

Guidelines for Providing Avian Survey Information for Renewable Energy Development

Webinar

Thursday, September 8, 2016

2:00 – 3:30 pm EST

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Agenda

- *Background*
- *Overview of the Guidelines*
- *Specific Updates*
- *Questions/Feedback*

Background

- Purpose: to provide recommendations for complying with the avian information requirements in 30 CFR Part 585 Subpart F
- Coordination with US Fish and Wildlife
- Update guidelines as new information or methodologies become available

Overview of the Guidelines

- Surveys should aim to
 - Identify species using the project site
 - Establish a pre-construction baseline
 - Reduce uncertainty in baseline
 - Develop an approach to quantify substantial changes in distribution and abundance

Overview of the Guidelines

- Pre-survey meetings
 - applicability of existing data
 - survey logistics (proposed survey area, dates, times, survey period length, weather limitations, etc.)
 - field techniques and equipment
 - data to be acquired
 - data processing and analysis
 - data and information to be submitted

Overview of the Guidelines

- Survey methodologies
 - Boat-based surveys
 - Traditional aerial surveys
 - High-resolution digital aerial surveys

Overview of the Guidelines

- Focus
- Timing
- Scope
- Technical suggestions
- Presentation of results

Overview of the Guidelines

- Reporting
 - Quarterly progress reports
 - Comprehensive annual report
 - Current and previous years' efforts
 - Evaluation of techniques and refinements
 - Discuss results of other efforts and how they relate to findings
 - Data management
 - Processed and validated data have to be made available as needed
 - Encourage uploading data into regional databases

Questions



Updates – Clarifications

- Amount of new information should match the scale and/or complexity of the proposed project
 - Buoy vs. wind energy facility
- Use of existing information
- When additional surveys may be needed

Questions



Updates - New Tools



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Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC)

- USFWS
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>
- Provides a species list
- Recently expanded
 - 40+ migratory seabird species
 - Atlantic OCS
- Identifies species using the project site

IPaC Trust Resources Report
Migratory Birds

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#).

Any activity that results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.^[1] There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

1. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Conservation measures for birds
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Year-round bird occurrence data
<http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/default/datasummaries.jsp>

The following species of migratory birds could potentially be affected by activities in this location:

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

At Sea Season: Fall (Sep-Nov)

http://ecos.fws.gov/bess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=B0GC

Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

At Sea Seasons: Fall (Sep-Nov), Spring (Mar-May), Winter (Dec-Feb)

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

At Sea Seasons: Fall (Sep-Nov), Spring (Mar-May), Winter (Dec-Feb)

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

At Sea Season: Winter (Dec-Feb)

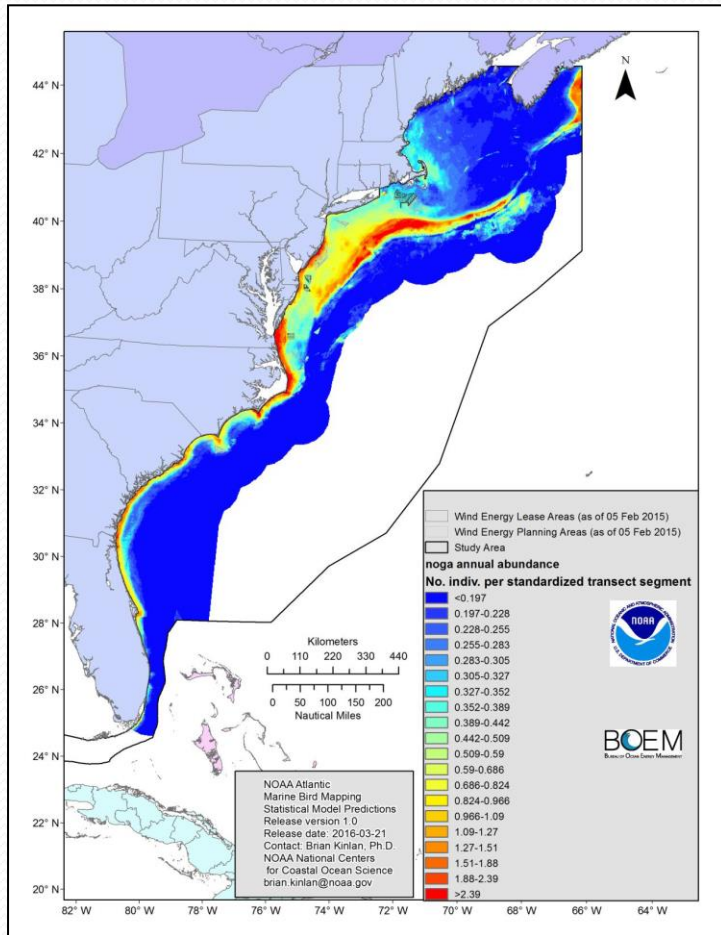
Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

At Sea Season: Winter (Dec-Feb)

Common Murre *Uria aalge*

At Sea Season: Winter (Dec-Feb)

Distribution and Abundance Maps

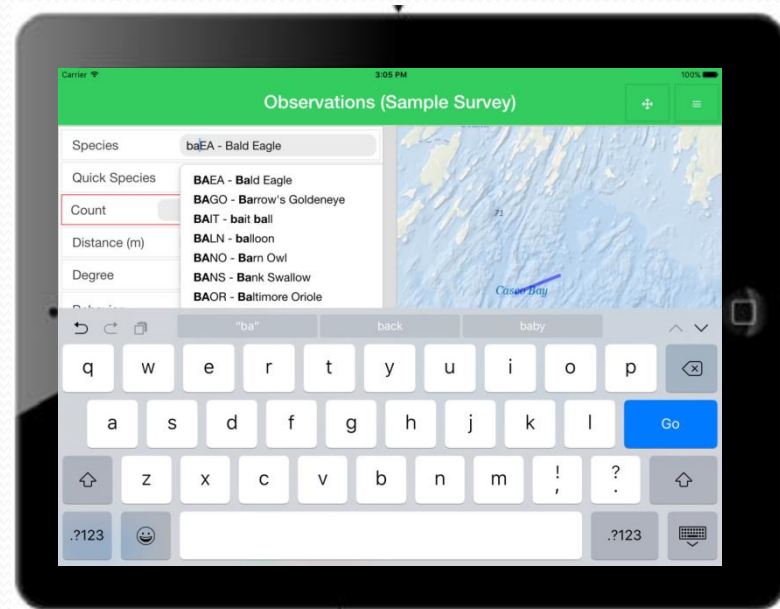


- View through data portal:
<http://www.northeastoceandata.org/data-explorer/?birds>
- Download data:
<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/projects/detail?key=279>
- This helps to:
 - Identify species using the project site
 - Establish a pre-construction baseline
 - Reduce uncertainty in baseline

SeaScribe Software Application

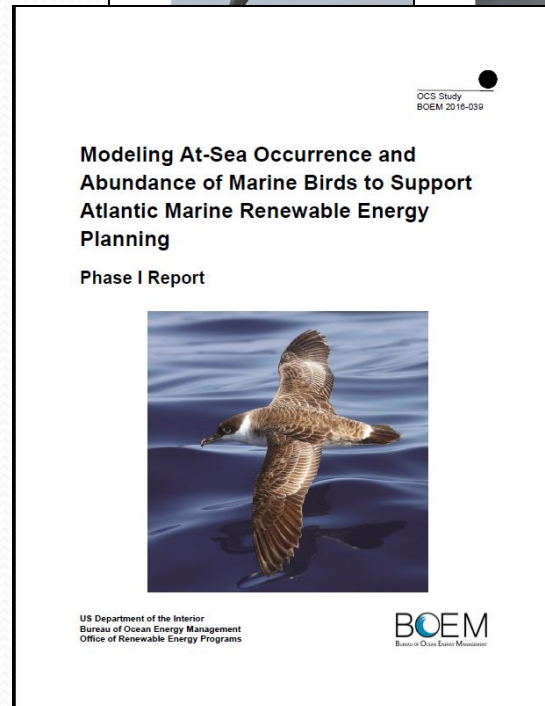
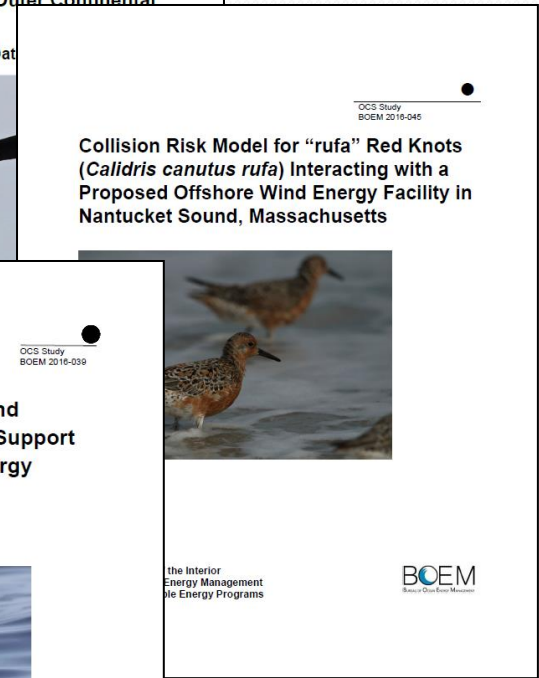


- Data collection tool for offshore wildlife surveys
- Standardizes data format
- Follows BOEM's guidelines
- It's FREE!
 - iTunes
 - Android



Studies

- Completed
 - <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Completed-Studies/>
- On-going
 - <http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Ongoing-Studies/>



Questions



Summary

- Guidelines are recommendations for complying with information requirements
- They are updated from time-to-time
- Clarification for when surveys may be needed and when surveys may not be needed
- Introduced new tools to help develop survey plans

Questions/Feedback

- Incorporate feedback from today's webinar
- Publish guidelines (Version 3.0) on BOEM's website by end of 2016

Thank You

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