

Peer-Review of the NEFSC Draft Survey Mitigation Plans Relative to Offshore Wind Development

May 22-24, 2024

Narragansett, RI

Terms of Reference

1. Existing survey - Does the plan describe the existing survey design, methods, and uses of the data generated from the survey with a level of detail sufficient to assess proposed mitigation solutions for offshore wind impacts? If not, please describe what additional detail is needed.
2. Impacts on the survey - Does the plan adequately describe how the survey may be affected by the 4 impacts of wind energy development?
 - a. Are there additional offshore wind related impacts the plan should consider?
 - b. Are key areas of uncertainty in the impacts from offshore wind identified and addressed?
3. Mitigation of impacts - Will the proposed approach mitigate the identified survey impacts to ensure time series continuity and the same or better data quality compared to current survey methodologies?
 - a. Does the plan effectively describe approaches, both specific and general, for addressing each of the 6 elements of survey mitigation (Hare et al. 2022)?
 - b. What additional mitigation plan elements or mitigation strategies should be considered?
 - c. Are key assumptions made about actions to mitigate impacts reasonably justified?
 - d. Are key areas of uncertainty in the effectiveness of the survey mitigation sufficiently described and addressed in the plan elements?
4. Communication - Does the plan effectively describe steps for communicating important changes in plan implementation? How can communication plans be improved?