



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries



(617) 626-1520 | [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)

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March 1, 2024

## Marine Fisheries Advisory

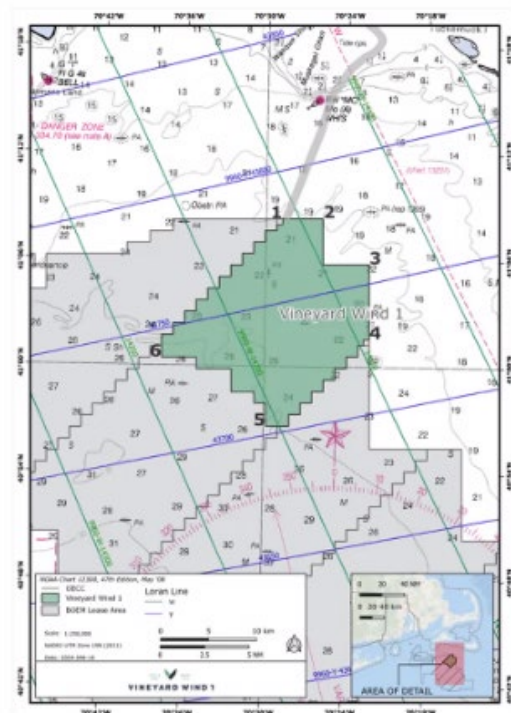
### **Vineyard Wind 1 Compensatory Mitigation Program to Open on March 4, 2024**

On Monday, March 4, 2024, Vineyard Wind will announce the opening of their Eligibility Application for direct compensation associated with the Vineyard Wind 1 lease area for federally or state permitted MA commercial vessel owners/operators that fished in the wind lease area anytime between 2016-2022. The eligibility application window will be open for 60 days and deadline to submit applications is **June 3, 2024**. An independent third-party administrator will be reviewing and processing eligibility and direct compensation claims. Eligibility will be determined by the third-party administrator in collaboration with expert Fishery Advisors representing fixed and mobile gear fisheries. Information required for determining eligibility but is not limited to proof of vessel ownership, valid 2023 commercial fishing permit with NOAA fisheries or MA state permit, documented fishing activities within the Wind Lease Area in at least three of seven years from 2016-2022 (Vessel Trip Reports, Vessel Monitoring Systems, Automatic Identification System information, NOAA Cooperative Research Study Fleet information, logbooks, chart plotter data or other trip-level reporting information that establishes fishing activity in the lease area), and documented annual revenue for the corresponding three or more years reported (IRS forms 1099, sales receipts, dealer slips or dealer compilation reports). A figure of the Vineyard Wind 1 WLA area is below.

**In order to receive any compensation, applicants must submit the eligibility application within 60 days from the opening of the application. The eligibility application window is the only time that commercial fishing vessel owners/operators will be able to qualify for compensation from the Vineyard Wind 1 direct compensation program.**

*Where to apply:* Stay updated on the status of the direct compensation eligibility application at [www.vw1fisheriescomp.com](http://www.vw1fisheriescomp.com). The program will open to applications on **March 4, 2024**.

For more information on the direct compensation process, please see the VW 1 compensatory program overview document [here](#).



For assistance with filing the eligibility and direct compensation claims, please contact the VW fisheries liaisons: Crista Bank ([cbank@vineyardwind.com](mailto:cbank@vineyardwind.com); Ph: 508-525-0421) and Travis Lowery ([tlowery@vineyardwind.com](mailto:tlowery@vineyardwind.com); Ph: 508-728-4529).

Fisheries liaisons and representatives from the third-party administrator will be available in person in March in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to answer questions regarding the direct compensation process and can assist fisherman with filing eligibility applications. Upcoming open house sessions to assist fisherman with filing the direct compensation eligibility application:

- **March 20:** Superior Trawl, 55 State Street, Point Judith, Rhode Island (9 AM – 1 PM)
- **March 21:** New Bedford Port Authority, 123 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, Massachusetts (9 AM – 1 PM)
- **March 22:** Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association Annual Meeting, 35 Scudder Ave Hyannis, Emerald Resort Conference Center (9 AM – 4 PM)

**If you need to contact NMFS for data requests pertaining to eligibility and compensation of programs above, see the contact list below:**

**NMFS contacts for data requests:**

- Logbook and fishing footprint data requests: [NMFS.GAR.Data.Requests@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.GAR.Data.Requests@noaa.gov)
- VMS data requests: [ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov](mailto:ole.helpdesk@noaa.gov)
- Northeast Fisheries Observer Program data requests: [chris.tholke@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.tholke@noaa.gov)
- GARFO permit data requests: [NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov)

**General guidance for requests:**

- Specify if data are needed by a certain date
- Include all the fundamental details:
  - Contact information for the person requesting the data
  - Permit number and vessel name for data requested
  - What data you need (e.g., logbook landings, fishing revenue, permit issuance)
  - Date range for the data (e.g., fishing or calendar years 2016-2022)
  - Area the data applies (e.g., logbook data when fishing in the Vineyard Wind 1 lease area)
- Ensure you have access to historical data from previous owners
  - Submit or reference existing written proof that a previous vessel/permit owner has given you permission to access their historic fishing data
  - Make sure permissions include all years of your data request
- Identify expected data output (e.g., spreadsheet or map)