

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2022

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*Council Vice-President Muir Boda
Councilwoman Michele Gregory*

*Councilwoman Angela M. Blake
Councilwoman April Jackson*

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

*Mayor Jacob R. Day
Council President John “Jack” R. Heath*

IN ATTENDANCE

Department of Infrastructure & Development Director Rick Baldwin, Information Services Director Bill Garrett, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessica Turner, City Attorney Ashley Bosche, City Clerk Kim Nichols, and members of the public

CITY INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and in person. Council Vice President Muir Boda called the meeting to order. After the recital of the pledge to the flag, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessica Turner provided the invocation.

PRESENTATION

Offshore Wind

Dave Wilson, Maryland Developmental Manager of US Wind provided an informational brief on offshore wind development. There were currently two projects awarded through the Offshore renewable Energy Credits through the Public Service Commission- MarWin and Momentum Wind. MarWin was about 21 miles off Ocean City, and would be built in 2025, and Momentum Wind would be about 15-21 miles off Ocean City and operations were expected to begin in 2026.

Handouts provided by Mr. Wilson are attached and included as part of the minutes.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to approve the legislative agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA- *presented by City Clerk Kimberly Nichols*

The Consent Agenda, consisting of the following items, was unanimously approved on a motion and second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Blake, respectively.

- **September 6, 2022** *Work Session Minutes*
- **September 6, 2022** *Special Meeting Minutes*
- **September 12, 2022** *Council Meeting Minutes*
- **September 12, 2022** *Closed Session Minutes (emailed separately)*
- **September 19, 2022** *Work Session Minutes*
- **September 19, 2022** *Special Meeting Minutes*
- **September 26, 2022** *Council Meeting Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3195-** *to approve the appointment of Thashana McKinney to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for term ending October 2025*
- **Resolution No. 3196-** *declaring Westwood Acquisition Partners eligible to receive enterprise zone benefits for property located at 1865 West Road, Salisbury, MD*

AWARD OF BIDS- *presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller*

Award of Bids

1. *ITB A-23-104 Dark Fiber Optic Cable Installation/Maintenance \$497,520.00 (20 yr term)*
2. *ITB A-23-105 Zinc Pyrophosphate for Corrosion Control \$198,300.00*
3. *ITB 23-103 Waterside Park \$167,136.72*

Approval of Tier 6 Change Order

1. *RFP 03-14 Skatepark Design/Build – Change Order #10 \$ 26,780.48*

Declaration of Surplus

1. *Salisbury Police Department \$0.00*
 - a. *Vehicles #1476 & #1487 \$0.00*
 - b. *Duty weapon \$0.00*

ORDINANCES- *presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosche*

- **Ordinance No. 2744-** *2nd reading- approving an amendment of the City’s FY2023 General Fund Budget to provide funds for red light camera administration*

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2744 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2745-** *2nd reading- approving an amendment to the General Fund Budget reflecting the acceptance of grant funds from the Wicomico County Circuit Court and further appropriating funds for overtime pay of officers of the Salisbury Police Department*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2745 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2747-** *2nd reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2023 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department’s Operating Budget*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and Ordinance No. 2747 for second reading was approved by unanimous vote in favor.

- **Ordinance No. 2748**- 2nd reading- to amend Chapter 1.16 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “*Infractions and Civil Zoning Violations*”, to grant authority to issue citations for municipal infractions or civil zoning violations to the City’s Deputy Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2748 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2749**- 2nd reading- authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for the purpose of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$2,500, and to approve a budget amendment to appropriate those grant funds for the Salisbury-Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team (SWIFT)

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2749 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2746**- 1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2023 General Fund Budget and Water and Sewer Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Operating Budget of the Department of Field Operations and the Operating Budget of the Department of Water Works

Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2746 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2751**- 1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2023 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to customize Salisbury Police Department vehicles with proper police equipment

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2751 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2752**- 1st reading- approving an amendment to the General Fund Budget reflecting the acceptance of grant funds from the State of Maryland, Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention and further appropriating such funds to purchase “EZ Child ID - Complete EZ Turnkey System.”

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2752 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2753**- 1st reading- authorizing the Mayor to appropriate additional funds for the Paleo Well # 3 project

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2753 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2754**- 1st reading- approving an amendment to the General Capital Project Fund Budget to appropriate additional funds required for construction of the Zoo Administration Building

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2754 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2755**- 1st reading- approving an amendment of the FY2023 General Fund Budget to appropriate additional funds required for Field Operations

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2755 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comments.

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Glanz thanked Council for their support of Field Operations and Water Works. The CDL bonus should be a moral booster and bring in some new hires. Two events coming up this week were the Waterside Ribbon Cutting tomorrow and the Painting Day at Anne Street Village on Saturday.


Ms. Gregory announced that early voting was October 27th through November 3rd. It was much easier to vote early than to wait for Election Day. There was Treat Street downtown next week.

Ms. Blake said she graduated from Salisbury University 30 years ago. It was homecoming this weekend and she would be there for every event. If you are healthy, please donate blood.

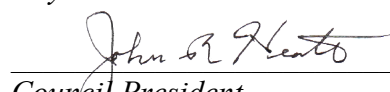
Ms. Jackson expressed continued concern for the children allowed to drive electric scooters around town. It was unlawful for children under the age of 18 to be on them, and she had seen some as young as nine years old. They are left everywhere and becoming an eyesore. Salisbury Advisory Council on Youth Activities was holding their 10th Trunk & Treat at Billy Gene Jackson park on Friday October 28th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Treat Street was 3 to 6 on Sunday.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.



City Clerk



Council President



Whales and Offshore Wind Development

US Wind's plans to protect marine mammals before, during, and after construction

Whales are highly intelligent and some of the most revered creatures on the planet. Protecting these marine mammals is of the highest priority for US Wind, and we are committed to going above and beyond existing federal regulations to protect whales and other cetaceans, including dolphins and porpoises.

What whales are in the Lease area?

Whales migrate along the length of the U.S. Atlantic coast and are known to pass through US Wind's Lease area in seasonal patterns. Humpback, minke and endangered fin, sei and North Atlantic right whales are known to occur at least occasionally in the Mid-Atlantic region and have been detected in US Wind's Lease area by trained observers and through several studies. One study completed by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)¹ sought to detect vocalizations of whales and dolphins within and around the Lease area over three years (2014–2017) using passive acoustic monitors (PAM). UMCES plans to conduct a similar follow-up study before, during, and after construction of US Wind's turbines. (See US Wind's Construction and Operations Plan Volume II, Section 9.1 for a complete list and description of studies).



North Atlantic Right Whale

The critically endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) is among the rarest of all marine mammal species. NARWs average approximately 50 feet in length and can weigh about 70 tons, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). Historically, this population has suffered from overharvesting and, more recently, has been threatened by commercial fishing gear entanglement and ship strikes. The NARW is a migratory species that undertakes well-defined seasonal movements from northeast feeding grounds in the spring, summer, and fall to the only known calving and wintering grounds in the waters off the southeastern U.S. coast.



*Photo Courtesy of RPS Protected Species Observer Team
Protected Species Observers (PSOs) monitoring whales*

To protect these endangered creatures, NOAA Fisheries has established vessel speed restrictions in particular areas to reduce ship strikes. The closest Seasonal Management Area is located at the mouth of Delaware Bay, approximately seven nautical miles from US Wind's Lease area, where all large vessels are limited to 10 knots between November 1 and April 30 each year. NOAA Fisheries may also establish Right Whale Slow Zones when the presence of a NARW has been detected.

Potential Impacts

US Wind is fully committed to avoiding, minimizing and mitigating any potential risks to whales in the Lease area. The following is a list of potential impacts that could be caused by the construction and operations of offshore wind projects, along with measures US Wind intends to employ to avoid and minimize these impacts.

¹ *Determining Habitat Use by Marine Mammals and Ambient Noise Levels Using Passive Acoustic Monitoring Offshore of Maryland (2018):*
https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2019-018.pdf

Further Studies/Monitoring

US Wind recently partnered with UMCES on two efforts to further understand whale presence in the Lease area and potential impacts. These include a real-time whale detection system to provide timely alerts on the presence of baleen whales (North Atlantic right whales, and humpback, fin and sei whales) using specialized quiet mooring technology, whale vocalization detection algorithms, and telecommunications to transmit frequent alerts on the presence of baleen whales. A Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) Array will also utilize two types of listening devices to determine the presence and migration patterns of large whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

Additional information on whales can be found in the following section of US Wind’s Construction & Operations Plan (COP): Construction and Operations Plan, Volume II, Section 9: Marine Mammals.

POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>Noise - Marine mammals rely on sound for navigation, communication, reproduction, prey location, and predator avoidance. Marine mammal responses to sound exposure can range from indifference to behavioral changes or physical injury, depending upon the sound source and species. Increased vessel traffic or pile driving associated with installation activities could impact marine mammals, though US Wind has set forth a variety of proven mitigation measures to reduce any potential negative effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a pile driving monitoring plan, to include details about the measures listed below, prior to construction activities. • Implement double bubble curtains and nearfield reduction devices to reduce underwater pile driving noise by 10 decibels (dB), with a target of 20 dB, at the source. • Monitor a clearance zone prior to pile driving using a combination of visual and acoustic monitoring for large whales. Once pile driving begins, establish an exclusion zone where pile driving will be halted if species enters. • Additional restrictions on pile driving will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No simultaneous pile driving; - No more than one monopile driven per day; - Daylight pile driving only unless health and safety issues require completion of a pile at dusk; - And restricting initiation to outside 1.5 hours of sunset or times of low visibility.
<p>Vessel Strike - Vessel collisions with marine mammals can cause serious injury or death and are a leading cause of mortality for certain species. US Wind has developed several mitigation measures to reduce this risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Species Observers (PSOs) or trained observers will be present on crew vessels and other project vessels when they are passing through the area. • Vessels will maintain a minimum separation distance of 1,640 feet or greater from any sighted NARW and 328 feet or greater from any sighted cetacean (whale, dolphin or porpoise). • For vessels operating between November 1 through April 30, vessel operators will monitor NOAA Fisheries NARW reporting systems for the presence of NARW.



Birds and Offshore Wind Development

US Wind's plans to protect birds before, during, and after construction

Background

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) took extreme caution to minimize negative impacts to birds from offshore wind development in the Maryland Lease area when it identified the area more than a decade ago. US Wind has made strong commitments to avoid, minimize and mitigate any risk offshore wind development in the Maryland Lease area could have on birds, including a heavy focus on additional avian research.

Once constructed, wind turbines in US Wind's Lease area will be about 11 to 29 miles from shore, outside of the area where most birds are present. For example, passerines, such as songbirds and sparrows, generally migrate within 10 miles of shore at very high altitudes off the Mid-Atlantic coast, well outside of the Lease area. However, pelagic and coastal species may be present off Maryland's coast. Research shows gannets, loons and sea ducks are the highest density species in the Lease area.

Research

Between April 2012 and April 2014, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the state of Maryland funded 16 boat-based surveys and 15 aerial digital surveys to observe birds and marine species in the region, including the Lease area. These surveys, conducted in 2013, found nearly 30 species of marine birds in nine avian families in the Lease area.

Researchers evaluated collision risk, or how likely these birds would fly into operating wind turbines. The science concluded birds most likely to be in the wind farm—the pelagic bird species—generally do not fly within the rotor area, or “rotor swept area.” Therefore, collision risk is expected to be low. The highest density species in the Lease area — gannets, loons and sea ducks — tended to avoid the wind turbines. Moreover, the Lease area does not include critical habitat for these species.



More than a decade of research shows Surf Scoters and other sea ducks are adept at avoiding offshore wind turbines.

Potential Impacts

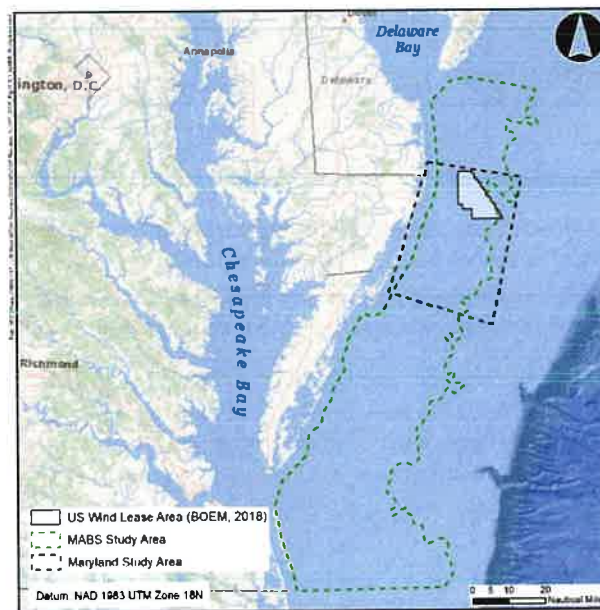
Potential impacts to birds from construction and operation of the offshore wind farm fall into two main categories: (1) collision with the turbines and other above-water structures; and (2) displacement from the area caused by avoiding the turbines and any associated construction and maintenance traffic.

Strong Commitments to Mitigation

US Wind commits to the following mitigation measures to protect birds in the Lease area:

- Pre- and post-construction aerial and digital surveys to monitor any bird displacement.
- Deployment of a Metocean Buoy, which includes equipment, such as NanoTag antennas and acoustic sensors, to detect birds.
- Measures that minimize lighting impacts on birds, which will be implemented where feasible, as approved by regulatory agencies.

- Anti-perching measures will be installed on the deck and access platform of the turbines where appropriate to discourage birds from resting on the structures.
- Cable landfalls and onshore facilities will be sited and timed to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Burying cables and using underground horizontal directional drilling for cable installation at landfall locations will avoid impacts to beaches and wetlands.
- Compilation and maintenance of a comprehensive wildlife survey and observation information database.



"The science concluded birds most likely to be in the wind farm—the pelagic bird species—generally do not fly within the rotor area, or 'rotor swept area.' Therefore, collision risk is expected to be low."

US Wind's commitments are a strong starting point to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to avian species. Additional measures may be implemented after continuing consultations with permitting agencies, environmental organizations, and the public.

Additional Monitoring and Studies

US Wind is conducting an additional avian monitoring program to confirm earlier conclusions about risks and potential impacts. The avian monitoring program is comprised of data collection from sensors on the Metocean Buoy deployed by US Wind in May 2021, as well as pre- and post-construction aerial surveys over the Lease area, including a 10-kilometer buffer.

The complementary data collection methods are designed to capture information about the variety of potential birds – marine birds, coastal birds and small migrating songbirds – using shorebird nanotag detection, acoustic monitoring to record bird flight calls, and digital aerial surveys. The work will help fill data gaps for spring and fall migrant passerines, including warblers, grosbeaks, buntings and thrushes.

US Wind will house avian data and reports in its comprehensive database. Results will be shared with the public as well as government and non-government researchers.

More information is available in US Wind's Construction and Operations Plan (COP):

- Volume II – Sections 6 (Coastal Habitat and Birds) and 12 (Marine Birds)
- Avian Risk Assessment – Appendix II-N1
- Avian Monitoring Plan – Appendix II-N2



Passerines, like this Pine Warbler, generally migrate within 10 miles of Maryland's coast, well west of the Lease area.



Wildlife and Offshore Wind Development

US Wind's plans to protect wildlife before, during, and after construction

US Wind conducts wildlife studies and surveys to supplement and complement existing research by agencies and academic institutions like the Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. These studies are essential for building a body of knowledge that help us care for our oceanic ecosystems — from sea ducks to humpback whales — for years to come. Read the examples below to learn more about US Wind's present and future plans for protecting our ocean and wildlife as we develop clean energy for the region.

Tracking Key Species with a State-of-the-Art Buoy System

US Wind deployed a Metocean Buoy, a Floating LiDAR buoy, in May 2021 to gather wind and other meteorological and ocean data in the Lease area. LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, uses a laser beam to get information about the surroundings. The buoy uses the following technology:

- NanoTag antennas to detect any tagged birds and bats that pass by. The tags provide species-specific information and can be added to databases to track where individual birds have been detected. Tagged birds are usually endangered species such as Red Knot, Piping Plover and Roseate Tern. This information will be shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among others.
- Bird acoustic sensors to record bird calls throughout the day and night, which are later analyzed to determine the specific species. The acoustic sensors help fill data gaps for spring and fall migrant passerines — including warblers, grosbeaks, buntings, pipits, thrushes and redstarts — that would probably not be detected by other bird survey methods.
- Bat acoustic sensors, which constantly record any bat activity in the area. Bats use echolocation, or echo sounds, to gather information about their surroundings, including insect prey movement. Scientists analyze these recordings to determine the specific species in the area.
- A measuring device that detects passing tagged fish, such as sturgeon, white sharks and other species, and provides details on what kinds of fish may be in the Lease area. These findings can then be shared with other organizations that also track tagged animals.



Metocean Buoy

Resourceful Data Collection

US Wind uses survey vessels that map the seafloor to gather more data on the environment in which we plan to develop offshore wind energy. These research vessels use the following methods to ensure greater protection of area wildlife:

- Protected Species Observers (PSOs) to monitor areas around low-frequency sound sources and watch for and protect marine mammals, sea turtles and other protected species. PSOs are always on duty during surveys or when vessels are passing through the area. This wealth of confirmed visual detection data will be compiled along with wildlife survey data as an important component of US Wind's wildlife information database, available to researchers and the public.

- Bat acoustic detectors have been deployed on the survey vessels to record bat calls, similar to the bat detectors on the Metocean Buoy. Detections are analyzed to determine the species and that information is added to US Wind’s wildlife information database.

Field Surveys for Data Collection

- Samples and video from the ocean floor have been collected at more than 200 locations throughout the Lease area and relevant corridors. These surveys provide information about species on and in the seabed, as well as potential fish habitat.
- Digital aerial surveys will build on earlier boat- and aerial-surveys to detect birds such as loons, gannets and sea ducks in the Lease area before and after construction. The aerial surveys will be conducted for two years prior to construction and two years after construction to characterize changes in bird use of and densities in the Lease area. These surveys include significant buffer area to show birds that may have avoided the wind farm and gathered or used other nearby locations instead.
- US Wind plans to conduct a shellfish density survey in Indian River Bay the summer of 2022. Shellfish such as clams are present in Indian River Bay but the information regarding how many there are and where is not up to date. This shellfish information will inform cable routing through Indian River Bay.

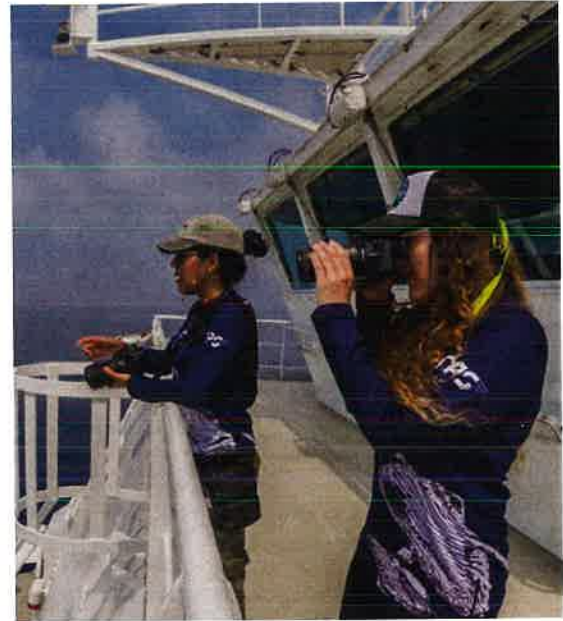


Photo Courtesy of RPS Protected Species Observer Team

Whale, Dolphin, and Fish Monitoring

In March 2022, US Wind announced a major partnership with UMCES to support several research efforts, including:

- Continued deployment of a near real-time whale buoy that provides timely alerts on the presence of baleen whales (North Atlantic right whales, and humpback, fin and sei whales) for a 12-month period from 2022 to 2023. This buoy detects calls from marine mammals, which are then analyzed by UMCES daily to determine when and what types of whales may be nearby. The information is posted to a website hosted by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution: http://dcs.whoi.edu/mdoc0521/mdoc0521_mdoc.shtml.
- A passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) array will be deployed for about six years to listen for dolphins, porpoises and large baleen whales. The information is expected to build on a similar effort by UMCES researchers in the same area from 2014 to 2017 and will help inform construction timing and monitoring.
- Fisheries resource monitoring will be conducted over six years: before, during and after construction to characterize potential effects to black sea bass commercial and recreational fisheries. It is anticipated that the creation of new structures in the water—turbine foundations—will serve as aggregation spots for species such as black sea bass. Years of research at the Block Island Wind Farm found no negative impacts to fish, and, in fact, found positive effects from aggregation around the new underwater structures.

Fishing & Offshore Wind Development: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What will the offshore wind farm look like as mariners navigate through it?

A comparable picture of the only offshore wind so far developed in federal waters is represented by the [Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind pilot project](#). It is comprised of two (2) six-megawatt (6 MW) turbines. These are smaller than the turbines US Wind will likely end up selecting, though no decision has been made on that yet. The Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island is comprised of five (5) 6 MW turbines. Some photos of these “jacketed” towers/turbines can be seen [here](#).


Organizations like the Maryland Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies have created simulations for maritime operations in the vicinity of offshore wind farms. An example simulation can be found [here](#).

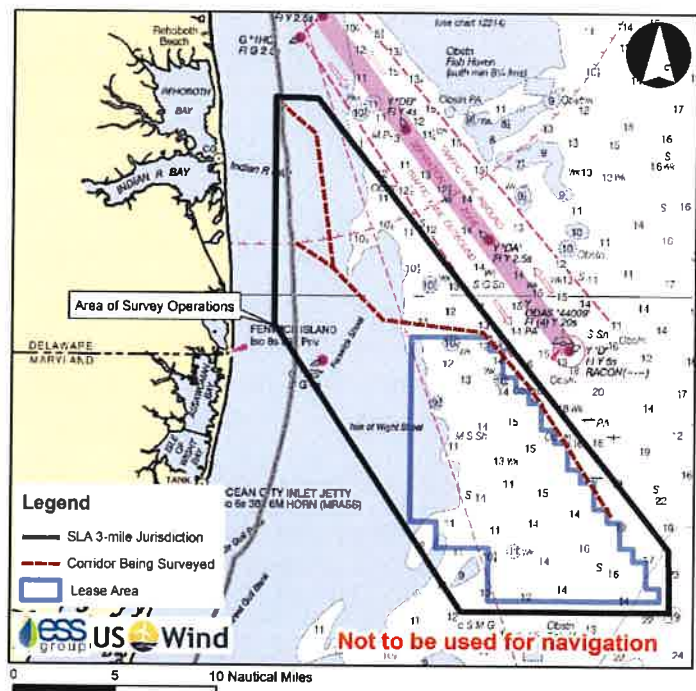
2. What is the diameter of the largest of the cables or cable bundles that connect the turbines and the turbines’ transmission to shore? Will open trenches or ditches be used? Will cables be buried?

Subsea cables would be 8 to 12 inches in diameter; smaller onshore cables would be installed in ducts underground. All offshore cables will be buried approximately 6 feet below the seafloor. Onshore cables will be buried underground in traditional duct banks used for onshore utilities. Offshore cables will be horizontally directionally drilled from nearshore to an underground transition vault. No open trenches or ditches will be used. Any landing areas affected by this disturbance will be restored to previous conditions and all infrastructure onshore will remain buried underground.

3. How and where will the cables run?

Inter-array cables link individual turbines to the offshore substation, while export cables transport electricity from the offshore substations to the onshore grid. The export cable routes for the US Wind project have not yet been established, as further analysis is required before such routes are determined and approved by state and federal agencies. Potential landings are focused on sites in Delaware, but the landing points are not yet determined.

 Potential export cable routes up to state waters



4. How many offshore substations will be in the Lease area and where?

Up to four offshore substations will be sited throughout the Lease area to transfer electricity generated by individual turbines in US Wind's projects to the onshore grid. The exact location of each substation has not yet been determined as surveys and analyses are still occurring.

5. Have there been any studies done on the impacts of running cables across Indian River Bay?

Export cable routes in state waters are subject to approval by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and state environmental impact studies and permitting processes. Those permitting processes require significant study of any impacts to flora and fauna.

6. What about existing wrecks or reefs in the Lease area or cable route?

Existing wreck and reef locations are being identified in and around US Wind's Lease area. No turbines will be installed at these locations for both fishery and practical considerations.

7. How many square feet of bottom will be disturbed/changed by offshore wind development?

Each wind turbine generator will be installed on top of a steel monopile foundation. The monopile will have two layers of scour protection around its base: first, a layer of small filter stone will be placed on the seabed to limit turbidity; then, following the installation of the monopile and inter-array cable, a layer of larger armor stone will be placed around each monopile. US Wind estimates this scour protection will cover a maximum of approximately 1,200 square yards of seabed per monopile and it, as well as the monopile, will provide structure for marine life that supports the ["reef effect" documented on the CVOW project](#), among others. The total amount of bottom disturbance will depend on the total number of turbines installed and the length of cables installed.

8. How many types of sea life live on or travel across the bottom of the Lease area?

Multiple environmental studies have been and will be conducted to assess all known benthic and pelagic species that live within or migrate through the Lease Area. These studies will be provided during the permitting process by US Wind as well as the primary regulatory agency, BOEM. BOEM conducted an Environmental Assessment in this area prior to auctioning the leases as well as numerous studies in the Lease area and elsewhere. BOEM's studies are available by topic and year [here](#).

9. Do North Atlantic right whales feed on a species that will be displaced by the Project?

North Atlantic right whales feed mainly on small crustaceans (zooplankton), such as krill and copepods. There is no indication that turbine towers in the water have any effect on plankton distribution. There is, however, significant data showing that krill distribution is negatively affected by warming oceans caused by greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

10. What is the impact of your survey operations on species in and around the Lease area?

All of US Wind's survey activities are conducted in accordance with federal and state regulations and health and safety policies and procedures. US Wind is currently conducting both geophysical and geotechnical survey work in and around our Lease area:

- Geophysical surveys assess the seafloor and near-surface sub-bottom using a variety of non-intrusive acoustic and magnetic technologies that use sound to map the seabed, sub-seabed, and magnetic anomalies. This information helps US Wind understand the seabed topography and any surface obstructions (boulders or manmade materials), differences in the material and texture of the seabed, and the location of potential historical or archaeological resources. US Wind employs offshore fisheries liaisons onboard the geophysical survey vessel to identify and avoid any visible fishing gear. Additionally, full-time Protected Species Observers use acoustic and visual monitoring aids 24/7 to ensure that no dolphins, whales, or marine turtles are near the vessel operations during these surveys.
 - There are no known mortalities of any marine life related to US Wind's geophysical survey operations.
- Geotechnical surveys analyze soil conditions by extracting small diameter seabed core samples. These are very precise operations and do not disrupt the seabed around them. The information collected from geotechnical surveys helps ensure responsible development of the wind farm.
 - There have been no measurable mortalities associated with US Wind's geotechnical survey operations.

11. How many species will be adversely affected by the Project?

There is no evidence to date that any of these species are adversely affected by either turbines or subsea power cables. Both turbine foundations and seabed scour protection are documented as providing significant, thriving artificial reef habitat that attracts and supports many species from invertebrates to large predators.

12. What about birds & the bats?

US Wind is not aware of any studies showing large-scale effects on species migration from the presence of offshore wind farms. Avoidance by seabirds, geese, and ducks have been documented in detailed studies in Europe and is similar to how birds avoid shipping lanes. These are questions US Wind will continue to study through pre- and post-construction studies of marine mammals and birds. Federal review of the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will require review of the best available science, along with data we are collecting, to minimize impacts to all wildlife to the greatest extent practicable. Work by the National Audubon Society shows little expected impact on bats and passerines, like warblers and vireos, off of Maryland's coast since they usually migrate within 10 miles of shore.

13. Will US Wind be routing its cable through the Indian River inlet? The dragging of the sonar sled across the bottom and the digging/trenching required to build islands for the offshore wind turbines and run cables will damage the area.

US Wind will not lay cable through the Indian River Inlet and will not impact the bridge. Sonar equipment is towed through the water and does not touch the seabed. US Wind's offshore wind turbines

will be pile-driven into the seabed. No “islands” are built in association with offshore wind turbines. A narrow trench would be plowed as the cable is laid into it, resulting in only very proximal and very short-term turbidity.

14. Have any boring samples been taken to see what chemicals are 12’ below where the cables will be?

Shallow soil samples (geotechnical) are collected along potential cable routes to support engineering and permitting efforts. Geotechnical samples collected are undergoing laboratory analysis and results will be public when available.

15. The radar and GPS issues are also of concern being close to the shipping channel and in the path of other boaters and fishermen.

There are no restrictions on transit through or fishing within US Wind’s offshore wind turbine arrays. The spacing grid between turbines is expected to be about 1 nautical mile from North to South and approx. 0.78 nautical miles from West to East. Transit waypoints for some destinations may slightly increase the total distance and running time. Several studies on radar impacts from offshore wind facilities have been done in both the U.S. and Europe, and all have concluded that reasonable mitigations already exist that, if properly implemented, will sufficiently reduce radar impacts to an acceptable level that will provide for safe navigation. The U.S. Coast Guard has consistently stated that “[t]he potential for interference with marine radar is site specific and depends on many factors including, but not limited to, turbine size, array layouts, number of turbines, construction material(s), and the types of vessels impacted.” The Coast Guard recognizes that while radar impacts may be predicted during the design phase of a project, it cannot accurately be determined until after an offshore wind facility is constructed.

16. Will access for fishermen to structures be permanent, guaranteed forever up to not just close to them? If they are 1 mile apart does that mean from island to island or from structure to structure? How many square feet will each island take up?

There are no islands associated with offshore wind turbines. Fishing vessels, dive boats and such may not tie up to nor board the tower landings, but there are no restrictions on fishing or transiting near the turbine towers.

17. How will US Wind run the cables and how many and how long are the cable trenches?

Inter-array cables link individual turbines to the offshore substations while export cables transport electricity from the offshore substations to the onshore grid. The export cable routes for the US Wind project have not yet been established, as further analysis is required before such routes are determined and approved by state and federal agencies. Potential landings are focused on sites in Delaware, but the landing points are not yet determined. US Wind plans up to four export cables to connect the wind farm to the electric grid. Subsea cables would be 8 to 12 inches in diameter; smaller onshore cables installed in ducts underground. All offshore cables will be buried approximately 6 feet below the seafloor. Onshore cables will be buried under ground in traditional duct banks used for onshore utilities. The proposed export cable corridor from the Lease area to US Wind’s onshore substations will span between 40-60 miles in length, dependent on the location of the offshore substations and the final routing to the point of interconnect.

18. How many square feet will it take per turbine to support the structure?

Each Wind Turbine Generator will sit atop a tower and steel monopile foundation that is up to 26-39 feet in diameter.

19. Will all the vessels used during the construction and maintenance be using biofuels?

There are no regulations restricting any vessels in state or federal waters from using biofuels; however, biofuels are not readily available at commercial ports.

20. What effect will the turbines have on wave height or currents around the site?

Due to the fetch between towers relative to their diameter, the effect of their presence on waves and currents is likely only very localized around each tower, and of no significant oceanic effect.

21. Will the offshore wind farms interfere with Vhf or FM or other frequencies of radio traffic?

US Wind does not anticipate its offshore wind projects to interfere with radio frequencies, but we have sent a request to the National Telecommunications Information Administration to confirm.

22. What about U.S. Coast Guard helicopters and rescue ships?

All offshore wind developers must develop an Emergency Response Plan that is approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Coast Guard. Developers work with the Coast Guard to establish communication protocols, turbine shutdown procedures, and periodic exercises to support Search and Rescue response by helicopters and vessels.

23. Will you be reaching out to Delaware fishermen as well or just fishermen from Ocean City, Maryland?

Based on vessel Automatic Identification System (AIS) observations and local interviews, the great majority of local vessel transits through the US Wind Lease area are by vessels operating out of Ocean City, MD. There is, of course, significant seasonal recreational/tournament activity from local Delaware ports. US Wind personnel will meet with Delaware fishermen on March 2, 2022, at the Dewey Beach Lifesaving Station to provide further information and gather feedback.

