



# **Project Update**

Presented to

MA EEA Habitat Working Group

Presented by

Erin Healy, Marine Science Permitting Manager, Mayflower Wind

September 14, 2021

# **Mayflower Wind**

Backed by two global energy companies with deep experience in working alongside communities and managing the complexities of offshore and onshore energy development projects



Shell's ambition is to become a net-zero emissions energy business by 2050 or sooner



Ocean Winds – a joint venture of EDP Renewables and ENGIE – share a vision where renewables, particularly offshore wind, play an essential role in the global energy transition



# **Mayflower Wind Project Overview**

### **Points of Interconnection**

- Falmouth Tap
- *New in 2021*: Brayton Point, Somerset

### Lease OCS-A 0521

- 127,388 acres
- Up to 149 wind turbine generators (WTG)/offshore substation platform (OSP) positions within the lease area
- 1nm x 1nm spacing



# **Export Cable Route (ECR) to Brayton Point**

- ECR in Federal Waters:
  - ~145 km in federal waters
- ECR in State Waters:
  - Sakonnet River (~36 km)
    - ~32.5 km in RI state waters
    - ~3.5 km in MA state waters
  - ECR will cross over Aquidneck Island into Mount Hope Bay, entering Massachusetts Waters, and landing at Brayton Point in Somerset, MA



#### Business Proprietary and Confidential

# **Eelgrass Screening**

- No mapped eelgrass data found in Sakonnet River and Mount Hope Bay within vicinity of Brayton Point export cable corridor
  - HDD will be used in nearshore areas to avoid impacts to areas with potential to support eelgrass beds
  - The Summer 2021 benthic surveys verified the absence of SAV beds at the Brayton Point and Aquidneck export cable landing locations



# **Marine Surveys & Studies for Brayton Point**

### Schedule

Started in July 2021

### Surveys

- Sidescan sonar (seafloor)
- Multibeam echosounder (water depth)
- Gradiometer (magnetic anomalies)
- Sub-bottom profiler (approximately 5meter depth penetration)
- Single channel ultra-high resolution seismic (20-meter depth penetration)

- 2021 Geophysical survey
- 2021 Geotechnical survey
- 2021 Geoarchaeological investigation
- 2021 Benthic sampling program (Summer)
- 2022 Marine Archaeological Resource Assessment
- 2022 Marine Site Investigation Report

# **Benthic Surveys**

### Sampling Approach

- Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI)
- Plan View Imaging (PV)
- Video
- Grab samples
  - Grain size
  - Total organic carbon
  - Flora/faunal counts





Business Proprietary and Confidential

### Brayton Pt ECC – 2021 Benthic Sampling

### Sample Locations

- <2 km sample station spacing</li>
- Additional focused sampling in sensitive habitat
- Integration with acoustic mapping (when available)





## **Marine Mammal Protection**

### Strike Avoidance Measures (All Vessels)

- Vessels greater than 65 feet in length operate at speeds below 10 knots between November 1 and July 31
- Monitor for DMAs and operate at 10 knots or less in DMA areas
- Maintain separation distance of at least 500m with observed North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) and 100m for other large whales

Incidental Harassment Authorization from NMFS for geophysical surveys

### Protected Species Observers (PSOs) on geophysical survey vessels

- Implement IHA procedures
- Monitor during surveys
- Implement mitigation measures if protected species enter "exclusion zone" set by NMFS





**Humpback Whale** 



**Common Dolphin** 





## Thank You



Chinese

# Ørsted Offshore North America

Northeast Program Update



MA EEA Habitat Working Group Meeting on Offshore Wind September 2021

### Ørsted Offshore North America portfolio

Awarded over 4,000 MW of offshore capacity on the East coast



#### In Operation Block Island Wind Farm: 30MW

#### Awarded

Revolution Wind: 50/50 JV w/ Eversource, 704MW (400MW to RI, 304MW to CT) South Fork Wind: 50/50 JV w/ Eversource, 132MW Sunrise Wind: 50/50 JV w/ Eversource, approximately 924MW Ocean Wind 1: 75/25 JV with PSEG, 1,100MW Ocean Wind 2: 1,148MW Skipjack Wind 1: 120MW



# Orsted Northeast Program 50/50 JV with Eversource

### **South Fork**

- Lease Area OCS-A 0517
- Deliver power to the East Hampton, NY
- FEIS issued August 2021
- NY Article VII approved March 2021

#### Revolution

- Lease Area OCS-A 0486
- Interconnect to the existing Davisville Substation, RI
- NOI issued April 2021, scoping ended June 11, 2021

### Sunrise

- Lease Area OCS-A 0530
- Proposed interconnection at Holbrook Substation, NY
- NOI issued August 2021
- Scoping Meetings: September 16 (5:30) / 20 (1:00) / 22 (5:30)
- Comments due October 4



# Thank you

**Liz Gowell** Head of Strategic Permitting lizgo@orsted.com



# VINEYARD WIND

### Project Updates September 14, 2021

# Vineyard Wind 1



### **Overview**

- Capacity: 800 MW
- Lease Area: OCS-A 0501
- Federal Permitting: Complete, COP Approval received July 15, 2021
- State Permitting: Complete
- Point of Interconnection: Barnstable Substation
  (MA)
- **Power Purchase Agreements:** 20-year PPAs with Massachusetts utilities (approved)
- **COD**: 2024



# **Vineyard Wind South**



VINEYARD WIND

### Overview

- Location: Vineyard Wind South is in Lease Area OCS-A 0534, which is located immediately to the south of Vineyard Wind 1. Vineyard Wind South facilities are located in federal and Massachusetts state waters. WTGs and ESPs located in Southern Wind Development Area (SWDA)
- Two Phases: Maximum of 140 WTGs and ESPs
  - Phase 1 is Park City Wind
  - Phase 2 is Rest of Zone/Future Project
- Development: Each Phase has its own Project Design Envelope
- Size: SWDA approximately 370-486 km2

# **Park City Wind**



Park City Wind includes a commitment to base construction and operations activities primarily out of Bridgeport, Connecticut

### VINEYARD WIND

### **Overview**

- Capacity: 804 MW
- Lease Area: OCS-A 0534
- Federal Permitting: EIS Scoping meetings July 2021
- State Permitting: Draft EIR Certification
- **Point of Interconnection:** West Barnstable Substation (MA)
- **Power Purchase Agreements:** 20-year PPAs with Connecticut utilities (approved)

# **Environmental Studies**

### **Eelgrass Study**

- Objective: Map extent of eelgrass beds surrounding Cape Poge before and after export cable installation for Vineyard Wind 1
- **Frequency:** Baseline, year one and three postconstruction
- **Methods**: Visual observation, echograms, underwater video and still images, SCUBA divers/snorkelers





# **Environmental Studies**



### **Benthic Habitat Monitoring**

- **Objective:** Document benthic habitat, benthic communities, and sand lance along export cable route and within wind development area before and after construction and installation of Vineyard Wind 1
- **Frequency:** Baseline survey, year one and three postconstruction
- **Methods:** Multibeam depth sounder, underwater video, grab samples

# **Questions?**

### Thank you



# Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Science Initiatives Northeast Program



Laura Morse MA-HAB September 14, 2021

### NOAA MOA UPDATE

#### • About

- Sharing, Archiving, and Distributing Project Approved Non-Proprietary Datasets
- January 15, 2021 September 30, 2025
- Data themes: Air quality, water quality, and emissions' Biological communities; Meteorology; Coastal and ocean currents, circulation, and waves; Hydrographic services and mapping; Physical oceanography
- NOAA provided guidelines on best practices for data/metadata to NOAA data repositories

- Next Steps
  - Engage with NOAA line offices to identify specific data streams of mutual interest and value
  - Utilize existing and public facing pathways and repositories (e.g. NCEI) for sharing and archiving data
  - Engage with NOAA/IOOS funded Regional Associations (MARACOOS and NERACOOS) and Regional Ocean Councils (NROC and MAROC) to identify data types and data products of value to regional stakeholders and further facilitate streamlined data share



## Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMSEAS) Seal Tagging PI: Rob DiGiovanni

- Project Goal: Contribute to assessments of habitat usage of harbor and gray seals in southern New England waters and the New York Bight, including OSW project areas.
- Funding 5+ years of tags for use with harbor and grey seals; option to include sea turtle tagging.
- ~10 Acoustic and ~10 satellite tags per year:

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- 1. The acoustic tags will communicate with an existing underwater acoustic receiver array, and tag numbers will be shared with other researchers through the Animal Tracking Network.
- 2. The satellite tags will collect location, temperature, haul-out behavior, dive depth and duration.
- Supports larger collaborative project underway with with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center; Marine Mammals of Maine, Northeast Fisheries Sciences Center and staff at the Marine Sciences Center of Stony Brook University.
- Tagging to be conducted under permits secured by AMSEAS or collaborators.
- Tagged animal tracks will be available in real-time on AMSEAS website.





## Stony Brook North Atlantic Right Whale Prey Study: PI's: Dr. Joe Warren and Dr. Lesley Thorne

- Project Goal: Using net tows and active acoustic techniques, assess and quantify spatiotemporal dynamics of zooplankton in waters of the Southern New England Shelf and New York Bight, with a focus on the Sunrise Wind Farm area, and integrate zooplankton data into habitat models for NARW to improve our predictive capacity for NARW in OSW areas in both space and time.
- Initial funding for two years; option to extend project or integrate into wider regional efforts (e.g. RWSE, DOE, NEFSC funded studies):
  - Stationary year-round measurements (bottom lander with upward facing echosounder).
  - Four Vessel based seasonal surveys/year with echosounders; vertical ring net tows; CTD profiles; lipid content measured from copepod sub-samples.
  - Measurements at control site that will also be used as control site for Sunrise Fisheries studies.
  - Desktop analysis of existing historic zooplankton data in the region.

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- Initiate development of predictive models for NARWs in collaboration with regional partners at Rutgers (Dr. Josh Kohut), NEAQ (Dr's Jessica Redfern and Dan Pendleton) and the Bigelow Laboratory (DR. Nicholas Record).
- Stony Brook will collaborate with other Orsted funded projects including Syracuse University/Susan Parks; Rutgers University (ECO-PAM project); and all Ørsted funded fisheries surveys.





### Syracuse University Baleen Whale Acoustic Ecology PI: Dr. Susan Parks

- Multi-Project Goals: advance understanding of baleen whale acoustic ecology and impacts of underwater noise; advance analytical techniques to enhance the application of acoustic monitoring for offshore wind development needs; and provide funding support for NYS undergraduate and graduate student research in these areas of interest.
- Funding for 5 years; 200k/year
- Year 1-2 Projects Planned:

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- Acoustic Density Estimation: Using machine learning approaches to improve acoustic density estimation of marine mammals from passive acoustic data. We can explore multiple analysis approaches to determine the feasibility of this approach to count right whales based on call subtle differences in the calls of individuals.
- Opportunistic Focal Data Collection: Collecting opportunistic acoustic data with a floating GPS acoustic array to determine call types, call rates, and associated behavior for baleen whales in wind lease areas. This project would be in collaboration with Stony Brook for deployment of equipment and Woods Hole and Loggerhead Instruments for equipment development use their developing Medusa system (low cost floating recorders with GPS position data in real time) deployed in a floating array of buoys when species of interest are located.
- Year 2+ projects will be developed year to year



Parks et al., 2011: Eubalaena glacialis. Examples of sounds recorded from tagged right whales stereotyped as (a) exhalation, (b) upcall, (c) gunshot, and variable tonal calls: (d) low-frequency tonal (FO < 100 Hz), (e) mid-frequency tonal (100 < FO < 300 Hz), (f) high frequency tonal (FO > 300 Hz).



### Stony Brook Thermal Camera Marine Mammal Automated Detection Project - PIs: Dr. Alexander Borowicz; Dr. Lesley Thorne

- Project Goal: Develop standards and evaluation of autodetection capability for thermal camera systems for detecting marine mammals from platforms associated with offshore wind development, construction and operation.
- Funding for one year

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- Understand the feasibility and limitations of the automated classification of thermal imagery for at-sea whale detection;
- Develop a training and validation set of images sourced from pre-existing thermal imagery associated with marine mammal observations that could be used to evaluate or develop different autodection models;
- Set benchmarks for model performance; and
- Provide advice and guidelines for the standards of evaluation and implementation for machine-learning image classification models, the interpretation of model outputs and error, and the construction of such models for use in a dynamic, at-sea operational environment.
- Project leverages PI's expertise in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) application for remote detection of wildlife (e.g. SPACEWHALE project).





### **Mystic Aquarium**

- Studies in Development
- Study Areas:

7

- Animal Rescue Program
  - Stranding program support
  - Tagging of rehabilitate animals
- Research Team
  - Physiology/Health Assessment studies
  - E-DNA studies



14 September 2021

### ECO-PAM: Ecosystem and Passive Acoustic Monitoring Project

Advancing technology for protection and conservation of North Atlantic right whales

#### Slocum Glider

Rutgers:

- 2 years of Slocum Glider Missions
- Suite of passive acoustic and oceanographic sensors
- Includes VEMCO receivers (fish tag detection)
- Characterize habitat for NARWs and develop predictive models
- Contribute oceanographic measurements in real time to NOAA that improves real-time weather forecasts including major storm events
- ECO puck; CTD; Dissolved Oxygen
- Integration with Mysticetus and Whale Alert





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### WHOI DMON Buoy

#### WHOI:

- 2 near real time WHOI Buoys for 2 years (NJ and New England)
- Includes VEMCO receivers for detecting tagged fish
- R&D to advance sensor capability to be able to directionalize on calls

WHO

Integration with Mysticetus and Whale Alert

#### <u>URI:</u>

- 1 test buoy (Spring 2021)
- Designed by students in collaboration with researchers
- Will advance sensors capability to directionalize on calls



\*Devices are **not** to scale