FHC Meeting Summary

Date: January 22, 2026

Location: Online Meeting

Agenda:

1. **Introduction, Meeting Purpose, and Goals**
2. **Primary Design Questions (Set 1)**
   a. Overall Process Design
   b. Construction Period Definition
   c. Consensus-Based Decisions Presented
3. **Claimant Eligibility Questions (Set 2)**
4. **Administrative Items**

Participants

Recreational/For-Hire Fishing	States	Developers	Ex-Officio	Project Team
Rick Bellavance	Renee Zobel	Brian Krevor	Ursula Howson	Kris Ohleth
Rom Whitaker				Caroline Coccoli
Mike Cerchio				Orran Brown, Jr.
				Sydney Gustafson
				Justin Wind
				Joli Millner
				Charlotte Goeb

1. **Introduction, Meeting Purpose, and Goals**

   The RFA team started the meeting with a brief overview of the purpose, intended goals, and agenda for the meeting.

2. **Primary Design Questions (Set 1)**

   a. Overall Process Design

   The RFA provided an overview of the current plans for an expedited claim track for construction and individualized claim tracks for construction and operations. Representatives from the for-hire fishing and developer caucuses expressed support for an expedited

construction claim track, which alleviates filing difficulties for the claimant and accounts for data limitations, particularly in recreational fishing.

b. Construction Period Definition

The RFA previewed an updated definition for construction period for feedback from the FHC:

"The period when physical installation and commissioning activities occur offshore in a project area, beginning with the first seabed disturbing activity in a project area, following approval of a project's COP, and continuing until 95% of project capacity is installed and delivering power to the grid. Construction period activities include, but may not be limited to, pre-lay grapnel runs, scour protection installation, cable laying, pile driving, and wind turbine and offshore substation installation. Construction period activities do not include geophysical, geotechnical, biological, or cultural surveys or environmental monitoring before the commencement of physical construction."

c. Consensus-Based Decisions Presented

The RFA presented a graphic detailing the current status of consensus on design components to the FHC.

3. Claimant Eligibility Questions (Set 2)

The RFA proposed the following claimant eligibility design questions to the FHC for discussion:

a. What specific geographic area (or "affected area") is required?

Fishing caucus representatives shared how trip reporting (namely VTR,) often tracks one fishing location, even if the fisher traveled a considerable distance from that one location. This discrepancy could preclude eligible fishers based on limited fishing location history provided by VTR trip reporting. Fishing industry representatives expressed support for a project area buffer and/or weighted average of fishing location history. For a better understanding of how buffers may interact, the RFA shared a visual of offshore wind lease areas: https://www.northeastoceandata.org/data-explorer/

b. What milestone triggers the lookback period for claimant eligibility?

The RFA shared that they are currently considering the Final Investment Decision (FID) as the lookback period trigger for claimant eligibility.

c. How far back in time from the lookback date should fishing activity be considered?

Fishing caucus representatives considered how a shorter or longer lookback period would differ, with a shorter lookback period potentially excluding intendent beneficiaries, and a longer lookback period potentially including fishers who are no longer in the area.

d. What level of historic fishing effort in any particular year qualifies that year for the fisherman?

A recreational fishing representative expressed support for a low number of trips for qualifying historic fishing effort to account for discrepancies between VTR trip reporting and actual fishing trip location.

The RFA also presented the following questions for later discussion:

- In how many of those lookback years must a claimant have fished in the affected area(s) before the lookback trigger date?
- Must a claimant's past fishing activity be the same or similar to the allegedly impacted fishing activity?

4. Administrative Items

At the close of the meeting, the RFA reminded the fishing caucus representatives to submit their time working on behalf of the RFA for compensation. The RFA shared that they will be holding a public webinar to share updates on the RFA project's progress on February 2, at 4:00 p.m., ET. The next FHC meeting will be held on February 19 at 3:00 p.m., ET.