



## **Native American Tribes Communication Plan**

**California North Floating LLC\***  
**Lease Area OCS-P 0562**  
**Lease Company Number 15145**

\*California North Floating LLC is a Vineyard Offshore LLC affiliate.



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**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FCP	Fisheries Communication Plan
G&G	Geophysical and geotechnical
NATCP	Native American Tribes Communication Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
N/A	Not Applicable
OSWR	Offshore Wind Representative
SAP	Site Assessment Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
US	United States

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## I. Introduction

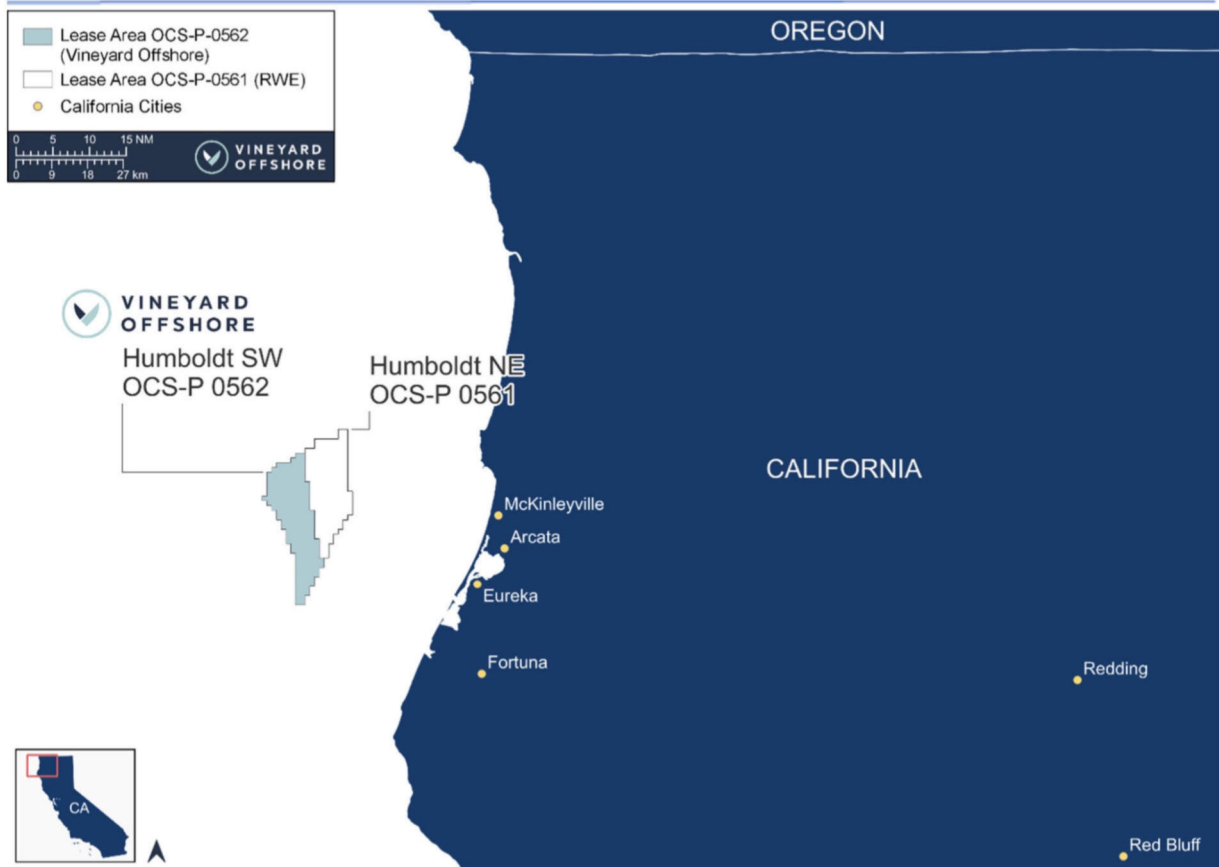
Vineyard Offshore is an offshore wind company established by the same team that developed Vineyard Wind 1 (Lease Area OCS-A 0501), the nation's first commercial-scale offshore wind project. Beyond Vineyard Wind 1, Vineyard Offshore is leading the development of more than 6 gigawatts of cost-effective, clean offshore wind energy in the United States (US) on the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts. This includes Lease Area OCS-P 0562 (Humboldt California) as well as Massachusetts Wind Energy Area Lease Area OCS-A 0522 (known as Vineyard Northeast) and New York Bight Lease Area OCS-A 0544 (known as Vineyard Mid-Atlantic).

On May 16, 2023, Vineyard Offshore executed a commercial lease (Lease)<sup>1</sup> with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for Lease Area OCS-P 0562 for the purpose of renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf. Lease Area OCS-P 0562 is 69,031 acres in size and is located approximately 20 miles off the coast of Humboldt County, California (Figure 1). The Lease grants us the opportunity to study Lease Area OCS-P 0562 and apply for permits to construct, operate, and decommission a renewable energy project that will generate energy using wind turbines in conjunction with associated infrastructure, including offshore substation platforms, subsea export cables, and onshore infrastructure (referred to herein as the "Project"). The Project Area consists of all the offshore and onshore components of the Project.

Vineyard Offshore respects the sovereignty of the Tribal Nations associated with our projects and is committed to a robust Tribal engagement process, with attention to economic, cultural, environmental, and capacity issues, among others, in the interest of environmental justice, equity, and partnership.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Lease OCS-P 0562](#). California North Floating LLC is Vineyard Offshore LLC affiliate.



**Figure 1: Northern California Offshore Wind Lease Areas**

## II. NATCP Purpose

In accordance with the Lease and Vineyard Offshore’s guiding principles, the purpose of this Native American Tribes Communication Plan (NATCP) is to outline strategies for communicating and collaborating with Tribal Nations that have cultural and/or historical ties to the Project Area. The NATCP aims to ensure early and active information sharing, focused discussion about potential issues, and the collaborative identification of solutions. The NATCP also aims to ensure that Tribal Nations have an opportunity to provide input on the Project as we make decisions that may impact Tribal Nations’ cultural, economic, environmental, subsistence, and other interests.

Vineyard Offshore will strive to develop, construct, and operate the Project in a manner that avoids, minimizes, mitigates, and/or redresses adverse impacts, if any, on Tribal Nations. We will also engage in ways that minimize linguistic, technological, cultural, capacity, and/or other obstacles, and work collaboratively to increase Tribal Nations’ capacity to participate in the Project’s engagement activities.

### III. NATCP Parties

The following sections identify the Tribal Nations invited to participate in the NATCP development and review process and the relevant Vineyard Offshore points of contact.

#### ***Tribal Nations***

We have invited 18 California federally and non-federally recognized Tribal Nations with ancestral ties to the Project Area to participate in the NATCP development and review process. These Tribal Nations were identified by the California Native American Heritage Commission. We have also included an additional four Tribes (the Hoh Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, and Quinault Nation) located in the state of Washington as BOEM has requested their inclusion in the NATCP process as Tribal Nations with ocean treaty rights. All 22 Tribal Nations identified in Table 1 have been contacted regarding the NATCP, and the Tribes will continue to receive communications from us until we are notified otherwise.

***Table 1: Tribal Nations Invited to Participate in the NATCP Process***

Tribe/Tribal Nation	Chair/President/Chief	State	Additional Point(s) of Contact
Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	Chairwoman Josefina Frank	California	Catherine Buchanan, Environmental & Natural Resources Director Ana Canter, Cultural Department Assistant Edwin Smith, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Big Lagoon Rancheria	Chairman Virgil Moorehead, Jr.	California	Not Applicable (N/A)
Blue Lake Rancheria	Jason Ramos, Councilmember (Acting Chairperson) and Tribal Administrator	California	Heidi Moore-Guynup, Director Tribal and Government Affairs
Elk Valley Rancheria	Chairman Dale Miller	California	Rob Jacob, Tribal Administrator Rick Warner, Vice Chairman
Hoh Tribe	Chairwoman Dawn Gomez	Washington	Kristina Currie, Interim Executive Director
Hoopa Valley Tribe	Ryan Jackson, Acting Chairman	California	Linnea Jackson, General Manager, Public Utilities District and Tribal Energy Liaison
Karuk Tribe	Chairman Russell Attebery	California	N/A
Makah Tribe	Chairman Timothy Greene, Sr.	Washington	Glenn Ellis Jr., Treasurer

## Native American Tribes Communication Plan

Tribe/Tribal Nation	Chair/President/Chief	State	Additional Point(s) of Contact
Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation	Chairman John Hayward	California	Lonyx Landry, Offshore Wind Consultant Donna Landry, Councilmember
Quartz Valley Indian Community	Chairman Harold Bennett	California	N/A
Quileute Tribe	Chairman Doug Woodruff, Jr.	Washington	Bryan Cramer, General Manager
Quinault Indian Nation	President Guy Capoeman	Washington	Debbie Martin, Manager
Redding Rancheria	Chairman Jack Potter Jr.	California	N/A
Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People /Resighini Rancheria	Chairperson Fawn Murphy	California	Megan Rocha, Executive Director Moonchay Dowd, Vice Chairperson
Round Valley Indian Tribes	President Lewis Whipple	California	James Russ, Tribal Business Administrator Patricia Rabano, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shasta Indian Nation	Chairwoman Janice Crowe	California/Oregon	Sami Jo Difuntorum, Cultural Preservation Officer
Shasta Nation Tribe	Chief Roy Hall	California	N/A
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	Chairperson Jeri Lynn Thompson	California	Darrel Aubrey, Self-Governance Officer Troy Ralstin, Executive Director
Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Chairman Garth Sundberg	California	Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Chief Executive Officer Robert Hemsted, Vice Chairman
Tsnungwe Tribe	Chairman Paul Ammon	California	N/A
Wiyot Tribe	Vacant	California	Marnie Atkins, Secretary
Yurok Tribe	Chairman Joseph James	California	Michael Gerace, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development



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**Vineyard Offshore**

Our Tribal Lead on the West Coast is the primary point of contact for questions or comments on this document and general inquiries related to Tribal engagement. The Tribal Lead and other key staff that may serve as alternate points of contact are identified in Table 2.

**Table 2: Vineyard Offshore Points of Contact**

Point of Contact	Email	Phone
<b>Jaclyn Robinson</b> Tribal Lead, West Coast <b>Primary Point of Contact</b>	jrobinson@vineyardoffshore.com	(707) 599-6340
<b>Laura Nagy</b> Senior Director Permitting and Environmental, West Coast	lnagy@vineyardoffshore.com	(541) 231-3309
<b>Erik Peckar</b> Director of External Affairs, West Coast	epeckar@vineyardoffshore.com	(703) 244-9585
<b>Lucia Ordonez</b> Fisheries Liaison, West Coast	lordonez@vineyardoffshore.com	(707) 572-9011
<b>Rick Umoff</b> Director of Government Affairs, West Coast	rumoff@vineyardoffshore.com	(202) 603-0883
<b>Rachel Pachter</b> Chief Development Officer	rpachter@vineyardoffshore.com	(617) 362-3872

The Tribal Lead has been designated as the primary point of contact to facilitate meaningful engagement and effective communication with Tribal Nations. The Tribal Lead is responsible for communicating a wide range of information to Tribes on behalf of Vineyard Offshore and providing feedback from Tribes to us to inform Project decision-making.

The Tribal Lead is responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the NATCP, including but not limited to:

- Facilitating communication between participating Tribes and Vineyard Offshore.
- Ensuring that the NATCP and all updates/revisions are provided to participating Tribes for review and comment.
- Documenting Tribal concerns, suggestions, and/or questions related to the NATCP and providing input and/or recommendations to Vineyard Offshore on how to respond.
- Preparing meeting materials, coordinating meeting logistics, and facilitating in-person and virtual engagement meetings.
- Providing and promoting safe meeting spaces, events, and other engagement activities for all participating Tribes.

- Identifying barriers to Tribal participation and helping to provide pathways, solutions, and consideration of special accommodations to address them.
- Providing regular Project updates to Tribes, answering questions, and tracking follow-up actions.
- Collecting, protecting, and maintaining records of communication, information, and data shared by participating Tribes.
- Cultivating, supporting, and maintaining relationships with participating Tribes, Tribal Nation members, staff, other Native Organizations, and Project agencies and personnel.

## IV. NATCP Guiding Principles

### ***Transparency and Trust***

Vineyard Offshore is committed to communicating with Tribal Nations openly and transparently, and to building long-term trusting relationships and partnerships. We value effective communication, coordination, collaboration, and respect for Tribal sovereignty. Through meaningful communication and collaboration, we will continue to strive to understand Tribal Nation perspectives, recommendations, and traditional knowledge; address potential environmental, social, and cultural resource impacts through the permitting process; and create opportunities for Tribal Nations to participate in and benefit from the offshore wind industry. We intend to make every practicable effort to avoid or minimize potential ocean and land use conflicts with Tribal Nations. We also intend to involve Tribal Nation citizens in Project reviews in coordination with federal and state permitting processes.

### ***Partnership and Collaboration***

Vineyard Offshore recognizes Tribal Nations as stewards of their ancestral lands and waters and acknowledges and respects the enduring cultural and personal connections that Tribal Nations have to the region. We believe that Tribal Nation insights and knowledge can, and should, play an important role in the clean energy transition to help ensure offshore wind is developed in an environmentally, socially, and culturally sensitive manner. Vineyard Offshore also believes Tribal Nations should share in the benefits of offshore wind and that we should work together to build strong, sustainable communities for the future.

To facilitate partnership and collaboration, Vineyard Offshore respectfully requests that each Tribe/Tribal Nation identify an Offshore Wind Representative (OSWR). Tribes may also elect to identify an additional or alternate OSWR.

The roles and responsibilities of the OSWR can include but are not limited to:

- Receiving NATCP-related communications/updates from Vineyard Offshore and sharing them with their Tribal government and Tribal citizens as appropriate or based on criteria established by their government.

- Attending, to the best of their ability, engagement activities, such as virtual or face-to-face meetings, and communicating the content of the meetings to their Tribal government and Tribal citizens.
- Collecting questions, comments, and recommendations from their Tribal government and Tribal citizens and communicating them to Vineyard Offshore.

***Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination***

Vineyard Offshore recognizes that Tribal Nations are sovereign nations, imbued with inherent rights, that have a special trust relationship with the federal government. Specifically, Vineyard Offshore recognizes that the Lease includes requirements to create and abide by an NATCP in furtherance of BOEM's government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations and the federal government's trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations. Vineyard Offshore is committed to engaging in meaningful Tribal communications in support of this responsibility.

While Vineyard Offshore is not a federal government agency, when engaging with Tribal Nations, our principles of transparency and community building align with and support principles of Tribal Nation sovereignty and self-determination. Accordingly, Vineyard Offshore seeks to engage Tribal Nations through the development of a private-to-government relationship that supports Tribal self-determination.

***The NATCP is a Living Document***

Vineyard Offshore expects collaboration and partnerships with Tribal Nations will continually evolve over the 39-year duration of the Lease. The NATCP is, therefore, a living document that will change over time as the Project progresses, trust is built, feedback is received, and engagement and partnerships with Tribal Nations are advanced. Due to the long timeline and the early stage of the Project, this NATCP has more specificity for events that will occur in the near term.

The NATCP will be reviewed by Vineyard Offshore annually to ensure it remains relevant to the Project and responsive to Tribal needs, preferences, and resources. If we determine the need to update the NATCP, we will revise the document and share it with Tribal Nations for feedback. Any Tribe can provide NATCP comments throughout the life of the Project regardless of whether they provided feedback on the initial NATCP. Any comments or proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the Tribal Lead by any of the identified 22 Tribes through their authorized Offshore Wind Representative (OSWR). All proposed changes will be considered by the Tribal Lead for incorporation into the NATCP.

Vineyard Offshore will implement the following process to update the NATCP:

1. Any material or substantive proposed modifications/amendments will be made by Vineyard Offshore to the current version of the NATCP. Such

modifications/amendments may include revisions based on feedback from the participating Tribes, identified by us, or required by BOEM.<sup>2</sup>

2. The proposed modifications/amendments changes will be consolidated by the Tribal Lead and submitted to the participating Tribes for review and comment.
3. Tribes will have 30 days to review and comment on the proposed modifications/amendments. Additional time may be provided upon request. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis for Tribes that lack organizational capacity or other resources.
4. After the close of the 30-day review and comment period, Vineyard Offshore will share with the participating Tribes all comments received on the proposed modifications/amendments, our responses to the comments, and an updated NATCP if necessary.
5. Tribes will be given another 30 days for any final comments. If no additional comments are received, Vineyard Offshore will consider the NATCP to be the current version of the document.
6. Once the NATCP is revised, Vineyard Offshore and all participating Tribes will be responsible for implementing the revised NATCP. A copy of the revised NATCP will be sent to the Tribes and posted on the Project's website.

If any participating party objects to a modification/amendment accepted under the process outlined above, Vineyard Offshore may request a meeting with the Tribe to try and come to a mutually agreed upon solution to the objection.

An initial draft of the NATCP was shared with Tribal Nations on January 5, 2024, and July 9, 2024. An updated version of the NATCP based on feedback from the Tribes was sent to participating Tribal Nations for review on July 29, 2024. Two webinars were held to review the updated NATCP on August 13 and August 14, 2024. The proposed NATCP was submitted to BOEM on September 1, 2024.

## V. NATCP Knowledge Sharing

Tribal Nations, as stewards of their ancestral lands and waters, are the keepers of important traditional knowledge. Accordingly, Tribal Nations shall determine what, if any, types of knowledge to share with Vineyard Offshore. The information provided by Tribal Nations will be treated with respect and will not be shared without permission if the Tribal Nation has identified it as confidential. Tribal Nations may also request that Vineyard Offshore not share specific comments, feedback, statements, or descriptions of cultural practices or beliefs, recommendations, or concerns shared by Tribal Nations at any time during NATCP activities. We will protect confidential information within the company using appropriate measures such

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<sup>2</sup> Vineyard Offshore reserves the right to make minor and non-substantive updates to the NATCP (e.g., correcting typographical errors) outside of this process.

as limiting access to shared information within Vineyard Offshore and utilizing password-protected documents, folders, and/or sites.

Vineyard Offshore is required by the Lease to create a publicly available bi-annual Progress Report. Progress Reports include a high-level summary of the Tribal Nations we have been interacting with over the six months covered by the Progress Report. As part of this requirement, we must also provide a non-attributed list of Tribal concerns and actions that we are taking to address them. Progress Reports will not include any confidential information or any other information a Tribal Nation has requested Vineyard Offshore not to share.

Vineyard Offshore may share confidential, proprietary, or competitive information with Tribal Nations in our communication and engagement activities. To share such information, Vineyard Offshore may request that Tribal Nations execute a non-disclosure agreement (NDA). Written materials that contain confidential, proprietary, or competitive information will be clearly marked as "confidential," "proprietary," or "draft." Even in the absence of an NDA, Vineyard Offshore will request that Tribal Nations refrain from sharing such information with outside parties. Vineyard Offshore will not share confidential financial information with Tribal Nations.

During NATCP implementation, we will share publicly available information on the Project's website (<https://www.vineyardoffshore.com/california>). We will also create a Project-specific, secure, restricted access, Tribal Resource webpage where culturally relevant information will be posted for all Tribal Nations. If necessary, Vineyard Offshore can create specific logins for individual Tribes if confidential information is specific to a particular Tribe.

## **VI. NATCP Engagement Strategies**

Vineyard Offshore recognizes that Tribal Nations' time is valuable and will therefore aim to be responsive to specific engagement strategies requested by a Tribal Nation, which may be more or less frequent than outlined in this section. Table 3 summarizes the potential types of engagement strategies that we will implement over the course of the Project's development, construction, and operations. The type, timing, and frequency of engagement strategies will depend on a number of factors, including a Tribal Nation's preferred engagement methods and the Project information they are interested in. Vineyard Offshore will refine its engagement strategies in future iterations of this NATCP based on our experience implementing various engagement strategies, Tribal Nation feedback, and best practices.

**Table 3: NATCP Engagement Strategies**

Engagement Activity	Description
<b>Virtual and/or Face-to-Face Meetings</b>	<p>Vineyard Offshore will host virtual and/or face-to-face meetings for Tribal Nations to discuss Project-specific information, concerns, opportunities, and programs. Meetings may involve a single Tribal Nation or multiple Tribal Nations. The meetings may include the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a knowledge/information sharing session,</li> <li>• a question-and-answer session, and/or</li> <li>• a listening session for any concerns, recommendations, and feedback from Tribal Nations.</li> </ul> <p>Agendas for individual meetings may be developed in consultation with Tribal Nations in advance of the meeting. Virtual meetings may be recorded if requested by Tribal Nations.</p>
<b>Progress Reports Every Six Months</b>	<p>As required by the Lease, Vineyard Offshore will document updates and major developments in bi-annual progress reports to BOEM. These reports will be publicly available and published on the Project and BOEM's websites.</p>
<b>Written Notifications and Communications</b>	<p>Vineyard Offshore will communicate with Tribal Nations through letters, emails, and other forms of written communication to coordinate Tribal Nation pre-survey meetings, share information about the Project, respond to requests for information, discuss concerns, etc.</p>
<b>Website Updates</b>	<p>Vineyard Offshore will regularly update the Project website with information and news about the Project, including communication plans. This may also include opportunities to sign up for Project notifications.</p> <p>Vineyard Offshore will create a secure Tribal Resource webpage where culturally relevant Project information will be posted. This webpage will only be accessible to Tribal Nations.</p>

## VII. Fisheries Engagement

Vineyard Offshore recognizes that fisheries and fishery resources have important cultural, community, and economic significance to Tribal Nations in California and elsewhere along the West Coast. We have addressed communication with commercial and recreational fisheries in our joint Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) with RWE, the leaseholder adjacent to the Project (<https://www.vineyardoffshore.com/california>). In brief, Vineyard Offshore and RWE plan to use a range of tools for fisheries communication and engagement including, but not limited to, webinars, in-person meetings, emails, US Coast Guard Notices to Mariners, association newsletters, paper notices, and attendance at fisheries meetings.

Vineyard Offshore will engage with Tribal Nations to learn about current and historical participation in commercial, recreational, subsistence, and cultural Tribal fisheries and to identify appropriate methods for communicating and engaging with Tribal Nations on fishery topics that are in addition to those included here and in the FCP. We will solicit input from Tribal fisheries to understand Project-related concerns and to ensure our understanding of fisheries concerns includes all aspects of Tribal fisheries. We will update this section once we have greater clarity on potentially impacted Tribal fisheries and preferred communication and engagement strategies.

## **VIII. Project Coordination with Other Leaseholders**

To reduce the consultation burden for Tribal Nations, Vineyard Offshore will coordinate, to the extent appropriate and practicable, with the other California leaseholders on engagement activities. Due to project locations, coordination will most often occur with RWE, the leaseholder adjacent to the Project. Coordinated engagement could include, but is not limited to, informational sessions on floating offshore wind, joint project updates, participation in Tribal or wind-specific conferences, and meetings either locally or in association with other larger events (e.g., Pacific Offshore Wind Conference).

## **IX. Project Phases**

The Project will occur in several phases, each of which will require different levels and types of engagement with Tribal Nations. Engagement with Tribal Nations can be conducted individually or jointly, as appropriate, to accommodate individual Tribal Nation's needs, such as the protection of sensitive or confidential information. Sensitive and confidential information shared by Tribal Nations with Vineyard Offshore will be protected as described in Section V. As the Project progresses, we expect to have more clarity on the Tribal Nations' interests and will update the NATCP accordingly.

Table 4 provides guidance for Tribal Nations on the timing and types of communication over the Project phases, with the stipulation that individual Tribal Nations may elect to receive more or less frequent communication from us about the Project. Through every project phase, the Tribal Lead will remain the primary point of contact for Tribal Nations. At any time, Tribal Nations can submit requests for information, questions, or concerns to the Tribal Lead. The Tribal Lead will ensure appropriate follow-up in response to any request, question, or concern received.

**Table 4: Timing and Types of Engagement Activities by Project Phase**

Project Phase	Engagement Activity	Engagement Type	Timing/Frequency
<b>Site Assessment and Characterization</b>	Project-specific meetings	Virtual or face-to-face	Upon request by individuals or groups of Tribal Nations
	Project- specific updates	Website updates	As needed
	Progress reports	BOEM website updates	Bi-annually
	Tribal pre-survey meetings for archaeological surveys	Written notification	At least 15 days prior to the Tribal pre-survey meeting
		Virtual or face-to-face	At least 30 days <sup>1</sup> prior to start of survey campaigns
<b>Permitting</b>	Project-specific meetings	Virtual or face-to-face	Upon request by individual or groups of Tribal Nations
	Project- specific updates	Website updates	As needed
	Progress reports	BOEM website updates	Bi-annually
<b>Construction</b>	Project-specific meetings	Virtual or face-to-face	Upon request by individual or groups of Tribal Nations
	Project- specific updates	Website updates	As needed
	Progress reports	BOEM website updates	Bi-annually
<b>Operations and Maintenance</b>	Project-specific meetings	Virtual or face-to-face	Upon request by individual or groups of Tribal Nations
	Project- specific updates	Website updates	As needed
<b>Decommissioning</b>	Project-specific updates	Website updates	As needed
	Decommissioning Plan development meeting	Virtual or face-to-face	Start of the decommissioning plan development process

Note: 1. Vineyard Offshore will aim to provide these documents 60 days prior to the start of campaigns, whenever possible.



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**Site Assessment and Characterization Phase**

Prior to the development of a Construction and Operations Plan (COP), Vineyard Offshore may develop a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) and will conduct site assessment studies. The SAP would describe the activities that we plan to conduct (e.g., collecting wind and ocean current data) using one or more meteorological and/or oceanographic (metocean) buoys.

Site characterization activities can involve collecting baseline data on ocean geophysical and geotechnical (G&G) characteristics, habitat, biological use (such as marine mammals, fish and fisheries, benthic habitat, birds, and bats), and cultural and archaeological use to allow for a comprehensive understanding of potential Project impacts. The data and information gathered through such activities will help inform potential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation options.

During this phase, Vineyard Offshore will conduct the engagement activities listed in Table 4. The focus of engagement activities with Tribal Nations is expected to include but may not be limited to:

- Reviewing and commenting on proposed G&G survey plans where impacts to Archaeological Resources<sup>3</sup> may occur.
- Working with our Fisheries Liaison to coordinate and communicate with potentially affected commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing communities and harbor districts to avoid and minimize interference with Tribal Nation citizens' use of ocean resources.
- Communicating concerns and recommendations to inform methods and objectives of site characterization surveys and studies.
- Participating in knowledge-sharing discussions and identifying opportunities for Tribal Nations to support survey activities.

Prior to conducting any physical, biological, geological, or cultural resource surveys, Vineyard Offshore is required to submit a survey plan to BOEM. Each survey plan must include, at a minimum, a description and illustration of the geographic areas to be surveyed; a discussion of the survey methods and equipment to be employed; and a schedule of survey activities. Survey plans must be submitted to BOEM at least 90 calendar days before beginning any surveys described.

The Lease requires us to provide BOEM and the Tribes with a description of the methods we plan to use to conduct an archaeological survey associated with our G&G surveys. The lease

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<sup>3</sup> An "Archaeological Resource" means any material remains of human life or activities that are at least 50 years of age and that are of archaeological interest (i.e., which are capable of providing scientific or humanistic understanding of past human behavior, cultural adaptation, and related topics through the application of scientific or scholarly techniques, such as controlled observation, contextual measurement, controlled collection, analysis, interpretation, and explanation). This includes any evidence of a pre-contact archaeological site (e.g., stone tools, pottery, or other pre-contact artifacts) within the Project Area. See [30 C.F.R. § 585.113](#).

also mandates that archaeological survey data collection and reporting be conducted by a Qualified Marine Archaeologist. We are also required to coordinate a pre-survey meeting at least 30 days prior to beginning the survey; however, whenever possible, Vineyard Offshore will share survey plans with Tribal Nations 60 days prior to the start of survey activities. To notify Tribal Nations of the pre-survey meeting, as required by the Lease, Vineyard Offshore will send a letter through certified mail to Tribal Nations at least 15 days before the date of the Tribal pre-survey meeting. We will also send emails and make phone calls, as necessary, to ensure Tribal Nations are aware of the Tribal pre-survey meeting. Among other things, the Tribal pre-survey meeting will allow Vineyard Offshore to consider requests to monitor portions of survey and geotechnical exploration activities.

As required by the Lease, the NATCP must include protocols for the unanticipated discovery of any potential pre-contact Archaeological Resources. In compliance with this requirement, a draft Unanticipated Discoveries Plan is provided as Appendix A. Vineyard Offshore is required to keep the location of such discoveries confidential; however, should any pre-contact Archaeological Resources be discovered, we will notify Tribal Nations within the same time requirements that apply to notifying BOEM. This includes providing a notification report within 72 hours of any discovery. Due to the depth of the ocean, we do not expect to encounter any pre-contact Archaeological Resources in Lease Area OCS-P 0562 or any areas with water depths greater than 150 meters (492 feet).

### **Permitting Phase**

The COP will describe the construction, operations, and conceptual decommissioning plans for the Project and will include descriptions of all planned facilities Vineyard Offshore intends to construct. The COP will also summarize the results of biological, geotechnical, socioeconomic, and cultural resources studies; provide an assessment of potential Project-specific impacts; and propose measures for avoiding, minimizing, mitigating, and monitoring impacts. During this phase, we will conduct the engagement activities listed in Table 4.

The portions of the COP that may be relevant for Tribal Nations include but may not be limited to the following:

- Marine archaeological resources assessment (often referred to as the MARA),
- Terrestrial archaeological resources assessment (often referred to as the TARA),
- Historic resources visual effects assessment (often referred to as the HRVEA),
- Studies evaluating potential impacts to marine species (such as marine mammals), fisheries, terrestrial vegetation, and wildlife species, and
- Socioeconomic analysis.

Once the COP has been submitted to BOEM and deemed complete, the agency will undertake its associated National Environmental Protection (NEPA) process. This process includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of a Notice of Intent and the development of a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the NEPA process, BOEM will initiate the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 review. During this process, Vineyard

Offshore will provide information in support of BOEM's and Tribal Nations' government-to-government consultations.

At the conclusion of the expected two-year NEPA review period, BOEM will decide whether to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the COP. BOEM's decision will be formalized in a Record of Decision (ROD) that concludes the NEPA review. The completion of BOEM's NHPA Section 106 review will likely be through a NEPA substitution process.

### ***Construction Phase***

During the construction phase, Vineyard Offshore will construct the approved Project. Construction activities will be consistent with the requirements of the NEPA Final EIS, ROD, NHPA Section 106, and any other state and federal permitting authorizations. During this phase, we will conduct the engagement activities listed in Table 4. We anticipate that engagement activities will be focused on communicating relevant construction information to Tribal Nations, as well as following the requirements in our ROD, COP Approval, and other permitting documents. Vineyard Offshore will develop a Debris Incident Response Plan prior to construction.

### ***Operations and Maintenance Phase***

During the operations and maintenance phase, Vineyard Offshore will operate and perform routine maintenance on the Project. At this time, we will continue implementing all requirements in our ROD, COP Approval, and other permitting documents. Engagement activities anticipated during this Project phase are listed in Table 4.

### ***Decommissioning Phase***

Prior to decommissioning the Project, as per Lease conditions, Vineyard Offshore will submit a Decommissioning Application to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which will undertake a NEPA and NHPA Section 106 analysis as part of the process to approve, modify, or disapprove the Decommissioning Application. If the application is approved, we will decommission the Project per Lease conditions, federal regulations, and the requirements in the application. Engagement activities anticipated during this Project phase are listed in Table 4 and will be updated before the start of decommissioning activities.

## **X. Grievance Protocol**

The principal objective of the NATCP is to build a strong foundation for a relationship between Vineyard Offshore and Tribal Nations based on transparency, trust, and respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. In our experience, most grievances can be avoided or addressed through active dialog with a project's Tribal Lead, who will raise concerns to our management when needed.

In the rare case where an issue is not able to be addressed through active dialog with the Tribal Lead, we will implement our grievance protocol. The intent of the grievance protocol is to (1) establish a prompt and respectful mechanism for receiving and responding to complaints from Tribal Nations, (2) ensure documentation of complaints and steps to resolve the issue(s), and (3) contribute to continuous improvement. If the complaint/grievance is within the jurisdiction

and/or responsibility of BOEM or other federal or state agencies, the complaint/grievance will be communicated to the appropriate agency(ies).

Vineyard Offshore's grievance protocol includes the following steps:

- 1. Grievance received.** A complaint/grievance is provided in writing to the Tribal Lead.
- 2. Grievance recorded, acknowledged, and investigated.** Upon receiving a complaint/grievance, the Tribal Lead will acknowledge the complaint/grievance and diligently work with the Tribe/Tribal Nation to seek a resolution that is satisfactory to all parties involved. All parties will be expected to negotiate in good faith to strive to reach a consensus on a resolution centered on NATCP principles.
- 3. Outcome determined.** The outcome of filing a complaint/grievance will either be a resolution that has been agreed between the parties or no resolution. When a resolution has been agreed upon, Vineyard Offshore will implement the resolution in coordination with the Tribe/Tribal Nation as appropriate.

A Tribal Nation's participation in this process will not diminish the rights or remedies under any applicable law or regulation nor shall it substitute for participation in any permitting process that applies to the Project.

Vineyard Offshore will notify BOEM of any significant grievances filed.

## **XI. Conclusion**

Vineyard Offshore believes that Tribal Nations play an important role in the development of the offshore wind industry in the US. Through the implementation of the NATCP, we will continue to work with Tribal Nations to develop respectful, collaborative, and equitable relationships. The knowledge, insights, and recommendations provided by Tribal Nations will support the development of environmentally, socially, and culturally sustainable offshore wind projects for decades to come. Through regular and meaningful engagement, Vineyard Offshore aims to build trust, reduce potential conflicts, and work together to bring clean, local energy to the West Coast region.



## **APPENDIX A - UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES PLAN**

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## UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES PLAN

Last Update: 8/30/2024

### I. Introduction

Vineyard Offshore has developed this Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) for project-related studies and work associated with Lease Area OSC-P 0562 west of Humboldt County (the "Project"). The UDP provides standard operating protocols in the event archaeological materials or human remains are discovered during Project survey, construction, operations, or decommissioning activities. The UDP complies with federal regulations<sup>4</sup> and stipulations in the Lease regarding unanticipated discoveries<sup>5</sup> and it is provided in accordance with the Native American Tribes Communication Plan (NATCP). Vineyard Offshore will ensure all project staff and subcontractors are familiar with this plan. Due to the early stage of the Project, this UDP is conceptual in nature. Points of contact and specific concerns will be addressed prior to conducting ground-disturbing activities in areas where archaeological materials or human remains may be present.

### II. Organization Responsibility

Vineyard Offshore is responsible for ensuring that:

- This plan includes complete and accurate information and is updated if any aspect of the procedure requires changes or additions.
- This plan is accessible to all relevant onsite staff and available by request to any party.
- This plan is executed at any unanticipated discovery site.
- All onsite staff, contractors, and subcontractors are instructed on how to implement this plan.

### III. Procedure

In the event an unanticipated discovery is made, all ground-disturbing work within 150 meters (492 feet) of the discovery must immediately **stop**.

- a) If the discovery has been made on a vessel, the Onboard Client Representative must immediately notify Vineyard Offshore and any subcontractors related to the site work.
- b) If the discovery has been made on land, the client representative or manager of the relevant onshore work must immediately notify Vineyard Offshore and any subcontractors related to the site work.

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<sup>4</sup> See [30 C.F.R § 585.702](#).

<sup>5</sup> See [Lease OCS-P 0562, Addendum "C", Section 7.5.2](#).

Vineyard Offshore will then notify the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as well as other relevant agencies and Tribal Nations, within 24 hours of discovery to determine the next steps to ensure the protection and integrity of the discovery. Vineyard Offshore will also provide BOEM and relevant Tribal Nations with written notification via report within 72 hours of the discovery.

#### **IV. Proceeding with Work**

Vineyard Offshore will coordinate with project archaeologists, subcontractors, and Tribal Nations (e.g., Historical Preservation Officer, Tribal Chairperson, and/or Tribal Cultural Monitor) to determine the appropriate discovery boundary as well as where and when work may continue. Through documentation and assessment of the cultural resource found, Vineyard Offshore, along with appropriate agencies, will determine the necessary level of protection and next steps for the resource. It may be possible for work outside of the determined discovery location to continue while an assessment of the found cultural resource proceeds, if approved by Vineyard Offshore and the appropriate agencies. Project work at the discovery location may only continue after the procedure outlined in this UDP is followed and compliance with federal and state law is complete.