. They also shared a table showing the average annual exposed revenue from all lease areas by port.

**Polar histograms were developed** for vessel orientation analysis in the SEIS. The data set used for the analysis was cumulative for 2014 to 2019, shows directionality of fishing vessel activity, is based on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data, and includes all vessels parsed in two speed categories ( $\geq 5$  knots and  $< 5$  knots) seeking to represent transiting versus fishing activity. The analysis looked at all of the lease activity in southern New England and data can viewed down to the project level to see the orientation of travel in a project area. BOEM also shared the results of a cumulative revenue exposure analysis based on VTR data. It was noted that each trip included in the revenue exposure analysis was not based on a single VTR point but a modeled location based on points and vessel observers. A white

paper called [Visualizing Fishing Data as Rasters](#) was shared to provide additional information on the methodology.

BOEM shared a **summary of impacts to commercial and for-hire recreational fishing** based on a proposed action of up to 100 turbines in 100 locations. Different alternatives to the proposed action included different requirements for layouts of turbines (Proposed Action and Alternatives B-F) and looked at direct and indirect impacts of the project as well as cumulative impact. It was difficult to distinguish effects between the alternatives since many differences between alternatives are in the subfactors. Overall, direct and indirect impacts of the Vineyard Wind project were moderate and the overall cumulative impact was major for all proposed actions and alternatives. Brian directed attendees to review several key sections of the SEIS for more information (Section 3.11; Tables 3.11-1 to 3.11-5; Figures 3.11-1 to 3.11-6; and Section 3.10) and shared that his presentation, along with additional slides about other major sections, was also available on the [BOEM Vineyard Wind website](#).

### Relevant F-TWG Topics for Discussion

The following topics were brought up for discussion and to collect input from the F-TWG: New York Bight Transit final product and the need and intent for a cabling technical review.

#### [Report out on the New York Bight Transit final product](#)

Morgan Brunbauer provided an update about the New York Bight Transit Report. The Transit survey document was one of two major topics of interest when the F-TWG was formed. The effort was co-sponsored by NYSERDA, RODA, and NOAA Fisheries.

**A workshop was held in spring 2019** where 70 attendees representing state and federal agencies, developers, and commercial fisheries came together to discuss transit lanes in the New York Bight. In addition, over 200 fishermen provided input for surveys that were used to inform discussions. The initial objective was to understand what ports fishermen are using throughout the New York Bight and an initial survey map was shared at the workshop. Groups took a deeper dive into transit data and discussed how to target where the concentrations of transit are occurring across potential areas in the New York Bight. This information was used to help steer conversations about what should be done about transit in the area. The following guiding principles were agreed upon during the workshop:

#### **Transit lanes should be established:**

- To avoid or minimize conflict among various users, including but not limited to commercial fishing, as well as avoid or minimize potential collision impacts to wildlife;
- Early, be enforceable, and preferably be established before developers have submitted bids and made financial commitments based on assumptions about the amount of lease area available for development;
- To provide connection and consistency across lease areas and projects throughout the New York Bight (and to adjacent areas such as lease areas off of New Jersey) to allow for safe, regular, and coherent travel across the region;
- To ensure commercial fishing economic opportunities for all ports, not just some or a few; and

- To allow for transit to and from various ports and fishing grounds in the straightest and most direct route possible to minimize transit time, associated costs, and economic impacts on the commercial fishing industry.

**Additionally, transit lanes should:**

- Above all provide safe passage of vessels in a range of sea conditions;
- Be established between lease areas in the final BOEM lease area designations;
- Be limited in number, based on data provided, to not overburden any one proposed lease area while ensuring sufficient transit across such areas for different purposes and needs (varying by port and fishery);
- Have designations that are data-informed to the greatest extent possible, utilizing a shared and widely accepted methodology, and include risk analysis for both calm seas and storm conditions; and
- Follow a process for determining lanes that is broadly inclusive of the commercial fishing industry.

The end of the report includes a simplified version of the “spaghetti” map to provide **insights about where transit lane discussions could be focused moving forward**. The final report and transit lane map was presented to the RODA task force in early May to get further input. The task force thought the recommendations for simplified and guiding principles were acceptable and accurate to date. [New York Bight Transit Lanes Surveys, Workshop, and Outreach Summary](#) is available online and stakeholders were encouraged to use information from the report.

[Background on need and intent for cabling technical review](#)

Tetra Tech provided an update on the Cable Burial Document plan and development. There will soon be Submarine Cables from Offshore Wind installed in the New York Bight.

**The purpose of the Cable Burial Document** is to discuss:

- The planning process, surveys, and when and how stakeholder participation will occur.
- What is likely to be installed? where and by what means? How does that differ by location within these projects (beach landing, export cable, array field)?
- Crossings of existing assets known such as fishing areas & dredged channels.
- The Operations and Maintenance phase -what if intervention is required post-installation? What might cause this need to occur?

There are many questions about offshore wind cables including how they affected the environment, electromagnetic fields, and noise as well as their cumulative impacts to habitats. For these impacts, we have to consider what is known and unknown, what is currently being studied, and who is conducting the studies. The Cable Burial Document is an opportunity to collect this research and get key questions answered. In order to develop the document, NYSERDA is looking for feedback from the fishing, regulatory, and developer communities on:

- What do you want to know?
- What do you want regulators to know?
- How will this document meet your needs?

The goal is to create a document that has information stakeholders can use to have productive discussions on this topic. There is a lot of information available, but it needs to be consolidated.

**Mechanisms for providing feedback:** NYSERDA proposed that members could provide direct verbal feedback on the call or NYSERDA could provide an outline of topics that might be important to the group and get feedback on those topics specifically. NYSERDA wants the F-TWG to be aware of the project, have the opportunity to provide feedback, and then be able to incorporate that feedback so topics in the document are useful and can help foster or improve conversations moving forward.

The following feedback and **key points to consider** including in the document were provided by F-TWG members:

- How to determine how deep is deep enough?
- A discussion on cable armoring options and issues relevant to upcoming projects in the area, including cost, feasibility, interaction with gear, etc.?
- A discussion about different bottom types and burial methodologies and techniques.

**Timeline:** The outline is being developed now and they are aiming to have a draft by the end of summer 2020.

NYSERDA wants feedback from the fishing community and regulators. If there are additional topics they want to see that would be useful, NYSERDA wants to incorporate those into the document. They will make sure whatever product is produced does the deep dive this topic deserves so it is useful for ongoing and future conversations. This effort is also being coordinated to ensure continuity with a document being developed by the New England Fisheries Management Council Habitat Plan Development Team.

**If you have a topic or area you would like to see included, please send it to Morgan Brunbauer, [Morgan.Brunbauer@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:Morgan.Brunbauer@nyserda.ny.gov), or Brian Dresser, [brian.dresser@tetrattech.com](mailto:brian.dresser@tetrattech.com).**

An update about the document progress will be provided during the July meeting.

## Other Items and Issues

### Review Draft Agenda for July Meeting

The July meeting will focus on updates for a number of research projects currently underway and include discussions about other ideas the F-TWG may want to be involved in moving forward. F-TWG members are encouraged to send additional agenda topic ideas to Morgan.

### Announcements from NYSERDA

- **NYSERDA is sponsoring an effort to identify the jobs for mariners that could be offered by the offshore wind industry.** The goal is to help individuals understand how to tap into opportunities and look at ways to provide more opportunities for the fishing community to take advantage and supplement their current careers. The intent is not to replace current jobs but to identify opportunities on the water where fishing skillsets would be valuable. NYSERDA wants input from the fishing community and developer community so that the end-product is useful to both parties. Morgan asked for anyone interested in engaging in

the process to identify themselves and he would share their information with the contact at Renewables Consulting Group (RCG).

- The Coast Guard approached NYSERDA and is willing to hear and **address questions or concerns about the findings in the MARIPARS**. It was suggested that the Coast Guard could present at the July Meeting; however, that will be after the Delaware Bay PARS comment period closes and may not be as valuable then. If members are interested in having the Coast Guard speak they should reach out to Morgan.
- NYSERDA is moving forward with a geotechnical survey over what BOEM identified as Hudson North and South. They will be **executing on surveys in mid-July** and are looking to complete the work in October. They are currently reviewing resumes received for an onboard fisheries liaison for the surveys.
- The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) put out a **call for commercial and recreational fishermen to join the Building Advisory Council**. The call is also posted on [www.ROSAscience.org](http://www.ROSAscience.org) and members were encouraged to share with their networks.

### Adjournment

The facilitator noted that the next virtual FTWG meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The webinar adjourned.

## Appendix A: Meeting Agenda

### F-TWG Summer 2020 Virtual Meetings

June 12, 2020

Revised to June 11, 2020

You may join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

#### F-TWG Goals for Meetings

- Update the Fisheries Technical Working Group (F-TWG) on various ongoing and upcoming activities.
- Solicit input from F-TWG on key issues and ideas.
- Adhere to our ground rules for an effective meeting (stay on track, let others speak, be respectful, focus on the substance not the people)

#### Virtual Meeting: June 12, 2020

- 9:45**            **Open Lines for On-Line Joining**
- 10:00**           **Welcome, Listing of Participants, Orientation to the On-Line Platform**
- 10:10**           **Program Status Updates**
- New York 2020 OSW Solicitation update – *New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)*
  - Status of Empire and Sunrise Project – *Developers*
  - Status of Activities– *Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)*
- 10:45**           **Relevant F-TWG Topics for Discussion**
- Report out on the New York Bight Transit final product – *NYSERDA*
  - Background on need and intent for cabling technical review – *Morgan Brunbauer, NYSERDA Commercial Fishing Liaison*
    - Approach to the Work – *Tetra Tech, NYSERDA Technical Consultant*
    - Discussion and advice – *F-TWG Members*
- 11:25**           **Other Items and Issues**
- Members bring forward issues for discussion as needed
  - Review July draft agenda
- 11:30**           **Next Steps and Adjourn**