Objectives

• Early discussions with the fishing industry and wind energy developers
• Develop reasonable best management practices and mitigation measures
• Offset impacts to the fishing industry
• Use for analysis and decision making under NEPA
Methodology

- Scope of Work - Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf ME to NC
- Historically high offshore commercial recreational fishing
- Fishing Methods
- Existing BMPs
  - BOEM
  - Oil and gas industry
  - European offshore wind projects
  - Cape Wind

Starting Point

Location of Wind Energy Areas

Data Collection

Over 30 Stakeholder Interviews

- Who
- Schedule
- Locations
- Topics

Eight Workshops

Draft Reports

9th Workshop

Final Report
Workshops

• 8 initial workshops held during the winter between Oct. 2012 and Feb. 2013
• 9th workshop held on Long Island - April 2014
• Over 200 attendees
Workshops

- Open dialogue
- Small working groups
Workshops

- Neutral facilitator
- Part 1 – Concerns
- Part 2 – Methods to reduce conflicts
Workshops
Outcome of Workshops

• Opportunity to provide comments on the construction and operational phases
• Near term product - updated list of fishing-related best management practices (BMPs)
• Long term product – application of new fishing-related BMPs to the review of site assessment plans (SAPs), construction and operation plans (COPs), and general activity plans (GAPs)
Comments on Draft BMPS

- The MAFMC held a workshop February 5-6 in Baltimore, MD to provide comments on the draft BMPs. UK fishing perspectives were also presented.

- The MAFMC submitted their comments to BOEM on February 28.

- Participant comments and comments from NMFS were also submitted during this period.
BMP No. 1: Fisheries Communication and Outreach Plan

• The lessee shall develop a fisheries communication and outreach plan
  – Applicable for all stages of development
  – Provides for a fisheries liaison (FL) and a fisheries representative (FR)
  – Identifies communication methods/frequency
  – Establishment of process/protocol to address gear loss
BMP No. 2: Project Siting, Design, Navigation and Access

- Applicable in all phases
- Applicant should consider input regarding:
  - Configuration of facility
  - Minimization of scour and sedimentation
  - Minimization of turbidity
  - Cable route planning
  - Dockside coordination
- Develop a detailed publically available schedule prior to construction
- Considerations should be given to seasonal or sector use of a particular area
BMP No. 3: Safety

• Applicable during all phases
• Marking of structures beyond that required of USCG and FAA
• Specific information to include in the developer’s Safety Management System
  – Clear communication protocols in event of an accident
  – Assumptions
  – Roles and responsibilities
BMP No. 4: Environmental Monitoring Plan

• Applicable to construction, operations, and decommissioning

• Plan should be detailed enough to know
  – Monitoring schedule following storm events
  – Regular monitoring and maintenance schedule and possible disruptions to fishing
BMP No. 5 Financial Compensation

• Developer should support the fishing industry’s adoption of new technology/net design that would minimize interactions between gear and offshore facilities
• The lessee would consider monetary support for enhancing or improving fishing port or shore-side facilities associated with an offshore wind facility. Well-maintained port or shore-side facilities are important for the efficient and safe operation of every fishing vessel
• Various forms of direct compensatory mitigation
Conclusions

• Stakeholders appreciated having early discussions with BOEM

• Participants had different levels of understanding

• Meeting materials were updated after each meeting

• Workshop attendance was better when coinciding with another fisheries event

• Input from stakeholders was critical