

Introduction & Review of Draft Fisheries Communications Plan

RWE Offshore | Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

August 21, 2024

Presentation Outline

- RWE & Project introduction
- Draft Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP)
 - Purpose and objectives
 - High level overview
- Incorporating fishery considerations

RWE is one of the world's Leading renewable energy companies

No. **2**

U.S.
Solar



No. **4**

U.S.
Solar & Wind



No. **2**

Global
Offshore



No. **3**

UK
Wind & Solar



No. **4**

Europe
Wind & Solar



RWE has established a leading offshore wind platform in the U.S. Seabed leases on East, West, and Gulf Coasts



New York Bight

- Approximately 3.2 GW
- Lease auction February 2022
- Joint development with National Grid under Community Offshore Wind



California

- Approximately 1.6 GW
- Lease auction December 2022
- First commercial-scale floating offshore wind project



Gulf of Mexico

- Approximately 2.0 GW
- Lease auction August 2023
- First offshore wind seabed lease issued by BOEM in Gulf of Mexico

Our integrated business along the entire Offshore project lifecycle means that we are a long-term community member

Development



5-7 years

Construction



2-3 years

Operation and Maintenance



20-30+ years

Commercialization



20-30+ years

The realization time of an offshore wind park, from the first idea to the start of the project, requires continuous work on the project and collaboration with the communities where we operate.

RWE Offshore US Gulf, LLC

Project Leadership

Alexandra St. Pé
Project Director



Anthony Bodin
Senior OSW Developer



Key Pillars of our Approach

- Commitment to sustainability and social responsibility
- Stakeholder engagement based on respect and transparency
- Prioritize safety, coexistence and net positive outcomes
- Avoid – Minimize – Mitigate strategy for addressing impacts
- Foster collaboration and partnership through genuine relationships
- Advance innovation and knowledge sharing

Marine Affairs Team

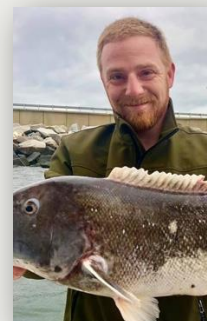
Rick Robins
Director of Marine Affairs



Deirdre Boelke
Fisheries Manager



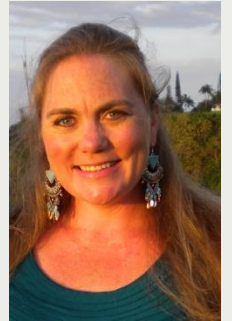
Ricky Alexander
Fisheries Liaison



Gus Seyler-Schmidt
Marine Affairs Liaison



Kim Gordon
Fisheries Consultant



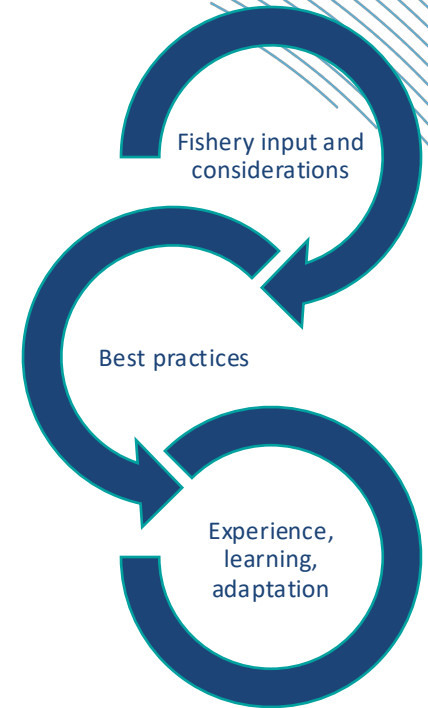
Fishery Communications Plans

What do they do?

- Guide and describe fisheries engagement and communication
- Framework for 2-way communication and coordination and to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts
- Required lease condition
- Intended to adapt and evolve over time

What's included?

- Roles and responsibilities and clear points of contact
- Strategies and methods for sharing information and 2-way dialogue
- Context and description of fisheries and fishery constituents
- Additional requirements (e.g., process for filing complaints)



RWE Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) Outline

1. INTRODUCTION

- FCP Principles and Objectives
- Roles & Responsibilities

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Company and Lease Area Overview

3. FISHERIES CHARACTERIZATION

- Commercial Fisheries
- Recreational Fisheries
- Fisheries Science & Management

4. FISHERIES ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

- Overarching Approach
- Coordination and Collaboration

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & CONFLICT REDUCTION

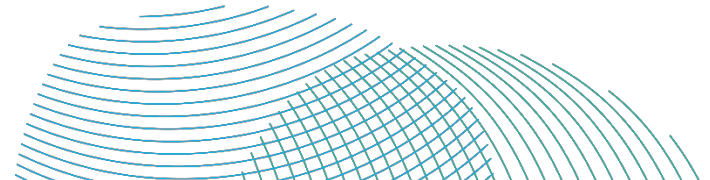
- Description of Project Phases
- Site Assessment Communication Protocols

6. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

7. PROGRESS REPORTS AND PLAN UPDATES

APPENDIX

- Best Practices
- Claim Process for Loss or Damage to Fishing Gear



1. INTRODUCTION

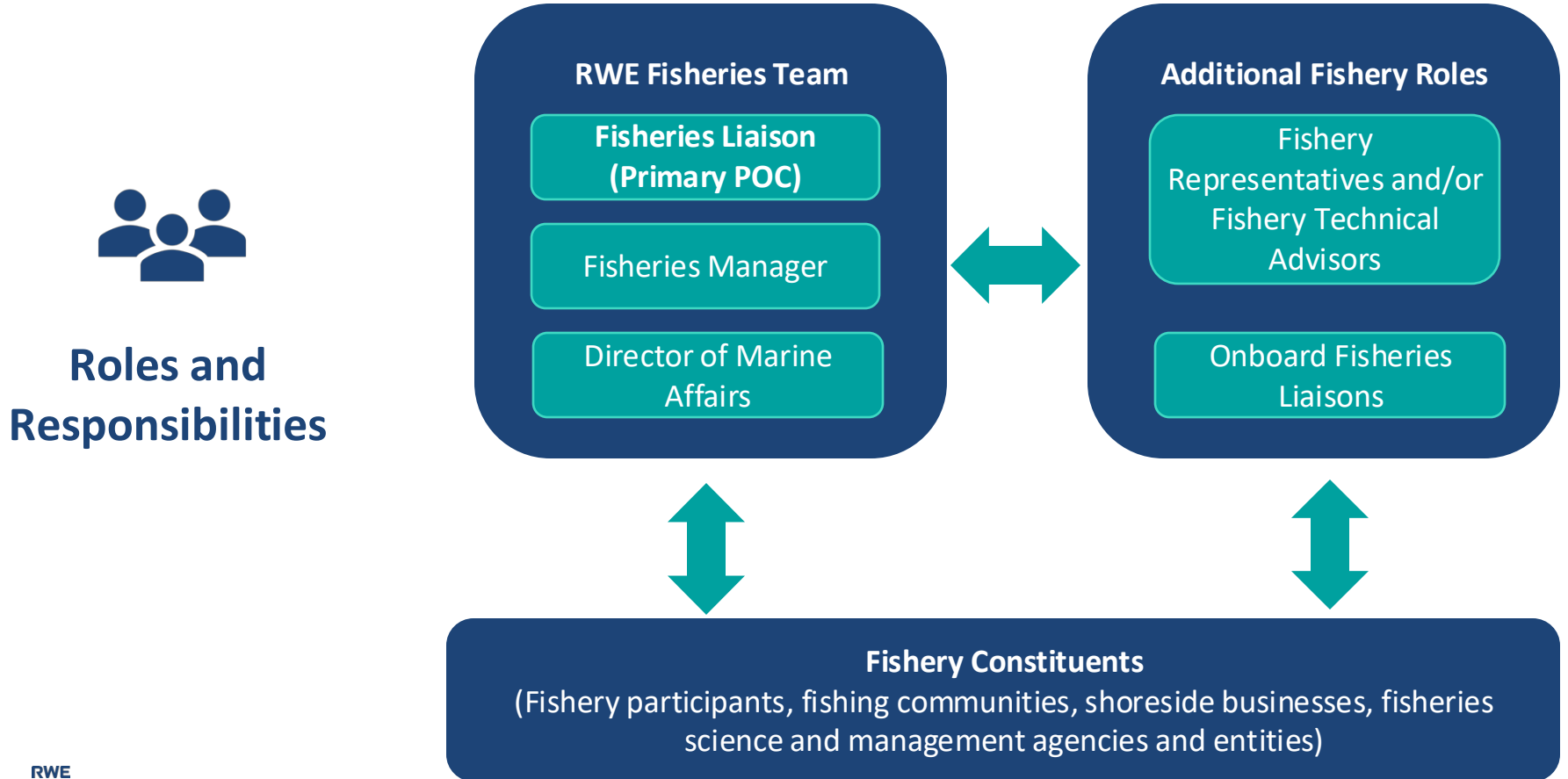
FCP Objectives

1. **Ensure that fishing communities are proactively informed** of Project activities and aware of the opportunities to engage and provide input at each stage of the Project.
2. **Cultivate a deep understanding of fisheries**, fishery participants, fishing communities, and other ocean and coastal stakeholders, to inform project activities and integrate fishery considerations into the design of the Project.
3. **Promote opportunities for collaboration and mutually positive outcomes**, including opportunities for the fishing industry to participate in cooperate research, monitoring and Project activities, and to work together to identify challenges and develop effective solutions.

Core Principles



1. INTRODUCTION



3. FISHERIES CHARACTERIZATION

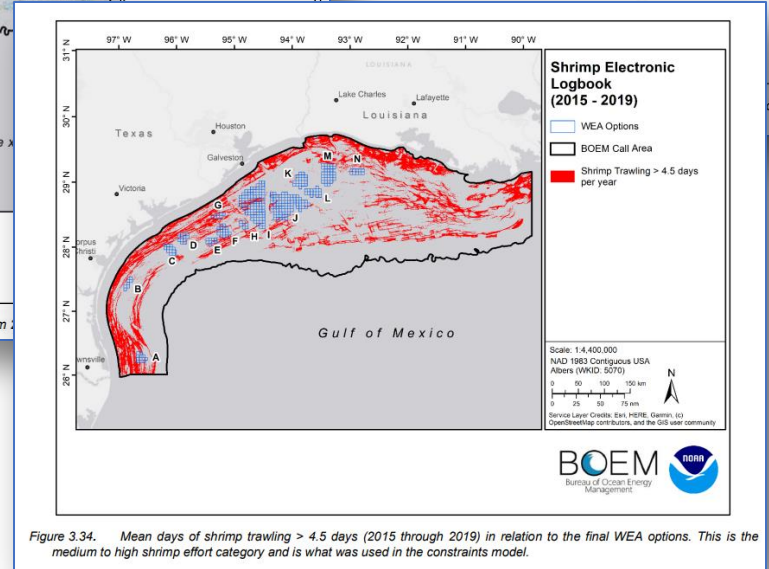
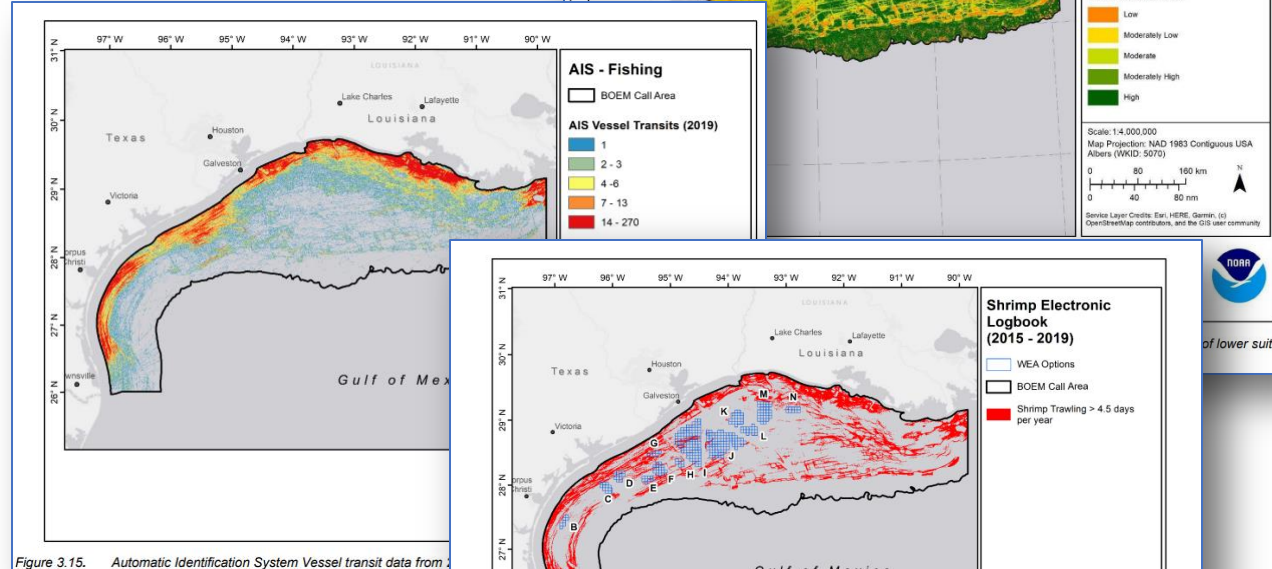
Fisheries operating (or potentially operating) inside the Lease Area

Commercial fisheries

- Shrimp
- Reef fish
- Coastal Migratory Pelagics
- Coastal finfish (e.g., tripletail)

Recreational fisheries

- Reef fish
- Coastal Migratory Pelagics
- Highly Migratory Species



of lower suitability,

4. FISHERIES ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Strategies for Sharing Project Information

Digital Communication Tools

- Company websites
- Email (direct and via listservs)
- SMS text alerts
- Information hotline
- Social media
- Webinars
- Informational videos

Community & Media Tools

- Paper notices (distributed and/or posted at key businesses, local marinas, or recreational access points)
- Hosted port hours
- Print and online newspapers
- Press releases
- Podcasts

Associations & Existing Communication Channels

- Fishing association listservs and newsletters
- Existing fishery management communication networks (e.g., GMFMC, LDWF)
- US Coast Guard (USCG) Notices to Mariners
- Word of mouth through Fisheries Liaisons, advisors and associations
- Presentations at in-person and virtual meetings

4. FISHERIES ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES



Strategies for Two-way Engagement and Collaboration

One-on-one conversations, small group meetings, community and town hall meetings, focus groups and workshops.

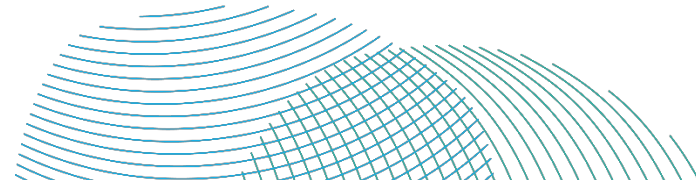
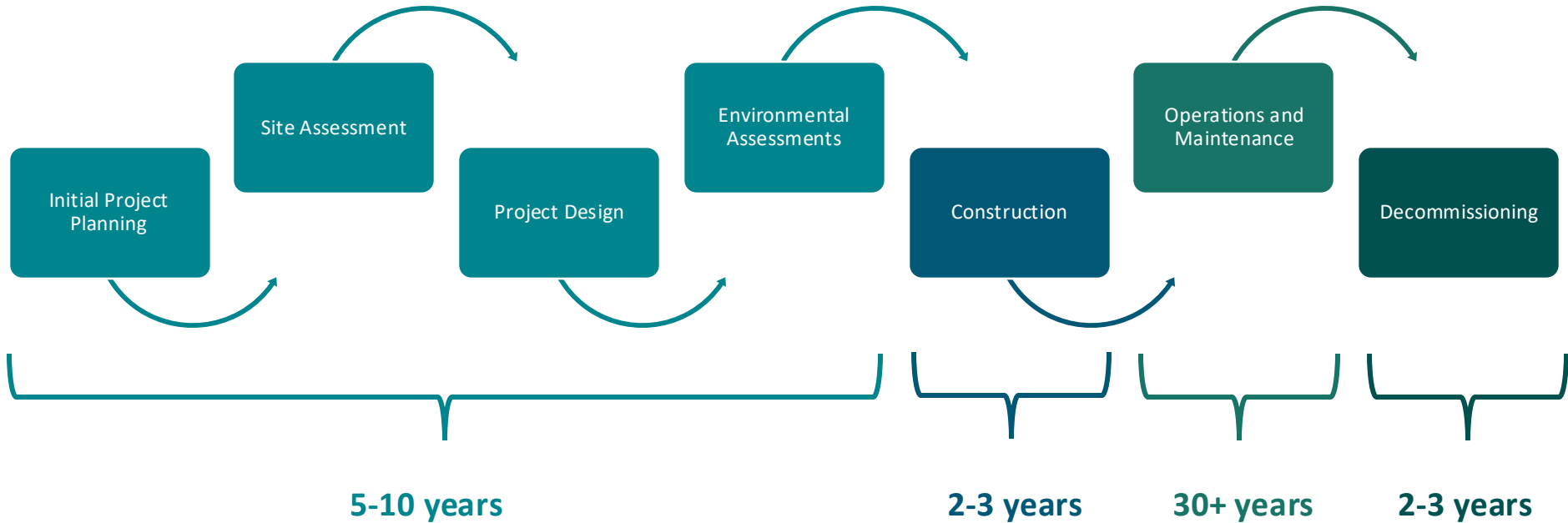
Attend GMFMC meetings, as well as meeting of other management bodies and associated advisory boards, as appropriate.

Attend industry association meetings, as appropriate.

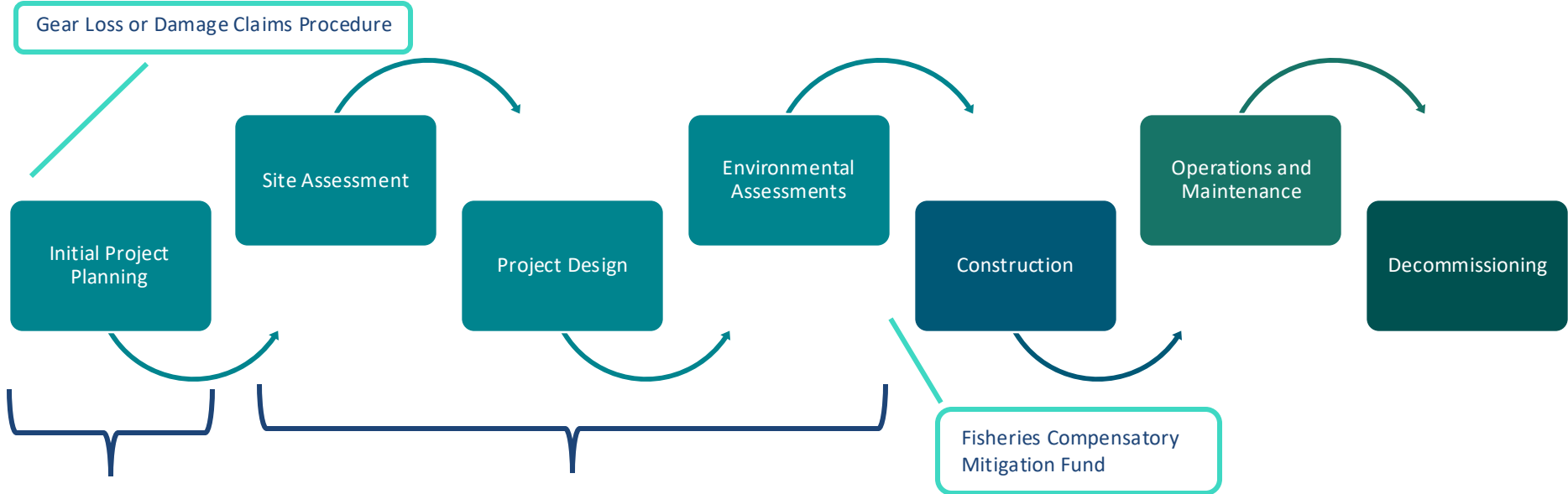
Participate in community and fishery-related events.

Partner with fishermen, fishing organizations, and research entities to conduct collaborative fisheries research and monitoring.

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT REDUCTION

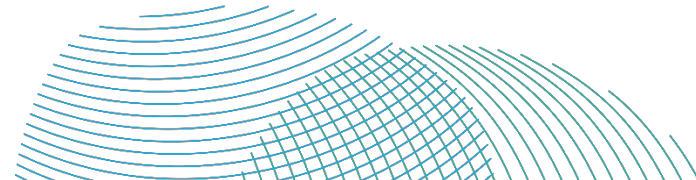


5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT REDUCTION



- Communications Plans
- Project introductions
- Fisheries characterization
- Pre-survey planning

- Geophysical, geotechnical, and benthic surveys
 - Communication and coordination with fisheries
 - Gear loss or damage claims procedure
- Project design, including research and monitoring strategies
 - Avoid, minimize and mitigate fishery impacts
- Construction and Operations Plan (COP)
 - COP environmental review and state/federal permitting
- Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Fund
 - Established and funded after COP is approved



6. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

Avoid – Minimize – Mitigate

- Understand the needs of fishing communities
- Build relationships
- Early and ongoing dialogue
- Integrate local knowledge and fishery considerations
- Collaborate to find solutions

Reporting and Remediating Conflicts

- Gear Loss or Damage Claims Process (Appendix B)
- Report and discuss concerns with Fisheries Liaison
(Ricky Alexander, Ricky.Alexander@rwe.com, 312-504-9085)
- Additional consultation and facilitated dispute resolution strategies

6. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

Communication and Coordination for Survey Activities (Section 5.1)

Detailed Understanding of Fisheries

Seasonality

Gear configuration

Operations

Pre-Survey Risk Assessment

Potential spatial and temporal overlap

Research and resource surveys

Vessel activity

Pre-Survey Communications

Survey activity notices

Pre-survey webinars & in person meetings

Post flyers and notices

Hotline or web application

Additional tools

During Survey Communications and Coordination

Regular communication with survey team and fisheries

VHF channel 16 and bridge-to-bridge communication

Onboard fisheries liaisons and scout vessels

Technologies to support real-time information sharing

Gear Loss Claims Procedure

Reporting process for seeking compensation for lost or damaged gear associated with survey activities

Direct compensation for gear loss/damage

Compensation for lost fishing revenue related to gear loss/damage

7. PROGRESS REPORTS AND PLAN UPDATES

FCP Review and Updates

- The FCP is a living document and will be updated and adapted over time
- Once approved by BOEM, the FCP will be distributed to fishery constituents and posted on RWE's website (<https://americas.rwe.com/our-energy/offshore-wind/>)

Communication Tracking and Reporting

- Track communication and engagement with fishery constituents to facilitate uptake
- Publicly available Progress Reports (every 6 months beginning June 2025)
- Establish feedback loops for effective 2-way communication

Next Steps & Near-Term Benchmarks

- Identify fishery constituents with an interest in the Project
- Develop Project website and communication materials
- Maintain a feedback log to capture feedback from the fishing community
- Identify additional fishery roles (e.g., Fishery Representatives) at appropriate time in the development process
- Review site assessment communication protocols with the fishing community prior to initiating survey activity and update protocols as needed
- Work with the fishing community to develop metrics and indicators for assessing the success of the FCP during future project phases

Appendix A

Best Practices and Ongoing Efforts

Appendix B

Claim Process for Loss or Damage to Fishing Gear Resulting from Survey Activity

Claim Process for Loss or Damage to Fishing Gear

STEP 1 Contact RWE's Fisheries Liaison

STEP 2 Complete Gear Loss or Damage Claim Application Form

Option A

Additional compensation of 50% of gear repair or replacement cost.

(No additional documentation is required.)

Option B

Submit a specific compensation request for lost fishing income.

(Provide additional information and documentation.)

STEP 3 Submit completed application and documentation within 30 days of the gear damage or loss incident.

STEP 4 RWE reviews and claim is paid or denied. Applicant may appeal the decision.

Incorporating Fishery Considerations

- Communication strategies and preferences
- Survey and site assessment activities
- Project design and development
- Research and monitoring efforts





Thank you.

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