



**Kitty Hawk Wind**



# Construction and Operations Plan

## Appendix J - Preliminary Cable Burial Risk Assessment

September 30, 2022

**Submitted by**

Kitty Hawk Wind, LLC  
1125 NW Couch Street, Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97209

**Submitted to**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
45600 Woodland Road  
Sterling, Virginia 20166



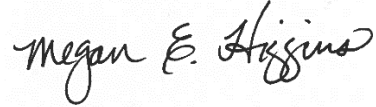
**Prepared by**

Tetra Tech, Inc.  
10 Post Office Square, 11th Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109



## Appendix J – Preliminary Cable Burial Risk Assessment

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**Construction and Operations Plan  
Kitty Hawk North Wind Project  
Lease Area OCS-A 0508**

**Appendix J  
Preliminary Cable Burial Risk Assessment**

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Kitty Hawk Wind, LLC  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document details the methodology and findings arising from an initial, high-level Cable Burial Risk Assessment of the offshore export cable corridor for the Kitty Hawk North Wind Project. The technical content of this report has not changed as of December 2020.

The Pre-mitigation findings of this preliminary Cable Burial Risk Assessment are as follows:

- There is risk arising from unexploded ordnance (UXO), particularly during the construction phase, in the areas in closest proximity to the former Dam Neck Gun Line. Based off of Tetra Tech, Inc.'s general knowledge of UXO in the area from previous work, it is suggested that the possibility of this risk should be considered 'Significant' from kilometer points (KPs) 0-25, 'Possible' from KP 25-38, and 'Unknown' for the rest of the route. In December 2020, a detailed UXO Desktop Study and Risk Analysis was strongly recommended to inform the Project's overall UXO risk mitigation plan. As of August 2022, a Desk Study for Potential UXO Contamination Kitty Hawk Wind Farm – Virginia Beach was completed and can be referenced in Appendix HH. A UXO survey and subsequent cable route micro-siting or intrusive investigation and neutralization may mitigate the risk from surficial items; however, as the majority of potential UXO items are small in size (e.g., not sea mines or large bombs), detecting them within the deeper seabed layers may be difficult with even advanced survey equipment.
- The risk of occurrence of minor (i.e., <1 meter) seabed scour and erosion is considered 'Serious to High' along the entire cable route, with the areas of greatest risk between KP 0-6, KP 20-40, and KP 46-64.
- The risk of occurrence of major (i.e., >1 meter) seabed scour and erosion is considered 'High' in KP 0-2, 'Serious' from KP 20-36, and 'Low to Medium' elsewhere. The middle span also has the highest likelihood of over-burial due to seabed mobility.
- Dropped object risk is considered 'Low to Medium' along the entire route but is concentrated in the areas where vessels traverse most frequently – this includes KP 32-64 based on automatic identification system data. It also may include areas near beach nourishment activities (e.g., between the borrow areas, barge locations, and sand placement areas). Inside the Wind Development Area, the risk of dropped objects is also expected to increase, due to construction and maintenance operations.
- Risk of dredging and dumping is considered 'Serious' from KP 0-8 in the vicinity to known borrow areas and beach nourishment projects, 'Medium' from KP 8-22 where potential sand resources are being investigated, and 'Low' elsewhere.
- The offshore export cable corridor traverses a busy military area (the Virginia Capes complex). The risk of military activities (including military vessels anchoring) is considered 'Medium' from KP 0-38 and 'Low' elsewhere. This risk is considered difficult to quantify as automatic identification system may not adequately capture all military vessel activity and anchoring. Liaison with the United States Department of Defense is highly recommended throughout the development and operations of the Project.
- The potential probability of risk related to anchors deployed from commercial vessels (both intentional anchoring as well as accidental and emergency deployment) is considered 'Low' from KP 0-8, 'Medium' from KP 8-38 and KP 62-64, and 'Serious' from KP 38-62, reflecting the traffic of both larger vessels and more frequent traverses of the route.
- Commercial fishing activity is relatively low along the offshore export cable corridor, and burial to mitigate anchor risk should also mitigate the threat from fishing gear. The likelihood of occurrence

of commercial fishing is considered 'Serious' from KP 0-14, 'Moderate' from KP 14-24, and 'Low' elsewhere.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

J.1	Introduction.....	1
	J.1.1 Preliminary Offshore Export Cable Corridor Overview.....	1
	J.1.2 Cable Burial Risk Assessment – An Overview.....	4
	J.1.3 Objective and Scope of Study .....	6
J.2	Regulations and Guidance.....	7
	J.2.1 Government Agencies.....	7
	J.2.1.1 BOEM Construction and Operations Plan Guidelines.....	7
	J.2.1.2 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	8
	J.2.2 Other Bodies .....	8
	J.2.2.1 International Cable Protection Committee Recommendations .....	8
	J.2.2.2 DNV GL.....	9
	J.2.2.3 Carbon Trust.....	9
	J.2.2.4 The American Wind Energy Association .....	10
J.3	Methodology.....	10
J.4	Offshore Export Cable Corridor Alignment.....	12
J.5	Data Review.....	14
	J.5.1 Geotechnical and Geophysical Data.....	14
	J.5.2 Shipping and Navigation Data.....	17
	J.5.2.1 United States Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Information .....	17
	J.5.2.2 Automatic Identification System Data .....	21
	J.5.3 Commercial Fishing.....	21
	J.5.4 Seabed Benthic Conditions.....	23
J.6	Threat Assessment.....	24
	J.6.1 Sediment Mobility.....	24
	J.6.2 Anchors.....	30
	J.6.3 Dredging/Dumping.....	31
	J.6.4 Other Seabed Assets.....	33
	J.6.5 Unexploded Ordnance .....	33
	J.6.5.1 Specific Danger Zones.....	36
	J.6.5.2 Historical Photos and Conceptual Model of VACAPES Range Operations .....	37
	J.6.6 Marine Debris.....	39
	J.6.7 Cultural Resources.....	39
	J.6.8 Prevailing Metocean Conditions.....	39
J.7	Cable Burial Assessment.....	39
	J.7.1 Summary .....	39
	J.7.2 Initial Risk Assessment Methodology.....	40
	J.7.2.1 Exposure to Vessel Traffic.....	40
	J.7.2.2 Exposure to Vessels at Anchor.....	41
	J.7.2.3 Anchor Size and Penetration Estimation.....	42
	J.7.3 Results .....	43
J.8	Site Data Requirements for Full-Scope CBRA.....	46
J.9	References.....	46

## FIGURES

Figure J-1	Offshore Project Overview.....	2
Figure J-2.	Onshore Project Overview.....	3
Figure J-3.	Trench Parameter Definitions (Carbon Trust 2015): (A) Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering; (B) Target Depth of Lowering; (C) Target Trench Depth; (D) Depth of Cover.....	5
Figure J-4.	CBRA Methodology Flowchart (Carbon Trust 2015).....	11
Figure J-5.	Overview of the Lease Area and the Offshore Export Cable Survey Area with Kilometer Points (KPs) Marked Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Centerline.....	13
Figure J-6.	Interpreted Seismic Sections Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Showing Major Reflectors and Seismostratigraphic Units (OWC 2020).....	15
Figure J-7.	Schematic Representation of the Evolution and Depositional Environments Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor from OWC (2020).....	16
Figure J-8.	Charted Anchorages within the Chesapeake Bay (MARCO 2020).....	18
Figure J-9.	Cruise Ships in Virginia (Crew-Center.com, n.d.).....	19
Figure J-10.	Shipping Lanes off Virginia Beach, Virginia (NROC 2009).....	20
Figure J-11.	Proposed Fairways Adjacent to Offshore Project Area (USCG 2015).....	20
Figure J-12.	Highest Use Areas for Select Commercial Fishing Gear Types (Gillnets/ Pots and Traps) (Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program 2016) with Dominion Projects Shown (as this Study Pre-dates the Project).....	22
Figure J-13.	Conceptual Geological Model of the Offshore Project Area from OWC (2020).....	25
Figure J-14.	Overview of the Offshore Export Cable Bathymetry Survey with Corridor Centerline and KPs Marked. The color-rendered bathymetry in the background gives a good context to the regional shoals. The colored dots represent a broad-scale dataset from the U.S. Geological Survey that looks at modeled seabed currents and sediments to evaluate potential recurrence intervals for seabed mobility events. ....	26
Figure J-15.	Conceptual Schematic Representation of a Cross-Section Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor from the Landing to the Wind Development Area (OWC 2020), with an inset showing (color rendered with warmer colors indicating thicker sediments) the isopach thickness from the BOEM Marine Minerals Program. ....	27
Figure J-16.	Example Cross Section of Potential Migratory Bedform Features.....	28
Figure J-17.	Potential Scour Features in the Nearshore Area of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor.....	29
Figure J-18.	Deeper Water Features Potentially Related to Seabed Fluid Expulsion and/or Seabed Currents.....	29
Figure J-19.	Maersk Triple E-class Container Ship Anchor (Courtesy of Maersk).....	31
Figure J-20.	Offshore Export Cable Bathymetry Survey Area (Brown) Shown Alongside DNODS (Charted) and Sand Borrow Areas (Red Polygons).....	32
Figure J-21.	Restricted Zones and Warning Areas in the Context of Approximate Extents of the Maximum Ranges of Weapons Historically Used at the Dam Neck Gun Line.....	34
Figure J-22.	Offshore Project Area in Relation to the DoD Warning Areas.....	35
Figure J-23.	Photos of Various Guns on the Dam Neck Firing Line.....	37
Figure J-24.	Conceptual Image Showing Historical VACAPES Range Operations.....	38
Figure J-25.	2-km Lengths Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Centerline.....	40
Figure J-26.	2-km by 6-km-wide Bins Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Centerline.....	41

## TABLES

Table J-1.	Offshore Export Cable Maximum Design Parameters.....	4
Table J-2.	Number of Trips of Various Vessel Types in the Port of Virginia, Norfolk, and Newport News 2017 (USACE 2018).....	17
Table J-3.	Anchor Depths by Gross Tonnage .....	42
Table J-4.	Top 10 Largest Classes of Vessels Crossing the Offshore Export Cable Corridor .....	43
Table J-5.	Segment by Segment Qualitative Probability of Risk .....	44
Table J-6.	Segment by Segment Initial Recommendation for Depth of Lowering .....	45

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment J-1. Supplemental Vessel Data and Figures



## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIS	automatic identification system
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CBRA	Cable Burial Risk Assessment
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Dam Neck	Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex
DNODS	Dam Neck Ocean Disposal Site
DNV GL	Det Norsk Veritas Germanischer Lloyd
DoD	United States Department of Defense
DOL	Depth of Lowering
DWT	deadweight tonnage
HDD	horizontal directional drilling
HRG	high-resolution geophysical
ICPC	International Cable Protection Committee
km	kilometer
KP	kilometer point
Lease Area	designated Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-A 0508
m	meter
MEC	Munitions and Explosives of Concern
OWC	Off shore Wind Consultants Limited
Project	the Kitty Hawk North Wind Project
the Company	Kitty Hawk Wind, LLC
U.S.	United States
UK	United Kingdom
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	United States Coast Guard
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VACAPES	Virginia Capes
Wind Development Area	approximately 40 percent of the Lease Area in the northwest corner closest to shore (19,814 hectares)

## J.1 INTRODUCTION

Kitty Hawk Wind, LLC (the Company), a wholly owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC, proposes to construct, own, and operate the Kitty Hawk North Wind Project (the Project). The Project will be located in the designated Renewable Energy Lease Area OCS-A 0508 (Lease Area). The Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf was awarded through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) competitive renewable energy lease auction of the Wind Energy Area offshore of North Carolina. The Lease Area covers 49,536 hectares and is located approximately 44 kilometers (km; 24 nautical miles) offshore of Corolla, North Carolina.

At this time, the Company proposes to develop 40 percent of the Lease Area in the northwest corner closest to shore (19,814 hectares; the Wind Development Area). The Project will connect from the electrical service platform through offshore export cables (within a designated corridor) and onshore export cables to the new onshore substation in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, where the renewable electricity generated will be transmitted to the electric grid (Figure J-1 and Figure J-2).

### J.1.1 Preliminary Offshore Export Cable Corridor Overview

The offshore export cables will make landfall within a parking lot along Sandbridge Beach, just south of Sandbridge Road in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia. The ocean to land transition at the landfall will be installed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD), which will avoid or minimize impacts to the beach, intertidal zone, and nearshore areas and achieve a burial significantly deeper than any expected erosion. A basis of design for the landfall has determined that either a long HDD to the -10 meter (m) mean lowest low water line or a shorter HDD to the -8 m mean lowest low water line is suitable. The parking lot south of Sandbridge Road near Sandbridge Beach will also serve as the construction staging and operations area. Both portions of the lot, to the north and south of Sandbridge Seaside Market, may be utilized to install the required ducts to bring cables ashore. The transition from the onshore export cables to offshore export cables will occur within an underground transition bay located directly adjacent to the HDD. After the transition bay, the cables will be split into phases and enter the underground duct bank.

The HDD route beneath the beach at Sandbridge as well as the rapid turn of the offshore export cable corridor to the south after the punchout point is due, to some degree, to the fact that this portion of the beach has been part of a very large, United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-managed (though not always federally funded) beach refurbishment project for two decades. Detailed study and assessment of the HDD area should be included in a subsequent refined Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA). This portion of coastline has been experiencing problematic erosion for years and the USACE has added sand to this part of the coastline repeatedly. Beach nourishment has occurred in 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2020.

"The nourishment project at Sandbridge is a critical project for both the USACE and the City of Virginia Beach, as it provides storm-damage reduction to those who need it most," said Ashton Burgin, the Norfolk District, USACE project manager. "The beach is the coast's first line of defense in the event of a hurricane, and our goal is to provide the maximum amount of protection possible." (Allmond 2020)

The critical nature of this beach nourishment accompanied by its expense, makes this portion of the beach especially sensitive to impacts. Since the offshore sand resource polygons where this nourishment material comes from are also a key component of the project, they are as sensitive as the beach is to residents and regulators alike. Any undue alteration of a federal civil works project can cause complications with respect to USACE Section 408 permitting, so minimizing interference with beach nourishment has been a focus from the first days of this Project.

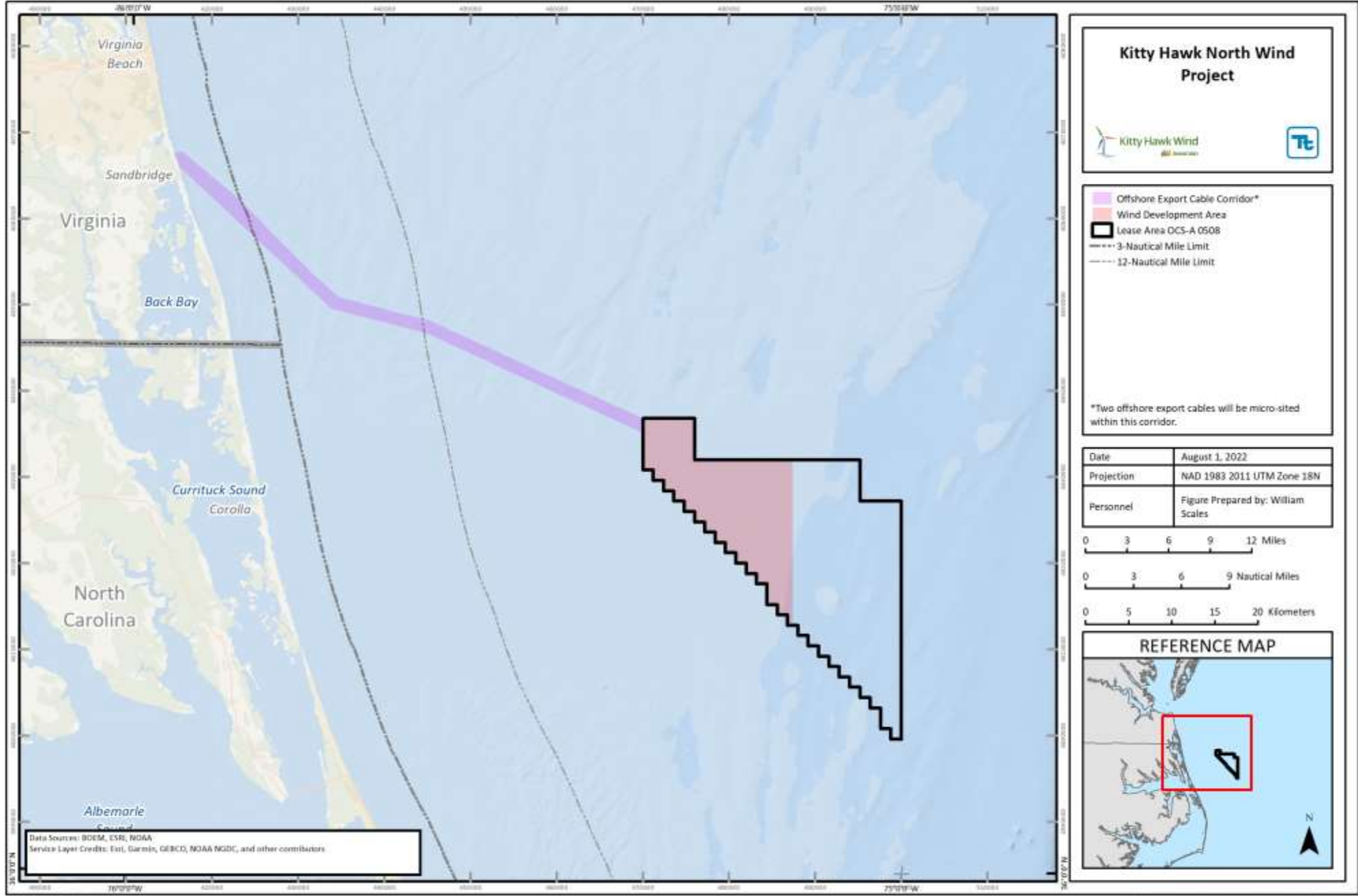


Figure J-1 Offshore Project Overview

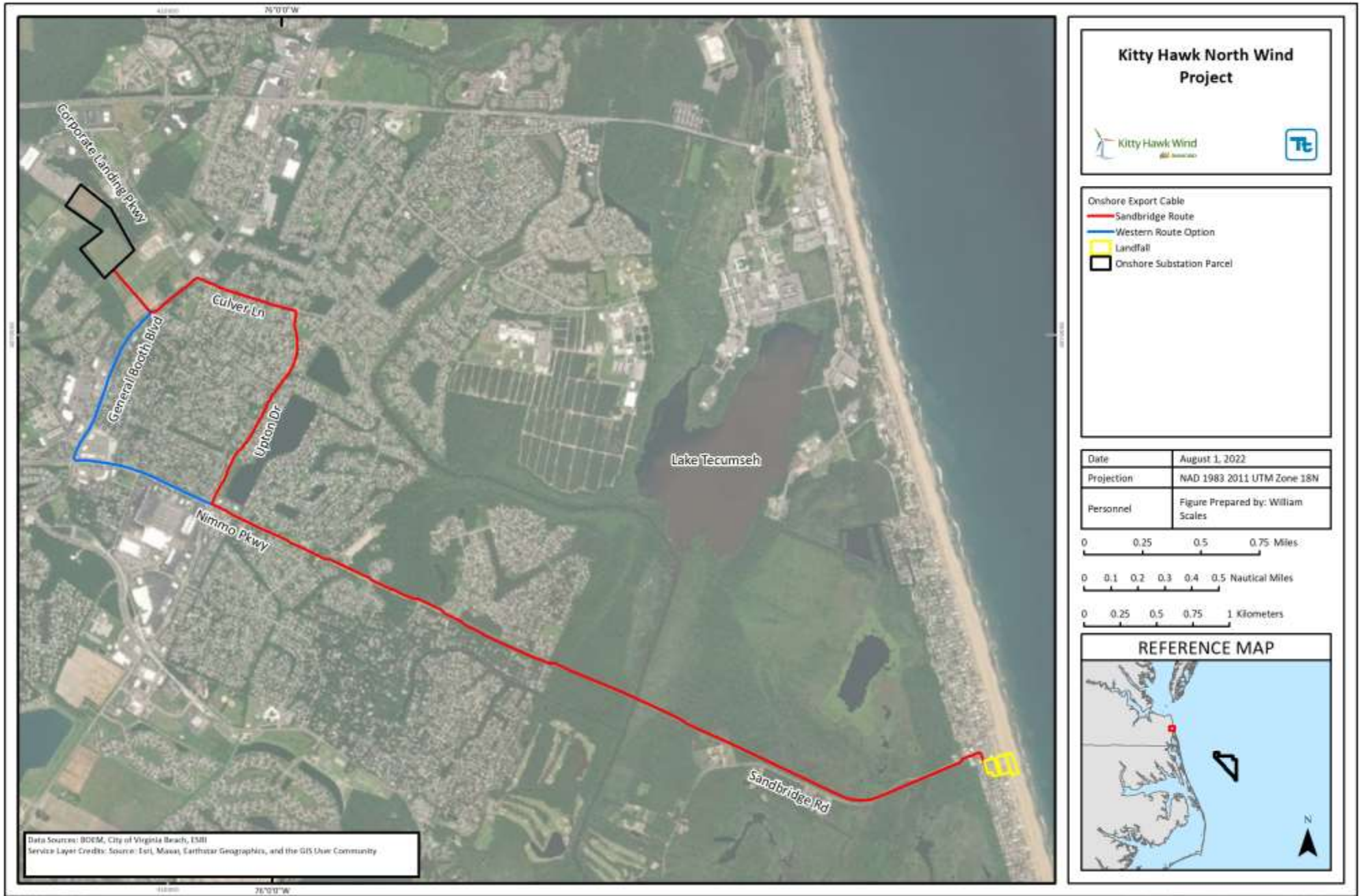


Figure J-2. Onshore Project Overview

The potential risk to the cables during the operations and maintenance phase of the Project can be reduced by raising awareness of the buried cables through marine liaison activities, ensuring cables are adequately charted, and potentially the marking of critical areas with buoys. This has also been suggested during stakeholder meetings with the Virginia Pilots Association and others. Additionally, temporary or permanent awareness solutions such as virtual automatic identification system (AIS) markers have been utilized to provide protection to cables. A virtual AIS system can broadcast AIS radio data packets from a shore-based station to create marker points which can be viewed on shipboard charting and radar systems that integrate AIS. Direct and ongoing outreach to the USACE, the state and local government agencies involved with beach nourishment, and individual dredging contractors should also be considered.

The offshore export cable corridor will consist of up to two, distinct, buried cables, each containing a three-core, 275-kilovolt high-voltage alternating-current cable containing one or more fiber optic packages. This cable corridor transits a former military gun line safety fan, so the risk of unexploded ordnance (UXO) is likely present. This is further detailed within Section J.6 and in Appendix HH Potential UXO Contamination Kitty Hawk Wind Farm – Virginia Beach.

There are also threats to the cables from natural processes, fishing and shipping activity; the offshore export cable corridor passes south of the main shipping lanes transited by commercial vessels departing and arriving Norfolk, Virginia and Chesapeake Bay.

Table J-1 details the maximum design parameters for the offshore export cable corridor.

**Table J-1. Offshore Export Cable Maximum Design Parameters**

Parameter	Measurement
Number of cables	2
Voltage per circuit	275 kilovolts
Cross-sectional area per cable	2,000 mm <sup>2</sup>
Typical separation distance between circuits	50 m a/
Maximum separation distance between circuits	100 m a/
Total offshore export cable corridor length	80 km
Width of installation corridor	810 m
Requested operational right-of-way per circuit	61 m (200 feet)
Note: a/ Separation distance between cables is based on site-specific conditions (e.g., water depth and seabed constraints).	

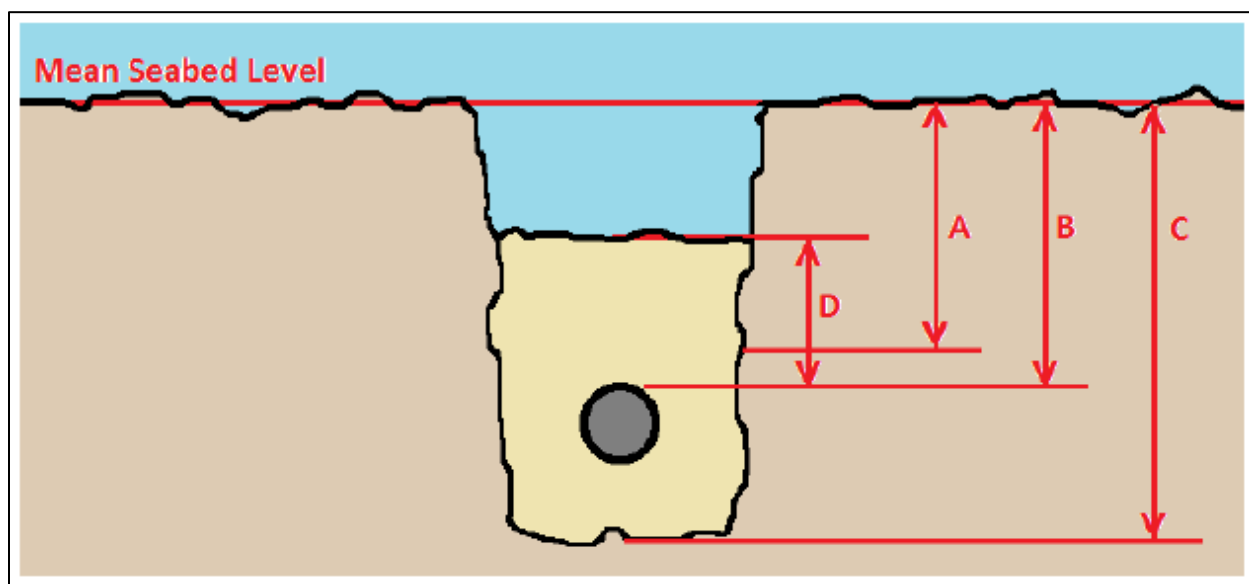
### J.1.2 Cable Burial Risk Assessment – An Overview

A full-scope CBRA is a probabilistic method of determining the level of threat to a cable, leading to cable protection recommendations that minimize risk to the cables from external factors to 'As Low As is Reasonably Practicable'.

The output of the CBRA is to determine a recommended Depth of Lowering (DOL) at each point along the cable route that will protect the cables from external aggression and minimize risk both to and from the cable. Once the CBRA is complete, a Burial Assessment Study may be undertaken, which takes into account the CBRA findings, as well as the geotechnical and geophysical soil data to identify (at a high level), suitable cable burial methodologies that are most likely to achieve the target DOL.

From this, a contractor will propose (and the developer will approve) a burial method that will achieve the Target DOL (B), this allows for a slight margin for error in case of unexpected challenges such as sediments outside of the post-survey predictions, for example. In order to achieve the Target DOL, a burial tool capable of the Target Trench Depth (C) will be specified. This extra margin will allow for backfill that may occur prior to the cable sinking to the bottom of the cut, for example.

The above parameters and their definitions were published by the Carbon Trust (2015) in their industry guidance document 'Cable Burial Risk Assessment Methodology: Guidance for the Preparation of Cable Burial Depth of Lowering Specification', in which Figure J-3 below can be found.



**Figure J-3. Trench Parameter Definitions (Carbon Trust 2015): (A) Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering; (B) Target Depth of Lowering; (C) Target Trench Depth; (D) Depth of Cover**

A realistic or optimized target DOL is important for several reasons, including:

- To reduce the threat to the cables from external factors;
- To reduce the threat from the cables to other seabed users and natural processes;
- To allow for the widest array of potential installation and burial tools, leading to the most cost-efficient cable installation as possible;
- To reduce the risk of cable exposure due to shifting seabed sediments;
- To ensure that the ampacity (power carrying capacity) of the cables isn't compromised due to unnecessary over-burial; and
- To ensure easier access to the cables for possible future recovery and repair operations.

The CBRA is a standardized method, based upon project and site-specific data and using probabilistic methods to determine a target DOL that is technically and economically feasible, yet provides adequate cable protection. It is impossible to protect a cable from all threats, but the CBRA adheres to the 'As Low As is Reasonably Practicable' philosophy. For example, one of the CBRA's inputs is vessel traffic, whereby AIS data is used to determine the type and frequency of marine traffic in proximity to the cable route. If, after studying that data, it is found that the frequency of Ultra Large Crude Carrier vessels is negligible, then the risk to the cables from anchor strikes from that type of vessel's anchor is extremely low.

There are a number of inputs required in order to undertake a comprehensive CBRA. These include:

- Marine charts and tide/current tables;
- Geotechnical data gathered utilizing cone penetrometer tests, Vibracore, gravity core, piston cores, followed by lab analysis to determine the soil types, shear strength assessments, presence/percentages of organic matter, etc. that will be encountered along the cable route;
- Geophysical data utilizing multi beam echo sounders, side scan sonar, sub bottom profilers and magnetometers to determine the seabed profile, the presence of any obstructions (boulders, potentially mobile seabed features, wrecks, etc.), the structure of sub-bottom sediment layers and the presence of ferrous objects including possible UXO;
- Any previously available area and region-specific documentation including historical or publicly available geological data, archeological data, marine wildlife data, etc.;
- AIS vessel traffic data that will show the type and frequency of marine traffic. From this, an analysis of anchor types and frequency of deliberate or accidental anchor deployment will be carried out;
- Fisheries input to identify the commercial and recreational fishing activities that occur in the area, including vessel and fishing gear types;
- A mobility assessment that will determine historical changes in the seabed topography such as the movement of potentially mobile seabed features, erosion due to currents, scour, etc. Repeated surveys are especially helpful in this regard;
- Preliminary cable design and specification;
- Future plans, such as potential dredging works to deepen or lengthen shipping channels, anchorages, etc. and future infrastructure projects, such as power transmission cables and/or telecommunications cables;
- Other activities such as dumping grounds, areas of subsea mining, dredging for sand for beach replenishment for example;
- Information on existing and planned seabed infrastructure, including fiber and power cables, pipelines, outfalls, etc.; and
- Any military uses or restrictions, including military vessel transit and practice areas, danger zones from firing ranges, UXO, etc.

The outcome of all of the above will be a CBRA incorporating a probabilistic, risk-based analysis that will ensure that the cables will be buried to a suitable depth to protect both it, and external users from harm, as far as is reasonably practicable.

### **J.1.3 Objective and Scope of Study**

The objective of this study is to complete a preliminary (Stage 1) CBRA for the Project's offshore export cable corridor as described in Section J.1 previously. Furthermore, recommendations will be made as to the data requirements needed to undertake a full-scope CBRA and Burial Assessment Study subsequently. The scope is limited to the offshore export cable corridor as previously detailed. A full assessment of threats from UXO is outside the scope of this document and would require further investigation to fully elucidate. However, Tetra Tech, Inc. has considerable experience with UXO investigations from previous projects in the area and has incorporated some high level UXO threat identification in Section J.6 below. Additional

UXO detail can be found in Appendix HH Desk Study for Potential UXO Contamination Kitty Hawk Wind Farm – Virginia Beach.

Due to the ongoing survey works, the continuing refinement of the ground model and understanding of the expected soil conditions, and the pending nature of a micro-sited route within the corridor, this report can only be considered a “preliminary” CBRA. Once the remaining data identified in Section J.8 is available, a full, quantitative CBRA can be created from this foundation in accordance with industry standard practices as detailed by The Carbon Trust and Company’s specific needs. This current study makes use of the datasets available at this stage of Project development to capture the current best understanding of the DOL and trends in the need for cable protection faced by the system. These findings will inform later stages of field investigation, technical analyses, installation planning, permitting, and stakeholder outreach.

## J.2 REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

There are a wide variety of sources that inform cable burial recommendations, ranging from governmental agencies to industry bodies that publish codes and best working practices.

It is common for submarine cable projects to receive burial depth requirements from the USACE as a part of the permitting process. These particularly pertain to areas where there are identified and maintained shipping navigation channels and anchorages. These specified burial depth requirements are intended to allow for future dredging activities (i.e., channel deepening, widening and lengthening).

Although the USACE determines the minimum acceptable burial depth in certain areas, there is also guidance available from a variety of other sources, including the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), BOEM, the Carbon Trust, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the American Wind Energy Association. The USACE determines minimum acceptable burial through an internal process of evaluating known risks and threats to the cable(s), the known, planned, and potential future expansion and deepening of federal navigation projects, and any other local factors.

### J.2.1 Government Agencies

#### J.2.1.1 BOEM Construction and Operations Plan Guidelines

BOEM is an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior responsible for managing development of the nation’s offshore resources, in an environmentally and economically responsible way. The main document that offshore wind developers must assemble to BOEM’s satisfaction is the Construction and Operations Plan. Within BOEM’s *Information Guidelines for a Renewable Energy Construction and Operations Plan* (2020a), the following items are identified with respect to cable burial.

#### Attachment A: Best Management Practices

Seafloor habitats:

- Lessees and grantees shall conduct seafloor surveys in the early phases of a project to ensure that the alternative energy project is sited appropriately to avoid or minimize potential impacts associated with seafloor instability or other hazards.
- Lessees and grantees shall take all reasonable actions to minimize seabed disturbance and sediment dispersion during cable installation.

Fisheries:

- Lessees and grantees shall avoid or minimize impacts to the commercial fishing industry by burying cables, where practicable, to avoid conflict with fishing vessels and gear operation. If cables are



buried, lessees and grantees shall inspect cable burial depth periodically during project operation to ensure that adequate coverage is maintained to avoid interference with fishing gear/activity.

Coastal habitats:

- Lessees and grantees shall avoid hard-bottom habitats, including seagrass communities and kelp beds, where practicable, and restore any damage to those communities.

### **Attachment E: Information Requirements for the National Environmental Policy Act and Other Relevant Laws**

Other Potential Needs for Construction and Operations Plan Approval - Additional information may be needed to support the evaluation of hazards and physical impacts, including but not limited to:

- Stability analysis of seafloor morphology; and
- Modeling of disturbances associated with foundation installation, cable jetting and burial, and cable landfall.

#### **J.2.1.2 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement**

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior that is responsible for promoting safety, protecting the environment and conserving off shore resources. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases on the Outer Continental Shelf for activities that produce or support the production, transportation or transmission of energy from sources other than oil and gas. The Act requires all such operations to be carried out in a manner that provides safety of operations and the protection of the environment.

As a part of its program, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has commissioned and undertaken many Technical Assessment Programs Projects, all of which are in the public domain. A few of the applicable ones are:

TAP 722 – Offshore Wind Submarine Spacing Guidance; and

TAP 671 – Offshore Electrical Cable Burial for Wind Farms: State of the Art: Standards and Guidance; Acceptable Burial Depths and Separation Distances; and Sand Wave Effects.

These documents, for the most part, summarize industry best-practices and contain general guidance for the Company to consider in both turbine layout designs as well as when considering cable burial.

#### **J.2.2 Other Bodies**

##### **J.2.2.1 International Cable Protection Committee Recommendations**

The ICPC is an organization founded in 1958 that comprises of governmental agencies, commercial submarine cable system owners and operators, as well as other companies that are associated with the submarine cable industry. The primary mission of the organization is to increase the security of undersea cables by providing a forum in which technical, legal and environmental information can be exchanged, and guidance issued. The prime activities can be summarized as follows:

- To promote awareness of submarine cables as critical infrastructure to Governments and other users of the ocean floors;
- To establish internationally agreed recommendations for cable installation, protection and maintenance;

- To monitor international treaties and national legislation to help ensure that submarine cable interests are fully protected; and
- To liaise with various United Nations bodies.

### General Guidance Documents

The ICPC recommendations are a set of industry best practices that serve as a guide for burial planning. Since the ICPC guidance (2019) is designed to be both generalized best practice as well as global in application, they do not publish a recommended depth of burial. It is widely understood that appropriate burial depth varies by risk profile and regulatory regime and a whole host of other factors. The following guidance does pertain to desktop studies and CBRA's such as this one.

### ICPC Recommendations Document 9: Minimum Technical Requirements for a Desktop Study

This document outlines detailed recommendations for what should be considered in a desktop study (cable route study). It does not include specific guidance on how to deal with those factors. This guidance notes that a route planner must familiarize themselves with several regional parameters, including:

- Geology;
- Climatology;
- Oceanography;
- Commercial Operations, Hazards and Restricted Areas (shipping, military, fishing, research, dredging, shipwrecks, etc.);
- Biological factors; and
- Permitting.

The guidance is designed to ensure that a Project has done its due diligence in advance such that the environment and the regulations are well understood prior to surveys, installation, and operations and maintenance.

#### J.2.2.2 DNV GL

Det Norsk Veritas Germanischer Lloyd (DNV GL) is an international registrar and classification society headquartered in Norway.

#### DNV-GL-RP-0360

This recommended practice document provides guidance throughout a submarine power cable's lifecycle. It focuses particularly on the risk analysis and mitigations most applicable to shallow water applications.

#### J.2.2.3 Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is a United Kingdom (UK) based but global organization with the stated mission of accelerating the transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy. As a part of this, they formed the Carbon Trust Offshore Wind Accelerator, a Joint Industry Project consisting of nine major offshore wind project developers and a number of other associated organizations, including the UK and Scottish Governments. In the case of submarine cabling, the Offshore Wind Accelerator members all agreed that significant cost savings could be achieved without adding additional risk to the cabling by optimizing the DOL.

To achieve that, the Carbon Trust commissioned a wide-ranging study into the site investigations, trenching assessments and burial risk assessments that are undertaken at the design phase of offshore wind farm projects. There was a lot of input into this study from cable installation and trenching contractors, various consultancies involved with offshore wind farm development, as well as the wind farm developers themselves.

### J.2.2.4 The American Wind Energy Association

The American Wind Energy Association is a trade association representing both the on and offshore wind industry. They are currently developing a set of Standards and Recommended Practices, including convening working groups under their Wind Standards Committee. One of those working groups is tasked with drawing information from existing regulations and guidance to create 'Recommended Practice for Design, Deployment and Operation of Submarine Cables in the United States'. However, this document is still under development.

## J.3 METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this preliminary CBRA will, where possible, follow that of the Carbon Trust (Figure J-4), which has become the de facto industry standard for the determination of risk to cabling and associated DOL recommendations.

1. Create high-level overview and assessment of the proposed cable corridor.
2. Collate relevant data and review for suitability.
3. Assess the geotechnical and geophysical data and break the route down into sections sharing similar soil and seabed characteristics (not fully possible at this time).
4. Create a risk register of:
  - a. Natural hazards (seabed features, landslides, etc.); and
  - b. Anthropogenic hazards (shipping, fishing, UXO etc.).
5. Add risks to route breakdown.
6. Undertake probability risk assessment (not possible at this time).
7. Quantify a recommended DOL for each point along the cable route (not possible at this time).

As this is a preliminary assessment, the full probabilistic calculations cannot be undertaken until the data gaps are filled. Therefore, the known risks will be described, and relevant conclusions and recommendations will be made.

Once the full survey data and finalized Route Position List is available, a full-scope CBRA can be undertaken that will enable (for example) dredge volume calculations to be completed, the probabilistic risk calculations to be made and final burial recommendations to be made.

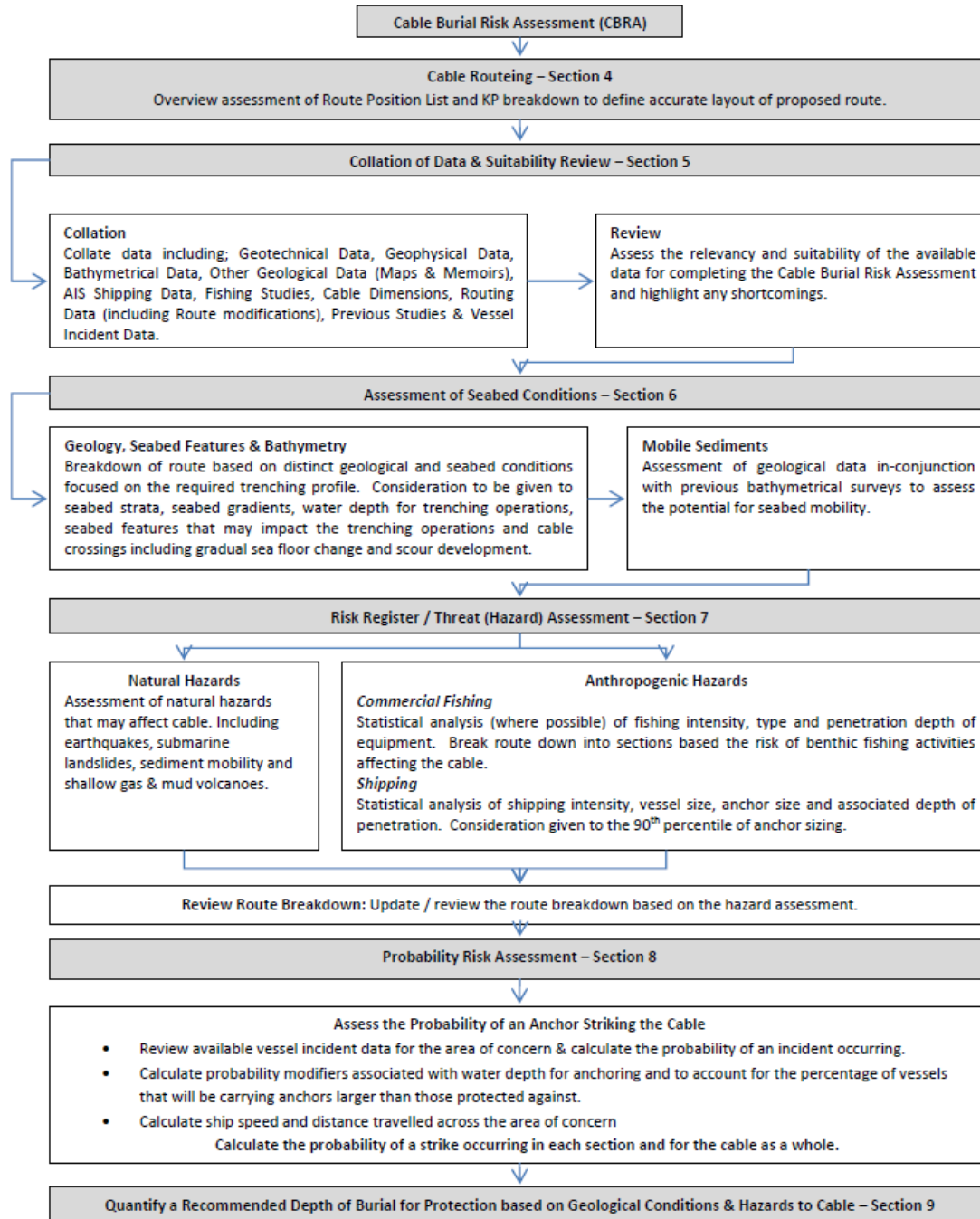


Figure J-4. CBRA Methodology Flowchart (Carbon Trust 2015)

## J.4 OFFSHORE EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR ALIGNMENT

The offshore export cable corridor analyzed in this report evolved as the Project moved through the various stages from initial concept through to more detailed engineering and permitting. Alternate routes and grid connection points were considered in both North Carolina and Virginia. However, as a part of the high-level concept planning, the North Carolina grid connections and accompanying submarine cable routing were deemed less preferable for the first stage of the Project due to offshore routing constraints, onshore grid interconnection inadequacies, stakeholder concerns associated with the sensitivity of the Outer Banks environment, as well as other factors considered.

The area occupied by the offshore export cables running on a northwest to southeast alignment between the Wind Development Area and Sandbridge, Virginia is heavily utilized by both commercial shipping and U.S. Naval vessels. In addition to known shipping lanes, there are areas used as anchorages for vessels waiting to transit the shipping lanes. There is both a Regulated Navigation Area and a Danger Zone/Restricted Area in the region of Virginia Beach, parts of which are traversed by the offshore export cable corridor.

Off Sandbridge, the offshore export cable corridor transits outside of the Dam Neck Ocean Disposal Site (DNODS). This dumping ground has been in use since 1967 and is used to deposit approximately 0.9 million cubic meters of dredged material every two years. Much of this material comes from the Atlantic Ocean Channel between the entrance to Chesapeake Bay and the naturally deeper waters of the Atlantic shelf. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and USACE jointly manage this area as a part of their efforts to maintain ongoing dredging activities in federal shipping channels.

Overall, the offshore export cable corridor (Figure J-5) was sited using best-available bathymetry and seabed data in concert with an evolving series of physical, environmental, regulatory, and stakeholder constraints. The initial routing was based upon a variety of constraints present along the routes, including but not limited to the following:

- Areas where the United States Department of Defense (DoD) prohibits submarine cables;
- Shipping lanes;
- USACE dredge projects;
- Other submarine assets;
- Shallow water areas and sand resource areas;
- Charted and ad-hoc anchoring areas;
- Dredging and dumping areas;
- Danger areas; and
- Shipwrecks, obstructions, and charted hazards.

This list provides an indication of routing considerations and constraints present along the potential routes.

Traffic lanes, authorized channels, maintained channels, and anchorages may have requirements for deeper cable burial to ensure adequate cable protection from risks of external aggression, as well as to protect the navigation channel's integrity and were, therefore, avoided. This document explores the more directly applicable cable burial constraints in terms of risk mitigations from the threats of external aggression that cannot be mitigated solely through routing.



Figure J-5. Overview of the Lease Area and the Offshore Export Cable Survey Area with Kilometer Points (KPs) Marked Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Centerline

## J.5 DATA REVIEW

### J.5.1 Geotechnical and Geophysical Data

A significant reconnaissance level high-resolution geophysical (HRG) survey effort has been undertaken to characterize the Wind Development Area and the offshore export cable corridor. This HRG survey included the following: multibeam echo sounder, side scan sonar, magnetometer, and sub-bottom profiler data acquisition. This has allowed for the development of an initial ground model that maps and documents the seismo-stratigraphic context of the area. At the time of this study, reconnaissance HRG survey data collected by the Company was available; reconnaissance geotechnical data and more detailed HRG data will be available for future analysis.

While there is little geotechnical data that allows direct observation of the characteristics of the lithologies of the sub-bottom at this time, the initial understanding of the depositional environments can be inferred from the unit geometry and seismic character (Figure J-6, Figure J-7). As summarized by Offshore Wind Consultants Limited (OWC), the conditions are as follows:

Each of the identified seismo-stratigraphic units (A1 to D) is expected to have been formed in a separate depositional event or series of events. However, similarities in the depositional environments that formed each of the units mean that all identified units are likely to contain a combination of sands, silts, and clays, with the potential for occasional occurrences of organic rich sediments (such as peat) and possibly gravels, including at the base of channels (OWC 2020).

This is consistent with the findings for other studies that have looked at the marine geology in the region. The BOEM Open File Report 2019-2 (BOEM 2019) quoted below, evaluates the potential for sand resources in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. While they describe major seismo-stratigraphic units from A-D, they do it in the opposite sense of OWC, i.e., D-A from seabed to deeper subsurface.

Units B and C are likely equivalent to the Pleistocene-age Shirley and Tabb Formations, respectively. These units are difficult to distinguish in many of the seismic images. They are separated by reflector 2, which is not evident in many of the images. The middle Pleistocene Shirley Formation was deposited in a marginal marine environment and consists of fluvial-estuarine facies that vary laterally and vertically (Powars and others, 2016 as cited in BOEM 2019). The late Pleistocene Tabb Formation consists of fluvial-estuarine fining-upward sequences that typically grade upward from basal pebble-sand deposits to sandy and clayey silt. Neither of these units contain sufficient thicknesses of beach-quality sand to be considered in the resource estimates. The upper-most unit D is equivalent to Holocene-age sediments consisting mainly of fine to coarse grained sand. It is separated from units C, B, and A, depending on the location, by reflectors 1, 2, or 3. The sediments in unit D occur as sheet sand and shoal deposits of variable thickness that range from thin (3-6 feet) to very thick (greater than 30 feet) on the crest of shoals. The mud content is low and there is no overburden. Unit D represents the primary beach-quality sand resource in both study areas. Reflector 1 is continuous throughout the entire Sandbridge area, and in most of the Wallops resource area. Shideler and others (1972, as cited in BOEM 2019) reported a radiocarbon age of about 4,220 years Before Present for an articulated *Mercenaria* sp. extracted from a core at a depth of 1.7 m below the seafloor in the Sandbridge resource area. This unit was deposited and continues to be modified during the current transgression (Swift and others, 1977 as cited in BOEM 2019).

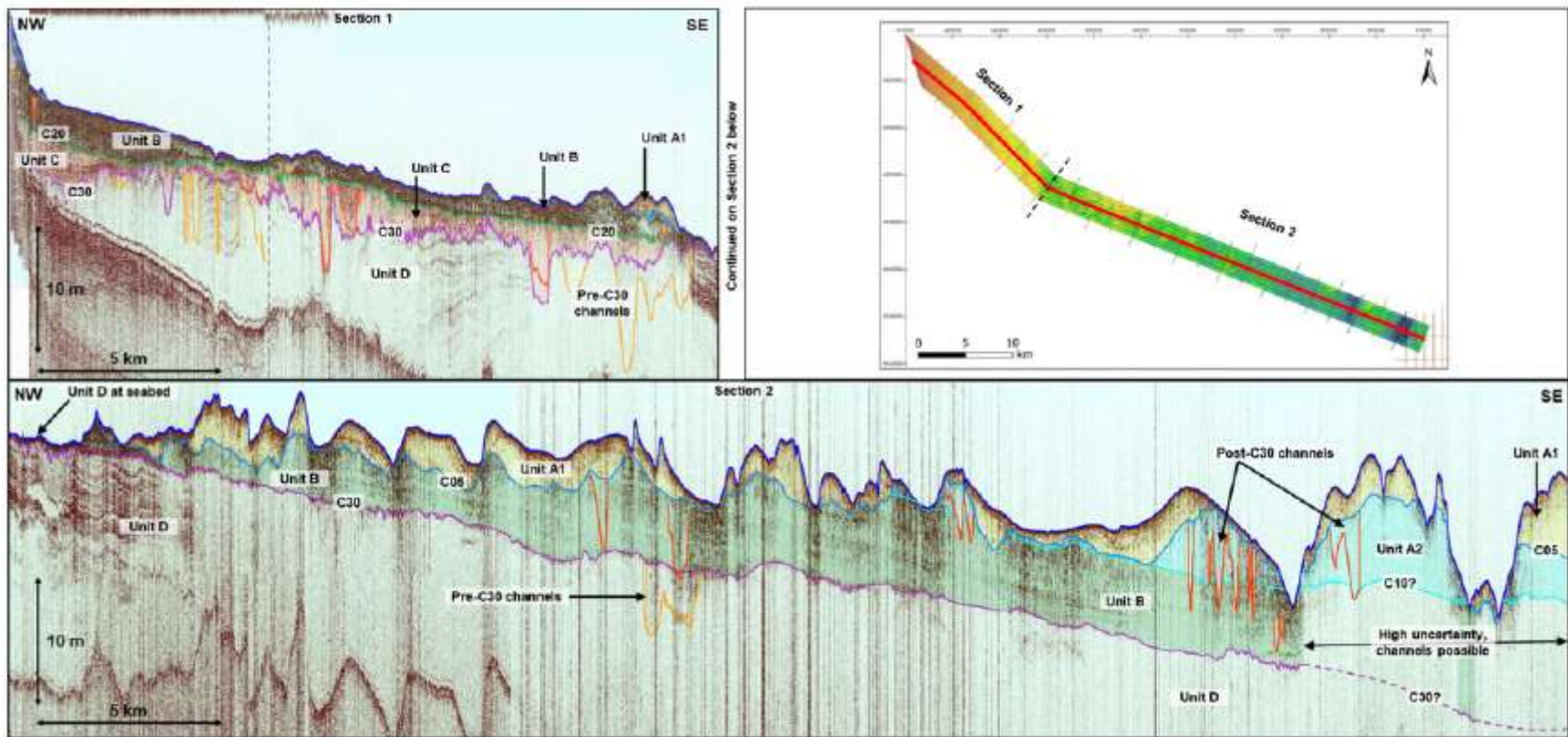


Figure J-6. Interpreted Seismic Sections Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Showing Major Reflectors and Seismostratigraphic Units (OWC 2020)



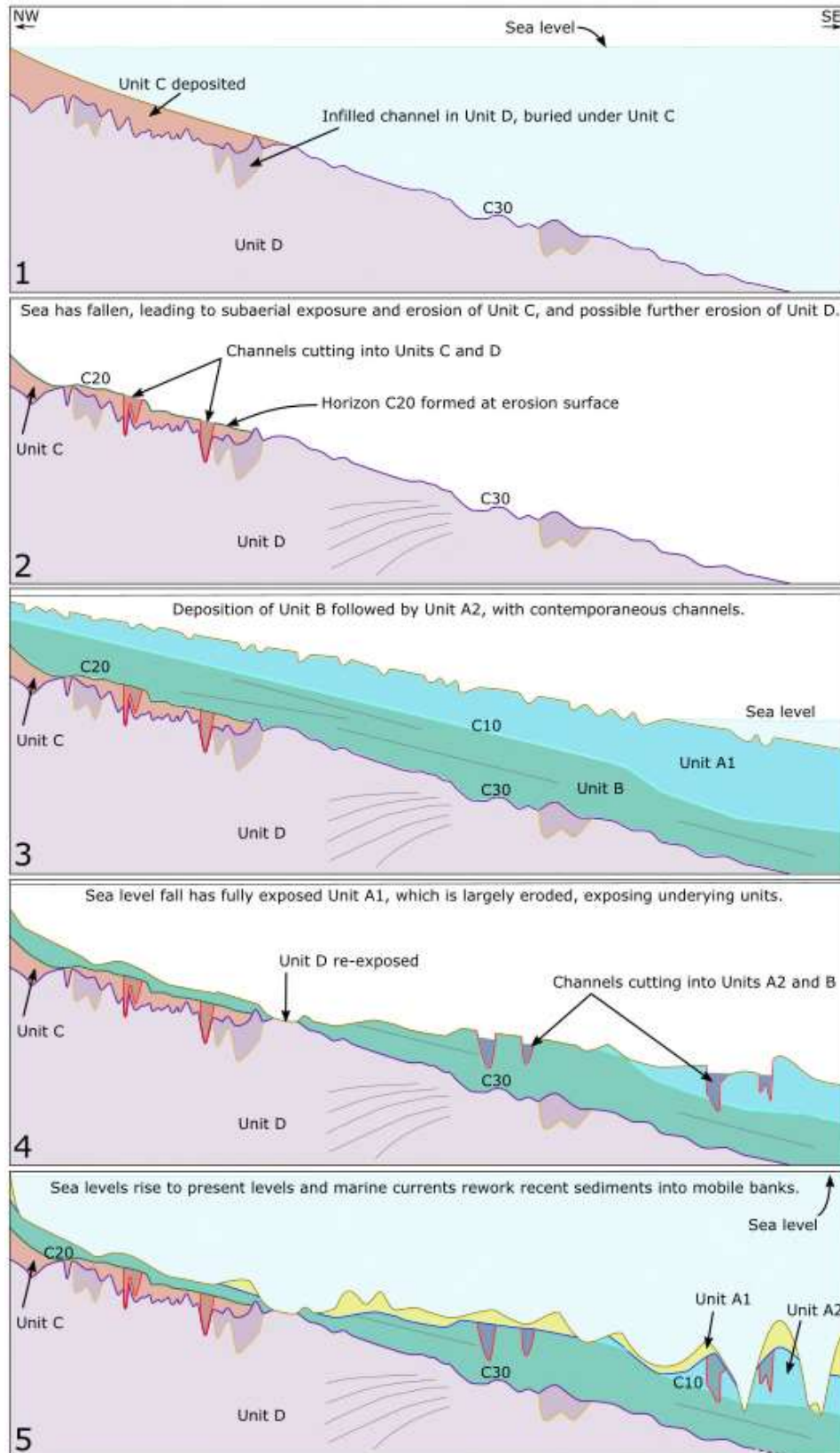


Figure J-7. Schematic Representation of the Evolution and Depositional Environments Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor from OWC (2020)

## J.5.2 Shipping and Navigation Data

### J.5.2.1 United States Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Information

The Port of Virginia includes the facilities of Norfolk and Newport News, with the Port of Norfolk accounting for approximately 95 percent of total trips transiting through the Port of Virginia (Table J-2; USACE 2018). Although the offshore export cables will not be landing in either of these port cities, vessels transiting the southern approaches will cross the offshore export cable corridor as they depart or arrive at the Chesapeake Estuary.

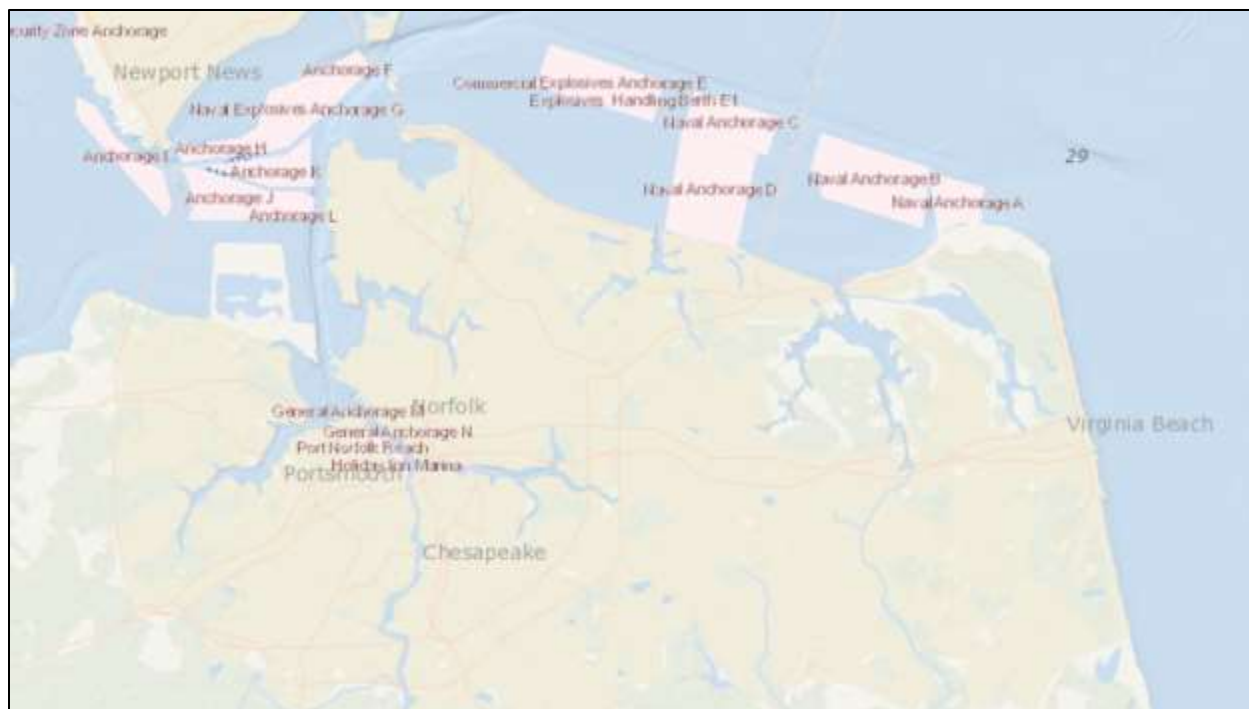
**Table J-2. Number of Trips of Various Vessel Types in the Port of Virginia, Norfolk, and Newport News 2017 (USACE 2018)**

Location	Self-propelled Vessels			Non-self-propelled Vessels		Total Number of Trips
	Dry Cargo	Tanker	Tow/Tug	Dry Cargo	Tanker	
<b>Port of Virginia</b>						
Inbound	2,333	261	5,738	1,407	915	<b>10,544</b>
Outbound	2,576	218	2,053	1,192	926	<b>6,865</b>
<b>Total Trips</b>	<b>4,909</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>7,791</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>17,409</b>
<b>Norfolk Harbor</b>						
Upbound	1,958	225	3,807	1,609	810	<b>8,409</b>
Downbound	2,089	246	3,529	1,380	968	<b>8,212</b>
<b>Total Trips</b>	<b>4,047</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>16,621</b>
<b>Port of Newport News</b>						
Inbound	276	34	1,987	17	107	<b>2,412</b>
Outbound	387	27	1,890	19	98	<b>2,421</b>
<b>Total Trips</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>4,833</b>

“Inbound” refers to waterborne imports and inbound, in-transit merchandise, “outbound” refers to waterborne exports and outbound in-transit merchandise. Similarly, “upbound” refers to traffic that moves in an upstream direction, and “downbound” refers to traffic that moves in a downstream direction. In both ports, the majority of the reported vessel trips were towboats and tugboats, followed by dry cargo vessels. Tugboats and towboats are both secondary vessels that either aid in pushing/pulling or dragging another vessel to a desired location. Dry cargo ships typically carry solid dry goods with a higher tolerance to varying temperatures, whereas tanker ships carry liquefied cargo. The smallest dry cargo ships carry up to twenty deadweight tons (DWT) and the largest can carry up to four hundred DWT.

### Anchors

Data provided by the ICPC determined that, since 2007, 48 percent of submarine cable faults in the UK were caused by anchors, 33 percent from fishing, and 19 percent from “other”. During this time, each case of damage from anchors was the direct result of vessels deploying anchors while they were still underway (ICPC 2009). The export cable landfall is 13.5 nautical miles (25 km) from the entrance of the Chesapeake Bay with many vessels transiting in and out of the Bay bound for ports from Baltimore to Norfolk. There are no officially charted anchorages within close proximity to the export cable landfall (Figure J-8). However, vessels do routinely anchor close to the approaches of the shipping channels as they await a pilot, an offload time, or for customs clearance.



**Figure J-8. Charted Anchorages within the Chesapeake Bay (MARCO 2020)**

Additionally, over the past decade of cable-related work in the City of Virginia Beach, it has been commonly stated to Tetra Tech, Inc. that deep-draft vessels will wait out periods of large swells before using the dredged Atlantic Ocean Channel for travel into the Chesapeake Bay. This is due to the fact that they feel they are at risk of scraping the bottom of the channel when the vessel's keel is at its deepest (in the trough between swells). In addition to the risk of planned anchoring, there is also the risk of unplanned anchor deployments due to human error or in the case of an emergency, such as if a complete propulsion system failure occurs.

In addition to commercial shipping, there is also significant cruise ship use of the Port of Norfolk, Virginia. Carnival Cruise Lines, one of the world's largest cruise ship operators in the world, uses Norfolk as a central hub for many of their Caribbean cruises (see Figure J-9). The two Carnival ships that embark from Norfolk are 272 m and 304 m long (Carnival 2020a, Carnival 2020b).



**Figure J-9. Cruise Ships in Virginia (Crew-Center.com, n.d.)**

### **Shipping Channels and Fairways**

The major shipping channels that are in proximity to the offshore export cable corridor are the Chesapeake Southern Approach (inclusive of the dredged Atlantic Ocean Channel between the outbound and inbound Traffic Separation Scheme) and the Chesapeake Bay Eastern Approach (Figure J-10).

The Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study, conducted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG), reconciles the need for safe access routes with other reasonable waterway uses, such as renewable energy. The USCG designated “potential fairways” to ensure that traditional navigational routes are kept free from obstructions (Figure J-11). Two proposed fairways, the St. Lucie to Chesapeake Bay Offshore fairway and the St. Lucie to Chesapeake Bay Nearshore fairway, will both traverse the offshore export cable corridor. The proposed St. Lucie to Chesapeake Bay Offshore Fairway is about 1,900 km long and approximately 18.5 km wide. The proposed St. Lucie to Chesapeake Bay Nearshore Fairway is about 1,900 km long, and approximately 9 km wide (USCG 2015).

These proposed fairways represent only the recommended traffic routes and although broad, will help to concentrate vessel traffic to some degree. As these fairways are not yet implemented, there is no vessel traffic data available to indicate how traffic, and therefore risk, may be reshaped as a result of their creation. When implemented, these fairways, as well as the vessel traffic patterns at the time of installation and operations, should be examined to identify the most effective cable protection methods. This may include remedial burial efforts for cable route sections reaching less than the target burial depth, as well as additional planning for targeted vulnerable areas of the cable installation, such as at planned joints. The full-scope CBRA effort can investigate this and make recommendations at the time of analysis.

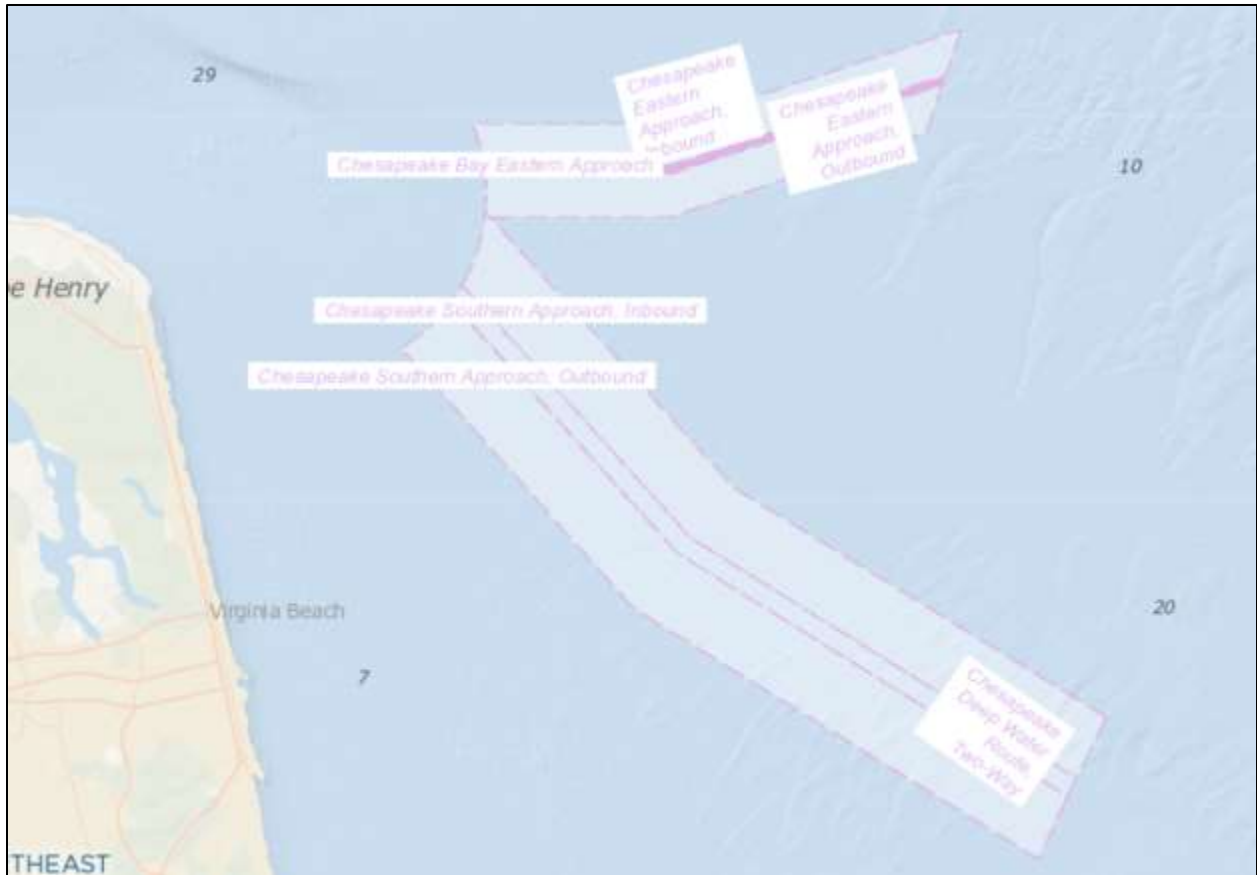


Figure J-10. Shipping Lanes off Virginia Beach, Virginia (NROC 2009)

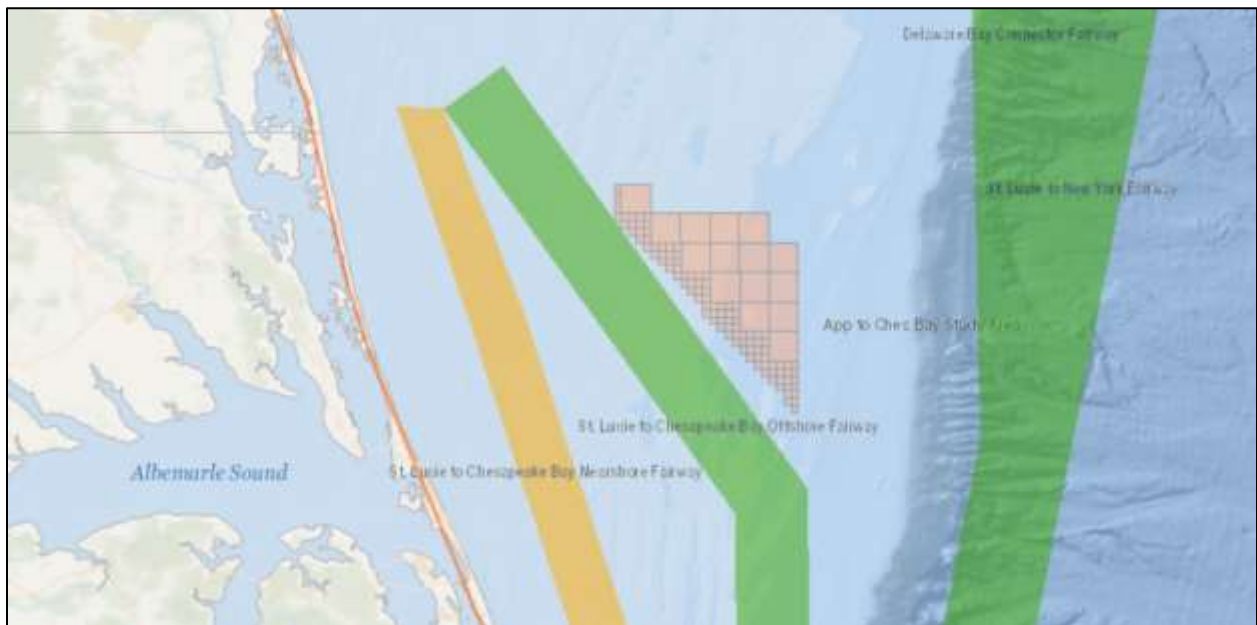


Figure J-11. Proposed Fairways Adjacent to Offshore Project Area (USCG 2015)

### **J.5.2.2 Automatic Identification System Data**

AIS data is a tracking method used by mariners as an anti-collision tool, supplementing marine radar by providing vessel information via a Very High Frequency radio signal. Logged AIS data also enables regulators and planners to monitor the number of vessels and establish traffic patterns within an area, including the location and speed of vessels. The AIS data system is capable of handling thousands of vessel positions per minute and updates as soon as every two seconds (USCG 2015). The Company may require operational AIS on all vessels associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project, pursuant to USCG and AIS carriage requirements. Further, AIS data has been used later in this document to examine the distribution of risk due to vessel traffic.

### **J.5.3 Commercial Fishing**

In addition to the commercial vessels discussed elsewhere in this document, there is also commercial and recreational fishing activity along the coast of Virginia and North Carolina, and within the waters of the offshore Project Area. Information sharing and research on the commercial fishing industry is very important when making decisions about cable burial depth. Previous experience has shown that proper installation of submarine cables can often mitigate future external aggression risk, ensure the safety of the fishermen in the region, and protect Project assets as well. Approximately 33 percent of all cable faults in the UK were caused by commercial fishing activities (ICPC 2009). Thoughtful and intentional planning of cable burial specifics requires both familiarity with fishing techniques and patterns of use in the area.

In 2016, BOEM, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy collaborated to create the Virginia Wind Energy Area Collaborative Fisheries Planning Report. This report served to “identify fishing communities potentially affected by the Virginia wind area, establish a collaborative process for a two-way exchange of information, develop maps of important recreational, commercial, and charter fishing areas around the wind area, build upon BOEM’s best management practices, and create best management practices regarding communicating, design, operation, and environmental monitoring of a commercial wind facility” (Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program 2016). Within the report, areas of high fishing activity were generated on maps that also identified the specific (fishing) gear type(s) in use, as well as determining areas that posed a potential higher risk of damage to installed submarine cables.

As shown in Figure J-12, commercial fishing in proximity to Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind export cable in Virginia was reported to be primarily by pots and traps, with minimal fishing within the actual Wind Development Area. Additionally, it was discovered that the highest levels of fishing within the offshore Project Area occurred in the vicinity of the offshore export cable corridor (Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program 2016). A review of the top species and gear types used in the area of the Project is provided below.

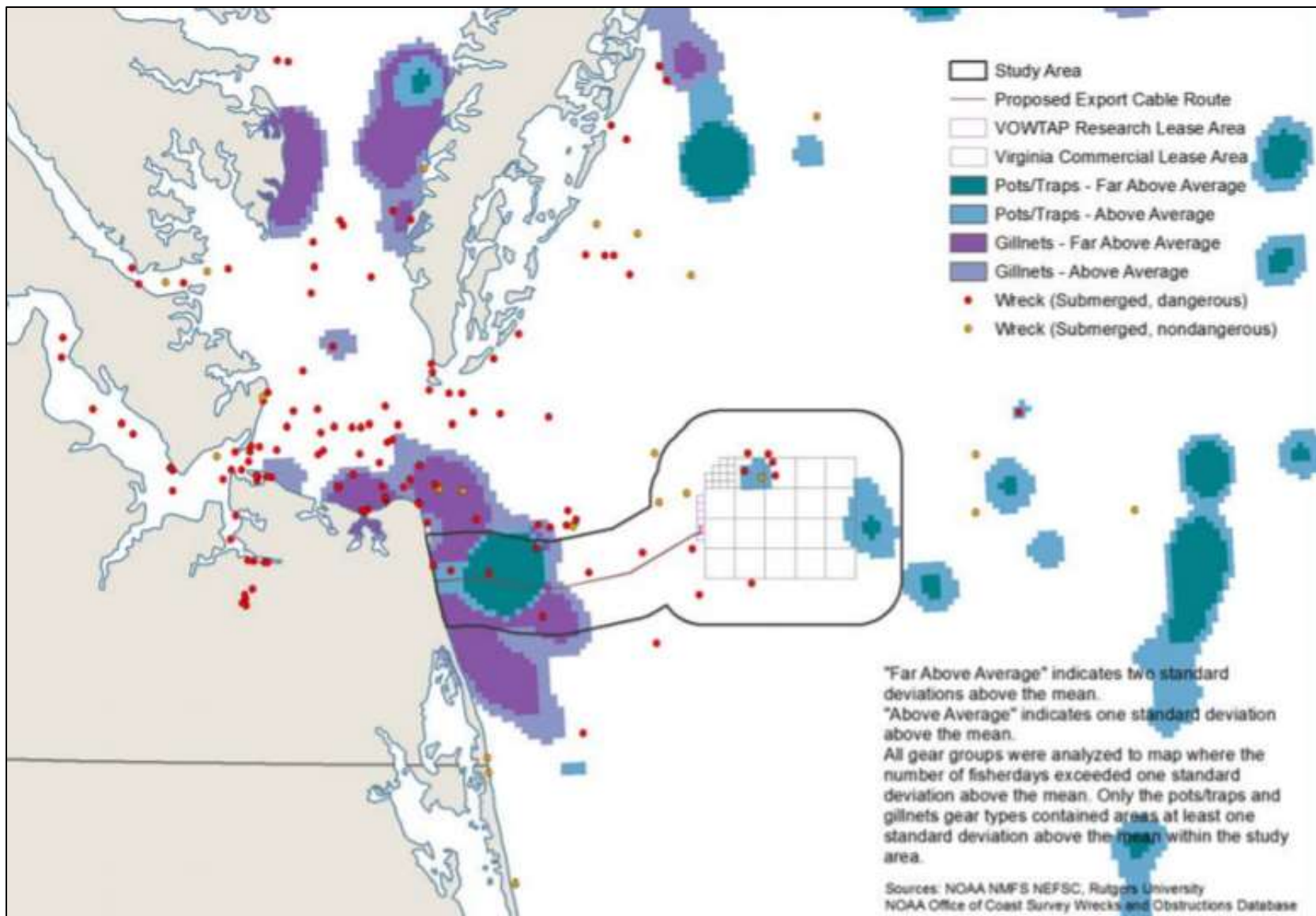


Figure J-12. Highest Use Areas for Select Commercial Fishing Gear Types (Gillnets/ Pots and Traps) (Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program 2016) with Dominion Projects Shown (as this Study Pre-dates the Project)

Acknowledging the fishing industries presence in the offshore Project Area is critical to understanding which species are harvested and what type of gear will be used in the greater vicinity. Extensive research on commercial and recreational fishing has been done in support of the Construction and Operations Plan. Further, the Company has engaged local fisheries experts as its Fisheries Liaison Officer and Fisheries Industry Representative.

In summary, the commercial fisheries that operate within the offshore Project Area are trending down from both a revenue and overall activity perspective. Additionally, many regulators and stakeholders have stated that the Wind Development Area is a very well-sited offshore wind location from a fisheries and maritime use perspective.

This opinion is based on several circumstances specific to the offshore Project Area, including but not limited to the following:

- The offshore export cable corridor has the military warning areas to the north and east, where anchoring and bottom-contact fishing is already prohibited;
- There are very few ports in the region, as the coastline is a contiguous beach with no harbors from Rudee Inlet south to Oregon Inlet (a distance of about 125 km to the south), making vessel access to the offshore export cable corridor difficult, limiting traffic;
- The somewhat homogenous, sandy seabed in the region traversed by the offshore export cable corridor contains few features where fish are known to gather in large numbers. There are a few known fishing grounds nearby, but even these named locations aren't as productive as the continental shelf break east of the offshore Project Area, nor the many known wrecks and the more dramatic bathymetry to the south, closer to Cape Hatteras; and
- The gear types known to be deployed here are not designed to dig deeply into the sediment, relative to other gear, such as hydraulic clam dredges used in other locations.

These facts lead to the conclusion that the cable burial parameters designed to mitigate against other risks (anchoring and mobile seabed) will also be ample to mitigate against fishing risk.

#### **J.5.4 Seabed Benthic Conditions**

Benthic surveys conducted by the Company in Q1 2020 included both drop-down video and benthic grabs at 49 sample stations in the Wind Development Area (Zottoli et al. 2020), including 12 locations located along the offshore export cable corridor. These videos were analyzed for macroinvertebrates and other species, while grab samples were washed through a 0.5-millimeter sieve to collect organisms, shell fragments, and other organic material for further laboratory identification.

This benthic community analysis identified 1,556 individual benthic macrofaunal organisms, from eight unique phyla, found along the offshore export cable corridor. These included infaunal organisms, or organisms that live within the top layer of sediment, and epifaunal organisms, or organisms that live on or attached to the seafloor. Observed phyla included Annelida, Arthropoda, Chordata, Echinodermata, Ectoprocta, Mollusca, Nematoda, and Nemertea, of which annelids, arthropods, and mollusks were most abundant. All samples consisted of soft-sediment fauna, with most stations dominated by small, surface-burrowing fauna. Sea scallops, calico scallops, surfclams, and sand shrimp dominated epifaunal samples. Although most of the observed species of commercial importance were recently post-larval, with a high probability of mortality prior to reaching harvestable size.

Drop-down video identified colonies of soft-bodied invertebrates, likely hydrozoans or bryozoans, along the offshore export cable corridor. Burrows, trails, and biogenic reefs were limited to a small number of worm



tubes and one small burrow; no hardbottom, aquatic vegetation, or evidence of important biogenic habitat was observed. This corroborated grab sample results, which did not contain any mussels, corals, sponges, or other species known to create biogenic structural habitat.

Following the pre-lay grapnel run, cable-laying equipment will disturb the seafloor along a narrow band where the export cable is to be buried. Invertebrates not already disturbed by the grapnel, such as burrowing surf clam, will be displaced by the jet plow (or other installation equipment) during cable installation. Most noble invertebrates will be able to avoid the slow-moving jet plow and likely escape injury. Although less mobile, soft-bodied invertebrates within the trenched area may be crushed or buried. Shelled mollusks (e.g., sea scallops, ocean quahogs, surfclam) will fare better than their soft-bodied counterparts. As jet plow presence in a given area will be limited to several hours, this will represent a transient impact on invertebrates. Surf clams, ocean quahogs, and other burrowing bivalves will be able to reposition themselves at the desired depth in the sediment after cable installation completion.

Construction activities will suspend softbottom sediment and increase turbidity within, and immediately adjacent, to the offshore export cable corridor for a limited period of time. Some bivalve species close their shells to reduce contact with unsuitable water, which temporarily impedes their ability to feed and excrete wastes (Roberts et al. 2016; Roberts and Elliot 2017). However, the suspended sediment plume raised by the jet plow may directly increase the density of benthic algae and detritus in the immediate area, indirectly benefitting surf clam, ocean quahog, and other suspension feeders in or near the offshore export cable corridor. The nutritional value of suspended sediment near the seafloor has been shown to be two orders of magnitude greater than in the water column one meter above the seafloor (Munroe et al. 2013).

The offshore export cable corridor was selected to avoid overlap with sensitive benthic habitats and the route will be further micro-sited within the corridor to avoid boulders and other habitat complexities where possible. This, coupled with the temporary nature of installation, will minimize potential impacts to benthic resources.

## **J.6 THREAT ASSESSMENT**

### **J.6.1 Sediment Mobility**

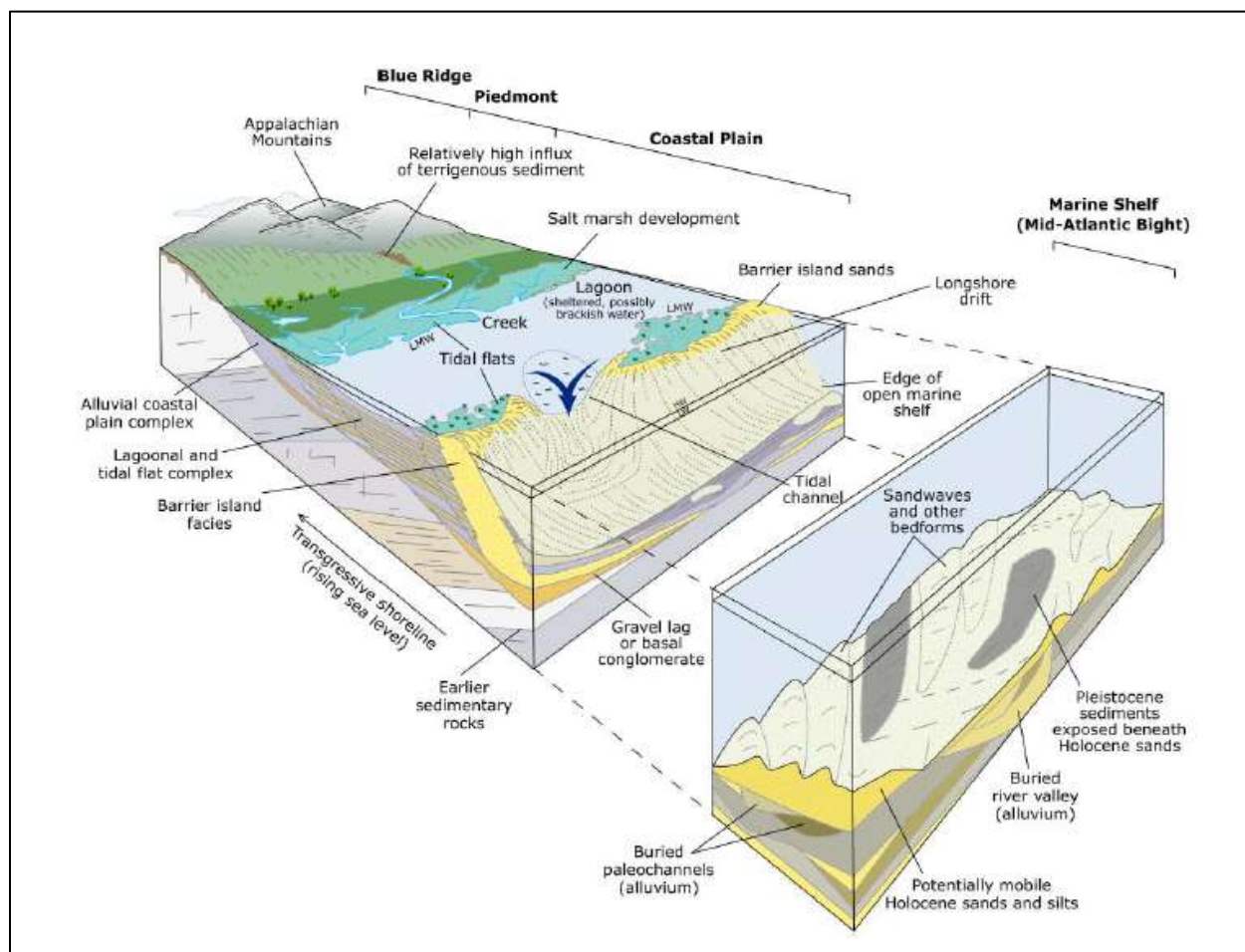
Seabed mobility is a potential threat to the installed cables in two contexts. The first is that scour and erosion of the seabed may effectively lessen the DOL of the cable relative to the surrounding seabed. This removes the vital protection provided by cable burial and may leave the cable at risk of external aggression. In extreme cases, mobile seabed may leave a cable suspended causing accelerated wear of the cable and an increased potential for other seabed users to accidentally snag or damage the cable. The second risk is that in areas of mobile bedforms or accretionary seabed features, the depth of cover over the cables may increase, which can hinder future maintenance operations as well as impact the thermal properties of the cables, potentially reducing ampacity of the system to avoid damage to the cables.

While full geotechnical datasets have not yet been analyzed across the offshore export cable corridor, the HRG data collected by the Company can be evaluated in the context of regional trends and datasets to provide insights into the processes that may drive seabed mobility.

The initial ground model for the Project was developed by OWC utilizing the reconnaissance data from the Company's HRG survey and associated reporting. This effort provides good insight into the seabed surface and potential conditions in the subsurface. While their effort did not specifically map areas of seabed mobility, the morphological terrain mapping in the ground model provides initial insight into the variability along the corridor.

The conceptual geological ground model developed by OWC (2020) provides insight into the past and modern processes that have shaped the seabed in this area, as shown in Figure J-13. Of important note,

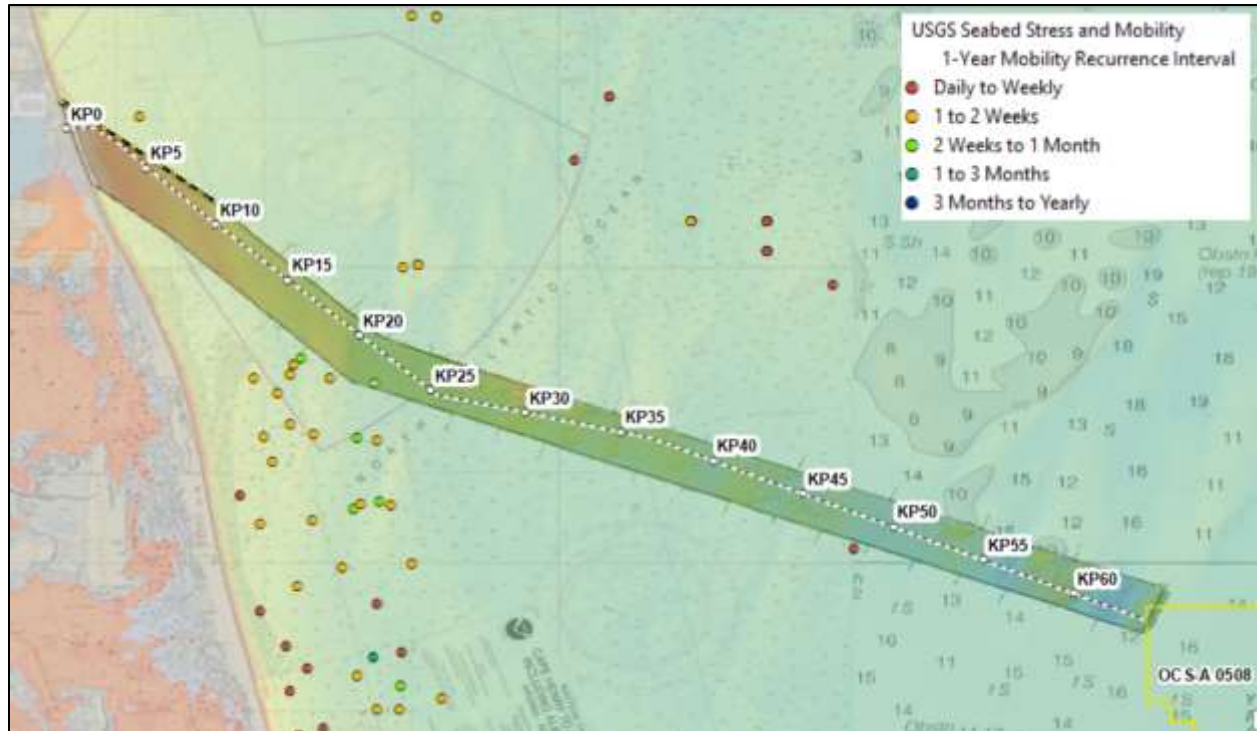
the Holocene marine sand deposits are the most likely areas for seabed mobility. Where these deposits are thin or absent, it may indicate the likelihood of the seabed being bypassed by modern sediment due to predominant current flow regimes and sediment supply. These areas also represent the places with an increased potential for scour and erosion, potentially leading to exposure of the cable.



**Figure J-13. Conceptual Geological Model of the Offshore Project Area from OWC (2020)**

The shallow shelf of the Mid-Atlantic is known to contain several orientations of shore-perpendicular, shore-parallel, and shore-oblique sand ridges. The nature, formation, and propensity of these features to migrate along the seabed has been a focus of study since the latter half of the last century.

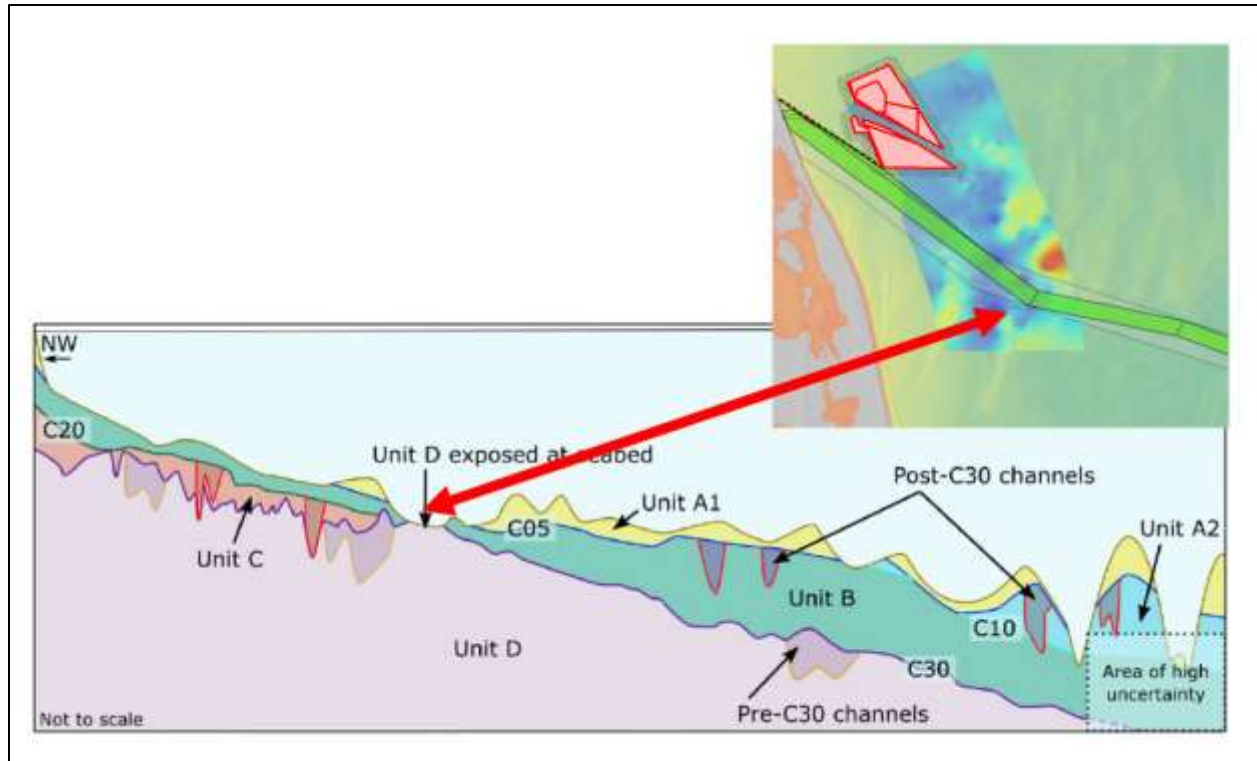
Sand ridge features on several different scales have been observed in the Project datasets and in the bathymetry surrounding the offshore export cable corridor. Initial siting of the corridor alignment was driven by the desire to avoid the highest parts of these features, as it was understood that these areas would have an increased probability of having mobile seabed, and may also be a target resource for future sand mining operations. Figure J-14 below shows the local and regional bathymetry along with a U.S. Geological Survey dataset indicating recurrence intervals for seabed mobility events. The shoals and shallow water areas have a significantly higher number of mobility events. However, even at locations off of these features, the seabed is anticipated to see several to many mobility events per year.



**Figure J-14. Overview of the Offshore Export Cable Bathymetry Survey with Corridor Centerline and KPs Marked. The color-rendered bathymetry in the background gives a good context to the regional shoals. The colored dots represent a broad-scale dataset from the U.S. Geological Survey that looks at modeled seabed currents and sediments to evaluate potential recurrence intervals for seabed mobility events.**

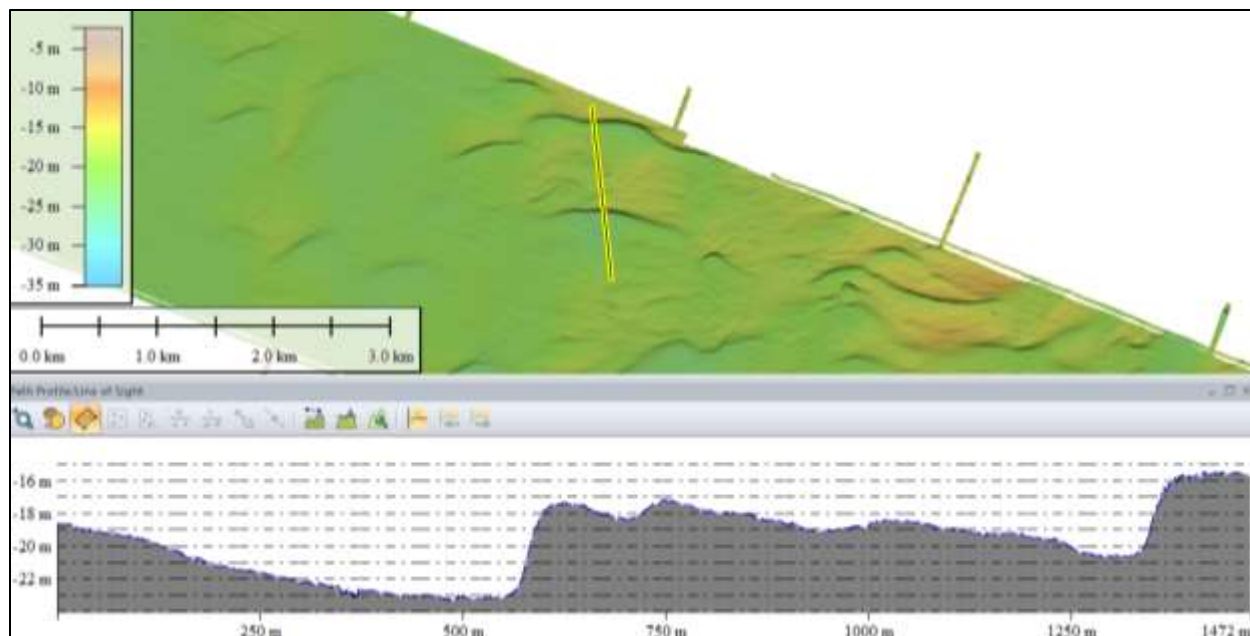
Recent efforts by the BOEM Marine Minerals Program have mapped out contours and developed isopachs to display the thicknesses of sand accumulations in the vicinity of Sandbridge to serve as future sources for beach nourishment (BOEM 2020b).

Figure J-15 shows the conceptual geological cross-section along the offshore export cable route as developed for the ground model report by OWC (2020). Data delivered to the Company allowed for the plotting of the isopach thickness data (color-rendered inset). There is a clear correspondence between the portion of the offshore export cable corridor identified as having little-to-no surficial Holocene sediments and the thin spots in the BOEM dataset showing reduced Holocene sand bodies and lower potential sand resources. This area of bypass may be indicative of the potential for minor scour or non-deposition.



**Figure J-15. Conceptual Schematic Representation of a Cross-Section Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor from the Landing to the Wind Development Area (OWC 2020), with an inset showing (color rendered with warmer colors indicating thicker sediments) the isopach thickness from the BOEM Marine Minerals Program.**

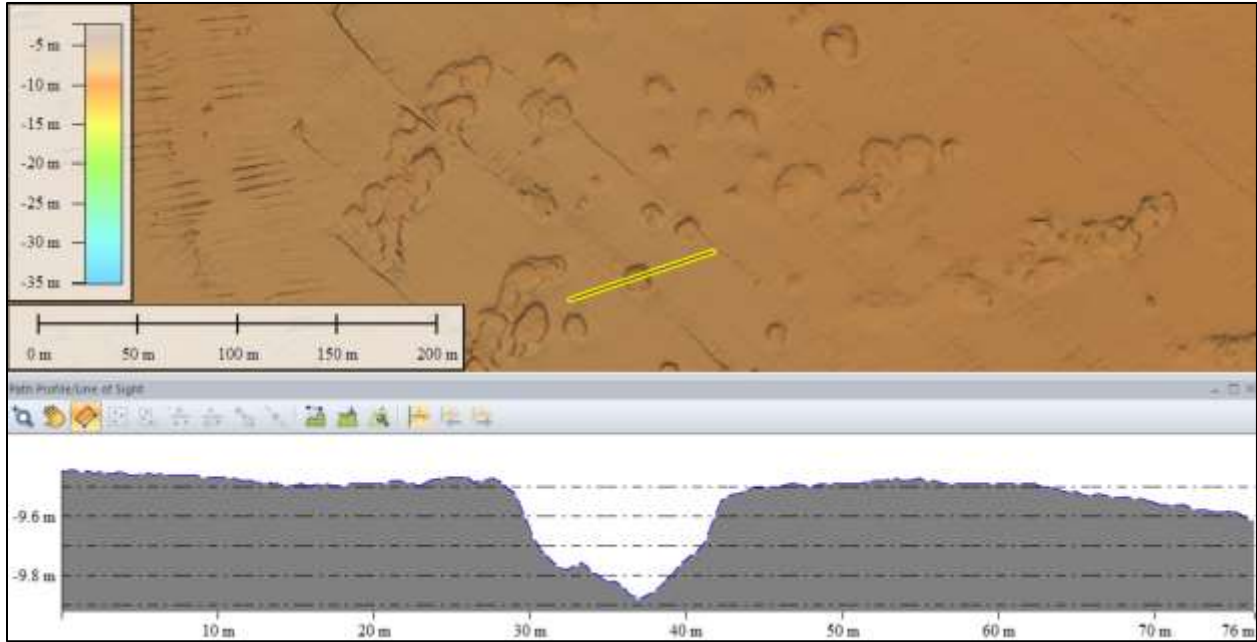
Further along the offshore export cable corridor, a series of larger bedforms are observed. These are more analogous to other sand ridge features that have been studied elsewhere along the U.S. East Coast. (Pendleton et al. 2017) investigated a series of similar bedforms across a timeseries of seabed data off the eastern side of the Delmarva Peninsula. It was found that feature migration rates could vary from less than 5 m to over 15 m per year. This could potentially translate to a migration of more than 500 m over the 35-year useful life of the cable system (Figure J-16).



**Figure J-16. Example Cross Section of Potential Migratory Bedform Features**

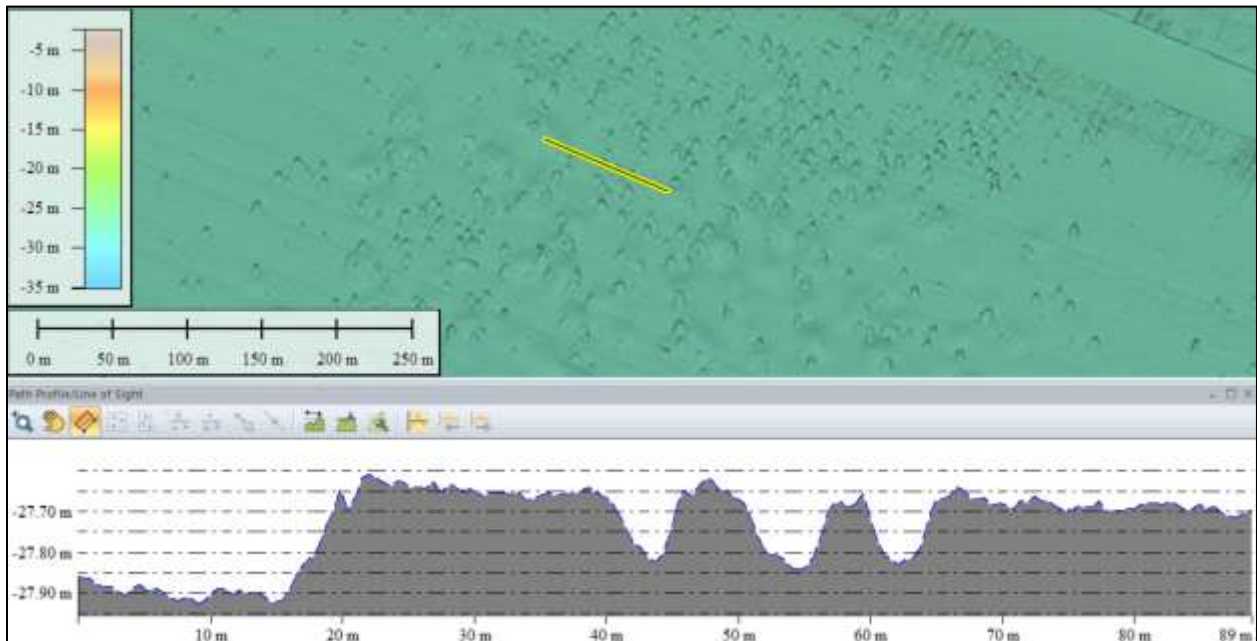
With up to 5 m to 6 m of elevation change between the ridge crest and the trough, these features may potentially require very deep burial to mitigate the possibility of the migration of these features across an installed cable. These features look to be scouring and eroding in the troughs and accreting on the ridges, though migration direction and speed are unknown within the offshore Project Area at this time. As these features are relatively small in the context of the corridor, it is recommended that mitigation through avoidance may prove much more cost effective and provide a more robust solution, rather than attempting to dredge and bury through these features.

Several additional features observed along the cable route give indications of potential seabed mobility that may impact the required recommended DOL for the export cables. A series of potentially scoured, pit-like features are observed in the western portion of the offshore export cable corridor in approximately 10 m of water (Figure J-17). These features are tens of centimeters deep and up to 15 m or more across, with some features appearing isolated and others appearing to merge with adjacent features. While the nature and origin of these features is unknown, we postulate that these could perhaps be scour-related and potentially originating when acted upon by increased wave base during large storm events. OWC (2020) generally identifies terrains with these features as having a “pitted” texture.



**Figure J-17. Potential Scour Features in the Nearshore Area of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor**

Additional unknown but potentially scour or seabed mobility-influenced features are observed in the deeper portions of the offshore export cable corridor (Figure J-18). These features also appear potentially pitted and may be the result of seabed currents interacting with fluid flowing out of the seabed or with a bottom-scouring current. The asymmetry of the features may be indicative of a consistent bottom current acting on the seabed.



**Figure J-18. Deeper Water Features Potentially Related to Seabed Fluid Expulsion and/or Seabed Currents**

Other numerous, smaller-scale (i.e., sub-meter amplitude) bedforms have been identified in the offshore export cable corridor. Initial work to identify the potential seabed reference level relative to the larger bedforms indicates that removal of up to 5 or more meters of sediment may be necessary to get below the base of potential scour from these features. As these features are also likely to be depositional, even if the cables were dredged and then buried, the possibility of accumulation over the cables and subsequent over-burial is very high. If these features can be avoided by route siting, the remainder of the potential seabed mobility features appear to be able to be mitigated through an additional 0.25 m to 0.5 m of burial depth, depending on cable siting within the corridor.

## J.6.2 Anchors

It has been previously shown that the offshore export cable corridor traverses some heavily trafficked areas, both in the nearshore sections where the proposed Chesapeake Bay to St Lucie Nearshore fairway is used by coastal traffic, as well as tug and barge traffic. The offshore fairway also experiences a large volume of heavy commercial vessels such as tankers, bulk carriers, car carriers, container vessels, and military vessels. Additionally, there is an area (located predominantly in the offshore section) where the anchoring of commercial vessels awaiting pilots or clearance appears to regularly occur.

The holding capacity of an anchor is governed by the following two parameters:

- The area of the anchor fluke; and
- The penetration depth of the anchor.

Therefore, deep anchor penetration occurs in soft clays or silt and shallower penetration occurs in gravel, dense sand, or more consolidated seabed. The penetration depth will also be governed by the design and size of the anchor, as well as its weight and the weight of the chain connected to it. It can reasonably be assumed that the larger the vessel, the larger the anchor(s) required to hold it in place when anchoring will need to be.

The main threats perceived within the offshore export cable corridor are:

- Vessel 'ad-hoc' anchoring outside of the shipping channels;
- Unintended or accidental anchor deployment by a vessel passing over the cable; and
- Emergency anchoring undertaken by a vessel due to an event such as a fire or loss of propulsion.

Vessel sizes have trended larger over time and anchor sizes have increased accordingly. For example, the Maersk Triple E-class container vessels, which entered into service in 2013, are 400 m in length and have a DWT of 196,000 tons. The anchors for these vessels weigh 31 tons (Figure J-19) each, which is greater than those depicted in Table J-3, leading to greater seabed penetration depths. However, no Triple E-class vessels of this size are known to operate in the offshore Project Area.



**Figure J-19. Maersk Triple E-class Container Ship Anchor (Courtesy of Maersk)**

Since there are discrepancies between the anchor sizing/penetration depth tables and the anchor sizes actually encountered in the maritime industry, and due to the fact that the Project does not yet have geotechnical data to leverage, it may become necessary to conduct further research to calibrate the CBRA and burial depth recommendations. Furthermore, this study has not yet fully quantified the risks from DoD warships and support vessels. The full-scope CBRA effort can investigate this risk in more detail. However, a proper study should involve direct communication with the DoD to understand the range of vessels and anchor sizes utilized in the area, frequency and future plans for operations across the route. Investigations into the awareness procedures prior to planned and emergency anchoring by military vessels should also be considered.

### **J.6.3 Dredging/Dumping**

As previously described, the offshore export cable corridor transits to the south of the DNODS, where dredged material sediment dumping occurs. The DNODS is located approximately 4.6 km off the coast of Virginia, between the Dam Neck Naval Air Station (just west of the southern boundary of the DNODS) and the public portion of Virginia Beach (just west of the northern boundary), as shown in See Figure J-20. This dredged material placement area is managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and USACE and has been used actively for dredged material placement since 1967.





**Figure J-20. Offshore Export Cable Bathymetry Survey Area (Brown) Shown Alongside DNODS (Charted) and Sand Borrow Areas (Red Polygons)**

Figure J-20 also shows the relationship between the offshore export cable corridor and the DNODS area which is delineated by a black dashed line on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chart. Due to the avoidance of this well-defined area, this preliminary CBRA considers the risk to the cables by dumping in the DNODS to be negligible. Existing sand borrow areas are located offshore of the Sandbridge Beach area and represent an important source of materials used to replenish the beaches experiencing erosion and loss of sand. The sandy beaches provide crucial protection to the homes and businesses immediately inland of the beach, especially in the event of severe coastal storms and associated storm surges. Careful documentation of the cable locations and thorough coordination with sand mining operations will be crucial to ensuring protection of the cables from these nearby activities. The sand borrow areas in federal waters are administered by BOEM's Marine Minerals Program. The use of hopper dredges and/or submerged pipe to transport sand from the dredge areas to the beach may cross the offshore export

cable corridor. A well-buried cable should be protected from risks associated with the traverse of these vessels and equipment. Still, the likelihood of these operations occurring emphasizes the importance of achieving cable burial in the nearshore area of the offshore export cable corridor. The pink polygons in Figure J-20 illustrate the past and current sand borrow areas off of Sandbridge, Virginia.

While sand borrow areas are reassessed and assigned as needed, there are also potential sand resources available outside of the immediate vicinity of the planned cables, such that the expansion of these borrow areas will have to encroach on the planned routes. A detailed discussion with BOEM's Marine Mineral Program on the planned need and potential sources for future sand resources, as projected over the cable's useful life, should be considered under either the Project's ongoing dialogue with BOEM or as a task under the full-scope CBRA.

#### **J.6.4 Other Seabed Assets**

Existing fiber optic (DUNANT, MAREA, and BRUSA) and power cables (Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Pilot Project export cable) lay well to the North of the Project's offshore export cable corridor, resulting in no known crossings. Additionally, there are no known out of service cables or pipelines that cross the export cable corridor. A fiber optic telecommunications cable system, GlobalLinx, is planned to land in the vicinity of the Project in Sandbridge, Virginia. Initial review of permitting documentation indicates that the HDDs can be adequately deconflicted. Further information on potential telecommunications cable routes is not available. Due to relative proximity, close liaison with the telecommunications developer(s) should be considered to adequately deconflict designed routes and any installation and maintenance operations. HDD installation and cable landings represent the possibility for anchoring or spudding of installation vessels in proximity to subsea assets, once installed. This can be further studied in the full-scope CBRA.

This study does not address risks due to reduced burial at crossing locations as any crossings are pending information on future planned assets. The installation of future power cables related to the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial (CVOW Commercial) Project (Lease OCS-A 0483) as well as potential maintenance operations on the existing cables north of the project are not considered as contributing any significant risk to the Project. Thorough documentation of the cable locations and coordination with the DoD will be critical to ensure the installation of any future cables by the DoD or maintenance on existing facilities are adequately deconflicted with the Project. The U.S. Navy Office of Seafloor Cable Protection serves this role and deconflicts DoD projects with both commercial cables and other DoD operations. Continued liaison with this office is strongly recommended throughout the design, installation, and operational phases of the Project.

#### **J.6.5 Unexploded Ordnance**

The technical content of this section has not changed as of December 2020. As of August 2022, a Desk Study for Potential UXO Contamination was completed and can be referenced in Appendix HH. As previously detailed, the offshore export cable corridor transits a firing range area danger area. While most of the current onshore training activity appears to be small arms fire, the Dam Neck Gun Line range was used historically by the military (primarily the U.S. Navy) to test fire and train personnel in the use of naval artillery and anti-aircraft systems. Tetra Tech, Inc. has extensive experience with assessing risk in the offshore Project Area having worked on previous projects with shore landings in the vicinity of Camp Pendleton. This experience will be used in the following preliminary, high-level summary of the possible threat to the Project due to UXO. Modern DoD training operations, including live-fire exercises, occur in these areas as well.

Given the historical and ongoing munitions training activities within a portion of the offshore Project Area, there is potential to encounter and contact UXO and other potentially explosive items that may be on the seabed or in the sediments during survey, installation, or maintenance of a portion of the offshore export cables. This section discusses this potential and the currently available information in an effort to estimate

the probability and likely consequences of encountering and detonating an explosive item during the Project.

The shore approach portion of the offshore Project Area is encompassed by the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex, which supports at-sea training exercises, research, development, testing, and evaluation activities for the U.S. Navy Atlantic Fleet. Located onshore, to the south and adjacent to Camp Pendleton, is Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex (Dam Neck), home to the Fleet Combat Training Center, Atlantic. Founded in 1941 as an anti-aircraft range, Dam Neck has been an active training ground for military personnel since its founding, and operational training continues to the present day on a number of major weapons systems. Historical and current operations at Dam Neck are of particular interest to the Project because the installation route passes through two offshore safety fans associated with historical land-based training ranges located onshore as well as the Camp Pendleton Danger Zone (see Figure J-21 and Figure J-22). These two areas are designated by the Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as “Danger Zone 33 CFR § 334.380; naval firing range” and “Danger Zone 33 CFR § 334.390; firing range.” They overlap with the VACAPES Range Complex’s Operational Areas and Special Use Airspace areas, including R-6606, W-50 and W-72 (Office for Coastal Management 2020a, 2020b). These are areas of historical and current naval operations that may affect the Project cable route design, survey, installation, and maintenance.

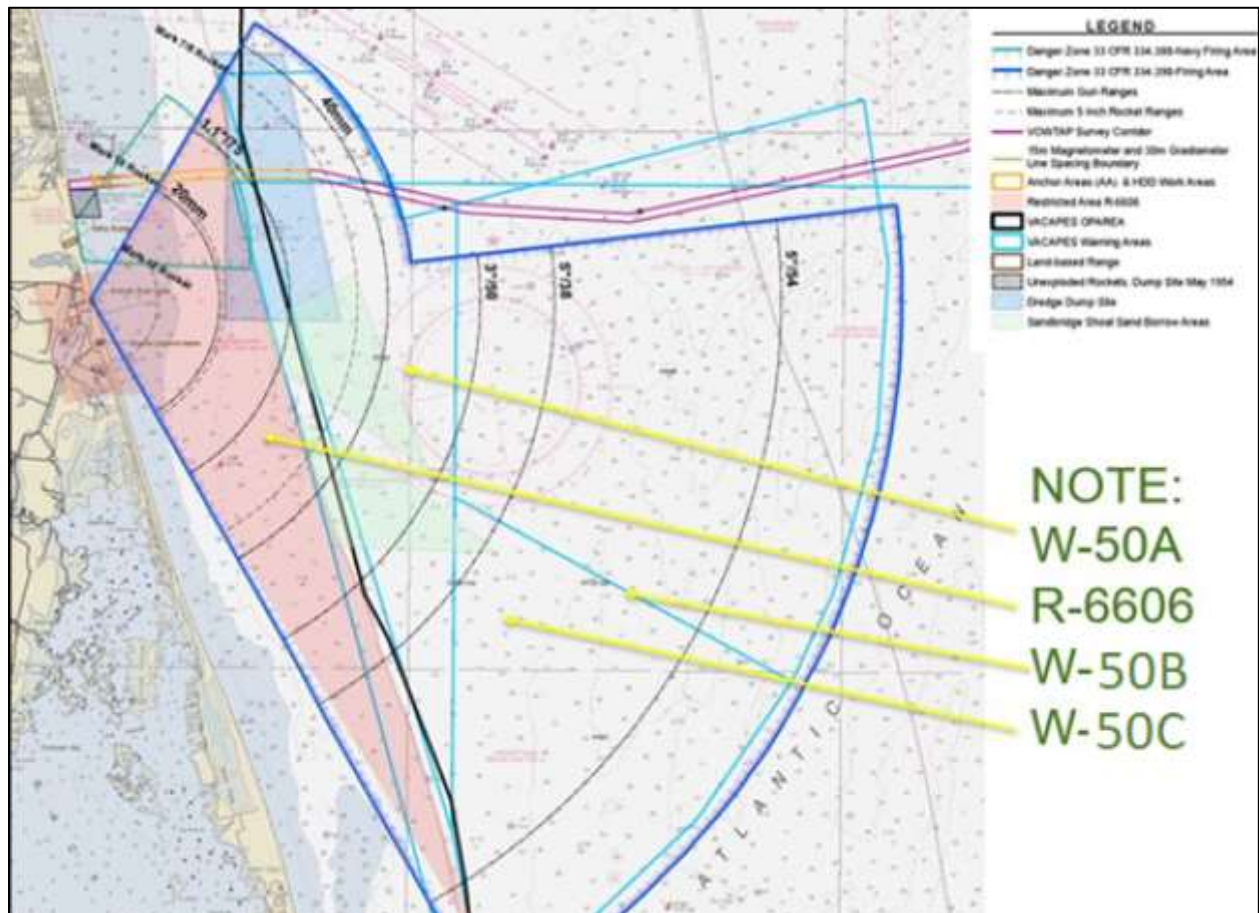


Figure J-21. Restricted Zones and Warning Areas in the Context of Approximate Extents of the Maximum Ranges of Weapons Historically Used at the Dam Neck Gun Line

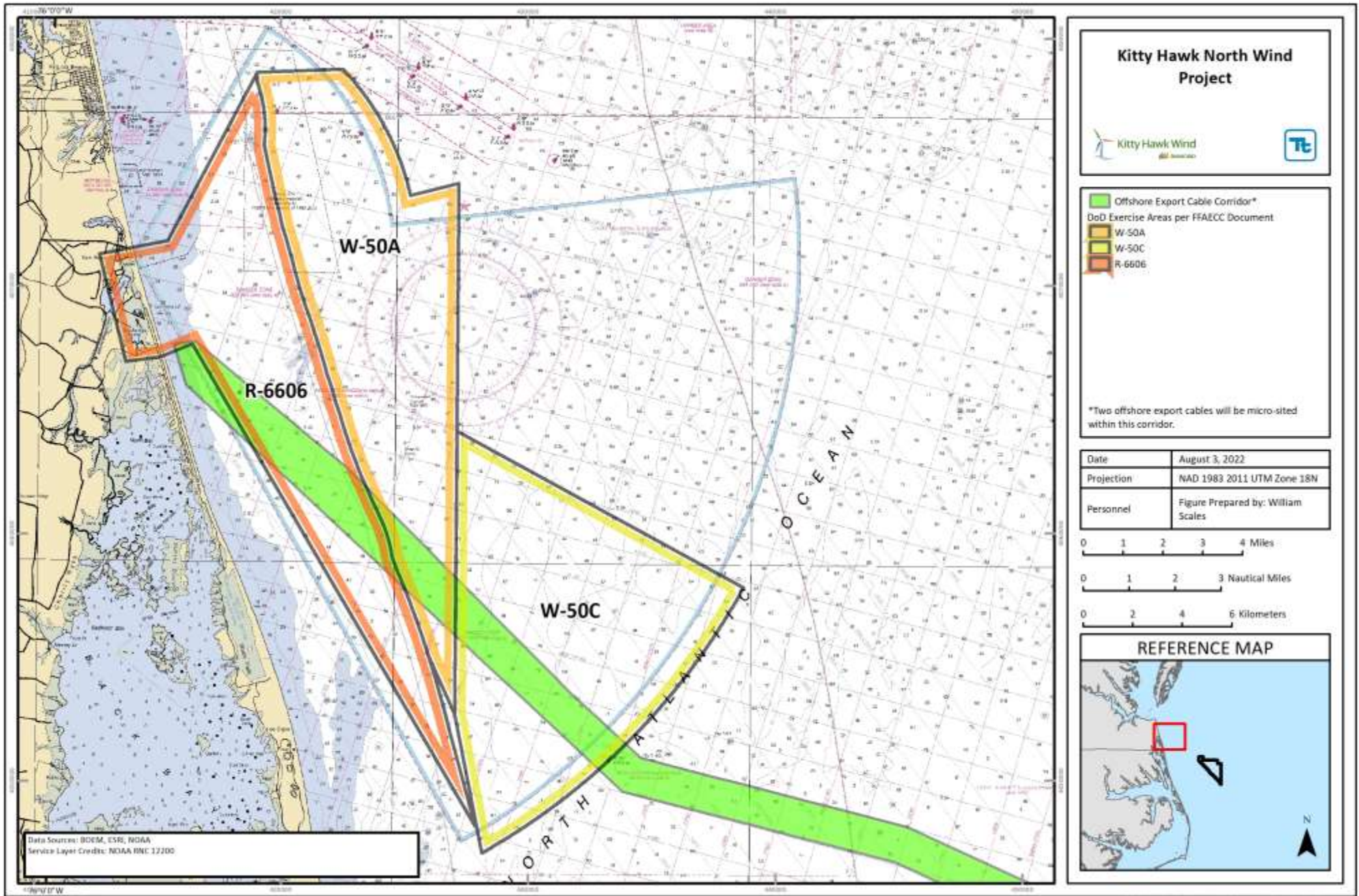


Figure J-22. Offshore Project Area in Relation to the DoD Warning Areas

Historical as well as more recent information regarding range use can be gathered from publicly available online sources and through research conducted at the National Archives and Records Administration. This section provides a brief listing of those historical and current sources of UXO and provides commentary on the potential distribution of UXO and discarded military munitions (hereafter referred to collectively as Munitions and Explosives of Concern [MEC]) that present an explosive hazard with respect to construction in the offshore Project Area. This initial assessment is meant to be a high-level evaluation of the types of hazards posed to the cable installation workers and equipment by MEC that may be present within the portions of the landfall and offshore export cable corridor located within the firing ranges.

The following sub-areas of the offshore export cable corridor should each be identified using Project installation specific parameters and extents and then analyzed for the appropriate potential impacts and risk susceptibility of the associated activity:

- **HDD Area:** That portion of the offshore Project Area where HDD will occur, extending from inland of the preliminary transition joint bay locations to the mean low water line to encompass the HDD on-land HDD operations.
- **HDD Punch Out Area:** Offshore location where HDD will end. This may include anchored barges or jackup rigs. In water operations such as jetting tools may be utilized for cable burial. Divers may be on bottom with the tools, as well as to affix and remove the HDD duct end cap, retrieve the messenger wire etc.
- **Main Lay Burial Area:** That portion of the offshore Project Area that extends eastward from the HDD exit to the electrical service platform within the Wind Development Area. The western portion of this area does transit the MEC area of concern.

Very high resolution, full-coverage gradiometer surveys will determine the presence of ferrous items that may or may not be MEC. Generally speaking, such surveys detect ferrous items above a certain size. Objects that are MEC but fall below the threshold of detection may be small enough to be unlikely to cause damage to equipment, but may pose a threat to personnel, especially if underwater or if the threat item becomes lodged in a tool that is brought onboard the vessel. The particular specifications for that survey effort should be driven by the determination of the size of MEC targets of concern for the Project, following a thorough risk analysis.

### J.6.5.1 Specific Danger Zones

The review below incorporates publicly available information in order to determine the weapons known to be used and potentially contributing to MEC, which informs the size, type, and at the highest level, the distribution of projectiles that may be potentially encountered.

**R-6606** – The offshore export cable corridor traverses just west Restricted Area R-6606. Activities currently conducted within R-6606 include parachute drops; research, development, testing and evaluation; target transit and recovery, exclusive air operations, remotely piloted vehicle operations, and anti-submarine tactical air control. R-6606 extends from a point on the Dam Neck Annex shoreline to the 3-nautical mile (5.56-km) limit and borders the western limit of Special Use Airspace Warning Area W-50 from the surface to flight pressure level 510 (i.e., 51,000 feet).

**W-50** – Air-to-surface and surface-to-surface exercises using inert ordnance are authorized, but W-50 is predominantly used for mine counter measure training exercises. W-50 is comprised of three sub-areas (W-50A, W-50B and W-50C) – W-50A and W-50C are crossed by the offshore export cable corridor.

**W-72** – Special Use Airspace Warning Area W-72 extends from the boundary with W-50 on the west to the eastern and southern boundaries of the VACAPEs Operational Area. Air-to-air, air-to-surface, and surface-

to-surface missile, guns, cannons, bomb exercises using conventional ordnance, and air combat maneuvering training are authorized in W-72. W-72 is sub-divided into many smaller areas, several of which overlap the offshore export cable corridor.

### J.6.5.2 Historical Photos and Conceptual Model of VACAPES Range Operations

The Dam Neck Gun Line was established in 1941 and included guns that would typically be found on a Navy ship of the era. The guns were positioned on a 284-m-long paved surface along the shoreline, with firing directed over the beach and into the ocean. The Gun Line was active throughout World War II and into the 1970s and is the primary source of potential MEC in the offshore Project Area (Figure J-23). While the range was still considered active and three guns were still functional in 2004 (used for maintenance training), the guns have not been fired since the late 1980s due to the difficulty of clearing the adjacent ocean of recreational and commercial boaters (U.S. Navy 2004). From historical data, it seems that the 5-inch 54 caliber (abbreviated 5"/54) naval guns were the biggest used on the Gun Line, these fire projectiles 5 inches in diameter weighing approximately 25 kilograms up to a maximum range of 24 km, containing a bursting charge of 3.3 kilograms of high explosives. Additionally, the 5"/54 had the ability to fire a "rocket assisted projectile" capable of range of over 27 km.



Figure J-23. Photos of Various Guns on the Dam Neck Firing Line

Figure J-24 shows the Dam Neck Gun Line, some of the associated military activities (drone launches, aerial target towing etc.) as well as the arcs of Warning Areas 50 and 72, as well as Danger Zone 334.390. Please note that the proposed landfall is approximately 6.5 km south of the Dam Neck Gun Line.

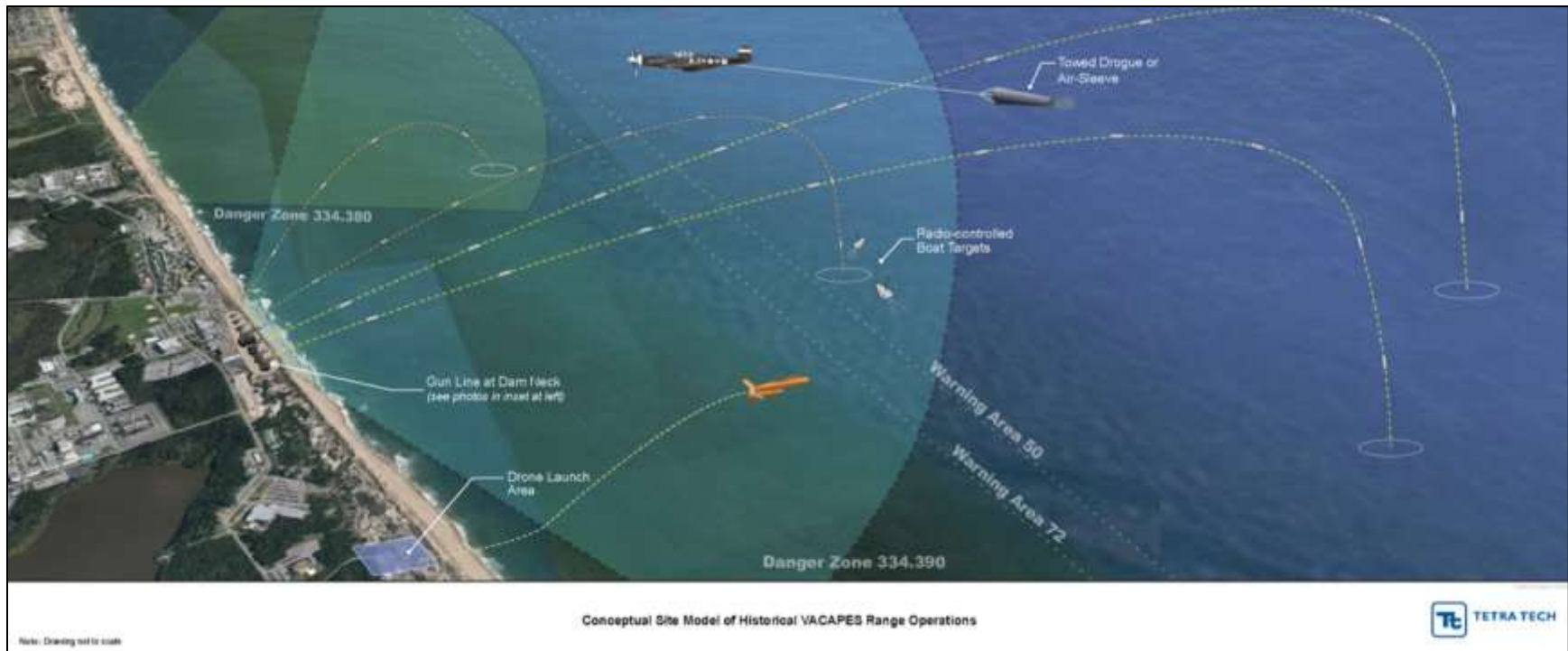


Figure J-24. Conceptual Image Showing Historical VACAPES Range Operations

### **J.6.6 Marine Debris**

With the currently available geophysical survey data, no obvious risks associated with marine debris have been encountered. A possible wreck has been identified around kilometer point (KP) 29, but the offshore export cable corridor should be wide enough to accommodate routing around this.

It is possible that subsequent geotechnical survey data will reveal marine debris (wrecks, dumped items, etc.) that could pose a threat to the cables and installation operations; these would be considered within the full-scope CBRA.

Please note that immediately prior to cable installation operations, a pre-lay grapnel run should be undertaken. This will clear unknown debris such as lost fishing gear, discarded wire, rope or chain, poles etc. that could be too small to show up on side scan or multi beam echo sounder surveys.

### **J.6.7 Cultural Resources**

The risk and threat from cultural resources has not been considered within this document. The Cultural Resources chapter of the COP is under development, and the presence or absence of cultural resources has not yet been determined. However, this will be rectified in the later stages CBRA once the information is available. Please note that the Company has commissioned SEARCH Inc to evaluate potential impacts to cultural and archeological resources within the offshore export cable corridor.

As the offshore export cable corridor HRG campaigns continue to acquire data, that data will be examined by the Project's Qualified Marine Archaeologist. If potential cultural targets are identified, the Qualified Marine Archaeologist will assess and determine a suitable avoidance buffer for the target and cable routing will be micro-sited to avoid exclusion areas. The Qualified Marine Archaeologist may also assess whether any paleolandform features at the seabed or in the shallow subsurface have the potential to represent cultural resources. If shallowly buried paleolandscape features are identified by the Qualified Marine Archaeologist, any plans to bury the cables will need to consider the vertical area of potential effect of the cable installation in relation to the 3-dimensional avoidance zone established for the potential cultural resource target. Impacts will likely be able to be mitigated or minimized through route micro-siting, modifications to the cable burial plan, and an unanticipated discovery plan.

### **J.6.8 Prevailing Metocean Conditions**

The review of metocean conditions is outside the scope of this document. However, it is understood that the main threat to the cables would be either the reduction of cover, or the increase in cover caused by shifting sediments due to storm and hurricane events. A sediment mobility study in conjunction with a review of historical storm and hurricane data is recommended to account for this threat in the full-scope CBRA.

## **J.7 CABLE BURIAL ASSESSMENT**

### **J.7.1 Summary**

An examination of the 2019 AIS dataset as compiled by Anatec Limited was used as the basis for the initial risk assessment along the offshore export cable corridor from commercial, recreational, and military vessels. It should be noted that the data was provided from Anatec Limited with the understanding that it was in a 'raw' state and requires significant post-processing to be fully useful in a full Carbon Trust-style quantitative CBRA methodology.

A simple but robust system to distribute vessel navigational data via Very High Frequency radio, AIS transponders relies on manually input variables for vessel particulars, such as length, width, draft, and status, while attributes such as location, speed and heading are provided by the vessels navigational systems and are typically much more reliable. As such, vessel particulars, especially on recreational



vessels, pleasure craft, and smaller fishing vessels, tend to have errors that can influence a study such as this one. Vessels entering lengths in feet when it should have been in meters is a common issue. A small typo or extra digit quickly makes a small sailboat appear as large as a tanker. A complete post-processing of this dataset is beyond the scope of this study, but we have undertaken an initial quality control effort and significant outlier datapoints have been edited or removed from the vessel tracks immediately in the area of the cable route.

## J.7.2 Initial Risk Assessment Methodology

The AIS data was loaded into a Python processing environment and using the Pandas “big data” library, it was sorted and parsed in a variety of ways to provide GIS files representing point data and ship track reconstructions. By understanding the spatial distribution and relative level of risk associated with this data, risk profiles can be attributed to specific portions of the cable alignments.

### J.7.2.1 Exposure to Vessel Traffic

In order to assess the exposure of different portions of the route to vessel traffic, the route was divided into multiple segments at 2-km length intervals (Figure J-25). This resulted in 32 segments of 2 km with an additional segment of approximately 70 m at the end of the route. These segments were labeled by the start and end KP—e.g., “KP0 to KP2,” “KP2 to KP4,” etc. To reduce the amount of data to curate and increase processing speeds, the vessel track was clipped to the extents of the offshore export cable corridor and intersections between the corridor centerline and the vessel tracks were calculated. These points were then given the attributes from the vessel track and brought into Microsoft Excel for further sorting and analysis.



Figure J-25. 2-km Lengths Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Centerline.

A pivot table and various filters were used to tabulate and graph vessel types and sizes along each 2-km section of the route. This workflow gives an indication of the total number and spatial distribution of vessels crossing the cable route each year. Combining these frequencies with the anchor size and penetration

results, a first-order estimate of the potential risk and appropriate mitigations by increased DOL can be established.

### J.7.2.2 Exposure to Vessels at Anchor

In order to evaluate the potential risks from intentionally anchored vessels, the AIS datasets were interrogated to extract out point data representing the AIS “pings” while vessels were either indicating an AIS status of “at anchor” or the vessels had a speed of under 0.5 nautical miles per hour. Another common AIS issue is that vessels will either miscode their operational status or forget to update it. We commonly saw vessels with an AIS status of “at anchor” while transiting at 5 or 10 nautical miles per hour or more for hours. These were filtered out and removed from the dataset, as the vessels were not at anchor but transiting with an improper AIS status.

We note several things upon further investigation of these datasets. Some commercial vessels, especially the larger container ships, bulk carriers, and tankers may set a status of “at anchor,” but look to exhibit very slowly wandering ship tracks, not indicative of a vessel sitting with an actual anchor deployed. It is assumed that these vessels are waiting for orders on next ports of call or for a quayside to open up before transiting through the Atlantic Ocean Channel and into the Chesapeake Bay. Rather than setting the anchor, these vessels hold station or drift slowly under minimal power for relatively short durations. Both these vessels and those truly on anchor should heed charted cable areas and no-anchor zones, emphasizing how important adequate marine awareness campaigns are to the protection of the cables.

To further evaluate the distribution of anchored vessels along the route, the same 2-km sections of centerline used in the analyses above were individually buffered using a square buffer at 3 km per side, resulting in a 6-km-wide corridor with bins at 2-km intervals along the route (Figure J-26). The anchored vessels’ AIS pings were then spatially queried and attributed to the appropriate section of the route.

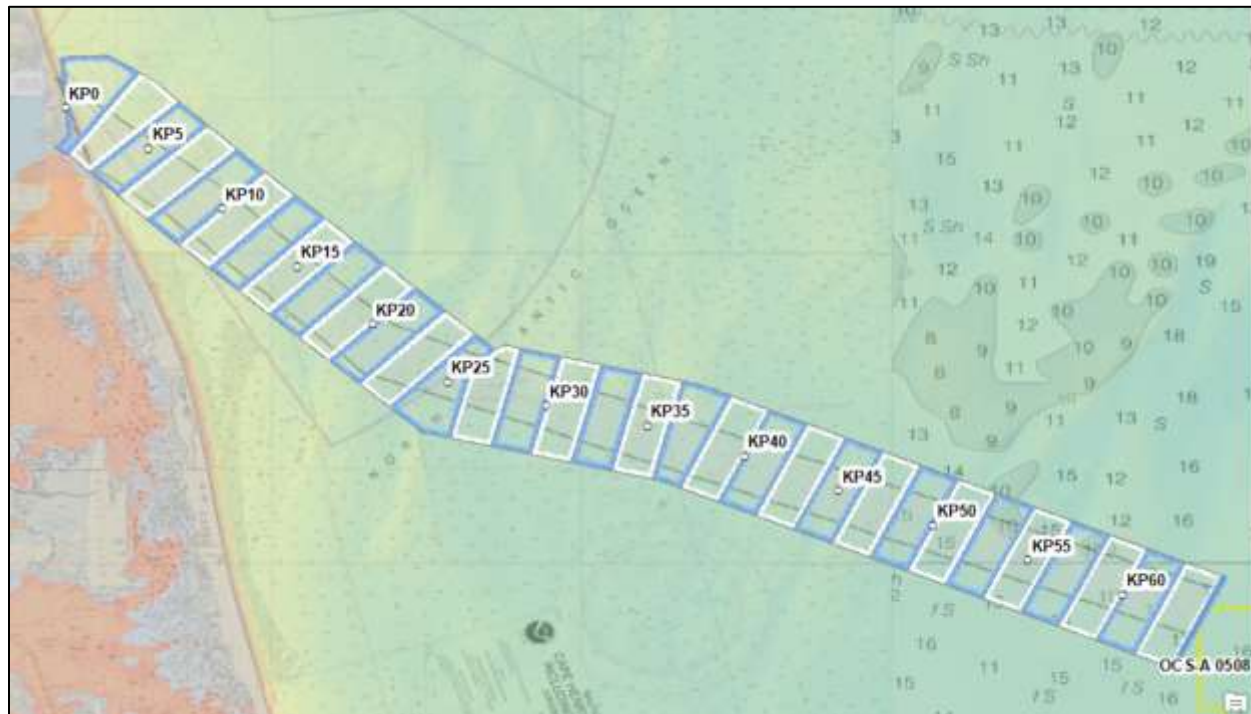


Figure J-26. 2-km by 6-km-wide Bins Along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Centerline

### J.7.2.3 Anchor Size and Penetration Estimation

To understand and evaluate the risks to the cables from vessel anchors, the sizes and types of anchors commonly utilized needs to be understood. Extrapolating from the data cited in the Carbon Trust CBRA Application Guide and augmenting with internally developed numbers within Tetra Tech Inc., Table J-3 has been developed to capture approximate ranges of vessel DWT, approximate anchor size, anchor fluke length, and anchor penetration into the seabed.

**Table J-3. Anchor Depths by Gross Tonnage**

Minimum DWT (te)	Maximum DWT (te)	Displacement (est, tons)	Anchor Weight (est, kg)	Fluke Length (estimated, m)	Anchor Penetration High Strength (m)	Anchor Penetration Low Strength (m)
10	50	17	36	0.3	0.2	0.8
50	100	85	82	0.4	0.3	1.0
100	150	170	125	0.5	0.35	1.2
150	350	255	10	0.55	0.4	1.25
350	500	595	270	0.65	0.45	1.5
500	1,000	850	335	0.7	0.5	1.6
1,000	2,500	1,700	525	0.8	0.6	1.9
2,500	5,000	4,250	955	1	0.7	2.3
5,000	10,000	8,500	1,500	1.2	0.8	2.6
10,000	20,000	17,000	2,400	1.3	1.0	3.1
20,000	50,000	34,000	3,800	1.6	1.1	3.6
50,000	100,000	85,000	7,000	1.9	1.4	4.4
100,000	200,000	170,000	14,550	2.2	1.6	5.1
200,000	200,000+	340,000	17,500	2.6	1.8	6.0

It should be noted that a variety of anchor penetration depths have been reported by different sources. For the largest ships, Sharples (2011) reported maximum anchor penetration as 2.9 m in firm soil, to 9.2 m in very soft clay. At this time, we do not have complete seabed information for the offshore export cable corridor. If additional survey reveals very soft sediments on these routes, then calculations and cable burial depths may need to be revised accordingly, but we anticipate the sandier nature of these sediments will lean towards the “high strength” penetration column rather than that for softer seabed materials.

While vessel deadweights are not supplied as part of the AIS transmission, we have cross-referenced some identified vessel particulars for some of the largest vessels identified as crossing the offshore export cable corridor.

Utilizing the nearly 4,300 vessel tracks that bisect the offshore export cable corridor centerline, the ten classes of largest vessels were identified and the size distribution within those classes was calculated to better describe the size distribution of vessels potentially interacting with the route.

Containerships represent the largest vessels observed to cross the route. One of the largest of these vessels is the 366 m containership MEISHAN BRIDGE with a summer DWT of 144,735 tons. The 335 m containership EVER LAWFUL also crossed the corridor and is listed to have a summer DWT of 104,326 tons. However, with the exception of several of the largest vessels, most vessels observe crossing

the offshore export cable corridor have a summer DWT of well less than 100,000 tons (Table J-4). As such, nearly all anchors from these vessels are anticipated to potentially penetrate the seabed less than 2 m.

**Table J-4. Top 10 Largest Classes of Vessels Crossing the Offshore Export Cable Corridor**

Percentile	Length (m)	Percentile	Length (m)
<b>LNG Tanker</b>		<b>Self-Discharging Bulk Carrier</b>	
1%	286	1%	222
50%	294	50%	229
99%	300	99%	244
<b>Container Ship</b>		<b>Crude Oil Tanker</b>	
1%	175	1%	229
50%	300	50%	229
99%	367	99%	229
<b>Hospital Ship</b>		<b>Combat Vessel</b>	
1%	272	1%	225
50%	272	50%	230
99%	272	99%	230
<b>Passenger Ship</b>		<b>Ro-Ro Cargo</b>	
1%	162	1%	199
50%	290	50%	220
99%	316	99%	245
<b>Heavy Load Carrier</b>		<b>Vehicles Carrier</b>	
1%	239	1%	168
50%	239	50%	200
99%	239	99%	265

Still, it should be noted that while unlikely, there exists a possibility of accidental or emergency anchor deployment over the route, and the anchors utilized may be able to penetrate deeper than 2 m into the seabed, depending on conditions.

### J.7.3 Results

Risks to the cables from each identified threat have been evaluated along the 2 km sections of the centerline of the offshore export cable corridor in Table J-5. The probability of the presence of each of these risks impacting the cables within each 2-km span of the offshore export cable corridor is assessed on a scale of 1 (“Highly Unlikely”) to 5 (“Nearly Certain”). These values assume that no mitigation measures (e.g., marine liaison to make mariners aware of the cables where vessels formerly anchored; nor cable protection via adequate DOL by cable burial) have been implemented.

A resulting, recommended DOL is identified as the maximum value needed to mitigate the individual risks and then adding the DOL needed to mitigate impacts from scour or seabed mobility in Table J-6. These values represent conservative assumptions on seabed composition and anchor penetration. This also assumes relatively minimal cable route micro-siting has been done, therefore representing close to a worst-case scenario which fails to mitigate the risks due to scour and seabed mobility through avoidance. Lastly, the actual portions of the route potentially needing this deeper burial may be a relatively small subset of the entire 2 km section analyzed.

**Table J-5. Segment by Segment Qualitative Probability of Risk**

KP Range	KP0 to KP2	KP2 to KP4	KP4 to KP6	KP6 to KP8	KP8 to KP10	KP10 to KP12	KP12 to KP14	KP14 to KP16	KP16 to KP18	KP18 to KP20	KP20 to KP22	KP22 to KP24	KP24 to KP26	KP26 to KP28	KP28 to KP30	KP30 to KP32	KP32 to KP34	KP34 to KP36	KP36 to KP38	KP38 to KP40	KP40 to KP42	KP42 to KP44	KP44 to KP46	KP46 to KP48	KP48 to KP50	KP50 to KP52	KP52 to KP54	KP54 to KP56	KP56 to KP58	KP58 to KP60	KP60 to KP62	KP62 to KP64	KP64 to KP64.1				
Water Depth (m)	-9	-11	-12	-13	-13	-15	-16	-17	-19	-18	-21	-21	-20	-22	-20	-21	-21	-21	-21	-23	-24	-24	-25	-24	-28	-28	-25	-28	-29	-25	-30	-27	-25				
Large Vessels:																																					
Intentional anchoring	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3				
Accidental anchor deployment (on transit)	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3				
Emergency anchoring	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3			
Commercial fishing	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Dropped objects	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			
Military operations and anchoring	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Dumping and sand borrow operations	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
UXO risks	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Unknown																	
Minor (<1 m) scour/erosion	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	4			
Minor (<1 m) mobile seabed & potential overburial	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	4			
Major (>1m) scour/erosion	5	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3			
Major (>1m) mobile seabed & potential overburial	5	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			

Notes:  
Risks presented in this table should be considered the unmitigated risks--i.e., those before outreach and marine liaison to make mariners aware of cables, as well as before any burial or cable protection. An analysis of residual risks will be possible with better constraints on anchor penetration, mitigation of mobile seabed through routing, etc.

1	Highly Unlikely	2	Unlikely	3	Possible	4	Likely	5	Nearly Certain
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**Table J-6. Segment by Segment Initial Recommendation for Depth of Lowering**

KP Range	KP0 to KP2	KP2 to KP4	KP4 to KP6	KP6 to KP8	KP8 to KP10	KP10 to KP12	KP12 to KP14	KP14 to KP16	KP16 to KP18	KP18 to KP20	KP20 to KP22	KP22 to KP24	KP24 to KP26	KP26 to KP28	KP28 to KP30	KP30 to KP32	KP32 to KP34	KP34 to KP36	KP36 to KP38	KP38 to KP40	KP40 to KP42	KP42 to KP44	KP44 to KP46	KP46 to KP48	KP48 to KP50	KP50 to KP52	KP52 to KP54	KP54 to KP56	KP56 to KP58	KP58 to KP60	KP60 to KP62	KP62 to KP64	KP64 to KP64.1
Water Depth (m)	-9	-11	-12	-13	-13	-15	-16	-17	-19	-18	-21	-21	-20	-22	-20	-21	-21	-21	-21	-23	-24	-24	-25	-24	-28	-28	-25	-28	-29	-25	-30	-27	-25
Large Vessels:																																	
Combined	Intentional anchoring																																
	Accidental anchor deployment (on transit)	1	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Emergency anchoring	Pending geotechnical evaluation of the seabed to understand soil strength and anchor penetration potential.																															
Commercial fishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dropped objects	Pending further analysis																																
Military operations and anchoring	1	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Dumping and sand borrow operations	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UXO risks	Not mitigated by cable burial																																
Scour and seabed mobility	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
Greatest depth of lowering value from risk	2	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Greatest depth of lowering PLUS seabed mobility mitigation depth	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	4.5	4.5	5	5	4	4	5	3	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	5

Note:  
The need for very deep burial areas may be able to be mitigated through routing to minimize traverse of highly mobile seabed and through dredging to get below the seabed reference level for mobile bedforms. More detailed routing is needed to adequately capture and evaluate this. Pending ECC Geotechnical information may also indicate that anchor penetration is substantially lower if the sediments appear harder than assumed. These areas of deeper burial may only be small spans within each 2-km subsegment. These DOL values are moderately conservative and assume worst-case routing to avoid largest mobile seabed features. Further reduction may be possible through substantial micro-siting.)

Evaluation of residual risk will be possible during later stages of the CBRA evaluation, when additional information about anchor penetration and seabed properties has been acquired. Any additional insight on the speed and direction of the mobile bedforms will further direct and constrain these mitigation measures.

## J.8 SITE DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL-SCOPE CBRA

In order to facilitate the next stage of analysis for the CBRA, several additional datasets must be developed or further refined. The ongoing geophysical and geotechnical field work, along with next steps in the development of the ground model will be critical to capturing the geotechnical properties of the seabed along the offshore export cable corridor. This will allow evaluation and refinement of anchor penetration into the seabed as well as allow additional studies into the suitability of various cable burial tools needed to achieve recommended burial. While more difficult to bury through, harder more consolidated sediments in the seabed limit and reduce anchor penetration, allowing more protection at shallower depths of lowering. Understanding how the properties of the seabed vary along the cable route and with depth are critical to this task.

Thoroughly processed and cleaned AIS data, especially with vessels attributed with reliable DWT values, is necessary to adequately evaluate residual risks and recurrence intervals for potential cable faults. The initial “raw” AIS data allows excellent insights after some initial data cleaning and filtering, as shown in this effort, however significantly more quantitative analysis can be done with the cleaner and better attributed data.

Time series seabed data could be leveraged to identify trends and rates of migration of mobile seabed features. This could be very useful to serve as a bound on the inferred risk related to scour and mobile seabed. This may allow reduction of the DOL to mitigate impacts of mobile seabed, as well as allowing better targeted applications of deeper burial, limiting additional effort to only where it is most needed. Multiple bathymetric datasets over key features of concern can be acquired quickly and efficiently to facilitate temporal comparisons.

Further next steps should also include updating the cable routing to mitigate any findings of shallow hazards by the HRG survey, optimize the micro-sited cable routes to avoid areas of potentially difficult burial due to more consolidated seabed, and minimize the severity and lengths of mobile seabed features traversed by the routes.

## J.9 REFERENCES

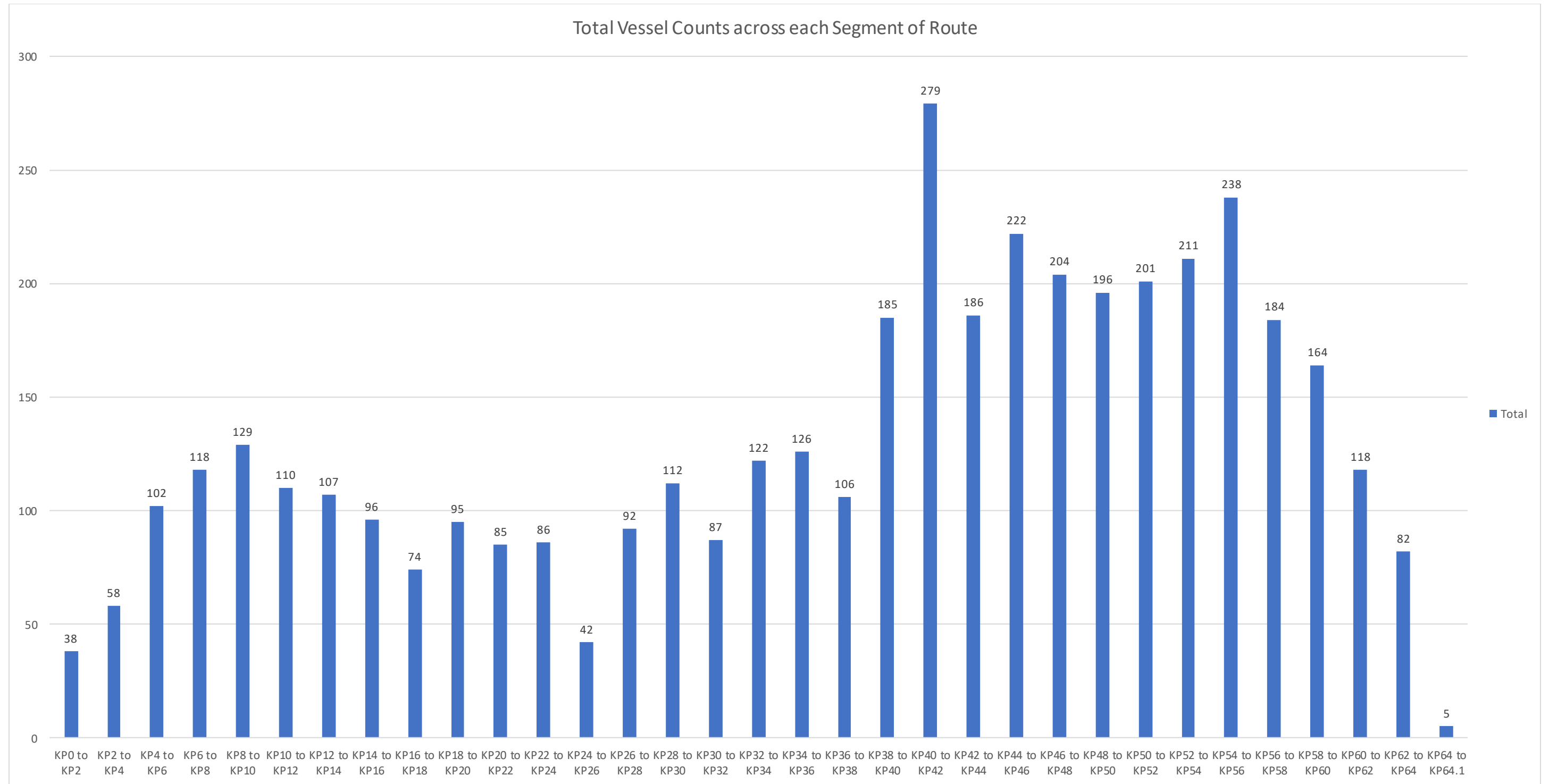
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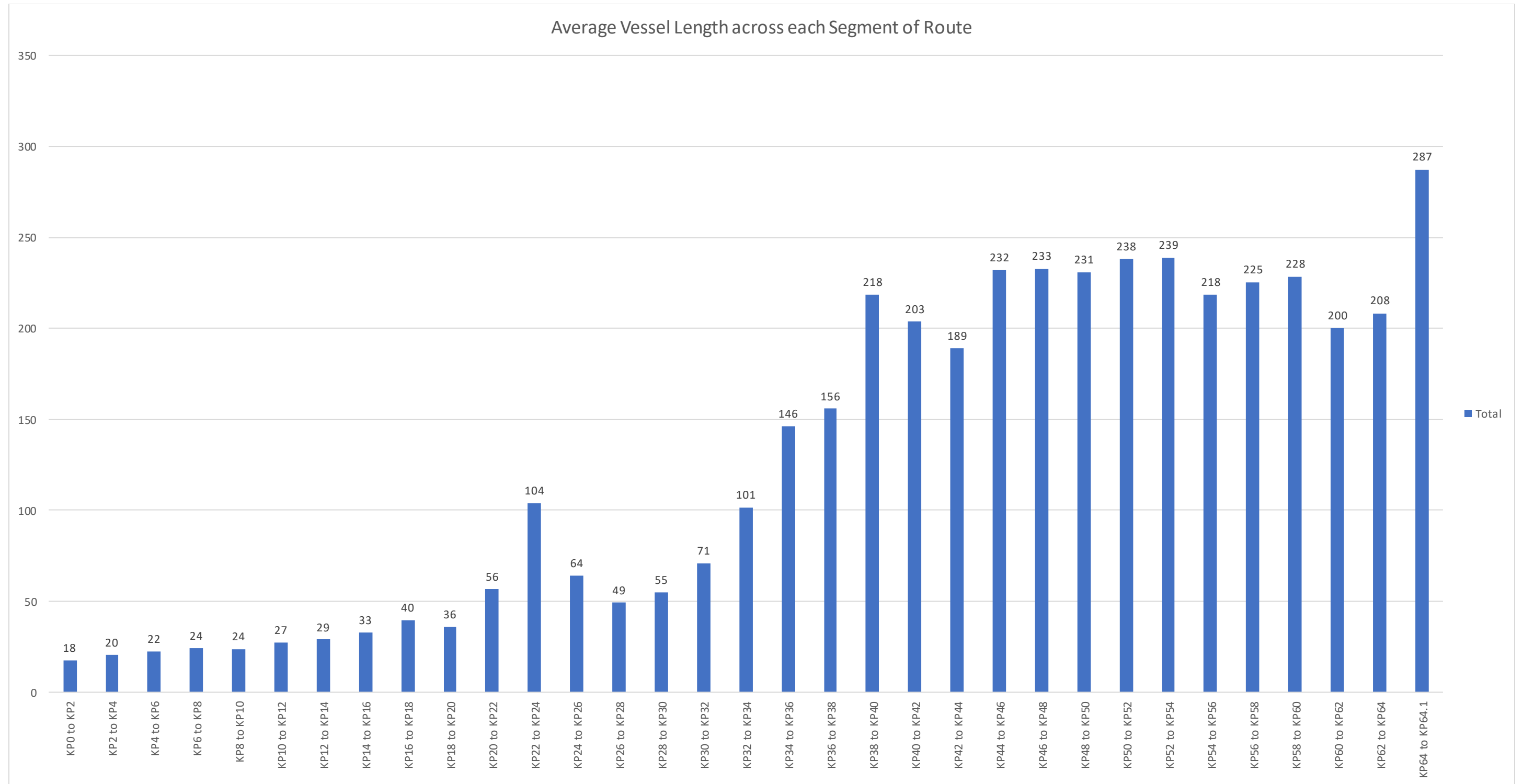
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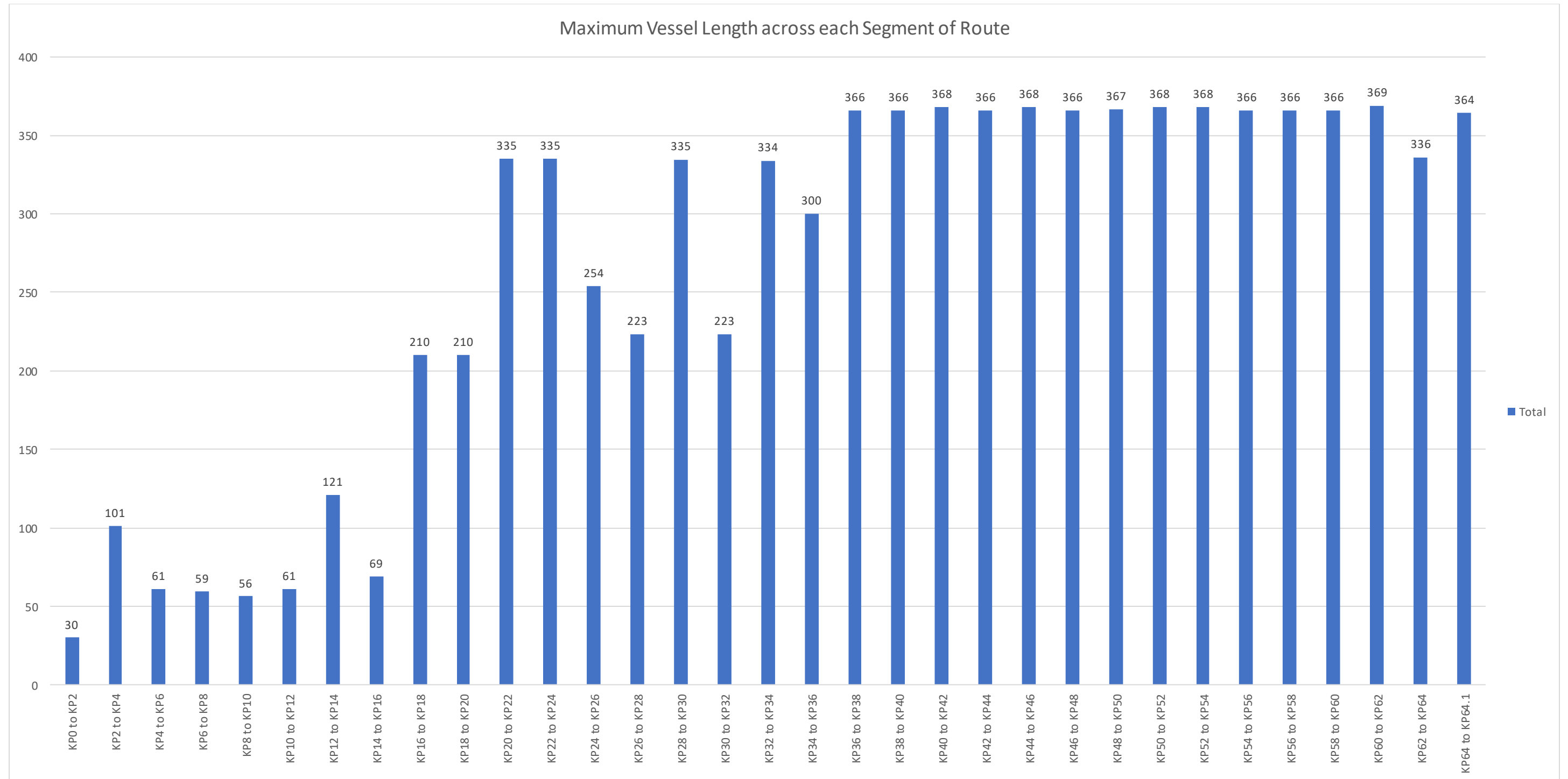


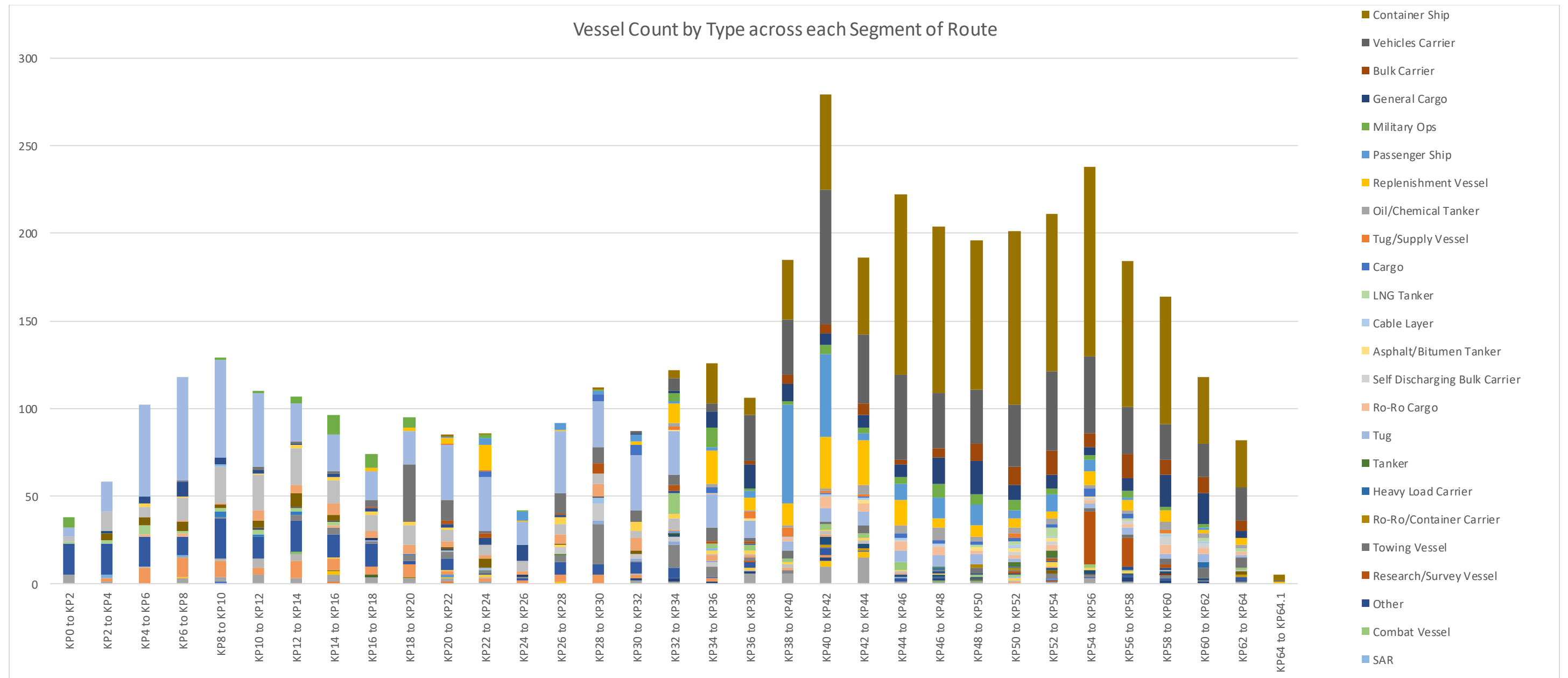
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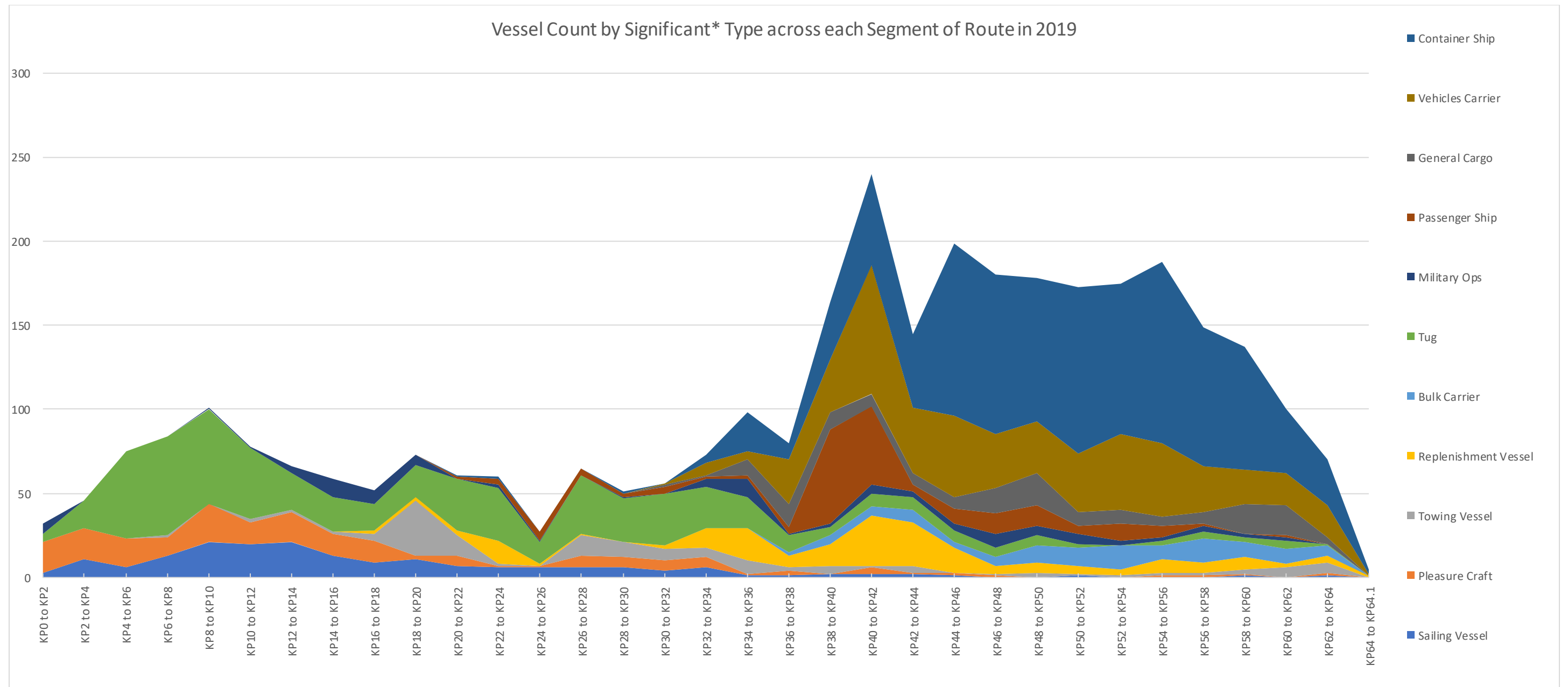
## **Attachment J-1. Supplemental Vessel Data and Figures**



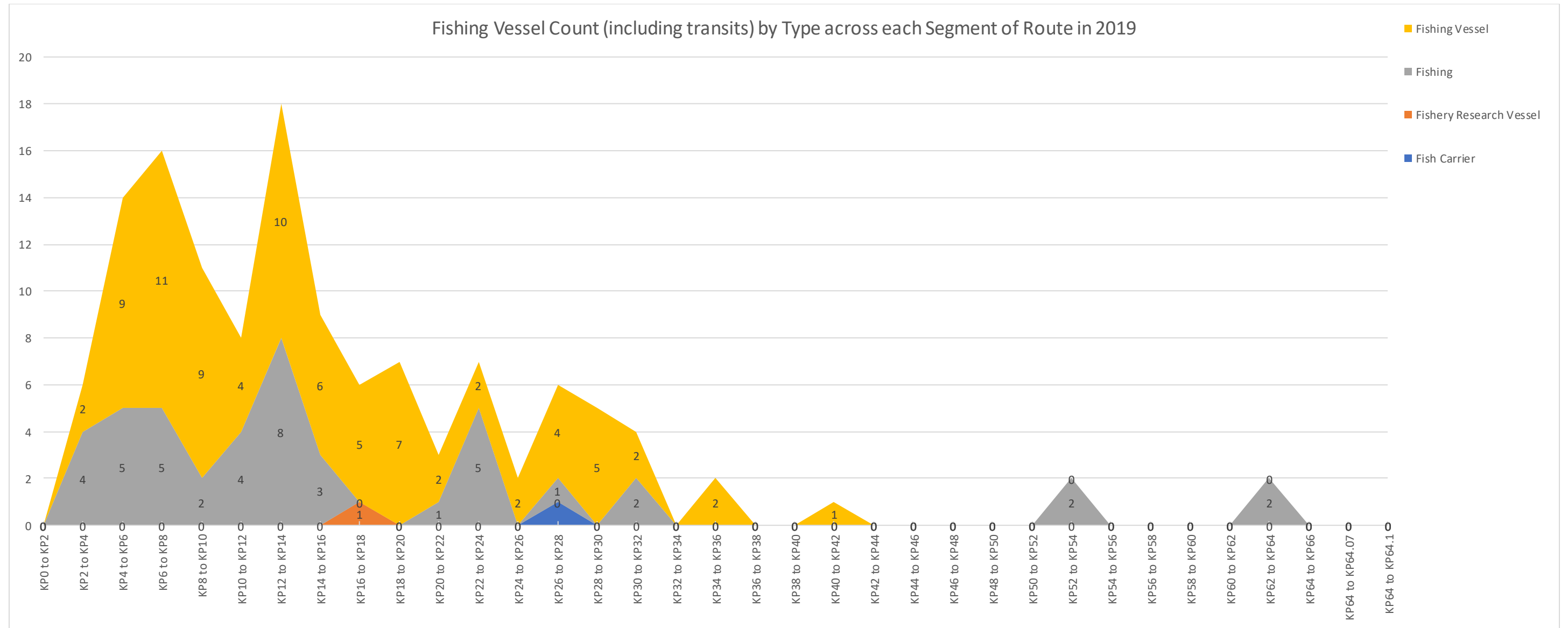




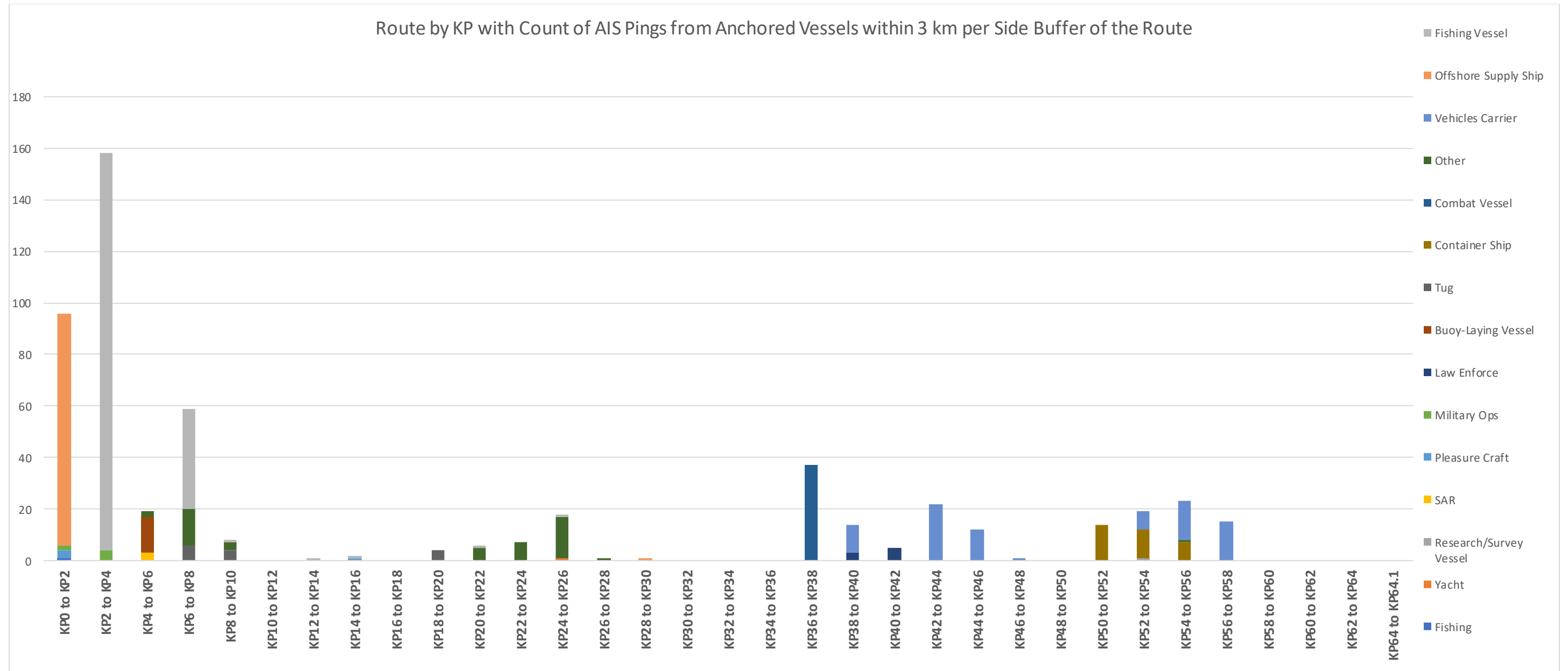


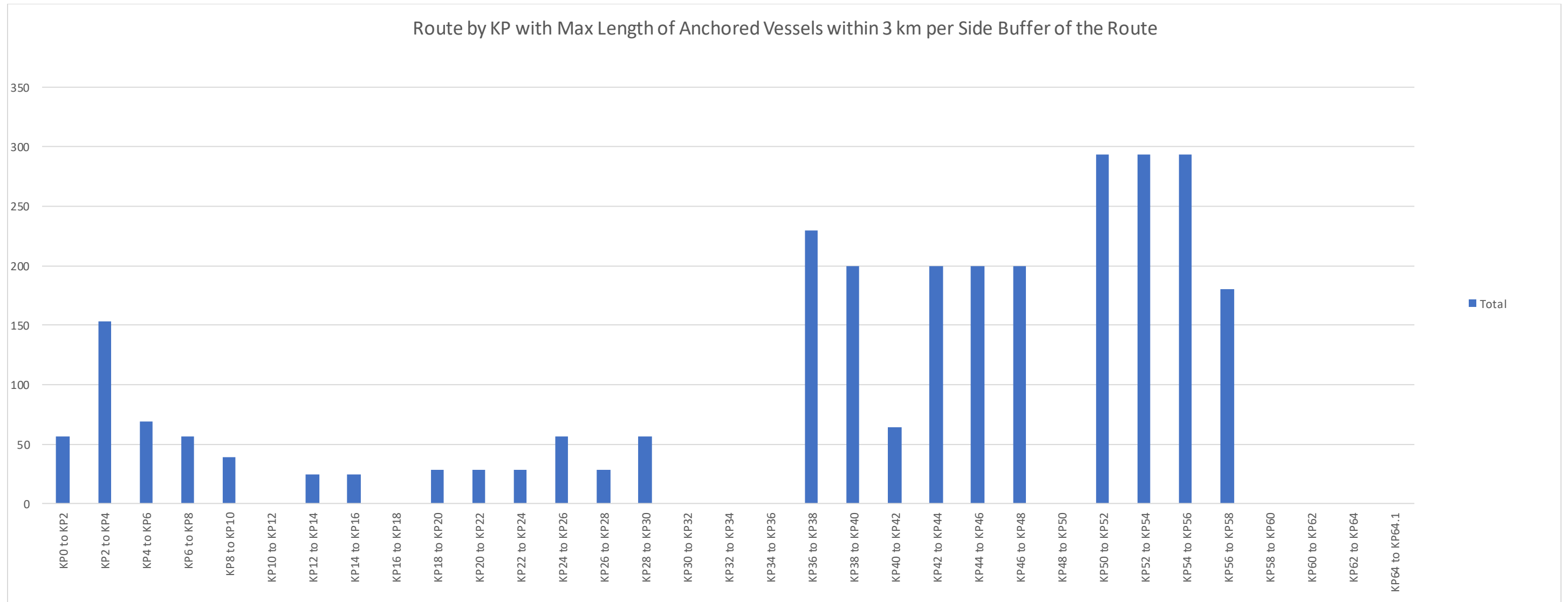


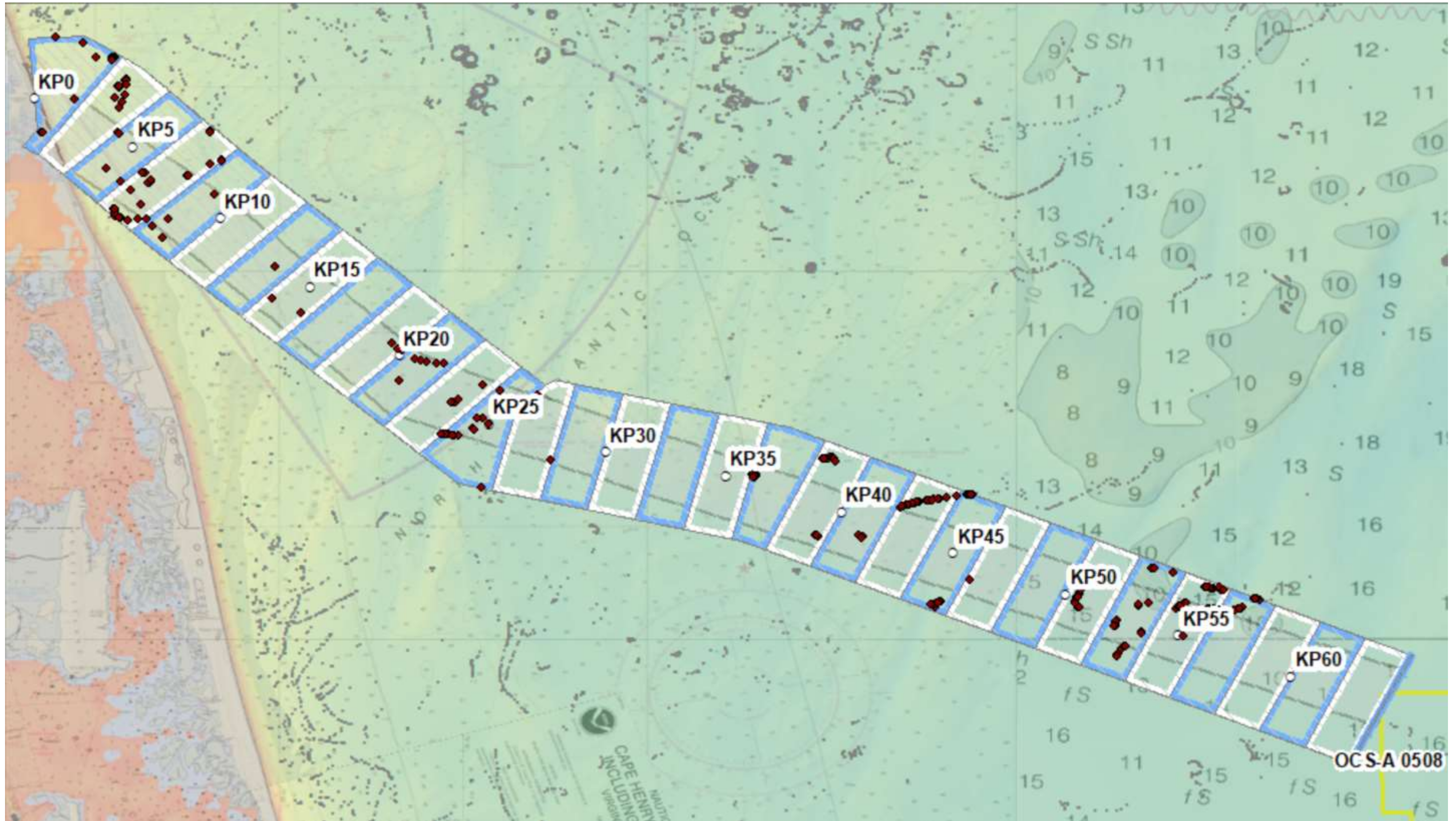
Note: All other classes of vessels make up less than 2 percent of the total volume of crossings of the offshore export cable corridor per each class.



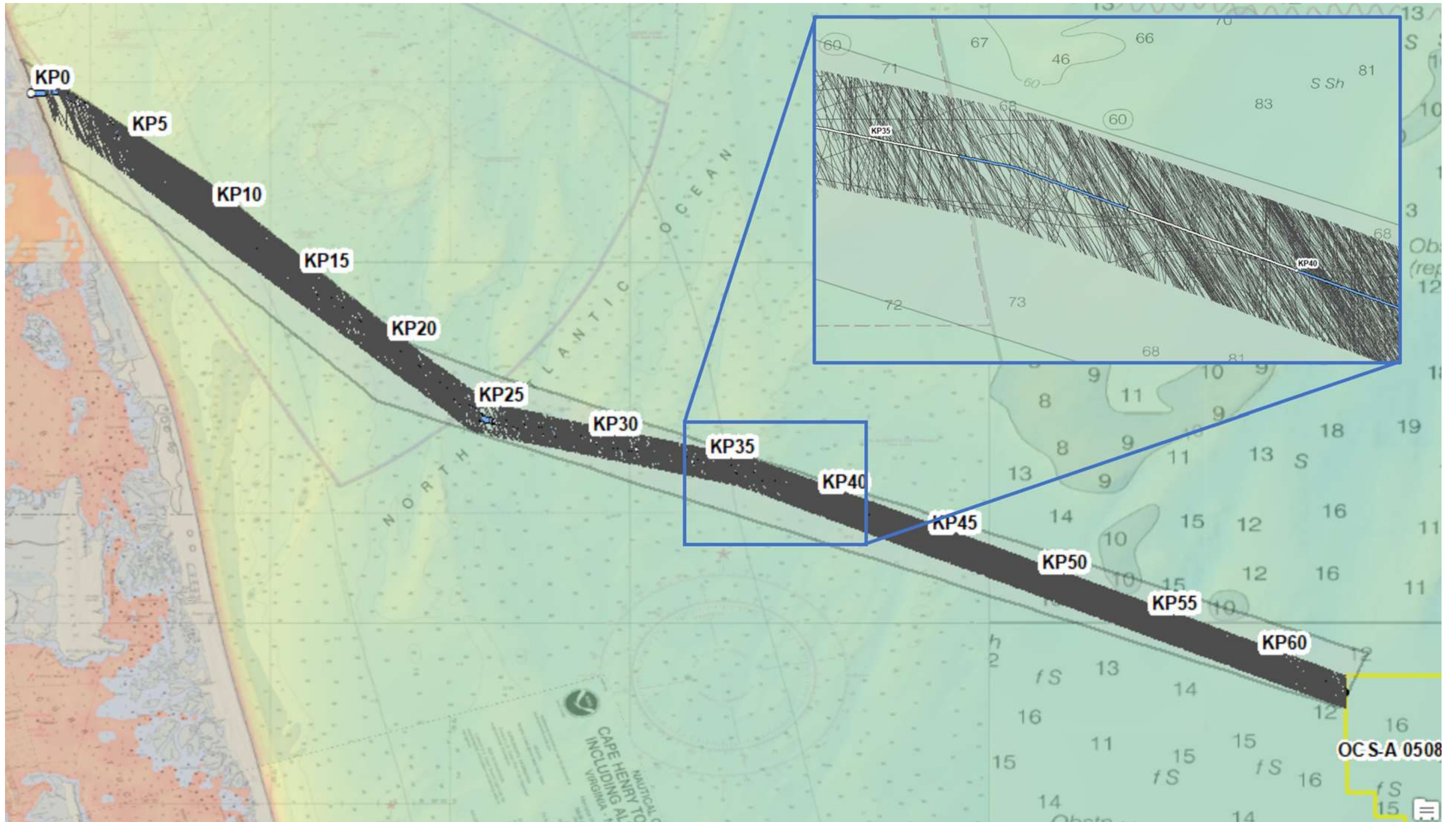








Note: Map showing at-anchor vessels from the 2019 AIS data. The grey dots show points outside of the 3 km per side corridor buffer and not counted in the analysis. Darker dots within the corridor buffer were analyzed. The longer, non-curved tracks may be indicative of vessels setting an AIS status to "at anchor," but actually slowly drifting or holding station under power while waiting offshore rather than actually dropping an anchor.



Note: Vessel track density for all vessels in the 2019 AIS dataset as clipped along the export cable corridor. The inset shows more detail on a smaller area of the route. These tracks were then intersected with the corridor centerline and used as the basis for the statistical plots included in this report.