



# Beacon Wind

## Fisheries Communication Plan

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## 1 Introduction

This Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) presents the proposed approach for Beacon Wind to liaise with the commercial and recreational fishing industries in relation to the development of offshore wind lease area OCS A 0520 and associated cable route(s) and landfall site(s).

This living document is rooted in bp's historic cooperation and collaboration with the commercial and recreational fishing industries across global offshore wind and conventional energy projects. The FCP will evolve with feedback from stakeholders as our consultations with the commercial and recreational fishing industries and regulatory bodies continue.

At this time, communication of any fisheries related questions, comments, or concerns related to Beacon Wind should be directed to the following contacts:

- Joseph Jackson, Stakeholder Commitments Manager – [Joseph.Jackson@bp.com](mailto:Joseph.Jackson@bp.com)
- Beacon Wind Communications – [BeaconWind@bp.com](mailto:BeaconWind@bp.com)

### 1.1 Beacon Wind – OCS-A 0520 Lease Area

The Beacon Wind lease area extends 19.21 to 42.28 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, spanning 123,474 acres, in water depths between 121.4 and 203.4 feet. Additional lease area parameters can be found in Table 1 and Table 2 with a visual representation in Figure 1. Subject to environmental and technical constraints, which are being explored as part of the design and development phases, it is believed that the site has a potential generating capacity of over 2 gigawatts (GW).

Table 1 Beacon Wind OCS-A 0520 Lease Area Data

Parameter	Value
Size	123,474 acres
Anticipated Capacity	2 GW
Distance from Shore	19.21 to 42.28 miles
Water Depth Range	121.4 to 203.4 feet

Table 2 Beacon Wind OCS-A 0520 Lease Area Coordinates

Point	Latitude WGS84 (degrees minutes)	Longitude WGS84 (degrees minutes)	LORAN9960X	LORAN9960X
1	40° 39.0078' N	070° 37.9344 W	14310.5	43590.6
2	40° 39.5946' N	070° 42.2071 W	14332.5	43599
3	40° 45.4170' N	070° 43.2086 W	14319.4	43641.8
4	41° 01.2539' N	070° 23.0676 W	14150.3	43729.8
5	40° 55.4284' N	070° 22.0908 W	14165.9	43689.1
6	40° 54.8294' N	070° 17.8036 W	14144.1	43680.3

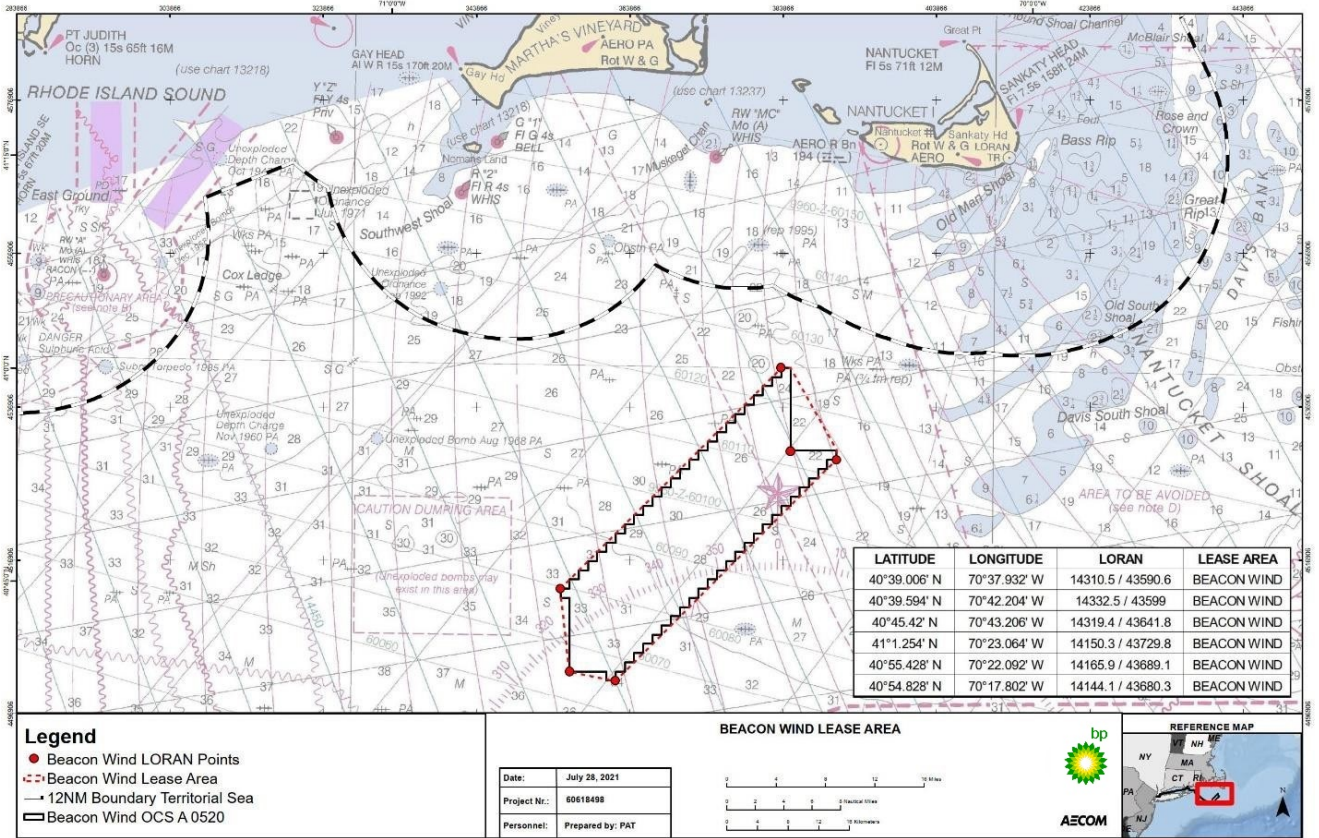


Figure 1 Beacon Wind OCS-A 0520 Lease Area

## 2 Beacon Wind Approach

The Beacon Wind team is committed to ensuring the responsible development of the Beacon Wind project through early engagement and continued collaboration with the commercial and recreational fishing industry. This industry is a key stakeholder driving offshore wind development. Gaining insights and knowledge from individuals and groups sharing the outer continental shelf space is a cornerstone of the Beacon Wind strategy and ensures all ocean stakeholders are represented in project decisioning.

### 2.1 Best Practices

The Beacon Wind team believes that the commercial and recreational fishing industry and offshore wind farm development can coexist with clear communication and collaboration. A successful fisheries strategy will require open and regular communication between Beacon Wind and the industry during all phases of project planning and includes the following principles:

- A commitment to consultation with the aim of assisting the fishing community to safely continue their fishing activities within the operational site and along the export cable corridor including, but not limited to commercial/recreational fisheries groups, technical interest groups, state Fisheries Technical Working Groups (F-TWGs) and regulatory agencies;
- Fisheries outreach will be as comprehensive as possible; including engagement with stakeholders through Fishing Industry Representatives (“FIR”) and/or groups such as F-TWG and Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), as well as engagement with organizations or individual fishers not represented in these groups; and
- The Project’s approach to fisheries mitigation is founded upon the mitigation hierarchy. More specifically, this approach means that Beacon Wind anticipates and avoids impacts on fisheries resources and fishers; avoids impacts where feasible; minimizes impacts where avoidance is not possible; and takes steps to offset significant residual adverse impacts that may remain.

### 2.2 Mitigation

The Project will make best efforts to minimize restrictions on fishing activities within the lease area or export cable route post construction. Restrictions, if applicable, will be limited to the application for standard safety zones during the construction phase, and operational safety zones around manned or sensitive offshore platforms or in some cases access points to turbines.

Mitigation measures will be identified and developed with relevant fisheries stakeholders through an iterative process of project design, including site selection, cable routing, timing of works, and consideration of construction and operations methods. This FCP will be updated based on feedback from stakeholder consultations. It is Beacon Wind’s intent to implement consistent approaches for fisheries communication and fisheries mitigation.

## 3 Fisheries Liaison

Transparency will form the basis of Beacon Wind’s fisheries liaison philosophy. Regular, open consultation will be key to ensuring all parties are well informed, are able to contribute to discussions, and can work towards a joint objective of coexistence. This FCP will continue to evolve throughout the project development process. The identification of potential impacts on the commercial and recreational fishing industry may change as the project design and installation methodology change or become more detailed during the various phases of development. This FCP is designed to describe the coordination of activities through the development,



construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the wind farm, where the requirements and potential impacts may vary by phase.

The stakeholder strategy will remain committed to ensuring fisheries liaison activities will be based on best practice guidance and feedback from the fishing industry through consultation. It will also draw on consultation from fisheries bodies, regulators, ports and harbors, and legislation, as well as previous experiences of the Beacon Wind team with fisheries liaison work in the offshore wind and conventional energy industry. The best practice guidance will include, but not be limited to:

- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, BOEM 2014-654;
- Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison - Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW), UK;
- Fishing and Submarine Cables Working Together – published by the International Cable Protection Committee;
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) 2014 – Offshore Wind Best Management Practices Workshop;
- Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZMP) 2015 – Collaborative Fisheries Planning for Virginia’s Offshore Wind Energy Area;
- Lipsky et al. 2016 – Addressing Interactions between Fisheries and Offshore Wind Development: The Block Island Wind Farm; and
- Moura et al. 2015 – Options for Cooperation between Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy Industries: A Review of Relevant Tools and Best Practices.

Beacon Wind is committed to communicating with fisheries stakeholders on all relevant aspects of project development:

- The Project will communicate with vessels actively fishing in areas in or adjacent to the project area during site assessment activities.
- The Project will continue to implement this practice during construction and decommissioning activities to ensure proper notification to vessels and resource managers.

Effective dialogue and consultation have been and will continue to be facilitated with the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive contact database for local and regional fisheries associations, societies, groups, individual fishermen and the different industry organizations which serve as the basis for distributing communication materials to the fisheries community. Members of the commercial and recreational fishing communities are identified through various channels and include, but are not limited to:

- Contacting fishing industry leaders known through the combined industry experience;
- The Projects’ list of over 400 contacts (fishing stakeholders, Federal and State agencies, academia, fishing organizations and concerned citizens);
- Project presentations provided by the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) to fishing organizations;
- Project specific social media pages;
- Contacting fishing industry association leaders;
- Attending Fishery Management Council meetings;
- Attending meetings related to offshore wind and fisheries interactions;



- Manning booths at commercial and recreational fishing forums; tradeshow and expos
- Recommendations from state and federal fisheries staff;
- Fisheries Management Council Advisory Panel lists online;
- Public comments and documents online;
- Word of mouth from the fishing community;
- Automatic Identification System (AIS) monitoring including ship identification;
- Fishing vessels identified offshore during surveys by the FLO;
- NMFS permit holder lists online;
- Port/Dock visits;
- Engagement with RODA; and
- Engagement with NYSERDA and other state efforts along the seaboard.

The database is maintained and regularly updated by the stakeholder team in conjunction with the Projects' team members. It should be noted that the fishing industry database will be used solely for the purposes of fisheries liaison activities and will not be made available to any individual or group, outside of the specific project requirements. It is acknowledged and appreciated that some fisheries information, such as fishing sites, can be commercially sensitive. In these circumstances, the Project will work with the individual fishing organization/fisherman to establish confidentiality agreements for the purpose of sharing information to meet the objective of compatible use of the offshore environment.

### 3.1 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

The Project will employ a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) with the appropriate level of knowledge and first-hand experience in the fishing industry of the region to aid in communication with, and the dissemination and gathering of information between the Project and the fishing industry. The FLO will also support the Project in identification of potential impacts, potential mitigation measures, and support with data gathering to inform the environmental and social impact assessments related to commercial and recreational fishing. The FLO will be acting on bp's Beacon Wind's behalf throughout all development stages, including during surveys and the operation and decommissioning phases. The primary roles and responsibilities of the FLO are:

- To serve as the primary point of contact between the project and the commercial and recreational fishing fleets and community,
- To log all interactions between the project team and fisheries representatives accurately and in a way that can be shared by the project team;
- To maintain a fisheries stakeholder database and contacts list for all identified fisheries operating within the vicinity of the offshore wind lease area and export cable throughout all stages the project, covering the following details:
  - Vessel names, owners, registrations and base ports;
  - Vessel radio call sign;
  - Dominant method(s) of fishing and any new technology developing within the fisheries;
  - Static gear surface marker details where applicable;
  - Target species as well as key by-catch species;
  - Fishing grounds relevant to the project;
  - Fishing periods and operating practices of each key fishery; and
  - Feedback, comments and concerns voiced within consultations.
- To arrange meetings with the fishing industry throughout all stages of project development, with frequency, timings and method of communication appropriate to the level of activity at the time;

- To consult the relevant Fishing Industry Representatives;
- To maintain regular liaison with relevant fishermen’s associations, individual captains and vessel owners, the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and any relevant fisheries regulatory bodies as appropriate;
- To disseminate project related activities which could potentially interact with fisheries stakeholders. This will include:
  - A description of the survey activity or other works to be undertaken;
  - The location and timing of survey activities;
  - The coordinates of partially and/or fully installed infrastructure;
  - A look ahead of the schedule of works where available;
  - Details of the vessels involved in the works including the vessel contact details;
  - Survey and installation vessels transit routes to and from site;
  - The locations and timings of safety exclusion zones that may be required during installation or maintenance activities;
  - Health & Safety standards and International Regulations for Preventing Collisions (COLREGS) obligations;
  - Contractor obligations towards fisheries stakeholders; and
  - Conflict avoidance response procedures and reporting procedures.
- Be available to receive and relay back to the Project all relevant concerns from the fisheries stakeholders in respect of the various activities associated with the Project;
- To keep fisheries stakeholders updated of any changes in project design, or scheduling;
- To assess and advise the Project on the need for, and subsequently support the Project in organizing, guard vessels and offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives;
- Monitor fishing activity within the wind farm site and export cable route during all phases of the project, including during survey activities to minimize disruption to fishing activities;
- Support the Project in making wind farm survey, installation and operations and maintenance contractors aware of relevant fishing activities, including any relevant fishermen’s sensitivities, and procedures for communicating with fishing vessels at sea; and
- Advising and supporting the Project on the procurement of offshore Fishing Liaison Representatives (OFLRs) and scout vessels to be present offshore during survey activity.

### 3.2 Fishing Industry Representatives

Fishing Industry Representatives (FIRs) may serve as the main point of contact within a fishing industry organization. These representatives should represent the views of the fishermen within their remit. The FIRs should have the backing and support of the fisheries stakeholders they represent. The FIRs should be willing and able to disseminate information from the FLO or the Project to the fishing community and vice versa on a timely and all-inclusive basis. The FIR is typically an individual who has worked extensively within or currently represents the industry in that sector, port or region. The primary responsibilities of the FIR are to:

- Be the main focal point for liaison with fisheries stakeholders under their representation;
- Liaise and cooperate with the FLO to ensure the objectives of the FCP and FMP and underlying principles are achievable;
- Report back to the FLO any fishermen’s concerns, data, or requests for meetings; and
- Assist in the distribution of notices and relevant project information to fisheries stakeholders and to follow up to ensure that all relevant parties received such notices.





As fishing industry representation evolves, the project and industry representatives may find it most effective to work through different industry groups such as the F-TWG and/or RODA. The Beacon Wind project team will evaluate which groups they will work jointly with on offshore wind and fisheries issues.

### 3.3 Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives

Where required and appropriate, Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives (OFLRs) will be present on vessels that are working on behalf of the Project for wind farm related activities, for example survey vessels and installation vessels. The main purpose is to ensure effective communications with fishing vessels encountered during such activities. This may be for the purpose of disseminating information, responding to queries from fishing vessels, acting as a conduit for information offshore between the FLO, FIR, and fisheries stakeholders within or near the site. OFLRs also observe and record set fishing gear locations and instruct survey vessels to avoid fishing gear to prevent fishing interactions/conflict.

### 3.4 Scout Vessels

At times, Beacon Wind may employ scout vessels (e.g. when an onboard FLO is not feasible or in an abundance of precaution due to anticipated occurrence of fixed gear) with the goal of avoiding contact and/or conflict with fishing gear, including lobster, crab, fish, and conch pots and gill nets. The scout vessel would operate in the planned Project activity area in advance in an attempt to notify owners of vessels and/or set gear of the planned activities.

### 3.5 Communication Channels

Notices and information for fishermen will be distributed via the following mechanisms:

- Via the Fisheries Manager, Fisheries Liaison Officer and Fishing Industry Representatives;
- Fishermen's associations;
- Directly from the FLO to individual fishermen not represented by an FIR, but identified on the FLO's database;
- USCG Notice to Mariners;
- Electronic email distribution to commercial fishing permit holders (NOAA or state agencies);
- The Beacon Wind website;
- The Project listserv;
- Through fisheries-specific websites such as F-TWG and RODA should these developer information pages be developed;
- Local harbor masters;
- Survey Flyers;
- Newsletters;
- Presentations or networking at fishing conferences and exhibitions; and
- Fishing news publications.

## 4 Offshore Survey Communication Protocols

The Project is following steps to minimize impacts on the fishing community at all stages of project development, including during offshore survey activities. As such, a survey coexistence and communications strategy is in place, currently valid for past and planned surveys. Personnel associated with vessels contracted to perform project work will be trained on these protocols prior to mobilization.



## 4.1 Scheduling and Outreach

Prior to the onset of site surveys and installation activities, a survey-specific fisheries communications and emergency response plan identifying points of contact in emergency situations and incident reporting procedures will be drafted addressing the identified fisheries stakeholders.

Survey Flyers developed for the project will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders in advance of survey activities and will also be available on the Project websites (e.g., [www.beaconwind.com](http://www.beaconwind.com)) and include primary points of contact and a description of the activities to be conducted.

A scheduling plan will be drafted in consultation with fisheries stakeholders on the appropriate amount of notice required prior to the onset of surveys, installation, or operations and maintenance activities. The plan will also detail the agreed effective frequency of general project and project development updates, and how these updates are conducted (e.g. meetings, email, via FIRs etc).

## 4.2 Guidelines for Survey Interactions with Fishing Activity - Avoidance and Contact

A survey vessel may be the first direct contact between Project representatives and fishermen in the offshore environment. The Project is committed to minimizing impacts and to coexistence with the fishing industry at all stages of project development, including during offshore survey activities. Early engagement, clear flows of information, and positive working relations with fishermen are vital for successful project implementation.

Two types of fishing interaction have a chance of occurring in the US northeastern region – encounters with static gear such as lobster, crab, fish, and conch pots; gillnets and longlines marked with surface buoys and flags (or with vessels setting/hauling such gear); and encounters with vessels towing, setting or hauling mobile gear including trawls or dredges, at speeds of 2 to 5.5 knots. Guidelines to reduce the risks of negative interactions with the fishing industry during the Projects' survey activities are as follows:

- Offshore Fishery Liaison Representative (OFLR) – The survey vessel may carry an onboard FLR to support such contacts and facilitate communication between the survey vessel master and fishermen. In cooperation with vessel officers, the FLR will use available information including fishing experience, active watch, reasonable access to vessel communications, radar, AIS, and other available resources to seek out fishing gear and activities in survey areas and advise survey personnel about them. For details see the OFLR Scope of Work in [update relevant section].
- Active watch - Survey personnel as well as the OFLR will maintain an active AIS, visual and radar watch for fishing gear and fishing activities in the area and keep vessel officers informed if fishing is detected nearby, or in areas that could impact the survey.
- The OFLR will be available to “speak the language” of local fishermen over the radio, advise on customary radio frequencies used, etc.
- The OFLR will monitor AIS activity related to fishing in and around the lease area that can be used in planning areas for the survey vessel to be aware of and minimize interaction and conflict with fishing gear.
- If fishing gear and/or active fishing is detected in areas or positions where contact with survey gear, hindrance of fishing, or hindrance of planned survey activities appears likely, the survey vessel will take reasonable measures to avoid interference with fishing. If it is feasible to move to a different part of the survey area without substantial negative impacts, that course of action is preferred.
- Record and report all sightings and approximate positions of fishing gear and vessels, as well as relevant radio contacts for future reference.



- The Project will issue 'Survey Flyers' with details of survey activity, schedules, and key contacts in advance of surveys to provide advanced warning to fishermen, but to also encourage feedback on areas the survey vessel should avoid at specific times or in which there may be increased fishing activity.
- The FLO will provide updates via email on the survey schedule as this develops over time.

### 4.3 Fishing Gear Entanglement

This procedure is currently under development and will be designed as a base action plan for Project survey vessels and survey crew members engaged in offshore surveys to safely untangle snagged fishing gear during survey operations, should an unforeseen incident occur. As every situation and survey setup is different, this procedure will be modified to best suit the vessel setup and site conditions. The gear claim and entanglement protocol will be communicated broadly when available. The Project will continue to consult with regulatory authorities and fisheries stakeholders for further development and use of the gear loss prevention, entanglement, and claim protocol.

In the event of gear loss or entanglement, notify the following project contacts:

- Joseph Jackson, Stakeholder Commitments Manager – [Joseph.Jackson@bp.com](mailto:Joseph.Jackson@bp.com)
- Beacon Wind Communications – [BeaconWind@bp.com](mailto:BeaconWind@bp.com)

Typical equipment at risk of entanglement associated with Project activities include:

- Side scan sonar and/or piggyback array;
- Magnetometer and/or magnetometer array;
- Sparker sled;
- PAMs array;
- Moonpool deployed equipment;
- Ships propulsion system; and/or
- Hydrophone streamer.