



Partnering with the Fishing Industry

A Case Study in Offshore Wind Development

Vineyard Offshore believes that offshore wind and the fishing industry can both thrive together. There is no better example of that than Vineyard Offshore's experience developing, and now constructing, Vineyard Wind 1.

Through Vineyard Wind, Vineyard Offshore has amassed a decade of experience working with commercial and recreational fishermen, vessel owners, fishing advocacy organizations, shore support services, and fisheries research institutions in the Northeast. Our record of accomplishment demonstrates our ability to develop productive working relationships with fisheries stakeholders as well as our commitment to develop, permit, and deploy well-sited offshore wind projects with minimal environmental and fisheries impacts - and monitor what impacts may occur.

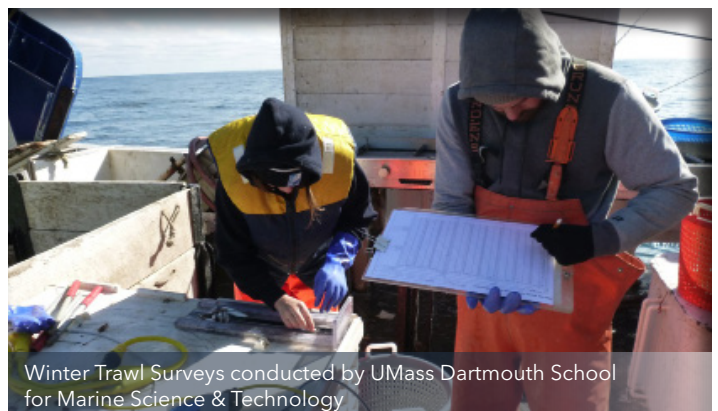
Early on, Vineyard Wind led other developers in the Massachusetts/Rhode Island wind energy areas to adopt 1 X 1 nautical mile spacing - the largest spread between wind turbine generators ever established for offshore wind facilities - in response to industry feedback that such spacing would accommodate safe transit and traditional commercial fishing practices throughout the wind energy areas. While engaging with the industry to minimize impacts, Vineyard Wind also committed substantial funds to compensation for commercial



Fisheries Liaison Travis Lowery and Fisheries Manager Crista Bank

fishing losses associated with both lease area development and cable installation.

But more than that, the Vineyard Wind project showed how the fishing industry and an offshore wind developer could work together for mutual benefit, with vessel upgrades and port facility enhancements leading to opportunities for fishermen to put their skills, knowledge, and boats to work on the project itself. Finding ways to collaborate is central to the Vineyard method of offshore wind development.



Winter Trawl Surveys conducted by UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science & Technology

Building Trust through Science and Communication

From the start, the Vineyard Wind team knew it had to open lines of communication with the fishermen who worked the waters around the project site - and that fisheries science was a key part of opening that communication and starting to form trusting relationships.

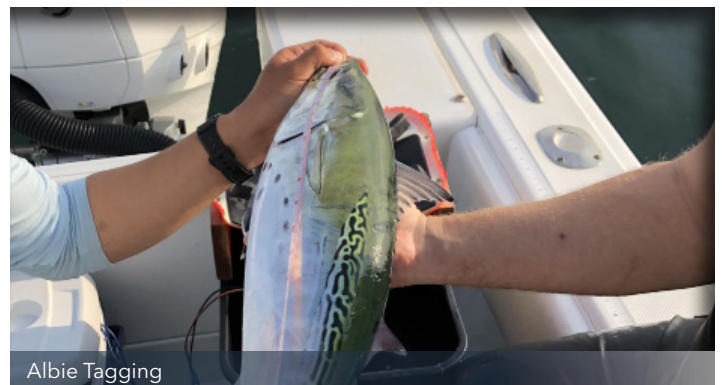
Vineyard Offshore recognizes the importance of good, accurate science in protecting and managing marine resources, including offshore wind. In the Northeast in particular, the fishing industry is under pressure from catch limits imposed by federal regulators. With Vineyard Wind the first large-scale project, science would be essential to understanding the impacts of development - and that fishermen would have to be involved.



Early on, the Vineyard Wind team reached out to fishermen to collaborate on the largest offshore wind-supported fisheries science program in the U.S. The program included a fisheries survey component developed in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) to establish baseline conditions, identify construction impacts, and monitor long-term effects. Survey protocols were developed with input from more than 75 commercial and recreational fishermen as well as academic and government agencies. The first SMAST report was peer-reviewed by three scientists

and eight fishermen, and Vineyard Wind held a forum for fishermen to review the results. Carried out onboard commercial fishing vessels, these surveys were conducted for the three years prior to construction, currently during construction, and will continue for three years after construction is finished, far exceeding the federal requirement of one-year pre-construction and one-year post-construction monitoring. This commitment to rigorous monitoring has helped build trust with the fishing community.

Vineyard Wind also funded additional fisheries science efforts with fishing industry partners concerning particular species important to recreational and commercial fishing. These included an effort to develop better data on false albacore, or "albies," to spur the start of proactive management, and projects to develop baseline data on the whelk fishery in Southern New England.



But the engagement with fishermen did not end with science, as communication throughout the development and construction process has been paramount. Vineyard Wind was the first offshore wind development to engage Fisheries Representatives drawn from the fishing ranks - now recognized as a best practice - and its Fisheries Communication Plan set the standard for effective and regular engagement with fishermen and fisheries stakeholders. As it has evolved over more

than 10 years of input from the fishing industry and others, and is now ready to apply to future projects, Vineyard Offshore's approach to fisheries communications revolves around a team led by Fisheries Manager Crista Bank and Fisheries Liaison Travis Lowery, both fisheries biologists who have conducted research working directly with fishermen throughout their careers. They are readily available to fishermen via phone, email, and text, as they develop relationships of trust by collecting and conveying fishing industry concerns and working toward solutions.

The Vineyard Offshore fisheries team maintains a network of representatives from specific fisheries, ports in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey, as well as Massachusetts, and different gear types. They also hold "port hours" throughout the region to provide information to fishermen who work in or transit through the Vineyard Wind and other Vineyard Offshore lease areas. Vineyard Offshore also spearheaded a fishing gear loss compensation process developed with input from our fisheries representatives and is now working with neighboring developers to create the same gear



loss form and application procedure, in order for fishermen to be quickly and fairly compensated when interactions do happen.

Finally, Vineyard Wind has provided important support to the fishing community. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vineyard Wind team rallied offshore wind leaseholders to support free testing, then continued to fund the testing program on its own. Vineyard Wind has contributed annually to a seafood donation program, and provided scholarships for fishermen and family members to participate in the Offshore Wind Technician Certificate program on Martha's Vineyard through Bristol Community College.

Investing in Fishermen, Facilities, and Fleet

But above all, the team behind Vineyard Wind 1 wanted the project to be a vehicle of opportunity for fishermen working out of ports in New Bedford, along the South Coast of Massachusetts, and Cape Cod and the islands.

Vineyard Wind has provided funds for investments that would pre-qualify Massachusetts-based fishing vessels for offshore wind work under industry-mandated health, safety, and environmental (HSE) requirements. These funds paid for 18 vessels to receive safety equipment to meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. These vessel upgrades not only

help to integrate the fishing fleet into industry and research activities for the offshore wind industry but also improve the safety of vessels operating off the Massachusetts coast, whether for offshore wind or fishing. Vineyard Wind also supported training for crew members to pursue their National Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) license, upgrade to master's license, and fishermen safety/survival certificates, with over 100 fishermen benefiting.

Also serving both the offshore wind and fishing industries is a partnership between Vineyard Wind

and a joint venture featuring a longtime fishing family. The Pope's Island Partnership is building out a berthing and fueling facility for crew transfer vessels (CTVs) and fishing boats. Two floating barges will be installed on the island, which is protected by New Bedford's hurricane barrier. They will be equipped with fuel tanks and other suitable infrastructure to support up to six CTVs berthed there and other commercial maritime users.

"This project provides the capacity for the offshore wind industry to efficiently utilize the New Bedford Harbor while also ensuring New Bedford's commercial fishing industry can continue operating within the New Bedford Harbor with little to no interruptions," said Charles Quinn, President of Quinn Fisheries. "By expanding space through increased berthing spaces and increased fueling capacity, we're supplying two key components that both industries need, so that both can flourish."

But the most direct benefit for vessel owners and their crews came when Vineyard Wind put out its first "request for vessel information" in December 2020. This call invited owners interested in supplementing their fishing businesses with work for hire on various aspects of wind project development. Since then, Vineyard Wind has hired more than 30 different fishing vessels for fisheries research, scouting for fishing gear in the path of survey vessels, and acting as safety vessels during offshore cable installation. The need to hire fishing vessels is only increasing as offshore construction ramps up.

Working together has also helped to minimize conflict on the waters. An example: With subsea cable-laying under way last spring, the scout vessel crew spotted a string of conch pots on the cable route, apparently laid by a fisherman who, having

recently become active, was not on any list to receive information on construction activities. Fisheries Manager Crista Bank and the scout vessel captain – himself a conch fisherman – called around their networks in order to reach him. Alerted to the situation, the fisherman was able to relocate the pots himself.



With increasingly stringent catch limits posing challenges to this iconic New England industry, fishermen from New Bedford to Provincetown found a perhaps surprising partner in the developer of the nation's first commercial-scale wind project. But building partnerships for mutual benefit – that's the Vineyard method of offshore wind development.

"Fishing can be a boom or bust industry," said

Tony Alvernez, captain of FV Kathryn Marie.

"By working with Vineyard Wind, we're able to add a new stream of revenue to our business, while at the same time update our vessel with improved safety equipment. This should be a real opportunity for years to come."

