

## *Offshore Wind Regional Collaborative Work Group*

### *Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety Work Group*

#### *Work Group Breakout Session, Tuesday, May 4, 2021*

- Mike Snyder opened the session, reviewed the logistics and introduced the work group representative leads:
  - Maritime Commerce and Navigation Safety (MCNS): Jerry Barnes, Marine Planner, U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District
  - Offshore Wind Regional Collaborative (OWRC): Michael Snyder, Ocean and Great Lakes Program Manager, New York State Department of State, Darryl Francois, Chief, Engineering and Technical Review Branch, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Marianne Ferguson, NEPA Review and Oversight, NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
- Mike summarized the OWRC roles focused on information sharing and emerging technology
  - We learned from 2020 MACO Forum that stakeholders were interested in learning about technology trends
  - Accomplishments include (i) three offshore wind transmission webinars with NROC; and (ii) PARS webinar with Navigation group
- Looking for input today on what we are doing or need to be doing (webinars, items of interest for follow-up or other collaboration ideas).
- OWRC is a collaborative effort – learn more, site projects in the most appropriate locations, with the least impacts.
- Darryl noted from the morning’s “Time to Get Real: What We Have Learned and What We Need to Know to Inform Offshore Wind Siting” panel session there is a wide range of interest groups. OWRC needs to be transparent and share information, especially in light of the speed of advancement and the need to “stay on top of it.”
- Marianne – One priority is best practices for interagency collaboration
- Jerry – The MCNS Work Group is largely an ad hoc group working with harbor safety committees in the region in safeguarding maritime transportation safety. Focus has been on using the Portal for Port Access Route Study (PARS) and Navigation studies, and anchorage areas. This year’s draft PARS study will be out and will work with the Portal and for inclusion in a federal register notice. They intend also to work with Delaware River and Bay and the Delaware Harbor Safety Committee for outreach.
- Mike noted the overlaps across these work groups. He noted that the challenge is how to engage with stakeholder groups, and asked for input from group. Sometimes you “don’t know what/who you don’t know”.

- Currently working with ports of NY, NJ; there is more we can do to reach / hear from stakeholder groups; need to have an idea of who is active in these spaces, who we should engage, host webinars with, etc.
- Darryl asked people to think about the lessons learned, and noted that there would be even more areas / projects needed to meet national goals.
  - Sharing information about existing projects; get input to shape future leasing
- Marianne noted other regions were also looking at floating technology and other advances are ongoing
  - Learn about innovative technologies, gigawatt changes in the future, etc.
- A question was asked about how to get involved: You are welcome! Individual contacts encouraged, get involved with BOEM
  - meet with BOEM individually or through public scoping meetings; provide comments; and other outreach efforts; “meet you where you are”; channels for engagement.
- Darryl described how MACO/OWRC are trying to elevate emerging issues (e.g., high frequency radar) to get further input and encourage broader community participation.
- Mike recommended the MARCO website and Portal which are active platforms to track activities and to share and see information / comments.
- Question: Who is the lead for navigations safety within windfarms? Darryl replied that BOEM works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, see the recent guidance on BOEM’s website on marking and lighting windfarms. They are also looking at guidance for passage through wind farms and search and rescue.
- Jerry said that USCG is looking more closely to navigation safety v. vessels engaged in fishing. USCG is focused on navigating from point A to point B, not space needed to support industry fishing needs.
- Question: What are your thoughts re: cumulative impacts? Mike: ask, “What are the lessons learned on discrete impacts?” and extrapolate out to inform consideration of cumulative impacts. Jerry: Looking at with a cumulative perspective meaning loss of ocean space. BOEM did good job with NY effort re: buffers and consideration of standard spacing. USCG focuses on navigation safety and search and rescue. Marianne: ESA concerns and review and cumulative impact concerns particularly to North American Right Whales. A white paper is under review. Darryl: Not an EIS expert, but BOEM is actively looking at these issues in preparation and review of EIS (i.e., cumulative impacts on different resources including ocean users; issues to consider as ocean activity increases, projects move forward; continually incorporate information from studies into environmental analyses / study development information such as CVOW).
- Darryl stated that we need to balance looking at the best available science and standard approaches when making decisions, and need to be adaptive to project specific variations among proposals (i.e., location, technology, size, etc.)

- Mike said there is no Maritime Commerce Navigation Safety webinar planned at this time, but do expect that there will be as PARS develop.
  - Jerry noted USCG anticipates completing four supplemental PARS by September.
- Darryl noted that there would be scoping meetings coming up in May for Revolution Wind (NE)
- Comment from the audience about an Offshore Wind Supply Chain [Study](#) in NC
- Mike noted that MACO focuses on NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, but it is important to coordinate at the broader inter-regional level, to engage with Atlantic border states, as the ocean has no boundaries.
- Final Comments -- Darryl: stay engaged with MACO, MARCO and upcoming BOEM announcements re: scoping, EIS and other relevant activities. Marianne: a lot coming down the pike...stay tuned and reach out. Jerry: there are ideas re: things that need to be examined re: fishing within windfarms which need a deeper dive, and they are open to ideas. Mike: Don't be shy. Thank you for participating.