



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

BETHANY A. CARD
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

Fisheries Innovation Advisory Panel Meeting

Date/Time: June 6, 2022/1:00 – 2:30 PM

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89422203466?pwd=QnY0azFEYmRidzNDUkJWMm5XTmowUT09>

Meeting Objectives: To convene the Advisory Panel for its inaugural meeting, introduce members, discuss meeting protocols, solicit member's expectations, and collect questions to research for the next meeting.

Attendees:

State Agency Staff:

- Dan McKiernan, Nichola Meserve, Mark Rousseau, Julia Kaplan, Simi Harrison, Division of Marine Fisheries
- Lisa Engler, Office of Coastal Zone Management

Panel Members:

- Michael J. Pierdinock, Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission
- Shelley Edmunson, Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust
- Jon Regan, New Bedford Port Authority
- Beth Casoni, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association
- John Whiteside, American Scallop Association
- Geri Edens, Vineyard Wind, LLC
- Drew Minkiewicz, Fishery Survival Fund
- Ed Barrett, Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership
- Eric Hansen, Hansen Scalloping, Inc.
- Seth Rolbein, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance

Other Attendees:

- Dr. Michael Pol, Responsible Offshore Science Alliance



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Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Director Dan McKiernan initiated the meeting by calling on Advisory Panel members, state agency staff, and other meeting attendees to introduce themselves and provide their affiliations.

Discussion of Expectations and Role of the Advisory Panel

Following introductions, Director McKiernan provided a brief history of the Vineyard Wind Fisheries Innovation Fund (Fund). The total value of the Fund is \$1.75M, of which \$1M has been deposited in an Expendable Trust. The remaining \$750,000 will be deposited in three installments of \$250,000. Additionally, unused funds from the Vineyard Wind Compensatory Mitigation Fund may be rolled into the Fisheries Innovation Fund. Director McKiernan described the Fund's establishing documents: the Memorandum of Agreement and the Declaration of Trust. The Declaration of Trust established criteria for the selection of panel members, requiring two members from the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, the Executive Director (or appointee) of the New Bedford Port Authority, and six members of the public with expertise in marine fisheries to be appointed to the panel. Based on these criteria, the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game made Advisory Panel appointments with input from the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). The goal of the Advisory Panel is to achieve consensus on how to effectively distribute funds from the Expendable Trust.

A Q&A session followed this summary. Panel members discussed the lifetime of the Fund, the potential for its extension, and eligibility criteria for those applying for funds.

History of the Vineyard Wind Offshore Wind Project and Fisheries Mitigation Package

CZM Director Lisa Engler gave an overview of the Vineyard Wind Project and development of the fisheries mitigation package. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), through CZM, DMF, and the Clean Energy Commission (MassCEC), has been engaged in offshore wind development for over 10 years. The state engages with stakeholders through its Fisheries and Habitat Working Groups on Offshore Wind Energy. These working groups provided valuable input that ensured the Massachusetts and

Rhode Island Wind Energy Areas avoided important marine habitat, fishing grounds, and marine commerce routes to the maximum extent practicable.

Director Engler continued to describe the Vineyard Wind economic exposure assessment, which marked the first time any state weighed the economic impacts of offshore wind on the fishing industry. The study, commissioned by Vineyard Wind, was presented to state agencies and the Fisheries Working Group to solicit feedback on data inputs. The final mitigation package, which included a Compensatory Mitigation Fund for economic losses accrued by the fishing industry and the Fisheries Innovation Fund to promote coexistence between fisheries and offshore wind development, was codified in the Memorandum of Agreement between EEA and Vineyard Wind in May 2020.

The Compensatory Mitigation Fund was developed through a review of landings in the Vineyard Wind Lease Area and will be managed by a third-party administrator who will review claims by fishermen. Unspent funds will roll into the Fisheries Innovation Fund every five years. The Fisheries Innovation Fund is managed by the Director of DMF with oversight from the Advisory Panel. The panel is designed to be representative of Massachusetts fishing gear types and shoreside businesses. The intention of the Fund is to promote technology and other activities that support the coexistence of fisheries and offshore wind development.

A Q&A session followed this presentation. Panel members discussed the process for rolling funds from the Compensatory Mitigation Fund into the Fisheries Innovation Fund. Director Engler confirmed that the present Advisory Panel has been established to advise distribution of funds from the Fisheries Innovation Expendable Trust only, and that compensatory mitigation funds will be distributed separately. Panel members discussed whether the Vineyard Wind mitigation package will set a precedent for other offshore wind developments in Southern New England and how the upcoming Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) fishery mitigation guidance may refine the process of developing mitigation packages.

Discussion of Areas of Potential Spending as Outlined in the Enabling Documents

Director McKiernan provided a more detailed description of the Fisheries Innovation Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to support programs and projects that ensure safe and profitable fishing continue as Vineyard Wind and future offshore wind projects are developed in Northern Atlantic waters. The Director of DMF chairs the Offshore Wind Fisheries Research, Innovation, and Science Advisory Panel to review and approve fund expenditures. The Fund will provide support to programs and projects through grants to conduct studies on the impacts of offshore wind development on fishery resources and the recreational and commercial fishing industries, as well as grants for technology and innovation upgrades for fishery participants (and vessels) actively fishing within a wind energy area.

Eligible programs and projects include, but are not limited to: studies on the impacts of offshore wind development on fishery resources and the recreational and commercial fishing industries; improvements in fishing vessels and gear; development of new technology to improve navigation in and around the wind farm area; development of alternative gear and fishing methods; optimization of vessel systems, technology and innovation upgrades for fishery participants and vessels actively fishing within a wind energy area; general fishing vessel safety improvements; and marketing and promotion of locally landed seafood.

Discussion of the Fisheries Innovation Fund in relation to Other Offshore Wind-related Funding

Simi Harrison provided an overview of the Fisheries Innovation Fund Matrix. The intent of the matrix is to identify complementary funding sources and ongoing research to inform Advisory Panel discussions of how best to distribute funds from the Expendable Trust without duplicating regional efforts. The matrix is a living file that will be uploaded to DMF's upcoming Offshore Wind webpage. The file is comprised of three tabs. The first tab lists funding sources complementary to the Fisheries Innovation Fund, including developer-funded mitigation trusts, state-organized initiatives, and programs that may not be offshore wind-specific but provide funding and potential partnership opportunities for offshore wind research projects. The second tab lists lease-specific developer surveys, state-funded regional surveys, and federally funded research that may be relevant to the biological monitoring or gear improvement components of the Fisheries Innovation Fund. The third tab lists published reports related to the ongoing research efforts listed on the second tab.

A Q&A session followed this presentation. Panel members suggested refining potential target projects and preparing solicitations for eligible projects within the scope of the Fund. Members determined that project-specific environmental studies should be funded through developer permit conditions and should therefore not be funded by the Expendable Trust. Panel members agreed that applicant eligibility, solicitation timeline, and the specifics of fund administration should be topics of discussion for future Advisory Panel meetings. Areas of concern included how to identify the fisheries most susceptible to impacts from offshore wind development; how to effectively utilize state-negotiated funds to facilitate coexistence of fisheries and offshore wind in federal waters; how to ensure expenditures from the Fisheries Innovation Fund and Compensatory Mitigation Fund are not distributed to redundant efforts; and how to effectively communicate with other states that may have developed similar mitigation packages.

Next Steps and Meeting Adjournment

Director McKiernan called the meeting to a close and asked that panel members provide input to DMF regarding Fisheries Innovation Fund priorities and key questions related to Fund distribution (e.g., eligibility criteria, solicitation timeline). Panel members are to submit comments to DMF within one month of this meeting; feedback will be used to inform the next Advisory Panel meeting agenda. A recording of this meeting can be made available upon request.