



Vineyard Mid-Atlantic

# Potential Impacts on Commercial and Recreational 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
- Artificial reef effect may increase density of structure-oriented fish



## Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs) to Abate Potential Impacts on Commercial Fishing

- Bury Project cables to a target depth of 1.2 m (4 ft) in federal waters and 1.8 m (6 ft) in state waters
- Limit the amount of cable protection and design cable protection that minimizes effects on fishing gear to the maximum extent practicable
- Inform fishers 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 fishing gear loss and compensation protocol that provides a standard approach to fishing gear loss and compensation
- 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 establishment of a 24-hour phone line to address real-time operational conflicts or safety issues
- Provide online access to current vessel activities and schedules in the Offshore Development Area
- 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

**For more information, please visit:**

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/fishing-and-offshore-renewable-energy>