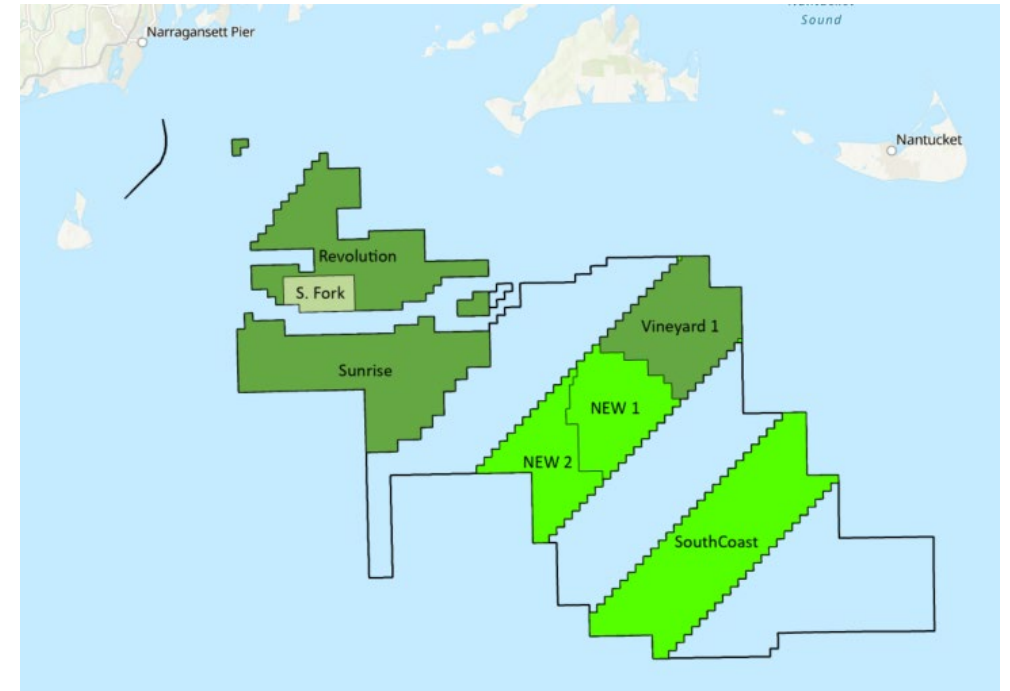


# Habitat Working Group – State Updates

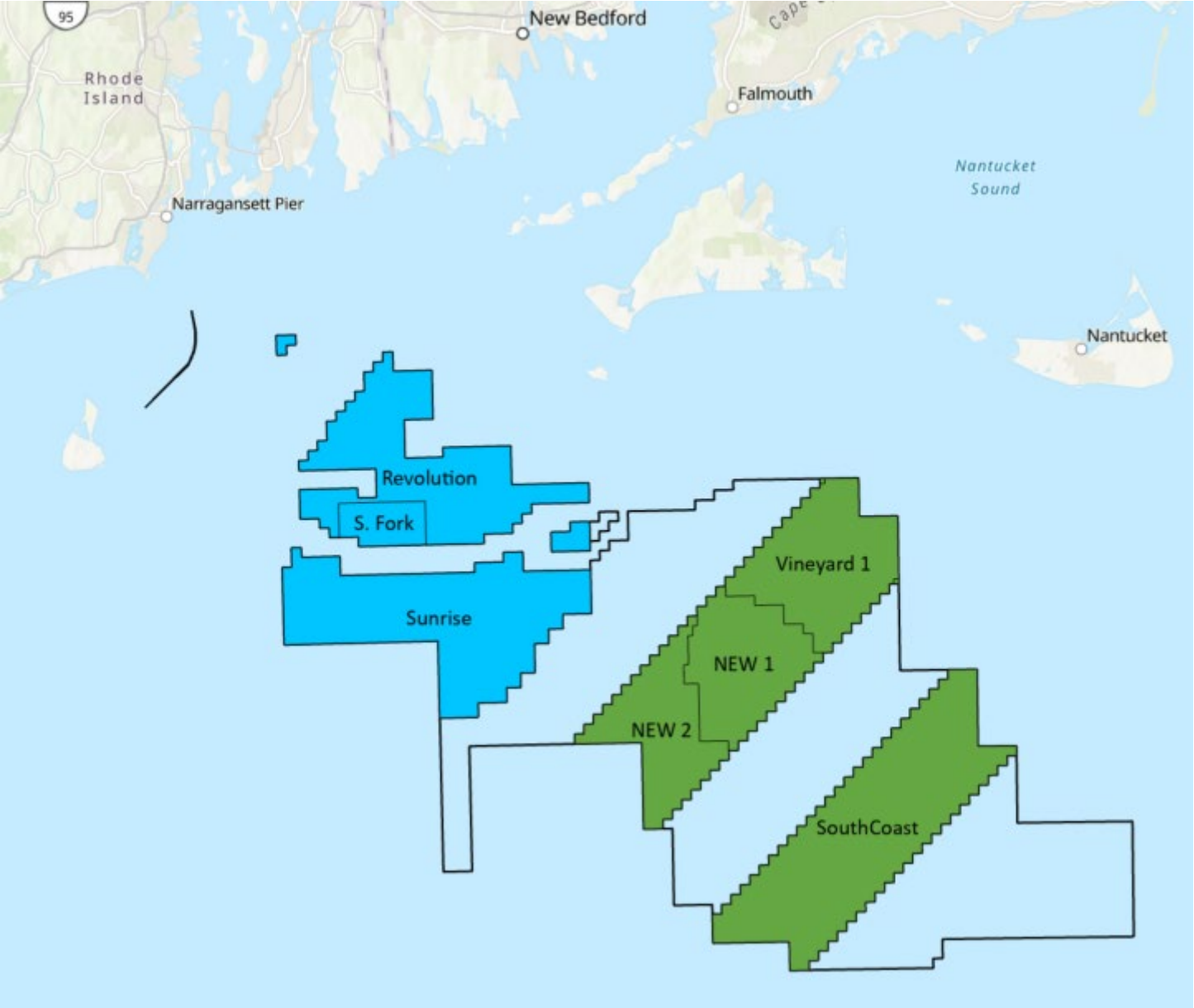
February 26, 2025

- 4 projects are under construction / operating
  - South Fork, Vineyard Wind 1, Revolution, Sunrise
- 7 have signed Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation agreements with MA
  - above + New England Wind 1&2, SouthCoast Wind



- Focus for today:
  - Status of Community and Fisheries Innovation Fund, and Navigation Enhancement and Training Program
  - Boulder relocation plans & reporting
  - MassCEC research announcements
  - Industry and Developer Updates

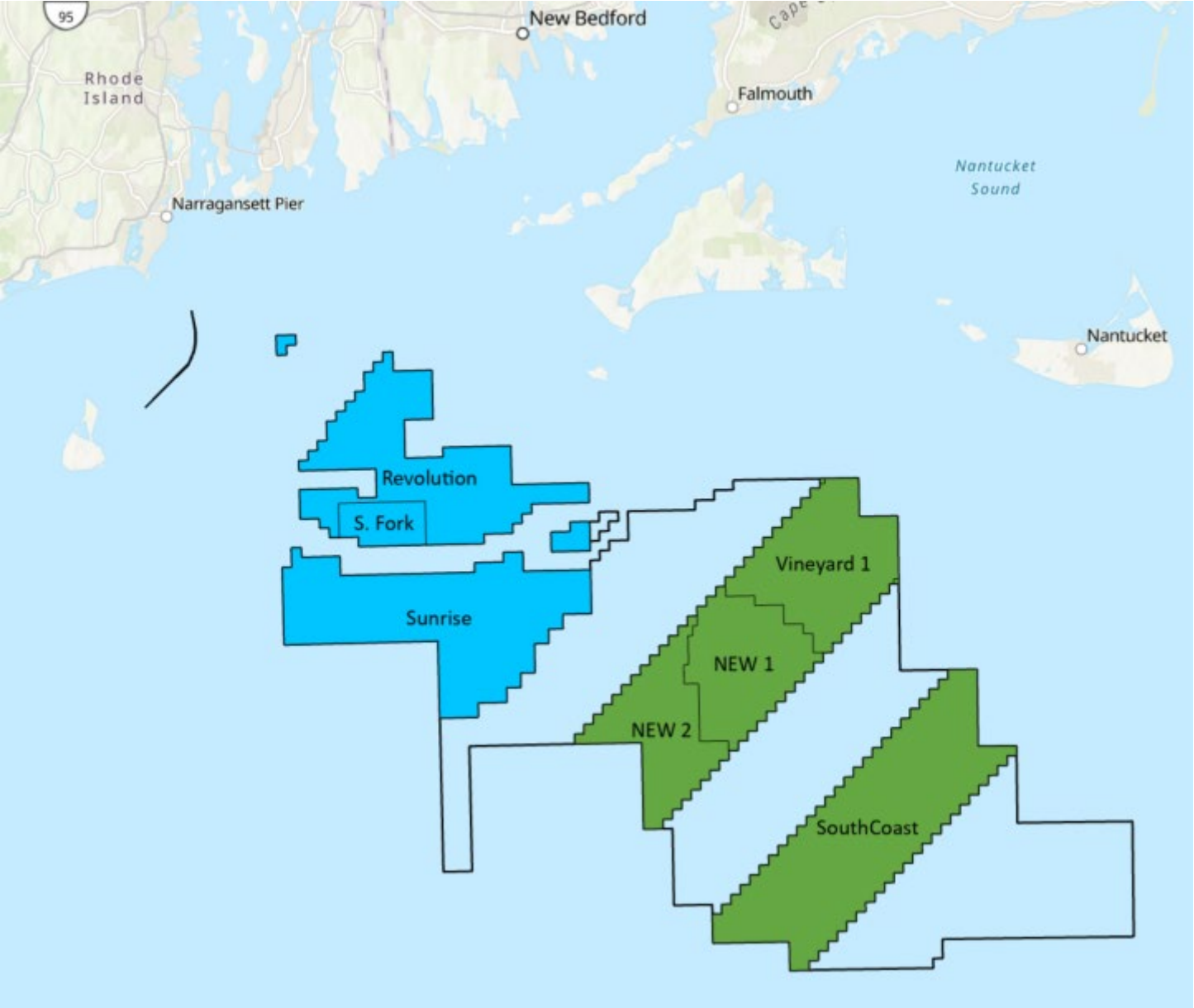
# Community Funds and Fisheries Innovation Funds Updates



| Community Funds | South Fork                                                                                                                 | Revolution | Sunrise |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Amount          | \$200k                                                                                                                     | \$400k     | \$1mil  |
| Oversight Group | Nine member Coastal Community Advisory Council                                                                             |            |         |
| Purpose         | provide funding for initiatives, research, and projects that will support the co-existence of the fishing and wind sectors |            |         |
| Status          | Advisory Council not yet selected                                                                                          |            |         |

| Innovation Funds | Vineyard 1                                                                           | NEW 1                                                                          | NEW 2          | South Coast    |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Amount           | \$1.75mil                                                                            | \$1.5mil                                                                       | \$1.5mil       | \$1.5mil       |
| Oversight Group  | VW FIF Advisory Panel                                                                | None described                                                                 | None described | None described |
| Purpose          | facilitate innovation that supports the co-existence of the fishing and wind sectors | support Massachusetts fishers' continued fishing in and around the Development |                |                |
| Status           | Meet/ Finalize RFP                                                                   | Pending construction                                                           |                |                |

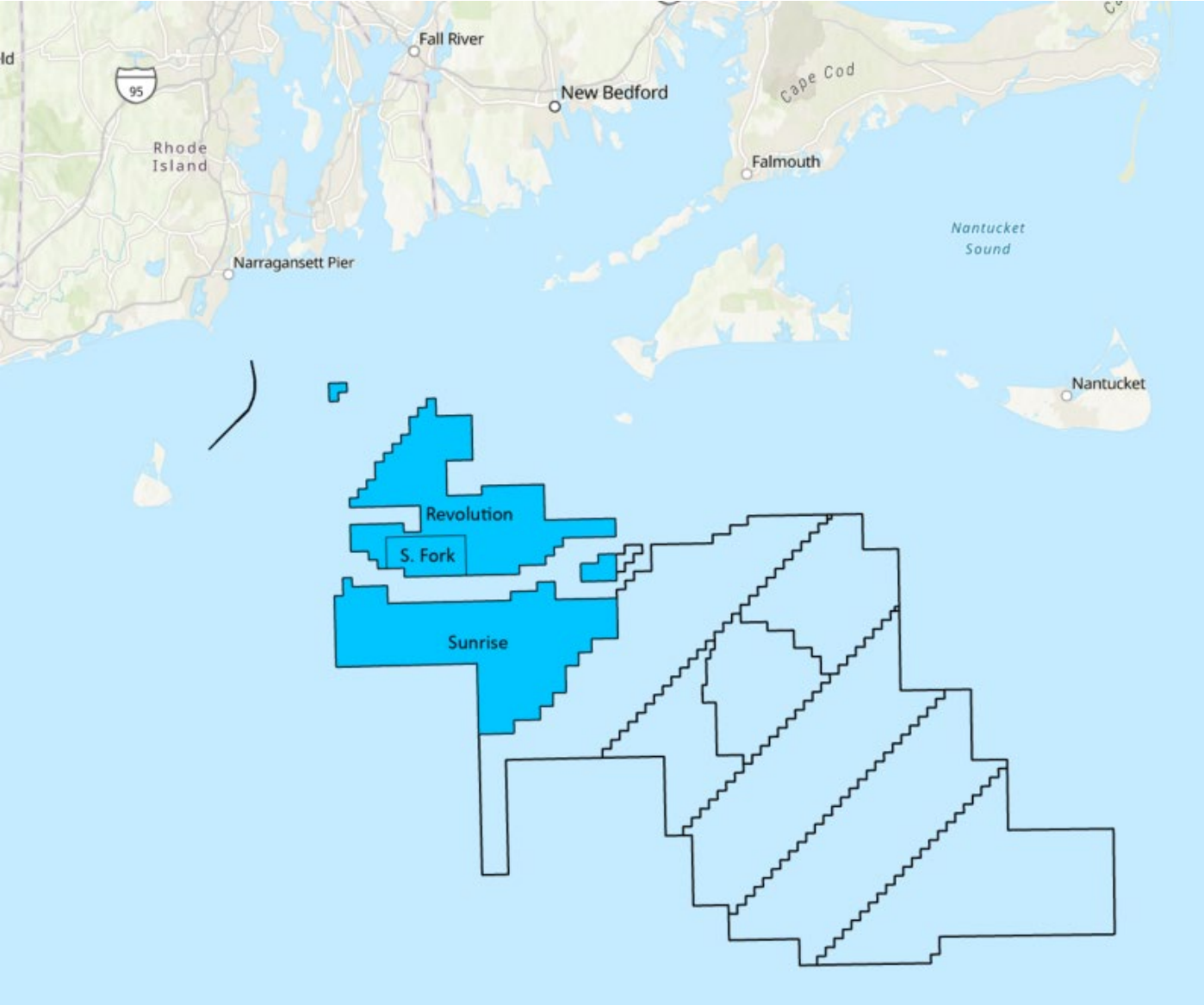
# Direct Compensation Fund Updates



| Direct Compensation       | South Fork                                                                                   | Revolution |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Amount                    | \$2.1mil                                                                                     | \$6.4mil   |
| Eligibility Requirement   | History of operating in area and incurred a direct impact/loss caused by SF/Revolution Wind. |            |
| Third Party Administrator | PKFOD                                                                                        |            |
| Status                    | SFW: 9 vessels, 1 eligible to date                                                           |            |

| Direct Compensation       | Vineyard 1                                                 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amount                    | \$19.2mil                                                  |
| Eligibility Requirement   | Fishing activity in lease area, three years from 2016-2022 |
| Third Party Administrator | De Maximis, Inc.                                           |
| Status                    | Application period closed                                  |

# Navigation Enhancement and Training Program (NETP) Update



- Threshold for access to program reduced in past year
- MA vessel engagement greatly increased in past month
- Third-party administrator researching vessel eligibility
- Nav simulator (Middletown, RI) will be offered 2x year

| NETP Funds        | South Fork      | Revolution      | Sunrise         |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nav HW Vouchers   | 7               | 15              | 0               |
| Training Vouchers | 4               | 24              | 0               |
| Total Spend       | \$74,000        | \$174,000       | \$0             |
| NETP Funds Remain | Up to \$226,000 | Up to \$326,000 | Up to \$500,000 |

(as of 2/7/2025)

MassCEC Science and Research Solicitation: Award Portfolio

HWG

| Lead Applicant                                           | Project Title                                                                                                                   | Topic Area      | PI               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| INSPIRE Environmental<br>(Newport, RI)                   | Promoting Beneficial Colonization of Offshore Wind Infrastructure                                                               | Habitat/Ecology | Annie Murphy     |
| National Audubon Society<br>(Washington, DC)             | Safe Passage: Mapping Songbird Migration Routes and Altitudes over the Atlantic to Determine Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind | Wildlife        | Jill Deppe       |
| New England Aquarium<br>(Boston, MA)                     | Comparative Analysis of Marine Mammal Density and Detection Rates from Aerial Surveys                                           | Wildlife        | Orla O’Brien     |
| Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute<br>(Gloucester, MA) | Evaluating the Effects of Offshore Wind Development on Fisheries Using Environmental DNA (eDNA)                                 | Fisheries       | Tim O’Donnell    |
| Gulf of Maine Research Institute<br>(Portland, ME)       | Understanding Fishing Interactions: Gulf of Maine Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind                                          | Fisheries       | Hannah MacDonald |
| New Bedford Port Authority<br>(New Bedford, MA)          | Modeling Fishing and Fishing Vessel Behavior and Assessing Access in and Around Wind Energy Areas                               | Fisheries       | Blair Bailey     |
| ORE Catapult<br>(Glasgow, UK)                            | WINDSENSE – Wireless Intelligent Nano-Devices, a Sensor Network for Sustainable Energy                                          | Climatetech     | Dan Allington    |

# Boulder Relocation Policy Implementation Updates

Brad Schondelmeier

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries





# Massachusetts Habitat Working Group on Offshore Wind – 2/26/2025

## Boulder Relocation Issue Reminder

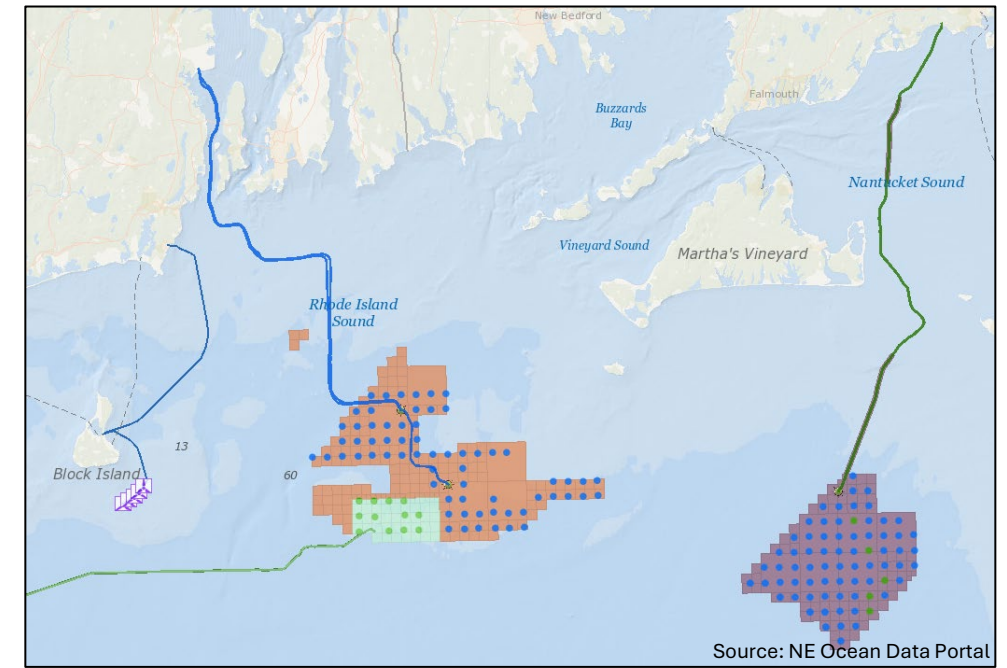
### Fishery Impact

- New hangs creating safety issues,
- Loss of access for some gear types,
- Disparity in access for different gear types,
- Shifts in dominant commercial species



### Habitat Impact

- Alter habitat types, increasing complexity,
- Damage/displace boulder dependent species,
- Shifts in predator/prey dynamics,
- Impacts from seabed disturbance



CZM/DMF created Boulder Relocation Framework (late 2024)

*“help inform the development of best practices and regulatory policy for boulder relocation activities connected with offshore wind projects”*



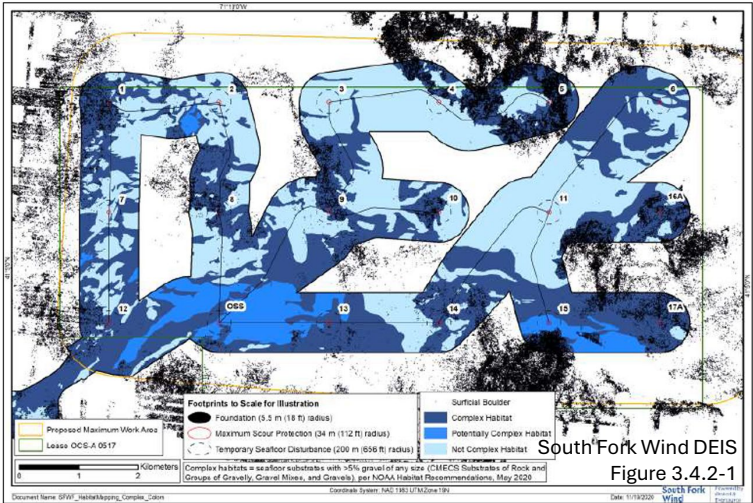
# Massachusetts Habitat Working Group on Offshore Wind – 2/26/2025

## CZM/DMF/Fisheries Working Group

### Boulder Relocation in Offshore Wind Development: A Framework for Guidance and Policy



### Avoid



### Minimize



### Mitigate

**Quinham**

CREATING COMMUNICATIONS CLARITY

| UK OFFICE                                                       | US OFFICE                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| E4-E5 Hilton Park<br>East Wittering, PO20 8RL<br>United Kingdom | 258 Pinehurst Circle<br>Naples, FL 34113<br>United States |
| Phone: +44 (0) 333 880 5130                                     | Phone: +1 (959) 444 8080                                  |

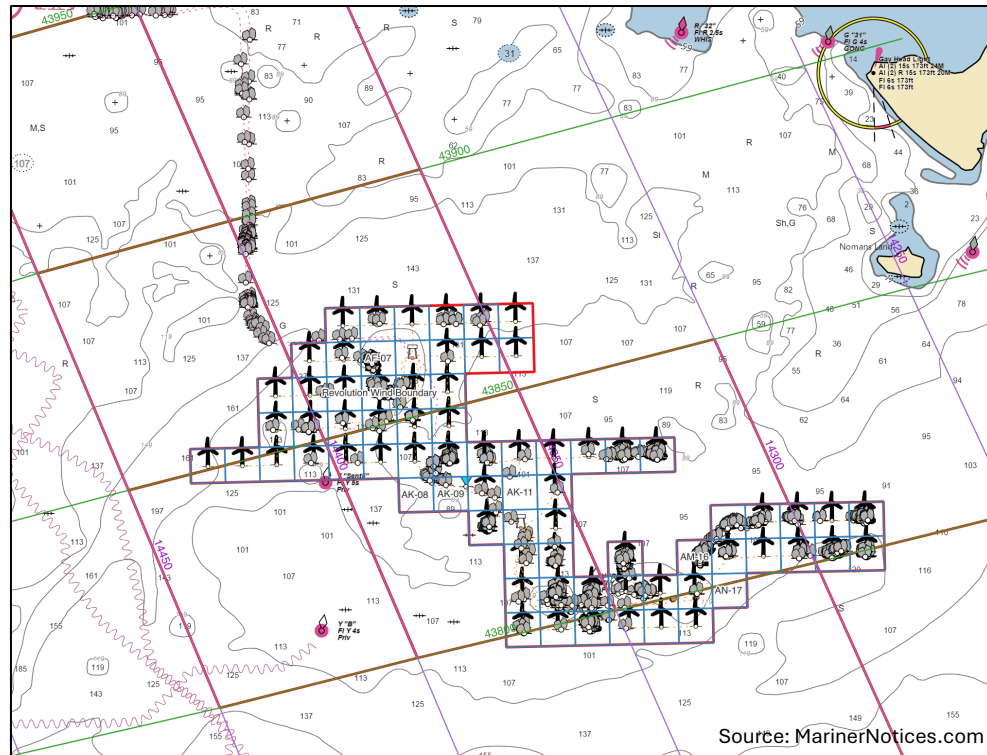
A map showing a large array of offshore wind turbines in the ocean. A yellow icon is placed on one of the turbines. The map is labeled 'MarinerNotices.com'.

# Massachusetts Habitat Working Group on Offshore Wind – 2/26/2025

## Boulder Relocation Policy Updates/Progress

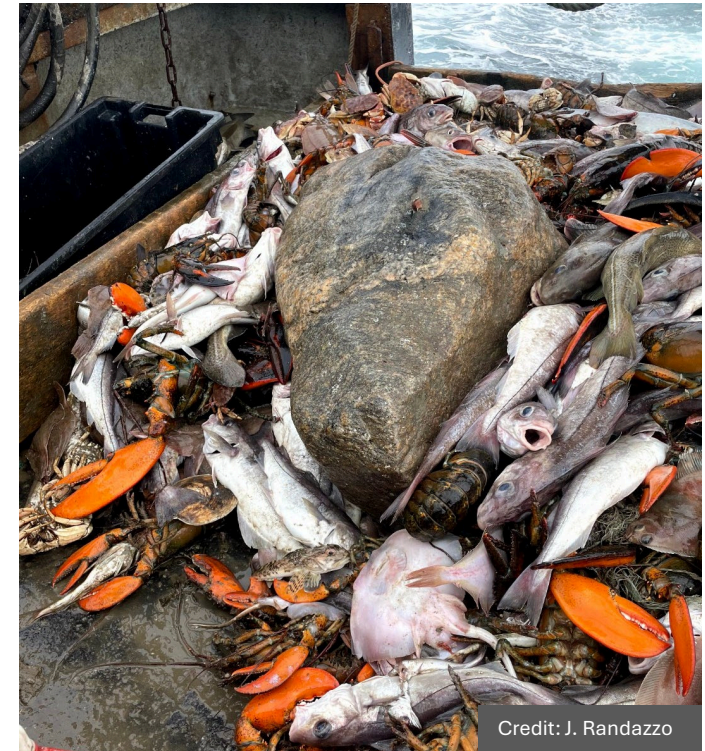
### Discussions with Developers:

- Engaging more fishermen before relocations
- Maintain/update MarinerNotices plotter files
- Prefer to pick boulders, not plow
- More prescriptive guidance would be helpful



### Discussions with Fishermen:

- Open communication is key
- Boulder size matters
- Relocation to hard/complex bottom preferred
- Berms from cable-laying can cause issues for some mobile-gear and survey vessels



Credit: J. Randazzo

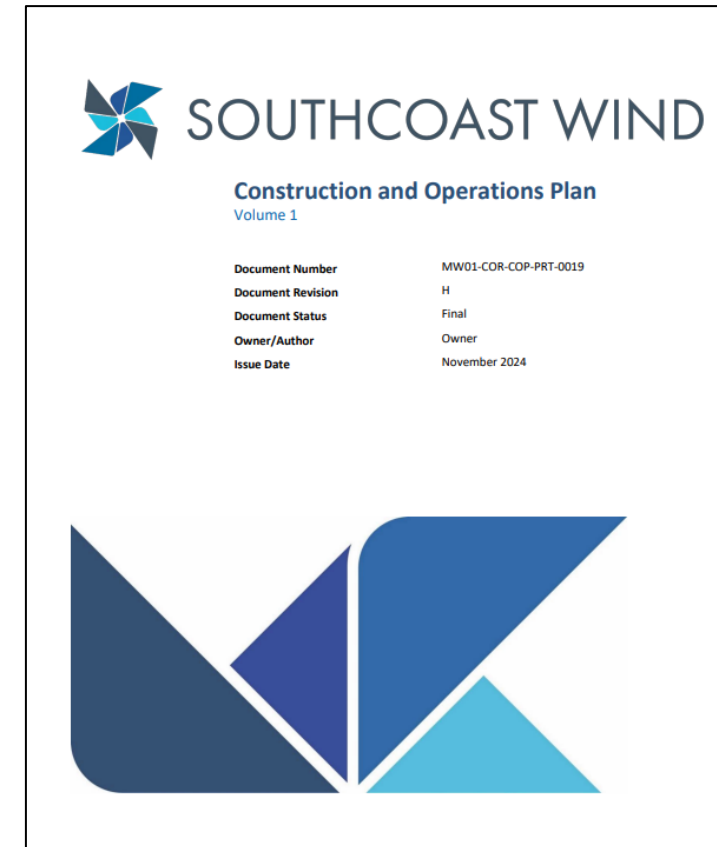
# Massachusetts Habitat Working Group on Offshore Wind – 2/26/2025

## New Boulder Relocation Guidance from BOEM

Mid-January 2025: [SouthCoast Wind COP Terms & Conditions](#) Section 5.3.8/page 48

**Boulder Relocation Decision Protocol** to be included in developer's Boulder Identification and Relocation Plan(s) such that it will:

1. Ensure safety of vessel and crew, and that boulders are;
2. Not relocated near UXO,
3. Not relocated within Archeological Exclusion Zones,
4. Not relocated within any other exclusion zone  
(i.e. shellfish, scientific monitoring, research activities in State water),
5. Not relocated in complex benthic hard bottom habitat,
6. Not stacked on top of each other,
7. Grouped together or next to nearby boulders but within similar bottom habitats and/or perimeter of hard/soft bottom interface,
8. Placed as close to original location as possible, within previously surveyed areas, but outside the clearance radius.





# RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind



## Habitat Working Group

February 26, 2025

Emily Shumchenia, RWSC Director



# Summary of activities since November 2024

---

## Led by RWSC

- **November-February meetings of each Subcommittee** (Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, Bird & Bat, Habitat & Ecosystem, Protected Fish Species, Technology, Data Governance)
  - All meeting recordings and materials can be found [here](#)
- **Final Session of three in the [Collaborative Technology Workshop Series](#) - November 19**
  - Final report by NREL & PNNL “[Evaluating Tools and Technologies for Monitoring Marine Mammals during Offshore Wind Construction Activities](#)”
  - Workshop materials and proceedings can be found [here](#).

**RWSC**

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind

# Summary of activities since November 2024 - continued

## Release of the RWSC 2024 Year in Review

Meant to highlight accomplishments in 2024 including Science Plan, Research Planning Map, Research & Data Support and activities/engagement between Sectors and the research community related to research planning and implementation

**RWSC**

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind



## 2024 Year in Review

### Message from the Director

Dear RWSC participants,

This report reflects on the first year of progress advancing Science Plan goals, guided by seven expert Subcommittees and hundreds of other contributors to studies and discussions of offshore wind and wildlife.

This year, the RWSC has served as a critical coordination hub, bringing together the Sector Caucuses - federal agencies, states, offshore wind companies, environmental nonprofits - and the research community to fund and conduct research examining potential impacts of offshore wind development on marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, bats, fish, and ocean habitats. Funders agree that this work must result in data that are findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable for future science and decision making as soon as possible.

A key highlight of 2024 was the release of the **Science Plan**, a product of nearly two years of work by the Subcommittees. Since January 2024, the Science Plan has provided a roadmap for funders and researchers to address key research priorities and data standardization needs across species groups and topics. The Subcommittees continue to meet regularly to discuss progress addressing Science Plan topics and emerging research needs. To support these discussions, the Subcommittees continue to maintain the **Offshore Wind and Wildlife Research Database** and are developing maps of ongoing and planned research and data collection activities via the **Research Planning Map**, which launched in July 2024.

We have also made strides addressing consistent data collection, data management, and data sharing requirements among funders and researchers. The Sector Caucuses developed a **Research Funding Strategy Action Plan** and the Subcommittees produced data management recommendations, a Data Policy, and a prototype **Offshore Wind Data Catalog**. Furthermore, the **POWERON** initiative is setting a new example for how coordinated funding and consistent data management can facilitate study of larger-scale questions about whales and offshore wind than any single entity can study alone.

Similarly, and as a result of several Atlantic coast states' requirements, and the creativity and willingness of offshore wind companies to collaborate, RWSC will be stewarding funds to study potential impacts of offshore wind on wildlife at regional scales, starting in 2025. These exciting opportunities will result in new data, information, and knowledge about offshore wind and the Atlantic ocean ecosystem. Ensuring that we select and execute studies that fill key data gaps and leverage existing resources will require collaboration and innovation.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to participate in Subcommittee discussions and share your insights about research needs and recent findings. Join us in testing and trialing Subcommittee recommendations, policies, and standards. We're eager to hear from you and continue our work together in 2025.

Here's to another year of meaningful progress and collaboration!

Emily Shumchenia, PhD  
RWSC Director

### Integrated Science Plan for Offshore Wind, Wildlife, & Habitat in U.S. Atlantic Waters

<https://rwsc.org/science-plan>

 Published in January 2024  
A first-of-its-kind blueprint for regional offshore wind research

### Expert Subcommittees

<https://rwsc.org/events>

**33** meetings held in 2024

Continue to meet regularly to discuss Science Plan progress and emerging issues

### Research Planning Map

<https://rwsc.org/map> Launched in July 2024



An awardee of the National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium used the RWSC Map to select a field site and identify partners for sharing validation data.

### Research & Data Support

<https://rwsc.org/research-data>

Published in September 2024

**Research Funding Strategy Action Plan:** Ensures that data collection and research conducted in the upcoming year is coordinated and results in high quality data that fills current data needs.

**Intellectual Property, Data Sharing, & Publications Policy:** Establishes terms of data ownership, requirements to participate in expert Subcommittees, and submit data and essential metadata to recommended repositories.

**Prototype Offshore Wind Data Catalog:** Easy and centralized public discovery of and access to offshore wind and wildlife datasets and research outputs.





## Research Funding Coordination

# RWSC's coordination around funding

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## **Reviewing proposals and funding selections for partners**

- NOAA Fisheries/NFWF Vessel Strike Avoidance Fund
- MassCEC
- Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium
- New Jersey RMI
- NOWRDC Solicitation 4.0
- ROSA's regional monitoring RFP (Empire Wind 1)

# Two RWSC RFPs to be released tomorrow, 2/27

---

## **POWERON RFP**

RWSC is seeking an eligible contractor to conduct marine mammal PAM fieldwork, data management, and analysis according to a defined scope of work in support of the POWERON program. Up to \$1.2M is available for an 18 month period of performance.

Proposals due 3/27/25

## **Regional Research RFP (Empire Wind 1 funds)**

RWSC will allocate approximately \$3.4 million in funding from Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates granted by NYSERDA to Empire Wind 1 for offshore wind and wildlife research along the U.S. East Coast. Focal topics include a vulnerability assessment and power analyses to support marine bird displacement study design; and characterization and assessment of potential effects from offshore wind infrastructure on hydrodynamics and ecology.

- Concept papers due 4/1/25
- Full proposals due 6/2/25

# Supporting coordinated research

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## Data Governance Subcommittee progress

- [RWSC Intellectual Property, Data Sharing, and Publications Policy](#)
- [Suggested standard language for offshore wind research agreements and contracts to ensure interoperable data](#)
- [Data management and governance glossary](#)
- [Essential metadata guidelines for offshore wind & wildlife data](#)
- [Updates to recommended repositories for publication and long-term storage of data related to offshore wind & wildlife](#)
- A template for Data Management & Sharing Plans on DMPTool.org, customized for the RWSC community (registration required)





Other Subcommittee  
Work to Implement the  
Science Plan

# Subcommittee progress

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- POWERON Field Plan finalization and RFP (Marine Mammals)
- Maintaining active and planned PAM locations (Marine Mammals)
- Launched [Regional Seafloor Data Repository](#) (Habitat & Ecosystem)
- Working toward first Acoustic Telemetry map layer (Protected Fish)
- [Offshore acoustic monitoring for bats: Guidance for deployment on wind turbines](#) (Bird & Bat)
- [List of focal bird species in RWSC study area](#) (Bird and Bat)
- Working toward quantifiable ecological/behavioral/physiological baseline for sea turtles (Sea Turtle)

# Regional Seafloor Data Repository Origin

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- Pilot repository scoped and developed with funding from BOEM, MassCEC, and RIDEM
  - Seafloor data in the northeast aren't standardized or centralized
  - Many researchers are storing seafloor data locally
  - Offshore wind developers are unsure where/how to share parts of their data with the public
- RWSC Habitat & Ecosystem Subcommittee informed the pilot and received demo in fall 2023
- MARCO, NROC, RWSC, NCCOS funding to transition from pilot to functional repository – adding features based on community needs
- RWSC Habitat & Ecosystem Subcommittee will continue guiding development and use of the repository
- Can be used to compile datasets to build regional-scale seafloor products

# Regional Seafloor Data Repository

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Regional Seafloor Data Repository. At the top, there are three logos: MARCO (Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean), NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA, and RWSC (Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind). Below the logos, the title "Regional Seafloor Data Repository" is displayed. To the right of the title are buttons for "Source", "Share", and "Language: English". Below the title are buttons for "Browse" and "Upload".

**Description**

The purpose of this website is to catalog and make available seafloor datasets in U.S. Atlantic waters collected by a variety of entities for a variety of purposes that can be used to develop regional-scale seafloor habitat data products such as bathymetry maps, benthic habitat maps, surficial seafloor geology maps, and others. Contributors to the data holdings on this website and users of this website agree to the [Terms of Use](#).

**Preparing Data for Upload**

The RWSC Science Plan includes recommendations for formats and resolutions of seafloor data that will maximize compatibility for integration into regional scale data products. Refer to Table 8 in the *Seafloor* chapter of the Science Plan for guidance on formats and resolutions.

For guidance on how to prepare data at the requested resolution and in the requested formats for uploading to this repository, refer to the NROC-INSPIRE report *Standard Approaches to Synthesizing, Visualizing, and Disseminating High-Resolution Geophysical Data to Advance Benthic Habitat Mapping in the Wind Energy Areas of the Northeast*. Specifically, refer to Appendix C for a *Geophysical Data Downsampling Protocol*, Appendix D for a *Mosaic Protocol*, and Appendix E for a *Sediment Sampling Spreadsheet Template*. Download the [Sediment Sampling Spreadsheet Template](#).

**Catalogs**

Filter catalogs by title, description or keywords

- Bathymetry**  
Bathymetric data products
- Interpreted Benthic Habitat**  
ESRI Shapefiles (Polygons) or GeoTIFFs (Categorical Rasters) That Describe Benthic Habitat Types

- Support from NROC and MARCO
- Established back-end storage (AWS S3 bucket)
- Currently accepts four file types
  - Tiff/Geotiff
  - BAG
  - ESRI Shapefile
  - CSV
- Minimum metadata collected via click-through tool consistent with Subcommittee recommendations (including dataset authorship, use license/restrictions, funder)



## Anticipating the winds of change: A baseline assessment of Northeastern US continental shelf surficial substrates

Kevin D. E. Stokesbury<sup>1</sup> | N. David Bethoney<sup>2</sup> | Felipe Restrepo<sup>3</sup> | Bradley P. Harris<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Fisheries Oceanography, School for Marine Sciences and Technology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA

<sup>2</sup>Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, Saunderson, Rhode Island, USA

<sup>3</sup>Fisheries Aquatic Science & Technology (FAST) Laboratory, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, Alaska, USA

### Correspondence

Kevin D. E. Stokesbury, Department of Fisheries Oceanography, School for Marine Sciences and Technology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, 836 S Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA 02744, USA. Email: [kstokesbury@umassd.edu](mailto:kstokesbury@umassd.edu)

### Funding Information

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Abstract

The introduction of thousands of wind turbines along the North American Atlantic continental shelf over the next decade will constitute the largest regional change in marine substrates since the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet over 14,000 years ago. Here, two large data sets, SMAST drop camera survey (242,949 samples, 2003 to 2019) and the US Geological Survey databases (27,784 samples, 1966 to 2011), are combined to derive sea floor surficial substrate probability maps for the Northeastern US continental shelf from Virginia Beach to the Gulf of Maine to 300 m depth (218,571 km<sup>2</sup>). Geostatistical models were used to estimate the probability of five geologic and one biogenic substrate types being present at a 250 m resolution, and the proportional contribution of each substrate type to the seabed composition at a 500 m resolution. The maps provide information to (1) provide insight into development expectations for forward, and (2) provide insight into the potential shelf surficial substrates observed in areas.

### KEYWORDS

cobble, geostatistical, debris, substrates, v

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Global warming, ocean acidification, and anthropogenic stressors such as windfarm development, are rapidly transforming the coastal oceans (Kroeker et al., 2013; Methratta et al., 2023; Perle et al., 2015; Rheuban et al., 2018; Stokesbury et al., 2023; Chang

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© 2024 The Author(s). Fisheries Oceanography published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Fisheries Oceanography, 2024, e12693.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/rog.12693>

# Idealized workflow:

Published paper > Upload data to Seafloor Repo > Maps on NE Portal

### Probability of mud - Stokesbury et al. 2024

in Regional Seafloor Data Repository

Source | Share | Language: English

Use | Collection | Browse | Upload



**Description**

Here, two large data sets, SMAST drop camera survey (242,949 samples, 2003 to 2019) and the US Geological Survey databases (27,784 samples, 1966 to 2011), are combined to derive sea floor surficial substrate probability maps for the Northeastern US continental shelf from Virginia Beach to the Gulf of Maine to 300 m depth (218,571 km<sup>2</sup>). Geostatistical models were used to estimate the probability of five geologic and one biogenic substrate types being present at a 250 m resolution, and the proportional contribution of each substrate type to the seabed composition at a 500 m resolution.

**Providers**

- Kevin Stokesbury [PROVIDER](#)
- N. David Bethoney [PROVIDER](#)
- Felipe Restrepo [PROVIDER](#)
- Bradley P. Harris [PROVIDER](#)

**Metadata**

**General**

**Time of Data begins** 1/1/1966

**Time of Data ends** 12/31/2019

**DOI** <https://doi.org/10.1111/rog.12693>

**Web Service** <https://services.northeastoceandata.org/arcgis/rest/services/BathymetryAndSeafloor/MapServer/>

**Collection**

**Interpreted Benthic Habitat**

ESRI Shapefiles (Polygon) or GeoTIFFs (Categorical Rasters) That Describe Benthic Habitat Types

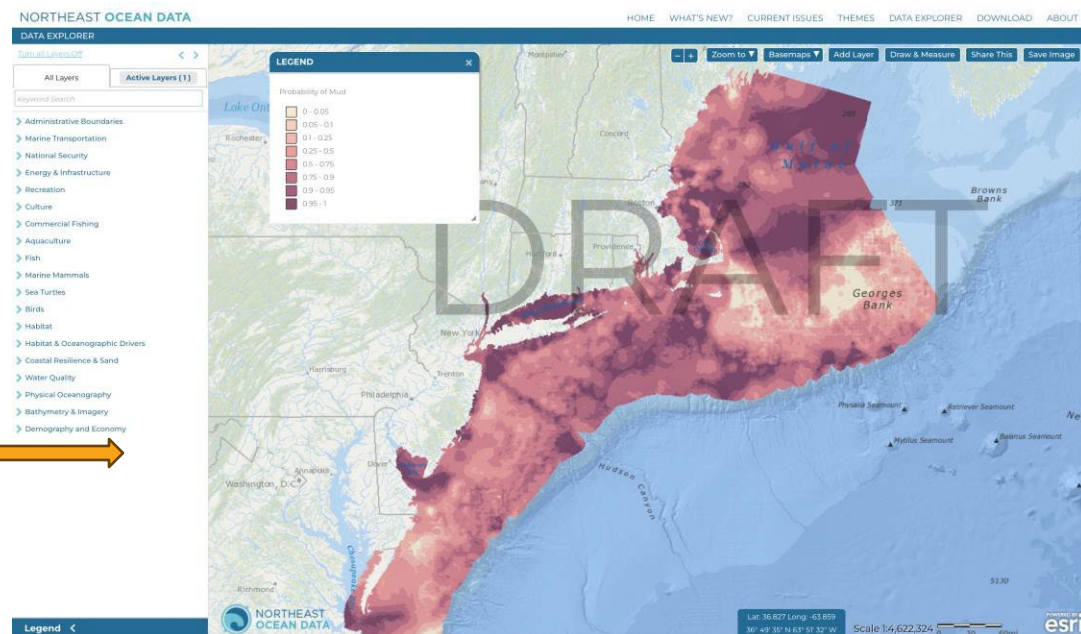
**Assets**

- Probability of mud - Stokesbury et al. 2024
- Anticipating the winds of change: A baseline assessment of Northeastern US continental shelf surficial substrates

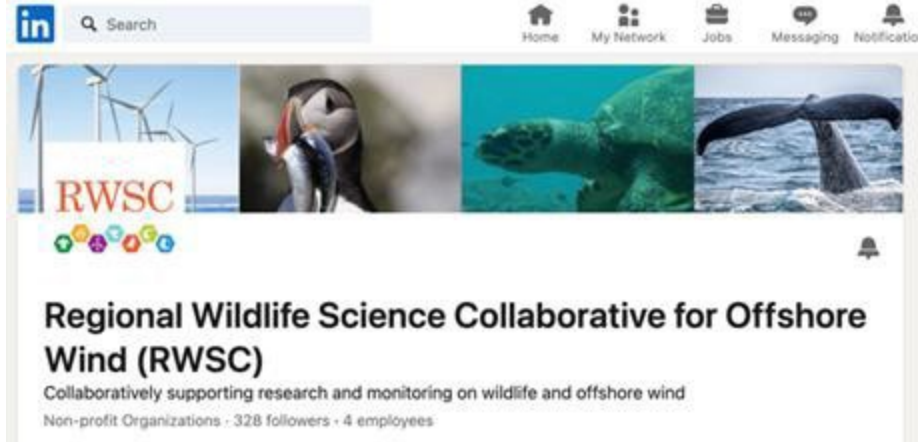
**PDF document**

[Open](#) [Copy URL](#)

Fisheries Oceanography 2024; e12693



# How to receive updates



**RWSC**

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind

All RWSC Subcommittee meetings are open to the public: visit <https://rwsc.org/events>

**Monthly e-newsletter:** meeting invites and other news

## Contact information

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Avalon Bristow, MARCO Executive Director  
[abristow@midatlanticocean.org](mailto:abristow@midatlanticocean.org)

Nick Napoli, NROC Executive Director, MARCO Senior Advisor  
[nnapoli@northeastoceancouncil.org](mailto:nnapoli@northeastoceancouncil.org)

# 2025 Subcommittee Workplans

Links to each 2025 Subcommittee Workplan can be found in the "Shared Files" [here](#)

| Topic                                                                                                                                                                   | Lead Subcommittee                       | Other Subcommittees    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Continue to update and maintain the <a href="#">Offshore Wind &amp; Wildlife Research Database</a> ; begin adding and tracking developer required monitoring activities | All                                     | N/A                    |
| Continue to update and maintain the <a href="#">Research Planning Map</a> of ongoing offshore wind research activities                                                  | All                                     | N/A                    |
| Provide forum and tools to support coordination:                                                                                                                        |                                         |                        |
| POWERON; Long-term archival passive acoustic monitoring deployment, data analysis, and data management                                                                  | <a href="#">Marine Mammal</a>           |                        |
| Support ongoing species distribution and habitat suitability modeling                                                                                                   | <a href="#">Marine Mammal</a>           | Habitat & Ecosystem    |
| List of focal bird species in each RWSC subregion (update quarterly)                                                                                                    | <a href="#">Bird &amp; Bat</a>          |                        |
| Acoustic telemetry receiver network and tagging                                                                                                                         | <a href="#">Protected Fish</a>          | Sea Turtle             |
| Plankton data collection, synthesis, and data product development                                                                                                       | <a href="#">Habitat &amp; Ecosystem</a> | Marine Mammal, others? |

# 2025 Subcommittee Workplans - continued

| Topic                                                                                             | Lead Subcommittee                       | Other Subcommittees                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Develop recommended practices for data collection, management, and storage:</b>                |                                         |                                                       |
| <b>Bird and Bat Tracking and Research Framework</b>                                               | <a href="#">Bird &amp; Bat</a>          |                                                       |
| <b>Quantifiable ecological/behavioral/physiological baseline measurements for sea turtles</b>     | <a href="#">Sea Turtle</a>              |                                                       |
| <b>Sea turtle data collection, sharing, and archiving</b>                                         | <a href="#">Sea Turtle</a>              | Data Governance                                       |
| <b>Regional seafloor habitat data products + covariates for species distribution modeling</b>     | <a href="#">Habitat &amp; Ecosystem</a> | Marine Mammal, Bird & Bat, Sea Turtle, Protected Fish |
| <b>Hard bottom and sensitive seafloor habitats</b>                                                | <a href="#">Habitat &amp; Ecosystem</a> |                                                       |
| <b>Oceanographic and atmospheric data products + covariates for species distribution modeling</b> | <a href="#">Habitat &amp; Ecosystem</a> | Marine Mammal, Bird & Bat, Sea Turtle, Protected Fish |
| <b>Maintain and update RWSC recommended data practices:</b>                                       |                                         |                                                       |
| <b>Bat acoustics monitoring guidance</b>                                                          | <a href="#">Bird &amp; Bat</a>          |                                                       |
| <b>Acoustic Telemetry Data Management &amp; Storage Recommended Practices</b>                     | <a href="#">Protected Fish</a>          |                                                       |
| <b>PAM Data Management and Best Practices (with POWERON)</b>                                      | <a href="#">Marine Mammal</a>           |                                                       |

# Synthesis of State and Federal Monitoring and Mitigation Requirements

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- **Purpose:** The RWSC Caucuses have expressed the need to understand the various requirements around wildlife/environmental monitoring and mitigation activities in state solicitations for offshore wind and in federal permit approvals.
- **Process:**
  - Compiled required [environmental monitoring and mitigation activities in available COP Condition of Approval](#).
  - Compiled required environmental monitoring and mitigation activities in most recent State solicitations/RFPs from [NY](#), [NJ](#), [CT](#), and [MA](#). Activities pulled from required Environmental Mitigation Plans, Data Sharing Plans, and Adaptive Plans.
  - Compiled requirements in State laws from ME and MD.
  - Compared requirements in a [2024-25 State and Federal Requirements Synthesis spreadsheet](#)
- **Goal:** Understand what states and federal agencies are currently requiring in terms of monitoring and mitigation activities that generate environment or wildlife data.



# Synthesis of Offshore Wind Project Monitoring Plans

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Based on the various requirements discussed on the previous slide, the RWSC Subcommittees have started to track the specific required data collection activities in the wildlife/environment monitoring plans associated with each approved offshore wind project.

**Progress to date:** A spreadsheet or document was developed to track this information for each RWSC Subcommittee:

- [Birds and Bats](#)
- [Habitat and Ecosystem](#)
- [Marine Mammals](#)
- [Protected Fish Species](#)
- [Sea Turtles](#)

## Next steps:

- Add profiles of data collection activities and required monitoring plans to RWSC Database (<https://database.rwsc.org>)
- Track the development of individual datasets, data products, and monitoring plan results as they are collected and made public.



# TRANSIT CORRIDOR ACOUSTIC MONITORING PILOT - THAYERMAHAN AND VINEYARD WIND

February 2025

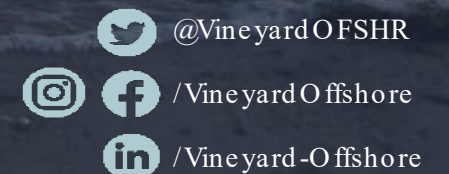




## Advancing Technology for Detecting North Atlantic right whales

- \$3 million Wind and Whales fund
  - Seapicket: ThayerMahan's 32-hydrophone beamforming array. Test application for use in real-time acoustic monitoring of a transit corridor.
  - Awarion: Charles River Analytics' Artificial Intelligence whale blow detection technology. Testing Awarion enabled cameras alongside expert observers.
  - Project Ocean W'aKEs. An in situ hydrodynamic study using Vineyard Wind 1 as a base case to contextualize the potential impact foundations may have on stratification typical of the Nantucket Shoals region.

[vineyardoffshore.com](http://vineyardoffshore.com)





# About ThayerMahan

**600+ Years**  
of maritime operating experience



**15** PATENTS

FACILITIES GROWTH

400sf



2016

80,000sf



2023

**375+ Years**

of acoustic detection and  
classification experience



**200+** EMPLOYEES

ISO 9001  
CERTIFIED

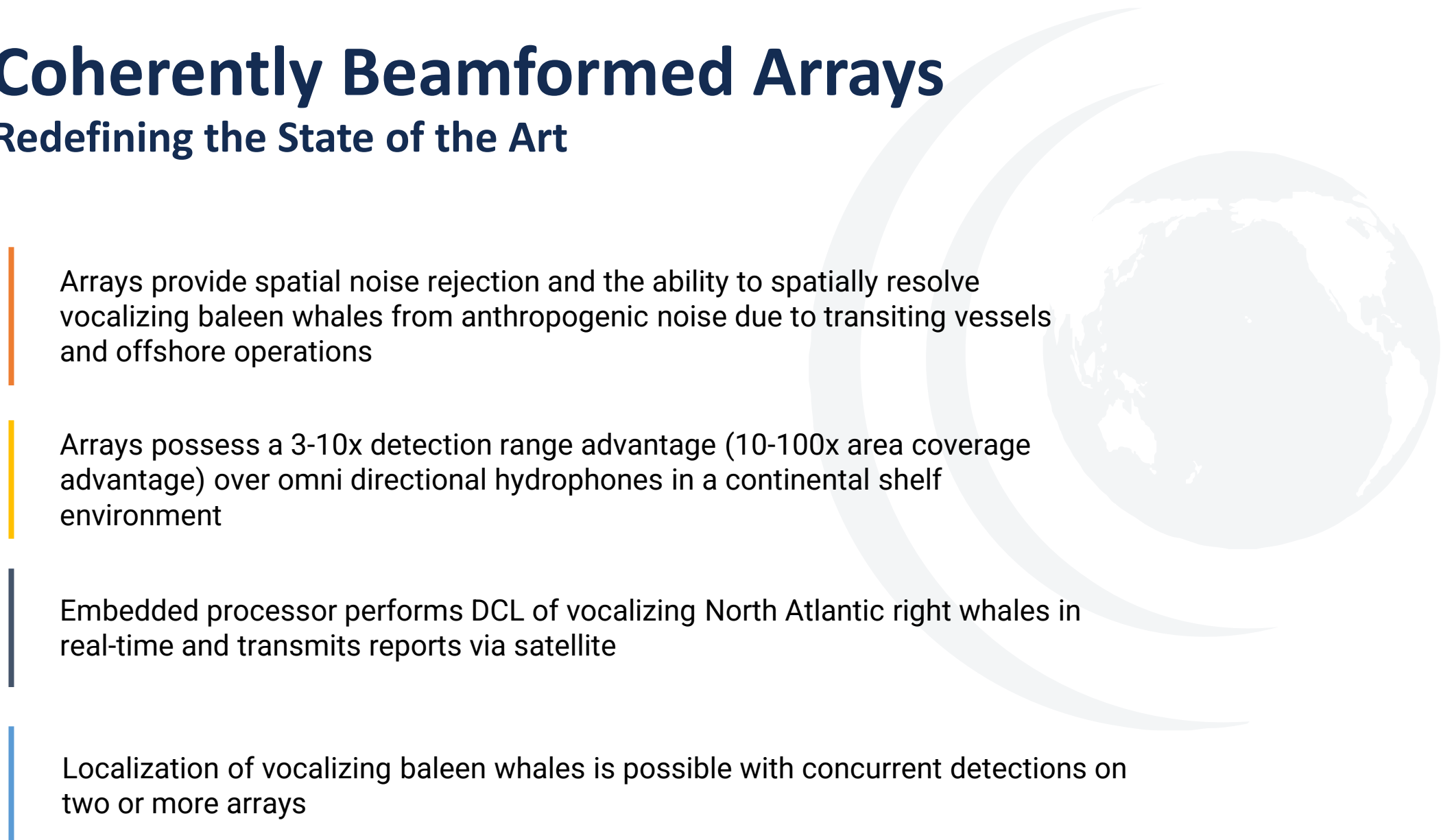
IN BUSINESS since **2016**

ISO 45001  
CERTIFIED



# Coherently Beamformed Arrays

## Redefining the State of the Art



Arrays provide spatial noise rejection and the ability to spatially resolve vocalizing baleen whales from anthropogenic noise due to transiting vessels and offshore operations

Arrays possess a 3-10x detection range advantage (10-100x area coverage advantage) over omni directional hydrophones in a continental shelf environment

Embedded processor performs DCL of vocalizing North Atlantic right whales in real-time and transmits reports via satellite

Localization of vocalizing baleen whales is possible with concurrent detections on two or more arrays

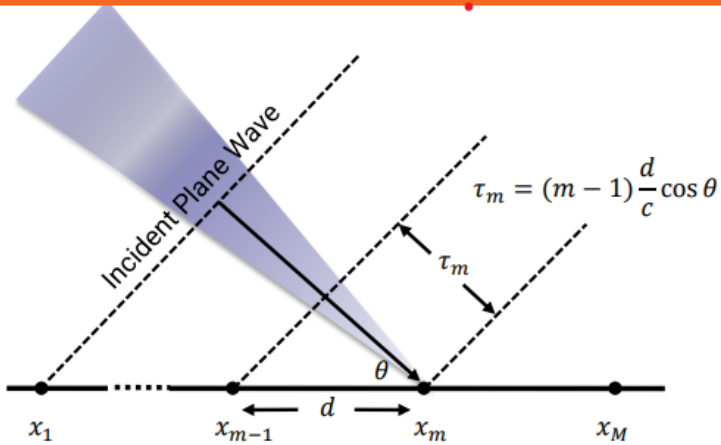


# Beamforming

## Plane Wave Beamforming: Why Arrays Work



Delay and sum beamforming allows emphasis of one “look” direction over all others



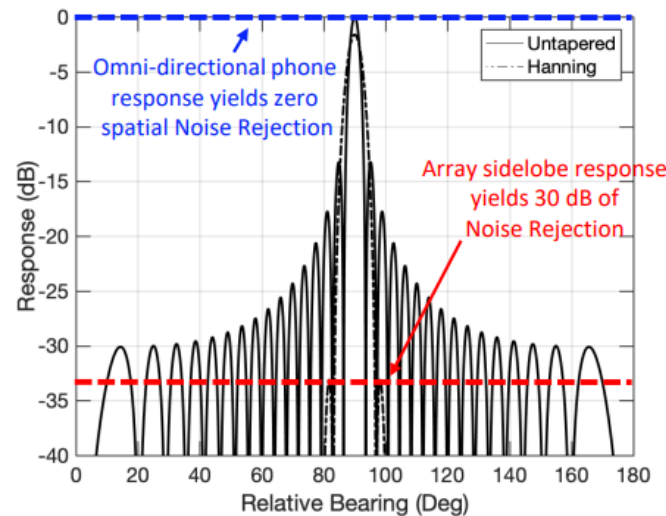
Time Domain

$$y(t) = \sum_{m=1}^M x_m(t - \tau_m)$$

Frequency Domain

$$Y(\omega) = \sum_{m=1}^M X_m(\omega) e^{-j\omega\tau_m}$$

Beam Pattern at Design Frequency  
for 32-Channel Array



**BEAMFORMING ALLOWS FOR  
LONG RANGE DETECTION,  
LOCALIZATION, TRACKING  
AND FILTERING OF  
INTERFERING BACKGROUND  
NOISES (SNR ENHANCEMENT).**

**DEVELOPED AND PERFECTED  
BY THE US NAVY SUBMARINE  
FORCE OVER 7 DECADES!**

Fast beamformer implementation steers beams to all look directions simultaneously in real-time

## SeaPicket System Overview

| Designator | Name                                | Description                                                                                      |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A          | Antenna Mast                        | Inmarsat BGAN (data transmission), Iridium SBD (platform control), 2x GPS, Cellular, AIS         |
| B          | Superstructure                      | 4x 110W Solar Panels, Signal Processing, Communications, Charge Management Payloads              |
| C          | 56" Surface Buoy                    | 56" Diameter, 132" Height. 2x 12V 300 Ah Lithium Iron Phosphate Batteries, Charge Control System |
| D          | Electro-Mechanical Compliant Tether | 5-60m Stretch tether. 200% stretch capable, rated to 4500kg. Integrated data cabling             |
| E          | 3500lb Primary Anchor               | Anchor frame supports emergency release, array wiring harness                                    |
| F          | 32-Channel Array                    | 32 channel bottom mounted array, integrated 1/2" Dyneema line for deployment, recovery           |
| G          | 300lb Clump Weight                  | Maintains array orientation, edge-tech acoustic release for primary recovery method              |

NOTE: NOT TO SCALE

|                               |             |              |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| DESIGNED                      | shoharmon   | 10/9/2024    |
| CHECKED                       |             |              |
| DATE                          |             |              |
| REVISIONS                     |             |              |
| APPROVED                      |             |              |
| TITLE                         |             |              |
| SeaPicket 1.0 System Overview |             |              |
| REV                           | DESCRIPTION | DATE         |
| A1                            | SP 1.0      | 10/9/2024    |
| PAGE 1 / 10                   |             | SHEET 1 OF 1 |

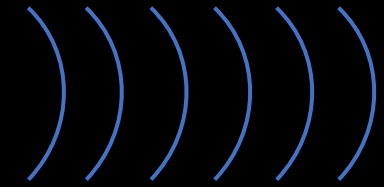


## *SeaPicket Deployment in Long Island Sound for Testing*

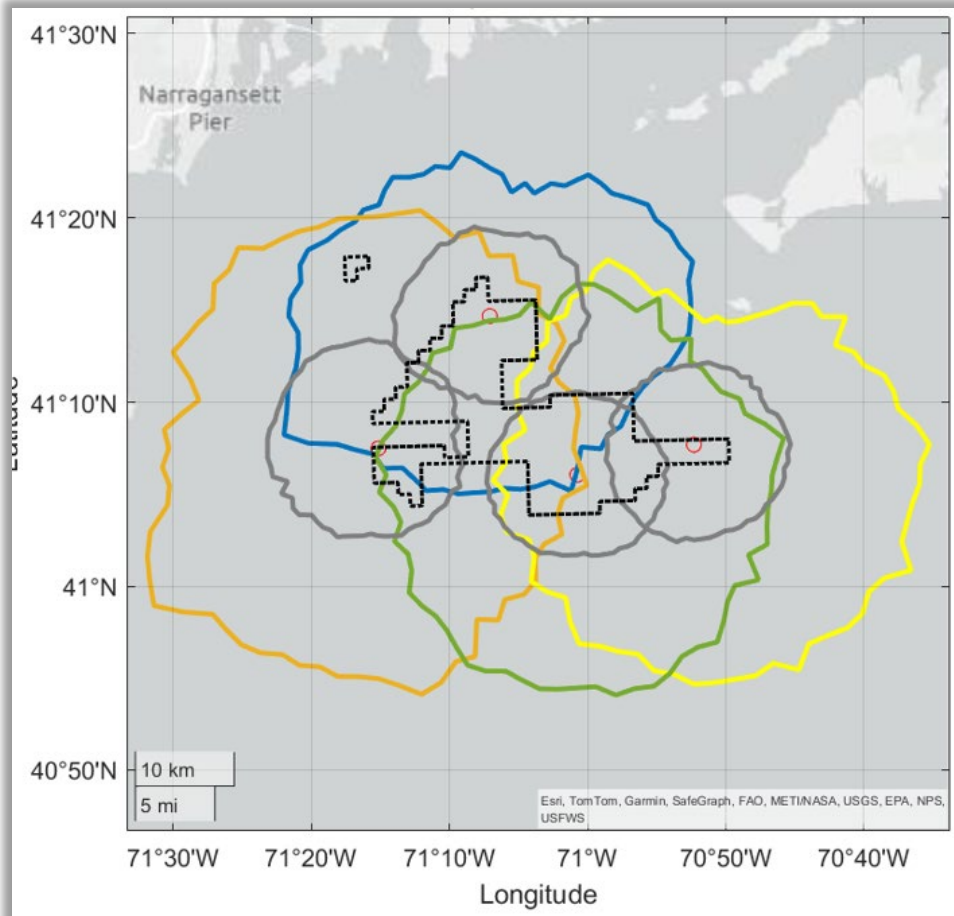
1. Sea Buoy – Reliable, Autonomous
2. Mooring – Flexible, Resilient
3. Linear Array – 32 Channel
4. NARW Classifier - Accurate



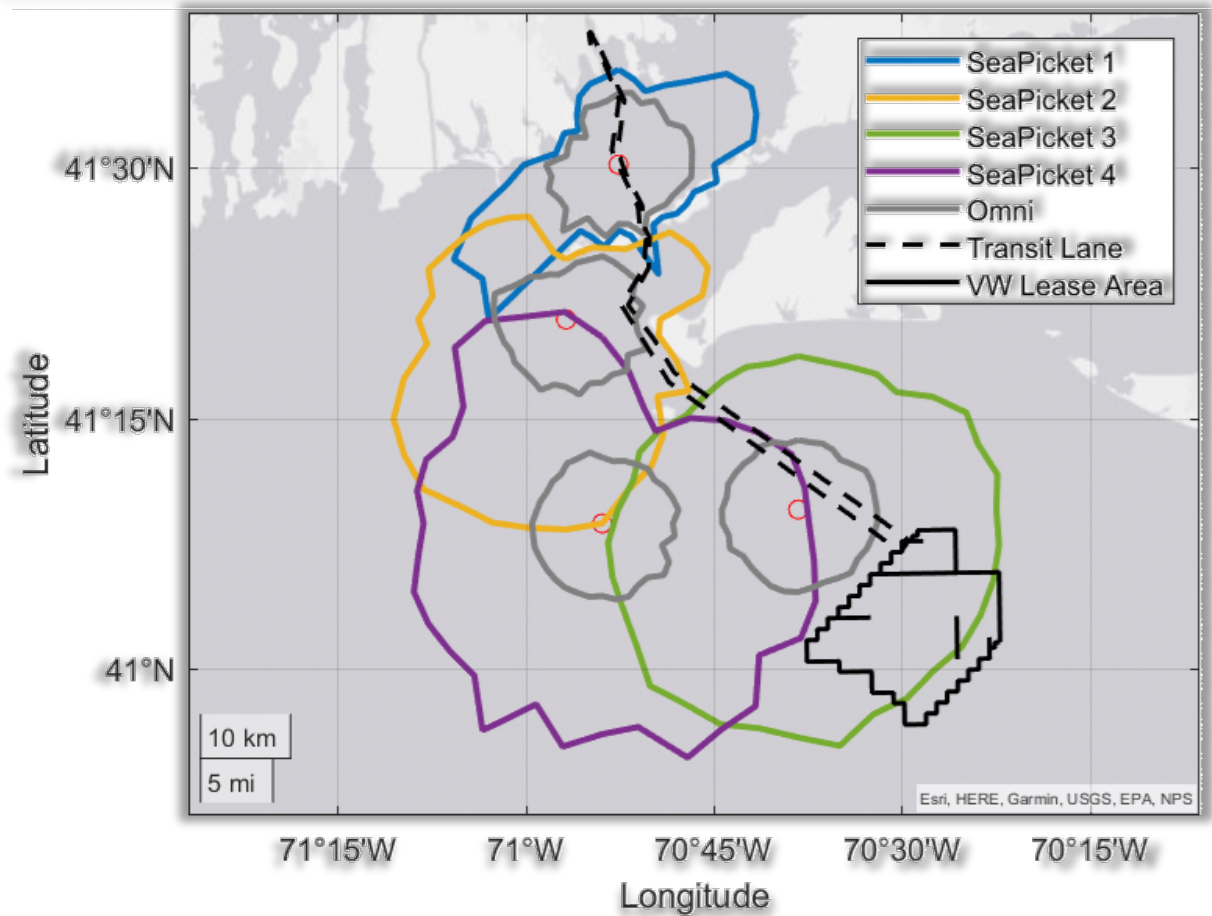
# Offshore Wind Scopes of Work



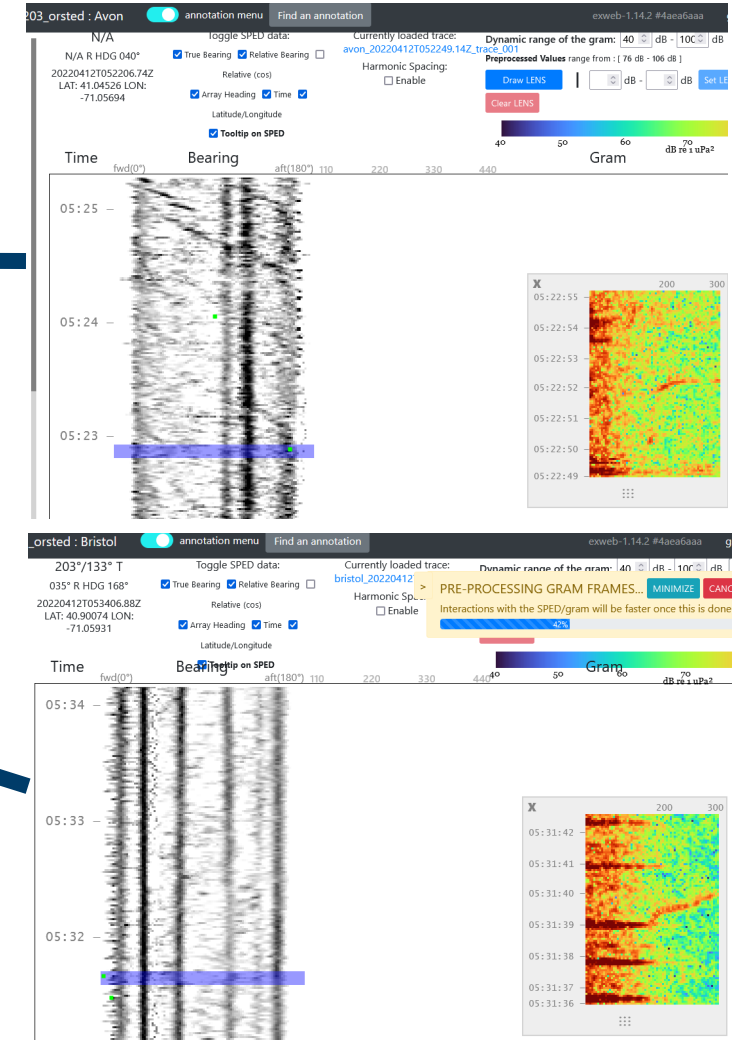
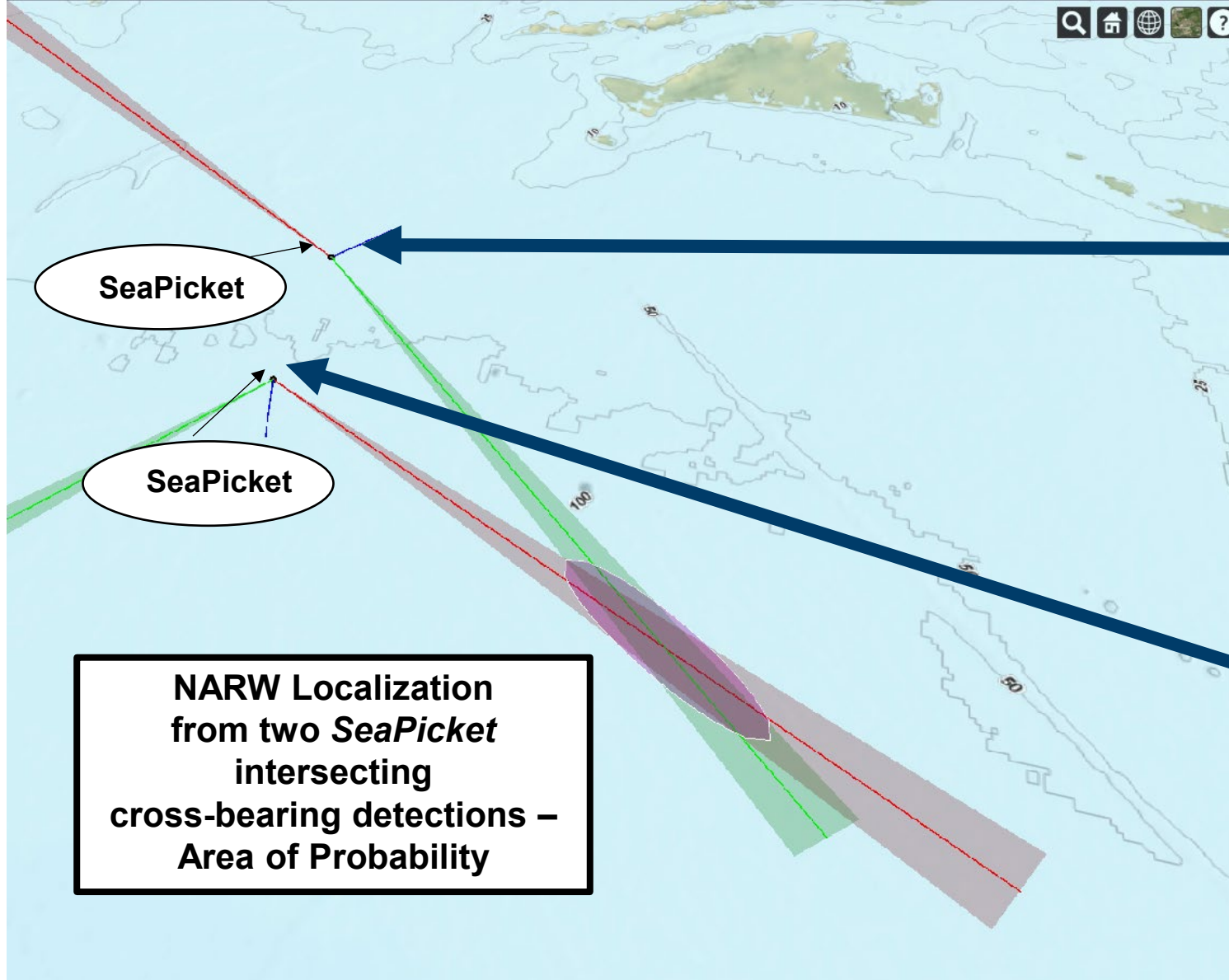
## Construction Monitoring



## Route Monitoring



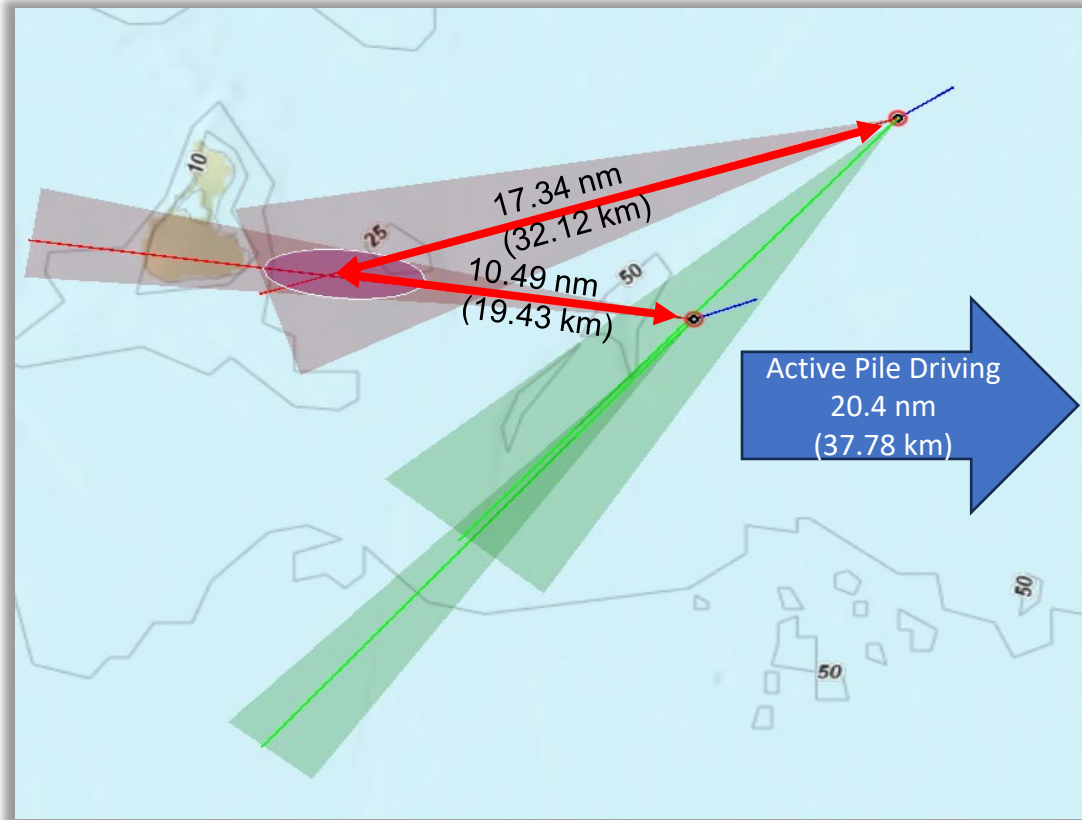
# Detection and Localization



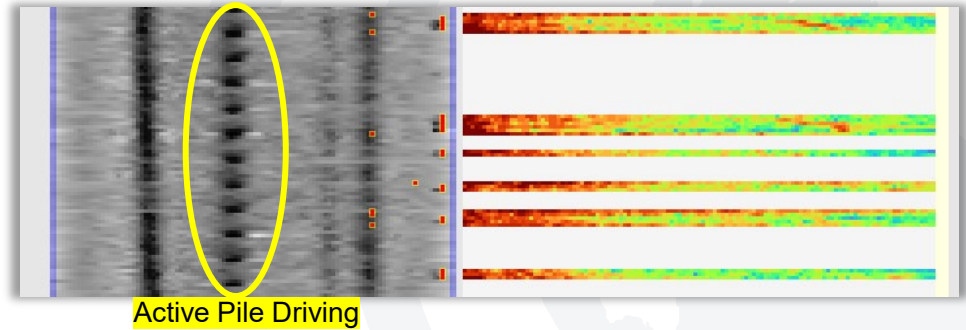


# Humpback Localization, During pile driving

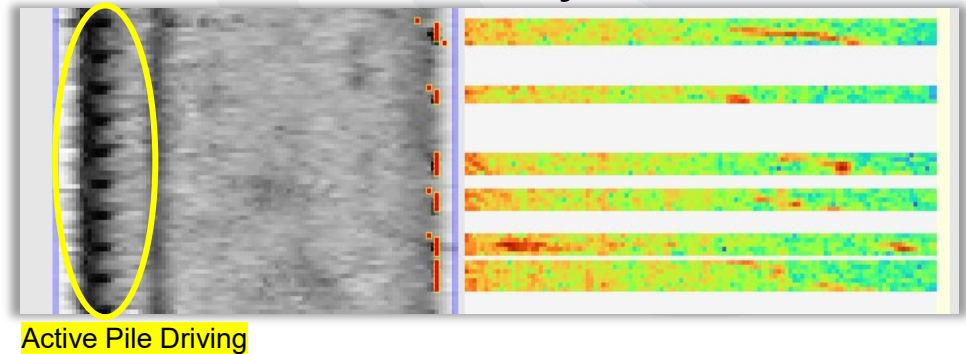
18 June 2024



- Exeter: North Buoy 17.34 NM



- Goshen: West Buoy 10.49 NM



# Detections by the numbers

| Parameter                                      | Detections |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| All biological sources                         | 11,385     |
| North Atlantic Right Whales (NARWs)            | 3,343      |
| Humpback Whales                                | 7,990      |
| False detections of NARWs                      | 0.1%       |
| Sources acoustically localized to a coordinate | 21         |
| Sources visually localized to a coordinate     | 4          |

# ThayerMahan's NARW Monitoring Key Takeaways

1. **Effective Acoustic Monitoring:** SeaPicket bottom-mounted arrays successfully detected and reported North Atlantic right whales (NARWs) during a pilot project funded by Vineyard Wind construction.
2. **Expands Detection Capabilities:** SeaPicket detected **11,385 biological vocalizations** and **3,343 NARW upcalls**.
3. **Strong Detection Performance:** Detection ranges exceeded **20 km in most cases**, with some reductions in shallow waters (Vineyard Sound, Buzzards Bay, Muskeget Channel).
4. **Accurate Classification:** Independent review confirmed **98.2% accuracy**, with only **0.1% of NARW** and **0.2% of humpback whale** detections rejected as false.
5. **Conservative Estimates:** Detection modeling used **moderate-high shipping noise levels** and isotropic noise assumptions, ensuring reliable and realistic results.
6. **Critical for Marine Mammal Protection:** SeaPicket **greatly enhanced monitoring capabilities**, providing greater capabilities safeguarding NARW when combined with visual observations