

Ocean Development Mitigation Fee Structure

The information below is from page 78 of [Volume 1 of the 2021 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan](#) (PDF, 48 MB).

The following schedule contains three classes within a fee structure reflecting a hierarchy of projects based on their scope, extent, duration, and severity of impacts.

Activity Class	Project Scope, Scale, and Effects	Fee
Class I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is limited in scale, size, and footprint. • Project footprint is less than 6 acres and project extent is generally confined to the seafloor (i.e., does not also include, or has only very minor expression in, the water column, water surface, and/or area above the ocean). • Effects are limited in duration (i.e., primarily during construction/installation). • Project has negligible or minor effects on habitat or natural resources. • Project has negligible or minor effects on water-dependent uses. 	\$12,000-\$50,000
Class II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is moderate in scale, size, and footprint. • Project footprint is 6-20 acres and project extent may include a limited amount of water column, water surface, and/or area above the ocean. • Effects are more than temporary, extend beyond construction/installation, or are recurrent. • Project has moderate effects on habitat or natural resources. • Project has moderate effects on water-dependent uses. 	\$100,000-\$350,000
Class III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is large and/or complex in scale, size, and footprint. • Project footprint is greater than 20 acres and project extent may include a moderate/major amount of water column, water surface, and/or area above the ocean. • Effects are frequent, recurring, and/or continuous in duration and permanent/lasting. • Project has major effects on habitat or natural resources. • Project has major effects on water-dependent uses. 	\$600,000-\$6,000,000
<p><u>Negligible</u> - Effects are at the lowest levels of detection, barely measurable, with no perceptible adverse consequences to the resources.</p> <p><u>Minor</u> - Effects are measurable or perceptible but are slight. Impacts are to very few resources. Most impacts to the affected resources are avoided or mitigated. Affected resources will recover quickly.</p>		

Moderate - Effects are measurable and perceptible. Impacts are to more than a few resources. Impacts to the affected resources are unavoidable. Affected resources will recover within a short time span.

Major - Effects are noticeable, substantial, and/or lasting. Impacts to the affected resources are unavoidable and affected resources will take appreciable time to recover or may not fully recover.