

Floating Offshore Wind Technology, Fisheries Interactions, Limitations, and Opportunities for a Path Forward

As New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Offshore Wind Master Plan 2.0 considers the Area of Analysis (AoA) in depths greater than 60 meters in the New York Bight, floating offshore wind (OSW) would be needed for the majority of the AoA. Engineers, stakeholders, and experts need to collaborate for the new physical and environmental constraints. Goals for this side meeting are to: (1) provide the engineering limitations of floating OSW infrastructure; (2) discuss current knowledge on floating OSW environmental impacts; (3) identify west coast fisheries challenges, coexistence research, and lessons learned for the AoA; and (4) facilitate a forum for stakeholders to ask engineers to consider certain constraints and provide feedback on engagement moving forward.

The side meeting will be broken into two sessions that attempt to put the engineers, BOEM, environmental experts, and a west coast developer in the same room as the stakeholders and fishermen that depend on these waters. Sessions will present the engineering constraints that determine OSW structures and give stakeholders the opportunity to discuss how best to engage with the environmental community. This dialogue allows the engineers to ask the audience what to consider for coexistence.

The first session presentation is 'Floating Technology and Current Anchor Engineering Limitations.' The physical seabed morphology and sediment types determine the feasible anchors. This will include a visualization of anchor installment options as the seabed morphology changes. The next presentation is 'Floating Moorings and Environmental Concerns.' Barrier effect, secondary whale entanglement, and an overview of the Integral upwelling simulation will be reviewed. Afterwards there will be a 45-minute open discussion between the audience and the panel to merge engineering and environmental considerations.

The second session's first presentation is 'Inter-Array Cable Depth Considerations and Environmental Concerns.' Inter-array cable depths will be unique to the site, but there are common considerations to evaluate. Water column electro-magnetic field research will be provided. The final presentation is 'Fisheries and Constraints.' This will discuss current west coast fisheries engagement challenges, an overview of gear modifications and trials with floating OSW, and work products that are influencing the west coast. Afterwards there will be a 45-minute open discussion. This will be an opportunity to discuss the products on the west coast and their potential for the east coast.

Tetra Tech will develop a Summary Memo detailing the side meeting sessions. This Memo can act as a NYSERDA document that shows floating OSW concerns, potential workstreams, and targeted engagement ideas east coast fisheries and stakeholders prefer. This could influence future NYSERDA workstreams for a path forward between floating OSW and coexistence.