

Appendix L: Glossary

L.1 Glossary

Term	Definition
affected environment	Environment as it exists today that could be potentially affected by the Proposed Action or other action alternatives
algal blooms	Rapid growth of the population of algae, also known as <i>algae bloom</i>
allision	A moving ship running into a stationary ship
Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation, and Monitoring measures	The programmatic avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring (AMMM) measures
anthropogenic	Generated by human activity
archaeological resource	Historical place, site, building, shipwreck, or other archaeological site
below grade	Below ground level
benthic	Related to the bottom of a body of water
benthic resources	The seafloor surface, the substrate itself, and the communities of bottom-dwelling organisms that live on and within these habitats
biogenic habitat	Benthic habitats created by structure-forming species (e.g., eelgrass, mussel beds, worm tubes)
Cetacea	Order of aquatic mammals made up of whales, dolphins, and porpoises
coastal habitat	Coastal areas where flora and fauna live, including salt marshes and aquatic habitats
coastal waters	Waters in nearshore areas where bottom depth is less than 98.4 feet (30 meters)
coastal zone	The lands and waters starting at 3 nautical miles (5.6 kilometers) from the land and ending at the first major land transportation route
commercial fisheries	Areas or entities raising and catching fish for commercial profit
commercial-scale wind energy facility	Wind energy facility usually greater than 1 megawatt (MW) that sells the produced electricity
concrete mattress	Concrete mat used to protect underwater pipelines or stabilize soil or the seabed; can be formed underwater by divers rolling out geosynthetic mattress fabric, zipping it together, and using a pump to fill it with highly fluid small aggregate concrete
criteria pollutant	One of six common air pollutants for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, or sulfur dioxide
critical habitat	Geographic area containing features essential to the conservation of threatened or endangered species
cultural resource	Historical districts, objects, places, sites, buildings, shipwrecks, and archaeological sites on the American landscape, as well as sites of traditional, religious, or cultural significance to cultural groups, including Native American Tribes
culvert	Structure, usually a tunnel, allowing water to flow under an obstruction (e.g., road, trail)
deflagration	Combustion of an explosive at subsonic speeds, driven by transfer of heat
demersal	Living close to the ocean floor
demosponge	Class of sponges that account for more than 90% of all sponges alive, including bath, boring, barrel, carnivorous, and freshwater sponges

Term	Definition
dredging	Removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbors, and other waterbodies
duct bank	Underground structure that houses the onshore export cables, which consists of polyvinyl chloride pipes encased in concrete
ecosystem	Community of interacting living organisms and nonliving components (such as air, water, soil)
electromagnetic field	A field of force produced by electrically charged objects and containing both electric and magnetic components
embayment	Recessed part of a shoreline
endangered species	A species that is in danger of extinction in all or a significant portion of its range
Endangered Species Act-listed species	Species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (as amended)
ensonification	The process of filling with sound
environmental protection measure	Measure proposed to avoid or minimize potential impacts
environmental consequences	The potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that the construction, operations and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning of a proposed project would have on the environment
environmental justice communities	Minority and low-income populations potentially affected by a proposed project, as defined by both federal and applicable state criteria
epifauna	Fauna that lives on the surface of a seabed (or riverbed), or is attached to underwater objects or aquatic plants or animals
essential fish habitat	“Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity” (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] part 600)
export cable	Cable connecting the offshore wind facility to the onshore electrical grid power
export cable corridor	Area identified for routing the entire length of the onshore and offshore export cables
federal aids to navigation	Visual references operated and maintained by the United States Coast Guard (USCG), including radar transponders, lights, sound signals, buoys, and lighthouses, that support safe maritime navigation
finfish	Vertebrate and cartilaginous fish species, not including crustaceans, cephalopods, or other mollusks
for-hire commercial fishing	Commercial fishing on a for-hire vessel (i.e., a vessel on which the passengers contribute to a person having an interest in the vessel in exchange for carriage)
for-hire recreational fishing	Fishing from a vessel carrying a passenger for hire who is engaged in recreational fishing
foundation	The bases to which the wind turbine generators (WTGs) and offshore substations (OSSs) are installed on the seabed; seven types of foundations are considered in the RPDE: monopile, piled jacket, suction mono-bucket, suction bucket jacket, tri-suction pile caisson, and gravity-based
frond mattress	Anti-scour protection consisting of aerated polyethylene fronds that when installed on the seabed will naturally float to resemble natural seaweed; as local currents transport sediment through the frond mattress strands encouraging sand, silt, or soil to be deposited onto the mattress, the frond mattress forms a natural fiber reinforced sand bank to protect the area in question
geomagnetic	Relating to the magnetism of the Earth
gravity-based structure	Typically constructed of steel, concrete, or a combination of both; gravity-based structures sit on top of the seafloor and are not pile driven

Term	Definition
hard-bottom habitat	Benthic habitats composed of hard-bottom (e.g., cobble, rock, and ledge) substrates
historic property	As defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1), a prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object that is eligible for or already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); also includes any artifacts, records, and remains (surface or subsurface) related to and located within such a resource
historical resource	There is no common or consistent legal definition for a historic resource; therefore, it is defined the same as an historic property; a prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object that is eligible for or already listed in the NRHP; also includes any artifacts, records, and remains (surface or subsurface) related to and located within such a resource
horizontal directional drilling	Trenchless technique for installing underground cables, pipes, and conduits using a surface-launched drilling rig
hull	Watertight frame or body of a ship
infauna	Fauna living in the sediments of the ocean floor (or river or lake beds)
interarray cables	Cables connecting the wind turbine generators to the electrical service platforms
Interdunal	Habitat between dunes
invertebrate	Animal with no backbone
jacket foundation	Latticed steel frame with three or four supporting piles driven into the seabed
jack-up vessel	Mobile and self-elevating platform with buoyant hull
jet excavation	Process of moving or removing soil with a jet
jet plowing	Plowing in which the jet plow, with an adjustable blade, or plow, rests on the seafloor and is towed by a surface vessel; the jet plow creates a narrow trench at the designated depth, while water jets fluidize the sediment within the trench
knot	Unit of speed equaling 1 nautical mile (1.8 kilometer) per hour
landfall site	The shoreline landing site at which the offshore cable transitions to onshore
marine mammal	Aquatic vertebrate distinguished by the presence of mammary glands, hair, three middle ear bones, and a neocortex (a region of the brain)
marine waters	Waters in offshore areas where bottom depth is more than 98.4 feet (30 meters)
mechanical cutter	Method of submarine cable installation equipment that involves a cutting wheel or excavation chain to cut a narrow trench into the seabed allowing the cable to sink under its own weight or be pushed to the bottom of the trench via a cable depressor
mechanical plow	Method of submarine cable installation equipment that involves pulling a plow along the cable route to lay and bury the cable; the plow's share cuts into the soil, opening a temporary trench, which is held open by the side walls of the share, while the cable is lowered to the base of the trench via a depressor; some plows may use additional jets to fluidize the soil in front of the share
metocean	The syllabic abbreviation of meteorology and oceanography; a metocean study is used to estimate the environmental conditions including the wind, wave, and climate conditions found at a certain location
monopile or monopile foundation	A long steel tube driven into the seabed that supports a tower
mooring dolphin	Isolated marine structure used for mooring and securing vessels near pier structures to control the transverse movement of vessels while docked
nautical mile	A unit used to measure sea distances and equivalent to approximately 1.15 miles (1.85 kilometers)
NY Bight area	The New York Bight (NY Bight) is the geological identification applied to the roughly triangular indentation, regarded as a bight, along the Atlantic coast of the United

Term	Definition
	States that extends northeasterly from Cape May Inlet in New Jersey to Montauk Point on the eastern tip of Long Island
NY Bight lease areas	Commercial lease areas OCS-A 0537, OCS-A 0538, OCS-A 0539, OCS-A 0541, OCS-A 0542, and OCS-A 0544
NY Bight projects	Hypothetical projects that may be proposed within the six NY Bight lease areas
offshore project area	The offshore components that collectively make up the NY Bight offshore project area include the lease areas, WTGs, OSSs, scour protection for foundations, interarray and substation interconnection cables, and offshore export cables
offshore substation	The interconnection point between the WTGs and the export cable; the necessary electrical equipment needed to connect the interarray cables to the offshore export cables
onshore project area	The onshore components that collectively make up the NY Bight onshore project area include the landfall sites, the sea-to-shore transition that connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables, onshore export cable routes to onshore substations or converter stations, and the connection from the onshore substations or converter stations to the existing grid
onshore substation	Substation connecting a project to the existing bulk power grid system
operations and maintenance facilities	Would include offices, control rooms, warehouses, shop space, and pier space
Outer Continental Shelf	All submerged land, subsoil, and seabed belonging to the United States but outside of states' jurisdiction
permanent threshold shift	Affecting animals as a result of sound exposure, permanent threshold shift or PTS is an irreversible loss of hearing due to hair cell loss or other structural damage to auditory tissues
pile	A type of foundation akin to a pole
pile-driving	Installing foundation piles by driving them into the seafloor
pinnipeds	Carnivorous, semiaquatic marine mammals with fins, also known as seals
pin pile	Small-diameter pipe driven into the ground as foundation support
plume	Column of fluid moving through another fluid
private aids to navigation	Visual references on structures positioned in or near navigable waters of the United States, including radar transponders, lights, sound signals, buoys, and lighthouses, that support safe maritime navigation; permits for the aids are administered by USCG
Proposed Action	Specifically Alternative C, under which AMMM measures would be adopted such that the potential impacts described in Alternative B may be avoided, reduced, or mitigated
protected species	Endangered or threatened species that receive federal protection under the ESA of 1973 (as amended)
quay	Concrete, stone, or metal platform lying alongside or projecting into water for loading and unloading ships
Representative Project Design Envelope (RPDE)	The range of technical parameters that describe a wind energy project that could occur within the NY Bight lease areas
rock bags	Bags constructed of mesh material filled with rock or rip rap, making it a flexible protection system for marine construction work
scour protection	Protection consisting of rock and stone that would be placed around all foundations to stabilize the seabed near the foundations as well as the foundations themselves
scrublands	Plant community dominated by shrubs and often also including grasses and herbs
seabed spacer	An underwater cable system designed to hold and protect cables

Term	Definition
sessile	Attached directly by the base
silt substrate	Substrate made of a granular material originating from quartz and feldspar, and whose size is between sand and clay
soft-bottom habitat	Benthic habitats that include soft-bottom (i.e., unconsolidated sediments) and hard-bottom (e.g., cobble, rock, ledge) substrates
spud barge	Sometimes called a jack-up barge, a spud barge is a specialized type of barge commonly used for marine construction operations; the barge is moored by steel shafts or through-deck piling, which are essentially pipes driven right into the soil or sand at the bottom of the water to provide stability
substrate	Earthy material at the bottom of a marine habitat; the natural environment that an organism lives in
suction-bucket jacket	Latticed steel frame with three to four supporting suction-bucket foundations securing the structure to the seabed
suspended sediments	Very fine particles that remain in suspension in water for a considerable period of time without contact with the bottom; such material remains in suspension due to the upward components of turbulence and currents, or by suspension
temporary threshold shift	Affecting animals as a result of sound exposure, temporary threshold shift or TTS is a relatively short-term (e.g., within several hours or days), reversible loss of hearing following noise exposure, often resulting from hair cell fatigue
threatened species	A species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future
tidal energy project	Project related to the conversion of the energy of tides into usable energy, usually electricity
tidal flushing	Replacement of water in an estuary or bay because of tidal flow
trawl	A large fishing net dragged by a vessel at the bottom or in the middle of sea or lake water
turbidity	A measure of water clarity
utility right-of-way	Registered easement on private land that allows utility companies to access the utilities or services located there
vibracore	Technology/technique for collecting core samples of underwater sediments and wetland soils
viewshed	Area visible from a specific location
visual resource	The visible physical features on a landscape, including natural elements such as topography, landforms, water, vegetation, and anthropogenic structures
wetland	Land saturated with water, and includes marshes and swamps
wind energy	Electricity from naturally occurring wind
wind energy area	Areas with significant wind energy potential and defined by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
wind turbine generator	Component that puts out electricity in a structure that converts kinetic energy from wind into electricity