

## Jon Hare - NOAA Federal

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**From:** Jon Hare - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 6, 2018 12:35 PM  
**To:** Andrew Lipsky - NOAA Affiliate  
**Cc:** Luis Leandro - NOAA Affiliate; Susan Gardner - NOAA Federal  
**Subject:** Re: Offshore wind/fisheries science update (including SMAST workshop announcement)

Thank you

On Tue, Nov 6, 2018 at 12:32 PM Andrew Lipsky - NOAA Federal <[andrew.lipsky@noaa.gov](mailto:andrew.lipsky@noaa.gov)> wrote:  
Your awareness

Andy Lipsky  
Planning Officer  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Annie Hawkins <[annie@rodafisheries.org](mailto:annie@rodafisheries.org)>  
**Date:** November 6, 2018 at 12:18:04 PM EST  
**To:** "[roda-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:roda-board@googlegroups.com)" <[roda-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:roda-board@googlegroups.com)>  
**Subject: Offshore wind/fisheries science update (including SMAST workshop announcement)**

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached flyer describing a workshop SMAST is conducting to gain fishing industry regarding input pre- and post-construction assessment of fisheries conditions in and around the Vineyard Wind lease area. The first of four workshops is this Thursday in New Bedford.

While I encourage everyone to give input to see that as much useful information as possible arises from these surveys, I think our discussions have led to a few key talking points that I'd like to share. Please feel free to use these or not as you see fit when formulating your comments (but please use your own thoughts; it's best not to share this email or attribute

these points directly to RODA):

- Accurately assessing the impacts of wind farm construction and operations to fisheries and fish resources will require a long time series for baseline data (minimum 7-10 years);
- Scientific studies need to be conducted in a way that is regional, cumulative, and integrative to *all* wind energy areas and other developments that may occur;
- Research needs must be prioritized, and that prioritization needs to occur through a fishing industry-based and regional process;
- It is inappropriate for developers, states, or others to approach fisheries/offshore wind studies in a way that is randomly selected and using one-off agreements with individual research institutions;
- Although strong partnerships with academics are extremely important, such little information is currently known that we need a coordinated structure for information-gathering that then tiers off to the most valuable studies;
- Data from such studies needs to be readily available to NMFS, states, and others so that all information that develops can be integrated into cumulative assessments of stocks and ecosystems; and
- Getting the proper structures in place to answer these questions will take time, and must not be artificially rushed due the current “Wild West” climate of offshore wind leasing.

I am particularly concerned that these workshops are occurring only from Rhode Island to the Cape, given the size of the MA/RI lease areas and their importance to fishermen from a much larger area. Many of us have longstanding relationships with SMAST and value their important contributions to industry-based research. I think it's important to drive these talking points without alienating SMAST; rather, it is the developers who should not be signing back-door contracts on such critical matters and then rushing the research to be completed.

Relatedly, please see the attached document from MA DMF recommending specific regional scale studies related to fisheries in the MA and RI/MA offshore Wind Energy Areas. We have stated the same concerns with MA's approach: while Kathryn Ford and others did a lot of good work on this document, prioritization of research needs, by design, cannot be a state-driven process and must be regional and fishing industry-driven. RODA submitted a letter to MA DMF on the draft of this document to that end. Note that the final document mentions RODA's letter but, I feel, mischaracterized the message, saying RODA “Agree[s] to principles, [suggests to] refine the document through direct engagement with our members and with other affected states and entities.” This seems to imply that we endorsed MA DMF to continue with its approach, while the message was actually that the state does should not finalize its document and should focus its efforts on participation in a more regional process instead. Its response, “Direct engagement through meetings with the MA FWG, the RI FAB, and the NEFMC Habitat Committee. The definition of more specific studies is anticipated to include workshops with fishermen” is not sufficient to addressing our comments and I will follow up with MA DMF, possibly through conversations involving NMFS, when appropriate.

We continue to work with NMFS and others on designing a formal regional partnership to address these issues. As everything with the federal government (and how many things we've been working on for RODA), this is a slow process but we are moving it along as quickly as we can. I will provide more details as they are available.

Finally, note that I am working on setting up an email list for RODA members so that we may communicate to each other without the use of BCC. Please bear with me; it's been a busy few weeks! And if anyone receiving this email is not yet a member but wishes to be included in our membership and email list, please contact me or see the "join" section of our website: [www.rodafisheries.org](http://www.rodafisheries.org).

Best,

-Annie

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**From:** Steven Cadrin <[scadrin@umassd.edu](mailto:scadrin@umassd.edu)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 3, 2018 8:29 AM  
**To:** Annie Hawkins <[annie@rodafisheries.org](mailto:annie@rodafisheries.org)>  
**Cc:** Annie Hawkins <[annie@rodafisheries.org](mailto:annie@rodafisheries.org)>  
**Subject:** Fishermen Workshops on Vineyard Wind Monitoring Plan

Hi Annie:

Details on our fishermen's workshops are attached. Please distribute to your members and network.

Thanks,

Steve

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*"Codfish know no more what is going on at the surface than we know about the bottom."*  
Tibbets 1886 Scarcity of Cod and Haddock on the coast of Maine

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