BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Gulf of Maine Meetings for the Fishing Community
July 24-27, 31, 2023 - Meeting Summary

DISCLAIMER: This meeting summary was prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), a non-profit entity contracted by BOEM to facilitate discussions. This summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the meetings.

Meeting In Brief

BOEM convened five in-person meetings for the Gulf of Maine fishing community in the following municipalities: Portland, ME; Ellsworth, ME; Rockport, ME; Plymouth, MA; and Portsmouth, NH. BOEM also held a virtual meeting requested by Massachusetts fishermen. The purpose of these meetings was to create an opportunity for fishermen to meet the BOEM and spatial modeling teams, learn about the data BOEM has received, offer feedback and on-the-water knowledge to improve the spatial models used to inform draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) for future offshore wind leasing.

BOEM staff and Dr. James Morris from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) shared information about BOEM's process, the data, and the modeling effort. Most of each meeting was dedicated to discussion with participants in plenary and smaller groups.

Action Items

Who	What
BOEM	• Post meeting summary • Incorporate feedback in the next iteration of the model and in the analysis to designate Draft WEAs. • Schedule an additional round of discussions once Draft WEAs are available for review
Public	• Review and provide input on Draft WEAs once they are available in the coming months

Attendance

Approximately 250 people participated in the six meetings. In addition to members of the fishing community and government representatives, participants in some meetings included interested citizens, wind developers, and environmental non-governmental organizations. (See attendee list on page 3.)

Summary of Presentation

BOEM project coordinators Seth Theuerkauf and Luke Feinberg, along with NCCOS's James Morris, provided an opening presentation that described BOEM's leasing process in the Gulf of Maine, the comments and feedback received so far, the modeling effort being used to help analyze areas of greatest and least conflict with offshore wind, as well as preliminary model results. The presentation showed how BOEM has partnered with NCCOS to develop spatial modeling as a tool to look at multiple layers of data representing different ocean uses and resources all together. The spatial model compiles the best available data to inform decisions about how to minimize conflicts when siting offshore wind. The model is comprised of 5 different submodels: national security; industry; fisheries; wind; and natural and cultural resources. For the purposes of this meeting, BOEM and NCCOS focused on details of the fisheries submodel. BOEM designed model scenarios to explore different questions and stakeholder perspectives to

understand how altering priorities affects the model outputs. BOEM shared examples of different model results, including one where Lobster Management Area (LMA) 1 was entirely removed from the model and another where LMA1 received a low (unsuitable) score. BOEM also described the next step, which will be to incorporate feedback from these meetings into the development of Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs). This step will be another opportunity to have similar discussions with fishermen and other stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

At each meeting, members of the fishing community and other participants were able to ask questions and give feedback, providing specific input on data sets and the model, as well as general comments around the leasing process. Conversations occurred in one group and around tables in smaller groups.

Below is a summary of key themes and topics discussed during the meetings. BOEM also provided written feedback forms, and a total of 12 were collected. BOEM is considering those comments as well as those received orally at the meetings.

Feedback on data and the model

- Fishermen, particularly in Maine, raised concerns about the lack of detailed data from the lobster industry to inform the model and the leasing process. They asked BOEM to slow down the leasing process to incorporate new data that will be coming out starting in 2024, as all lobster boats start reporting.
- Relatedly, fishermen and some state regulators said datasets showing revenue and landings did not accurately reflect lobster landings, particularly for areas along the Maine coast.
- Many participants urged BOEM to remove LMA 1 from consideration. Justifications included (but weren't limited to) the density of fishing activity, the inability of Maine fishermen to fish outside of Maine waters (Lobster Management Zones), and to preserve the deeper waters of LMA1 to account for the movement of lobsters further offshore. Individuals also raised concerns about the entire economy of coastal communities (e.g., restaurants, tourism), not just the livelihoods of individual lobstermen.
- Several fishermen raised concerns about the accuracy of fisheries data used from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), particularly NMFS survey data. However, other fishermen and state regulators urged BOEM to include surveyed biomass data to complement fishing effort, because fishing effort reflects management constraints.
- More broadly, participants expressed concern about how this process might anticipate changes in habitat and fishing grounds as the Gulf of Maine changes over the coming decades, considering the wind leases will be in a fixed location for 30+ years.
- Many participants wanted to understand more deeply how the model was giving more or less weight to different data layers and producing results.
- Several participants provided detailed information on fishing effort, for example regarding effort in LMA3 and more detail around the boundaries of Platts Bank.

Wind turbine and cable impacts on fisheries and ecology

- Many participants inquired about the likely transmission routes and interconnection points of future offshore wind development, as well as the timing of transmission planning.

- Many participants expressed concerns about the potential negative impacts from having turbines and cables in the Gulf of Maine. In particular, participants raised concerns about:
    - ⊄ Electromagnetic fields and heat from cables affecting the benthic environments and organisms;
    - ⊄ Survey activities and potential effects on wildlife, such as whales;
    - ⊄ Lack of baseline environmental data; and
    - ⊄ Effects to the Gulf of Maine gyre and spawning migrations.
- Many participants expressed concerns about how lease areas would impact their transit to fishing grounds. Participants sought answers about whether they would be able to fish safely inside the array, and many doubted they could.

Other comments

- Several participants questioned the urgency of moving forward now with offshore wind, and wondered if the grid would be able to accept this new energy source. Several participants urged policymakers to focus on other sources of energy.
- Many participants expressed frustration that commercial leasing was happening roughly at the same time as Maine's proposed Research Lease, rather than leaving more time to learn from the Research Array.
- Fishermen and their representatives asked for detailed discussion around draft Wind Energy Areas, for instance with the type of workshops used for stock assessments.

PARTICIPANT LIST

BOEM team

Name	Affiliation
Seth Theuerkauf	BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs Project Coordinator
Luke Feinberg	BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs Project Coordinator
Zachary Jylkka	BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs Project Coordinator
Brandon Jensen	BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs Fisheries Biologist
Ursula Howson	BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs Fisheries Biologist
Liz Oliver	BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs Tribal Liaison

Facilitation team

Name	Affiliation
David Plumb	Consensus Building Institute
Melanie Gárate	Consensus Building Institute
Laura Singer	Consensus Building Institute
Maddie Collins	Consensus Building Institute
Chiara Fargnoli	Consensus Building Institute
Pat Field	Consensus Building Institute

*Attendees**

*Note: Some attendees registered via hand-written form. Please excuse any misspellings of names and affiliations.

Day 1, July 24, 2023 – Portland, ME

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Craig	Morin	N/A

Geonce	Star	Lobster Advocate
Pamela	Star	lobster advocate
Amber-Jean	Nickel	MLA
Emily	Coffin	MCFA
Patrice	McCarron	MLA
Rebecca	Nuzzi	MLA
Adam	Baske	Running Tide
Amy	Martins	NOAA, Fisheries Monitoring and Research
Brenna	Cohen	Island Institute
Brian	Lefebvre	Total Energies
David	Cowan	diamond OSW
David J	Duncan	lobster advocate
Drew	Minkiewicz	FSF
Emma	Polhemus	University of Maine
Halsey	Frank	Senator Collins
Hannah	MacDonald	GMRI
Jason	Pecci	N/A
Jessica	Waller	DMR
Jocelyn	Runnebaum	The Nature Conservancy
John	Behrmann	Simply Blue
Joseph	Dello Russo	UMaine
Julia	Hiltonsmith	UMaine
Julia	Stepanuk	BRI
Kanae	Tokunaga	GMRI
Kate	Klibansky	Island Institute
Katy	Bland	NERACOOS
Libby	DeLucia-Harting	N/A

Louis	Luchini	Small Business Admin.
Marianne	Randall	NOAA
Melissa	Butler	UNE
Micheal	Nguyen	UNE
Natalie	Nowatzke	GED
Owen	Ratliff	TNC
Shawn	Oelletto	Press Iterale
Pamela	Buck	Senator Collins
Penny	Overton	Portland Press Herald
Stephanie	Watson	GEO
Susan	Farady	UNE
William	DeVoe	DMR
Erin	Wilkinson	DMR
Susan	Duncan	lobster advocate
Alden	Leeman	NEFSA
Alden	Leeman	Groundfisherman
Brian	Moody	N/A
Chris	Rushlau	N/A
Christine	Spear	STERN
David	Moody	N/A
George	Prince	NEFSA
Harriett	Train	Wharfside Associates
Jerry	Leeman	NEFSA
Jerry	Delano	NEFSA
John	Williamson	Consultant
Matt	Gilley	comm fish
David	Gilley	comm fish

Nicole	Walker	fisherman
Wills	Spear Jr	N/A
Seth	Walker	fisherman
Nicole	Walker	fisherman

Day 2, July 25, 2023 – Ellsworth, ME

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Ryan	Hylan	
Annie-Kate	Oweal	MLU
Carla	Guenthoer	Maine Ctr Coastal Fish
Rebecca	Nuzzi	MLA
Sophia	Anderson	Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Anne	Berleant	The Ellsworth America
Britanny	Foster	Downeast Fisheries Partnership
Carl	Wilson	DMR-Maine
Christine	Beitl	UMaine
Erza	Sassaman	Maine youth for climate justice
Gayle	Zydlewski	Maine sea grant
Genevieve	McDonald	Preti Flaherty
Jeff	Nichols	DMR
Libby	Jewett	NOAA
Louis	Luchini	SBA
Marie	Hutchinson	N/A
Robert	Burke	fishery advocate
Todd	Sparling	ABLGroup
Zach	Schmesser	Representative Jared Golden

Jennifer	Larrabee	fisheries
Ryan	Larrabee	fisheries
Andrew	Joyce	NEESA
Angela	Young	Alewife Harvestor
Dustin	Delano	NEFSA
Haley	Strout	N/A
Jack	Merrill	Lobsterman (Cranberry Island)
Jack	Coppingham	Fisherman
Jason	Joyce	Lobsterman (Swans Island)
Sonny	Beal	Lobsterman
Virginia	Olsen	MLU

Day 3, July 26, 2023 – Rockport, ME

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Emily	Coffin	MCFA
Jill	Harlow	MCFA
Rebecca	Nuzzi	MLA
Melissa	Waterman	MLA
Abby	Westberry	NYU
Alison	Bates	Colby College
Annie	Mawkins	RODA
Brian	Benedict	US FWS
Chris	Cash	UMaine Lobster Institute
Christina	Breen	Senator Angus King
Ellie	Espling	Senator Susan Collins

Hannah	MacDonald	GMRI
Jamie	Cook	Island institute
Nicholas	Paine	Ocean winds
Richard	Podolsky	Ornithologist
Stacy	Doore	Colby college
Wing	Goodale	BRI
Zach	Schmesser	Representative Jared Golden
Suzanne	MacDonald	NREL
Casey	Yanos	DMR
Togue	Brawn	NEFMC
Dustin	Delano	NEFSA
Gary	Libby	Fisherman
Justin	Libby	Fisherman
Wayne	Delano	Lobster fisherman

Day 4, July 27, 2023 – Plymouth, MA (Same time as NH meeting)

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Beth	Casoni	MLA
Aubrey	Church	N/A
Jackie	Odell	Northeast seafood coalition
Amy	Trap	realtor
Andrew	Jones	NOAA
Dan	McKiernan	MADMF
E.J.	Marohn	N/A
Edward	Barrett	N/A

Eric	Hansen	N/A
Gordon	Carr	NBPA
Hollie	Emery	MA CZM
Jynessa	Dutka-Gianelli	UMass Amherst
Lane	Johnston	RODA
Lisa	Engler	MA CZM
Louis	Luchini	N/A
Mike	Pol	N/A
Poonam	Narotam	N/A
Samantha	Tolken	NOAA
Austin	O'Connor	N/A
Curtis	Pedersen	N/A
Eric	Meschino	Commercial Fisherman
Erie	Hanson	Commercial Fisherman
Frank	Mirarchi	Commercial Fisherman
Glen	LeGeyt	N/A
John	Haran	N/A
Kevin	Nort	Miss Emily fisheries
Morgan	Eldredge	Fishing Industry
Steven	Gotto	ABTA/fisherman
Tim	Barrett	N/A
Tim	Brady	N/A
Toby	Mason	Fisherman
Gudy	Keding	Commercial Fisherman

Day 4, July 27, 2023 – Portsmouth, NH (Same time as MA meeting)

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Anthony	Smith	N/A
Bo	Adams	N/A
Bryan	Lafond	N/A
Clare	Catarius	N/A
Harold	Schem	N/A
Mike	Flamican	Mornmi
Paige	Driscoll	N/A
Ritchie	White	N/A
Pete	Flanigan	N/A
Andrea	Tomlinson	NEYFA
Daniel	Salerno	NEFS II
Rebecca	Nuzzi	MLA
Stephen	Ouellette	OLA
Alex	Ritchie	N/A
Arianna	Stokes	University of Michigan
Brian	Dresser	Tetra Tech
Cheri	Patterson	NH Fish and Game
Douglas	Christel	NOAA GARFO
Eric	Thunberg	NOAA NEFSC
Erik	Champman	NH sea grant
Jeff	Jackson	N/A
Jennifer	Couture	NEFMC
Jennifer	McCann	RI Sea Grant
Katy	Bland	NERACOOS
Kevin	Madley	NOAA

Marc	Stettner	N/A
Michael	Behrmann	Simply Blue Group
Owen R	Stevens	N/A
Renee	Zobel	NH Fish and Game
Story	Reed	MA DMF
Ted	Diers	NHDES
Todd	Sparling	ABL group
Heather	Weiner	N/A
Carc	Bovelate	N/A
Chris	Weiner	Tuna
Erik	Anderson	NHCFA
Glenn	Robbins	N/A
Jeff	Riccio	N/A
Jim	Titone	N/A
Joe	Letourneau	N/A
Jonathan	Shafmaster	N/A
Katy	Ellis	N/A
Kyle	Schaefer	N/A
Lucas	Raymond	N/A
Peter	Whelan	N/A
Todd	Ellis	N/A

Day 6 – July 31, 2023 -- Virtual Meeting for MA Fisheries

First Name	Last Name
Doug	Amorello

Maggie	Arruda
Sam	Asci
William	Bartlett
Gretchen	Bath
Justin	Bopp
Todd	Callaghan
Gordon	Carr
Kyle	Cassidy
Doug	Christel
Al	Cottone
Glenn	Delaney
Joseph	Dello Russo
Captain Mike	Delzingo
Jarrett	Drake
Robert	Duseau
Jynessa	Dutka-Gianelli
Hollie	Emery
Lisa	Engler
Liz	Gowell
Melanie	Griffin
Error	Hansen
Thomas	Heimann
Jess	Hiltz

Caela	Howard
Libby	Jewett
Lane	Johnston
Capt. Jim	Kendall
Edward	LeBlanc
Anastasia	Lennon
Elizabeth	Marchetti
Fred	Mattera
Chris	McGuire
Grant	Moore
Tom	O'Shea
Will	Poston
Story	Reed
John	Regan
Elena	Rice
Sefatia	Romeo Theken
Angela	Sanfilippo
Will	Shoup
Laura	Singer
Kevin	Stokesbury