

Potential Impacts to Commercial Fishing

Construction Phase

- Displacement of fishing vessels during installation of foundations and during cable laying
- Increased vessel traffic in ports and within offshore work areas

Operations Phase

The long-term presence of offshore wind structures in the Lease Area could result in:

- Long-term space use conflicts for fishing and transiting within the Lease Area
- Increased risk of allision or collision for fishing vessels in the Lease Area
- Habitat modification in the Lease Area and along submarine export cable corridors
- Potential for gear entanglement and loss due to interactions with exposed cables
- Artificial reef effect may increase density of structure-oriented fish



Vineyard Northeast–Committed Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) to Abate Potential Impacts to Commercial Fishing

- Bury Project cables to a target depth of 5 to 8 feet
- Limit the amount of cable protection, and design cable protection that minimizes effects on fishing gear to the maximum extent practicable
- Inform commercial fishing outfits of the areas where cable protection is installed
- Mark all offshore structures with marine navigation lighting in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard and BOEM guidance
- Develop a gear loss avoidance program to identify gear located within the Project area and to work with fishers to avoid, remove, or relocate fishing gear in the Project area
- Equip each turbine and offshore substation with access ladders to allow distressed mariners access to an open refuge area above the splash zone
- Equip each wind turbine, offshore substation, and meteorological tower position with Automatic Identification System to indicate positions to mariners
- Communicate with offshore fishing outfits while they are at sea, including establish a 24-hour telephone line to address real-time operational conflicts or safety issues
- Develop a website that contains real-time vessel tracking chart and vessel schedules
- Employ a marine coordinator to monitor daily vessel movements, implement communication protocols with external vessels both in port and offshore to avoid conflicts, and monitor safety zones
- Conduct fisheries and benthic monitoring studies before, during, and after construction to evaluate potential impacts of the Project on fish stocks and habitat

