



Fisheries Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1 Will fishing be allowed within the Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area?

Yes! Commercial and recreational fishing will be allowed in the project area. The spacing of the turbines (0.75 X 1.13 NM) will allow even large vessels to have ample maneuverability.

2 Will there ever be any restrictions on fishing or fishing vessels in the project area?

The only restrictions anticipated will be temporary, limited to the in-water construction operations during the installation of the array, as informed by the U.S. Coast Guard.

3 How were fisheries considered in the selection of the offshore wind lease area?

The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) worked with the State of North Carolina in a joint task force to identify the best area for an offshore wind lease area. The lease area was refined through the joint task force process, taking into account existing ocean uses, including the U.S. military, shipping, and marine fisheries. As a result, the lease area is sited in an area with relatively low levels of modern commercial fishing effort.

4 How will fisheries be considered in the future phases of the project?

Fisheries will be considered throughout the design and operation of the project. Avangrid's fisheries liaisons are working with local fishers and landings data to understand the history and operations of fisheries within the project area. For example, after getting feedback from local commercial trawling Captains, the project team drafted the turbine orientation to accommodate historical trawl tow directionality and fisheries transits.

5 How will the project consider safety as it works to successfully share the space with fishing fleets?

The offshore wind turbines will be marked and lighted consistent with USCG requirements and IALA standards. AIS and other modern navigation systems are also being considered to mark the array electronically.

6 If I have fished in the project area and want to provide the Kitty Hawk Wind project team with information or have specific fisheries concerns or questions, how can I provide input?

Our fisheries liaisons, Lela Schlenker and John Harker, are working with individual fishers to understand the history and relevant details of fisheries in the project area. Please contact Lela at 617.564.2108 or lela.schlenker@avangrid.com, and John at 857.216.8611 or john.harker@avangrid.com.



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7 How will the project monitor effects on living marine resources in the wind energy area?

Kitty Hawk Wind is committed to developing an effective fisheries monitoring plan to evaluate impacts on the marine fisheries resources in the project area by conducting studies before, during, and after construction. The project's fisheries monitoring plan is being developed in consultation with the local fishing industry, state and regional fisheries managers, and regional research institutions.

8 What are Fisheries Representatives (FRS)?

FRs are commercial and charter boat Captains who represent fishing communities local to the project area. FRs are an integral part of the fisheries communication plan, as they come with experience and time working with or within the fishing community. FRs are responsible for communicating fisheries concerns, issues, and other input to the fisheries liaisons. While FRs are compensated for their time and expenses, they do not work on behalf of the company, and their duty is to the fishing region, industry, organization, gear-type, or sector which they represent.

9 What are Onboard Fisheries Liaisons (OFLS)?

OFLs are experienced or retired fishers employed by offshore wind companies to assist survey vessel captains/crew with bridge-to-bridge communications with fishing vessels. In this role they document fishing gear encountered/observed and verbal interactions on the radio to help avoid fishing vessel and gear conflicts. OFLs serve an important function and are tasked with extending the role of the offshore wind project's fisheries communications plan at sea so that there is effective communication onsite and in real-time. OFLs report to the fisheries liaisons and serve as their "eyes, ears, and voice" during offshore operations.

10 What are Scout Vessels?

Scout vessels are hired to work in conjunction with offshore surveys. Local fishing vessels are often utilized in this role, as they have familiarity with the region and the fishing gear types in the area. They work ahead of the survey vessel and directly communicate with the OFL/bridge to alert them to any gear spotted in the proposed survey track. Through direct communication between the survey team and the OFL, the scout vessel plays a key role in the safe passage of survey vessels and their equipment in and around known fishing areas.

Contact our
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