

Summary of RFA's discussions with individuals in the wider sectors

November 2025 – February 2026

Number of meetings: During this period, we held two DOC and two online FHC meetings. We presented online at the MA Fisheries and Habitat Working Group, presented in-person to the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association, presented in-person to the New Hampshire Fish & Game Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries meeting, and hosted a public webinar ([recording available here](#)) with over 140 attendees.

In addition to the DOC meetings, we have continued engaging with the three DOC sub-groups focused on: shoreside businesses, permit/vessel transfers, and an expedited claim processing pathway for the construction phase of offshore wind development.

We also continued sector-specific caucus meetings with a cadence of roughly one caucus meeting a week (*i.e.*, at least one meeting of each caucus per month). Meetings with BOEM and NOAA continued during this period. Cumulatively, this has resulted in more than 20 small group meetings, in addition to wider public engagement activities.

Meeting Objectives: This period has focused on building consensus around and refining elements of the framework design with worked examples. Specifically, our engagement with the DOC and FHC has focused on refining: 1) Principles, Overall Process Design, Definitions, and 2) Claimant Eligibility Components and Remaining Claimant Eligibility Components. Discussions have moved from conceptual agreement to operational detail. This has included testing elements of the proposed framework (especially expedited vs individualized routes) given potential real-world data limitations, fisheries practices, and transferability realities. Engagement with wider stakeholders has focused on sharing progress on DOC/FHC discussions and testing areas of consensus.

Summary of emerging themes: The following topics emerged throughout this phase of engagement (focusing on *claimant eligibility and initial principles of loss*). Note that this memo primarily reflects discussion from group meetings and public presentations in-person and online. This summary is not exhaustive and complements the previous stakeholder memos. Summaries of the DOC and FHC meetings are available separately on the RFA website ([available here](#)).

General

Generally, there is strong alignment on the overall structure of the regional fund and compensation pathway for the construction phase of offshore wind development. Longer-term, indirect, or transferable impacts (operations, shoreside, transferability) remain key topics for discussion in the sub-groups.

- **Multi-track approach:** alignment on the framework separating expedited construction disruption payments from individualized claims processes. Stakeholders generally agree that a single claims route would be inappropriate and that evidence requirements should be proportionate to the type of payment sought. There is also shared acceptance that sector-specific caucus discussions should continue to inform DOC level decisions, with a clear sequence for testing, refinement, and sign-off.
- **Expedited construction phase disruption payments:** Discussions have indicated broad agreement for an expedited payment for disruption during the construction phase, given that impacts can be more easily defined within a set timeframe. There is general alignment that these payments should involve lower documentation thresholds and be grounded in clearly defined spatial and temporal parameters.

- **Eligibility criteria and lookback periods** continue to be discussed, with recognition that there are data limitations but no agreement on the appropriate length of time. There is shared understanding that VMS and other official datasets are uneven across fisheries and that a pragmatic “best available data” approach is required. However, conversations have continued to discuss alternative data sources and proxies and whether these increase dispute risk and whether there are simpler ways to avoid complexity. A summary of the various data realities impacting the design and implementation of a regional fund was drafted during this engagement period and will be finalized and posted on the RFA website shortly.
- Within the subgroups, the treatment of **shoreside businesses** and **transferability** needs further discussion. Discussions have highlighted concern that including shoreside businesses could significantly expand the scope of the framework and complicate administration, potentially diluting the ability of the fund to address direct fishing impacts. There have also been discussions on the risk of double counting, loss of entitlement, and unintended incentives in reference to the transferability of eligibility and compensation. The sub-groups will continue to meet with potential routes discussed at FHC and DOC meetings alongside wider stakeholder testing.
- **Guiding principles** for the fund continue to be referenced as a positive way to guide decisions, particularly where data limitations or trade-offs make perfect solutions unattainable.

Next Steps

- The focus of upcoming engagement will be on potential compensation calculation frameworks and documentation requirements; fund mechanics; and consulting on the draft fund design. Specifically, consultation through March will focus on Set 3 questions relating to compensable claim types, required documentation, loss/claim valuation, and a two-track claims process. This will be followed by discussion on Set 4 questions relating to program mechanics (i.e., questions concerning how to submit, complete, and pay out claims).
- A draft document for public consultation is intended to be ready for circulation in June 2026.