















































- Benthic survey data collected across the Lease Area and along cable route corridors will be publicly available.
- Oceanographic data, not deemed proprietary, for example seawater temperature and salinity, from the “Metocean Facilities” deployed within the Lease Area. Requests to be made directly via Dave Phillips at [dphi@equinor.com](mailto:dphi@equinor.com).

## **4. Supporting Other Research**

### **4.1. Support of collaborative research**

*This section should describe how opportunities for developing or investing in collaborative research with the fishing industry to collect ecological and/or fishing data will be identified and undertaken. The description must account for the need to coordinate with members of the F-TWG during data gathering and assessment.*

- Equinor Wind is committed to collaborate with the scientific community, F-TWG, relevant stakeholders, other offshore wind energy developers and third-party groups to conduct robust and relevant research studies that relate to fisheries and offshore wind energy developments. Studies may include fishing feasibility (by technique) within operational wind farms.
- Options for research can be discussed through the F-TWG, or other fisheries related initiatives such as ROSA and the fishing industry.
- Equinor Wind is a board member of the ROSA and active member of the Advisory Council.
- Additionally, Equinor Wind will:
  - Consider making existing wind farm related vessels, buoys or structures available for research opportunities where this does not materially impact existing objectives of those resources. For example, Equinor Wind will consider proposals for adding additional or third-party self-contained sensors on survey vessels, construction vessels, operations and maintenance (O&M) vessels, wind farm structures or wind farm related buoys and metocean moorings.
  - Explore appropriate monitoring protocols, for example monitoring of potential behavioral responses or changes in spatial and temporal distribution of biological resources as a direct result of the offshore wind energy development.
  - Leverage Empire Wind 1 construction and operation activities to conduct collaborative research.
  - Consider requests to access existing Equinor's operating offshore wind energy developments in Europe.
- Equinor Wind advocates that technical experts conduct statistical power analyses up front in the planning process before implementing any future studies. In addition, F-TWG and/or E-TWG are appropriate forums in which to discuss the development of such analyses and should be part of this process.

### **4.2. Handling/processing requests**

*This section should describe how requests for coordination with third-party supported scientists will be processed - including providing reasonably-requested Project data and access to the Project area for independent scientists examining environmental and fishery sensitivities and/or the impacts of offshore wind energy development on fish, invertebrates and fisheries for the purpose of publication in peer reviewed journals.*

- Equinor Wind will make an effort to meet with any interested parties when contacted to discuss prospective research.
- Equinor Wind is willing to consider requests to access Equinor Wind's existing operating offshore wind energy developments in Europe to conduct research and monitoring.

#### **4.3. Proposed restrictions**

*This section should describe any restrictions on data provision or access that may be required to protect trade secrets or maintain site security.*

- Equinor Wind shall seek to explain why identified data types are considered commercially sensitive.
- Additionally:
  - Equinor Wind will restrict access to commercially sensitive data (e.g., wind resource data and operational availability estimates, geological information, etc.).

#### **4.4. Financial commitment for third party research**

*This section should provide a level of financial commitment, if elected, that will be appropriated to leverage third-party environmental research funding related to fish, invertebrates and fisheries, including federal or State-supported research. Or, if elected, provide the level of commitment to a general fund for supporting third-party research into relevant fish and invertebrate communities and associated commercial and recreational fisheries and the effects of offshore wind energy development.*

- Equinor Wind, contingent upon a winning bid under the Request for Proposals ORECRFP20-1, is committed to supporting regional monitoring of wildlife and key commercial fish stocks equivalent to the specified value of \$10,000 per MW. Half of this will support regional monitoring of key commercial fish stocks to better understand how offshore wind energy development is potentially altering the biomass and/or distribution of these stocks; and the other half will support regional monitoring of wildlife to better understand how offshore wind energy development effects distribution and abundance of sensitive species. These monitoring efforts may be committed via regional monitoring organizations (e.g., ROSA, Regional Wildlife Science Entity (RWSE) or similar) or independently by Equinor Wind.
- Equinor Wind is committed to continue participating in the development of RWSE, and Laura Morales (Head of Environment and Permitting (NY)) sits on the Steering Committee.
- Equinor Wind is committed to continue participating in ROSA, where Scott Lundin (Head of Environment and Permitting (MA)) sits on the Board of Directors.
- Equinor Wind is committed to continue participating in the Massachusetts Fisheries and Habitat Working Groups (MA FWG and MA HWG, respectively).
- Equinor Wind's OFLR is a member of the New England Fishery Management Council's Habitat Committee Advisory Panel. The Council's Habitat Committee is actively engaged in the development of offshore wind in the Northeast region, participating in various groups



seeking to mitigate the effects of offshore wind on marine species and fisheries and helping to facilitate coordinated regional science and monitoring.

#### **4.5. Proposed or existing commitments/collaborations**

*This section should describe proposed or existing commitments and collaborations with third-party researchers in support of monitoring activities and assessing impacts.*

- Equinor Wind is funding a study with the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium to establish monitoring systems to assess the impacts of offshore wind development on highly migratory species (HMS; sharks, tunas, billfishes) and the large recreational fishery that targets them.
- Equinor Wind is collaborating with SUNY Stony Brook to attach four fish tag receiver gates to the Empire Wind Metocean Facilities. The receiver gates, used primarily for detecting Atlantic sturgeon but also capable of detecting other tagged species, were part of a previously BOEM-funded study. Equinor Wind has been coordinating with Stony Brook on opportunities to download and service the sensors during scheduled service visits every 6 months. Equinor Wind intends to continue this collaboration.
- Equinor Wind is collaborating with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) on real-time large whale detection and notification buoys in a minimum 3-year monitoring program. This includes an exhibit that will be set up at the New York Aquarium concerning the program.
- As soon as the Beacon Wind metocean facilities (e.g., current meters and wave buoys) are deployed; non-proprietary oceanographic data will be made available upon requests made to Dave Phillips at [dphi@equinor.com](mailto:dphi@equinor.com);
- Equinor Wind has and will continue to contribute to the startup of ROSA.
- Equinor Wind is a member of the RODA Task Force.

## 5. Proposed Mitigation of Impacts to Benthic/Fishery Resources

### 5.1. Potential impacts/risks and mitigation measures by project stage

The table below should list the potential impacts and risks to benthic/fishery resources and proposed mitigation measures. To this end, a description of how the potential adverse impacts of infrastructure design elements (e.g., turbine spacing and layout, turbine foundation type, cable burial and protection methods, and cable crossing designs) on fishing in the proposed Project area will be considered in mitigating impacts should be included. The mitigation measures should also demonstrate that the Project area and proposed site design allows for reasonable flexibility in the site layout (e.g. orientation of turbine lines, distance between turbines, and navigation areas) to accommodate changes that may be needed in the future. The section should also describe the planned operational protocol to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fish, invertebrates and fisheries during Project construction and operation phases, such as vessel transit routes, designation and monitoring of safety zones, gear monitoring and retrieval, and communication with fishing vessels and resource managers.

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
Micro-siting conflicts with habitats and fishery resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equinor Wind will seek input from regulatory authorities, the fishing industry, and maritime industry to locate foundations and cable routes in the least impactful manner that is practicable.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equinor Wind will avoid, to the extent possible, siting structures (wind turbines, offshore substations, and submarine cables) in areas of sensitive habitat, where feasible;</li> <li>Equinor Wind will consider the timing of construction activities; working with the fishing industry and fisheries agencies on sensitive spawning and fishing periods to actively avoid or reduce interaction with receptors, where feasible.</li> <li>Micro-siting of the export cable route to further reduce potential impacts on sensitive habitats and minimize areas where burial is more challenging.</li> </ul>	X			
Temporary, alteration of the seabed and localized increases in noise and turbidity	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most construction vessels will maintain position using dynamic positioning, limiting the use of anchors and jack-up features, where feasible. Any anchors or jack-up features would be placed within</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	<p>the previously cleared and/or disturbed area around the foundations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will consider the use of HDD at landfall to minimize physical disturbance of coastal habitats. Equinor Wind would implement appropriate measures during HDD activities at landfalls to minimize potential release of HDD fluid. To minimize an inadvertent fluid return, an HDD Contingency Plan would be developed and implemented;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will consider the use of appropriate measures and timing during cable installation activities to minimize sediment resuspension and dispersal in areas of known historically contaminated sediments.</li> </ul> <p>█ [REDACTED]</p> <p>█ [REDACTED]</p>				
Long-term changes to seabed and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will, to the extent possible, avoid sensitive benthic habitats.</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will implement mitigation and avoidance measures to protect water quality, such as spill prevention. Specifically, Equinor Wind will use appropriate measures for vessel operation and implementing an OSRP, which includes measures to prevent, detect, and contain accidental release of oil and other hazardous materials. Project personnel will be trained in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, and project policies, as described in the OSRP;</li> <li>• During construction and maintenance, Equinor Wind will implement an agency-reviewed OSRP;</li> <li>• During construction, operations, and maintenance, Equinor Wind will utilize sensitive</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	lighting schemes to minimize exposure of light, as available; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most construction vessels will maintain position using dynamic positioning, limiting the use of anchors and jack-up features, where feasible. Any anchors or jack-up features would be placed within the previously cleared and/or disturbed area around the foundations;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will consider the use of HDD at the landfall to minimize physical disturbance of coastal habitats. Equinor Wind would implement appropriate measures during HDD activities at landfalls to minimize potential release of HDD fluid. To minimize an inadvertent fluid return, an HDD Contingency Plan would be developed and implemented.</li> </ul>				
EMF Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will use proper shielding to reduce EMF impacts;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will conduct EMF modeling and assessments to identify potential mitigation requirements;</li> <li>• Electrical cables will be armored and sufficiently buried where feasible to reduce EMF effects; and</li> <li>• As noted above, Equinor Wind will conduct both onshore and offshore EMF assessments for the COP.</li> </ul>		X	X	
Cable burial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind shall bury export cables to an appropriate minimal depth to reduce exposure risk. If depth cannot be reached, Equinor Wind will add protective materials over the cable.</li> </ul>		X	X	
Additional proposed mitigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will install scour protection, as needed; and</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will develop a monitoring program to address specific questions, identify key species of interest, and when possible, contribute to the understanding of long-term project-specific impacts and large scale efforts to understand cumulative impacts.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X
*Phase: 1: Survey/Design; 2: Construction; 3: Operation; 4: Decommission					

## **5.2. Coordination with F-TWG and other stakeholders**

*This section should describe how the Developer will engage with stakeholder groups such as the F-TWG and other regional fishermen that address stakeholder concerns related to benthic and fisheries resource. Specifically, describe the key types of information and design decisions where feedback will be solicited from stakeholders.*

- Equinor will coordinate with the F-TWG stakeholders to address concerns and mitigate impacts to benthic/fisheries resources.
- Upon request Equinor Wind will provide a detailed, step by step breakdown of the process used to create the Project layout.
- Additionally:
  - Equinor Wind has and will continue to engage in discussion on the following topics with F-TWG, E-TWG, regulators and other stakeholder groups as appropriate to solicit feedback on studies and designs:
    - Spatial planning of export cable routing;
    - Sediment transport modeling;
    - EMF modeling and assessment;
    - Project Design Envelope; and
    - Project Layouts.

## 6. Proposed Mitigation of Impacts to the Recreational and Commercial Fishing Industry

### 6.1. Potential impacts/risks and mitigation measures by project stage

The table below should list the potential impacts and risks to recreational and commercial fishing and proposed mitigation measures. To this end, this section should describe how the potential adverse impacts of infrastructure design elements (e.g., turbine spacing and layout, turbine foundation type, cable burial and protection methods, and cable crossing designs) on fishing in the proposed Project area will be considered in mitigating impacts. The mitigation measures should also demonstrate that the Project area and proposed site design allows for reasonable flexibility in the site layout (e.g. orientation of turbine lines, distance between turbines, and navigation areas) to accommodate changes that may be needed in the future. The section should also describe the planned operational protocol to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fish, invertebrates and fisheries during Project construction and operation phases, such as vessel transit routes, designation and monitoring of safety zones, gear monitoring and retrieval, and communication with fishing vessels and resource managers.

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
Fishing gear loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will seek consultation with regulatory authorities and fisheries stakeholders for the development and use of a Gear Loss Prevention and Claim Procedure.</li> <li>• Use scout vessels to identify fixed gear in advance of project specific activities.</li> <li>• Continue implementation of a Fisheries Mitigation Plan throughout the construction process to alert local fishing industries to relevant construction activities through the use of in-person communications, social media, website communications, and LNMs;</li> <li>• Undertake cable route planning to avoid areas of high fishing activity;</li> <li>• Where feasible, plan the location and timing of construction activities to minimize overlap with areas or times of high activity;</li> <li>• Continue active engagement with the fishing industry on the timing and location of construction so that they can, where possible, elect to fish in other areas and plan accordingly;</li> <li>• Continue to use offshore OFLRs to facilitate communications with the fishing community;</li> <li>• Continue communications between FLO and fisheries on the areas of temporary construction</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	<p>closures, when they are re-opened, updates on schedules through email serves, flyers, websites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize a CBRA to determine sufficient burial depth along the export cable route and, where target burial depth cannot be reached, secondary protection shall be considered;</li> <li>• Utilize a guard vessel to alert mariners to Safety Zones and/or active construction areas where appropriate;</li> <li>• In the event of maintenance within the offshore environment, the Project will alert the fishing industry to the occurrence of these activities. Communication methods will include the use of FLOs, social media, website communications, and LNM;</li> <li>• Utilize the Layout Rules (as described in Section 3) to achieve wind farm layouts, wind turbine spacing and lines of orientation within the array that facilitate continued access to traditional fishing grounds;</li> <li>• Bury export and interarray cables to a target burial depth of 4 ft (1.2 m) and 6 ft (1.8 m) where clam dredging is known to occur in order to minimize the risk of snagging;</li> <li>• Following installation of the export and interarray cables, conduct cable burial surveys at appropriate intervals to assess if target burial depth is being maintained;</li> <li>• To minimize risk of anchors and fishing gear snagging the submarine export cable, route the export cable to target areas where chances of burial are improved;</li> <li>• Minimize the use of concrete mattresses as surface cable protection, to the extent practicable;</li> <li>• Provide all submarine export cable, interarray cable, wind turbine, and offshore substation locations to NOAA for updates to nautical charts;</li> <li>• To the extent practicable and in consultation with the fishing industry, mark turbine locations and cable routes on the most common types of software used by fishermen for navigation and fishing;</li> </ul>				
Navigational safety concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will seek consultation with appropriate regulators, F-TWG and fishing community, to minimize the overall area of temporary closed areas.</li> <li>• Adoption of a 1nm x 1nm N/S/E/W regional layout in consultation with other developers in the region to support active fishing agreement between static and</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	<p>mobile fishing gear that is configured along the E-W oriented Ioran lines that cross the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All wind turbines and offshore substations will be marked and lit in accordance with USCG, BOEM, and IALA O-139 guidance;</li> <li>• Highly visible marking and lighting of active construction sites;</li> <li>• Compliance by vessels associated with the project with international and flag state regulations including the COLREGs and the SOLAS;</li> <li>• Utilization of existing TSSs, maintained channels, and transit lanes by vessels associated with the project to comply with existing uses and management of the surrounding waterway, to the extent practicable;</li> <li>• Marine coordination for vessels associated with the project (i.e., a central coordination hub from which all project vessel movements will be managed, and third-party traffic will be monitored);</li> <li>• Minimum advisory safe passing distances for cable laying vessels (where feasible);</li> <li>• Monitoring of third-party vessel traffic by AIS.</li> <li>• The implementation of up to a 1,640-ft (500-m) dynamic safety zone around active construction sites (including partially installed wind turbines) pending agreement with USCG;</li> <li>• Regular updates, including the positions of installed and partially installed structures, to the local marine community through social media, the USCG LNM, and active engagement with Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey Harbor Safety, Navigation, and Operations Committee;</li> <li>• The potential use of buoys and/or support vessels to mark temporary working areas or potential hazards (e.g., partially-installed structures);</li> </ul>				
Displacement/loss of access to traditional fishing grounds during survey and construction activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will coordinate with fishing stakeholders to determine spatial and temporal use;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will, to the extent practicable, avoid heavily fished areas;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind is actively avoiding areas being fished during survey activities;</li> <li>• Pre-survey consultation with fishing industry to determine upcoming spatial and temporal use, which is avoided by survey vessels where feasible;</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X



Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning of export cables routes that avoid heavily fished areas, for example static gear, prior to surveying, as practicable;</li> <li>• Timing of offshore surveys to avoid seasonal fishing where feasible;</li> <li>• Dissemination of information related to offshore survey activities, with contact details for further information;</li> <li>• Real-time adaptive management and monitoring of fishing activity– using OFLRs, real-time AIS and consultation with the fishing community to modify survey areas of coverage as appropriate;</li> <li>• Engagement with recreational fishermen in the field by the OFLR;</li> <li>• To the extent possible and reasonable, actively avoiding areas being fished during construction activities through pre-planning the timing and location of activities;</li> <li>• Dissemination of construction scheduling information as early as possible with fishers;</li> <li>• Use of real-time fisheries monitoring and adaptive management of construction timing and location, to the extent possible;</li> <li>• Potential for use of construction practices such as rolling construction safety zones in consultation with the appropriate regulators, F-TWG and fishing community, to minimize overall area of temporary closed areas.</li> </ul>				
EMF Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will use proper shielding to reduce EMF impacts;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will conduct EMF modeling and assessments to identify potential mitigation requirements;</li> <li>• Electrical cables will be armored and sufficiently buried where feasible to reduce EMF effects;</li> <li>• As noted above, Equinor Wind will conduct both onshore and offshore EMF assessments for the COP.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	
Cable Burial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will bury export cables to an appropriate minimal depth to reduce risk. If depth cannot be reached, Equinor shall add protective materials over cable which allows fishing activity to occur.</li> </ul>		X	X	

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient burial of inter-array and export cables to facilitate continued seabed penetrating fishing activity.</li> <li>• Dissemination of information to fishers on cable locations including inclusion on navigational charts.</li> <li>• Intention to bury inter-array and export cables based on Cable Burial Risk Assessment.</li> <li>• Periodical post installation cable surveys as appropriate, with sharing of information on identified navigational risks as appropriate.</li> <li>• Completion of a Cable Installation Plan, detailing how cable installation will be managed.</li> </ul>				
Impacts to sensitive areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equinor Wind will collaborate with state regulatory authorities and key stakeholders to collect data and avoid sensitive areas to the extent that is reasonably practicable.</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will avoid sensitive benthic habitat to the maximum extent practicable.</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will implement mitigation and avoidance measures to protect water quality, such as spill prevention. Specifically, Equinor Wind will use appropriate measures for vessel operation and implementing an OSRP, which includes measures to prevent, detect, and contain accidental release of oil and other hazardous materials. Project personnel will be trained in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, and Project policies, as described in the OSRP;</li> <li>• During construction and maintenance, Equinor Wind will implement an agency-reviewed OSRP;</li> <li>• During construction, operations, and maintenance, Equinor Wind will utilize sensitive lighting schemes to minimize exposure of light, as available;</li> <li>• Most construction vessels will maintain position using dynamic positioning, limiting the use of anchors and jack-up features, where feasible. Any anchors or jack-up features would be placed within the previously cleared and/or disturbed area around the foundations;</li> <li>• Equinor Wind will consider the use of HDD at the landfall to minimize physical disturbance of coastal</li> </ul>	X	X		X

Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Phase*			
		1	2	3	4
	habitats. Equinor Wind would implement appropriate measures during HDD activities at landfalls to minimize potential release of HDD fluid. To minimize an inadvertent fluid return, an HDD Contingency Plan would be developed and implemented.				
Displacement/loss of access to traditional fishing grounds during operations phase activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equinor Wind does not intend to restrict or apply for broad-based restrictions on fishing activities within the operational wind farm. To the extent that any restrictions are necessary, these may be limited to standard safety zones during the construction phase, and operational safety zones around manned or sensitive offshore platforms or access points.</li> </ul>			X	
<i>*Phase: 1: Survey/Design; 2: Construction; 3: Operation; 4: Decommission</i>					

**6.1.1. General approach to avoiding and mitigating fishing gear loss**

*This section should describe how potential loss of fishing gear due to snags on turbine structures, associated cables or cable mattresses, or related structures installed or deployed as a result of offshore wind energy development, will be minimized.*

- Equinor Wind will endeavor to bury export cables to sufficient to minimize exposure risk. If the “appropriate depth” cannot be reached, Equinor will add protective materials over the cable which to the extent practicable also allows for fishing to occur.
- Additionally:
  - Mitigation measures include:
    - Use of scout vessels to identify fixed gear in advance of project specific activities;
    - Marking & lighting of partially built structures following Private Aids to Navigations (PATONS);
    - Dissemination of charted locations of partially built and installed structures to the fishing community;
    - Provision of locations of partially built structures and installed structures in digital formats that can be uploaded to typical navigation equipment, for example navigation plotters;
    - USCG LNMs;
    - Provision of locations of partially built structures and installed structures for updating NOAA Nautical Charts, as well as USCG LNMs at greater frequency (i.e., weekly);
    - Consultation with the fishing community with the potential to establish temporary safety exclusion zones around partially installed wind farm electrical cables;
    - Provision of safety vessels around high-risk structures;

- Prescribed transit routes for project related vessels;
- Real-time monitoring and notifications to fishing vessels;
- Bury cables to depths below fishing gear penetration where feasible and making the position of cables available for the fishing community; where burial is not feasible, use of cable protection where appropriate to findings of the cable burial risk assessment (CBRA) and consultation;
- Avoidance of use of concrete mattresses in areas of snagging risk, where feasible.

#### **6.1.2. Processing claims for lost fishing gear**

*This section should describe how the Developer will approach claims of lost gear in the event of a snag that provides for a fair and timely review of the claim and appropriate compensation of impacted parties.*

- Equinor Wind will work with F-TWG and fishing community to establish the appropriate procedures in advance of the start of construction activities. When practical, the procedures shall be standardized across projects, fisheries, gear types, and geographic regions.
- Additionally:
  - Equinor Wind will work with F-TWG and fishing community to establish the appropriate procedures in advance of the start of construction activities.

#### **6.2. Coordination with F-TWG and other stakeholders**

*This section should describe how the Developer will engage with stakeholder groups such as the F-TWG and other regional fishermen and shipping and navigation to determine Project layouts that address stakeholder concerns. Specifically, describe the key types of information and design decisions where feedback will be solicited from stakeholders. Describe how changes to environmental resources will be quantified using statistically sound methods.*

- Equinor Wind will coordinate with the F-TWG (in accordance with Section 12.04 of the Agreement) and stakeholders to address concerns and mitigate impacts to the fishing industry.
- Equinor Wind will work with fisherman and other stakeholders through the developer's dedicated fisheries staff to help address key concerns such as navigation, vessel access, and safety.
- Additionally:
  - Fisheries data and consultation feedback from the fishing industry and maritime community has resulted in the Beacon Wind Project establishing a 1x1 nm layout along with other developers in the Massachusetts – Rhode Island Wind Energy Area to minimize impacts on existing fishing practices and facilitate ongoing access to traditional fishing grounds. The layout also takes into account existing and future maritime navigation trends and Search and Rescue capabilities.

## **7. Project Decommissioning**

### **7.1. Potential impacts based on available information and experience**

*This section should describe potential impacts to benthic/fisheries and the fishing industry from decommissioning the project, based on available information and relevant experience (if any).*

- Equinor Wind’s waste handling processes during decommissioning shall focus on re-use or recycling, with disposal as the last option.
- Equinor Wind will collaborate with regulatory authorities and key fisheries stakeholder groups to better understand the effects and potential impacts associated with decommissioning.
- Additionally:
  - At this early stage it is not possible to accurately predict impacts and appropriate mitigation from decommissioning. It can be reasonably judged that impacts from decommissioning are not expected to exceed impacts from construction.
  - Potential impacts and mitigation options will become clearer post construction and during operations, facilitated by monitoring.
  - Equinor Wind will consult regulators and fisheries stakeholders to study the potential impacts of decommissioning.

### **7.2. Approach for developing plan and coordination with stakeholders**

*This section should describe how a decommissioning plan will be developed to identify and mitigate potential impacts, including coordination with fisheries stakeholders, and any elements of its contemplated decommissioning plan that can be identified at this stage.*

- Equinor Wind will decommission the project in accordance with all necessary laws and regulations and generate a detailed project-specific decommissioning plan.
- Equinor Wind will seek input on the detailed project-specific decommissioning plan from regulatory agencies, fisheries and marine stakeholders, and local communities.
- Equinor Wind will use “lessons learned” from the construction and operation activities and apply them when appropriate to the decommissioning plan.
- Additionally:
  - The process for development of a decommissioning plan will be discussed further with E-TWG and F-TWG and relevant regulators and stakeholders.
  - Lessons learned from the construction and operations activities will be applied to the decommissioning plan at the appropriate time.
  - Equinor Wind will consult with the fishing industry on the Beacon Wind decommissioning plans at the appropriate time, closer to the decommissioning activities.

## **8. (Optional) Fisheries Compensation Plan**

### **8.1. Consideration of compensation plan**

*If a fisheries compensation plan is being considered to offset impacts, this section should describe how it will determine instances where all reasonable attempts to avoid and minimize Project impacts, or restoration to predevelopment conditions are not feasible and some type of fisheries compensation plan is warranted.*

- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]
- █ [REDACTED]

### **8.2. Approach to developing compensation plan**

#### **8.2.1. Coordination with stakeholders**

*This section should describe how a fisheries compensation plan was, or will be developed; how the Developer will coordinate with the F-TWG and other entities in the design or review of the fisheries compensation plan.*

- █ [REDACTED]

#### **8.2.2. Third-party administration**

*This section should describe how the compensation plan will be administered by an nongovernmental third-party to provide reasonable and fair compensation for impacts that cannot be sufficiently addressed through other means.*

- █ [REDACTED]

## **9. Additional Considerations**

### **9.1. Additional mitigation strategies and FMP refinement**

*This section should describe any additional mitigation strategies not otherwise described herein that would improve the Plan and reduce impacts on the fishing community. In addition, describe how the FMP will be updated and refined based on additional information and stakeholder feedback.*

- Equinor Wind will engage with the F-TWG and fisheries organizations and use feedback in these discussions to evolve the FMP.
- Equinor Wind will support collaborative research on potential mitigation strategies, with other developers, agencies and stakeholders.
- Additionally:
  - Equinor Wind will continuously evaluate and evolve this FMP, including addressing additional guidance and information, so it remains complete and sufficient.
  - Equinor Wind will engage with the F-TWG and fisheries organizations and use feedback in these discussions to evolve the FMP.

### **9.2. Process for updating the FMP**

*This section should describe how feedback from the fishing industry stakeholders, F-TWG, and other agencies and working groups will be incorporated and updated in the FMP.*

- Equinor Wind will update the FMP to reflect the results of iterative exchanges with members of the F-TWG and other relevant stakeholders.
- Additionally:
  - Currently Equinor Wind is working with the F-TWG to establish a process for updating the Beacon Wind FMP, where formal updates will likely occur after major project milestones (e.g., a project NOI).
  - Equinor Wind will continuously evaluate and evolve this FMP so that all the components of the FMP are complete and sufficient.
  - Equinor Wind expects that additional guidance and information will become available throughout the planning and regulatory process and as such will continue to consider its relevance to the FMP at the appropriate intervals.