

Environmental Studies Program: Studies Development Plan | FY 2022–2023

Title	Clam Industry Spatial Needs Analysis – NY Bight (AT-22-05)
Administered by	Office of Renewable Energy Programs
BOEM Contact(s)	Brian Hooker (brian.hooker@boem.gov)
Procurement Type(s)	Contract
Conducting Organization(s)	TBD
Total BOEM Cost	TBD
Performance Period	FY 2022–2023
Final Report Due	TBD
Date Revised	February 12, 2021
PICOC Summary	
<i>Problem</i>	Commercial surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries performance within and around offshore wind facilities is a concern raised by the fishing community.
<i>Intervention</i>	Learn more about the spatial needs of the commercial clam industry in the NY Bight for planning and mitigation for offshore wind facilities.
<i>Comparison</i>	This is a baseline study for understanding the spatial needs of the commercial clam industry.
<i>Outcome</i>	The outcome will be an understanding of the spatial needs of the clam industry in order to better understand impacts and potential mitigation around offshore wind facilities in the NY Bight.
<i>Context</i>	Commercial fishing impacts from offshore wind energy development in the NY Bight.

BOEM Information Need(s): BOEM relies on the best information available to assess impacts from offshore wind energy to the commercial fishing industry. Over the years, the data products regarding fishing vessel operations and landed value have improved dramatically. However, these data products can always be improved to provide high quality information that BOEM can use in impact assessments. The New York bight lease sale is anticipated in 2021 with construction anticipated five years after.

Background: In 2018, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) funded the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) to develop a “Data Trust for Effective Inclusion of Fishermen’s Knowledge in Offshore Wind Energy Decision Making.” The project has developed a standardized and industry-owned data platform that allows fishermen to own, use, and market their data while retaining control over who has access to it. The Fisheries Knowledge Trust (<https://rodafisheries.org/portfolio/fisheries-knowledge-trust/>), as it is now known, has successfully integrated data from the Atlantic herring and Atlantic surfclam industries. The Atlantic surfclam industry has been identified as a significant user group in the New York Bight Offshore Wind Energy Call Areas (see: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight>). The use of this data, derived directly from the fishermen and provided by them, has an advantage over using data from NOAA, which has restrictions on usage. Acquisition of high-resolution fishing data for the New York Bight

will inform BOEM leasing decisions and plans submitted by future lease holders in the area. Specifically, this information will be able to identify spatial use, constraints, and operational mode of the surfclam fleet in the New York Bight Call Areas.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to use the best available information on commercial surfclam fishing activity in the New York Bight.

Methods: This study would use the Fisheries Knowledge Trust to obtain high resolution fisheries data for future offshore wind impact assessments. This information can produce 1) trip shape analysis, 2) ship travel path density, 3) travel direction, 4) proportion of fishing within Ocean Wind lease area.

Specific Research Question(s): How does the commercial Atlantic surfclam industry use space within the New York Bight?

Current Status: N/A

Publications Completed: N/A

Affiliated WWW Sites: N/A

References: N/A